****Gerrardstown Good News

**What do you behold? By Pastor Karen**

Writing instructors warn do not use clichés. They are dated, overused, often trite and misunderstood. Even the word itself ‘cliché’ comes from the sound of type being set – a process now nearly extinct due to word processing on a computer - and through this onomatopoeia, "cliché" came to mean a ready-made, oft-repeated phrase. Who knew?! We may throw them into our conversations out of habit, without truly understanding what they mean, where they came from or if they are really relevant. I offer you a few for which I never really knew the origin until now.

A Feather in One’s Cap -This saying is used to describe an honour or something to be proud of. It is thought to come from an ancient custom of adding a feather to your hat for each enemy you had killed.

Running amok-““Running amok” is commonly used to describe wild or erratic behavior, but the phrase actually began its life as a medical term. The saying was popularized in the 18th and 19th centuries, when European visitors to Malaysia learned of a peculiar mental affliction that caused otherwise normal tribesmen to go on brutal and seemingly random killing sprees. Amok—derived from the “Amuco,” a band of Javanese and Malay warriors who were known for their penchant for indiscriminate violence—was initially a source of morbid fascination for Westerners. Writing in 1772, the famed explorer Captain James Cook noted that “to run amok is to … sally forth from the house, kill the person or persons supposed to have injured the Amock, and any other person that attempts to impede his passage.” Once thought to be the result of possession by evil spirits, the phenomenon later found its way into psychiatric manuals. It remains a diagnosable mental condition to this day.”

Both of these are rather deadly in nature yet we often use them so innocently. I have in mind another cliché. ‘Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.’ This ancient cliché which comes from the argument in ancient Greece of whether or not beauty is subjective or objective. “Greek philosophers, including Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, considered beauty an absolute manifest in order, symmetry, and proportion. But, Skeptics, Epicureans, and Stoics nudged towards an understanding that beauty exists in symmetry (objective) and in eurhythmy (subjective) …Confucius is credited with saying, “Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it.” In 1741, Benjamin Franklin offered, “Beauty, like supreme dominion, Is but supported by opinion” (Poor Richard’s Almanack, III Mon May)… In 1878, Margaret Wolfe Hungerford, the Irish romance novelist…published Molly Bawn, in which she coined the idiom as we generally see it today, “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.”

If we look to scripture, we find that we become what we behold! What do we fix our eyes on, honor, love and adore the most? Moses offered to the Israelites a way of beholding that became one of their key prayers which begins: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deut. 6:4-5 NIV) This may sound familiar because in Mark 12:29 Jesus offers this same quotation as the answer to a teacher of the law who asks Jesus of all the commandments which is most important. Jesus quoted the passage from Deuteronomy and then Jesus added “The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mk. 12:31 NIV)

First and foremost Moses and Jesus offer that we must behold God. We must look towards and try to love God with all of who we are. When we do this, when we behold God above all else, we find that God becomes beautiful to us! We begin to revere and be in awe of God’s glory and greatness. The funny thing about loving God and adoring God, when we do, God our Father then changes us to be more loving and merciful too, just like our heavenly Father. We begin to wear and grow into the same beauty God has. This affects how we behold others. When we have grown to love and adore God, we will no longer see our neighbor as someone we are estranged from or who we want to harm. We not only will find we can want the best and give honor to our neighbor ,because we will find that we also honor and love ourselves because God loves us.

It never ceases to amaze me that God doesn’t expect our love, devotion and worship and *then* God will love us. No, God our Father, was the one who loved us first! Before we ever began to behold God – God beheld us and loved us. That’s the truly humbling part of this beautiful arrangement. As we behold God, we begin to realize we are loved by the one we seek to love. It is here we find life. Our daily struggles and work become holy because we do them in the light of God’s love and purpose for us. Our interactions serve as offerings of God’s love to others.

We began last Sunday and will continue the last Sunday of April and through May, looking at phrases from the Lord’s Prayer as we seek to understand how we behold God in this prayer that our Lord and Brother Jesus gave us. I hope you will join us Sundays at 11am in the sanctuary or find the YouTube video of our service on our Facebook page[*https://www.facebook.com/Gerrardstown-Presbyterian-Church-Life-1741871242694671/*](https://www.facebook.com/Gerrardstown-Presbyterian-Church-Life-1741871242694671/)or our Website[*http://gerrardstownpc.com/*](http://gerrardstownpc.com/)

*Sources used for this article:* http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-cliches.html

https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/origin-cliches-those-weird-sayings-1932409

https://www.history.com/news/history-lists/10-common-sayings-with-historical-origins

https://writingexplained.org/idiom-dictionary/beauty-the-eye-of-the-beholder

**May Events @ GPC**

**Worship on Sundays at 11am**

May 5th –Reception for our **missionary, Nadia Ayoub** from 3-5pm in the Sanctuary

May 6th – **Fellowship Reception** following worship in the Gathering Room

May 19- **Pentecost Make and Take** 3:30-5:30pm at the Hall

May 29 –**Community Dinner** 4:30-6:30

June 10-14 – **Game On! VBS at GPC Save the dates!**

June 23 –**Church Yard Sale!** 8am-4pm. A limited number of spaces are available for $10. To donate items for church to sell or for more information contact Mary Campbell ph. 304-229-0038 or [marycampbell@aol.com](mailto:marycampbell@aol.com) Proceeds to benefit missions of the church.

Pentecost

Make and Take

Celebration

Saturday May 19th 3:30pm-5:30pm

Come discover the story of Pentecost in fun activities including wind and flames and flying kites! Dinner will be served. Bring a friend!

**Come meet Nadia Ayoub, the PC(USA) missionary we support. We are hosting a reception**

**Saturday, May 5th in the Sanctuary at 3 p.m.** Nadia is just back from Ukraine and her ministry with the Roma. Soon she will go to Greece to work with Syrian and other refugees

**April 2018 Session Meeting Highlights**

Session met Wed. April 25th and began with lively discussion of Ch. 7&8 from *Success Is Who You Are* and then opened the meeting in prayer. Several items of interest: the roof was repaired for a cost of $1000, a quote is being obtained to repair the ceiling in the farthest classroom in the basement, Nadia Ayoub’s upcoming visit on May 5th was discussed as well as the Fellowship time after church on May 6th. More details were given on the Pentecost Make and Take May 19th and VBS theme of Game On scheduled for June 10th-14th. Session voted to have new landscaping installed by Victoria and Meadow Farms after again reviewing the landscape plan presented last month. The cost will be just under $5000 for removal of stumps, preparation of beds, mulch, the installation of plants, and this comes with a life time warranty for the plants around the church Sanctuary building. Session voted to send letters of encouragement to Libby Seal and Robin Staubs. Committee on New Congregational Development asked Session to answer a questionnaire about possibilities of a New Worshiping Community in our area. The next Presbytery meeting is May 22 in Lexington VA. Mary Campbell was elected as commissioner. Session approved a cadet Girl Scout troop from Mountain Ridge Intermediate to use the Fellowship Hall on Friday evenings from 6-8pm for their meetings. Next Session Meeting is May 24th at 7pm.



WEST VIRGINIA 211

For confidential assistance with utilities, behavior health services, housing and shelter, child care, or other needs call 2-1-1. The person who answers will give information about and phones numbers for organizations and programs in any area of WV.

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**If you know anyone in need of help for addiction or mental illness, WV has a 24 hour hotline 1-844-HELP4WV.**

**May Day**

American poet

Sara Teasdale (1884 – 1933)

A delicate fabric of bird song

Floats in the air,

The smell of wet wild earth

Is everywhere.

Red small leaves of the maple

Are clenched like a hand,

Like girls at their first communion

The pear trees stand.

Oh I must pass nothing by

Without loving it much,

The raindrop try with my lips,

The grass with my touch;

For how can I be sure

I shall see again

The world on the first of May

Shining after the rain?

**Be on the Lookout for a New Landscaping Plan coming soon for the area around the Sanctuary building!**

Sponsor a plant or make a donation to help defray the costs for stump removal, bed preparation, cost of plants, mulch and labor.