

The Hallowed Word
All Hallows Episcopal Church
The Rev. Kenneth Thom, Priest-in-Charge
August 2010

Musing from the Priest-in-Charge

For the last at least 45 years Arlene and I have spent at least a couple of vacation days during the summer in Cape May, New Jersey. We may have missed a year or two, but our times there have been pretty consistent. We've stayed in several different places over those years, but for the last 20 or more, we've been staying in a large rooming house near the center of town called "Holiday House." The Holiday House provides pretty basic accommodations: there is no air conditioning but rooms are arranged on either side of a long hallway so when the doors are open there's cross-ventilation. Each door is equipped with a curtain and most people leave their doors open all the time. Many of the rooms have running water (small sinks), some do not, including all the rooms on the third sleeping floor, but each floor has a bathroom at each end of the hallway equipped with a sink, two toilets and either a shower or a tub with shower in a separate room. Lately, in the last year or two, someone has added a provision to put a small card at the doorway to the bathroom which can be either "man" or "woman," but most people don't bother. There are three sleeping floors but no elevator, so getting to your room each day provides some moderate stair-climbing exercise. The most extensive shopping and dining area in Cape May is a three block long section where the street has been closed off to form an open air mall, and this is located only two blocks from Holiday House. And the beach is only a short three block walk, so the house is in a pretty convenient location. The first floor of the building includes a large dining room, a commercial kitchen, an expansive living room, an open front porch, a screened back porch overlooking the back yard and gardens, and a chapel. That last might surprise you until you learn that the Holiday House is owned by the Girls Friendly Society of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. The Girls Friendly Society, or GFS, is an international, non-profit organization affiliated with the Episcopal Church and is open to girls of any race, religion or nationality. GFS was founded by Mary Elizabeth Townsend in England in 1875 and the first United States chapter of the society was created in 1877. The society is a social and service organization dedicated to supporting and nurturing young women and girls from five to 21 years of age with positive guidance from adult leaders. The group's goal is to develop values, experience and maturity and to help girls forge lifelong friendships. The group's foundation is based on a four-part program of worship, service, recreation and study. "It's like Girl Scouts with prayer," commented one of the leaders. GFS began when Samuel Wilberforce, the Bishop of Winchester, was creating an organization through the diocese for rescue work and Mrs. Townsend was asked to join. The idea came to her, "If the power of rescue work will be so increased by organization, why should not work be organized to save young servant women from falling." It was Mrs. Townsend's intent to nurture, guide and inspire these young women to live a Godly life. It broke her heart if one strayed from that path. The organization provided a way for young women to socialize, sew and be read to on their day off. Its beginning was in a very small cottage

The Hallowed Word, page 2

in a Hampshire parish of the Diocese of Winchester. The group eventually grew and spread to other parishes in England, then to Scotland and eventually to Lowell, Massachusetts. It is now world wide. Because there are no heaters at Holiday House it is only open during an extended summer season, and for a number of weeks during that season, it is used exclusively for groups of girls from the GFS and their friends. At other times it is open to families and individuals who have been recommended through contacts with the GFS. During most of the season, the relatively modest cost for staying at Holiday House includes breakfast and dinner, served family style. After Labor Day Week-end until closing, only breakfast is served. In times past, Morning Prayer was held in the chapel Monday through Friday, lead by one of the GFS leaders and on some Wednesday mornings, the priest from the local Episcopal Church celebrates the Eucharist. Now, worship in the chapel is determined primarily by the groups using the house and may be Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline or if a priest is with the group, Holy Eucharist. For the last five years, I've celebrated the Eucharist in the chapel on the Sunday morning of Labor Day Week-end. If you'd like to find out more about Holiday House or you're interested in vacationing there, I'll be glad to answer any of your questions.

Holy Cross Chapel Annual Service

The Annual Holy Cross Service is Sunday, September 12, at 11:00 AM. The Chapel of the Holy Cross, a Chapel of Ease of All Hallows Parish, began in 1774 in Stockton. It is said that the building burned. The building which is currently nestled among the tombstones of local families was built around 1850. A staunch and supportive number of Stockton families have worshiped there since that time, with various periods of non-use and regeneration. When regular services ceased in the 1960's, a tradition of having an Annual Service on the Sunday nearest to Holy Cross Day began. It remains as a time to remember this village chapel, to appreciate its past and to meet and to make friends. The following article gives a glimpse into the past of Holy Cross. Following the article is a quotation from letters dated June 1 and June 5, 1951, from G. E. Dryden to the Rector and Vestry of All Hallows: The All Hallows Church Family is known for its willingness and ability to tackle a project. This was clearly demonstrated in 1951. Following the April 15, 1951 service at the Chapel of the Holy Cross, the Rector Allan R. Day of All Hallows spoke of a need for interior improvements at Holy Cross. Local Stockton friends and parishioners agreed, and were anxious to complete these before the Annual Visitation from Bishop Miller on June 17th. Plans were discussed with the wardens and vestry of All Hallows, and approval was given. To say that work commenced is an understatement. Sections of flooring were replaced, and repairs made to the ceiling and wainscoting. The ceiling was treated with Dramex. The woodwork was painted black. The walls were given two coats of ivory paint. The floor was triple-coated. The pews and church furniture were refreshed with clear varnish. Broken window panes were replaced. The entire cost was \$83.08 - with only \$1.07 spent on labor. Volunteers including Mrs. Margaret Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Ward, Mr. H. Neil Sturgis, Mr. James Houston, Mr. Julius Outten, Ms. Emily Dryden, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Dryden and Mr. Tommy Dryden gave 216 hours. The entire project was funded by donated funds - and the sale of the lumber from the scaffolding that was

The Hallowed Word, page 3

used! To quote B. Herman Adkins, All Hallows Treasurer, in a June 5, 1951 letter to the Dryden family: We wish to “acknowledge the recent handsome contribution in time, effort and thoughtfulness in the redecoration of the interior of Holy Cross . . . It is a privilege to be associated with a community that exemplifies such a true Christian Spirit.”

Our Hard Work Has Put Us Out of Business!

The Snow Hill Nursing Home has no more room for books. At this time we are looking for others who can use our donations. We'll let you know. Thanks for all you have done!

Faith-Based Medical Home

Atlantic General Hospital has initiated a new program that hopes to involve the health care system with faith-based communities – churches, synagogues, etc. – in a new and comprehensive health management program. The present health care system functions primarily on reacting to physical impairments and providing intervening care after illness has been diagnosed. Health professionals say the country's health care system needs to shift its focus more to preventive care. They say what is needed is a completely new model of health care, one that places a much stronger emphasis on prevention and wellness over intervention. They refer to this new model as “home-centered health care” – built on a system in which health management begins at home, connects to physicians and care teams, and circles back to the home. There are a number of programs around the country which are working with various aspects of this model to more adequately care for the whole person, in healthy times as well as in sick times. Examples include a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program begun by Stanford University which trains patients and care-givers, and resulted in significantly less hospital and doctor visits. Intel is developing “Activity Detection Technology,” which involves equipping homes with a network of sensors that track and monitor everything from cooking habits to purchasing activities to the level and quality of physical movement. This technology is intended to promote early detection of changes in activity patterns and levels which may signal the onset of disease processes such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Other programs are exploring many forms of community partnership in which people feel both cared about and safe, fostering an atmosphere where creativity, support and accountability become the norm. Atlantic General is convinced that perhaps nowhere else is there the rich potential of primary prevention and even secondary prevention available to be tapped than in our places of worship. They are now exploring the ways in which this faith-based partnership can be most effective in enhancing health care, and All Hallows has been actively involved in the early discussions with a number of other churches in the Berlin-Ocean City-Snow Hill region. The next meeting in the on-going discussions is scheduled for August 17 at 12 noon at AGH. If you would be interested in joining the discussion and acting as a “Health Ambassador” for All Hallows, please talk with Father Ken.

Florida Court Sets Atheist Holy Day

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no

