

The Hallowed Word

All Hallows Episcopal Church

The Rev. Kenneth Thom, Priest-in-Charge

May 2010

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National Workshop on Christian Unity

During the week of April 19, Father Ken represented the Diocese of Easton at the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU), held this year at the Hyatt Hotel in Tampa, Florida. The annual meeting of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO) was held concurrently. Father Ken is the Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese of Easton. Each year more than 300 supporters of ecumenism from across the United States including more than 40 Episcopal Ecumenical Officers gather for the NWCU, which is held in a different city each year. The workshop is attended by representatives of most of the major Christian denominations. The larger groups of attendees are Roman Catholic, Episcopal, and Lutheran, with smaller groups from Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, AME, AME-Zion, and many of the Orthodox churches. There are also a few of the Fundamental/Pentecostal denominations represented.

The purposes of the workshop as summed up in the Statement of Origins are: providing meeting seminars for all who are concerned with the ministry of Christian unity; stimulating an exchange of ideas and experiences among people concerned with Christian unity; being a resource and balance between national planning and local responsibility, general ecumenical discussions and particular interchurch conversations; encouraging denominational networks to develop and serve as a framework within which they can interact; and celebrating the unity which already exists among Christians and searching for ways to overcome the divisions that remain.

In the Episcopal Church, the diocesan bishop is in overall charge of ecumenical activities within the diocese, but in most dioceses the bishop appoints an Ecumenical Officer to attend the workshop and the EDEIO annual meeting, and to participate in other ecumenical activities, both local and diocese-wide, as the

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bishop's representative. All the activities of the NWCU were held either at the workshop hotel or at churches in the immediate vicinity of the hotel. Monday, the first day of the workshop, was devoted to denominational meetings with an emphasis on orienting new attendees. That evening there was a dinner for all attendees followed by an ecumenical worship service, this year held at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, a couple of blocks from the hotel. The preacher for the service was the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Shori, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Tuesday morning opened with the keynote address delivered by Roman Catholic Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. The keynote address was followed by seminars on a dozen topics, ranging from an introduction to the principles and status of ecumenical discussions to reviews of ongoing dialogues and a panel discussion on the impact of ecumenism on ethical decisions. The afternoon was devoted to workshops sponsored by various denominations and network groups. That evening, there was an Episcopal Eucharist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and a Catholic Eucharist at Sacred Heart.

Wednesday began with a Bible study led by The Rev. Dr. Bruce Chilton, Professor of Religion at Bard College. This was followed by a Plenary on Ecumenical Reception: Its Challenge and Opportunity, followed by a continuation of Dr. Chilton's Bible Study. Wednesday afternoon was a continuation of denominational and group workshops.

Thursday there were two more rounds of ecumenical seminars followed by a closing luncheon with a talk by the Rev. Dr. Tom Best, Former Director, Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches. Significant developments in ecumenical affairs related to the Episcopal Church that were discussed included the tenth anniversary (coming in February 2011) of the approval of the "Called to Common Mission: declaration that established a full communion relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the on-going dialogue between the Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church which has led to a communion sharing agreement, and the dialogue between the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church USA which is nearing agreement on many areas of discussion.

INSPIRE

Many people have gone further than they imagined they could because someone else thought they could!

United Thank Offering

The Spring Ingathering for the United Thank Offering will take place at All Hallows on Sunday May 9th. Through this program, developed by and administered by women since 1889, offerings collected are sent to the UTO national office, which is entrusted to promote, receive and distribute the United Thank Offering monies through grants. In 2008 more than \$2,400,000 was given in 91 grants. Grants within the United States went to 70 recipients in the amount of \$1,500,000. There were 17 international grants totaling \$782,000. There were also 4 awards totaling \$84,000 to Companion Dioceses. The Mission of the UTO is to expand the circle of thankful people through daily prayers, offerings and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. Many choose to take a "Blue Box" (available at all times in the back of the church) and make a thoughtful daily offering. Others participate by placing an offering in the plate during the UTO collection on May 9th. Others choose to mail a check to Ann Gibb, the treasurer of the Episcopal Church Women of All Hallows, at 30025 Southhampton Bridge Road, Salisbury, MD 21804. Visit www.episcopalchurch.org for more information or google United Thank Offering.



All Hallows High Altar beautifully decorated for Easter

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

A special service will be held at the Lych Gate on Memorial Day, May 30, immediately following the regular worship service to commemorate those associated with All Hallows Church who have served in the armed forces of the United States.

During the service, the names of those who served and who have died are read as a memorial tribute. This is followed by a reading of the names of those who are now serving or who have served who are still living. Following is the listing we have of those who are still living. Please review the list and advise either Father Ken or Ed Haile of additions or corrections.

Appreciation for those who have served

Robert Kurtz – Major USA
Rayford R. Selph – Chief Warrant Officer USA
Kelley M. Selph – Sergeant USA
Francis A. Selph – Sergeant USA
Krista E. Vajda - 1st Lieutenant USA
Raymond Dryden III – Sergeant USA
Robert A. Fisher – Petty Officer USN
William L. Gordy – Spec. 4 USA
Harry E. Deitch, Jr. – Commander USN
Edward Phillips – Colonel USA
Edmund F. Haile – 1st Lieutenant USA
George D. Hood, Jr. – Lieutenant USN
Charles R. Bowie – Chief Petty Officer USCG
Nelson Payne – Corporal USMC
Mary Houts – Seaman/Journalist 3rd Class USN
George R. Murray, Jr. – Sergeant USMC
Ronald E. Geesey – Captain USA
T. Clay Groton IV – Captain USA

Appreciation for those currently serving

B. J. Dryden
Eric Snadecki
Katherine LeBlanc
Patrick Gentry
Chip Kolbe
Fritz Kern
Mark Schramek
Phillip Berger
David Berger
Jeffrey Vajda
Melissa L. Banner
Rick LeBlanc

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Calendar of Events

Worship Schedule

May 2, Holy Eucharist, Rite I (loose offering for discretionary fund)

May 9, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

May 16, Morning Prayer, Rite II

May 23, Holy Eucharist, Enriching Our Worship

May 30, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Special Events

May 9, Spring Ingathering Offering for UTO

May 30, 10:30 am, Memorial Day Service at the Lych Gate

For Your Information – Father Ken and Bonnie compile the information for our newsletter, and Kemp adds the magic to send it through the e-mail. The goofs are Bonnie's, and sometimes she takes a mental note and loses her mind. Last month, we identified the pre-school teacher as Katherine Howard. We all know better; the terrific lady teaching our pre-schoolers is Katherine Gordon. So this is the time to say "Thank you!" to Katherine for the great job she is doing with the kids. And also, "Thank you!" to Bill Gordy for his continuing great job as he challenges and encourages the older kids.

Pledges, endowments and grants are not just dollars on a spreadsheet; they are gifts from the people of God. Likewise, expenses are not just dollars going out for payroll, benefits, or the mortgage, but dollars working in the service of the people of God for the building of Christian community. *Ibby Whitten in Vestry Papers*

According to a survey with over 800 Episcopalians in the Diocese of Minnesota, Episcopalians who engage in outreach are much more hopeful about the state of the church, more likely to know their spiritual gifts, more likely to use them, and more confident in proclaiming the good news of God in Christ. *From Vestry Papers*

Opportunity – The block of granite which was an obstacle in the path of the weak becomes a stepping stone in the path of the strong.

Challenge – Winners must have two things: definite goals and burning desire to achieve them.

Integrity comes when character is tested; keep true and never be ashamed of doing what is right.

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Reading materials – Folk in the nursing home are requesting more Sports magazines, *Southern Living*, *Good Housekeeping*, etc. Also comics and magazine sections from the Sunday papers are not “dated” and are always good reading. There have been requests for more books, particularly mysteries and romances. We continue to take paperback books and *Readers Digest* to the jail.

With every new catastrophe in this country and around the world, you can be sure that Episcopal Relief and Development is there helping. Your support has never been more valuable. Offering envelopes are available on the back of pews, and more have been ordered.

Archives – Kathy Fisher has diligently organized and indexed All Hallows historical information. It is currently being housed behind the folded doors in the Parish Hall Records date back to 1800’s. Kathy is also looking into housing the archives at the county library.

ECW Officers elected for the upcoming year:

Janet McGrail, President

Ann Gibb, Treasurer

Connie West, Secretary

Live Carefully Several years ago a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, TX. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, “You’d better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.” Then he thought, “Oh, forget it, it’s only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet.”

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, “Here, you gave me too much change.” The driver, with a smile, replied, “Aren’t you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I’ll see you at church on Sunday.”

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, “Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.”

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test! Always be on guard – and remember – You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself “Christian.”

Prayer for the Current Financial Situation

Lord God, we live in disturbing days: across the world, prices rise, debts increase, banks collapse, jobs are taken away, and fragile security is under threat. Loving God, meet us in our fear and hear our prayer: be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands, and a light in the darkness; help us receive your gift of peace, and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer from the Church of England via *East Tennessee Episcopalian*.

God and Eve – A Fairy Tale

Eve: ‘I’ve got a problem.’

God: ‘What’s the problem, Eve?’

Eve: ‘I know that you created me and provided this beautiful garden and all of these wonderful animals, as well as that hilarious comedic snake, but I’m just not happy.’

God: ‘And why is that, Eve?’

Eve: ‘I am lonely, and I’m sick to death of apples.’

God: ‘Well, Eve, in that case, I have a solution. I shall create a man for you.’

Eve: ‘Man? What is that?’

God: ‘A flawed creature, with many bad traits. He’ll lie, cheat and be vain; all in all, he’ll give you a hard time. But he’ll be bigger, faster and will like to hunt and kill things. I’ll create him in such a way that he will satisfy your physical needs. He will be witless and will revel in childish things like fighting and kicking a ball about. He won’t be as smart as you, so he will also need your advice to think properly.’

Eve: ‘Sounds great, but what’s the catch?’

God: ‘Well,....you can have him on one condition.’

Eve: ‘And what’s that, dear God?’

God: ‘As I said, he’ll be proud, arrogant and self-admiring...so you’ll have to let him believe that I made him first. And it will have to be our little secret... you know, woman to woman.’