

The Hallowed Word

All Hallows Episcopal Church

June 2011

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The Season of Pentecost

This season of the church year begins the day after the Feast of Pentecost (June 12 this year) and continues through the day before the first Sunday of Advent. It may include up to 28 Sundays – depending on the date of Easter – and it is the longest season in the church year. This includes Trinity Sunday, which is the Sunday after Pentecost. Prior to the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, Sundays in this long period were identified and counted in terms of the number of Sundays after Trinity Sunday instead of the number of Sundays after Pentecost. This period is also understood by some, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, as “ordinary time,” a period of the church year not dedicated to a particular season or observance. The term “Pentecost” means “the fiftieth day.” It is used in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament it refers to a feast of seven weeks known in the Hebrew calendar as the Feast of Weeks and was basically an agricultural event that focused on the harvesting of the first fruits. The term is used in the New Testament to refer to the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, shortly after Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension. The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of the promise which Jesus gave concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is one of the seven principle feasts of the church year. The day is also known as Whitsunday, a corruption of “White Sunday.” This term reflects the custom by which those who were baptized at the Vigil of Pentecost would wear their white baptismal garments to church on the Day of Pentecost. Trinity Sunday is also one of the seven principal feasts of the church year. The Book of Common Prayer notes that this feast celebrates “the one and equal glory of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being.”

You can help with Camp Agape!

Instituted last year at Camp Agape is a library corner. We are collecting books for kids aged pre-school through teens. Campers will take them home for themselves and to read to younger siblings. Please bring any old books in decent shape; someone will find them precious as they expand their minds and remember you love them.

Vacation Bible School

The Snow Hill Ministerial Association invites all in the Snow Hill area to join together for Vacation Bible School. It will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., July 11 through July 15. This year's program is entitled *Pandamania – Where God is Wild About You*. Each evening, activities begin at Bates Church where kids will sing catchy songs. Then our Elementary age students will move in crews to other churches to play teamwork-building games, nibble theme-related snacks, experience electrifying Bible adventures, and create Bible Point crafts. Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see God in everyday life – God sightings. You'll hear that phrase a lot. Teens will join everyone for the opening and closing. In between they will move over to Ebenezer Church from where they will move out to participate in service projects and special missions. Pre-Elementary children will attend the opening program and music instruction and remain at Bates where they will stay in a self-contained environment. Adult Program – Pastor Lisa Graine will again lead a Bible study for adults during VBS week. The study will meet at Bates' Perkins Building, next door to the church on Market Street. Our VBS will be great fun, so don't forget to mark your calendar with these very important dates! Registration Forms for children and youth are available from Father Ken and are also at Snow Hill Library and Snow Hill Nursery School. **VBS Mission Project – Operation Kid-to-Kid – “PandaMania”** is an exciting way for kids to learn about Jesus' love. This year our kids will participate in Operation Kid-to-Kid by partnering with Biblica (formerly known as International Bible Society) to create colorful backpacks and Bible bookmarks to be sent to at-risk children in Spanish speaking countries. Then for a mere \$2 per backpack, Biblica will add a Spanish New Testament to each backpack and deliver these gifts to hurting children in Latin America. Our mission offering taken on Friday night will help with this expense.

Organ Lessons

All Hallows has a new organ with an incredible amount of resources and capabilities. Our Church Musician, Jim Bosworth, is doing a masterful job of demonstrating the variety of capabilities of the organ as he plays the music for worship each Sunday. He would also like to share the joy of working with this remarkable musical instrument by offering organ playing lessons to anyone who is interested. He is available for teaching during both day and evening, and students are welcome to use the organ on a non-interfering basis for practice. For more information or to arrange to begin lessons, contact Jim at 410-632-2381.

Report on Sunday School

Sunday School for our older young people ended the session on June 5, 2011. Following is a report from **Bill Gordy**. Though our number present is sometimes small, the quality of our interaction is immense. We seek to explore and understand Christian based values. This year we have focused on how Holy Communion functions as signs of God's acts, both in history and in our lives today. In Holy Communion, we encounter a powerful sign of Jesus' life and love shared among God's people. Throughout our sessions this year we have explored the acts of Holy Communion in the context of other families and cultural practices. Thanks to our regulars: Dominic, Tarsha and Hannah; our newcomers: Lindsay and Brooke; and our occasional visitors: Morgan, Alyssa, Madison, Delaney, Nick and Emma. I hope you all have a wonderful Summer, and I look forward to your return in the Fall.

Katherine Gordon reports on the younger people's Sunday School. All Hallows Nursery through First Grade also ended the School Year Session on June 5, 2011, with a total of 7 children and several visitors from September 2010 until the last day of class in June. Vincenz Cucina's Sunday Attendance was 29 days, followed by Grace Gordy with 10 days. The lesson plan included introducing the children to socializing by interaction of play, activities of coloring or crafts, games, all centered around a Bible theme. During the summer months, there will be activities for any children who would like to attend.

Bill and Katherine have been doing a wonderful job with this ministry to our youngest people.

Character of a Church

(The following article by Brice Stump, published in the *Daily Times* on May 8, 2011, reminded me of Holy Cross Chapel or maybe the chapel at Furnace Town. The article is from the *Life in the Country* series and is entitled "Character of a Church.")

It is a strange place for a clock. There, above the pews at the rear of the church, on the gallery wall is a vintage key-wound clock, hung where only the preacher and the choir could see. It has been in the same spot for almost 80 years. The country church has not been used for Sunday services in decades, yet it remains intact. The hymnals are on the pews, the chairs at the altar, the Civil War-era Bible still open on the pulpit. The antique kerosene lamps remain along each (continued on page 4)

Character of a Church (continued from page 3)

side of large double-sash glass windows. In the glass reservoir of each one, an amber ghost remains where lamp oil has evaporated. The worn pine pews are dated, too, the pride of the congregation when they were new, perhaps in the late 1800's.

A path down the pine floor is worn smooth between the rows of pews. Here many old members took painful steps as they went to their favorite seat, finding relief from arthritis and pains of old age as they were seated. Kids, knowing better, ran down the aisles.

It is a peculiar feeling to be in a church alone, sitting in a pew listening to the chatter of nesting birds. What an experience it must be to be seated here in nights' darkest late hours. Year in, year out, the sunlight that had been passing through antique glass panes in large windows gave way to the cold light of a full moon that flowed into the single room at night. Hot in summer, cold in winter, the faithful came to celebrate God and country simplicity. Sunlight coming into a church seems purer, warmer and gentler to the eyes than "regular" sunlight in a room. An old church, in particular requires lower voices, not too loud, not too soft, but "just right" Sunday-go-to-meetin' voice etiquette.

Plaster walls have seen the shadows of the best and worst of mankind. Folks left services always a bit better for the experience, whether sharing their burdens with believing friends or touched by divine intervention. How many came here with hearts heavy with personal crises and financial hardships? Hundreds and hundreds of sermons have been delivered here, sometimes made more relevant by sunlight or the trails of raindrops on the wavy window glass with its trapped bubbles. Maybe the raging wind enhanced the message, or perhaps it was songbirds who gave extra meaning to a sermon subject. Souls were saved here. Some for eternity, some for just a day. I read a theory that churches have their special personality of peace because of the years of prayers that have been absorbed into the plaster and wood of the sanctuary. It's a feeling of invisible cashmere or gently floating goose down or the peace that comes with a soft, warm, slow breeze.

In front of me is the altar, where nervous couples married and where caskets were afforded a place of honor as family and friends came to say their good-byes without words. Here the beautiful voice of a humble country choir was heavenly music to angels who visited this place between the marsh and woods. (cont. on page 5)

Character of a Church (continued from page 4)

An older couple, who care for the church, wanted me to see this landmark dear to their community. The tarnished brass candlesticks, the cardboard hand fans, even stoneware spittoons and 150-year-old tables remain. How could it be that this place has sat empty and unprotected and the doors left unlocked for 40-plus years and has never been vandalized, even once? Generation after generation filled vacant seats, until one day, there was no one to take anybody's place. No more tears, no more singing, no more laughter. The kids who giggled and fidgeted, yawned and slept through an eternity of Sunday sermons are no more. Yet the church remains untouched inside. It is like the empty chair left at the dining room table for a departed loved one. Or a room never touched when someone dies. A church empty for so many years, yet remarkable that it has the power to touch the heart, stir the soul. A place that can still make you smile, still make you cry.

The Sneeze

They walked in tandem, each of the nine-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing .. and the traditional caps, they looked almost .. as grown up as they felt. Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears.

This class would NOT pray during the commencement----not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it. The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families.

The speeches were nice, but they were routine.....until the final speech received a standing ovation. A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then, it happened. All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly SNEEZED!!!! The student on stage.. simply looked at the audience and said,

‘GOD BLESS YOU’ And he walked off stage...

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval.

This is a true story; it happened at the University of Maryland.
(Discovered and passed on by Katherine Gordon.)

All Hallows Episcopal Church
109 West Market Street
Snow Hill, MD 21863

Calendar of Events

Worship Schedule

June 26, Holy Eucharist, Rite II
July 3, Holy Eucharist, Rite I
July 10, Holy Eucharist, Rite II
July 17, Holy Eucharist, Rite II
July 24, Holy Eucharist, Rite I
July 31, Deacon's Liturgy

Special Events

Church Picnic – a Sunday in August, date to be announced

Life Lessons

1. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
2. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
3. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.

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