

The Hallowed Word

All Hallows Episcopal Church

The Rev. Kenneth Thom, Priest-in-Charge

May 2012

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Easter Services

The resurrection of Jesus was celebrated on the Saturday evening before Easter Sunday with the Easter Vigil Service. The new flame of the Paschal Candle, symbolizing the light of Christ, was processed into a darkened church to begin the service. The light from the Paschal Candle was passed to candles held by members of the congregation. The Exsultet, a hymn of rejoicing and joy sung only at the Easter Vigil, followed. The service of lessons, reviewing Hebrew Scriptures pointing to the coming of Jesus, was followed by the renewal of our Baptismal vows. Then came the joyful shout, "Alleluia, Christ is risen," and all the lights in the church were turned on. The first Eucharist of Easter concluded the service. Although attendance was relatively small, several members of the congregation said afterward that this service was to them the most meaningful of the year. Easter Sunday was welcomed by a sung celebration of Holy Eucharist. For this service, there were over 80 people in attendance, and all but about 10 were regular members of the congregation. With so many people in the marvelous acoustical environment of All Hallows, the singing was especially bright and cheery and joyful, the responses were loud and enthusiastic, and the atmosphere was festive. Think how wonderful all our worship services would be if we had that kind of participation every Sunday!

Report from Betsy Gravenor – Delegate to the 2012 Diocesan Convention

It was my first time as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention. I was nervous because I did not know exactly what to expect, but I was excited, too.

On the first afternoon, I attended a workshop that dealt with how churches can become more "green" and energy-conserving. During the speaker's presentation, a thunderstorm was raging outside. Almost as soon as he gave the idea to turn off the lights when they are not being used, the electricity went off in the whole hotel! It was great timing! The electricity came back on about 4 hours later. One of my favorite convention memories was made during the social hour when Bishop Shand walked around with a headlamp and people started singing "This Little Light of Mine."

On Saturday morning, I had the opportunity to be a chaliceist at the Convention Eucharist. I was extremely nervous, since being a (continued on pg. 2)

Betsy Gravenor (continued from page 1)

chalice is still new for me. I did not feel like I had enough experience to participate in this service. On arriving for rehearsal, I met a woman who asked me if I could give her some tips about being a chalice because she had never done it before. I was able to help her both with advice and lessening some of her nervousness. Meeting and helping her was God's way of calming me down before the service and giving me confidence to serve as chalice.

The convention was a great opportunity for me to meet new people from around the diocese and to hear what God is doing through people at other churches. It is easy to forget that there are many other people in the area who love God and are passionate about spreading His word to others. By attending this convention, I gained some insight of what people in the diocese are doing, and for me attending the convention was a good learning experience.

Ministry Transition

Father Ken announced to the Vestry at their regular meeting in April that he was planning to decrease the level of his activities at All Hallows. He suggested that he was not able to perform all the activities he would like to do at the same level as five or ten years ago and felt it was time to slow down. He asked the Vestry to consider two alternatives: either he would retire at the end of July, or for the next year he would reduce his presence and activities at the parish during the week and concentrate primarily on leading worship and providing pastoral care. At the Vestry meeting, the Vestry was unanimous in requesting that Father Ken continue as Worship Leader after the end of July rather than retiring. Details of exact duties and level of compensation are to be worked out in the next few weeks. A committee, led by Senior Warden Bonnie Caudell with Dan Westerlund and Ann Gibb will develop a plan for Father Ken's transition to the new level and also look in detail at the actions and direction to be taken by All Hallows in the next year.

Father Ken had already discussed his plans with the Bishop, and the committee has met with Bishop Shand and Canon Cook as the first step in their planning. They were very helpful, and the first suggested step is to increase the committee by two members.

Bible Study The first session of a new Bible Study was held Tuesday, April 24, and one of the attendees commented, "The Tuesday Night Bible Study Group, under the guidance of Fr. Thom, discussed the Sunday readings from the Lectionary. The lively discussion included the text meaning, individual interpretations and comments. The best part for me was 'no homework.'" The Bible Studies will continue every Tuesday at 5 PM. We will save you a seat.

Province III Synod next week

Father Ken and Bonnie will be heading to Martinsburg, WV for the Province III Synod on April 30 and May 1. Did you know that All Hallows Church is not only a parish in the Diocese of Easton, but we are also part of Province III of the Episcopal Church. What does that mean, anyway?

The Episcopal Church is divided into nine Provinces or geographical regions, and every one of the 110 Dioceses of the Episcopal Church belongs to one Province. The dioceses in Province III are from the Mid-Atlantic Region. They are: Easton, Bethlehem, Central Pennsylvania, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, PA, West Virginia, Maryland, Washington, Delaware, Virginia, Southwest Virginia and Southern Virginia.

Province III exists to further the mission of the Episcopal Church by coordinating the interdependent ministries of the 13 dioceses in a spirit of mutual responsibility. Each diocese at their annual convention elects deputies to the body known as the Province III Synod, which consists of the elected deputies who make up the Provincial House of Deputies, and the bishops – including our own Bishop Bud Shand, from the 13 dioceses make up the Provincial House of Bishops. They in turn elect the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer for the Provincial Synod, and a representative from the Synod to the national Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, which is the body that oversees activities of the Episcopal Church between General Conventions.

The Province III Synod which will meet April 30 and May 1 will be focusing on the upcoming General Convention, which takes place this July. Father Ken is a diocesan deputy to Synod and Bonnie is a deputy to General Convention. This is why they, as well as other General Convention Deputies and Alternates from the Diocese of Easton have been invited to attend. They will be briefed on what is likely to happen at Convention by the Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts-Schori, the President of the House of Deputies, Dr. Bonnie Anderson, and the Secretary to General Convention, the Rev. Canon Gregory Straub.

One of Us – Nance Blank, by Cub Reporter Katherine Gordon

Nancy [likes to be called Nance] Blank attended All Hallows Sunday School when she was six years old. She left for a few years but came back, and glad we are to have her as part of our church family. Nancy loves being involved with all her volunteer duties here at All Hallows. She is a member of the Episcopal Church Women, serves on the Altar Guild, fills in as a greeter, is an acolyte, reads the lessons, helps with the pancake supper, and volunteers when (continued on pg.4)

Nance Blank (continued from page 3)

needed. You may even see her carrying the bread and wine. Father Ken was a big influence in guiding Nance to gain confidence in herself and her ability to serve the Lord.

But her Card Ministry is what she loves best because of the satisfaction of sending cards to the church family for all occasions so they know they are loved and cared about and are special in God's eyes. Nance believes she is blessed and that God has given her special gifts to use. In 2011, Nance sent 146 birthday cards, 21 anniversary cards, and 10 get well cards, as well as sympathy cards. This ministry makes her feel close to each church member and to God. So if you know of a church member who should be remembered, let Nance know, and you can be sure she will send a card with and hand-written note.

Nance especially likes helping the Bishop when he visits; she carries his crook. She enjoys the suppers served at All Hallows, and she likes taking pictures. When her grandparents died, Nelson and Doris Payne offered to be her adopted grandparents. A loving relationship continues today.

I know it is the All Hallows church family who have been blessed that God has sent her back to All Hallows. Next time you see Nance, tell her how much you liked her card.

Shirley and Marcy

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance so he probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed. The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week. As the two kids walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?" Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is." The little girl said, "Well, who is she?" "That's just Shirley Goodnest," Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy." "Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?" (continued on page 5)

Shirley and Marcy (continued from page 4)

“Well,” Timmy explained, “every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, ‘cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, ‘Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life.’ So I guess I’ll have to get used to it!”

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.

Junior Warden’s Column, by Kemp Wills



This week’s Junior Warden Hero is Dorothy Garrett, who volunteered to adopt the cross-shaped garden at the base of the flagpole by the corner of Church St. She had noticed that the edging stones had sunken and were crooked, and she had some ideas for new plants that could go there. Under the supervision of her granddaughter Madison, She and I spent about 90 minutes last Saturday raising the stones, amending the soil, planting beautiful wild Bleeding Hearts (*Dicentra eximia*) from her garden, and Stella d’Oro daylilies from my garden, and then watering and mulching it before the rains that week. Please visit the garden (shown below, before mulch), which should be in bloom all summer, and thank Dorothy when you see her!

Word Matters by Kemp Wills [source: Wikipedia/Sursum Corda]

This time, we look at a phrase we see in the program every week: *Sursum Corda*, which is Latin for "Lift up your hearts" or literally "Hearts lifted" (*Sursum* is an adverb meaning "lifted" and *Cor, corda* is "heart, hearts" (e.g., the "core" of something (an apple core), or "courage" (inner strength)). [For our medical words, we use the Greek *kardia*].

This phrase, *Sursum Corda*, forms the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is the opening dialogue to the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer, dating back to at least the third century. The dialogue is recorded in the earliest liturgies of the Christian Church, and is found in all ancient rites. The structure of the dialogue is threefold, comprising

(1) an exchange of formal greeting between priest and people,

Priest: *Dominus vobiscum.* (The Lord be with you)

People: *Et cum spiritu tuo.* (And with thy spirit)

(2) an invitation to lift the heart to God, the people responding in agreement,

Priest: *Sursum corda.* (Lift up your hearts)

People: *Habemus ad Dominum.* (We lift them up to the Lord)

(3) an invitation to give thanks (in the form of the Eucharistic Celebration), the people answering that it is proper to do so.

Priest: *Gratias agamus Domino Deo nostro.* (Let us give thanks to the Lord our God)

People: *Dignum et justum est.* (It is meet and right so to do)

This third exchange indicates the people's consent to the priest continuing to offer the remainder of the Eucharistic Prayer on their behalf. So, the next time we come to that part of the Rite, you can know that we are repeating a dialogue, an invitation and response, that traces back to the 200 A.D.'s!

The C.P.C. Jar has gotten bigger.

Nelson wants to thank you for contributing to the Church Periodical Club's Mission to provide grants for seminary students to purchase books. The peanut butter jar has been replaced with a larger jar to hold coins and paper money. Your generous contribution is appreciated. Remember the widow who gave all she had to the poor. The two coins were not much to those who had more, but together with the other donations, the amount grew.

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, **and loudly proclaiming, “Wow, what a ride!”**

Episcopal Relief and Development

You and I are partners in the most important cause there is: Saving lives. Rebuilding communities. And healing a hurting world. Through Episcopal Relief & Development, we are deeply connected to each other—and with millions of people all across the world. As the Director of Donor Services, I’m in a unique position to see the connection between our constituents and those we serve—something that was poignantly brought home to me by a postcard from a Nashville woman thanking us for assistance. She sent this after the May 2010 flooding in her city. She wrote: I have given to the Episcopal Relief & Development Fund many times with thoughts of helping others in need not realizing that some day I would be the recipient of this very special gift of caring.

I keep her card as a reminder that she, and I, and her church in Nashville—and the business owner on the Gulf Coast, and the family with the new clean water system in Nicaragua, and the mother who just received insecticide-treated malaria nets in Tanzania—are more related than we thought.

We are linked by our faith. By our shared humanity. By our vulnerability to misfortune. And by our deep aspirations for a better life for ourselves, for our children and for one another. They need you and we all need each other.

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

Thank God for:

Calendar of Events

Worship Schedule

May 6, Holy Eucharist, Rite I

May 13, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

May 20, Holy Eucharist, Enriching Our Worship

May 27, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

June 3, Holy Eucharist, Rite I

June 10, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about what kind of community you want to live in. Author Unknown.

Are you getting *The Eastern Shore Episcopalian*? (Every member should be on the mailing list.) Do you have any comments or suggestions that would make it more helpful? Talk to Bonnie.

Do you get *The Hallowed Word* by snail mail? If you have an e-mail address, please give it to Ed Haile. We will save on postage.