

# *The Hallowed Word*

*All Hallows Episcopal Church*

**... a strong faith ... a caring community ... an active ministry ...**

December 2014

## ***Who is Santa, and why should we care?***

I understand how you might be feeling by the time you get to read this! Christmas started early this year—around August, I think. It always disturbs me to be doing back-to-school shopping and have to move around wrapping paper with bells and holly, or even worse, have to pass the lighted Christmas trees on the way to find the things I still need for summer. The bathing suits and beach balls have been whisked away into the “Clearance” aisle! And, in some stores, shopping is accompanied by songs such as “Jingle Bell Rock” or “Deck the Halls.” Are we such a needy culture that we have to be reminded of a season of Joy and Peace 5 or 6 months before the event? Or, is it really all about the economy? No, I don’t buy either argument because I have never seen changes in either Peace on Earth, or a monumental shift in the cost of living. I think the stores just compete because they need to sell some stuff, and school supplies are too boring.

The worst thing for me, I think, is to see poor Old St. Nick stuck out in the end-of-Summer heat roasting in his red and white furs! That gentle symbol of gratitude, compassion, and a generous spirit stuck outside (or inside) for the entire world to see as a supposedly iconic symbol of a winter holy day. Remember, St. Nicholas (also called Nikolaos of Myra) was a historic 4<sup>th</sup> century Christian saint and Greek Bishop of Myra in Lycia. Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as Nikolaos the Wonderworker. One of the many stories told about him is how he would visit a bride’s home during the night and leave gold coins so she could afford a dress for her wedding day. He was born on March 15, 270 AD, in Patara, Lycia, Turkey, and died December 6, 343 AD, in Myra, Turkey. In many countries, St. Nicholas visits children on December 6 (not 24) and leaves

gifts. However, like everything else, things can change and eventually the United States “inherited” a Dutch Santa, whose name represents selfless love and visits at night (anonymously) to leave gifts for children regardless of who they are...just out of Christian love. So many children do link Santa to Baby Jesus—and I think that is a good thing! If one just remembers that it isn’t Santa who *sells* stuff—it is Santa who *gives*—usually picked out as just what the child wants! Doesn’t this behavior reflect the best of what Jesus expects of us, to love without expecting anything in return; to be generous to all, to give for the joy of making someone happy?

Isn’t that what we want our children to learn? If we take our children to Church, to listen to scripture, prayers, receive Holy Communion, to involve them in the activities of giving to the food pantry and to those men and women serving our country, and “budgeting” for the offering plate...all the things we do in Church and Sunday School, doesn’t that reinforce what we want our children to understand is important?

My prayer for each of you is to experience the Christmas season as you are most comfortable—to draw close to you the miracle of God who *chose* to live as one of us. To be born in a borrowed bed in borrowed shelter, to grow up in a world that was not always peaceful, but who gave his life so that we would never lose ours.

Have a Holy Christmas, and a Blessed New Year!

*Nanese+*

**The Aumbry Candle** to the left of the altar burns twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week indicating that the reserved Sacrament is present in the tabernacle. It does not burn from sundown on Holy Friday until Easter Sunday when the consecrated elements have been removed. Memorials for loved ones or thanksgivings for God’s blessings are available at a cost of \$8 per week. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

**All Hallows was well represented at the Christmas Tree Lighting in Byrd Park!**



Mayor Charlie Dorman emceeing the Christmas Tree lighting

Nick Haglich entertains with Christmas songs.



Connie West reads “The Night Before Christmas.”

**Advent Scripture Study** began December 2 and continues every Tuesday evening from 6 to 8 pm during Advent as we come together for a pot-luck supper and a Study and Reflection on the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*. George Frederick Handel's *Messiah* was composed in 1741, and it is probably one of the best loved Christmas compositions. The words are all from scripture, so it is a wonderful way to enter into this holy time of the year. There will be no weekly Bible study during Advent; we will reconvene after the New Year.

### **Episcopal Church Women [ECW] Outreach**

The Snow Hill High School sent a request for donations for the High School After Prom activities to be held on April 25, 2015, at the Snow Hill Middle School. The After Prom festivities include movies, sports, contests, prizes and eating all night long. This is a highly popular event and is attended by over 200 students.

The After Prom is an outreach budgeted item of \$100 that the ECW contributes each year. If you would like to contribute either financial aid or other party items to the After Prom Activities, contact the ECW Treasurer or Snow Hill High School After Prom Committee.

The **Ebenezer Ecumenical Food Pantry**, chaired by Stephanie Clayville, sent a thank you note expressing their deep appreciation for ECW's donations toward this outreach project of feeding our neighbors in Snow Hill.

**The ECW Mini Bazaar** is located in the Parish Hall and sells items donated and hand-made for the purpose of supporting the various outreach ministries. Anyone can donate a handmade or useable item to this Mini Bazaar. The ECW sends a Big Thank You to the All Hallows Family for donating and for purchasing these items. The donations sold during 2014 have totaled \$566 so far, and the amount is growing.

The **Samaritan House** thanked the ECW for the quarterly donation of \$100.

A yearly donation was sent to **Santa House** in the amount of \$100.

The **Bakeless Bake Sale** for 2014 totaled \$690. This fund raising project is organized by the ECW in the fall to add to the budget for out-

reach. It requires little skill, no baking whatsoever, and no calories – just a cash donation to the ECW treasurer. It is simple and neat. A big Thank You to all who all who contributed to this year’s successful bake sale.

**Church Periodical Club (CPC):** Greetings, supporting club members! Today’s report comes to you, as usual, from your friendly Chairman, Nelson Payne. It has occurred to me that new members have joined our church family. This observation led me to wonder if our new members are aware of the glass jar located on the table near the front door of the church, and if they have heard what is its purpose? For several years each of you has generously contributed to this ministry fund. I would like to let our new members know that the funds collected go to support grants for new seminary students to purchase text books.

Judging by the amount contributed each month by our church family, many have found this a painless way to give hope to seminarians who want to serve the Episcopal Church. Some of you have found that any amount, even including pennies, put in the glass jar adds up and is a painless way to give support to this outreach project. Instead of that cup of coffee or donuts, use those coins to fill the glass jar. Our church family should be proud and thankful that their gifts glorify our Lord’s work by being a part of this Ministry.

**During Advent, we will be displaying a Jesse Tree** with the help of our Sunday School Children. Each symbol hung on the tree is a symbol of one of Jesus’ ancestors; it is Our Lord’s “family tree!”

**Decorating the Church for Christmas** is a meaningful way to prepare not only the building but also ourselves. Many hands make it an enjoyable time as well. Here is the schedule – plan to share your talents and time to make it happen!

December 17, 18, 19: Bring greenery (white pine, holly, camellia, magnolia, boxwood and ?) to the Lychgate.

*(continued)*

December 20 (Saturday) at 9:00 am: Bring small clippers, wire cutters and floral wire to the downstairs area and join in making swags for the candelabra.

December 21 (Sunday) after church: Something for everyone to do to beautify the church for Christmas: candelabra in place; swags attached; globes/candles in windows with greenery arranged; poinsettias at the Altar; roping hung; - and more, including clean-up after.

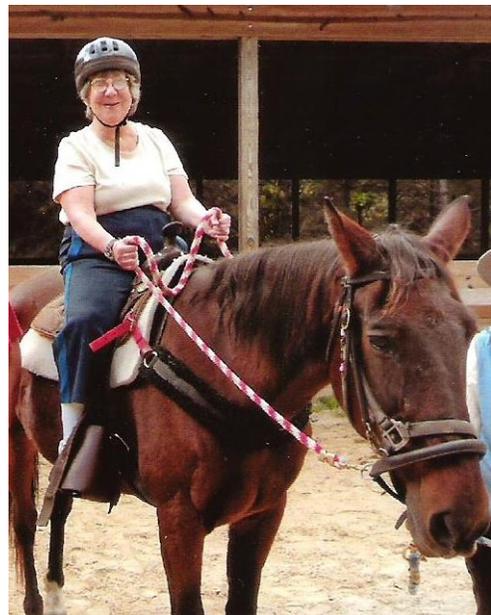
Questions?? See Alice Tweedy or Kathy Fisher.

**Christmas Poinsettias to brighten the Christmas altar** are \$10 this year. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

Also in the back of the church, is the sign-up sheet for the flower arrangements which grace the altar every Sunday, except during the penitential seasons of Lent and Advent, when greens are used. Flowers are given as memorials for loved ones or in celebration of a special family event. The Flower Committee of the Altar Guild can obtain flower arrangements for \$45. Greens cost \$25. Or, the donor may provide them; make a notation on the flower chart. Thank you for participating in this very essential part of our worship experience.

**Nancy Blank sends her love to the All Hallows Church Family and wants to share this photo and her accounting of her new adventure.**

Nancy has been attending an outdoor riding program, Foot Prints 4-Step Therapeutic Riding Program. This program is designed for people with a variety of disabilities. Horse back riding is very good for the muscles and for balance, all the time being lots of fun. This is not the first time Nancy has been on a horse. Nancy loves horses and enjoys this opportunity to ride again.



Before she can ride, lessons have to be completed which include saddling, grooming and bonding with the horse. Afterward Nancy gets to ride the horse on the wooded trail and to put the horse through a variety of maneuvers. Nancy is able to bond with the horse and feel good physically, mentally, and spiritually, a feeling that makes Nancy feel closer to God. After this lesson period ends, Nancy plans on signing up again in the Spring to continue riding.

**When you --- --- ---,** it is not a ministry of the Church, but the Church is enabling this ministry by supporting you. So that we may better encourage and support you, please write a paragraph or two to tell us about the opportunities you have found to serve our Lord in our community.

### **Jr. Warden's Update**

First, in the basement, an area on the floor has been marked off in blue tape. This area is planned for use as a "nursery" - the intent is to surround it with "cubicle walls" and lay down carpeting, and add furniture and lamps. As they say, "Watch this space".

Secondly, the Parking Lot floodlight (the one on the corner of the building, above the holly bush) is no longer controlled by the mysterious light-switch inside the kitchen cabinet under the dumb-waiter. Although that had been an effective way to test during wartime whether someone was truly a member of All Hallows Parish, its hidden location was not conducive to actually using it! The NEW and ONLY switch to control the Parking Lot light is now upstairs, on the left by the door as you enter the building. It is a new switch with push-button timers, giving you choices from "5 mins" (helpful to get to your car as you leave) up to "2 hrs" and even "4 hrs" so you can have the area well lit during an evening function, for example. Whichever button you press last will override the others. The large lower button turns it "off". Try it out, and ask if you have any questions.

**Operation We Care volunteers assemble 594 packages for troops.**

On Sunday, Nov. 16, roughly 75 dedicated citizens launched another assault on homesickness and the “yuletide blues” in the ranks of armed forces deployed overseas. They were among supporters of Operation We Care, a non-profit that is the brainstorm of three friends, Jeff Merritt (Barbara’s son), his wife Diana, and Bruce Bennett of Seaford.

In 2007, they and a small group of volunteers solicited businesses, friends and neighbors for items that would give comfort and a taste of home to men and women serving overseas during the holidays. Since then, that grassroots effort has become a major year-round operation that not only makes care package shipments twice a year but also organizes greetings for returning troops and interfaces with the Wounded Warrior Project to organize retreats for wounded veterans.

On Sunday, Nov. 16, 594 U.S. Postal Service parcels were filled with handmade helmet liners, Girl Scout cookies, Chef Boyardee pasta dinners, toiletries, instant oatmeal, microwave popcorn, toothpaste, dental floss, tea bags and a plethora of incidentals that are cherished in the outposts that members of the armed forces find themselves serving in.

The 594 care packages were shipped to troops in six different countries. This recent shipment brings the total number shipped to well over 6,000 in the past eight years and, in the words of Jeff Merritt, “We will not stop until the last brave soul is home!” (This article appeared in The Laurel Morning Star.)

Operation We Care sends two major shipments each year. However, smaller mailings are made throughout the year as they become aware of new service personnel from the area. (Two mailings are planned for January.) The basket in the Parish Hall will receive your gifts, and it contains lists of needed items. If you have the address of a service member, we will be glad to pass it on.

***The Gentle Innkeepers***, an original Christmas Musical at Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church, December 14 at 4 pm and December 15.

## **Food Pantry Updates**

In November, we served over 141 hungry people in our community. A **BIG thank you** to the All Hallows congregation and all those who volunteered or donated items. Our parish donated over 103 items in November, 100 turkeys and we had 7 volunteers helping to distribute food and turkeys.

In December, the Food Pantry will be open for food distribution on December 12 from 9:00am-12:00pm. The items needed in December are boxes of spaghetti noodles and cans of spaghetti sauce. Please drop your items in the basket in the church hall.

We are in need of volunteers on December 11 from 1:30pm-5:00pm and on December 12 from 7:30am-10:00am to fill bags and sort food. If you would like more information about the pantry or volunteering, please contact Stephanie Clayville or email [snowhillfood@gmail.com](mailto:snowhillfood@gmail.com).

## **Food Pantry Community Meeting – December 17, 5:30pm-6:30pm**

Please join us for a Community Meeting regarding the Snow Hill Food Pantry on December 17. All Hallows has graciously agreed to host this Community Meeting on Wed., December 17 from 5:30pm-6:30pm. Stephanie Clayville will be presenting information on the growth of the pantry in our community. Many parishes and community members have been invited. We hope you can come learn about the services the pantry provides and its future growth.

Refreshments will be served after the event and supplied by the Food Pantry. Greeters, folks to seat people, as well as help cleaning up will be needed. If you would like more information on volunteering for this event, please contact Stephanie Clayville or Betty West.

**From the abundant donations Whatcoat's Opportunity Shop receives**, they send several bags to the Shepherd's Crook in Ocean City each week. Pat Mulcahy, a coordinator at the Crook, shares weekly stories of blessings which are shared by volunteers and participants:

“We have been getting donations of stuffed animals that we have been lining up in the windows and giving away to the little children (and an occasional adult who needs comfort) who come into the Crook with their parents. There is one gentleman who is a regular visitor and always looks so sunk in depression that I worry about him. In all the time I have been doing this, I have very seldom seen him smile even the smallest of smiles. He came in recently wearing a Maryland Terrapins jacket and we just happened to have a Maryland Terrapins stuffed turtle in our collection. I got it out of the window and handed it to him, and his reaction was priceless. He grinned from ear to ear and was the happiest I have ever seen him. He said he was going to take it home and put it on his bureau so he could see it all the time. Spreading joy and comfort is also part of what we provide at Shepherd’s Crook.

Blessings to all of you who are reading this e-mail. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families who have so much to be thankful for. One of the things I am most thankful for this year is the opportunity to connect with people such as yourselves who are so good to those who have less.”

**December Hymn of the Month, *Herald Sound the Note of Judgment*, #70.**

Words are by Moir A. J. Waters (1906-1980), a Roman Catholic priest. Music is by Robert J. Powell, born 1932 in Benoit, MS. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Organ and Composition from Louisiana State University in 1954 and his Master of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary School of Sacred Music, NY in 1958. He holds Certificates of Fellow (FAGO) and Choirmaster (ChM) from the American Guild of Organists and is a member of American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). He has received the Standard Music Award from ASCAP for the last 35 years. Mr. Powell has approximately 300 works in print for choral, solo, organ, handbells, and instrumental ensembles in major American and English church music publishers. He has held positions as the assistant Organist of The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York from 1958-1960,

Organist/Choir Director of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Meridian, MS, from 1960-1965, Director of Music and Organist/Choirmaster at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH from 1965-1968, Director of Music and Organist/Choirmaster of Christ Church in Greenville, SC from 1968-2003, and Organist at Trinity United Methodist Church in Greenville, SC in 2003. He has held memberships with the Choristers' Guild Board, 1987-1993, and National Certification Committee of the American Guild of Organists, 2000-2005. Mr. Powell also received Louisiana State University School of Music Alumnus of the Year in 1989. He is married and has three children, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

### **Musings by Jim, December 2014**

There being no microfilm for 1907, we begin with entries in January 1908. (all taken from The Democratic Messenger)

January 4, 1908 – TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY: Friends and neighbors of Mayor William D. Corddry and wife to the number of about 50, assembled at the Corddry home last Saturday evening to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Corddry. It was an informal affair, and no invitations were issued. The forepart of the evening was occupied with "Progressive Anograms." When the round of the nine tables had been made by the guests, an excellent repast was served consisting of salad, oysters, olives, Maryland biscuits, ices, cake and coffee. A surprise for the Mayor and his estimable wife was the presentation by the assembled guests of a handsome India China tea set. It was twelve o'clock when the guests departed, hoping that Mr. and Mrs. Corddry will live to enjoy their golden wedding anniversary. Mrs. Corddry is a daughter of the late Captain Theodore Stagg.

February 22, 1908 – Doric Iona, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Adkins, aged two years, died Friday night, February 14<sup>th</sup>, after a short illness of stomach trouble. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. North at the home of her parents on Sunday morning at ten o'clock.

The pallbearers were: Irwin Jones, Hartley Shockley, Royce Hancock and Clarence Johnson.

February 29, 1908 – Messers Oliver D. Collins, E. Hance Fooks, D. Frank Fooks and Jeff Staton have formed a company to engage in the promotion of strawberry culture in this section of Worcester County. They will contact the farmers to grow strawberries for them, giving so much per quart for all marketable berries grown and delivered to the railroad station. They will probably make announcement of their plans later in the advertising columns of this paper.

March 7, 1908 – Prof. Harry Covington of Princeton University, who has been confined to his home with nervous prostration since last Fall was recently sufficiently recovered to meet with his classes, but a few days of work put him back in bed and he is now suffering with the disease known as “shingles.” As soon as he is well enough to leave home he will go to Atlantic City to rest and recuperate. Hon. George M. Upshur, the father of Mrs. Covington is now visiting Prof. and Mrs. Covington at their home in Princeton. Prof. Covington will likely come to Snow Hill about the first of April to make an extended visit. He will give up his work at Princeton until he is fully recovered.

March 28, 1908 – Mr. George S. Payne and Misses Winifred and Nellie Payne spent last week in Baltimore at the Hotel Belvedere.

April 18, 1908 – The family of Mr. Charles Boehm has moved to Snow Hill and are occupying the house on Washington Street owned by Mrs. Mary Vincent.

May 2, 1908 – First mention of Motion Pictures – Don’t fail to see “Thaw Trail” at the moving pictures this Saturday and Monday evening. Also: The Automobile craze has certainly struck our neighboring town of Salisbury. There are at present twenty-four cars by Salisburians, representing an outlay of \$60,000 or more, and others are ordered, which

are expected during the month of May. The L. W. Gunby Company is erecting a large and commodious brick building for the care and repair of automobiles.

May 9, 1908 – People around town are continually annoyed by small children stopping and asking for flowers. The owners either want these flowers to beautify their property, or for their friends and deserving sick. The parents should see that a stop is put to the practice.

June 6, 1908 -- There will be services at All Hallows Church, Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, Feast of St. Barnabus. Holy Eucharist at 7:30 a.m. Rev. Alexander M. Rich, Rector.

Also: Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Corddry, Jr., leave next week to attend the commencement exercises of Washington College. Both of their sons, Messers Harris and Howard Corddry graduate from that institution next week. They graduated with honors, as per the Democratic Messenger of June 20, 1908.

June 20, 1908 – Mr. Wm. G. Kerbin, of this town, addressed the graduates of St. Michael's High School Tuesday evening. Also, Rev. J. F. Kirk, of St. Michael's, former Rector of All Hallows Parish, came to Snow Hill Wednesday to attend the funeral of Dr. Charles P. Jones. Mr. Kirk has many friends here, who were pleased to see him. Featured article follows regarding Dr. Charles P. Jones:

AGED PHYSICIAN PASSES AWAY! Dr. Charles P. Jones, passed away last Tuesday morning. He had been in poor health for several months. In fact, he was so ill the first of this year that his death was looked for every hour for several days. Dr. Jones was 83 years of age and his death was the result of general debility. He was taken with his last illness on Thursday morning of last week, and he gradually drifted over the silent river to that mysterious land from which none ever return. Dr. Charles P. Jones was for years the leading physician of this county. And, now that the old Doctor is dead, many will recall the faithfulness to duty which characterized his whole life. In the sick room

he was as gentle as a woman, his skill was unquestioned, and there are hundreds in this town and section who owe their lives to it and to the patient, thoughtful consideration of their cases by him when their lives apparently hung by a slender thread. Many hours did he spend in silent study, so absorbed in his profession that the public thought him “distant.” Yet there were times when he laid aside his great cares and exhibited a nature of jollity unknown to the masses. Dr. Jones was a Christian, and his Bible was his constant companion, especially so for the last few years when he read it for hours at a time every day.

He was a Democrat in politics, and his party honored him twice with an election as Judge of the Orphan’s Court. He was County Health Officer up to a year ago, when he resigned the place owing to his age and inability to give the office the attention that he thought it should have. Over 40 years ago, he was one of the Commissioners of Worcester County. He leaves a considerable estate and was probably one of the largest owners of farm lands in the county.

## **Calendar for December 2014**

2. Tuesday: Handel’s Messiah; 6:00 pm, Simple pot luck supper and conversation with music

6. Saturday: St. Nicholas Day.

7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent; 8:30 Choir practice; 9:30 Church and Sunday School

9 Tuesday: Handel’s Messiah, 6:00 pm, Simple pot luck supper and conversation with music

11. Thursday: Southern Convocation meets at St. Andrew’s, Princess Anne at 7:00 pm. Clergy and lay delegates to Diocesan Convention are expected to attend. All others who wish to attend are also welcome.

14. 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent: 8:30 Choir practice; 9:30 Church and Sunday School; short December vestry meeting at Coffee Hour

16. Tuesday: Handel's Messiah, 6:00 pm, Simple pot luck supper and conversation with music

17. Wednesday: Food Pantry Community Meeting at All Hallows, 5:30 pm-6:30pm

17-19. Greens for greening of the church can be left under the lych gate (the small building that houses the bell)

20. Saturday, 9 am, bring wire cutters, small clippers, and/or floral tape to the downstairs/undercroft of the parish hall to help make swags for the chandeliers in the church.

21. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent: 8:30 Choir practice; 9:30 Church and Sunday School followed by Greening of the Church

24. Christmas Eve Festive Services: 5 and 11 pm

28. 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas; 9:30 Lessons and Carols

\*AA meetings are held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings, 8pm

\*Rotary meets in the Hall Tuesdays, 7:30 am