

# *The Hallowed Word*

*All Hallows Episcopal Church*

*January 2014*

## **What hath the weather brought?...**

It seems so amazing these days to wake up and wonder, “What is the weather like today?” To be honest, I can’t seem to recall a time when I didn’t ask myself this question, but it does seem to be a very good question to ask this year! We seem to bounce from sun to wind and rain to snow and ice and down into subzero weather within a very short time. One morning I posted a picture of a beautiful double rainbow over Snow Hill on “Instagram.” A month later I posted a picture of my car incased in ice to the same network! I feel a little unprepared for each day—especially if I have to be gone for a few hours. What will happen next?

Yet, isn’t life really just like the weather? Sometimes life will just bounce around like the weather! There are highs and lows, storm and calm winds. I can (and do) carry an umbrella in my car so I feel a little prepared, but spiritually I also must be prepared for what is to come.

The umbrella for those spiritual changes is comfort and strength in prayer. Unlike umbrellas, however, prayer is not something to be stored away for a rainy day. Prayer is a constant activity often happening even when we aren’t thinking about it. We call upon God for help and guidance; we ask God’s assistance with paying bills, finding a job, speaking in public, making a touchdown...the list is long! And, like the weather, we complain when things don’t go the way we expect.

If you fly, you may recall what it was like to take off in dark and stormy weather. The wind blows the rain across the tarmac; the skies are full of dark clouds. Yet, when the plane begins to rise, we are lifted above those clouds and--lo and behold—we find clouds below us and sun or moon overhead...just waiting for us. Just where sun and moon should be.

God is always there. Sometimes that may feel difficult to accept, but in our lives—in all the difficult times—God is there. When the

“weather” is good, it is easy to believe, but when life is difficult, it is far more challenging.

That is why intentional practice at prayer is important. Silent prayer, prayer by rote or made up as you feel like it—in stress or joy or just to say “thanks.” Quiet prayer just to let the thoughts flow in and out. It is what makes us comfortable. It is the time that we will feel the flow of goodness and love—or just a calming presence. Whatever is happening, prayer can be an amazing power, but one needs to practice it whenever one can. With practice will come comfort and recognition of the presence of the Holy One in our midst.

In peace,

*Nanese+*

### **All Hallows Epiphany Pageant**



On January 12, 2014, the All Hallows Sunday School presented their first Epiphany Pageant in many years. The children enthusiastically portrayed all of the major participants in biblical references to the birth of Jesus. Below is a list of the participants:





Thanks to all, Bill Gordy

**Thank you.** It is such a pleasure to be a member of this congregation, seeing the generosity with which each person gives of their time to make everything work. This is not the norm in many congregations. I want to thank everyone for the very generous gift this Christmas. Ginny Lane

**Dear Friends,**

Again this year, I was blessed with another generous and gracious Christmas remembrance from you. I never cease to be amazed how God provides in time of need. Not unlike years past, I was able to use the funds to pay end of year bills (IRS and State taxes). Your gift is greatly appreciated, and I continue to thank God for you and your presence in my life.

Sincerely,

Jim Bosworth

## **Dear Friends,**

Thank you so very much for your generous Christmas purse. Your generosity of spirit and faith has been one of the best gifts All Hallows has to offer to the world. Being with you in our shared journey has been a wonderful adventure into a community of kindness, caring, spiritual growth, acceptance, and laughter. Those who join us on Sundays, and at the many opportunities between Sundays, have actively participated in this community that has molded a diverse group of individuals into a strong body of Christ. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to accept a call to ministry to this wonderful congregation. May your new year be one of holy moments and joyful opportunities.

Your Rector,

*Nanese+*

**We found this poem to celebrate the presence of Dan and Bunky with us:**

### **A Maine Poem**

It's Winter in Maine, And the gentle breezes blow.  
Seventy miles an hour, At thirty-five below.

Oh, how I love Maine When the snow's up to your butt.  
You take a breath of Winter air And your nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, the weather here is wonderful, So I guess I'll hang around.  
I could never leave Maine 'Cause I'm frozen to the ground!

**Explanation of God:** (This was found on the internet and passed on by Ruth Bowie. It was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God.' I wonder if any of us could have done as well? ...And he had such an assignment, in California, and someone published it; I guess miracles do happen!...)

### **Explanation of God**

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his

valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them, and God said O.K.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases....

And...that's why I believe in God.

### **Biography, The Rev. Kenneth Thom**

Most of the time I like being called Ken or Father Ken. But having what sounds like two first names, I usually respond to either "Ken" or "Tom." If you really want to be formal, it's "The Rev. Kenneth Thom" but again, that's very formal and just not appropriate for most occasions I'm involved in.

The first impression is – no longer tied to a schedule. But I've found already that I'm still involved in a number of charitable and organizational activities, so I'm still tied to some sort of a schedule much of the time. "Being Retired" also implies having a lot of extra time, and many seem to think that extra time can or should be devoted to "leisure activities," but so far it seems I'm about as busy as I was before retiring. I tend to define "leisure activity" as sort of sitting around doing nothing, but Arlene tells me it means pursuing hobbies and such things as exercising, reading, sight-seeing, and other non-time-constrained activities.

We've done quite a bit of traveling since I retired and hope to continue to travel more than when I was working. We've visited our son and grandchildren in California, taken a trip to Bermuda (which was too short!), spent a week on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and I spent another week at a resort in Western Kentucky where Cate and Dave have a house. It has been especially pleasurable to be able to spend more time with Arlene doing things together, and I look forward to continuing. Also, I hope to spend more time pursuing some of my many (maybe too many) hobbies and other "leisure activities": model railroading, learning to play the organ, recreational flying, boating and kayaking, swimming and surfing, staying at our camper in Trail's End and of course, more traveling.

Although it gave me a great deal of joy to lead the All Hallows Congregation in worship, it is also a great joy to join the congregation in worship under the direction of a new and very competent leader. It is especially nice to be together with Arlene during worship. But I wish we had more Eucharistic ministers, and especially acolytes, so that she'd be next to me more frequently!

**Did you know?** People have been celebrating New Year's Eve in Times Square, NYC since 1904, but the first Ball Drop didn't happen until 1907. Since 1907, the ball has been dropped from One Times Square every year, except in 1942 and 1943 due to wartime restrictions on lighting in New York City.

**What you never hear in church....**

Hey! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew!

I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went overtime 25 minutes.

I've decided to give our church the \$500.00 I used to send to TV evangelists.

Forget the denominational minimum salary; let's pay our pastor so s/he can live like we do.

I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!

Since we're all here, let's start the worship service early!

Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.

Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign.

### **History of Hymns: “'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”**

By C. Michael Hawn, professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* by Jean de Brebeuf, translated by Jesse Edgar Middleton

“'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wondering hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus your King is born,  
Jesus is born, in excelsis Gloria.

This is probably the earliest Christmas carol composed in North America. “'Twas in the moon of wintertime” is a collaborative work between a 17<sup>th</sup> century French Jesuit missionary to the Huron Indians and a 20<sup>th</sup> century Canadian newspaper correspondent in Quebec.

Jean de Brebeuf (1593-1649) was born in the Normandy region of France. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1617 and arrived in Quebec in 1625. Overcoming many obstacles, he spent the first long winter in a wigwam and set out in spring by canoe to Lake Huron, where he was left to minister alone after a fellow priest was recalled.

His early efforts in evangelism were unsuccessful. Life was also complicated because the English and French were at war over this

region, with the territory changing hands twice. He was forced to return to France in 1629, and then returned when the French again gained the upper hand in 1633. He set out again for the Huron region with a fellow priest, and lived and worked among the Indians for 16 years.

Brebeuf suffered hardships unimaginable to most present-day missionaries. In 1642, he was caught up in a war between the Iroquois and Huron tribes. Two fellow missionaries had been captured and killed. Brebeuf was sent to the region to attempt further contact with the Huron people. Though the Iroquois had made peace with the French, they continued to fight the Huron tribe.

Between 1644 and 1647, Brebeuf's ministry among the Huron people saw thousands baptized and following the way of the black-robed priests. But the war with the Iroquois intensified. Being French, he could have escaped, but chose to remain with the Huron people. Brebeuf was captured by the Iroquois on March 16, 1649.

The original Huron carol was written around 1643. Over 150 years later in 1794, Father de Villeneuve, also a Jesuit missionary, wrote down the words to "Jesus Ahatonhia" as he heard them. Paul Picard, an Indian notary, translated them into French and they first appeared in written form in Ernest Myrand's *Noel Anciens de la Nouvelle France* (1899).

Hugh McKellar, a leading Canadian hymnologist and authority on indigenous song, says that Brebeuf "does not present Christ's birth as an event which happened far away and long ago, nor does he linger on its details; what matters for him is the immediacy of the Incarnation and the difference it can make in the lives not just of the Huron, but of believers in any culture."

Collaborator Jesse Edgar Middleton (1872-1960) was a reporter for the *Montreal Herald* and later *The Mail and Empire* in Toronto. His interest in Ontario history led him to the story of Jean de Brebeuf.

Carlton Young, editor of the *UM Hymnal*, notes that "Middleton's poem extends beyond the original French [translation] and tells the story of Jesus' birth into Huron everyday life and its retelling in their folk symbols, such as 'rabbit skin' for 'swaddling clothes' and gifts of fox

and beaver pelt' for the Magi's presents." Middleton's version maintains the Algonquian name for God, Gitchi Manitou.

Middleton's poem was set to a traditional French tune ("Une Jeune Pucelle") and appeared on Dec. 22, 1926, in the *New Outlook*, where it was romanticized as a "charming little Christmas song... [in which] the devoted missionary has adapted the story of the infant Christ to the minds of the Indian children."

Hugh McKellar calls the carol an "interpretation... not a translation, written to provide English-speaking Canadians with an opportunity to sing the first Christmas carol ever heard in the Province of Ontario."

The carol comes to us by way of the Canadian Anglican Church's Hymn Book (1938), edited by the famous 20th-century Canadian composer Healey Willan. Walter Ehret brought the carol to public schools and churches in the U.S. with *The International Book of Christmas Carols* (1936).

In whatever form we receive the carol, it is an artifact of a missionary who through incomprehensible hardships and danger spread the gospel to the Huron people. Brebeuf's martyrdom with a fellow Jesuit in 1649, too gruesome to describe here, was recognized by the Catholic Church when he was canonized on June 29, 1930, by Pope Pius XI. The humble Jesuit priest to New France is now the patron saint of Canada.

**Vestry Retreat**, Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. At the church.

**Coming Soon** – 2014 Annual Pancake Supper – Sooner than you think! Please reserve March 4 on your calendar for the 2014 annual pancake supper event. As always, the hours are 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Parishioners are being contacted, and an order for sausage has already been placed. See you there! Dorothy Garrett

## **Musings by Jim**

January, 1893: On Sunday night Children's service held at All Hallows Church, consisting of the singing of Carols by the children, an address by Rev. Robert Scott and the awarding of prizes to the children for regular attendance at Church and Sunday School during the year Six of the scholars made an average attendance of 48 Sundays out of 52. They were Jennie Hurlock, Dollie Bishop, Ada Purnell, Dora Collins and Lewis and Harold Boehm. On Monday evening the children and teachers assembled at the rectory where they amused themselves playing various games until eight o'clock when they were invited into the dining room to partake of cake and ice cream, after which they were given fruits and candies from the Christmas tree. At 9 o'clock they left for their homes as happy as could be.

January 7, 1893 – The Messenger – The annual Endowment Sermon will be presented at All Hallows Church next Sunday morning by the Rev. Mr. Scott. Circumstances prevented its delivery last Sunday.

January 21, 1893 – The Messenger – Mr. John James Collins made a kind offer to the poor of Snow Hill this week. He posted a notice in front of the Post Office offering to give wood to any who were out and had not money with which to buy. This was very commendable in him and if our town had many more like him we would be none the worse off.

April 8, 1893 – The Messenger – The Easter offering at All Hallows P.E. Church, Snow Hill, amounted to \$600. We congratulate our "Episcopal" friends on their liberality.

July 1, 1893 – The Messenger – The Rev. Robert Scott of All Hallows Church, will sail to England next week, July 8<sup>th</sup> to attend a course of lectures at Oxford. He expects to return in three or four weeks.

August 12, 1893 – The Messenger – Fire last Monday night destroyed the entire business portion of Snow Hill. Mr. O.D. Collins and

J. J. Collins were selected to serve on a committee to offer suggestions to rebuild the business area of Snow Hill.

October 7, 1893 – The Messenger – Mr. Thomas H. Collins has been making rapid progress on his new brick store and is now ready for roofing and inside carpenters work. (This is the corner property at 100 West Green Street, now occupied by The Shoppe.)

December 9, 1893 – The Messenger – Mr. Thomas H. Collins is the first Snow Hill merchant to get into a new brick building since the fire. He moved into his neat and attractive storehouse on the corner of Green and Washington Streets on Wednesday.

December 23, 1893 – The Messenger – John J. Collins is putting the finishing touches on his two new storehouses on Washington St.

December 30, 1893 – The Messenger – Mr. Lewis E. Boehm arrived home from St. John's College, Annapolis, on Saturday to spend Christmas with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. L. Edward Boehm. He is making excellent progress and is a credit to Senator Smith, who secured him the scholarship. (The Boehm house is located next to the Presbyterian Church, now occupied by the Dittrich Family.) Also, the 3 storey building in front of the Courthouse being built by O.D. Collins, Esq. to be known as the "Messenger" Building... The Messenger Building is an imposing structure and reflects much credit on the owner who planned it without the aid of an architect.

**Operation We Care** sent almost 700 boxes to individual service persons before Thanksgiving. They sent more at Christmas and are preparing to send some this next week. Your donations are needed since the smaller shipments are sent throughout the year as well as the two large mailings in November and May. So think of our service persons whenever you go shopping. (The list is in the basket in the parish hall.) Also, if you know a service person over-seas, give us the name and address; we will pass it on.

**We still collect** Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education, and used ink cartridges to pass on to our schools.

**Our book study will resume on January 20.** If you have not been able to participate in the group study, you will still enjoy reading the book. It is simply written but has some real attention-grabbing zingers.

**What gifts did the three wise men bring?**

Rebecca, 5: “They brought Jesus gold and myrrh but I would have brought him a nice warm blanket.”

William, 7: “I don’t know what presents the wise men brought Jesus but a Lego set would have been better.”

Ellie, 5: “The three wise men brought Jesus gold, frankincense and myrrh – no real presents. I feel sorry for him.”

Eddie, 6: “When he was born three kings brought him gold, coins and a sheep.”

**Food Pantry Needs** Just a reminder that many of our Snow Hill citizens depend on the Food Pantry to carry them through the end of each month. Please, won’t you pick up a non perishable item when you shop for your family food needs. These are tough times for all of us, but each item brought with you on Sunday morning can mean a big chance that someone will not have to go to bed hungry. If we feed the hungry, then we do what Jesus would want us to do. This is a way for adults and children to be part of this ministry. “...For I was hungry, and you gave me food.”

**Church Periodical Club** Nelson Payne reported that \$320.92 has been collected in 2013, almost twice the \$168.37 collected in 2012. He thanks us all. Let’s see if 2014 can beat this total. The jar, for those who don’t know, is located on the table just inside the church door.

**Have you checked out the tract rack in the back of the church?** There are a lot of interesting subjects, most published by Forward Movement. Feel free to help yourself.

**Changes Ahead...** As you are aware, our Bishop will be resigning as of July 1. (Bishops cannot retire; we never let them “off the hook.”) We, the diocese, will need to look at ourselves as we look forward. Bishop Bud suggests we choose a Provisional Bishop for a period of 18 months to 2 years, wherein we re-examine the office of Bishop as well as ‘What exactly is a diocese?’ We need not be hurried into making a decision, nor do we have to be locked into doing things the same old way. The Standing Committee and Diocesan Council are responsible to lead us as we move forward. There will be a beginning at Diocesan Convention on Saturday, February 22. The Rev. Rob Voyle of the Clergy Leadership Institute will lead us through an Appreciative Inquiry conversation about our life as a diocesan community of congregations, looking at our blessings and our hopes and dreams for the future. **Everyone in our diocese** is encouraged to participate, as well as the clergy and delegates who already will be in attendance. (Our delegates are Alice Tweedy and Bonnie Caudell; Katherine Gordon is our first alternate.) You will find this a rich experience if you choose to join us.

When Bud resigns, the good things he was to us will stay with us. We all have responsibility and accountability for the work of the diocese. Plan to come on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; the more voices we have the better.

### **What Is “The Faith” of the Episcopal Church?**

**The Faith** taught by the Episcopal Church is none other than the Christian Faith. No more and no less. Nothing taught by Anglicans is peculiar to Anglicanism. All teachings are those of the ancient and undivided Church.

Christian doctrine (i.e. teaching), as taught by Anglicans, must conform to three criteria: Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. No doctrine can be taught which is not at the same time scriptural,

traditional, and reasonable. Episcopalians must therefore know the Bible and the traditions and history of the Church. Especially important to Episcopalians is the Bible. No Episcopal priest may teach unbiblical doctrine, and no Episcopalian is required to believe anything except what is contained in Holy Scripture. (By George! In *The Anglican Digest*)

**Original joke by Vinny Cucina**

Q: What did the Priest say to the bull when he was leaving?

A: Bye Bull. [Bible]

**Plan ahead!** We would like to plan for a “press date” of February 10 for the next issue of *The Hallowed Word*.

Keep Warm! We will see you Sunday at 9:30.