

The Hallowed Word

All Hallows Episcopal Church

December 2015

Please Pray for our new Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, who had surgery for a Subdural Hematoma on Tuesday, December 8.

Advent is more than a purple or pink candle...

Or a blue candle, for that matter...

Christmas is more than carols, or bells, or even Christmas presents.

Advent is a gift like no other...it is time for quiet meditation; it is a time to make space for yourself...to feel the anticipation and excitement of the remembrance of the birth of Our Lord.

It is a time to remember that Jesus never left us; that the presence of the Holy Spirit is with us. God is alive and lives among us.

Now is the time to gift yourself with quiet times to sit and absorb the holiness of the birth of the baby.

No time?

You are right!

You have to make time...even a tiny bit to watch a sunset, or your family's presence in your life...to add a bit of gratefulness while baking cookies and breads...and to acknowledge the holy times that come with the years.



This new life is meant to be shared all the year long. It is not about one night or one day. Rather we remember what it means to be one of God's children and celebrate the birth of God in human form. All the excitement and joy that Christmas may bring will soon pass away, but the hope and joy we experience is to be lived all the year long---with an open heart.

Everyone should have an Advent candle or wreath with 4 or 5 candles. Everyone has the joy of anticipating the excitement with the recognition that "Joy to the World" is the gift Christ brought to all Christians—the joy of Love, Sacrifice, and Everlasting Life.

For the many who face emotional or physical challenges at this time of the year, it is a day to try and acknowledge the good things in your life—the things you cherish and love, the things past—or the ones who wait for you in the Kingdom of Heaven. You, too, are God's gift to our world and you are not forgotten...you are loved and this time of the year will pass and you are strong and you can get through it!

May Peace on Earth come to a waiting world...

Nanese+

Advent Bible Study – What Christmas stories do our carols tell?

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 for a pot-luck dinner and at 7:00 for a presentation on a Christmas Carol, music, composers and memories.

Snow Hill Food Pantry

The Snow Hill Ecumenical Food Pantry distributes food to those in need on the second Friday of every month as well as provides emergency food services.

Dec. 11	8am-11am	Christmas distribution
Dec. 19	9am-12 noon	staging food
Jan. 2	9am-12 noon	pack bags

Bishop Gene Robinson's inaugural prayer: (found on the Internet)

O God of our many understandings, we pray that you will...

Bless us with tears – for a world in which over a billion people exist on less than a dollar a day, where young women from many lands are beaten and raped for wanting an education, and thousands die daily from malnutrition, malaria, and AIDS.

Bless us with anger – at discrimination, at home and abroad, against refugees and immigrants, women, people of color, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

Bless us with discomfort – at the easy, simplistic “answers” we’ve preferred to hear from our politicians, instead of the truth, about ourselves and the world, which we need to face if we are going to rise to the challenges of the future.

Bless us with patience – and the knowledge that none of what ails us will be “fixed” anytime soon, and the understanding that our new president is a human being, not a messiah.

Bless us with humility – open to understanding that our own needs must always be balanced with those of the world.

Bless us with freedom from mere tolerance – replacing it with genuine respect and warm embrace of our differences, and an understanding that in our diversity, we are stronger.

Bless us with compassion and generosity – remembering that every religion’s God judges us by the way we care for the most vulnerable in the human community, whether across town or across the world.

And God, we give you thanks for your child Barack, as he assumes the office of President of the United States.

Give him wisdom beyond his years, and inspire him with Lincoln’s reconciling leadership style, President Kennedy’s ability to enlist our best efforts, and Dr. King’s dream of a nation for ALL people.

Give him a quiet heart, for our Ship of State needs a steady, calm captain in these times.

Give him stirring words, for we will need to be inspired and motivated to make the personal and common sacrifices necessary to facing the challenges ahead.

Make him color-blind, reminding him of his own words that under his leadership, there will be neither red nor blue states, but the United States.

Help him remember his own oppression as a minority, drawing on that experience of discrimination, that he might seek to change the lives of those who are still its victims.

Give him the strength to find family time and privacy, and help him remember that even though he is president, a father only gets one shot at his daughters' childhoods.

And please, God, keep him safe. We know we ask too much of our presidents, and we're asking far too much of this one. We know the risk he and his wife are taking for all of us, and we implore you, O good and great God, to keep him safe. Hold him in the palm of your hand – that he might do the work we have called him to do, that he might find joy in this impossible calling, and that in the end, he might lead us as a nation to a place of integrity, prosperity and peace. Amen.

(I know it is long past inauguration, but in these political times, this seemed appropriate. bc)

Thank you for clipping to help others!

In the past month, we took Box Tops for Education worth \$93.50 to S.H. Middle School, Labels for Education worth \$40.00 to S.H. Elementary and a bag of used ink cartridges to S.H. High School. Now we have more to sort and deliver, and we appreciate your adding to the trove.

C.O.F.F.E.E.

Christ offers Forgiveness for Everyone Everywhere.

Musings by Jim

December 2015

June 10, 1911 – Episcopalians in Convention. Rev. W. Fred Allen, Rector of All Hallows Parish, Snow Hill, and Mr. William F. Johnson, delegate, attended the 43rd annual convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Easton, in Christ Church, Easton, this week. Mr. Johnson was the guest of Hon. Harry Covington. The convention

met Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock, with Bishop William Fortes Adams presiding. After prayer service, Holy Communion was administered. At 11 o'clock the convention sermon was delivered by Rev. W. B. Stehl, of Centreville, after which the convention adjourned until 2 o'clock, when a business session was held. There were present about 75 clerical and lay delegates from the parishes in the diocese, which embraces all Protestant Episcopal Churches on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

June 24, 1911 – Mrs. Horace Payne. After an illness of several weeks' duration, Mrs. Della Payne, wife of Horace Payne, Esq., a well known citizen of Snow Hill, died Friday evening about 5 o'clock. Mrs. Payne was 64 years of age and was the daughter of the late John Purnell of Snow Hill. She was the sister of the late Littleton B. Purnell, of the firm Hurst, Purnell & Co., Baltimore. Mrs. Payne leaves to mourn her death a husband and five children. The children are: Mrs. James Ingram, of Chicago; Mrs. Wilbur Hurlock, of Chestertown; Mr. George A. Payne, of Chincoteague; Mr. Jacob Payne, of Baltimore; and Mr. Harland Payne of Snow Hill. Funeral services, which were held in the Episcopal Church of which she was a member for many years, were conducted by Rev. L. L. Williams, of Pocomoke City, in the absence of the Rector of the Parish. Mrs. Payne was born and raised in Snow Hill and was considered in her youth one of the most beautiful young ladies of the Eastern Shore.

September 30, 1911 – Reopening of Holy Cross Chapel Stockton – On Wednesday Sept. 20, the Holy Cross Chapel, which has been closed for repairs and redecoration, was reopened. The responsibility for the work was assumed by the St. Mary Guild, organized a year ago, and has been done very effectively at considerable outlay. The old gallery has been removed, a wainscot run around the walls, the chancel platform extended, the stove and flue removed to the west end of the building and a pair of double swing doors placed in the vestibule. The ceiling and beams have been colored brown, and the walls a soft olive green, and wood work and furniture all finished in a Manila oak. New lamps have

been hung and the chancel and alleyway covered with a carpet to match the walls.

The festivities opened with a service of benediction conducted by the Rector of the Parish Church followed by a Celebration of Holy Communion. Luncheon was served by the members of the Guild on the grass of the chapel yard. A number of friends drove over from Snow Hill to take part in the festivities and a portion of the choir of the Parish Church. Mrs. O. D. Collins presided with efficiency at the Organ in the place of the absent organist. The Choristers vested at the home of Dr. J. Parker and marched, led by the Crucifer, singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" to the church. Evensong was sung and a forceful sermon on the position and claims of The Church preached by the Dean of the Convocation, the Rev. Thomas B. Barlow, of Cambridge. The Anthem which was especially well rendered was "Come, Holy Spirit, Come." After an evening hymn the Choir retired singing the words of the Processional.

The regular services will be resumed on Sunday afternoon and the Sunday School be again assembled.

(The grammatical spelling and capital letters are as printed in the original newspaper clipping.)

January 6, 1912 – Mrs. Virginia Tingle Dickerson. Last Friday morning Mrs. Virginia Dickerson, who had been ill for a long time, passed away. Her death was not unexpected and her friends and relatives were prepared for the worst. Mrs. Dickerson was the daughter of the late Judge William Tingle, in his day one of the most prominent lawyers of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. When quite a young woman she married Dr. Edward Dickerson, a prominent physician of this town, who died when quite a young man, leaving Mrs. Dickerson a widow with four children, all of whom survive her. As a young woman she was beautiful and attractive, being considered the belle of the county. She was a social favorite, full of animation and good will and at all times was surrounded by a bevy of kindred spirits. She was born in this town about eighty-one years ago and spent her entire life here.

Mrs. Dickerson was a member of All Hallows' Episcopal Church and on Monday morning of this week her remains were taken to the church, where funeral services were conducted by the Rector, Rev. W. Fred Allen, after which burial was made in the churchyard.

Mr. E. S. Dickerson, youngest son of Mrs. Dickerson, who is a prominent business man of Philadelphia, accompanied by his wife and two sons, came to the funeral as did Mrs. Dickerson's daughter, Mrs. Virginia Shay of Baltimore.

The pallbearers were: Mayor William D. Coddry, Thomas M. Purnell, William Coard Batten, James D. Hack, Dr. Paul Jones and Clarence L. Vincent.

Birthday Party. The All Hallows Guild held a delightful Parish Birthday Party in the Opera House on Thursday night of last week. A large and appreciative audience enjoyed a magnificent musical program, and at its close were regaled with ice cream and cake by the members of the Guild.

February 24, 1912 - All Hallows Parish Church. February 25, First Sunday in Lent. Celebration of Holy Communion at 7:30 a.m. Matins and Litany and Sermon at 10:30 a.m. Evensong and Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Topic, "The Slave Boy of Egypt." Monday, Missionary Litany and Study at 4:15. Tuesday, Evensong and Sermon by Rev. W. H. Gateson of Georgetown, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Holy communion at 7:30 Thursday, Evening Prayer and Meditation at 4:15 Friday, Litany and Bible Class at 7. Saturday, Evening Prayer at 4.

April 20, 1912 – On Saturday, April 6th, Miss Mary D. Johnson, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney W. Johnson, of Cedartown, died of tuberculosis, only a few months after the death of her sister, Miss Annie Johnson, a lovely young girl just budding into womanhood. Miss Mary was sixteen years of age, was of a lovable disposition, and leaves a large circle of friends and relatives to mourn her death. Her funeral services were held in All Hallows P. E. Church, Snow Hill, after which the

remains were interred in the family burying ground in the churchyard. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are indeed sorely stricken and have our sympathy and heartfelt condolence.

Stewardship Message presented to the Church on November 29 by Betsy Gravenor

Good morning! Most of you already know me, but if we haven't met yet, my name is Betsy Gravenor and I have been a member of All Hallows my entire life. I would like to take a few minutes this morning to talk to you about stewardship and what stewardship means to me. When I was asked to give this talk, I was pretty nervous about it, but I think this is because I didn't have a complete understanding of what stewardship is. I had always associated stewardship with the annual pledge drive and giving money to the church, and while this is part of stewardship, I've come to realize there is more to it than this. I would like to share a definition of stewardship that I found during my preparation: Stewardship is an intentional, planned, proportionate giving of our time, talent and treasure. It is a response we make in gratitude to God for what He has given us.

I really like this definition because it says that stewardship is a response to what has been given. It requires that the giver recognize what has been given to them by God, and they respond in gratitude.

I'm sure many of you can relate to this in your own giving experiences. I feel that the parishioners at All Hallows have a reputation for being consistently generous in many ways, especially in the areas of time, talent and treasure, and I think this is wonderful. I'm very honored to be part of this parish and the culture of giving in gratitude that is alive and well here. Another thing I like about the definition of stewardship is how it implies that stewardship can mean different things to different people. I believe this is important because God has created us as unique individuals with varying talents and abilities.

I think that since stewardship can mean different things, opportunities for stewardship, both in church and in the community,

present themselves often. So if you feel that you've missed the last one, there will be another one or another opportunity coming along shortly. I believe that God plays a very active role in our lives, and He is continually giving us opportunities to grow in our faith and experience the joy and fulfillment that comes from being stewards.

When it comes down to it, I think that's what stewardship means to me. It is an opportunity, or continual opportunities, for me to grow in my faith in God and trust that He will continue to take care of me.

As this morning's service continues, I would like to invite all of you to consider what stewardship means to you personally and how it relates to your own journeys of faith. I also encourage you to see and respond to the opportunities that present themselves around you to be stewards and give God the opportunity to show you that He is a loving and generous God. Thank you all for allowing me to speak this morning.

Jesus Loves Me

Senior Version of Jesus Loves Me
Shared by Katherine Gordon

Jesus loves me this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow,
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(After each verse repeat:)

Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes Jesus loves me, for the Bible tells me so.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go,
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song,
Telling me in words so clear,
“Have no fear, for I am near.”

When my work on earth is done,
And life’s victories have been won,
He will take me home above,
Then I’ll understand His love.

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

ASSES

When Rutherford B. Hayes, XIX President of the U.S.A., was at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, he was a serious boy and diligent student, but that he relaxed in boyish fun the following story testifies. He and two friends were one day taking a walk in the country when they saw coming toward them an old man with a long white beard. They decided to have some fun with him, so as they approached, the first bowed low and said, “Good morning, Father Abraham.” The second boy did the same and said, “Good morning, Father Isaac.” The third boy followed with, “Good morning, Father Jacob.”

The old man looked at them for a moment and then replied, “I am neither, Abraham, Isaac, nor Jacob. I am Saul, the son of Kish, out looking for my father’s asses and lo, I have found them.”

(Found in The Anglican Digest, a reprint from the same journal of 50 years previous. 1 Samuel 9:3)



There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: “I have good news and bad news. The good news is we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it’s still out there in your pockets.” (This is one of the treasures I saved after Ruth Bowie sent them to me a while back.)

Calendar for December 2015

Dec. 9 (Wed.) Study of Christmas Carols in All Hallows Parish Hall begins at 6:30 pm, with a Pot luck (bring what you like!); Program begins at 7:00

*10 (Thurs.) Makemie Presbyterian Church Rehearsal for Cantata @ All Hallows 7-9 pm

*12 (Sat.) Makemie Presbyterian Church Rehearsal for Cantata @ All Hallows 10:30 am-12:30 pm

*13 (Sunday; Advent 3) 9:30: Holy Eucharist 2 and Sunday School
4:00 pm Makemie Presbyterian Church Choir presents the
Cantata @ All Hallows—All are welcome

*16 (Wed.) Study of Christmas Carols in All Hallows Parish Hall begins at 6:30 pm with a Pot luck (bring what you like!); Program begins at 7:00

*17, 18, 19, Bring in greens for Church decoration and leave in Lych Gate

*19 (Sat.) Meet at church at 9 am to prepare wreaths and ropes for decoration of church next day.

*20 (Sunday, Advent 4) 9:30: Holy Eucharist 2 and Sunday School
Decorating of Church to follow

*21 (Mon.) Vestry meets 7-9

*23 (Wed.) Final Study of Christmas Carols in All Hallows Parish Hall begins at 6:30 pm with a Pot luck (bring what you like!); Program begins at 7:00

*24 (Thurs.) Christmas Eve services 5 and 11 pm. All welcome; no reservations needed!

*25 (Friday) Merry Christmas Everyone!

*27 (Sunday, 1 Christmas) 9:30 Lessons and Carols