

# *The Hallowed Word*

*All Hallows Episcopal Church*

**November 2015**

## **What is “Thanksgiving”?**

Among other things this Fall, I have been trying to figure out the purpose of “thanksgiving.” I know it is an American/Canadian tradition; but it also is a custom celebrated worldwide for many reasons on many different days. Ours began with a feast with the Native peoples and the “explorers” in what is now Massachusetts; however, the story we were taught, and probably taught to our children and grandchildren is limited by actual facts. Curiosity can be satisfied by going on line and seeing who has information on what Thanksgiving is all about. Many of the articles are posted by Target, Macy’s, etc.---you get the idea---it’s all about shopping. If you watch or read the news you may have seen the articles about some stores not opening on Thanksgiving—and some beginning shopping sales the First of November.

I don’t believe our Thanksgiving is about new clothes, or big Christmas gifts, or even about Happy Families gathered around a table with a huge Turkey front and center. I also don’t feel good about everyone donating canned/boxed food to feed the poor as they give thanks. Don’t those folks need to eat on the other 364 days of the year?



I believe Thanksgiving Day should be spontaneous, with every day of the year everyone taking a moment to whisper a thanks for just the minutia of life! Why party only once? Why spend a lot of money on food that will fill tummies and refrigerators for days afterwards? The reality of life is that we have a great many things and times for which we feel gratitude.

There is a fantastic book that was probably written for children to help them understand everyday life. It's called Sleeping with Bread and it is about looking back on your day and “asking ourselves two questions: For what am I most grateful? For what am I least grateful? These questions help us identify moments of consolation and desolation. We call this process the examen.” (Thanks Amazon for this quote!) Actually, it's not just for children; it also teaches us—adults—how to process our day.

The book, and its title, has an awesome history, which I am not going to reveal now because you can Google it, but it is truly about stopping and thinking and processing every day—to “examine”—and to give Thanks for what we have experienced during our day.

Every day we should give thanks to God for the good things, and take a moment to pray over the challenges. We should not, must not, let our daily lives slip past, to be forgotten as past history. Examen teaches us to look at each day and find moments of good and bad so that we will have the opportunity to live each day fully. It doesn't take hours; it might only take a few minutes to look back and “examine” those gifts we have received; and not just rewards, but the struggles we endure. Those events shouldn't pass by without at least recognizing the challenges that affect us physically, mentally, and especially spiritually.

Yes, I will celebrate Thanksgiving Day! I will (as always) contribute coleslaw and my “famous” sweet potato casserole. Better yet, I will get to play with my grandchildren, nieces and nephews, my children and siblings—and relatives who will gather with us—because it is an American Tradition! But the True Thanksgiving is every day! Every day there are things happening, both happy and not-so-happy, but it is Life as God gives us. For that I am not only “Thankful,” but I am “Grateful!”

See you in Church!

*Nanese+*

**Following is a quote from *Crazy Christians, A Call to Follow Jesus*, written by The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, the new Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.**

“During their courtship my father (a Baptist Pastor) one Sunday decided to attend church with my mother. He had never been inside an Episcopal church. It was an alien world to a person who came from the African-American Baptist tradition. *The Book of Common Prayer*, the liturgy, the written prayers, the silences, the chanting – all were new. But he later said the most striking difference for him that day was communion. He had never experienced a chalice, the common cup from which everyone drank. That morning my parents were among the few African-Americans in the congregation. This was the 1940’s. Jim Crow was alive and well. Segregation and separation of the races was still the law in much of the land. The armed forces had not yet been integrated. *Brown v. the Board of Education* had not taken place, and it was long before the Montgomery bus boycott. Martin Luther King Jr. was still in seminary. Still my father saw on the altar only one cup from which everyone was to drink.

“My father didn’t feel comfortable going up for communion, but when my mother went up, he watched closely. Was the priest really going to give her communion from the common cup? And if he did, was the next person really going to drink from that same cup? And would others drink too, knowing that a black woman had sipped from that cup? He saw the priest offer her the cup, and she drank. Then the priest offered the cup to the next person at the rail, and that person drank. And then the next person and the next, all down the rail. When my father told the story, he would always say: ‘That’s what brought me to the Episcopal Church. Any church in which black folks and white folks drink out of the same cup knows something about a gospel that I want to be a part of.’”

**Wednesday at 4 p.m.,** Join us for Bible study. We are trying a different method – Lecto Divinia. This has opened our minds and hearts to seeing

God speak more effectively to us. The sharing has been a blessing to each of us.

**Summer is over, and our CHOIR is back to work.** Rehearsals are each Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. We are in need of ALL voice parts – Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. Please see Jim if you are interested.

### **Musings by Jim**

From “The Democratic Messenger,” April 8, 1911 –

John L. Robins, Esq. Last week brief mention was made of the death of our friend, John L. Robins, Esq. Mr. Robins had been in poor health for several months, caused by liver trouble. His many friends did not realize his condition until about two weeks ago when he was taken to the German Hospital, Philadelphia, by Dr. William D. Straughn, his physician. Shortly after he arrived at the hospital it was evident that his end was drawing near, and when the message came that he had passed over the river it was not unexpected.

John L. Robins was a native of Snow Hill. He was born February 1, 1854, and therefore was 57 years old when he died. He was the son of James Bowdoin Robins, for many years a prominent merchant in Snow Hill. After attending the schools of Snow Hill, Mr. Robins, at the age of 15, was sent to Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA. At the end of one term he returned home, and thenceforth turned his attention to farming on the home place where he lived most of his life, saving a few years spent in Snow Hill. He was the owner of one of the finest farms in Worcester County, and he loved it for its beautiful location, its pleasant associations, its grand old pine trees standing upon the lawn, its well arranged fields, and because it was the home of his youth. Mr. Robins’ mother was Miss Elizabeth Hayward, who also came of one of the old and influential families of Worcester County.

On December 12, 1878, Mr. Robins married Miss Julia L. Matthews, daughter of I. T. Matthews, Esq. who with two sons survives him. The sons are Lieutenant Thomas M. Robins, a graduate of West

Point Military Academy, and now with the army of occupation in the Philippines, and Mr. James Robins, who resided at home with his parents, and for a number of years has assisted his father in the management of the farm.

Mr. Robins was a faithful and ardent Democrat and at the time of his death was County Commissioner, which office he had been elected to fill three times in succession. He was an honest, conscientious, public official, who did his duty as he saw it, without fear or favor.

A large number of Mr. Robins' friends went to his late home Sunday afternoon to pay their last respects and to follow the remains to All Hallows Church, where services were conducted by the Rector, Rev. W. F. Allen. Interment was made in the Robins burial lot in the churchyard. Brief services were conducted at the home by Rev. C. W. Prettyman, pastor of the M. E. Church. The pallbearers were Messers. Thomas M. Purnell, J. Edward White, Edwin H. Taylor, Gordon B. Jones, Dr. Paul Jones and Judge Robley D. Jones.

### **Mr. Covington Passes Away – Prominent Worcester Countian Dies in New York City**

Hon. George W. Covington, one of the best known citizens of Worcester County, died in New York on Thursday, and his remains will be brought to Snow Hill tonight. Funeral services will be held in All Hallows Church Saturday afternoon.

For several years, Mr. Covington and his wife and daughter have been spending the winters in New York with his son, George B. Covington, Esq. It was reported here a week ago that Mr. Covington was very ill, but it was not thought that the announcement of his death would come so soon.

Hon. George W. Covington was a son of Isaac and Amelia Covington, and was born in Berlin, Md. September 12, 1838, and was in his 73<sup>rd</sup> year. He received his classical education at Berlin Academy. In the fall of 1858 he entered the law department in Harvard University, and completing the course, returned to Berlin and became principal of Berlin Academy. In 1860 he was admitted to the bar and commenced

the practice of law. In 1865, he was elected secretary and treasurer of the Board of School Commissioners of Worcester Co. In 1867 he was nominated by the Conservative Democrats to the Constitutional Convention, and was elected almost without opposition. In 1874 he was appointed School Examiner of Worcester County and served in that capacity for two years. He had been living on his farm for several years, but in 1874 he took up his permanent residence in Snow Hill and resumed his practice.

In 1880 Hon George W. Covington became the Democratic nominee for Congress in the First Congressional District, after a heated contest in the convention held in Salisbury. Hon. John Walter Smith, now United States Senator, was one of his ardent champions and was the secretary of the convention as a delegate from Worcester County in the interest of Mr. Covington. Mr. Covington was elected by a large majority and took his seat in the 47<sup>th</sup> Congress. He was reelected in 1882.

From 1885-1895, Mr. Covington was Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee of Worcester County, and was one of the leaders of the Worcester County Democracy.

At the time of his death, Mr. Covington was Vice President and one of the Directors of the Commercial National Bank of Snow Hill.

Mr. Covington is survived by his widow, who before marriage was Miss Sallie M. Bishop, only daughter of George and Louisa C. Bishop. He also leaves one daughter, Miss Louisa Amelia Covington, and two sons, Mr. George B. Covington and Prof. Harry Franklin Covington, of Princeton University.

Mr. Covington's death is mourned by a large number of friends and relatives in this county, all of whom were greatly attached to him and feel the loss of one who sympathized with them in their troubles and rejoiced with them in their good fortunes.

April 15, 1911 – Mayor Corrdry of Snow Hill, President of the Corrdry Co., was a guest of the Philadelphia Lumberman's Exchange at their Annual Banquet held at the Union League, Thursday evening, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Newell Corddry, of Washington College, and Mr. Ewell Dryden, of St. Johns College, are home for the Easter holidays.

Mr. George S. Payne and daughters, Misses Winifred and Nellie Payne, returned home last Saturday night from a week's visit in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Upshur returned to Berlin Monday morning. They were accompanied by Miss Wilson Hargis, who remained as their guest until Thursday night. Mr. and Mrs. Upshur will return to Snow Hill tonight (Saturday) to spend Easter at the home of his father, Col. George M. Upshur.

The Corddry Company have just about completed extensive additions to their plant here. They have added some 6,000 square feet of floor space to their factory, and in addition to this, have built a new boiler house and engine room, installing two additional 70 horse power boilers and an additional 125 horse power engine. They also installed several additional machines, which will enable them to more than double their output.

**FUNERAL OF MR. COVINGTON** – The funeral services over the remains of the late George W. Covington were held in All Hallows P. E. Church, Snow Hill, last Saturday afternoon, and were conducted by Rev. W. F. Allen. A number of persons paid their last respects to the memory of their old friend. The services were very impressive, and at the conclusion the remains were buried in the family burial lot in the churchyard. The pall bearers were: Messers. George M. Upshur, John James Collins, Judge Robley D. Jones, Dr. Paul Jones, Eben Hearne, and William D. Johnson.

There were numbers of beautiful floral offerings, and a number of out-of-town friends and relatives were present, among the latter being

Mrs. McIlvaine, of Baltimore, and Miss Dora Toadvine and Mrs. Alex Toadvine, of Salisbury.

**VESTED CHOIR IN ALL HALLOWS** – The newly vested and augmented choir of All Hallows Church made its appearance on the evening of Palm Sunday. The boys have been preparing for six months and looked forward with great interest to taking their places as leaders of the services of song in the church. Ten boys have been installed and more are under training and the faithful band of ladies who for so long have sustained this department of the worship make with them a choir nearly large enough for the requirements of the church.

On Friday last the newly built chancel was formally blessed and opened. This was provided by the generous aid of the All Hallows Guild, the stalls being provided one by the Guild, one by the Sunday School, and the other two donated as a memorial of the late Susan L. Davis by her husband. The vestments were all provided by the Ladies Guild.

Making all allowance for the novelty of the circumstances, and the nervousness incident to anxiety that there should be no hitch, the new choir did exceptionally well. The verdict of one being, “They sang as well as if they had been used to it for years.”

**Do you need someone to listen to you?** The Senior Warden or any Vestry member would be glad to lend an ear and take the time to allow you to share your concerns or comments about the functioning of our church.

**The Fall Ingathering for the United Thank Offering** will take place at All Hallows on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Through this program, developed by and administered by women since 1889, offerings collected are sent to the UTO national office, which is entrusted to promote, receive and distribute the United Thank Offering monies through grants.

The Mission of the UTO is to expand the circle of thankful people through daily prayers, offerings and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. Many choose to take a "Blue Box" (available at all times in the back of the church) and make a thoughtful daily offering. Others participate by placing an offering in the plate during the UTO collection on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Others may choose to mail a check, payable to UTO, to Judi Menavich, the treasurer of the Episcopal Church Women of All Hallows, at 106 S. Church Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863. For more information visit [www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org) or google United Thank Offering.

**The Grandma was showing her kids a painting of the Pilgrim Family** on a Thanksgiving Day card they had received and said, "The Pilgrim children enjoyed going to church with their mothers and fathers and praying to God." Her youngest grandson looked at her doubtfully and asked, "Then why is their Dad carrying that rifle?"

### **Imagine the Diocese of Easton...**

Imagine a Diocese built on a foundation of history and tradition that enables the people to be open to the future and all it promises...

Imagine a Diocese built on a foundation of relationships and connection where people can know and be known by one another to create a place of acceptance...

Imagine a Diocese that stands firm on its foundation and has the love, courage and creativity to imagine a new day and a new way of being the people of God in a place called Easton...

Imagine a parish called All Hallows which stands on each of these foundations and whose people live together with a sense of purpose and openness to the future, where we become better at what we already do well.

What do you value in our church? The only way to keep what you value is to give it away. Who do you know that needs to know that there is a place to be connected – All Hallows?

**Snow Hill Food Pantry [snowhillfood@gmail.com]**

Thank you all so much for making this past weekend a success for Snow Hill Ecumenical Food Pantry! A team of 20 volunteers came together to make a difference in our community. Over 150 hours of community service hours were given to our House Improvement Project. All of this is just the beginning of our plans to make improvements to our operations, serve more families in our community and offer life skills services.

Please find the article below from the Daily Times...

<http://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/maryland/2015/10/24/make-a-difference-gannett/74536312/>

Please consider helping by:

**Pledging money** to the Snow Hill Food Pantry every month for the next 12 months.

**Having a fundraiser** to raise money for Snow Hill Food Pantry.

**Sponsoring a food drive** for Snow Hill Food Pantry to help us feed more people.

**Taking up extra collections at services** that directly support Snow Hill Food Pantry.

**Talking to others about us and our needs.**

Working together – we CAN make a difference to eliminate hunger. Thank you for your continued support.

**Thank-yous for military care packages filter in**

A week into a 10-day patrol, a group of Army Rangers in Afghanistan had run out of food and water. The mission was to find a soldier who'd gone missing. He never turned up, and by the time the soldiers returned to their forward operating base, they hadn't showered in days and their morale was in the gutter.

But their commanding lieutenant had a special gift waiting for them when they got back: Individual care packages filled with candy, toiletries, Wet Naps and more. The 55 boxes were sent by a group of local Harley-Davidson owners based in Ocean City and chaired by Jeff Merritt.

What began as a one-time project to keep Merritt and his HOG buddies busy in the wintertime has turned into year-round philanthropy for servicemen deployed overseas. We now call it **Operation We Care**, and we are grateful for your continuing support. We would like to plan another Operation We Care Day for the first Sunday in December, December 6.

Jeff says, “This is the most rewarding project I’ve ever been involved in. We try to support the families here as much as we can, because they’re the ones taking care of the house while the soldier is deployed. The family’s got to keep the fires burning back here. At our packing events we try to get as many family members here as possible, so they can include their own stuff.

He’s getting more and more thank-you e-mails all the time – one sent last week describing how the toilet paper roll (They include a roll of t.p. because “sometimes the government-issue stuff, as you can imagine, is not the best.) was the bounty in a poker game – saying what a morale booster the gifts have proven to be.

“You have no idea how much these things mean,” wrote back one soldier stationed in Iraq, with a battalion support brigade that had just lost a soldier in action.

“Getting those packages really meant the world to our troopers,” wrote another captain from the 108<sup>th</sup>. “Being deployed and away from our families sometimes can get really difficult and it is always the kind words or gracious gestures such as yours that enable us to make it through the tough times.”

You can find Operation We Care on Face Book if you wish to explore further. They send 600+ packages in November and May, and then there are smaller shipments (30-50) each month.

Thank you for your concern and the help you provide.

**A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend.** The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. “Reverend,” said the young man, “I’m so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.” The minister chuckled “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”

### **IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL – From Emergency to Opportunity**

Disaster relief isn’t just about providing food, clean water, clothing and shelter to survivors during emergencies. Ultimately, it’s about empowering people to lift themselves up to a better life than they had before catastrophe struck – a process that can take determination, expertise, trust and time. In fulfilling our mission to heal a hurting world, Episcopal Relief & Development is in it for the long haul. Here is an example of how we’re making a difference in communities that were once devastated by disaster. With your support, we’ll continue to transform lives and help people around the world meet their potential.

Typhoon in the Philippines: Episcopal Relief & Development has worked in partnership with the Episcopal Church in the Philippines for decades, so when Typhoon Haiyan slammed into the islands of Leyte in November 2013 killing 6,000 people and disrupting the lives of 11 million, we were already on the ground.

We had been helping several northern Luzon communities improve their food processing capabilities. With our support, after the storm they increased their capacity by more than ten-fold so that they could get noodles and biscuits they produce to typhoon survivors struggling with hunger. With training and new equipment they achieved this in a matter of weeks. Since then our long-term recovery efforts have included:

\*Expanding provision of locally-produced food to the affected areas.

\*Helping rebuild homes while making them better able to resist typhoons.

\*Enabling farmers to rehabilitate flood-ruined farmland and diversify their crops.

\*Developing alternative sources of income for farmers during the five-year period required to grow new trees after most were destroyed by Haiyan.

\*Building artificial coral reefs to temporarily replace those destroyed by the storm, creating new breeding grounds to supply local fishermen.

\*Making communities more resilient to disasters by identifying risks, taking an inventory of local assets and prioritizing how best to respond.

**We want to know what is happening with your family!!!** You have earned the right to brag about your kids. We plan to go to press the first week of each month. Send Bonnie a note so we can share the good news

NOTE: Elizabeth Simpson Mills was “on time” with her Thank-you, which we had intended to share but misplaced. Sorry.

*Dear Nanese and the Congregation of All Hallows,*

*Thank you so very much for baptizing and celebrating our daughter, Easton Elizabeth Mills! We could not be more pleased that she was able to not only follow in the footsteps of her brother but also many of her family members and ancestors. We feel as though we are helping create a legacy for Easton and her brother, Grant, as All Hallows has always held a special place in our hearts! We just keep coming back! Nanese, you and the congregation were so welcoming as always! We feel at home every time we walk through the doors and we hope that continues for our children as they grow! They definitely enjoyed the ceremony as much as we did! Thank you again for everything and for creating such a Wonderful experience for Easton’s Baptism!*

*Love, Elizabeth, Brandon, Grant and Easton Mills*

## **Calendar for November 2015**

Every Sunday: 9:30 Holy Eucharist with Sunday School

Every Wednesday (except 25 of this month): 4:00 Bible Study

16: Monday: Vestry at 7-9 pm

22: Sunday: UTO ingathering and Scottish Service at 9:30  
Snow Hill Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 7 pm

24: Tuesday evening: Mayor and Council meet in Parish House 6 pm

26: Thanksgiving Day

29: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

30: Monday: A Quiet Day at the Retreat Center in Hillsboro, 9-3, lunch included. Retreat led by Fr. Martin Smith, well-known Episcopal author, speaker, and retreat leader.

**Thank you** to Kemp Wills for preparing and sending our newsletter to each of you; to Jim Bosworth for researching All Hallows' history and sharing it with us; to Katherine Gordon for finding and passing on interesting items; to Ken Thom for sharing from Bishop Curry's book; to Nanese for her loving care of us; and to each of you for your loving care for and service to our community!