

The Hallowed Word

All Hallows Episcopal Church

December 2017

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

Letter from Fr. Chuck Hatfield, our Rector-Elect Happy Advent! As Adele and I move to Snow Hill in 2018, and my beginning as the next rector of All Hallows in early February, we both look forward to becoming part of the community!



We're also excited about this Friday when we'll get to meet many of you at the home of Ron Geesey (see below). Like Christmas, we can hardly wait! – uh-oh, not The Chipmunk Song! [youtube.com/watch?v=SAS_JoUw7wA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAS_JoUw7wA). It would help us learn your names if you could wear a nametag. And please bring the whole family! We have 11 grandchildren and five kids so we get it.

I'm originally from Baltimore Maryland, an AVID **Orioles** & baseball fan so it's wonderful to be back in my home state. I look forward to finding out your traditions and where you hope to be in the ministry we serve in Snow Hill at the historic parish of All Hallows!

Until Friday ... May God bless us all in this time of preparation as we wait for the coming of our Savior!

Chuck+

Come meet our new priest Charles (Chuck) Hatfield and his wife Adele at a "Meet and Greet" at the home of Ron Geesey this Friday, December 8 at 6:30pm. This will be a pot luck (finger food) light supper. 303 West Federal Street. Drive in from Federal Street to a covered drop-off at the side entrance, and then continue on past the garage to a large lot in the back for parking.

Bishop's Spotlight The Latin word *Advent* means “to come” – the church points to the second coming of Jesus (*Parousia*) and prepares us for the celebration of the anniversary of his birth (Christmas). Advent is about light overcoming darkness. Take some time this season to celebrate the life and light given to us by Christ Jesus.

Stewardship Talk by Betsy Gravenor

Good morning! I think most of you know me – my name is Betsy Gravenor; thank you for allowing me to speak this morning. I would like to take a few minutes to talk about stewardship and what stewardship means to me.

If you're anything like me, you may associate the term “stewardship” with the annual pledge drive and giving money to the church. While this is part of what stewardship is, I would like to suggest that there is more to it than this. I really like this definition of stewardship: 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 to us. In other words, stewardship requires that the giver recognize what has been given to them by God, and they respond in gratitude.

I expect this is an idea that is very relatable to many of the parishioners at All Hallows. I love that our parish has a reputation for being consistently generous in many ways, especially in the areas of time, talent and treasure. 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 the church and in the community, present themselves often. So if you feel that you've missed your opportunity to be a steward, you don't have to worry! There will be 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 listening and letting me speak to you this morning!

Althea Groton has been doing a superb job of coordinating the ECW's Fish Program.

When someone in our Church Family is under the weather and could benefit from meals being delivered, Althea calls the folks on her list to prepare and deliver meals on specific days. The response has been terrific. (I can surely testify to that from my own experience.) Thanks to each of you who have shown your care for each other in this way! Althea is asking that anyone who is not on her Fish List and would like to join this ministry call her to explore possibilities.

Thank you, Althea!

On Sunday, December 3,
we celebrated the Scottish
Liturgy in honor of St.
Andrew. Andrew is the
Patron Saint of Scotland.

Matthew Wallace joined
us to play the bagpipes.



Christmas Parade, December 4th

Ellen, Nick and Keith, with the help of Eve and Libby, passed out Hot Chocolate, Candy Canes (and some baked goods made by Bonnie) at the Market Street entrance to the church. We passed out about 70 cups and had a great time doing it. This looks like the start of a great new tradition!



The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall

The Traveling Wall Memorial will be hosted by VFW Post 5118 in Easton MD on 5-31-18 through 6-6-18. The VFW Post Committee is in search of family members of men whose names are listed on The Wall from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. If you can help us in our search for family and friends of these men who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Cindy Johnson at 410-463-1712 or mninny@gmail.com. Thank you.

All Hallows ECW will sponsor the Christmas party for the Seniors at the Worcester Adult Medical Daycare on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at noon. The facility is located at 4767 Snow Hill Road, near the Snow Hill Fire Department. Volunteers are needed to set up, clean up, serve refreshments and join in the singing of Christmas Carols. Ron Geesey and Fiona Duncan will provide the musical leadership. Contact Katherine Gordon if you can volunteer to help.

Every Sunday at ordinary Episcopal churches, something extraordinary takes place. In a society in which tables of hospitality are mostly closed off to strangers, a public feast is held. You don't need to buy a ticket to this meal. Not everyone necessarily knows each other; not everyone gets along perfectly, but they come together nonetheless. The food is simple stuff – bread and wine—about to become something more than itself. As the story is told and songs are sung, a change takes place. Hearts are lifted. The brokenness in the lives of each of the participants, and the brokenness of the world is brought into focus. Healing begins to pour through it. Lives turned inward are opened outward. In the midst of the messiness and richness of this meal is the presence of Jesus, felt and known through the spirit, tasted in the bread and wine, inviting us and the whole of the world into community with God. (Dwight Zscheile in *People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity*)

Anne Warner has been away from us for quite a while, but she is still very much in the heart of All Hallows. I am sharing her recent note to me, and I encourage you to write to her. **(Mrs. Anne Warner, 911 Redmore Drive, Severn, MD 21144)**

Oh, the joy when I receive your messages, in unusual venues, that make your words so special!

Think of you, so reading about your daily activities brings you closer to my quiet life. I was saddened to learn about your surgery. I am sorry that you and Jody had to face such serious experiences, but I am glad all of this is behind you. And, you and your happy smiles have recovered.

I continue to concentrate on my books, solving crossword puzzles, and my favorite pleasure – applying ink onto pages of my crayon booklets. I have a stack of completed plates.

Our dear Father Thom has been such a devoted Shepherd to All Hallows, as he assumes the duties involved in church. The congregation has always loved him. We are so grateful.

I am anxious to hear about “Chuck”. I understand a lot of work has been accomplished in the Rectory,

Thanks for your note. Take care. Best Wishes to you and Jody.

A.

Christmas Decorations

It's that time again to gather greens for Christmas decorations. Please have them at the lichgate by December 17th. We will also need help on Sunday December 17th, after the worship service bringing down the candle holders and setting up for the poinsettias.

On December 20th at 9:00am we will be making up the decorations and at 10:30 we will be decorating the church.

Please plan to be there if possible; many hands make it more fun and go faster.

Camp Wright Christmas Night

Join our friends at Camp Wright on Saturday, December 16th from 5:30pm – 8:30pm for a super fun holiday event! Tons of lights, visits with Santa, cookies and cocoa, and more!

Camp Wright registration is NOW OPEN for Summer Camp 2018

Our Transition Committee is working. Keith Donoway, Stephanie Clayville and Ellen Sprouls have been busy preparing for Friday's reception. They are keeping in touch with Chuck and Adele and Shane

to ensure that work in the rectory fits their expectations. After the New Year they will explore movers.

Sunday School is preparing for their Epiphany Pageant.

Finally, thank you to Kemp Wills, who improves the appearance of our newsletter.

Calendar

Friday, Dec. 8, 6:30pm – Meet and Greet for Rev. Chuck and Adele

Sunday, Dec. 10, 9:30am – Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, Dec. 13, noon – Christmas Party at Adult Medical Center

Sunday, Dec. 17, 9:30am – Holy Eucharist

Bring greens for decorating church

After worship service, we will bring down the candle holders and set up the poinsettias.

Wednesday, December 20, 9:00 am – make up Christmas decorations

10:30am – decorate the church.

Sunday, December 24, 9:30 am – Holy Eucharist

5:30pm – Christmas Eve Service

(There will be no Midnight service.)

Monday, December 25, MERRY CHRISTMAS! **(No service at church)**

Sunday, Dec. 31, 9:30 am – Holy Eucharist