

April 24, 2009

Highlights

1. A Prayer
2. Notices
3. Prayer List
4. Schedule of Volunteers
5. Sermon

ALL HALLOWS' E-TIDINGS

www.allhallowsparish.org



*THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER: APRIL 26, 2009
8AM EUCHARIST, CHAPEL; 9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH,
PARISH HOUSE; 10AM EUCHARIST, BRICK CHURCH; 11:20AM RECTOR'S FORUM
Invite a Friend to Join Us for Worship, Education and Fellowship*



Weekday Eucharist:
Join us every Thursday
at 12 noon at All
Hallows' Chapel

Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Parish Announcements

Rector's Forum: Stewardship of Creation

April 22 was Earth Day. In many denominations, the Christian awareness of the importance of safeguarding all of God's creation is becoming stronger and stronger. Father Alistair is an appointed member of the Executive Council Committee of Science, Technology & Faith. He just attended their nationally funded annual meeting in Chicago from April 22 to 25, where they also met with the representatives from other denominations at the Ecumenical Roundtable of Science, Technology and the Church. He will report to us the highlights of this year's meeting, with a special focus on the Stewardship of Creation. There is something we each can do to become a truly "green" parish. Join us at 11:20AM in the undercroft of the Parish House.

The Rite of Confirmation

This year's Confirmation for Youth and Adults will happen at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore at 4PM on May 31, Feast of the Pentecost. Several parishioners have been meeting with Father Alistair for instructions of the Christian faith in the perspective of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church. Please consider supporting your fellow parishioners in their journey of maturing in Christ by your prayers and presence at this very important service. So, mark your calendars ahead of time.

Confirmation Class for Youth:

Wednesday, May 6, 6:30PM and Wednesday May 27, 6:30PM at the Rector's Office. Adult Confirmation Instruction by appointment.

Please contact the church office for more information.

Reception and Reaffirmation

Adults who were confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and the Eastern Orthodox Churches, can receive formal recognition and "reception" of their membership into the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church through the laying on of hands by the Bishop on the same date (May 31) at the same Confirmation service. Those confirmed in the Episcopal Church and wish to recommit themselves to the faith and practice of this Church, may reaffirm their faith at this service as well. Please contact the church office for any further information concerning Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation.

Food Bank Info

During their two Opening Day Ceremonies, South Maryland Little League did a food drive and collected three large bins of non-perishable food. We have enough food from the drive to last a few weeks. If you see anyone or know anyone from South Maryland Little League, please give them a big "thank you" from All Hallows. Also, if you are interested in making a difference in the lives of local families, donate a few hours a month and help the food pantry. Our sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Parish House. We need help with distribution which occurs on Mondays from 9:15 to 10:30. Any questions you can contact Dave Patterson 410-451-2523 or [DavidP@PattIns.com]

Diocesan Convention 2009

This year's Diocesan Convention will be held on May 1 - 2 at the Marriott Hotel in Hunt Valley. Fr. Alistair So and Michael Power are our clergy and lay delegates respectively. In addition, Mike Menne will serve as the organist for the convention. This is the only time annually when the entire diocese gathers as one to vote on resolutions and conduct the important business concerning the common ministry we have as a diocese. Please keep our delegates and representatives in your prayers. For more information, you may visit www.ang-md.org.

Meeting for Commissioners & Committee Chairs

You are invited to attend a meeting with Father Alistair and Jim Lloyd, and other vestry liaisons on Tuesday April 28, at 7PM in the Parish House. As we are strengthening our various programs, it is important for all the committees and commissions to be working together for our common ministry at All Hallows'. If you cannot attend this meeting,

please appoint a representative to come instead. This is a meeting for all the committees and commissions to get to know each other and learn about our common mission and vision for the future. Please RSVP to info@allhallowsparish.org or 410-798-0808.

Remember in Your Prayers - *Your prayers are asked for the sick* -- George Ward, *Deacon*; Karen Bolinsky, Norma Smith, Harriet Reynolds, Jermeil Duggins, Helen Smith, Kelly Gibbons, Dale Hall, Don Bywater, Sister Mary Joseph, Brady Thurman, David Edwards, Ed & Ruth Tucker, Mary Aisquith, Rev. Robert G., Mike Callahan, Louise Burke, Barbara, Alice Enright, Abad Ramirez, Joyce Boido, Eleanor Bagne, Diane Radcliffe, and Bob, Susan Kellog, Kim, Kathy Dine, Bill Carney, Courtney Griffith, Janet Boatwright, and Joyce Cramer, Lisa Meredith, Polly, Bud, Aileen, Bryan, Liz, Don, Bill Kremann, Bob Carney, and Ed Carney
For the departed Karen Lofton, Karissa Lofton, Delores Dewitt, Ebony Dewitt
For those in the armed forces and their families of

All Hallows Choir

Soprano Betty Kilgus Jan Power, Nancy Royden

Alto Lillian Armstrong, Gail Enright, Linda Johnson

Tenor Richard Johnson and Zen Libowicz

Bass Lee Greenbaum, David Patterson, Michael Power

All Hallows Sunday School

Sunday School Coordinator
Meredith McQuoid-Greason

Teachers for children & youth group Shelley Hicks, Jill Shores, Kate Fox, Laura Currey, Kjrsten Hersey, Kirsten Deichmann, Katherine & Jim Simpson, Meredith McQuoid-Greason, Dawn & Tom Martel

Child Care Katherine Lloyd, Molly Weems, Erika Johnson, Jackie Amole, Michelle Allen Emerson, Jodi Kulig & Kjrsten Hersey

Service Volunteers

Altar Guild

Chapel:
Joan King & Judi Hilton-Hyde

Brick Church:
Anne Buffington
& Billie Owens

Greeters
Chapel: Volunteers

Brick Church: Billie
Owens & Rob Allen-
Emerson

Acolytes
Chapel: Julia Smith

Brick Church: Erik
Ostberg

Intercessor
Chapel: James Bell

Brick Church: Dan Schoos

Lectors
Chapel: Michele Smith

Brick Church: Hailey Morris

LEM
Chapel: Toni Gibbons

Brick Church: Jim Lloyd

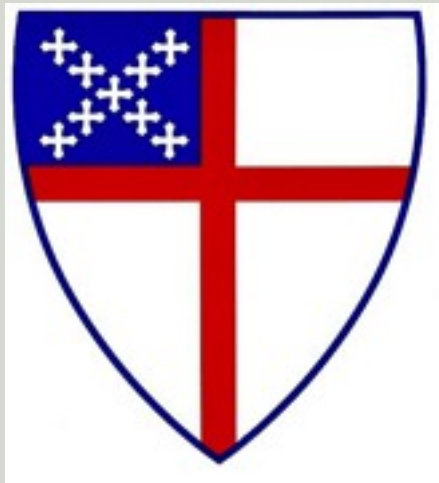
Counters
Brick Church: David King
& Jean Brown

Coffee Hour

Brick Church: The Kraus
Family

[Acts 4:32-35](#)
[Psalm 133](#)
[1 John 1:1-2:2](#)
[John 20:19-31](#)

A SERMON PREACHED BY
THE REVEREND ALISTAIR
SO, RECTOR OF ALL
HALLOWS' PARISH, SOUTH
RIVER, IN DAVIDSONVILLE,
MARYLAND, ON THE
SECOND SUNDAY OF
EASTER, APRIL 19, 2009, AT
ALL HALLOWS' CHAPEL
AND THE BRICK CHURCH



In the Name of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit. Amen.

Low Sunday is the traditional
epithet for the Second Sunday
of Easter. It's called "Low"
because generally church
attendance is in sharp
contrast to that of church
filled to the brim the Sunday
before on Easter. How

humorous! But over time,
we, Episcopalians have come
to grips with effective
contemporary marketing.
"Low Sunday" just doesn't do
the job if we want to grow the
church. It is not positive. It is
bland. "Thomas Sunday" is a
newer, preferred name for this
Sunday, because the Gospel
lesson for all three years of
our lectionary cycle is about
Thomas the Doubter---the
famous, inquisitive disciple that
demanded signs to prove that
Jesus was truly risen.

Over the course of Christian
history, St. Thomas the
Apostle, has been called the
doubter because of his
recalcitrance in assenting to
the Good News that Christ is
risen, shared by the other
disciples and the holy women.
He demanded the sensational.
He demanded the visual. He
demanded the empirical. The
Church can be demanding on
its saints sometimes. I mean,
come on, let's give the guy a
break. After all, he was a
faithful disciple of the Lord.
But by equating Thomas with
doubter, we have passed
judgment on him and cast the
first stone already. And
according to tradition, he
went as far as India to preach
the Gospel. He died when a
peacock hunter missed his
aim. That is a euphemism for

his martyrdom, as peacock is a sign for a martyr. The Mar Thoma Church in south India stems from the apostolic tradition of Saint Thomas. They are in communion with the Episcopal Church. I have met priests and lay people from that denomination at the Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry Conference previously.

Apart from the rich Christian tradition that came from our beloved Thomas, the disciple, the earnest doubter and seeker, I think he offers the contemporary Christian a renewed inspiration each year when we read and celebrate his encounter with the Risen Lord. For Thomas, seeing is believing. We live in a world that demands proof. The world asks, "Ok, you believe in God. How do you know that God exists. Now show me the money!" Thomas is a saintly prototype of the post-modern person that demands scientific, concrete evidence in matters related to faith. If Thomas could ask for proofs and evidence after all the things he had gone through with Jesus, it would not be a sin for us to ask for the same. Seeing is believing. What exactly does that mean?



Let's explore the mystery of seeing scientifically, biblically and theologically.

Scientifically, seeing is a complicated process that requires numerous components of the human eye and brain to work together.

The *initial* step of this fascinating and powerful sense is carried out in the retina of the eye.

Specifically, the photoreceptor neurons (called photoreceptors) in the retina collect the light and send signals to a network of neurons that then generate electrical impulses that go to the brain.

The brain then processes those impulses and gives information about what we are seeing. |

Therefore, Thomas's request makes sense scientifically, in that seeing really has more than meets the eye in our understanding and beliefs. Seeing is a proper cognitive function that can lead to faith.

Biblically, the First Epistle General of St. John today probably gives us the best relationship between seeing and proclaiming, between seeing and believing:

We declare to you what we have seen with our eyes.....concerning the **word of life**-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us.....with the Father and with his Son Jesus.

God clearly made use of our created faculties in transmitting his message of salvation to us. The Word of Life---Jesus Christ himself--- came to assume the same flesh and blood that we are

made of, so that we can see for ourselves, so that we feel for ourselves, God's very deep care for each one of us. But this wisdom from John's letter also indicates a circumstantial seeing and reporting. The first witnesses saw the Risen Lord with their own eyes, which strengthened their faith. They passed on their seeing and believing to the next generation, which passed it on to the next... Apart from the first witnesses, we are called to see and believe as well. But we are called to see with the eyes of faith through the testimony of the Church, the Communion of saints through the ages.

Jesus told Thomas, "Do not doubt but believe." Another translation has it this way, "Do not be faithless, but believing."

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

We need to be careful in interpreting Jesus' saying here. Jesus is not encouraging a

blind, undiscerning faith. Rather, Jesus is elevating us to a divine reality and a holy cognitive level that does not require the seeing with the physical eye. Jesus is implying that we ought to see with the eyes of faith. Even those without the physical vision are endowed with the eyes of faith by God. Seeing with the eyes of faith means praying, meditating on the Holy Word of God; seeing with the eyes of faith means opening our souls to the graces effected by the Sacraments of the Church.

Today, we will celebrate the Holy Baptism of Nolan Kehs. Let us see with our eyes of faith in the baptismal transformation of this new child of God. We are called to support him and each other in our common life as we continue to sharpen our spiritual vision by faith, with God's help, each and every step of the way.

All Hallows' is a place where we see God in the Risen Christ with the eyes of faith. We distinguish ourselves with our long history; we also distinguish ourselves with an inquiring and discerning disposition of faith to make our history accessible and relevant to our time and place. In the coming months,

we will embark on seeing with the eyes of faith, a future that God has prepared for us, in our strategic planning and in our sharing of a lively faith informed by the hope of the Resurrection.

See and believe.

Amen.

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