

November 21, 2008

ALL HALLOWS' E-TIDINGS

www.allhallowsparish.org

Highlights

1. Stewardship Update
2. A Letter from Hong Kong
3. Notices/Invitations
4. Sermon
5. Prayer List
6. Service Volunteers



**Thanksgiving
Ecumenical
Service: 7:30PM, Nov
26, at Davidsonville
United Methodist
Church**

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2008

8am Eucharist, Chapel; 9:45am Sunday School for children and youth,

10am Eucharist, Brick Church, 11:20am Rector's Forum

Join us for Worship, Education and Fellowship



Weekday Eucharists: 6:30PM on Tuesdays at the Brick Church; 12 noon on Thursdays at the Chapel
Have you come to a weekday service recently? It's an excellent opportunity to be centered in God during the week.

**2009 Stewardship Campaign:
Help us Close the Gap.....
...give freely, abundantly and joyously!
Kathi Terlizzese, Chair, Stewardship Commission**

Each week, we are taking steps to "close the gap" together! As of today, \$162,778.00 has been pledged by 48 families. To everyone who has pledged, heartfelt thanks! And if you are among the approximately 50% of our parish who have yet to pledge, it only takes a few minutes to do so. There are just a few short weeks left before Thanksgiving. What comes up for you when you think about how blessed you are? Your family and friends? Your health and that of your loved ones? Your home and career? Now is the perfect time to give thanks to God for all your blessings. Pledge forms are available in both churches or by visiting our church website and downloading a copy of the form. Please feel free to leave your pledges in the

plate on Sunday or to mail yours in to the Parish office. If everyone pledges to the best of their ability, we can achieve our \$235,000 goal and take a big step toward closing the gap! If you have any questions about stewardship at All Hallows' Parish or our campaign, please call Kathi at 410-956-8774. Wishing you and yours a blessed Fall season!

Please mark your calendars: You are invited to join in the fun and fellowship during our Holiday Potluck dinner on Sunday, December 7, 5-9 p.m. at the Terlizzese's home. Please call or e-mail Caren in the Church office to rsvp and kindly let her know the dish you plan to bring. Thank you! And remember – now is a great time to ask someone to give of their time and talent too! Here's a fun story about four people... Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

*There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was asked to do it.
EVERYBODY was sure SOMEBODY would do it.
ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it.
SOMEBODY got angry about that because it was EVERYBODY'S job.
EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it.
It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when actually NOBODY asked ANYBODY!*

A Letter from Hong Kong

親愛的Alistair

主內平安！時間過得真快，轉眼間就要跨入2009年度。感謝神的帶領，讓你在All Hallows 教會事奉已將近一年，願神祝福你，願你成為神最忠實的僕人。All Hallows 教會亦是我的教會，新的一年，我將奉獻888美元，這是一個吉祥的數字，意味著發展。我希望All Hallows 教會不斷發展，神國的事工不停的擴大，讓耶穌基督的愛到處傳揚，從我們每一個人的腳下，直到地極。問候教會的每一位弟兄姊妹，主內平安！我在美國時，承蒙他們對我的熱情款待，令我難以忘記，在此深深的感謝他們。

深愛你的
媽媽

Translation

Dear Alistair,

The peace of the Lord be with you! Time flies! In the twinkling of an eye, we will be in 2009. I thank God for guiding your ministry at All Hallows' Parish. You have been there for almost a year. May God bless you. I hope that you will become a most faithful servant of God.

All Hallows' is also my parish. In the new year, I will pledge \$888 to All Hallows. "8" is an auspicious number in Chinese culture, implying prosperity and growth. I hope that All Hallows' will continue to grow, thereby expanding the work of the Kingdom of God and spreading the love of Jesus Christ to all places, from each one of us to the ends of the earth.

Please give my best regards to all the brothers and sisters in church. May the peace of the Lord be with them always! When I was at your installation as rector, they so warmly welcomed me. I will always remember their kindness. For that, I am deeply thankful.

Much love,

Mom

(Monica So)

Rector's Forum

Music Director Mike Menne will talk on *Pipe Organs Old and New: Getting ORGANized* – a multimedia presentation of pipe organs on both sides of the pond.

Men's Breakfast – December 6, 8:00 a.m.

The next Men's Breakfast will be held in the undercroft of the Parish House. Coffee and pastries will be provided. Please come and join our growing fellowship. We have had several interesting discussions this year and look forward for another this coming month. As we get ready for the Advent

season we will discuss why we need God. For more information, please call Dennis Ryan at 410-846-5667.

Advent Eucharist

Workshop: Parish House, Friday, December 5, at 7PM and Saturday December 6, at 10AM. Make it your spiritual discipline to learn more about the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist---the focal point of our common worship. Please email or call the church office to register.

Food Bank: - The Food Pantry is accepting donations for thanksgiving turkeys and/or ham. Please bring them to the parish house on November 16 and 23rd. We are going to distribute them on Monday, November 24.

Thanksgiving Eve Service:

This year's Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service will be held at **7:30PM** (not 6:00PM as indicated in Tidings) on **November 26**, at Davidsonville United Methodist Church. Children are welcome at the service. There will be a children's homily and a sermon for adults as well. Father Alistair So will be preaching and Mike Menne will be the organist.

Pray the Rosary - Mark your calendars for a presentation of the history, purpose and use of the Rosary in leading to quietness of mind, body and spirit necessary for the enriching experience of deep prayer and communication with God. Why and how to use the Rosary will be presented several times during Advent. Come to any or all of the presentations. A Rosary will be furnished to each attendee.

Sunday, December 7 following both the 8 and 10 o'clock masses at the Chapel and Brick Church.

Thursday, December 11 at 11:30 am proceeding the noon Angelus and Mass

Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 pm following the 6:30 pm Eucharist

Ladies' Christmas Party

From: Katherine Llyod

To: The Ladies of All Hallows'

Christmas is right around the corner and I hope the joy of the season is filling your hearts. It is always a delight to have the ladies of our church together in my home. I'll be hosting a pot luck luncheon on Wednesday, December 17th at 12:00. The address is 252 Bayshire Court in Riva. We are in Annapolis Landing off of Riva road. Bayshire Court is the 5th right hand turn and my house is the first on the right.

As well as eating some of your favorite foods and enjoying being together to share in the joy of the season we will again be helping the food bank.

Each year we bring a small gift for our men and women who come to our food bank. It may be as simple as a pin or a pair of socks. Sometimes we have more elaborate things like a sweater (marked with the size) or a handbag. What really matters is that we are sharing our good fortune and our joy with someone else. It is always wonderful to see the generosity of parishioners. So, please bring a wrapped gift marked for a male or female. These will be given out with the Christmas food. If you can not come to the

luncheon please feel free to bring you gifts to church. Our food bank is getting larger as more people need help.

Please RSVP to Katherine Lloyd in church of by phone (410-956-9644) so we can coordinate the meal and have a plate for everyone.

We have an exceptionally nice church family and I look forward to seeing you. *Katherine Lloyd*

[Judges 4:1-7](#)

[Psalm 123](#)

[1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)

[Matthew 25:14-30](#)

A SERMON PREACHED BY THE REVEREND ALISTAIR SO ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, NOVEMBER 16, 2008, AT ALL HALLOWS' CHURCH, SOUTH RIVER PARISH, IN DAVIDSONVILLE, MARYLAND

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

We have several very timely lessons in our lectionary today. First, as confusing as the lesson from Judges may seem, we now know that "Barak" (Barack) is not only a Muslim name, but also a Jewish name in the Old Testament, meaning "blessed" or "happy." And therefore by extension, it can also be a Christian name. Second, as the economy has been inundating the American psyche in recent days, and as we see the stock market values and our retirement plan earnings plummet to new

depths, we have the Gospel of the 401(k) in the Parable of the Talents!

Yes, seriously, this is a Gospel lesson about our future, about our retirement. And it is well blended with the lesson from Judges in which Deborah the prophetess predicts the triumph of God in the victory of his people. Our triumph will be of God in the end.

The Parable of the Talents is the Gospel of the 401(k) because a talent is quite a lavish amount of money, about fifteen years' wages for a typical worker. A talent here is not to be confused with usual definition of the word meaning skill. The master of the story gives talents to his three slaves to invest.

Depending on their investment strategy or lack thereof, they will yield different results. The master symbolizes God who gives us many talents so freely.

The first two slaves are called "good and trustworthy" because they set out immediately with the treasure entrusted to them. They embody the earnest and faithful disciples of Christ who hear Jesus' words and act on them. They act on them by carrying out the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. They share the abundance of God's grace and multiply in faith, hope, and love. Essentially, they grow richer by spending.

The third slave is dubbed "wicked and lazy" because he is a reflection of Jesus' admonition that "everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a man who built his house on

sand." (Matthew 7:26) And what are "these words" of Jesus? In the context of Matthew 7, "these words" refer to the importance of building our faith on the firm and solid ground of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. "These words" refer to Jesus' teaching for us to be non-judgmental, sincere about our motivation, discerning about prophecies and doctrines in every age. Jesus wants us to be active bearers of the Good News. Jesus wants us to invest our spiritual wealth wisely, in building up each other, and in sharing the abundance of God's grace with each other.

So here we have the best spiritual investment advice: to act on the Gospel and to invest in the divine message of mercy, truth and forgiveness. The future belongs to God, and these are the values of the future. And now it's the time to invest in these values of God.

This type of godly investment starts within our hearts. God is the source of infinite goodness and mercy. And we can partake of God's goodness and mercy freely. But we first must be geared toward that goodness and mercy. In other words, we need to have faith in God. And having faith in God means that we're willing to forgo our negative thoughts and eliminate our negative energies. Having faith in God means that we actively rid ourselves of small behavior and rely freely and expectantly on God's deliverance of us from all evil, anxiety, and oppression.

You see, this is really simple mathematics. There are three

stages in our spiritual health. First, as I just mentioned, we can be in the negative. Second, we can be at zero, when we don't hold grudges or brood over actual or perceived injuries, and when we don't feel the need to do much else. We're at best lukewarm in our faith. Third, we can be in the positive, when we feel energized and motivated about the work that God has given us to do, and when we are becoming the embodiment of God's infinite goodness and mercy in our time and space. We focus on the Gospel message of mercy, truth, and forgiveness. At this stage, we are always ready to let the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, help us to get rid of our fear, paranoia, anger, malice, road rage, bad language, so on and so forth.

Being a Christian of peace, being Christ's ambassador of mercy, truth and forgiveness, is the essence of our spiritual stewardship. And that is the deeper meaning of the Parable of the Talents. Indeed, how we invest our spiritual gifts is a reflection of what kind of God we believe in. Our Epistle of the Day, the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians, comforts and assures us of God's goodwill for us:

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Indeed, we are building each other up every Sunday when we gather in worship; we are building each other up when we sing our hymns with fervor; we are building each other up when we say our prayers wholeheartedly; we are building each other up when we eat breakfast together, share an afternoon tea, or cheer over a pint.

Brothers and sisters, building each other up is the holiest spiritual investment you can make as a parishioner of All Hallows'.

Let us summon a renewed spirit of Christian charity and love; of service and responsibility where all of us resolve to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other.

In light of this new charge in the life of the Risen Christ, are we tithers or tippers? That applies both to our spiritual and financial stewardship. Most of us are somewhere in-between. But what direction are we moving toward? Are we working toward building up each other for the exciting journey of faith ahead of us?

May we be inspired by these words of Archbishop and former Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Peter Carnley:

“ We do not approach the practice of religion...as though it involved having all the answers... Rather we see ourselves as being on an open-ended journey into a future to which we are called by God, a journey of

faith and hope, in which there is always something new to learn, a mind-set to be expanded, a perception of things to be stretched, a deeper wisdom to be discerned.”

Amen.

© Alistair So 2008

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 Tucker, Janet Boatright, Vincent Voelker, Mary Aisquith, Rev. Robert G., Raj Williams, Lisa Meredith, Mike Callahan, Louise Burke, Barbara, Alice & Chris Enright, Abad Ramirez, Joyce Boido, Breanna Sockwell, Ellie Posten, Eleanor Bagne, Diane Radcliffe, and Bob, Susan Kellog, Steve Spiers, Cathy Harrison, and Kim

For the departed

For those in the armed forces and their families

All Hallows Choir

Soprano Betty Kilgus and Jan Power

Alto Lillian Armstrong, Gail Enright, Linda Johnson

Tenor Richard Johnson and Zen Libowicz

Bass 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

Service Volunteers

Altar Guild

Chapel: Bridget Blake & Suzanne Fudold

Brick Church: Kirsten Deichmann & Carol Vrancik

Greeters Chapel: Volunteers

Brick Church: Judy Bradley

Acolytes Chapel: Griff Howie

Brick Church: Hillary Martel

Intercessor Chapel: Robby

Harris

Brick Church: Ellen Krautler

Lectors Chapel: Toni Gibbons

Brick Church: Nancy Anne Burt

LEM Chapel: John Smith

Brick Church: Nancy Anne Burt

Counters Brick Church: David King & Jean Brown

Coffee Hour Brick Church:

The Weems Family