

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

Volume 14 - Number 2

February 2018

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The Church of the Holy Innocents
210 South Chestnut Street
Henderson, North Carolina 27536
Telephone: 252-492-0904

E-mail: hinnocents@centurylink.net

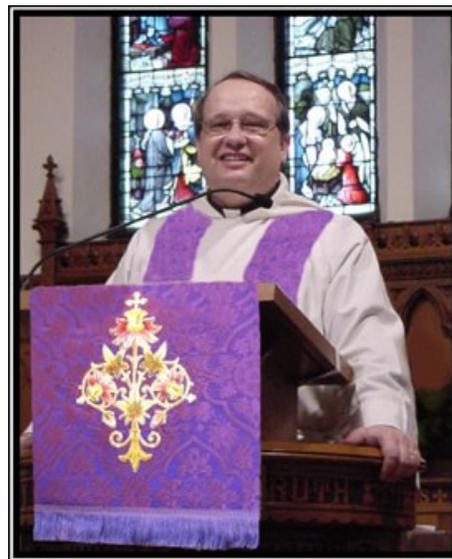
Church Web Site Address:
www.churchoftheholynnocents.org



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FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



Lent

The days are gradually growing longer and that means that Lent is upon us. We do not know for sure from what root the English word Lent derives. It certainly does not come from Latin, Greek or Syriac/Aramaic, the three ancient liturgical languages of the Christian Church. The best guess is that it is related to the Anglo-Saxon word from which we get the modern English word lengthen. The Anglo-Saxon language from which English evolved tended to use descriptors for things that were new to them. As they converted from paganism to Christianity, the season of fasting preceding Easter was given a name extracted from "lengthen" because the days were lengthening as winter gradually moved towards spring.

In some ways this was a curiously appropriate bit of naming. The disciplines of Lent are intended to

stretch us, to "lengthen" and broaden and deepen us in our Christian Faith and so make us better Christians. The Church of the Holy Innocents offers times for stretching, growing, deepening and lengthening our faith.



The first event is actually a last pre-Lenten meal, our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 6:00 until 7:00 pm in the Lower Hall on Tuesday, February 13. The Vestry provides this for members of the parish. We will have the traditional pancakes as well as bacon and sausage. Pancakes were eaten on the evening before Ash Wednesday because Christians were to abstain from fats and sweets in the days when Lent was kept as a strict, legally enforced time of fasting in Europe. Sugar, lard, butter were to be consumed and not used again until Easter. Pancake suppers were a tasty, communal way to "eat the fat" before the Lenten. Lard and butter went into the pancakes and bacon and sausages were consumed at these meals. During Lent, meals consisted of plain breads, vegetables and fish. For some reason fish was not considered "flesh meat" and so could be consumed. I suspect that was for pragmatic reasons. In a day when most work was heavy labor, protein was needed for energy and strength so fisherman got a boost for their market by the decree that sea food was acceptable. In England during the reformation, when the eating of fish was no longer required on Fridays and the days of Lent as a religious rule, fisher folk and fish sellers (called fishmongers) petitioned the government in anxiety because of the fall in fish sales and the loss of revenue. So, the monarch, I believe Elizabeth I, simply decreed that everyone was still required to eat fish on

From the Rector cont. pg. 2

Fridays, not as a rule from God, but to sustain England's vital fishing industry. It worked.



The next day is Ash Wednesday. On this day services of solemn repentance are held at Noon and 7:00 pm. Ashes are imposed on the foreheads of those who wish to receive them as a sign both of repentance and a reminder that we are mortal and that death is our inevitable end. However, the service is one of hope, for we are reminded that to the penitent, the promise of eternal life is made to us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Curiously enough, Ash Wednesday falls on St. Valentine's Day this year. There is a certain blessedness in the coincidence for John 3:16 reminds us that Jesus' was God's gift of Love to a world in desperate need.



On the subsequent Wednesdays we will have a program entitled, "Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God" based on the book by Brian Zahnd. Rev. Zahnd was exposed to Jonathan Edwards' famed sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" as a teenager in a literature class. Jonathan Edwards was one of the greatest American Theologians of the Colonial Era. He preached this fiery sermon seeking to move his complacent congregation to recognize their need for repentance. His lurid presentation of the torments of hell terrified his congregation of the point people not only repented, many fell out in terror induce fainting spells and fits. This sermon is credited with beginning the first "Great Awakening" in the American Colonies, sparking a revival of religion that spread from New England all the way to Georgia.

I also read this sermon in high school and as was the case with Brian Zahnd, viewed this as window into how folks should be led to Jesus Christ. The lurid threat of a fiery hell with joined solemn pronouncements of condemnation to an eternal place of punishment were part and parcel not only of conversion sermons in my denomination of origin, but in my young efforts to convert people to being followers of

Jesus. This approach of attempting to "win" people to Jesus is still common in the United States. Brian Zahnd became convinced that Love and not the terrors of Hell are key to presenting Jesus.

This book also deals with the fact that some passages in scripture seem seriously incompatible with the idea that God loves us. Often the contrast is made between God seeming wrathful in the Old Testament and much more loving in the New Testament especially in the teaching of Jesus. This is a problem that has troubled some people since the early Church. In fact, a man named Marcion, from Asia Minor (now Turkey) in the Roman Empire finally decided there were two Gods. One was the angry (and therefore unloving God of the Old Testament) and another, true and loving God who sent Jesus to rescue us from the clutches of the angry Jewish God of the Old Testament. Fortunately, the Church rejected this position but people are still troubled by the apparent contrasts between some parts of the Old Testament and the New. We will take a look at some of these passages and attempt to "unpack them" in the light of the Episcopal Church emphasis on God's Love revealed in Jesus Christ. †

observe Souper Bowl Sunday. At all services, some of our wonderful young people will be present with a large soup pot to collect spare money at the door after service. The money they collect will be added to the totals for the National Souper Movement, however, all the money we raise will be used to fight hunger in Henderson and Vance County. For that reason, church bank money will also be given to this excellent cause. We have increased the money we have raised every year because of the generosity of the congregation and we have every intention of doing so again. Be as generous with your "spare change" as your circumstances and help keep Lent by feeding the hungry in our community.

Info at : www.souperbowl.org †



Our Healing Service will be held on February 7th at 5:30 p.m. This service of Healing and Holy Communion will be celebrated in the Church. On the other Wednesdays in February, we will have Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m. EXCEPT on February 14th when we have the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. From February 21 on, the service will be followed by a thirty to forty minute Lenten program as described in the lead article. If one cannot come to the service but can make the program at 6:30 p.m. please, come at 6:30 p.m.. Equally, if one can come to the service but not stay for the program that is also acceptable. †

PARISH NEWS...



The Rev. Donald Lowery

Our Youth Group Super Bowl party will be on February 4th at 5:45 p.m. at the Holloway's house. This is the home of AJ/ Austin (who hopes to make a weekend trip back from college to join us), Misty and Ethan. The Holloways will provide Pizza and Soda. We are asked to bring cookies, candy, chips or other snacks to share.

The Youth Group will meet at the church on February 11th, 18th and 25th at 5:00 p.m. †



Super Bowl means it is time for Souper Bowl !

February 4th is Super Bowl Sunday. On that day, our Youth Group will also

HI Preschool Needs Volunteers

The Rev. Donald Lowery

Our Preschool needs volunteers to form a pool of folks who can be called to substitute when a teacher is out, or to do a special activity with the children, or read to them. Hours of operation are at 8:30 a.m. until noon Monday to Thursday; however, substitutes are the only people needed all the half day. Fr. Don has made a commitment to read on Thursdays. I understand that Tuesdays and Thursdays are peak times for need. Call Tammy Manning at 252-492-8083. †



The Deacon's Bench

by The Rev. Harrel Johnson

Our presiding Bishop, Michael Curry is often quoted as saying “if it isn’t about love then it isn’t about God.” At my house, we refer to the month of February as the month of love. This is not just because of it being the month that we celebrate Valentine’s Day but because it is just 2 days later in February that my wife Amy and I celebrate our wedding anniversary. The anniversary of a relationship that marks the beginning of our family. It was a day when we stood in front of God and others and promised to love each other forever.

Love Each Other

MATTHEW THE TAX-COLLECTOR and Thomas the doubter. Peter the Rock and Judas the traitor. Mary Magdalene and Lazarus's sister Martha. And the popcorn-eating old woman. And the fat man in the pick-up. They are all our family, and you and I are their family and each other's family, because that is what Jesus has called us as the Church to be. Our happiness is all mixed up with each other's happiness and our peace with each other's peace. Our own happiness, our own peace, can never be complete until we find some way of sharing it with people who the way things are now have no happiness and know no peace. Jesus calls us to show this truth forth, live this truth forth. Be the light of the world, he says. Where there are dark places, be the light especially there. Be the salt of the earth. Bring out the true flavor of what it is to be alive truly. Be truly alive. Be life-givers to others. That is what Jesus tells the disciples to be. That is what Jesus tells his Church, tells us, to be and do. Love each other. Heal the sick, he says. Raise the dead. Cleanse lepers. Cast out demons. That is what loving each other means. If the Church is doing things like that, then it is being what Jesus told it to be. If it is not doing things like that—no matter how many other good and useful things it may be doing instead—then it is not being what Jesus told it to be. It is as simple as that. “ if it isn’t about love then it isn’t about God”

The Brinkley Report

I don’t know about you but it really makes my day complete to come to church on Sunday morning and worship with you all, but it even makes it even more complete to come out of church and walk across the parking lot to get in my truck to come home to the sound of the laughter of the Brinkley children at play at the Cooper house. The sound of those children at play is what church is all about. We still have a ways to go over there, but we are making progress and their laughter is the proof.



Dionna~ Destiny~Juanita



Dionna~Juanita~Destiny



Tommy

The girls pictured above when they first began coming with their Dad to 8 am services –Wow! Look at them now!!!!



Gabriel



Treasurer's Report

1/11/2018

Church Of The Holy Innocents
Revenue and Expense Summary
Year-to-date, Through December 2017

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)
Revenues				
Pledged Income	\$28,166.00	\$35,000.00	\$193,824.47	\$205,000.00
Other Income	\$1,324.00	\$300.00	\$7,990.93	\$3,600.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$29,490.00</u>	<u>\$35,300.00</u>	<u>\$201,815.40</u>	<u>\$208,600.00</u>
Expenses				
Compensation				
Salaries	\$6,875.69	\$6,950.00	\$82,693.87	\$83,300.00
Employee Expenses				
Rector's Expenses	\$761.30	\$1,050.00	\$12,572.92	\$12,700.00
Other Employee Expenses	\$2,905.54	\$3,300.00	\$40,986.75	\$40,000.00
Total Employee Expenses	<u>\$3,666.84</u>	<u>\$4,350.00</u>	<u>\$53,559.67</u>	<u>\$52,700.00</u>
Total Compensation	<u>\$10,542.53</u>	<u>\$11,300.00</u>	<u>\$136,253.54</u>	<u>\$136,000.00</u>
Administrative				
Supplies	(\$7.12)	\$250.00	\$2,933.40	\$3,000.00
Preschool Income/Expense	(\$395.97)	(\$2,200.00)	(\$13,269.27)	(\$400.00)
General Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$11,229.00	\$12,000.00
Other Administrative Expenses	\$1,351.29	(\$450.00)	\$1,735.92	\$1,800.00
Total Administrative	<u>\$948.20</u>	<u>(\$1,400.00)</u>	<u>\$2,629.05</u>	<u>\$16,400.00</u>
Utilities	\$1,737.15	\$1,800.00	\$20,271.67	\$21,600.00
Maintenance	(\$15,609.62)	\$200.00	\$7,998.03	\$2,600.00
Parish Life	\$750.15	\$350.00	\$6,374.54	\$3,900.00
Diocesan & Seminary Support	\$2,254.00	\$2,200.00	\$27,092.00	\$27,100.00
Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$195.72	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$622.41</u>	<u>\$14,450.00</u>	<u>\$200,814.55</u>	<u>\$207,600.00</u>
Net Total	\$28,867.59	\$20,850.00	\$1,000.85	\$1,000.00



Betsy Seifert, President

The ECW will meet on Tuesday, February 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor. We look forward to having you join us for our monthly meeting! †

Altar Guild News

Margaret Williamson,
Chairman

Please remember to pick up your 2018 Altar Guild Schedule. The schedule is located on the counter in the Sacristy and, also pick up a Liturgical Calendar.

Note from the Editor...

Marsha Nelson

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FEBRUARY 23RD

Please submit any newsletter items either to the church office or e-mail them to

MJNELSON@nc.rr.com

Printed copies of the newsletter are located in the Bell Tower and there is a link to both current and past issues of our newsletter on the church website at:

www.churchoftheholynnocents.org

Thanks for your support !

Amazon Smile is a branch of the regular Amazon.com site, except all of the purchases that are made through smile.amazon.com will automatically donate ½% of the purchase (most everything is eligible) to a charity of your choosing. We are asking parishioners to consider making Holy Innocents that charity. Below is a link that will take you to the Amazon Smile site, and it should ask you to confirm that you wish to support Holy Innocents as your Smile charity. It's an easy way to add to your contribution without additional expense. †



Direct charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-0554227>

For questions or help, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/about> or email Hunter Roberson at: hroberson@robcomfg.com

VESTRY NEWS ...

We Need a Clerk of the Vestry

The Rev. Donald Lowery

The Clerk of the Vestry is a position that is a vital part of the work of the Vestry. In fact, in the Canon Law that governs the Episcopal Church, a Vestry is duly and properly constituted if it does not have a clerk. Historically, Holy Innocents has drawn its clerks from amongst the Vestry. However, we find this no longer works well. It is difficult to fully participate in the discussions of the Vestry when one is attempting to take notes. The Vestry has the right, under Canon Law, to appoint a clerk from outside its number. We are asking for a volunteer to serve as Clerk of the Vestry.

We generally meet once a month on the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., except in July. In February we will meet for the Vestry Retreat on Friday the 23rd and Saturday the 24th at the Henderson Country Club. On Friday we will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and will resume on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. until mid afternoon.

The Clerk of the Vestry takes the minutes and returns them to the Vestry in a timely manner. The clerk also maintains a permanent record of those minutes. The rector and parish secretary may assist with Certain documents for the diocese and national church which are signed by the clerk of the vestry to attest that the actions required were indeed taken.

The clerk needs computer skills, at least to the extent of typing minutes and emailing them to member of the Vestry.†

Our 2018 Vestry Members

Nick Long (Sr. Warden), Richard Davis (Jr. Warden), Catherine Olmert, Hunter Roberson, Caroline Burnette, Sarah Paynter, Tom Church, Rix Edwards and Roberta Scott.



Vestry member Roberta Scott is pictured with Warren County School Board Chairwoman, Barbara Brayboy and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ray Spain

Scott Receives Prestigious Award —

Marsha Nelson

Roberta was selected by the North Carolina School Boards Association for the highest honor that the association bestows on a North Carolina school board member—the Raleigh Dingman Award for Outstanding Boardmanship. She has served on the Warren County Board of Education for many years and has served as its chairwoman and vice chairwoman. In addition, she has served as President of the North Carolina School Boards Association.

During approximately 38 years of teaching, she has taught reading and English for U.S. military personnel, taught classes in the Warren County School System and also served recently as Adult High School Program Coordinator at Vance-Granville Community College.

As a result of receiving this prestigious Raleigh Dingman Award, she will serve as an ex officio advisor and participate in the deliberations of the North Carolina State Board of Education.



Roberta— Congratulations to you for this well deserved recognition and thanks for all that you do !!



February 2018 Schedule of Events

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule

Hand Bell Choir — Wed, at 6:00 PM
Parish Choir — Sun. at 9:30 AM

Sunday – February 4

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Wednesday – February 7

5:30 PM, Healing Service/Communion

Sunday – February 11

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Tuesday – February 13

6:00 PM, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Lower Hall)

Wednesday– February 14

- Ash Wednesday Services -
Noon & 7:00 PM

Sunday – February 18

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Wednesday– February 21

5:30 PM, Holy Communion
6:30 PM, Lenten Program

Sunday – February 25

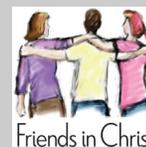
8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Tuesday – February 27

10:00 AM, ECW/Tabitha (Ladies Parlor)
Tabitha Guild

Wednesday – February 28

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
5:30 PM, Holy Communion
6:30 PM, Lenten Program



All services are conducted in the Church, unless otherwise noted.

DIOCESE NEWS...



Choral Evensong at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Sunday, February 11, 2018, 5 P.M.



The choirs of St. Luke's (Durham) and St. Matthew's (Hillsborough) Episcopal Churches will combine their voices to offer Choral Evensong on Sunday, February 11th, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. at St Luke's Episcopal Church (1737 Hillandale Road, Durham). Evensong is a worship service that is held in the eve of the day. It is reviving yet contemplative. The liturgy is mostly sung or chanted with the congregation participating through hymn singing, reciting the Apostles' Creed, and praying along with the choir and officiating priest. Please join us in celebrating God at the close of the day.

A reception of Tea, sherry, and light English Savouries will follow the service. The choirs are under the direction of Kaye Saunders, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and David Arcus, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. The service will be officiated by Helen Svoboda-Barber, Rector of St. Luke's.



The Diocese of North Carolina

We are offering an opportunity to [celebrate the feast of the Rev. Absalom Jones as a diocese](#) with a Festival Eucharist on Saturday, February 10th, at 10:30 a.m., at Redeemer, Greensboro. The Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple will celebrate, and the Rev. Walter B.A. Brownridge, Diocese of Maryland and former dean of the Cathedral of St. Andrew, Honolulu, Hawaii, will preach. The offering will answer the Church's call and benefit the efforts to support St. Augustine's University and Voorhees College.

We hope you will join us for this joyous event on February 10th, but if you can't, we encourage you to make a donation for these worthy colleges at : <https://episcopalchurch.thankyou4caring.org/>

All of the resources and links in this article can be found on the [diocesan website](#).

Birthdays



Bo Cheatham.....	2/03
Tim Seitzer, Sr.....	2/04
Richard Davis, V.....	2/04
Wilhelmina Scott Ratliff	2/04
Beau Burnette	2/04
Penny Wiggins	2/06
Berkeley Ellis.....	2/08
Barbara Foster.....	2/12
Nicholas Long, III	2/12
Lucy Gray.....	2/15
Margaret Stephens	2/16
Gail Houle	2/17
Uriah Ford.....	2/21
Christopher Catlett	2/23

Anniversaries

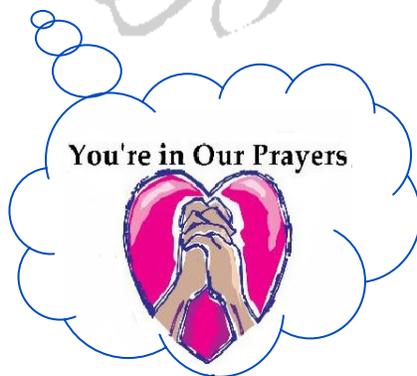


Mariana & Richard Davis.....	2/03
Amy & Harrel Johnson.....	2/16

Remember In Your Prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Cynthia Shaw, Trayce Wheless, Barbara Collins, Staci Barnett, Barbara Madigan, Melody Shearin, Carolyn Lowery, Mary Shearin, Meghan Bunn, Frances Saunders, Vivie Drake, Lisa Adcock, C.G. Williams, Griselle Woodward, Graham Shearin, Nancy Rogers, Tommy Greenway, Bill Mast, William Stancil, Thomas Stancil, Grace Sanders, Bettie Cooper, Sheila Roberts, Berkeley Ellis, Graham Cawthorne, Wesley Jackson, Juan Sanchez Avila, Bo Jones, Megan Jones, Jane Carnes, Trevor Ballinger, Gus Bachman, Mary Parham Jackson, Theo, Janet Wynn and Chick Young.



Special Dates

- Transfiguration of Our Lord
February 11, 2018
- Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018
- Valentine's Day
February 14, 2018
- First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2018
- Second Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2018

Altar Flowers

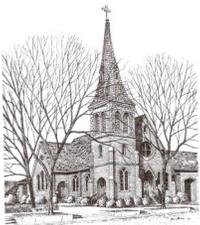
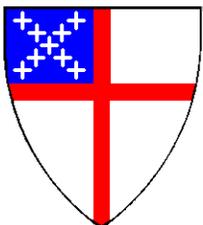
- TBD
February 4, 2018
- Barbara Foster
February 11, 2018
- TBD
February 18, 2018
- Nick Long
February 25, 2018

FEBRUARY UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

~ COFFEE WILL BE SERVED IN THE GREAT HALL AFTER THE 10:30 AM SERVICE ~

FEB	BEARERS	ACOLYTES	CRUCITER	LAYREADER/ CHALICE BEARER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	VESTRY GREETER
4		Kaitlyn Paynter Jack Paynter	Mary Parish	8:00am - Bob Nelson 10:30am - Nick Long	Pat Olmert Maurice Floyd D Boyd Kimball	Mariana Davis	
11		Brennan Olmert Tucker Olmert	Ethan Holloway	8:00am - Rick Palamar 10:30am - Ruth Hartness	Pat Olmert Maurice Floyd D Boyd Kimball	Shirley Young	
14	Ash Wednesday		Sarah Parish	Noon - Tommy Roberson 7:00pm - Tom Church	Ash Wednesday		
18	Chap Burnette (Book)		Genie Parish	8:00am - Hut Wester 10:30am - Linda Shaw	Pat Olmert Maurice Floyd D Boyd Kimball	Shirley Young	
25		Beau Burnette	Lehman Ford	8:00am - Rix Edwards 10:30am - Richard Davis	Pat Olmert Maurice Floyd D Boyd Kimball	Anora Rainey	

NOTE: IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO LAYREAD AND HAVE A CONFLICT, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT AND NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE.



PHONE: 252-492-0904

E-MAIL: hinnocents@centurylink.net

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS
210 South Chestnut Street
Henderson, NC 27536



The Church of the Holy Innocents



**All are welcome to join us as
we joyfully greet each person present at our worship.
May our love and respect for one another be
steady and true as we strive to follow Christ our Lord.**