

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

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January 2017

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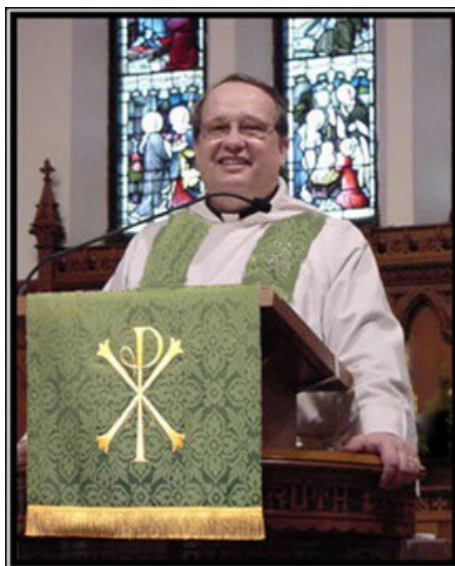
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FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



2017

It is hard to believe that it is 2017 already. It seems as though only yesterday we were welcoming 2016 with that mixture of hope and uncertainty that comes with each passing year. Heaven knows, 2016 was one of the most interesting, amazing and at least politically, contentious years I have ever lived through. I suspect my fellow parishioners and friends reading this may have experienced similar thoughts.

What a year. If someone had told me Donald Trump would successfully run for President of the United States of America I would have laughed out loud but he did. I would not have predicted how divided and polarized our nation would become politically during the campaign season. I am saddened at the resurgence of racism in some

communities joined with other prejudices against folks from various ethnic and religious groups. The year 2016 draws to its close and 2017 enters with challenges for Christian people.

I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe he is both fully human and fully God, the divine manifestation of God's life amongst human beings. Jesus does not reveal everything there is to know about God for our finite human minds could not embrace the full reality of divinity. What Jesus does do, by his words and his deeds, is show us what we need to know about God in order to have a relationship with God that is vital and life transforming. As I enter 2017 I look to Jesus as my Savior, my friend and my role model.

Jesus was very clear as to what God's priority is as regards the structuring of our lives. He gives the Great Commandment and it is as clear as it is direct. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two hang all the law and the prophets." Bishop Curry, formerly our Bishop and now our Presiding Bishop has turned Jesus' teaching into a one word sermon. "If it is not about Love, it is not about God."

Here my friends are found divine wisdom. Come what may, I will love God. My commitment to God, as the Divine Life is revealed in Jesus Christ, is absolute. Everything else in my life must be built on this foundation. There is no other that will bring me through all that life offers both good and ill and land me safe in eternal life when this mortal



life is over. Come what may, I will love my neighbor, my fellow human beings. That is not always easy and I confess it requires God's help, but that is my calling and even more, my sincere desire.

I will love people with whom I agree politically and those with whom I disagree profoundly. Even more, I will strive to work with them to find common ground and maintain the common good. I will love, with God's help, those with whom I agree on matters of faith and those with whom I disagree. Even if we cannot find common ground I will not only tolerate but respect persons of other faith traditions, again, seeking ways to build up the common good. I will strive to love people of every ethnicity and color recognizing that there is only race, the Human Race, and that we are all children of God.

We live in dangerous times. There are those who would assault our nation and other nations who share our conviction that democracy is the best form of Government. I believe in self-defense, but I am bold to suggest that we can defend ourselves without falling into hatred. I also believe that we can always present the best that we have to offer in the hopes that we can convince our enemies to lay down their arms and live in peace with the United States and our allies.

This New Year I have only resolution in two parts: to love God with all my heart and to love my neighbor as myself. With God's help, guidance and strength that resolution will not only make me a better person, but help me to make our world a better place. †

PARISH NEWS...



The Rev.. Donald Lowery

On January 4 we will have our Healing Service with Communion. On Friday, January 6, I will hold a communion service for the Feast of the Epiphany. Both of these services will be at 5:30 p.m. On the other Wednesdays in January, we will have Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m. †

Installations

The Rev. Donald Lowery

On January 8th at the 10:30 a.m. service we will install new members of the vestry and reinstall, if I may phrase it thusly, the continuing members of the vestry.

We will also officially install new acolytes and reinstall those who continue in that ministry. All acolytes, crucifers and their families are encouraged to attend. †



Betsy Seifert,, President

The ECW will meet on Tuesday, January 24th at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor.

Members please mark your calendar and plan to attend our first meeting in 2017. †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

The church office will be closed on January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Day. †



The Rev. Donald Lowery & Yolanda Yoder

The Youth Group will meet on January 1 at 5 p.m. at church to take down the Chrismon tree in preparation for Epiphany and anyone who wants to help is welcome to join us!



After the tree is down and stored away, everyone will head to the Parish's house for fellowship, light dinner and a movie (or the Sherlock season premier).

On other Sundays of January we will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. We will continue to plan Super Bowl and Souper Bowl activities. †

It's Souper Bowl Time!

Yolanda Yoder



This year's Souper Bowl will be Sunday, February 5.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game.

Our HI Youth are working on plans for their own Souper Bowl Sunday. Details will be announced later for our third Souper Bowl fundraiser.

Contributions will go to the ACTS soup Kitchen. Please support them in their efforts. †

HI Youth Basketball Team

M Nelson



Did you know that our church has a youth basketball team again this year and the team plays in the Inter-Church Basketball League? This season's games are on schedule be played at the South Henderson Pentecostal Holiness Church gym. (Admission is \$3/person or family season pass for \$30)

FYI— The schedule for January and February is as follows:

Jan. 7 at 10 am. vs. Clearview A
Jan. 14 at 12 p.m. vs. 1st Methodist
Jan. 21 at 12 p.m. vs. Island Creek
Jan. 28 at 12 p.m. vs. Clearview B
Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. vs. Sandy Creek
Feb. 11 at 9 a.m. vs. Harriet
Feb. 18 at 11 a.m. vs. South Henderson
Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. vs. OBC

Let's support our kids and their coaches— Pat Olmert and Scott Burnette. Thanks to all of you for representing our church in the Inter-Church League. †



[Click here for our team's FB page](#)

VESTRY NEWS ...

Senior Warden Report

Tracy Madigan

This year has been a busy and productive year for The Church of the Holy Innocents and the vestry. Each month your vestry meets to address such tasks as budgeting, establishing and applying policies and procedures, developing action plans, and maintaining our beautiful church buildings and property. It is a pleasure serving as your Senior Warden and with your chosen representatives on our vestry.

As a church, we continue our long history and tradition of welcoming diversity while fostering mutual respect through worship, Christian education, outreach, and stewardship. Father Don, Harrel, vestry members and parishioners give tirelessly of their time supporting our local and diocesan community through such organizations as ACTS, migrant ministries, our various scholarship funds and community projects.

As is customary each year, we have three of our vestry members rotating off vestry after having served their three-year term. Porter Shaw has led our Outreach Committee and done an outstanding job of encouraging us to grow and flourish. As Stewardship and Finance Committee chairwoman, Ruth Hartness has done an excellent job ensuring that the congregation's financial operations ran smoothly. Anne Almand has served as the Vestry Clerk and has done an impeccable job of recording, distributing and maintaining the minutes of our vestry meetings. Thank each of you for your service.

I also want to thank the vestry for their hard work and support of me. Additionally, I add a special thanks to Keith Aiken, our outstanding Sexton, Tammy Manning, Preschool Director and Susie Pahl, Parish Administrator.

2017 Vestry

Welcome to our new Vestry members Caroline Burnette, Nick Long and Sarah Paynter who join returning members Tracy Madigan, Margaret Williamson, Catherine Olmert, Richard Davis, Hunter Roberson and Johnny Foster. †

CHURCH USAGE SCHEDULE

~LOWER HALL~

MONDAY

AA 5:30 to 6:30
Cub Scout Pack 7:00 to 8:00
(w/ Tommy)

TUESDAY

NA 7:00 to 8:00

WEDNESDAY

NA 7:00 to 8:00

FRIDAY

AA 5:30 to 6:30

SATURDAY

NA Noon



The Church of the Holy Innocents

Note from the Editor...

Marsha Nelson

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JANUARY 25TH

Please submit any news 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 for you if you have problems with email access.

There is also a link to both current and past issues of our newsletter at:

www.churchoftheholynnocents.org

Thanks for your support !

January 2017 Schedule of Events

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule

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

Sunday- January 1

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

Wednesday – January 4

5:30 PM, Healing Service
Holy Communion

Friday – January 6

5:30 PM, Feast of the Epiphany
Holy Communion

Sunday – January 8

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
(Acolyte/Crucifer Installation &
Vestry Installation)
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Wednesday – January 11

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

Sunday – January 15

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

Wednesday – January 18

5:30 PM, Holy Communion

Sunday – January 22

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

Tuesday – January 24

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

Wednesday – January 25

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

Sunday – January 29

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

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



The Deacon's Bench

by The Rev. Harrel Johnson

As I write this it is not quiet yet Christmas and you probably won't see this until after the New Year and during the season of Epiphany. I however hope that this will bring both solace and hope to us all in the New Year.

My friends, do not lose heart. We were made for these times. I have heard from so many recently who are deeply and properly bewildered. They are concerned about the state of affairs in our world now. Ours is a time of almost daily astonishment and often righteous rage over the latest degradations of what matters most to civilized, visionary people. You are right in your assessments. The lustre and hubris some have aspired to while endorsing acts so heinous against children, elders, everyday people, the poor, the ungarded, the helpless, is breathtaking. Yet, I urge you, ask you, gentle you, to please not spend your spirit dry by bewailing these difficult times. Especially do not lose hope. Most particularly because, the fact is that we were made for these times. Yes. For years, we have been learning, practicing, been in training for and just waiting to meet on this exact plain of engagement.

I grew up on the Georgia coast, the son and grandson of commercial fishermen, and recognize a seaworthy vessel when I see one. Regarding awakened souls, there have never been more able vessels in the waters than there are right now across the world. And they are fully provisioned and able to signal one another as never before in the history of humankind.

Look out over the prow; there are millions of boats of righteous souls on the waters with you. Even though your veneers may shiver from every wave in this stormy roil, I assure you that the long timbers composing your prow and rudder come from a greater forest. That long-grained lumber is known to withstand storms, to hold together, to hold its own, and to advance, regardless.

In any dark time, there is a tendency to veer toward fainting over how much is wrong or unmended in the world. Do not focus on that. There is a tendency, too, to fall into being weakened by dwelling on what is outside your reach, by what cannot yet be. Do not focus there. That is spending the wind without raising the sails. We are needed, that is all we can know. And though we meet resistance, we more so will meet great souls who will hail us, love us and guide us, and we will know them when they appear. Didn't you say you were a believer? Didn't you say you pledged to listen to a voice greater? Didn't you ask for grace? Don't you remember that to be in grace means to submit to the voice greater?

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.

One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines like gold in dark times. The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares, builds signal fires, causes proper matters to catch fire. To display the lantern of soul in shadowy times like these - to be fierce and to show mercy toward others; both are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity. Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it. If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do. There will always be times when you feel discouraged. I too have felt despair many times in my life, but I do not keep a chair for it. I will not entertain it. It is not allowed to eat from my plate.

The reason is this: In my uttermost bones I know something, as do you. It is that there can be no despair when you remember why you came to Earth, who you serve, and who sent you here. The good words we say and the good deeds we do are not ours. They are the words and deeds of the One who brought us here. In that spirit, I hope you will write this on your wall: When a great ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But that is not what great ships are built for.



The Brinkley Report



This is probably one of the most difficult of these that I have had to write, not because of anything tragic or sad but just because I don't know what the future holds. The Brinkleys tell me that they all hope to be all under one roof on Christmas eve and that they will begin a new page in their lives. We thank all of those who have helped to make this happen and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I as your Deacon also wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a very sincere thank you for helping this family and please do continue. We have yet to reach our goal and they can still use all the help they can get. Peace be with you and God bless you all!



Treasurer's Report

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

12/10/2016

Church Of The Holy Innocents Revenue and Expense Summary Year-to-date, Through November 2016

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)
Revenues				
Pledged Income	\$6,800.27	\$10,000.00	\$180,156.49	\$171,000.00
Other Income	\$499.00	\$400.00	\$3,010.70	\$4,600.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$7,299.27</u>	<u>\$10,400.00</u>	<u>\$183,167.19</u>	<u>\$175,600.00</u>
Expenses				
Compensation				
Salaries	\$6,739.30	\$6,900.00	\$74,451.03	\$75,800.00
Employee Expenses				
Rector's Expenses	\$1,435.52	\$1,050.00	\$11,235.64	\$11,550.00
Other Employee Expenses	\$5,045.80	\$3,300.00	\$36,138.38	\$36,200.00
Total Employee Expenses	<u>\$6,481.32</u>	<u>\$4,350.00</u>	<u>\$47,374.02</u>	<u>\$47,750.00</u>
Total Compensation	<u>\$13,220.62</u>	<u>\$11,250.00</u>	<u>\$121,825.05</u>	<u>\$123,550.00</u>
Administrative				
Supplies	\$311.71	\$200.00	\$3,085.38	\$2,300.00
Preschool Income/Expense	(\$2,939.27)	\$0.00	(\$3,556.34)	\$0.00
General Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$10,902.50	\$10,000.00
Other Administrative Expenses	(\$808.33)	\$150.00	\$72.62	\$2,850.00
Total Administrative	<u>(\$3,435.89)</u>	<u>\$1,350.00</u>	<u>\$10,504.16</u>	<u>\$15,150.00</u>
Utilities	\$1,321.06	\$1,800.00	\$20,598.57	\$19,800.00
Maintenance	\$1,337.63	\$200.00	\$16,129.39	\$2,600.00
Parish Life	\$456.01	\$250.00	\$3,043.63	\$3,450.00
Diocesan & Seminary Support	\$2,272.00	\$2,200.00	\$24,992.00	\$24,200.00
Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$15,171.43</u>	<u>\$17,050.00</u>	<u>\$197,092.80</u>	<u>\$188,750.00</u>
Net Total	(\$7,872.16)	(\$6,650.00)	(\$13,925.61)	(\$13,150.00)

OUR CHURCH'S
**FINANCIAL
HEALTH**

Birthdays



Cathie Clodfelter	1/04
Chip Hight	1/04
John Van Venrooy	1/06
Phyllis Maynard	1/10
Richard Davis IV	1/13
Hut Wester	1/14
Don Gwynn	1/16
Jeffrey Polak	1/16
Steve Watkins	1/16
Johnny Foster	1/21
Amelia Rogers	1/24
Tom Whitt	1/24
Joel Cheatham IV	1/28
Leigh Anne Loftin	1/29

Anniversaries

Bettie & Marshall Cooper1/07



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, Vivie Drake, Francis Saunders, Lisa Adcock, C.G. Williams, Bobby Woodward, Bettie Cooper, Griselle Woodward, Graham Shearin, Tommy Greenway, Hannah Youngblood, Marshall Cooper, Veneal Williams, Tracy Clawson, Janet White, Stephen Nichols, David Adcock, John Foster, Barbara Foster, Pamela Ainstead, William Stancil, Bill Mast, Thomas Stancil, Leigh Anne Bliss, Pat Hughes and Bill Stark.



Special Dates


- Epiphany
January 6, 2017
- Baptism of the Lord
January 8, 2017
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
January 16, 2017

Altar Flowers

- Christmas Poinsettias
January 1, 2017
- Open
January 8, 2017
- Kathleen Burwell
January 15, 2017
- Open
January 22, 2017
- Open
January 29, 2017

JANUARY UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

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

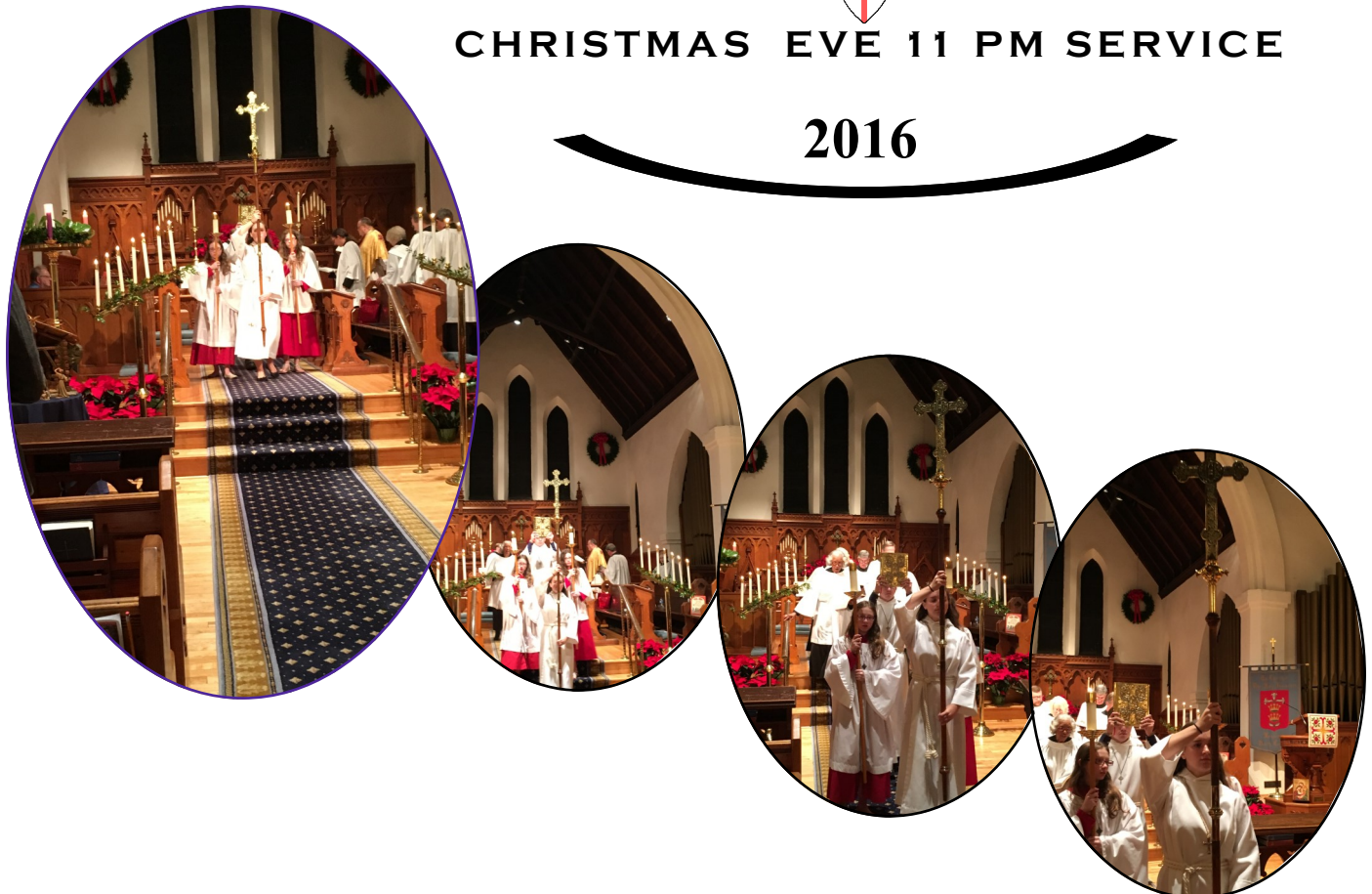
JAN	BEARERS	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	LAY READER / CHALICE BEARER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	VESTRY GREETER
1			AJ Holloway	8:00am - Bob Nelson 10:30am - Nick Long	Nancy Whitt Bill Stark Scott Burnette	Anora Rainey	
8	Mary Beth Parish* Lehman Ford *** AJ Holloway (Flag) Brennan Olmert ** LC Olmert ** Chap Burnette****	Jack Paynter Kaitlyn Paynter Tucker Olmert Beau Burnette	Genie Parish Sarah Rose Parish (2nd Cross)	8:00am - Lucy Gray 10:30am - Ruth Hartness	Nancy Whitt Bill Stark Scott Burnette	Anora Rainey	Richard Davis
15	* Book **Kite ***Banner ****Tintinabulus Beau Burnette (Book)	Chap Bunette Brennan Olmert	Hunter Roberson	8:00am - Richard Davis 10:30am - Rix Edwards	Nancy Whitt Bill Stark Scott Burnette	Mariana Davis	John Foster
22		Kaitlyn Paynter Jack Paynter	Lehman Ford	8:00am - Al Stainback 10:30am - Tom Church	Nancy Whitt Bill Stark Scott Burnette	Mariana Davis	Nick Long
29	Morning Prayer		Mary Beth Parish	8:00am - Rick Palamar 10:30am Nancy Whitt	Nancy Whitt Bill Stark Scott Burnette	Shirley Young	Tracy Madigan

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



CHRISTMAS EVE 11 PM SERVICE

2016





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THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS
210 South Chestnut Street
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The Church of the Holy Innocents



**On the threshold of a new year,
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.**