

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

Volume 13 — Number 3

March 2017

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FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



Everybody Wants to go to Heaven, But Nobody Wants to Die

The title of my article comes from a country song recorded by Kenny Chesney. It is also the title of an old blue grass song as well with different words but an identical theme. There is a lot of truth in the title to the song. We hope for heaven, but at least for most Americans, life is sweet and we tend to cling to it with tenacity unless we are beset by an illness or aging process that causes suffering or loss of dignity. Nonetheless, we are all going to die. Not that I want to start Lent on a downer, but folks, that is reality. Having grown up in a denomination that was enamored with the idea that Jesus would come and rapture us away, some hoped that by means of that event they might avoid physical death. We would make comments like, "If I die..." in the hopes Jesus would rapture us away from death.

When I became an Episcopalian I remember the first time that I slipped and used the phrase in the presence of a priest mentor. His response was, "Don't you mean 'when I die?'" I do believe in the second coming of Christ, but I also have abandoned the idea that we can in anyway predict or anticipate the event. Jesus will come and bring God's kingdom when God wills it and not one moment sooner. Thus, I have come to the sometime painful conclusion that I will pass through the gate of mortal death into God's love rather than avoiding it by rapture.

The Episcopal Church places upon the clergy the responsibility to help parishioners prepare for "last things." The priest is allowed to seek competent help in undertaking this task. About ten years ago, we did a Lenten series that covered essential matters related to preparing for death. I received a request that we repeat that program. The cast of characters will be slightly different a decade out but the material covered will be much the same.



On the Wednesdays of Lent we will have our Holy Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. There will be no homily as the program will replace that part of the service. The programs will be presented in the Lower Hall at 6:30 p.m. We will not have full meals, but refreshments with Lenten Themes will be served.

... From the Rector cont. pg. 2 ...

March 8 - Catherine Olmert will present a program on Insurance and related matters.



March 15 - John Zollicoffer will present a program on Wills.



March 22 - Don Lowery will present a program on Planning your funeral service.



March 29- Jerry White will present a program on Planning your funeral with the Funeral Home.



April 5- Rix Edwards will present a program on living wills and end of life directives.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. †

PARISH NEWS...

Ash Wednesday



The Rev. Donald Lowery

Ash Wednesday falls on March 1 this year. We will have services of Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes for those who desire them. Generally, some of our Latino parishioners come to the evening service, so, that will be bilingual if needed. Service times are 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. †

Healing Service



The Rev. Donald Lowery

On March 8 our 5:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service will include the prayers for healing. †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

We will meet on the Sundays of March at 5:00 p.m. We will gather at the Hughes House. †

Helping one of our Latino College Students-

The Rev. Donald Lowery

Alberto Ortiz, one of our Latino parishioners and a Student at UNC-Greensboro has an opportunity to go to Japan with his advertising and marketing class this summer. He needs to raise \$4,000.00 between now and May. He has already raised between \$700.00 and \$1000.00. He asked Fr. Lowery if the Church could help. The vestry suggested I make an appeal to the entire congregation as a Lenten Project.

Donations may be made to the Church of the Holy Innocents with a note on the memo line: Ortiz Trip. Alberto is busy earning money for this trip and asked me to emphasize that he is not asking the church for the entire amount still needed, however, any amount will help. The money raised will be paid directly to the school into a special account set up for students for this trip. †

Books for Children

The Rev. Donald Lowery

Charlie Vaughn is collecting gently used children's books for her school. If you have any you can donate, please bring them to the church or the church office. †



DIOCESE NEWS...



The Election of a Bishop

The Rev. Donald Lowery

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the clergy and delegates from each parish will gather at Canterbury School in Greensboro on March 4 to elect a bishop. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our hearts and minds as we make this momentous decision.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. †

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons - the Holy Trinity. †

Treasurer's Report

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

NEW FUNDS UPDATE

The Vestry established two new funds in 2015 and they are listed as follows:

DAVIS FACILITIES FUND

The Fund was established in 2015 using the remaining funds collected from the Legacy Pledge Fund that was established in 2008. The funds are kept in the EDNC Common Trust. A Davis Committee is to be established by the Vestry consisting of the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and three additional parishioners who serve staggered three year terms. The fund income is to be used for maintenance and capital expenditures as needed.

HENRY A. ROSS MUSIC FUND

The Fund was established in 2015 from funds left to the church upon the death of Mr. Ross. Mr. Ross was Music Director and organist for many years. Funds previously residing in a Hand Bell Fund were merged into this fund. The funds are kept in the EDNC Common Trust. A Ross Committee is to be established by the Vestry consisting of the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and three additional parishioners who serve staggered three year terms. The fund income is to be used for maintenance or repair of musical instruments, repair or replacement of vestments, sheet or recorded music, special music programs. The payment of the salary and benefits of the organist, other music directors, or musicians may be paid by this fund as approved by the Vestry.



It was a super Souper Bowl !



Yolanda Yoder

We did it again! We raised \$537 and 16 cans of food for ACTS during the Souper Bowl (on Super Bowl Sunday). That increased our amount from 2016 by almost \$200 and doubles the amount raised our first year.

The total so far at the national level is \$7,619,323 (cash & food) raised by 5,058 organizations for local charities in the 2017 Souper Bowl of Caring.

Thank you for a super Souper Bowl! †



Marsha Nelson

If you are interested in applying for a 2017-2018 church scholarship for college, you need to contact Susie Pahl in our church office for an application **or** you can download the form from our church website at:

(www.churchoftheholynnocents.org).

The scholarship link is located under the program tab. **If you are currently receiving a Wolfe Scholarship, you will receive a renewal application form via email in April.** The renewal form is also available to download from our church website.

Completed applications are due back to the church office or via return email by the **May 1 deadline.** The Scholarship Committee will meet in May to select recipients for next year. †



Altar Guild News

Shirley Young, Chairman

Altar Guild books and schedules are in the sacristy. Members be sure to get one. Thanks to Tracy Madigan for preparing our books. There are also liturgical calendars if you would like one.

Altar Guild members will be cleaning the sacristy and the sanctuary in March in preparation for Easter. Each committee will have a section to clean as we did last year. Your chairman will notify you.

Please order Easter lilies in memory or in honor of loved ones. They will be \$15.00 each. An order form is below for your use and there will also be some in our church bulletins. †

Easter Lily Order Form

It's time to order your Easter Lily for Church. The cost is \$15.00 per lily. Orders must be placed no later than March 18th. Please send check and wording for Bulletin to the Church office, or place them in the offering plate. Your lily may be picked up after the Easter morning service.



I would like _____ lily. Please find my check for _____ enclosed. I would like the Bulletin to read: _____

Signed _____

*The Church of the Holy Innocents
210 S. Chestnut St.
Henderson, NC 27536
252-492-0904
hinnocents@centurylink.net*

**March 2017
Schedule of Events**

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule

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

Wednesday – March 1

(Ash Weds.) Noon & 7:00 PM Services

Sunday – March 5

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
8:30 AM, ECY Youth Group
(Great Hall)
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Wednesday – March 8

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
5:30 PM, Healing Service
Holy Communion
6:30 PM, Lenten Program
(Lower Hall)

Sunday – March 12

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

Wednesday – March 12

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
5:30 PM, Holy Communion
6:30 PM, Lenten Program
(Lower Hall)

Sunday – March 19

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

Wednesday – March 22

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
5:30 PM, Holy Communion
6:30 PM, Lenten Program
(Lower Hall)

Sunday – March 26

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

Tuesday – March 28

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

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



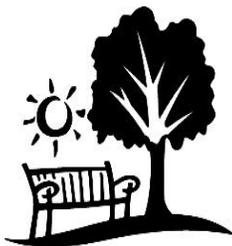
**ECW
&
Tabitha Guild**

Both groups will meet on Tuesday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor. Please plan to attend.

**April
Newsletter items are due:
March 24th**

Please email news items to:
MJNELSON@nc.rr.com

Thanks for your support!



MARCH 2017

The Deacon's Bench

by the Rev. Harrel Johnson



Soon we will be gathered in worship on the opening day of Lent, we may wonder about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, as well as other practices appropriate to this season. What good are they? They point to the insistent need we have to put our faith to work, and not let it be a head trip or an emotional indulgence. Almsgiving is of undeniable importance in this regard. Which do we love more: God or money? Are we making our own the priorities of the kingdom, or are we bending to some other standard? Through the alms we give, we pay homage to Christ's presence where he told us he would be: in the person of the poor, the hungry, the sick.

Yet something else also happens. No matter how generous our giving, we soon recognize that the need far outreaches our resources. Our giving does not make wants disappear. Instead, as we give we recognize how serious and indeed inexhaustible are the needs that our alms address. So then, alms release us from a poisonous focus on ourselves, and they do so in two ways. We come to recognize the need of our sisters and brothers, people made in God's image, people for whom Christ died. At the same time, we are humbled because we realize that what we can do is but little. When alms are given in the right spirit, we do not believe we gain any merit with God. Instead, we recognize how, in the face of human need, we are poor yet privileged. Poor, because we are equipped to do only a little. Privileged, because though it's little, we can do something.

The importance of almsgiving is emphasized in early Christian literature. Listen to John Chrysostom, a pre-eminent preacher of the ancient Church. In his "Homily 50 on Matthew" he declares: "Of what use is it to weigh down Christ's table with golden cups, when he himself is dying of hunger? First, fill him when he is hungry; then use the means you have left to adorn his table. Will you have a golden cup made but not give a cup of water? What is the use of providing the table with cloths woven of gold thread, and not providing Christ himself with the clothes he needs? What profit is there in that?"

"Tell me: if you were to see Christ lacking the necessary food but were to leave him in that state and merely surround his table with gold, would he be grateful to you or would he not be angry? What if you were to see people clad in worn-out rags and stiff with cold, and were to forget about clothing them and instead were to set up golden columns for them, saying that you were doing it in their honor? Would they not think they were being mocked and greatly insulted?" In a single phrase this great father of the Church sums up his message: "God does not want golden vessels but golden hearts."



February has been a hard month for the Brinkleys. Several of the girls have been sick with the flu and their school has been experiencing an epidemic of head lice which any parent will tell you is the bane of existence when you have children in elementary school. Additionally Scot has had some rather serious health issues that have required him to make several trips to Asheville for meetings with a specialist who will do the surgery that he will need in a few months. Pam has also had some problems with reoccurring seizures. The good news is that they are still together and folk are getting better, little Gabriel is thriving and growing like a weed. Your vestry is still adhering to our fund raising goal even though we are still only a little half way there. Remember that when you give to this fund make your checks out to the Church and designate that it is for the Brinkley's on the memo line and gift cards to Walmart are still welcome. †



Birthdays



Annette Roberson.....3/01
 Mary Beth Parish3/04
 Sarah Rose Parish.....3/04
 John Stevenson 3/04
 Caroline Burnette..... 3/06
 Robin Scott Williams.....3/08
 Barbara Madigan.....3/15
 Jeff Floyd3/16
 Jordan Williamson3/22
 Mildred Kimball.....3/23
 Luke Stark.....3/25
 William Parish3/28
 Hunter Roberson3/29
 Linda Shaw3/31

Anniversaries

Mildred & D. Boyd Kimball3/01
 Annette & Tommy Roberson3/26

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, Bettie Cooper, Griselle Woodward, Veneal Williams, David Adcock, Bill Mast, Graham Shearin, Tommy Greenway, Hannah Youngblood, Janet White, Pamela Ainstead, William Stancil, Thomas Stancil, Leigh Anne Bliss, Grace Walker Sanders, Nancy Rogers, Sheila Roberts, Amelia Rogers Sholar and John Foster.



Special Dates

- Ash Wednesday
March 1, 2017
- World Day of Prayer
March 3, 2017
- First Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2017
- Daylight-Saving Time begins
March 12, 2017
- Girl Scout Sunday
March 12, 2017
- Second Sunday in Lent
March 12, 2017
- Third Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2017
- First Day of Spring
March 20, 2017
- Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2017



MARCH UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

| MAR | ACOLYTES | CRUCIFER | LAY READER / CHALICE BEARER | USHERS | ALTAR GUILD | FLOWERS | VESTRY GREETER |
|-----|---|------------------|--|--|------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 |  | Genie Parish | 12:00pm - TBD 7:00pm - TBD | ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES | | | |
| 5 | Brennan Olmert Tucker Olmert | Lehman Ford | 8:00am - Rick Palamar 10:30am - Ruth Hartness | Cole Whitt Richard Davis Chick Young Butch Gray | Mariana Davis | Anne Bliss | Caroline Burnette |
| 12 | Beau Burnette Chap Burnette | AJ Holloway | 8:00am - Hut Wester 10:30am - Richard Davis | Cole Whitt Richard Davis Chick Young Butch Gray | Shirley Young | Margaret Williamson | Richard Davis |
| 19 | Sarah Rose Parish Mary Beth Parish | Genie Parish | 8:00am - Lucy Gray 10:30am - Nancy Whitt | Cole Whitt Richard Davis Chick Young Butch Gray | Shirley Young | Marsha & Bob Nelson | John Foster |
| 26 | Kaitlyn Paynter Jack Paynter | Mary Beth Parish | 8:00am - Bob Nelson 10:30am - Nick Long | Cole Whitt Richard Davis Chick Young Butch Gray | Mariana Davis |  | Nick Long |

— COFFEE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE GREAT HALL AFTER THE 10:30 AM SERVICE —

Henry Alexander Ross Memorial Concert Series

Presents



AN EVENING IN EUROPE



A Free Public Concert



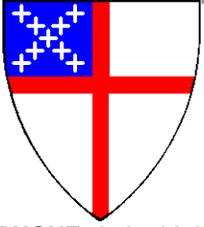
Angela Massey, Flute



Suzanne Polak, Pianist

- Music by Bach, Gaubert, Chopin, Boostrom, Clarke and Taktakishvili -
(World Premiere of Boostrom's "A Bird in Flight")

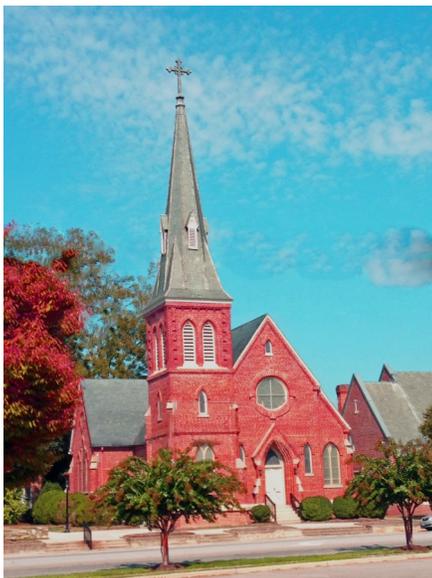
**The Church of the Holy Innocents
210 South Chestnut Street
Henderson, NC 27536
Thursday, March 2, 2017~ 7:30 pm**



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.**