

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

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May 2019

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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.churchoftheholyinnocents.org



Visit us on Facebook

FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



If It's Not About Love, It's Not About God

The title of my article is a quote from our Presiding Bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry. He is a person well known and loved in our congregation from his time as our Diocesan Bishop in North Carolina. Bishop Curry emphasizes the primacy of love in the Christian because it is at the core of Jesus' life and teaching. Jesus is God's Word revealed in human flesh and as such is part of the reality of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity. God came amongst us in the person of Jesus to show us the divine love in a human life, in a way that would make sense to human beings.

Human beings seem to be drawn away from love for some reason. At the heart of human sin is a failure to love.

We are called by Jesus to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus calls us to love not only our friends but even our enemies so that those who hate and oppose us may see in our human love a witness to God's divine love. Our world is seeing a failure to love on a grand scale and it worries me both as a pastor and a Christian believer.

The first failure of love that concerns me is the rise of anti-Semitism. The recent murderous attacks on synagogues both in the United States and abroad are the most brutal manifestations of this failure of love. There is also an increase in acts of vandalism against synagogues and Jewish cemeteries. In these times it is important to remember that Jesus was Jewish. The earliest disciples are all Jewish as were the earliest Christians. Indeed, the first Christians saw themselves as a reform movement within Judaism rather than as a different religion. Only gradually did the Church and the Synagogue choose to follow different paths, though the beginnings of this division are present in the Letters of Paul and in the Gospels, especially the Gospel of John. Jews are sometimes still labeled as "Christ Killers." It is important to remember that only a few Jewish leaders were involved with Jesus' death. Jesus was executed by pagan Roman authorities. Most Jews in the days of Jesus had nothing to do with his death and no Jew alive today can be considered culpable for his execution. Further, because Jesus was a Jew himself, to attack the Jewish people is to attack folks who are his blood kin and relatives. Anti-Semitism is a failure of love and is therefore a sin against both God and humanity.

All other racism and hatred against others is also a sin because it is a failure of love. I disagree with Islam. If I did not, I would join that faith. Having

From the Rector cont. pg. 2

said that, they are also fellow human beings on the journey of life and my faith in God's love calls upon me to love even in the midst of honest disagreement. The recent attacks on Mosques is also a failure of love and therefore sin against the God who loves all humanity.

What is true of the hatred manifested by some against Jews and Moslems is true of all humanity. Racisms in general seems to be on the rise and this is a cause of great worry. I love the old Sunday School song that contains these words: "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in his sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world." These words from a simple children's song are so true. The blessed Apostle Paul, in Acts chapter 17, while preaching to the Athenians, speaks these words, "And God made from one blood every nation every nation of men to live on the face of earth...For we are indeed his offspring." This is most certainly true. Every human being alive today carries a DNA marker from one woman who lived in Africa over 100,000 years ago. Distant though the connection may be, we are all related, we are all "cousins" and we are all children of the God who guided evolution to create modern human beings as his beloved children.

As Bishop Curry is fond of saying, "It is not about Love, it is not about God." †

PARISH NEWS...



The Rev. Donald Lowery

We will have Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m. on all the Wednesdays of May. The first Wednesday will be a Healing Service with Holy Communion. †



*The Rev. Donald Lowery
Charlie Vaughn*

Charlie Vaughn will be corresponding with members via email and text messages with news whenever needed. †

Ascension Day



The Rev. Donald Lowery

Ascension Day falls on Thursday, May 30 and will be celebrated at Old St. John's at 7:00 p.m. The Feast of the Ascension commemorates the end of the appearances of the Risen Lord Jesus to his disciples on a regular basis. These appearances of the Lord in which he taught them how he must suffer and die and then rise to life again on the third day served to consolidate their faith in his glorious resurrection. At the end of the Forty Days, Jesus returned to his place in the eternal realm of God. This event is important because it reminds us that in the power of the Spirit, Jesus is present to his people everywhere. There is no place where Jesus is not with his people to strengthen and guide them. †

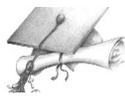
Pentecost is coming



The Rev. Donald Lowery

The Feast of Pentecost falls on June 9th. We will have our bilingual service with the Latino members of our congregation followed by lunch. The Vestry will provide meat usually BBQ Turkey and drinks and paper goods. We ask parishioners to bring a side dish to share. This has proven to be a popular and fun event that brings people of diverse backgrounds but common faith together for food and fellowship. †

Honoring Our Graduates



M. Nelson

Do you have a special person graduating from high school or college this year? If so, we'd love for you to share their accomplishment with us so that we can include them in an article in the June issue of our newsletter.

Please contact Susie in the church office at 252-492-0904 or email your information to hinnocents@centurylink.net by May 24th with the following information: graduate's name, school, relationship to you (child, niece, nephew), and photo (if you'd like one included). †



Betsy Seifert, President

Attention all ECW Members!

The ECW will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28th in the Ladies' Parlor. We will have a short business meeting and then we'll go to visit Rebuilding Hope for tour of their facility. After the tour, we plan to go for lunch together. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for our last meeting before summer break. †

(We will not meet during the months of June, July and August.)

VESTRY NEWS...

Lay Reader Training

G. Porter Shaw

Training for active Lay Readers and any members that have interest in becoming a Lay Reader will be held May 19 at 2 p.m. All present Lay Readers are encouraged to attend this informative session.



Adult Crucifer & Server Assistance Training

Training will be offered in June. The need for members willing to serve in this capacity will become a necessity when our Deacon, The Rev. Harrell Johnson, retires this summer. Training events will be announced in next month's newsletter. †





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>



CHURCH USAGE DOCUMENT

Monday

NA (Behind the Walls) 5:30 to 6:30
 Motion - (Zumba) 7:00 to 8:00
 Cub Scout Troop (with Tommy) 7:00 to 8:00

Tuesday

NA (Bottoms Up) 7:00 to 8:00

Wednesday

NA (Bottoms Up) 7:00 to 8:00
 Handbells (Great Hall)

Thursday

Sansa "Virgin Mary Dance" 6:00 to 8:00

Friday

Counseling Group- (Parlor) 6:30 to 8:00
 NA (Behind the Walls) 5:30 to 6:30
 Motion- (Zumba) 7:00 to 8:00

Saturday

NA (Bottoms Up) Noon

*All meetings are PM except where noted.

* All meetings are held in Lower Hall, unless noted otherwise.

May Schedule of Events

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule

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

Wednesday- May 1

5:30 PM, Communion & Healing Service

Sunday - May 5

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

Wednesday- May 8

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

Sunday - May 12

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

Wednesday- May 15

5:30 PM, Communion

Sunday - May 19

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
 10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
 12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio
 2:00 PM, Layreader & Chalice Bearer Training

Wednesday- May 22

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

Sunday - May 26

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

Tuesday - May 28

10:00 AM, ECW (Ladies Parlor)

Wednesday- May 29

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

Thursday, May 30

7:00 PM, Ascension Day Service (At Old St. John's)

Note from the Editor...

Marsha Nelson

Summer

(June/July/August)

Newsletter items are due:

May 24th

Please submit news items either to the church office or email them to:

MJNELSON@nc.rr.com

Printed copies of the newsletter are located in the Bell Tower and are also available to view and print from the church website:

www.churchoftheholynnocents.org

Thanks for your support!



**Treasurer's
Report**

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

4/04/2019

**Church Of The Holy Innocents
Revenue and Expense Summary
Year-to-date, Through March 2019**

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)
Revenues				
Pledged Income	\$10,031.00	\$12,500.00	\$84,345.94	\$83,000.00
Other Income	\$306.00	\$500.00	\$791.75	\$1,500.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$10,337.00</u>	<u>\$13,000.00</u>	<u>\$85,137.69</u>	<u>\$84,500.00</u>
Expenses				
Compensation				
Salaries	\$7,495.74	\$7,300.00	\$22,185.35	\$22,100.00
Employee Expenses				
Rector's Expenses	\$867.55	\$1,000.00	\$2,996.39	\$3,000.00
Other Employee Expenses	\$3,595.95	\$3,700.00	\$11,329.76	\$11,300.00
Total Employee Expenses	<u>\$4,463.50</u>	<u>\$4,700.00</u>	<u>\$14,326.15</u>	<u>\$14,300.00</u>
Total Compensation	<u>\$11,959.24</u>	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$36,511.50</u>	<u>\$36,400.00</u>
Administrative				
Supplies	(\$35.33)	\$250.00	\$536.26	\$700.00
Preschool Income/Expense	\$1,392.82	(\$1,500.00)	\$1,454.23	(\$4,400.00)
General Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,364.00	\$3,000.00
Other Administrative Expenses	\$152.25	\$150.00	\$548.75	\$1,050.00
Total Administrative	<u>\$1,509.74</u>	<u>(\$100.00)</u>	<u>\$6,903.24</u>	<u>\$350.00</u>
Utilities	\$2,337.33	\$1,925.00	\$7,393.75	\$5,975.00
Maintenance	\$955.52	\$2,250.00	\$5,783.84	\$7,050.00
Parish Life	\$80.06	\$550.00	\$626.12	\$1,800.00
Diocesan & Seminary Support	\$2,475.00	\$2,475.00	\$7,423.21	\$7,425.00
Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$19,316.89</u>	<u>\$19,100.00</u>	<u>\$64,641.66</u>	<u>\$59,000.00</u>
Net Total	(\$8,979.89)	(\$6,100.00)	\$20,496.03	\$25,500.00





The Deacon's Bench

by the Rev. Harrel Johnson



Easter comes out ringing in terms that we all hear if we seek to hear it, that the soul of man is immortal. Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ we have fit testimony that this earthly life is not the end, that death is just something of a turn in the road, that life moves down a continual moving river, and that death is just a little turn in the river, that this earthly life is merely an embryonic prelude to a new awakening, that death is not a period which ends this great sentence of life but a comma that punctuates it to more loftier significance. That is what it says. That is the meaning of Easter. That is the question that Easter answers – that death is not the end.



Planting Time

We love the soil because God's spirit spoke and created the earth, and because he called it out of its uncultivated natural state so that it might be cultivated by the communal work of human beings. We love physical work – the work of muscle and hand – and we love the craftsman's art, in which the spirit guides the hand. In the way spirit and hand work together and through each other, we see the mystery of community. God – the creative Spirit – has formed nature, and he has entrusted the earth to us, his sons and daughters, as an inheritance but also as a task: our garden must become his garden, and our work must further his kingdom. †

THE BRINKLEY REPORT

God is good! Scott's new job, is working out well, although he is not getting ,either the hourly pay originally promised nor the hours, but at least he does have a little money coming in each week now. The girls are all doing well in school and little Gabe is growing like a spring onion. Keep them in your prayers as we continue the struggle with Social Services and the Court System over custody issues. †



Birthdays

Nancy Whitt5/03
 Jason Elliott5/04
 Graham Monteith5/06
 Emmanuel Ellis.....5/06
 Dianne Floyd5/08
 Richard Young5/08
 Ann Ellis.....5/10
 Barbara Hight5/10
 Kirk Elliott5/12
 Betsy Catlett5/18
 Brenda Wester.....5/19



Anniversaries

Susann & Kirk Elliott 5/11
 Katherine & Scott Williamson5/15
 Betsy & Donald Seifert5/21
 Jean & Rick Palamar5/25
 Sofia & Harrison Ford.....5/29



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, C. G. Williams, Bill Mast, William Stancil, Thomas Stancil, Bettie Cooper, Sheila Roberts, Berkeley Ellis, Graham Cawthorne, Bo Jones, Megan Jones, Jane Carnes, Andrew Gray, Stephanie White, Cooper Brake, Rose Flannagan, Michael Smith, Dorothy Maynard, Carolyn Farmer, Deuce Slater, Amy Mason, Doug Merritt, Hut Wester, Amy Johnson, Don Smith, Kimberly Hartness and Perry Ennis.



Special Dates

- **National Day of Prayer**
May 2, 2019
- **Mother's Day**
May 12, 2019
- **Armed Forces Day**
May 18, 2019
- **Memorial Day**
May 27, 2019
- **Ascension of the Lord**
May 30, 2019

Altar Flowers

- Keith Aiken 5/05
- Janet White 5/12
- Shirley Young 5/19
- KVA 5/26

MAY UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

~ LEMONADE WILL BE SERVED ON THE LAWN AFTER THE 10:30 AM SERVICE ~

MAY	BEARERS	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	LAYREADER/ CHALICE BEARER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	VESTRY GREETER
5	Tucker Olmert (Book)	Chap Bunette Beau Burnette	Brennan Olert	8:00 am - Rick Palamar 10:30 am - Roberta Scott	Craig Clodfelter Mike Rainey Tracy Madigan	Anora Rainey	
12	Brennan Olmert (Book)	Kaitlyn Paynter Jack Paynter	Tucker Olmert	8:00 am - Bob Nelson 10:30 am - Linda Shaw	Craig Clodfelter Mike Rainey Tracy Madigan	Shirley Young	
19	Beau Burnette (Book)	Kaitlyn Paynter Jack Paynter	Chap Burnette	8:00 am - Rix Edwards 10:30 am - Tom Church	Craig Clodfelter Mike Rainey Tracy Madigan	Shirley Young	
26		Sarah Parish Ethan Holloway	Mary Parish	8:00 am - Greg Taylor 10:30 am - Richard Davis	Craig Clodfelter Mike Rainey Tracy Madigan	Mariana Davis	

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



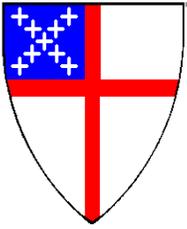
Lunch at First Presbyterian Church Prepared and Served by our Episcopal Church Women.



Holy Week Lunch

Easter Sunday





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.**