

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

Volume 16 - Number 5

May 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** From the Rector
Be Not Afraid.
- 2** From the Rector...cont.
Parish News ...
When does Church
Wednesday Service
Pentecost Service
- 3** Parish News ...cont.
Honor Our Graduates
ECW
May Schedule of Events
- 4** Treasurer's Report...
- 5** May Birthdays
and Anniversaries
Remember in Your Prayers
Special Dates
Unified Serving Schedule
- 6** Church Photo



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Visit us on Facebook

FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



Be Not Afraid

Easter is not just a day, it is a season of 50 days that lasts until the Feast of Pentecost, which falls on May 31, 2020, this year. So, the entire month of May is taken up with lessons related in some way or another to Easter, either to the Resurrection of Jesus or to his ministry as intercessor before God the Father for the Church on Earth. One of the hallmarks of at least some of the Easter stories is that Jesus greets his disciples with the blessing of peace and the words that go with Divine Peace, "Be Not Afraid." The offer of peace and the calling to not be afraid are especially relevant for the times in which we are living right now.

I believe that as rector and pastor of the church I am called to be a model of Christian strength. Yet, I must

confess that I find myself afraid at least some of the time. I am afraid of the Covid-19 virus. I was not at first, in fact, I was rather cavalier about it, considering it something akin to the annual appearance of the flu. Keep one's hands clean, maintain a reasonable distance from folks, don't cough or sneeze on people and most of us should be just fine. As the magnitude of this pestilence has grown, so has my anxiety. All the things I mentioned above are good and effective ways of dealing with the virus but they are not absolutely fool proof. People are coming to health care professionals and being diagnosed with the Corona Virus who cannot figure out how they caught it. Then there are those on the front lines. Doctors, nurses and other health care professionals, first responders transporting people in crisis to hospitals, teachers and social workers and law enforcement officers, and yes, the folks working in grocery stores are being hit hard. I worry about the folks I know with such jobs. I worry about my family and friends and the members of this congregation. Honestly, I worry about myself because when I am in the office, and we are keeping very, very limited office hours on orders from the Bishop, I seem to attract people in need. I am not sure how healthy they are and I am not sure if they might be carrying this infection. I wash my hands and use hand sanitizer, wear my mask and otherwise try to be as careful as possible. Still, I am afraid of catching this dread virus and dying prematurely. I am not afraid of death, but there are ways I don't want to die and Covid-19 is pretty high up on the list. I want to live my allotted time and God willing, die peacefully in my sleep. I am afraid.

I suspect I am not alone in this. We all have friends and relatives who are vulnerable and some of us are vulnerable in our right. Many of us may

From the Rector cont. pg. 2

be afraid at this time. Jesus' words are incredibly relevant at this time.



How do I rise above my fears?

First, I remember Jesus's word of peace. This is not peace as the world defines it, which is the absence of conflict. This is "The peace of God which passes all understanding." It is peace in the midst of the storm. This is the calm assurance that God is still in control no matter how crazy the world may be at any given time. This is trusting that God is at work in all circumstances and that his plans for his people will not be thwarted. If Easter means anything, it means that God is bigger than death. God's final word for his people, as I remind you often, is not death and destruction but eternal life with Him, through the grace of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord and Savior. No matter what this virus may bring, even death itself, God will bring us to victory through the Mystery and Glory of Easter. I also pray. I have been praying a lot lately and will continue so to do. I believe as priest one of my particular ministries is intercessory prayer. I hold my family, friends, this congregation and the world up in prayer. God is faithful. He will not abandon us. He cares for all of us, especially the vulnerable amongst us. I also reflect on Scripture. I have been especially drawn to Psalm 91:



Psalm 91

Assurance of God's Protection

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress;

my God, in whom I trust.'
For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler

and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

Because you have made the LORD your refuge,

the Most High your dwelling-place, no evil shall befall you,

no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you

to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver;

I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble,

I will rescue them and honour them.

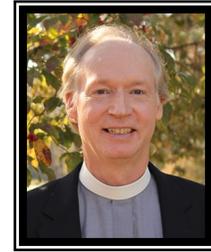
With long life I will satisfy them,

and show them my salvation.

(Psalm 91, The New Revised Standard Version)

I believe Jesus in the Power of the Holy Spirit walks before us, behind us and beside through all the dangers of this life. With Jesus' help, I will be at peace. I will not be afraid. .

So, when does Church Resume?



The official word from the Bishop is that churches reopen after May 17, 2020 which means reopening for In-Church Services on Sunday, May 24. However, that may change. I will post any news from the Bishop about his plans for the congregations of The Diocese of North Carolina. If the reopen date changes we will let folks know by email.



If the churches reopen on May 24, **Wednesday Communion Service** will resume on May 27 at 5:30 p.m. and the service will be the Healing Service.



Bilingual Combined Service

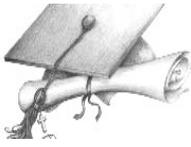
My hope is to have a bilingual service at 10:30 a.m. on May 31, on the Feast of Pentecost. However, I doubt we will be able to organize our usual picnic with the Anglo and Latino congregations together.

Everything is contingent on the course taken by the Corona Virus. The Bishop is consulting with the best health officials in North Carolina and will make the decision he believes is best for the well being of all of us. †



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 Marsha in the church office at 252-492-0904 or email your information by May 24th to:

hinnocents@centurylink.net

Please include 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 26^h in the Ladies' Parlor. We will discuss various topics of interest to our group. Please plan to join us for our last meeting before summer break. †

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

Note from the Editor...

Marsha Nelson

Summer

(June/July/August)

Newsletter items are due:

May 25th

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!

May Schedule of Events

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule

Parish Choir — Sun. at 9:30 AM

Sunday – May 3

No In-Church Services
10:00 AM, Online – [Diocese -NC](#)
11:15 AM, Online- Washington [National Cathedral](#)

Wednesday– May 6

No Service

Sunday – May 10

No In-Church Services
10:00 AM, Online – [Diocese -NC](#)
11:15 AM, Online- Washington [National Cathedral](#)

Wednesday– May 13

No Service

Sunday – May 17

No In-Church Services
10:00 AM, Online – [Diocese -NC](#)
11:15 AM, Online- Washington [National Cathedral](#)

Wednesday– May 20

No Service

Sunday – May 24

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

Tuesday – May 26

10:00 AM, ECW (Ladies Parlor)

Wednesday– May 27

5:30 PM, Healing & Communion Service

Sunday – May 31

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
Bilingual Combined Service
(10:30 AM & 12:30 PM)
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist - Rite II

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



~ IMPORTANT NOTICE ~

Our church email address is hinnocents@centurylink.net.

Whenever your email address changes, please be sure to send your new address to the church so that we can update our records.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

4/02/2020

Church Of The Holy Innocents Revenue and Expense Summary Year-to-date, Through March 2020

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)
Revenues				
Pledged Income	\$6,675.00	\$10,000.00	\$80,481.32	\$85,000.00
Other Income	\$51.00	\$400.00	\$517.00	\$1,300.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$6,726.00</u>	<u>\$10,400.00</u>	<u>\$80,998.32</u>	<u>\$86,300.00</u>
Expenses				
Compensation				
Salaries	\$2,108.34	\$2,600.00	\$6,325.02	\$6,900.00
Employee Expenses				
Rector's Expenses	\$1,056.41	\$900.00	\$3,360.03	\$2,700.00
Other Employee Expenses	\$3,238.35	\$3,800.00	\$9,715.05	\$10,300.00
Total Employee Expenses	<u>\$4,294.76</u>	<u>\$4,700.00</u>	<u>\$13,075.08</u>	<u>\$13,000.00</u>
Total Compensation	<u>\$6,403.10</u>	<u>\$7,300.00</u>	<u>\$19,400.10</u>	<u>\$19,900.00</u>
Administrative				
Supplies	\$74.57	\$250.00	\$580.98	\$700.00
Preschool Income/Expense	(\$1,157.63)	(\$1,300.00)	(\$633.41)	(\$2,900.00)
General Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,096.00	\$3,000.00
Other Administrative Expenses	(\$10.58)	\$250.00	\$884.07	\$1,200.00
Total Administrative	<u>(\$1,093.64)</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>\$4,927.64</u>	<u>\$2,000.00</u>
Utilities	\$2,138.93	\$2,100.00	\$6,767.44	\$6,300.00
Maintenance	\$995.46	\$1,850.00	\$3,927.99	\$5,650.00
Parish Life	(\$110.34)	\$400.00	\$30.90	\$1,350.00
Diocesan & Seminary Support	\$2,740.50	\$2,800.00	\$8,221.50	\$8,300.00
Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$11,074.01</u>	<u>\$14,650.00</u>	<u>\$43,275.57</u>	<u>\$43,500.00</u>
Net Total	<u>(\$4,348.01)</u>	<u>(\$4,250.00)</u>	<u>\$37,722.75</u>	<u>\$42,800.00</u>



Amazon Charitable Donations

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 1/2% 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 help, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/about>



Church Services are cancelled through May 17—Please remember that the church still has to pay its bills. Pledge checks and special donations can always be mailed in to the church office at:
The Church of the Holy Innocents / 210 S. Chestnut Street / Henderson, NC, 27536

Birthdays

Nancy Whitt.....	5/03
Jason Elliott.....	5/04
Graham Monteith.....	5/06
Emmanuel Ellis.....	5/06
Dianne Floyd.....	5/08
Richard Young.....	5/08
Ann Ellis.....	5/10
Barbara Hight.....	5/10
Kirk Elliott.....	5/12
Betsy Catlett.....	5/18
Brenda Wester.....	5/19



Anniversaries

Susann & Kirk Elliott.....	5/11
Katherine & Scott Williamson.....	5/15
Betsy & Donald Seifert.....	5/21
Jean & Rick Palamar.....	5/25
Sofia & Harrison Ford.....	5/29



Remember In Your Prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Megan Jones, Jane Carnes, Stephanie White, Deuce Slater, Doug Merritt, Don Smith, Kimberly Hunter Hartness, Ann Ellis, Trayce Wheless, Barbara Collins, Barbara Madigan, Melody Shearin, Mary Shearin, Meghan Bunn, Veneal Williams, William Stancil, Thomas Stancil, Sheila Roberts, Berkeley Ellis, Graham Cawthorne, Bo Jones, Michael Smith, Rose Flannagan, Scott Brinkley, Theo, Joyce Shoe, Porter Shaw, Mary Collier, and Anne Almand.



Special Dates

- **National Day of Prayer**
May 7, 2020
- **Mother's Day**
May 10, 2020
- **Armed Forces Day**
May 16, 2020
- **Ascension of the Lord**
May 21, 2020
- **Memorial Day**
May 25, 2020
- **Pentecost**
May 31, 2020

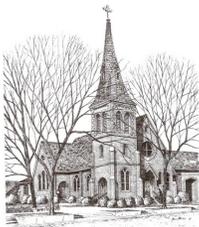
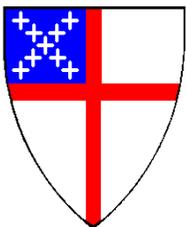
Altar Flowers

- Roberta Scott 5/03
- Greg & Kathy Taylor 5/10
- Donald & Betsy Seifert 5/17
- TBD 5/24
- Bob & Marsha Nelson 5/31

MAY UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

MAY	BEARERS	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	LAYREADER/ CHALICE BEARER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	VESTRY GREETER
3	-ALL IN-CHURCH SERVICES ARE CANCELLED FOR THESE DAYS -						
10	EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVICES ARE PROVIDED ONLINE BY OUR DIOCESE AND BY THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES & LINKS:						
17	10:00 AM, Episcopal Diocese of NC Online – www.episdionc.org 11:15 AM, Online- Washington National Cathedral						
24		Kaitlyn Paynter	Jack Paynter	8:00 am - Tracy Madigan 10:30 am - Richard Davis	Craig Clodfelter Mike Rainey Tracy Madigan	Anora Rainey	
31		Brennan Olmert Tucker Olmert	Lucy Catherine Olmert	8:00 am - Greg Taylor 10:30 am - Roberta Scott	Craig Clodfelter Mike Rainey Tracy Madigan	Shirley Young	

NOTE: IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO SERVE 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.**