

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

Volume 9 - Number 4

April 2013

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FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine—

During Lent we have been offering a study of several books based on near death experiences and how they relate to Christian faith. There has been an upsurge of such books in the last couple of years, though the study of the phenomena known colloquially as “NDE’s” has been going on since I was an undergraduate psychology student in the 1970’s. These events fascinate people.

I think there are several reasons for this fascination. The first is the simple fact they happen. I suspect there is a better than fifty percent chance that the majority of people reading this newsletter know someone who has had just such an experience. I would not be

surprised to learn we have parishioners who have themselves had such an experience. We want to know if they are real and what they mean.

I think a second reason may be a desire to reinforce our faith. We claim to believe that death is not the ending of our lives, but rather a transition into an eternal life prepared by God for those who love him. It is natural to wish for evidence to support our faith.

The third reason is related to the second one. We live in a modern, scientific age. Science tends to be materialist in its approach to the explaining of the universe. What “IS” is what we can see with our eyes, or detect and quantify with scientific equipment. Many of the brightest people of our generation, trained in the sciences, are highly skeptical of the idea that any part of who we are survives. I can relate to this. I am a scientist by training. Psychology is a soft and rather mushy science in the eyes of biologists, chemists and physicists, but it is a science nonetheless. Psychologists observe the world of behavior, postulate hypotheses about why certain actions arise and then test the hypotheses for accuracy. There have been times when I found myself in the tension of believing firmly in life after death while the scientist in me wonders how this could be. We would like some verification, from people of a scientific bent, that “NDE’s” are real and point to the life of the world to come.

We did not finish our study, so the folks gathered in the class and I have decided to continue after Easter. We will finish Heaven is for Real. This is the story of a three year old who came near to death after a ruptured appendix and than began to tell his parents what he saw in heaven.

From the Rector cont. pg. 2

Then we are moving on to Revealing Heaven: The Christian Case for Near-Death Experiences by the Rev'd John W. Price who is an Episcopal priest and was for years a chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston, Texas.



Finally, we will look at To Heaven and Back: A Doctor's Extraordinary Account of her Death, Heaven, Angels, and Life Again; A True Story by Mary C Neal, MD.

These books can be purchased at Wal-Mart. I continue to recommend our first book Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife by Eben Alexander, MD. Dr Alexander is also an Episcopalian and his wife is a friend of our own Nancy Whitt.

We are going to change the time. Thursdays just did not work well for many folks. So, we're moving to Wednesdays with a simple service of Communion at 5:00 p.m. and class at 5:30 p.m. with the goal of completing each session by 6:00 p.m. for the sake of those who need to continue on to bell choir practice. What we plan is for folks to come in right after work, pray and study and then proceed to bells or home for supper. If one cannot make the 5:00 p.m. communion but can attend the 5:30 p.m. class, please do come. We are having an excellent adventure looking into the life of the world to come and we hope as many as possible will join us. We will resume on Wednesday, April 10 at 5:00/5:30 p.m. †

PARISH NEWS...



The Rev. Donald Lowery

The Church Office will be closed on April 1 and 2, the Monday and Tuesday after Easter. †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

The Youth Group will meet on all Sunday evenings of April at 5:00 p.m. unless notified otherwise by email. †



Healing Service

The Rev. Donald Lowery

Our Healing Service will be held on Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor of the Hughes House. †



Betsy Catlett & Janet White

The Tabitha Guild will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9th and April 23rd in the Ladies Parlor. "Just a reminder—be sure to let Betsy (492-8223) or Janet (430-0187) know when you know of someone who would benefit from one of Tabitha's shawls. Thanks!" †



Betsy Seifert, President

The ECW will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23rd in the Ladies Parlor. Please join us ! †

CHRISTIAN FORMATION...

Christian Formation for Children

The Rev. Donald Lowery

Our elementary age children continue to learn about the biblical basis for our faith on Sundays. After the opening hymn, the children are excused to the youth room where they watch a video Bible story and have an activity sheet. These videos are wonderful, generally accurate and very entertaining in their approach to scripture. At the "peace" the children return to church so that those who receive the sacrament can have communion and those who do not may have their blessing. †



We need Adults to help with the Christian Formation for Children.

Would you like to know more about the bible? Do you like children? Can you operate a TV and a DVD player? If so, you possess all the qualifications needed to teach our Christian Formation Class for elementary age school children. More details are included in the article that precedes this one. The videos really are interesting with catchy little songs and our children are a delight. We need teachers beginning April 7 and continuing until the end of May. We'd like to have two teachers per session if possible. If you can join this wonderful and fun ministry, contact the Rev. Donald Lowery.



Christian Formation for Adults

The Rev. Donald Lowery

The adult forum continues to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:35 a.m. in the Ingle Parlor of the Parish House. We continue to explore the use of icons as aids to Christian prayers and meditation †

Treasurer's Report

03/17/2013

Church Of The Holy Innocents Revenue and Expense Summary Year-to-date, Through February 2013

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Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)
Revenues				
Pledged Income	\$21,807.66	\$25,000.00	\$77,649.23	\$80,000.00
Other Income	\$418.12	\$825.00	\$1,144.96	\$1,750.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$22,225.78</u>	<u>\$25,825.00</u>	<u>\$78,794.19</u>	<u>\$81,750.00</u>
Expenses				
Compensation				
Salaries	\$7,710.54	\$7,770.01	\$15,434.27	\$15,540.02
Employee Expenses				
Rector's Expenses	\$871.99	\$1,000.00	\$2,027.62	\$2,000.00
Other Employee Expenses	\$1,987.77	\$2,925.00	\$6,989.78	\$5,850.00
Total Employee Expenses	<u>\$2,859.76</u>	<u>\$3,925.00</u>	<u>\$9,017.40</u>	<u>\$7,850.00</u>
Total Compensation	<u>\$10,570.30</u>	<u>\$11,695.01</u>	<u>\$24,451.67</u>	<u>\$23,390.02</u>
Administrative				
Supplies	\$443.75	\$216.67	\$577.60	\$433.34
Preschool Income/Expense	(\$2,026.74)	(\$350.00)	(\$813.09)	(\$700.00)
General Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Other Administrative Expenses	\$419.90	\$291.66	\$853.00	\$583.32
Total Administrative	<u>(\$1,163.09)</u>	<u>\$1,158.33</u>	<u>\$617.51</u>	<u>\$2,316.66</u>
Utilities	\$1,848.23	\$1,558.33	\$3,611.95	\$3,116.66
Maintenance	\$1,315.54	\$950.00	\$2,240.44	\$1,900.00
Parish Life	\$679.36	\$491.67	\$1,634.55	\$783.34
Diocesan & Seminary Support	\$2,463.00	\$2,458.33	\$4,926.00	\$4,916.66
Outreach	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$15,713.34</u>	<u>\$18,561.67</u>	<u>\$37,482.12</u>	<u>\$36,923.34</u>
Net Total	\$6,512.44	\$7,263.33	\$41,312.07	\$44,826.66

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

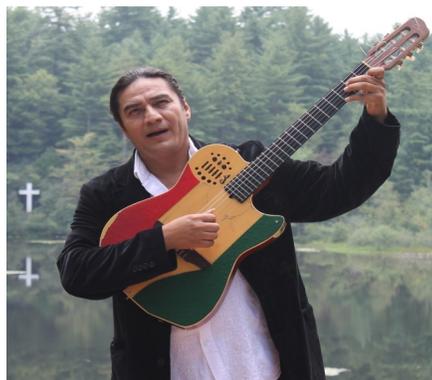
OUR CHURCH'S
FINANCIAL
HEALTH

DIOCESE NEWS...

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church
408 Granville Street, Oxford, NC

<http://stcyprians.dionc.org>

**CANTAMOS/
LET'S SING
WITH
JULIO CUELLAR**
Saturday, April 20
1:30 until 5 pm



Saint Cyprian's Episcopal Church in Oxford, NC invites you to a music workshop on singing and using Latino music in your liturgy and programs. This is to honor the Latino presence in our Church and to bridge the gap between "us" and "them". This participatory singing workshop will be especially helpful for music directors, choirs and anyone who likes to sing. For more information or to register please contact the Rev. Harriette Sturges at 202-230-7738.

Donations are gratefully accepted.

CHURCH USAGE SCHEDULE

~LOWER HALL~

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

AA 5:30 to 6:30
NA 7:00 to 8:00

WEDNESDAY

NA 7:00 to 8:00

FRIDAY

AA 5:30 to 6:30

SATURDAY

NA Noon

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.

Note from the Editor...

Marsha Nelson

**May
Newsletter Deadline
April 25th**

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 for you if you have problems with email access and available to view on the church website:

www.churchoftheholynnocents.org

Click on links are located on :
page 1 (Facebook box & web address)
page 4 (St. Cyprian's web address)

Thanks for your support!

April 2013 Schedule of Events

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule

Hand Bell Choir — Wed, at 6:00 PM
Parish Choir — Mon. at 6:00 PM

DAILY MORNING PRAYER

Monday —Thursday (weekly)
7:30 AM, Hughes House

Wednesday – April 3

7:00 PM, Healing Service
(Parlor, Hughes House)

Sunday – April 7

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:35 AM, Adult Learning Group
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio – Santa Eucharistia

Tuesday – April 9

10:00 AM, Tabitha Guild (Ladies Parlor)

Wednesday– April 10

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
5:00 PM, Communion/Book Study

Sunday – April 14

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:35 AM, Adult Learning Group
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio – Santa Eucharistia

Wednesday– April 17

5:00 PM, Communion/Book Study

Sunday – April 21

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:35 AM, Adult Learning Group
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Children's Class
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio – Santa Eucharistia

Tuesday – April 23

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

Wednesday– April 24

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
5:00 PM, Communion/Book Study

Sunday – April 28

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:35 AM, Adult Learning Group
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Children's Class
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio – Santa Eucharistia

Birthdays

Gracia Bobbitt	4/01
Griselle Woodard	4/02
Edward Stevenson	4/04
Macon Pearsall	4/04
Jean Palamar	4/06
Henry Strause	4/08
Meredith Ellis	4/08
Graham Shearin	4/12
Mariana Davis	4/14
John Zollicoffer	4/15
Anna Parks Stewardson	4/18
D. Boyd Kimball	4/19
Fagan Goodwin	4/20
Virginia Wester	4/23
Norman Hill	4/24
Al Catlett	4/27
Thornton Gholson	4/27
Butch Gray	4/28
Bob Hertford	4/30



Remember In Your Prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Cynthia Shaw, Helen Church Miles, Trayce Wheless, Gracia Bobbitt, Barbara Colins, Staci Barnett, Virginia Wester, Harry Collins, Jean Tilley, MaryAnn Hill, Barbara Madigan, Melody Shearin, Marie Young, Jan Strause, Frances Finney, Virginia Frank, Jim Ross, Carol Theodorou, Sam Parsons, Colt Moss, Lena Hogge, Bessie Edwards, Jane Fleming, Bill Fleming, Charlotte Sweeney, Mimi Adams, Carolyn Lowery, Belinda Catlett, Mary Shearin, Randy Palamar, Mary Ann Everett, Marion Devoe, Rebecca Aiken, Hannah Youngblood, Dr. Beverly Tucker, Trent Wilson, Rorin Platt, Denise Whitlow & Vivie Drake.



Anniversaries

Katherine & Bob Kittrell	4/16
Jan & Henry Strause	4/23



Special Dates

- Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2013
- Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2013
- Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2013
- Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2013



APRIL UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

Apr.	Acolytes	Crucifer	Lay Reader / Chalice Bearer	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lemonade/ Coffee Hour
7	Matthew Williamson Genie Parish	William Parish	8:00am - Steve Flannagan 10:30am - Tommy Roberson	Frank Madigan Marshall Cooper Jerry Cottrell Rick Palamar	Anora Rainey	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
14	Mason Stewardson	Parkins Davis	8:00am - Lucy Gray 10:30am - Richard Davis	Frank Madigan Marshall Cooper Jerry Cottrell Rick Palamar	Anora Rainey	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
21	Lehman Ford	Uriah Ford	8:00am - Hut Wester 10:30am - Nancy Whitt	Frank Madigan Marshall Cooper Jerry Cottrell Rick Palamar	Shirley Young	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
28	William Parish Genie Parish	Matthew Williamson	8:00am - Alton Stainback 10:30am - Tom Church	Frank Madigan Marshall Cooper Jerry Cottrell Rick Palamar	Shirley Young	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall

Submitted by Lucy Gray

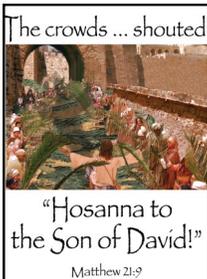


The Deacon's Bench

by the Rev. Harrel Johnson

HOSANNAH OR CRUCIFIXION?
Truly, this was the Son of God.

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. Why is it, then, that the Gospel speaks of crucifixion, and not just triumphal entry into Jerusalem? Stop and think for a moment. On the first Palm Sunday, our Lord came into Jerusalem hailed by the people in the Name of the Lord. Five days later, that same crowd of people, just like us, is crying, "Crucify him!" How fickle we are, but reject what he really reflects this same fallen nature. He had said, "I will never desert you." Sadly, Jesus says to Peter, "Even if others turn on you, deny me three times." We all deny Jesus and to accept Satan and his works and to accept continually fall into sin, choosing our own will rather than God's will for us. In every sin, we deny Jesus, and tragically, sin is a daily part of our lives.



as the Son of David, the One who comes later, that same crowd of people, just like us, is crying, "Crucify him!" How fickle we are, but reject what he really reflects this same fallen nature. He had said, "I will never desert you." Sadly, Jesus says to Peter, "Even if others turn on you, deny me three times." We all deny Jesus and to accept Satan and his works and to accept continually fall into sin, choosing our own will rather than God's will for us. In every sin, we deny Jesus, and tragically, sin is a daily part of our lives.

How does Jesus respond to our faithlessness? He first prays to God that we may be his, and that we not be lost. He then faces the reality of his impending death, praying that this cup of suffering may be taken away from him. However, he remains totally committed to his Father's will. "Not my will, but thine be done." Even after his betrayal and torture, as he is crucified, he prays, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." Jesus then takes upon himself the sins of all people who have ever lived, or who will ever live in the future. He who has never known sin, who is perfect in every way, feels the slime and corruption of sin and selfishness, reaching every part of his soul, cutting him off from the light of his Father and surrounding him in darkness and death. We know sin only too well. In fact, we have become inured to sin. For most of us, sin is so much a part of our lives that we don't even feel bad about "little" sins at all. But Jesus is never inured to sin. The enormity of all the sin of every soul in the universe is too horrible for us to even grasp. Jesus grasps the ugliness of sin, and cries out the words of the 22nd Psalm, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

In our own separation from God, we often feel forsaken. Yet we are never alone. Jesus is always with us, even when the cost of sin is death. Paul reminds us that the wages of sin is death. Jesus pays those wages for us. Having taken my sins and your sins into his own pure soul, having felt the separating effect of sin, he then pays its price, and dies on the cross.

Think for a moment: my sins, your sins, our sins - they nail Jesus to the cross. They caused the shedding of his innocent blood. They lead directly to his death. Jesus, truly the Son of God, dies on the cross to pay the price of my selfishness, my sinfulness. How can we respond to this unbelievable outpouring of love and compassion? What can we say in the face of such a sacrifice? While human words are so inadequate at a time like this, the words of the third stanza of Hymn 169 come to mind:

Hosanna!

"In thy most bitter passion my heart to share doth cry,
With thee for my salvation upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus moved to stand thy cross beneath,
to mourn thee, well beloved, yet thank thee for thy death."

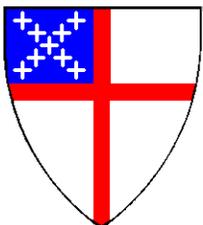


Here is the real meaning of Palm Sunday; not the all-too-human triumphal entry, soon to be forgotten like a ticker tape parade for human heroes, but the entry of Jesus into our sinfulness, the greatest sacrifice ever offered. This can never be forgotten. Yes, we may have joined the crowd to shout, "Hosannah!" but we would also have joined the same crowd to scream, "Crucify him!" Let us pray that we can then join with the centurion in proclaiming, in awe and humility, and even joy, "Truly, this was the Son of God."

"Ah, keep my heart thus moved to stand thy cross beneath,
to mourn thee, well beloved, yet thank thee for thy death."

Amen.





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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.**