

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

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April 2015

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FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



Bonhoeffer, the Crucifixion And the Resurrection

Dietrich Bonhoeffer is one of my heroes. He was a Lutheran theologian and pastor at the time Hitler and the Nazis came to power. Bonhoeffer chose to resist the Nazis tooth and nail because of their anti-Semitism, their warmongering and their destruction of Germany's democratic institutions. The Nazi party worked to subjugate the German Church, especially the German Protestants, to the agenda of the Hitler Regime.

Bonhoeffer recognized before they came to power that the Nazis were a threat to everything that was hopeful in Germany. It is important to note that while the Nazis had a significant electoral power base, they never won a majority position in the German Parliament.

However, they were a disruptive presence in both community and parliament and they were staunchly anti-Communist, another power group seeking to subvert the German people. So Hitler, though head of minority party, was invited into the government in the belief by other government leaders that he could be

From the Rector cont. pg.2



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

March 29 - Palm Sunday
April 2- Maundy Thursday
April 3- Good Friday
April 5 - Easter Sunday
(Service details on page 2.)

COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 30 - April 3
First United Methodist Church
(Noon services followed by lunch)



“controlled” while serving as club to pound on the communists. The belief that Hitler could be controlled was folly. His thirst for power was unquenchable. Once were created, with emphasis on and other leftist parties and the murderous assault on the Jews, he seemed like a positive force. By giving the people Jews as a scapegoat and the real hope of economic renewal, people surrendered intellectually and spiritually. The spiritual surrender was just as real as the political. The German Protestants accepted a new theology that denied Jesus was Jewish and eviscerated the doctrine of Love as the heart of Christianity. It speaks volumes that there was a German Lutheran Chapel on the grounds of Auschwitz to minister to the needs of German staff serving the death camp.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer helped organize dissident Lutherans into a Confessing Church that repudiated Nazi doctrine. He headed an illegal seminary that taught those seeking ordination the truth rather than Nazi Propaganda. To the amazement of many, he accepted a position in German Army Intelligence, where he secretly worked with other highly placed anti-Nazis to help Jews escape Germany, to solicit support from the Allies for German resistance and finally to plot the fated attempt on Hitler’s life. In the end, he was seized by the Gestapo, interrogated repeatedly, perhaps tortured and finally executed just two weeks before the concentration camp where he was held was liberated by Allied forces.

What has this to do with the themes of this most Holy Season? Bonhoeffer had to make difficult decisions. How does a Christian and a pacifist (which he was) decide to resist unto death a monstrous and tyrannical regime? Even more, how does one actively plot the assassination of a nation’s ruler and the overthrow of the government. In the end, his faith that Jesus was his guide enabled him to undertake this dangerous task. He was convinced that even if plotting murder was sin, the blood of Jesus and the Power of the Resurrection would bring forgiveness in that he was choosing the lesser of the great evils of his day. While in prison he devoted himself to study and prayer. Even when discouraged and depressed he presented a positive face to his fellow sufferers. He led them in prayer and offered counsel and encouragement. His last words to a

fellow prisoner, as he was led to be hanged were reported to be, “This is the ending, the beginning of life.” He went to his martyrdom confident that Jesus by his death and resurrection was victorious over evil, death, Nazis and every other force of evil in the world. Though the battle for righteousness might be long, bitter and bloody, Jesus will reign victorious.

There are many reasons why I believe in the literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. One of those reasons I find by studying the lives of the heroes of the faith who gave all, under the most difficult of circumstances to the cause of all that is good, and holy, and pure and loving and Godly. Jesus Lives. Amen. †

PARISH NEWS...



The Rev. Donald Lowery

Holy Innocents participates with the other downtown churches in Holy Week Community Services. These will be held at First United Methodist Church this year. Each service begins at **noon** and is followed by lunch at **12:30 p.m.** at our host church. I will preach on Wednesday and the ECW will serve lunch in the FUMC Fellowship Hall. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with fellow Christians in affirming our common faith in Jesus Christ. †



Maundy Thursday Service begins at **7:00 p.m.** in the church. Again this service shifts between joy and sorrow. We remember Jesus’ great commandment that we love one another as he has loved us. We celebrate the first Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion and so the altar is vested in festal white. However, as the service ends, the Sacrament is reserved for Communion on Good Friday and the Altar is solemnly stripped of all hangings to remind us that Jesus leaves that Upper Room to go to the Garden of Gethsemane and betrayal by one of his own disciples.



Good Friday has two services in the parish church. At **3:00 p.m.**, the traditional hour of Jesus’ death, we gather for Stations of the Cross. Step by step and aided in our devotions by simple pictures, we journey with Jesus to Golgotha. This service generally takes about half an hour. At **7:00 p.m.** we gather once more for the Proper Liturgy for Good Friday. Communion is given to those who desire it from sacrament set aside on Maundy Thursday.



Easter Sunday is wonderfully busy as we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. The first service is the Easter Vigil, a Sunrise Service at **6:00 a.m.** at Old St. John’s, (circa 1773) church in Williamsborough. This is one of my favorite services of the year. Beginning in darkness, the service starts with a symbolic Easter Fire and procession through the old cemetery. After moving indoors, we remember the story of our salvation by God’s saving acts on behalf humanity. Because the building sits on an East-West orientation, sunlight gradually begins to stream through the windows; a reminder the Jesus is the Light of the world.

Worship opportunities continue at Holy Innocents with **Holy Communion for Easter at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and Misa por Pascua at 12:30 p.m.** †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

The Youth Group will not meet on Easter Day. Fr. Don has a commitment to spend time with a church family that afternoon.

We will resume Youth Group April 12 at 5:00 pm. At gathering time we work on our 1,000 piece puzzle. This is followed with devotional time. After devotion and prayers we eat and then back for some games or a movie. Come and bring a friend. †



Betsy Seifert, President

Please plan to join us on Tuesday, April 28th at 10:00 a.m. for our next meeting. †

Tabitha Guild



Janet White, Betsy Catlett
& Margaret Williamson

We would love to have some more knitters join us to knit scarves for the homeless as well as prayer shawls! We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies Parlor on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

Come join us! †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

Despite the busy schedule for Holy Week, we will still have the once a month healing service, with communion at 5:30 p.m. on April 1st. The Lenten Program will continue after the service with a look at how a new technology enabled Martin Luther's call for reform to become a European wide (and eventually world-wide) movement. †

Wednesday Communion



The Rev. Donald Lowery

We will not have Wednesday Communion on April 8 so that I can spend some time with my parents. My oldest uncle was injured in a car accident after hitting a patch of black ice that skidded his pick-up into a tree. He is recovering nicely but dad and mom want to see me and spend some time with him.

On April 15, we return to our normal schedule of 5:30 p.m. communion on all Wednesdays. We will continue our after-service program as well.

Lenten Program becomes Easter Program

(with two times being offered)

We did not quite finish our Lenten look at some key moments in Church History. So, beginning on April 15 the program will continue after the Wednesday Communion. However, we will also offer the same material in the Ladies Ingle Parlor at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. The worship at this program will be Noonday Prayer. †

Operation Starfish

The Rev. Donald Lowery

March was a month marred with a continuation of nasty winter weather. We were not able to distribute all our mite boxes for Operation Starfish. We will collect those mite boxes that are full on Easter. We are committed as part of the Diocese of North Carolina to use Operation Hospitality 50/50 about which Deacon Johnson has written during Eastertide.



We will resume Operation Starfish on Trinity Sunday and continue it through the summer. We still have mite boxes available. Take one home and use it this summer so that your daily change can literally change lives. †



REMINDER—

Marsha Nelson

If you are interested in applying for a 2015-2016 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. (www.churchoftheholymnocents.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. †

April Schedule

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule

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

DAILY MORNING PRAYER

Monday - Thursday (weekly)

7:30 AM, Ladies Parlor

Wednesday – April 1

5:30 PM, Holy Communion
Healing Service

Thursday - April 2 (Maundy Thurs)

7:00 PM, Holy Communion with
solemn stripping of the Altar

Friday - April 3 (Good Friday)

3:00 PM, Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM, Liturgy w/ Communion

Sunday – April 5 (Easter Sunday)

6:00 AM, Sunrise Service - St. John's
8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist—Rite II
12:30 PM, Misa por Pascua

Wednesday – April 8

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry

Sunday – April 12

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:30 AM, Children's Sunday School
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Tuesday – April 14

10:00 AM, Tabitha (Ladies Parlor)

Wednesday – April 15

11:00 AM, Church History (Ladies Parlor)
5:30 PM, Holy Communion/Church History

Sunday – April 19

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:30 AM, Children's Sunday School
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist—Rite II
12:30 PM, Misa por Pascua

Wednesday – April 22

11:00 AM, Church History (Ladies Parlor)
3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
5:30 PM, Holy Communion/Church History

Sunday – April 26

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

Tuesday – April 28

10:00 AM, ECW (Ladies Parlor)
Tabitha

Wednesday – April 29

11:00 AM, Church History (Ladies Parlor)
5:30 PM, Holy Communion/Church History

Treasurer's Report

3/07/2015

**Church Of The Holy Innocents
Revenue and Expense Summary
Year-to-date, Through February 2015**

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)
Revenues				
Pledged Income	\$16,881.03	\$18,100.00	\$76,002.96	\$72,600.00
Other Income	\$201.57	\$1,000.00	\$714.79	\$2,000.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$17,082.60</u>	<u>\$19,100.00</u>	<u>\$76,717.75</u>	<u>\$74,600.00</u>
Expenses				
Compensation				
Salaries	\$6,603.02	\$7,109.00	\$13,163.85	\$14,210.00
Employee Expenses				
Rector's Expenses	\$1,021.86	\$1,000.00	\$1,901.25	\$2,000.00
Other Employee Expenses	\$2,299.84	\$3,733.00	\$8,892.64	\$8,667.00
Total Employee Expenses	<u>\$3,321.70</u>	<u>\$4,733.00</u>	<u>\$10,793.89</u>	<u>\$10,667.00</u>
Total Compensation	<u>\$9,924.72</u>	<u>\$11,842.00</u>	<u>\$23,957.74</u>	<u>\$24,877.00</u>
Administrative				
Supplies	\$185.07	\$200.00	\$506.01	\$550.00
Preschool Income/Expense	\$71.07	(\$50.00)	\$706.38	(\$100.00)
General Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Other Administrative Expenses	\$133.00	\$825.00	\$1,035.88	\$1,050.00
Total Administrative	<u>\$389.14</u>	<u>\$1,975.00</u>	<u>\$2,248.27</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
Utilities	\$2,505.55	\$1,800.00	\$4,692.74	\$3,600.00
Maintenance	\$1,711.16	\$700.00	\$2,764.21	\$1,400.00
Parish Life	\$640.67	\$250.00	(\$41.91)	\$750.00
Diocesan & Seminary Support	\$2,242.00	\$2,200.00	\$4,484.00	\$4,900.00
Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$17,413.24</u>	<u>\$18,767.00</u>	<u>\$38,105.05</u>	<u>\$38,027.00</u>
Net Total	(\$330.64)	\$333.00	\$38,612.70	\$36,573.00

Bob Nelson, Treasurer





April 2015

The Deacon's Bench

by the Rev. Harrel Johnson

Today is the Sunday before the week of Palm Sunday, Lent is almost over and the festivities of Easter are very near. To me it marks the end of the season for penitence. It is however never too late!

In today's psalm, psalm 51, we prayed, "Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

In today's psalm, the writer tells of his desire for a second chance, a clean heart, a renewed spirit. Tradition ascribes this psalm to King David and says he composed it after he is confronted by the prophet Nathan for committing adultery and then using his power to have a man killed to cover the king's own wrongdoing. The writer of the psalm feels the weight of his sins keenly. He feels his sin as a disconnection from God. The image he uses to express his longing for reconnection, for restoration of right relationship with God, is his heart's need for cleansing. Sin has soiled his heart, and so he cries out, "Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

What would we do with a clean heart, a renewed heart, a second chance?

In our Old Testament lesson Jeremiah 31: 31-41, God says through the prophet Jeremiah that God will write God's law on the people's hearts and forgive their sins. In a passage from the prophet Ezekiel, Ezekiel 11:19, God promises an even more radical surgery: "I will give them a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within them. I will remove their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh."

What would we do with a clean heart, a new heart, a second chance?

What we hear in our gospel lesson, John 12:20-23, is that, in Jesus, we know someone who not only knows our sins, but who does something about them. When we meet him in today's lesson, Jesus is on his way to the cross. And he gives this promise: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Sin is what separates us from God, others, ourselves and our world. When Jesus is lifted up on the cross, he will set in motion the reconciliation of all people, the forgiveness of all people, the drawing of all people to himself. It is a picture of reconciliation or of the healing of broken relationships, with God, with others, with our own selves. It's not about giving us a chance to earn our forgiveness. Since our hearts need cleansing, God is going to do it. And through Jesus Christ, we can have a clean heart that can love again. For a second chance, and a third, and a fourth.

So the question is not, "What would you do with a second chance?" but rather, "What will you do with a chance to start over again, and another, and another?"

In giving us new life, Jesus also gives us a way to respond, a pattern of life: his own. And it is not about living in a cautious and closed-off way. Jesus' way of life is a life of taking risks, of reaching out to others, of serving the poor, of working for justice, of being reconciled with others, of being like grains of wheat that multiply if they are willing to give up the certainty of being seeds for the adventure of growth and new life and the spreading of blessings.

What will you do with your clean heart, your chance to start over again?

 He is
RISEN



Birthdays

Griselle Woodard	4/02
Edward Stevenson	4/04
Macon Pearsall	4/04
Catherine Watkins	4/05
Jean Palamar	4/06
Henry Strause	4/08
Meredith Ellis	4/08
Graham Shearin	4/12
Christopher Nelson	4/12
Yolanda Yoder	4/12
Mariana Davis	4/14
John Zollicoffer	4/15
Anna Parks Stewardson	4/18
D. Boyd Kimball	4/19
Fagan Goodwin	4/20
Al Catlett	4/27
Thornton Gholson	4/27
Butch Gray	4/28
Bob Herford	4/30

Anniversaries

Katherine and Bob Kittrell	4/16
Fagan and James Goodwin	4/19

Remember In Your Prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Cynthia Shaw, Helen Church Miles, Trayce Wheless, Barbara Collins, Staci Barnett, Harry Collins, Hazel Peck, Mary Ann Hill, Barbara Madigan, Melody Shearin, Carolyn Lowery, Belinda Catlett, Mary Shearin, Meghan Bunn, Laura Peace, Mason Allgood, Vivie Drake, Peggy Polak, Graham Shearin, Robin Platt, Bill Duff, Tommy Greenway, Francis Saunders, Ann Pollock Bliss, Lisa Adcock, Marsha Nelson, Barbara Foster, Bobby Moss, Al Thompson, Marshall Cooper, Hannah Youngblood, Emory Taylor and Jean Gaddy Scholl.



Special Dates

- Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2015
- Good Friday
April 3, 2015
- Holy Saturday
April 4, 2015
- Easter Sunday
April 5, 2015



Altar Flowers

- Parham Family 4/2
- Kaherine & Bob Kittrell 4/5
(Bennett Perry)
- Janet White 4/12
- Peggy Williams 4/19
- Grisselle Woodward 4/26

APRIL UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

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

APR	BEARERS	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	LAYREADER/ CHALICE BEARER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	VESTRY GREETER
2		Sarah Rose Parish Mary Beth Parish	Genie Parish	7:00pm - Lucy Gray MAUNDY THURSDAY		Shirley Young	
3	Lehman Ford (Book)		Uriah Ford	3:00pm - Stations-of-the Cross 7:00pm - Liturgy for Good Friday GOOD FRIDAY		Shirley Young	
5	Juliana Negron (Book); Lorena Negron (Banner) Ethan Holloway (Tintinabulus)	Mary Beth Parish Sarah Rose Parish Jason Elliott Misty Holloway	William Parish 6am Genie Parish 10:30 AJ Holloway 10:30 (2nd Cross)	6:00am - Nick Andrews 8:00am - Hut Wester 10:30am - Nancy Whitt EASTER SUNDAY	Frank Madigan Marshall Cooper Jerry Cottrell Rick Palamar	Shirley Young	Tracy Madigan
12	LC Olmert (Book) Uriah Ford (Banner)	Brennan Olmert Tucker Olmert	Lehman Ford	8:00am - Steve Flannagan 10:30 am - Richard Davis	Frank Madigan Marshall Cooper Jerry Cottrell Rick Palamar	Anora Rainey	Margaret Williamson
19	Juliana Negron (Book): Lorena Negron (Banner)	Ethan Holloway Jason Elliott	AJ Holloway	8:00am - Bob Nelson 10:30 am - Ruth Hartness	Frank Madigan Marshall Cooper Jerry Cottrell Rick Palamar	Anora Rainey	John Foster
26	LC Olmert (Book): Misty Holloway (Banner)	Tucker Olmert Brennan Olmert	Uriah Ford	8:00am - Rick Palamar 10:30am - Tom Church	Frank Madigan Marshall Cooper Jerry Cottrell Rick Palamar	Mariana Davis	Anne Almand

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

DIOCESE NEWS...

History Day 2015

Saturday, April 18

A Calculated Leap: Black Episcopal Missions, Schools and Bishops 1865-1918

Our fourth annual History Day will be held on Saturday, April 18 and it is sponsored by the Bicentennial Planning Committee of the three Episcopal dioceses in North Carolina. This year's focus is the period after the Civil War, when the Episcopal Church in North Carolina had no precedents to follow for ministry among the newly emancipated people within its bounds. As the years passed and the times changed, both blacks and whites alike made pragmatic compromises to achieve their increasingly divergent goals. And unique to this era is this year's site – Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, founded in 1867.

Our keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Harold T. Lewis, noted priest, historian and author. Lewis's keynote will be titled "From Colored Missions to Colored Suffragans: The Episcopal Church's Awkward Attempts at Black Ministry, 1865-1918."

Following Lewis' historical overview, we will have a panel discussion examining more closely the Church's African-American ministry in three cities across North Carolina: Wilmington, Asheville and Durham. In all three places, the Episcopal Church formed separate black congregations which endure to this day: St. Mark's, Wilmington; St. Matthias, Asheville; and St. Titus', Durham.

Lunch in the Martin Luther King Center will follow the morning presentation and exhibits. After lunch, guided tours of several historic buildings will be offered, including the chapel, the library, the former Bishop Tuttle Memorial Training School, and the former St. Agnes Hospital site. In addition to a Saturday afternoon reception at Saint Ambrose's Church in Raleigh, our "Make it a Weekend" options include "Art in the Evening" on Friday at the North Carolina Museum of Art and Sunday services at one of Raleigh's Historic Episcopal Churches.

REGISTER ONLINE

For additional information or a mail-in registration form, please contact [Lynn Hoke](mailto:Lynn.Hoke@nc.rr.com), project archivist, 919-602-4305.



Easter Cake

Celebrate our risen Lord with this uniquely decorated cake.

What you need:

- Adult help
- Box of cake mix (any flavor)
- Tub of brown frosting
- Shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- Chocolate Hostess Ding Dong cupcake
- Donut hole
- Pretzel sticks
- M&M's candies

What you do:

1. Bake cake in rectangular pan. When cool, frost it.
2. Pour coconut into bowl. Add drops of green food coloring. Mix until coconut resembles grass.
3. In one corner of cake, set Ding Dong upright to resemble a tomb. Place donut hole in front of it, to one side.
4. Make three crosses with six pretzel sticks and some frosting. Arrange on opposite corner from tomb.
5. Use brown M&M's to make a path from the crosses to the tomb.
6. Use other colors of M&M's to spell out "Jesus lives!"

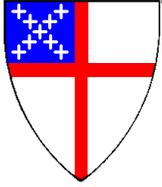


Note from the Editor...

Marsha Nelson

May
Newsletter items are
due:
April 27th

Please email news items to:
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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.**

