

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

Volume 8 - Number 2

February 2012

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FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



February is February Everywhere

Once, when feeling a bit down and out because I was tired of a particularly nasty spell of February weather, a friend remarked, "Well, you know Don, February is February everywhere." He helped snap me out of a little blue spell in my life by reminding me that unless one has the resources to escape to a tropical beach, February is something that one endures to move on to better things. I will say that if January is a predictor, we may have a mild February, though only time will tell. However, February 2012 is not going to be a dull month no matter what the weather.

The first adventure is a personal one in the service of the church. All

senior seminarians preparing for Ordination are required to pass a comprehensive examination known as the General Ordination Exam. It is administered in January of the seminarians' senior year over the course of a week. The test is all day Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday with Wednesday off for a little rest of body, spirit, and mind. The exams are then read and scored by a group of clergy and laity appointed by the General Board of Examining Chaplains. I have been appointed to be a reader of General Ordination Exams. I will leave church

From the Rector cont. pg. 2

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Mark Your Calendar

- **HEALING SERVICE (Feb. 1)**
(Parlor of Hughes House)
7:00 p.m.
- **COMMUNION SERVICE**
See page 2 for details **(Feb. 2)**
5:30 p.m.
- **SHROVE TUESDAY (Feb. 21)**
Pancake Supper
(Lower Hall of Parish House)
6:00 p.m.
- **ASH WEDNESDAY (Feb. 22)**
Services at Noon & 7:00 p.m.
- **LENTEN PROGRAM**
See page 2 for details

after the Hispanic Service on February 5, 2012 and spend the week at Kanuga Episcopal Conference Center doing this work for the wider church.

On February 2nd, there will be a communion service at 5:30 p.m. to observe the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple. This is the last feast day attached to the Christmas Cycle of Holy Days and celebrates Mary and Joseph obeying the commandment of the Law of Moses that a child born into a family be presented to God with an appropriate offering.

Remember "Food for the Poor?" They are one of the largest hunger relief and development agencies in the Western Hemisphere. We will have a special speaker from Food for the Poor on February 12. This agency is one of the best regarded in the world for this kind of work and they will help us focus on ways we can help the hungry that are practical and that are focused on helping people return to self-sufficiency.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Lent is coming. On February 21 we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a Mardi Gras theme in our annual Pancake Supper. The vestry does this meal for the congregation and there is no charge, though we will gladly accept donations. The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Lower Hall.

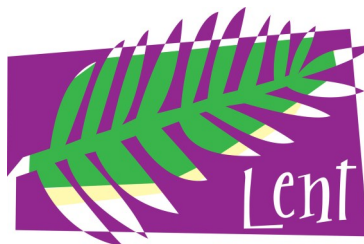


Ash Wednesday is February 22 and on that day we enter the solemn season of Lent. There will services at Noon and 7:00 p.m. with the imposition of ashes. Subsequent Wednesday evenings will include worship and a special program. Details are outlined in another article in this newsletter.

February may turn out to very cold or unusually mild. The days may be gray and dreary or sunny and cheerful. Thanks be to God, the days will not be dull here at the Church of the Holy Innocents. †



PARISH NEWS...



Our Lenten Program

Father Donald Lowery

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church will meet in July of 2012. This body gathers every three years to conduct business on behalf of the Episcopal Church in the United States. It consists of two legislative houses, the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. Each diocesan convention elects four lay deputies and four clergy deputies to represent them. All Bishops with jurisdiction, that is, not retired and still serving actively in some capacity make up the House of the Bishops. I served as a deputy from the Diocese of Upper South Carolina at the General Conventions of 2000 and 2003.

At this General Convention, services for blessing gay unions will be presented with a resolution to offer them to the church for trial use. Trial use means that the services are considered experimental and can only be used with the permission of one's local bishop.

After a period of use where bishops grant permission, the services may be returned to General Convention for approval for use throughout the church. The services may also be revised in the light of use in parishes and dioceses where permission for their use is granted and presented to General Convention for approval for more trial uses. General Convention may also reject the services entirely or send them back for further revision and more trial use.

Even though the services will still be in trial, experimental use, this will be a very controversial step. So, at the request of the vestry, I will be conducting a series of Lenten Studies on what we might expect to come out of General Convention with regard to these services. The classes will be offered twice each week, on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and in the Sunday adult forum at 9:35 a.m. in the Parlor.

What I intend to do at this point in time is review briefly the history of the debate about gay rights in the Episcopal Church; offer an overview of the arguments presented both pro and con and if they are available review the actual texts, though at this time I have not seen them and don't know if they are available prior to convention. I will know by the time Lent begins and will adjust the program accordingly. I do not intend to be confrontational and honestly hope to avoid as much controversy as possible by presenting both sides as fairly and honestly as possible.

'Holy Innocents members have a diversity of opinions at this point in time. Some members view this as a logical step forward for the Episcopal Church. Others are not in favor of this happening but can live with the services being offered to dioceses that wish to use them. I know folks who are adamantly opposed to this step in the church and some who wish the whole matter would just go away. I hope to offer something that will be of value to congregational members wherever they may stand on this difficult issue. †

Parish news continued p. 3

Refocus for Lent



Give up complaining – focus on gratitude.

Give up harsh judgments – think kind thoughts.

Give up worry – trust God to provide.

Give up discouragement – be full of hope.

Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred – return good for evil.

Give up anger – be more patient.

Give up pettiness – become mature.

Give up jealousy – pray for trust.

Give up gossiping – control your tongue.

Give up sin – turn to virtue.

Give up giving up – persevere.

—Author unknown



Friends in Christ



Father Donald Lowery

We will not meet on February 5th because I have to go to Kanuga immediately after the Hispanic service to help score the General Ordination Exams. We will meet on all other Sundays of February at 4:45 p.m. †



Father Donald Lowery

Our Healing Service will be held on February 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor of the Hughes House. †



Flower Dates Available

Frank Madigan

The following dates are still available for our 2012 Sunday services:

March 4, May 6 & 13, July 29, August 5, 12 & 19, October 7, 14 & 21.

Please take a moment to sign up on the schedule posted in the Tower. The flowers are such a beautiful and important addition to our Altar on Sundays. †



Tabitha Guild

Betsy Catlett & Janet White

We would love to have some more knitters! Please plan to join us at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor on Tuesday, February 14th and Tuesday, February 28th. †



Betsy Seifert, President

The ECW met on January 24th at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor. Members discussed the success of the bazaar which was held on Saturday, December 3rd and, also, ways to do even better next year.

Lisa Miravalle, chairman of the bazaar, provided facts and figures from the December bazaar to the group and Marsha Nelson provided information on our overall financial account balance which included the earnings from the bazaar.

Next month - on the fourth Tuesday (February 28) - we shall meet and discuss ways to spend some of our funds. Ladies-- please come! See you at ten o'clock! †



...HOW WIDE AND LONG
AND HIGH AND DEEP
IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

EPHESIANS 3:18, NIV

VESTRY NEWS...

Senior Warden's Report

One of the improvements in our church governance over the past 60 years is the concept of a rotating vestry. As recently as the 1950's, an appointment to the vestry of the Church of the Holy Innocent's was a lifetime appointment. It was not unusual to see a man (and the vestry was made up solely of men in those days) serve for 25 or 30 continuous years.

We now have a requirement in both our church bylaws and the Canon law, which requires that we elect four persons to serve three year terms each year. You have to take at least one year off the vestry before you can serve another term. This keeps the vestry fresh, with new ideas and new methods complementing several veterans who serve on a particular vestry. The rotation system keeps vestry members from becoming burned out in the position.

The system means that we have to say, "Farewell, good and faithful servant", to a number of church leaders each year. This year, we saw the terms of Marshall Cooper, Sharon Stark and Greg Taylor come to an end, as well as Senior Warden Nancy Saunders Whitt. At the beginning of a new year, the Rector nominates the Wardens, who are then approved by the vestry when other officers are elected. This year, Nick Long, Jr. will serve as Senior Warden, and Richard Davis, IV will continue his role as Junior Warden. Fagan Cheatham Goodwin will act as Clerk (Secretary to the vestry) and Bob Nelson will be the Treasurer, ably assisted by Donald Seifert.

Much of the business of the vestry is accomplished in committee meetings. At the January vestry meeting, we discussed where the other members of the vestry wished to serve this year, and vestry members chose the committees which most interested them. Those assignments are:

-Worship & Christian Formation-
Steve Flannagan and Fagan Goodwin

-Outreach-

Dianne Floyd and Ann Behar

-Parish Life-

Anne Bliss and Kathy Taylor

-Finance and Stewardship-

Scott Hartness, Lisa Miravalle, Bill Stark

-Personnel-

Nick Long, Richard Davis, Bill Stark
and Nancy Whitt

In the upcoming months, I hope to give you some insight into the decisions the vestry makes, and also to profile members of the vestry for the members of the parish.

It is somewhat unusual to have a Senior Warden who resides out of town, but I will do my best to keep the distance from being a hardship to my service. If you need to reach the Senior Warden, the best number is my cell phone 919-210-3400. I also have a toll free number: 877-299-9401. My e-mail address is nlong2@nc.rr.com. I appreciate the confidence the vestry showed in allowing me to serve you as this year's Senior Warden.

Nick Long, Jr., Senior Warden

Note from the Editor...

Marsha Nelson

March

Newsletter Deadline

February 22


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.

Click on links are located on :

- page 1 (Facebook box & web address)
- page 3 (ECW News Pic)
- page 7 (Convention Pic)

To view the link, move your mouse over the item noted above (a new mouse symbol appears) and click on it—you'll go to linked site. If a permission message pops up—click on **allow**. After viewing the link, just click on the  in the upper right hand corner of your screen to return to the newsletter.

February 2012 Schedule of Events

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule

Children's Choir — Wed. at 3:15 PM
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 – February 1

7:00 PM, Healing Service (Hughes House)

Thursday – February 2

5:30 PM, Communion Service
(Presentation of Our Lord)

Sunday – February 5

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 – February 8

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry

Sunday – February 12

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 – February 14

10:00 AM, Tabitha Guild (Ladies Parlor)

Sunday – February 19

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 – February 22 (Ash Weds.)

Noon & 6:00 PM Services
3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry

Sunday – February 26

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 – February 28

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

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

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.



Valentine's
Day




FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.

 gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each
ot _____ d _____ give
_____ e an _____ if _____ y
of you h _____ grie _____ ce
a _____ st some _____ .

For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

Colossians 3:13, NIV

Birthdays

Bo Cheatham.....	2/03
Tim Seitzer, Sr.....	2/04
Ric Davis.....	2/04
Penny Wiggins.....	2/06
Berkeley Ellis.....	2/08
Barbara Foster.....	2/12
Nicholas Long, III.....	2/12
Lucy Gray.....	2/15
Gail Houle.....	2/17
Hazel Peck.....	2/18
Ginger Dow.....	2/20
Ashley Stewardson.....	2/20
Shelby Van Venrooy.....	2/20
Uriah Ford.....	2/21
Christopher Catlett.....	2/23
Jerry Cottrell.....	2/25



Remember In Your Prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Cynthia Shaw, Helen Church Miles, Trayce Wheless, Gracia Bobbitt, Barbara Collins, Staci Barnett, Virginia Wester, Harry Collins, Ann Jaeger, Jean Tilley, Mary Ann Hill, Barbara Madigan, Melody Shearin, Rachel Ellis, Marie Young, Jan Strause, Jane Zollicoffer, Frances Finey, Jim Ross, and Virginia Frank.



Anniversaries

Mary Ann & Norman Hill.....	2/03
Mariana & Richard Davis.....	2/03
Virginia & Hut Wester.....	2/10
Amy & Harrel Johnson.....	2/16
Biz & Boo Borden.....	2/17



Special Dates

- African-American History Month
February, 2012
- Valentine's Day
February 14, 2012
- Transfiguration of the Lord
February 19, 2012
- President's Day
February 20, 2012
- Shrove Tuesday
February 21, 2012
- Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2012
- First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2012

FEBRUARY UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

Feb.	Acolytes	Crucifer	Lay Reader / Chalice Bearer	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lemonade/ Coffee Hour
5	Mason Stewardson	Sam Long	8:00am - Alton Stainback 10:30am - Nick Long	Dianne Floyd Maurice Floyd D. Boyd Kimball	Mariana Davis	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
12	Lehman Ford	Uriah Ford	8:00am - Bob Nelson 10:30am - Tom Church	Dianne Floyd Maurice Floyd D. Boyd Kimball	Mariana Davis	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
19	William Parish Genie Parish	Matthew Williamson	8:00am - Steve Flannagan 10:30am - Tommy Roberson	Dianne Floyd Maurice Floyd D. Boyd Kimball	Anora Rainey	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
22	ASH WEDNESDAY		12:00pm - Marshall Cooper 7:00pm - Hut Wester	****	****	****
26	Parkins Davis	Alexis VanVenrooy	8:00am - Lucy Gray 10:30am - Richard Davis	Dianne Floyd Maurice Floyd D. Boyd Kimball	Anora Rainey	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall

Submitted by Lucy Gray



The Deacon's Bench

by the Rev. Harrel Johnson

I have just returned from the annual convention of our Diocese. Both our Bishop Michael Curry and our Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts-Schori have planted some rather significant seeds of change in my mine. In his address Bishop Curry talks about going to Galilee, into the mission field and no where did I get the sense that this Galilee that the Bishop speaks of is inside a Church building but out in the world along side of and at the crossroads and intersections of the road that leads to Galilee.



Our Presiding Bishop also offered a vision of a new model for the Episcopal Church of the future. A church that not only includes Cathedrals and old and new buildings of all types of architecture but House Churches held in peoples homes, open air Churches in parks and parking lots. Churches that are truly on the road to Galilee and in Galilee, so where is Galilee in Henderson NC? I'm not sure but I do know that it is not at 210 South Chestnut Street.

If you have not yet figured it out, Deacons are not just another actor in the pageantry of our Sunday morning worship. Being a Deacon is about being a servant. God didn't save us to be a sensation. God saved us to be servants. Deacons also are supposed to lead others to be servants. . We are all called to be servants to others without expectation of secular rewards.

So how do we become better servants?



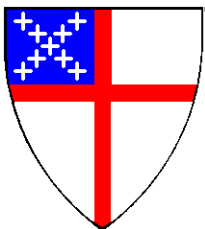
One way is by making sure that the motivation for our service is love. Eighteenth-century Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Secker said, "God has three sorts of servants in the world: some are slaves, and serve him from fear; others are hirelings, and serve for wages; and the last are sons and [daughters], who serve because they love." ↓

Another way to become better servants is by being mindful of who it is that calls us to serve. We should remember that in all things we serve God and God alone. By becoming more aware of God's presence in everyday life, we can strive to understand that all that we do is somehow of God. With this approach, even the most ordinary task that might not usually be associated with our spiritual lives might be viewed as service. ↓

A third way is to become better servants by ensuring that our church is a servant church that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus to every creature.

Is our congregation a servant church? Does it have a clear understanding that it exist in service to Jesus? Do all of our actions stem from Jesus' call to proclaim the gospel? Do our worship services, community outreach, and activities all have the possibility to transform those that we touch? If not then it is time to begin talk about changing our focus on Christ divine purpose, because, after all the mission of the church is the mission of Jesus Christ servant to all. †





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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.**