

# The Bell Tower

## The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

Volume 12 - Number 2

February 2016

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### FROM THE RECTOR

*The Rev. Donald Lowery*



#### Is it Lent again, already?

It seems like only yesterday that it was Christmas. I clearly remember Christmas trees and Christmas hymns and Advent Wreaths and Christ Candles. Suddenly, it is Lent, that sacred season of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. One reason why it seems odd that Lent is upon us already is that Lent is beginning early this year, which means we will have an early, March Easter this year.

Lent is a time for reflection. It is a time to go deeper into the reality of the Love of God. Why reflect on the destructive power of sin, if not to go the next step and experience the power of God's forgiveness? Why reflect on the power of the negative emotions, especially hate, to harm and destroy us, if not to go on to the next step and

experience the power of God's love to transform us? More than anything else, Lent is about Love. It is about God's love for us, always reaching out to humanity, always reaching out to each one of us to transform and heal and forgive us so that we become shining witnesses to God's power to all those around us. It is about our Love for God, which ever seeks the one who created and who redeemed us in Jesus Christ. We may fall away from God at times, but God calls us back to himself, indeed, the deepest yearnings of our heart hear that call, for God made us to be his children and we are restless until we are nestled in the arms of our loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lent begins on February 10, 2016. There will be two services on Ash Wednesday, one at Noon and another at 7:00 p.m. Holy Communion with the imposition of Ashes will be observed at both services.

Lent is also a time for renewed fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ. The earliest Christians often joined worship with a meal and we will do that this Lent. Each Wednesday in Lent we will have a service of Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m., followed by supper in the Lower Hall at 6:10 p.m. Even if you cannot make the 5:30 p.m. services, please attend the meal if you are able. The fellowship IS the program. It will be a time when we can get to know one another better, draw closer to one another and see the face of Christ in each other. Bring a friend as well. A meal is a wonderful time to introduce an unchurched to the Holy Innocents. We may not always be sure what to expect in an Episcopal Church service, we all, thank God, know how to eat.

Yes, it is Lent again. A time to grow in God's love and grace, a time to

*From the Rector cont. pg. 2*

enjoy fellowship with another and grow in the love that God plants in every Christian heart. †



## Friends in Christ

### PARISH NEWS...



*The Rev. Donald Lowery*

Our Healing service will be held on February 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. This service of Healing and Holy Communion will be celebrated in the Church. †



### Tabitha Guild

*Janet White, Betsy Catlett & Margaret Williamson*

The Tabitha Guild will not meet on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> but will plan to meet on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Ladies' Parlor at 10:00 a.m.

If you know of someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please let us know. Thanks! †

### Schedule for the first part of Lent:



### SHROVE TUESDAY

*The Rev. Donald Lowery*

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held in the Lower Hall on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.



Ash Wednesday is on February 10<sup>th</sup>. We will observe the day with the proper liturgy appointed in the prayer book. There will be services at Noon and 7:00 p.m. with imposition of ashes at both services. The ashes serve to remind us both of the call to repentance for sin and of our mortality for which God alone, in his mercy, provides a remedy.



On the subsequent Wednesdays, February 17<sup>th</sup> and February 24<sup>th</sup>, Holy Communion will be offered at 5:30 p.m. and supper will follow in the Lower Hall at 6:10 p.m. †



*The Rev. Donald Lowery*

Youth Group will meet on February 7<sup>th</sup> for a Souper/Super Bowl Party at the Holloway Home - 225 Country Club Drive. Please plan to arrive any time between 5-5:30 p.m. to watch those Panthers win - we hope and pray!

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Group will meet at 5:00 p.m. at the church. †



### It's Souper Bowl Time!

*Yolanda Yoder*

On Sunday Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, HI Youth will once again be collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring. They are asking everyone to bring a canned food AND a donation (perhaps equivalent to what you would spend on lunch). All donations will go directly to ACTS and be reported to the national Souper Bowl of Caring organization.

Last year our youth raised \$202.25. Let's make sure we top that in 2016! †

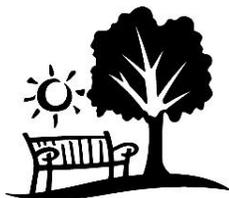
Info at : [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org)

# Lent



*Betsy Seifert, President*

The ECW will meet on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor. We look forward to having you join us! †



February 2016

# The Deacon's Bench



by The Rev. Harrel Johnson

In the coming week, churches around the world will undergo a transformation of sorts, as the liturgical calendar moves from the season after Epiphany to the season of Lent. Our praise-filled shouts of “Alleluia!” will give way to Lent’s solemn petition, “Lord have mercy.” Many churches will retire their finest brass and festive hangings in favor of simpler and more contemplative fixtures. And the lectionary will lead us down from the mountaintop where the transfigured Christ is revealed in glory, through the valley of the shadow of death, and ultimately to Jerusalem where the cross and tomb await.

Lent weighs heavily on us. It urges us to recall the suffering and death of our Lord. So, in many ways, we arrive at this final Sunday before Lent with a mix of anticipation and anxiety, a combination of joy and dread. It is no accident, then, that every year on this Sunday, we hear again the story of Christ’s transfiguration on the mountaintop because, at the heart of this story, we find these all-too-familiar feelings: anticipation diluted by anxiety and joy thinned by dread.

Luke’s Gospel tells us that Jesus summons Peter, James, and John to the mountaintop. Without getting our contextual bearings, we may be tempted to believe that the chosen disciples happily agreed and gleefully followed Jesus without reservation. However, we must recall that just a few verses earlier in chapter 9, Jesus tells the disciples that he must undergo great suffering, be rejected, killed, and then rise from the dead. “If any want to become my followers,” Jesus says, “let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.” As Peter, James, and John journey with Jesus to the mountaintop, they are forced to come to grips with the horrifying truth that Jesus, their beloved friend and leader, must suffer and die!

The disciples had heard God say, “This is my Son, my chosen; *listen* to him!” So instead of running and telling the world what they had seen on the mountain, what if they chose instead to obey; to be silent so they could listen?



In a world bustling with noise and chaos, where words and rhetoric are shouted with impunity, stirring up fear and angst, perhaps this is the word from the Lord that we need to hear.

Amidst all of the joys and heartbreaks of the world; in the face of all of the delight and despair that surrounds us; and despite all of the things we know and can never know, God beckons us, ever so gently: *Listen*.

Imagine for a moment, what the world might look like if we listened—not in preparation to respond, but in order to understand.

What might our politics look like if we listened more and argued less? What might our schools look like if we taught our children how to listen as intently and deliberately as we taught them how to speak and to write? And what might our churches look like if we listened intently for the voice of God from those who differ from us?

In his book, *Bread for the Journey*, the Catholic priest and theologian Henri J.M. Nouwen writes:

*“To listen is very hard, because it asks of us so much interior stability that we no longer need to prove ourselves by speeches, arguments, statements, or declarations. True listeners no longer have an inner need to make their presence known. They are free to receive, to welcome, to accept... The beauty of listening is that, those who are listened to start feeling accepted, start taking their words more seriously and discovering their own true selves. Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends, to get to know their inner selves more fully, and even to dare to be silent with you.”<sup>[1]</sup>*

As our Lenten journey approaches, and the chaos of the world presses in with voices of despair clanging in our ears, may we remember how to listen. For it is in listening that we truly hear one another.

And it is in listening that we hear the voice of God. Amen †



# Treasurer's Report

1/27/2016

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

| Accounts                               | MTD Actual<br>(This Year) | MTD Budget<br>(This Year) | YTD Actual<br>(This Year) | YTD Budget<br>(This Year) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                        |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Pledged Income                         | \$23,855.00               | \$25,500.00               | \$188,577.91              | \$206,000.00              |
| Other Income                           | \$1,051.50                | \$1,000.00                | \$5,374.46                | \$12,000.00               |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                  | <u>\$24,906.50</u>        | <u>\$26,500.00</u>        | <u>\$193,952.37</u>       | <u>\$218,000.00</u>       |
| <b>Expenses</b>                        |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| <b>Compensation</b>                    |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Salaries                               | \$6,992.89                | \$7,109.00                | \$81,874.28               | \$85,300.00               |
| Employee Expenses                      |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Rector's Expenses                      | \$939.32                  | \$1,000.00                | \$12,667.06               | \$12,200.00               |
| Other Employee Expenses                | (\$11,454.05)             | \$3,633.00                | \$30,241.43               | \$45,800.00               |
| <b>Total Employee Expenses</b>         | <u>(\$10,514.73)</u>      | <u>\$4,633.00</u>         | <u>\$42,908.49</u>        | <u>\$58,000.00</u>        |
| <b>Total Compensation</b>              | <u>(\$3,521.84)</u>       | <u>\$11,742.00</u>        | <u>\$124,782.77</u>       | <u>\$143,300.00</u>       |
| <b>Administrative</b>                  |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Supplies                               | (\$324.63)                | \$200.00                  | \$1,890.13                | \$3,000.00                |
| Preschool Income/Expense               | (\$428.32)                | (\$50.00)                 | (\$1,130.01)              | \$0.00                    |
| General Insurance                      | \$1,675.50                | \$0.00                    | \$10,137.27               | \$10,000.00               |
| Other Administrative Expenses          | \$949.95                  | (\$775.00)                | \$3,445.79                | \$1,300.00                |
| <b>Total Administrative</b>            | <u>\$1,872.50</u>         | <u>(\$625.00)</u>         | <u>\$14,343.18</u>        | <u>\$14,300.00</u>        |
| <b>Utilities</b>                       | \$1,340.17                | \$1,700.00                | \$21,295.88               | \$21,200.00               |
| <b>Maintenance</b>                     | (\$14,725.29)             | \$750.00                  | \$2,695.28                | \$8,600.00                |
| <b>Parish Life</b>                     | \$513.64                  | \$250.00                  | \$3,171.88                | \$3,700.00                |
| <b>Diocesan &amp; Seminary Support</b> | \$2,247.00                | \$2,200.00                | \$26,909.00               | \$26,900.00               |
| <b>Outreach</b>                        | \$0.00                    | \$0.00                    | \$350.00                  | \$0.00                    |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                  | <u>(\$12,273.82)</u>      | <u>\$16,017.00</u>        | <u>\$193,547.99</u>       | <u>\$218,000.00</u>       |
| <b>Net Total</b>                       | \$37,180.32               | \$10,483.00               | \$404.38                  | \$0.00                    |

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

OUR CHURCH'S  
FINANCIAL  
HEALTH



# FRIENDSHIP CARDS



This month, don't just *send* valentines; *be* a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for your loved ones — all month long.



**What you need:**

- 29 index cards
- A small box or container
- Colored pens or glitter pens
- Stickers

**What you do:**

1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include “Give someone a hug,” “Clean someone’s room,” “Read to someone” and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!

## CHURCH USAGE SCHEDULE

~LOWER HALL~

**MONDAY**

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

**TUESDAY**

NA 7:00 to 8:00

**WEDNESDAY**

NA 7:00 to 8:00

**FRIDAY**

AA 5:30 to 6:30

**SATURDAY**

NA Noon

**NOTE:**

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

*Note from the Editor...*

*Marsha Nelson*

# MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

Please submit any newsletter items either to the church office or e-mail them to [MJNELSON@nc.rr.com](mailto:MJNELSON@nc.rr.com)

Printed copies of the newsletter are located in the Bell Tower for you if you have problems with email access.

There is a link to both current and past issues of our newsletter on the church website at [www.churchoftheholynnocents.org](http://www.churchoftheholynnocents.org)

*Thanks for your support !*



## February 2016 Schedule of Events

**Choir Weekly Practice Schedule**

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

**DAILY MORNING PRAYER**

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

**Wednesday – February 3**

5:30 PM, Healing Service

**Sunday – February 7**

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

**Tuesday – February 9**

6:00 PM, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Lower Hall)

**Wednesday – February 10**

12:00 PM, Ash Wednesday Service  
 7:00 PM, Ash Wednesday Service

**Sunday – February 14**

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

**Wednesday– February 17**

5:30 PM, Holy Communion followed by 6:10 PM, Supper (Lower Hall)

**Sunday – February 21**

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

**Tuesday – February 23**

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

**Wednesday– February 24**

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry  
 5:30 PM, Holy Communion followed by 6:10 PM, Supper (Lower Hall)

**Sunday – February 28**

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

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



**Bishop Peter Lee's  
Visitation**  
Sunday, January 10, 2016

**Bilingual Service  
Confirmation ~ Reception  
Baptism**

**Followed by  
Reception in Great Hall**

## Birthdays



|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Bo Cheatham.....               | 2/03 |
| Tim Seitzer, Sr.....           | 2/04 |
| Richard Davis, V.....          | 2/04 |
| Wilhelmina Scott Ratliff ..... | 2/04 |
| Penny Wiggins .....            | 2/06 |
| Berkeley Ellis.....            | 2/08 |
| Barbara Foster.....            | 2/12 |
| Nicholas Long, III .....       | 2/12 |
| Lucy Gray.....                 | 2/15 |
| Margaret Stephens .....        | 2/16 |
| Gail Houle.....                | 2/17 |
| Hazel Peck.....                | 2/18 |
| Ginger Dow.....                | 2/20 |
| Shelby Van Venrooy .....       | 2/20 |
| Uriah Ford.....                | 2/21 |
| Christopher Catlett .....      | 2/23 |
| Jerry Cottrell.....            | 2/25 |

## Anniversaries

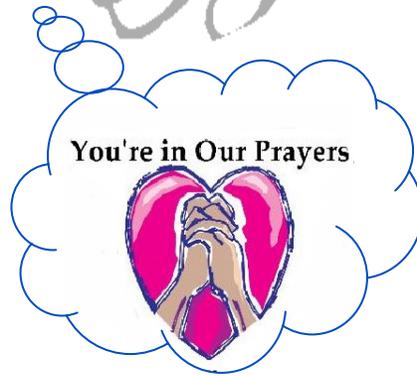


|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| Mariana & Richard Davis..... | 2/03 |
| Amy & Harrel Johnson.....    | 2/16 |

## Remember In Your Prayers

### Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Cynthia Shaw, Trayce Wheless, Barbara Collins, Staci Barnett, Hazel Peck, MaryAnn Hill, Barbara Madigan, Melody Shearin, Carolyn Lowery, Mary Shearin, Meghen Bunn, Vivie Drake, Francis Saunders, Lisa Adcock, C.G. Williams, Bobby Woodward, Bettie Cooper, Griselle Woodward, Graham Shearin, Rorin Platt, Tommy Greenway, Al Thompson, Hannah Youngblood, Marshall Cooper, Veneal Williams and Tracy Clawson.



## Special Dates

- Transfiguration of Our Lord  
*February 7, 2016*
- Ash Wednesday  
*February 10, 2016*
- First Sunday in Lent  
*February 14, 2016*
- President's Day  
*February 15, 2016*
- Second Sunday in Lent  
*February 21, 2016*
- Third Sunday in Lent  
*February 28, 2016*

## Altar Flowers

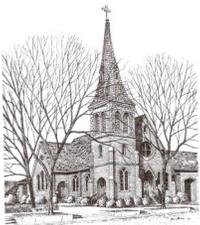
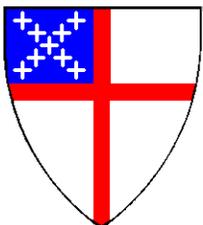
- Barbara & Johnny Foster  
*February 7, 2016*
- Ash Wednesday (*February 10*)
- Nick Long  
*February 14 2016*
- Caroline Burnette  
*February 21, 2016*
- Anora & Mike Rainey  
*February 28, 2016*

## FEBRUARY UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

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

| FEB | BEARERS | ACOLYTES                              | CRUCITER                 | LAYREADER/<br>CHALICE BEARER                   | USHERS  | ALTAR<br>GUILD | VESTRY<br>GREETER |
|-----|---------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|----------------|-------------------|
| 7   |         | Brennan Olmert<br>Tucker Olmert       | Lucy Catherine<br>Olmert | 8:00am - Bob Nelson<br>10:30am - Ruth Hartness | Pat Olmert<br>Maurice Floyd<br>D Boyd Kimball | Anora Rainey   |                   |
| 10  |         |                                       | Uriah Ford               | 12:00pm - Rick Palamar<br>7:00pm - Tom Church  | Ash Wednesday                                 |                |                   |
| 14  |         | Chap Burnette<br>Beau Burnette        | Lehman Ford              | 8:00am - Rick Palamar<br>10:30am - Nancy Whitt | Pat Olmert<br>Maurice Floyd<br>D Boyd Kimball | Mariana Davis  |                   |
| 21  |         | Mary Beth Parish<br>Sarah Rose Parish | Genie Parish             | 8:00am - Hut Wester<br>10:30am - Tom Church    | Pat Olmert<br>Maurice Floyd<br>D Boyd Kimball | Mariana Davis  |                   |
| 28  |         | Ethan Holloway<br>Jason Elliott       | AJ Holloway              | 8:00am - Lucy Gray<br>10:30am - Nick Long      | Pat Olmert<br>Maurice Floyd<br>D Boyd Kimball | Shirley Young  |                   |

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



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**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS**  
210 South Chestnut Street  
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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.**