



The Bell Tower

Church Newsletter

Church of the Holy Innocents

Henderson, North Carolina

March 2006

Volume 2 - Number 3

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On this first Sunday in Lent, we welcome each of you and invite you to let this be a time for spiritual renewal. We encourage everyone to participate in our Lenten activities.



Thoughts from the Rector

The Rev. Donald Lowery

It's Lent Again

I like Lent. I am not sure why given the fact that many consider Lent the gloomiest season of the church year. Heaven knows we are busy figuring out what to give up, or what to take on as an extra spiritual discipline. We are powerfully reminded in the lessons, the liturgy and the preaching of the destructive power of human sin and that is not a particularly pleasant topic. I suspect my love for Lent may be related to its heralding Spring and, perhaps more importantly, to the blessed reality that even as we are reminded of sin we also call to mind the wonder of God's forgiving love. In the end, Lent functions more as a season of hope than as a season of despair.

Lent this year will embrace opportunities for learning and prayer. It begins with our Ash Wednesday services at Noon and 7:00pm on March 1st at the church. The imposition of ashes remind us of our mortality and our great need for God's mercy, given through our Lord Jesus Christ. On the successive mortality and our great need for God's mercy, given through our Lord Jesus Christ. On successive Wednesday nights, we will have special liturgies or special topics for discussion. On March 8th we will have a public service of healing in the church at 7:00pm. *Continued on page. 2...*

Diocese News –

The Mission Action Plan (MAP)

The Mission Action Plan (MAP), recently adopted by Diocesan Council, is a practical action plan for implementing our vision of being a missionary diocese. MAP, the result of the work of the Mission Implementation Team, is available at www.episdionc.org or by calling Diocesan House at (800-448-8775).

Workshop

"Becoming a Financially Savvy Woman of Faith in the 21st Century" March 14th, Christ Church in Charlotte. Workshop is for women of faith, presented by women of faith with expertise in the financial, legal and spiritual realities that challenge us. To register or request a brochure, contact Krysta Morgan or Bill Wrenn at Diocesan House (800-448-8775).

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Thoughts from the Rector Cont...

On the Wednesdays which follow we will have Holy Communion and brief discussions about issues facing the Episcopal Church as we approach General Convention in 2006. That is an unusual topic for a Lenten Study, but given the controversies which have wracked our denomination since General Convention of 2003 it seems wise to prepare ourselves for the debates we can anticipate this summer.

Sundays will take on a slightly different flavor. Most Sundays will be Rite One, the traditional language service of the Episcopal Church, at both services instead of only 8:00 a.m. as is our general custom. Rite One has a more penitential flavor appropriate to the season. On the First Sunday of Lent, Fr. Lowery and the Vestry will be away on retreat. On the Second Sunday of Lent we will have the Great Litany in procession. On the Third Sunday of Lent we will recite the Ten Commandments and sign the ancient responses to those holy guidelines. Many will remember that in the "Old" Prayer Book, the recitation of the Ten Commandments was a regular part of the Communion service. We do well to remember the old ways, and rejoice that our God loved us enough to give us some simple rules for holy living. On March 26th the Bishop will be here for his official visitation. We will take a break from our Lenten Discipline and celebrate his presence with Rite Two. We might even get brave and sing part of the service, something our bishop does very well.

Another, more pleasurable part of Lent will be Coffee Hour. During the Sundays of Lent and Easter, the vestry will host coffee hour after the service in the Great Hall. We have noticed that more and more people are lingering longer and longer after service enjoying fellowship in the nave or body of the church. So, why not have some light refreshments? There will be coffee, juice or soda and light snacks in the Great Hall where we can visit and get to know one another better. To facilitate this, I am going to move my

handshaking and greeting station from the Bell Tower door to the cloister door that connects to the church to the parish hall. Of course, on the day of the Bishops visit, we will have a larger, grander reception in the Great Hall.

Lent is holy time. It is wholesome time. We take stock of our lives. We confess our sins. We find forgiveness, hope and new direction for our lives. A blessed and growthful Lent for us all.



Parish News....

Tabitha Guild Update

Janet White and Betsy Catlett

We continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor.

We need knitters (we will teach you!); and if there are any who would like to be involved in our prayer shawl ministry and need to meet at night, PLEASE CALL either Betsy Catlett at 252-492-8223 or Janet White 252-430-0187 and we will try to get it going for you.

Our guidelines for shawl recipients include extreme illness (cancer, MS, Parkinson's etc.) or any extreme emotional trauma (divorce, debilitating accident, heart attack, death in immediate family). Unless we are low on shawls, we can consider giving shawls for other reasons.

Lenten Stewardship

Frank Madigan

Lent is a term derived from Anglo-Saxon meaning "Long-days" or Spring. Lent is a season when Christians fast, pray, go to church and stay away from amusements.

During Lent, we individuals make a choice to give up sweets, dessert, second helping of food or maybe that mid-week game of golf. The soul is nourished and the stomach deprived. This Lenten season we should plan a special Lenten Stewardship. Instead of planning to give up special foods or activities we should think of alternative projects that focus on our needs as givers to give. Activities that give of our Time and Talents feed our spiritual life.

During the forty-odd days before Easter, let us plan activities that enrich our souls and enable us to grow in our relationship with God. Visiting the sick, volunteering in church, school, library, community; outreach projects, attending Lenten programs, reading religious books or simply spending more time with our families.

What spiritual practice could you add to your life style that would enable you to focus on those things that truly matter? Don't just plan on giving up something for lent, plan a special activity that result in a spiritual change in your life. It could become a permanent habit.

No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.

Morning Prayer Service

Janet White

Looking for some spiritual enrichment this Lenten Season? Join us for Morning Prayer! We meet Monday through Thursday, at 7:30 a.m., at the Hughes House (church office).

Parish News continued on page.3...

Parish News continued

**Follow-up Reminder;
OUR CUPBOARD IS BARE!**

Annette Robinson and Valerie Gwynn,
Pastoral Care

This winter as you prepare your meals, please consider making extra servings to go into the church freezer. Casseroles, stews, chili, pies, and breads are always good to have on hand when a church member has a special need. Cooking instructions should be included on the label, as well as a date. Thanks in advance for helping to restock our freezer. It is truly empty.

**Scholarship Applicants
2006 – 2007 Academic Year**

Frank Madigan

College Students desiring financial assistance from the Genevieve Cooper Smith Scholarship or the C.H. And Mary Beanhardt Wolfe Scholarship should apply during March.

Applications are in the church office.

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Community News...

News from ACTS

Melvin Green

We are currently in the process of changing our delegate body to an advisory board. If you or members of your congregation are interested in serving on this board, please contact me. My phone number is 252-492-8231 and my e-mail address is acts@ncol.net (prefer that people contact me this way so that I can add them to my address book). We will have our first meeting April 20, 2006 at 5:30pm in conjunction with our monthly Board Meeting. We are doing this because we had very few churches that sent delegates to the last three meetings that were held. Please contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have. God Bless, Melvin Green, ACTS Director.

The New Library Tour

Bell Tower Cub Reporter

On Sunday, February 19th, immediately following church, the members of Holy Innocents had a wonderful opportunity to get a guided tour of the new library!

We learned and saw the benefits and the Vision of the new library becoming a reality for our community. The new library will create more learning opportunities for children and residents of Vance County. In addition to holding tens of thousands of books, the library will be wired with dozens of computer workstations with internet access making available printed and electronic materials. There will also be learning kiosks with pre-programmed interactive exercises that will allow children and library members to visit and explore places around the state, the country and the world. The Library will have connections to local schools via computer. We were immediately able to see the long range investment that our community leaders have made not only to our children but also to our community.

The Vestry, in our last Vestry meeting, voted to make an Outreach contribution to the Embassy Square Project in effort to support the new local community Library. After the tour, we walked away believing that we had been prayerfully led in the right direction in making a donation of love and outreach to this project.

A special thanks to the organizers of this tour for our Church. Also an extra special thanks to Kathy Powell, Executive Director of the Embassy Square Project, for taking time on a Sunday in leading us on such a wonderful the tour of the new library facility.

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A little boy was overheard praying:

“Lord, if you can’t make me a better boy, don’t worry about it. I’m having a real good time like I am.”

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**This Month’s
Schedule of Events**

Monday – Thursday (weekly)

7:30am, Morning Prayer
Hughes House

Wednesday (weekly)

3:30pm, Children’s Choir
6:00pm, Handbell Choir

Wednesday – February 1

7:00pm, Ash Wednesday

Sunday – March 5

8:00am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:30am, Sunday School
Adult – Gallop through Genesis
Children – Episcopal “Basic”
10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
5:00pm, La Misa Servicio – Santa Eucharistia

Wednesday – March 8

7:00pm, Healing Service
Lenten Series

Sunday – March 12

8:00am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:30am, Sunday School
Adult – Gallop through Genesis
Children – Episcopal “Basic”
10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

Wednesday – March 15 (weekly)

7:00pm, Lenten Series

Sunday – March 19

8:00am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:30am – Sunday School
Adult – Gallop through Genesis
Children - Episcopal “Basic”
10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
5:00pm, La Misa Servicio – Santa Eucharistia

Sunday – March 26

ONE SERVICE

CONFIRMATION – Bishop Curry
10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Bishop’s & Confirmation Reception

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

Post Convention follow-up report *by Ken Marsh*

The Convention challenged me spiritually more than I ever imagined. It challenged me in regards to my own involvement in the Church. It challenged me in thinking about Holy Innocents' involvement with our own community, our Diocese as a "Missionary Diocese in a Global Society" and in our world-wide Anglican family community! Weeks later I am still processing my experience at Convention. There were some very powerful presenters that challenged all of us to the core of one's thinking. The actual business of the Convention involves voting on elections and resolutions; which is so parliamentary at times it is absolutely boring where one might want to take a little time out for a sanity check. However, the business gets done for the greater good of the Convention and the Diocese. Next month, in the church newsletter I will share a poem given to Valerie Gwynn because of her kindness to another individual. The poem is titled "The Convention". In sharing this poem, I clearly mean no disrespect to the Convention or the Diocese, but the poem in a humorous way truly captures the essence of how business is conducted at Convention. But back to what I saw, learned and how I felt challenged.

There were three primary presenters at the Convention that were absolutely moving speakers. The primary speakers were Bishop Curry who gave the opening address; The Rt. Rev. Baker Mcleord Ochola II, retired Bishop of Uganda; and The Rev. Canon John L. Peterson, former Secretary General of the Worldwide Anglican Communion, London. Bishop Curry challenged each church and congregation in the Diocese to commit a portion of their income next year to fight international poverty, hunger and disease in supporting the statement that "We are a Missionary Diocese in a Global Society"; as we continue our missionary work in our own communities. Bishop Curry challenged us to give an extra 0.7 percent to support the Diocese budget for international development. Holy Innocents was recognized in a Global Mission brochure created by our Diocese as having been involved in missionary work abroad. Talk with Tom Church and Cliff Rogers about our work in this area for more information.

Bishop Ochola shared with us his own personal hardship in losing a wife and his daughter in Uganda because of civil war. Did you know that 1000 children die a week in Uganda? That means that approximately 52,000 children died last year in Uganda because of hunger, aids, and civil war. Or translated another way 142 children die daily! These are alarming numbers. This is obviously a man who knows personal pain and suffering and the suffering in his country. And yet, he has somehow risen above the pain to forgive and continue to work as a disciple of Christ in challenging us in reaching out to feed the hungry in our community, our country, and third world countries.

The Rev. Cannon Peterson shared with us how we fit into the broader world-wide Anglican community. Demonstrating whether we live in Henderson, New Orleans, Rwanda, or Uganda – "When anyone of us hurt in the Episcopal / Anglican community – we should all feel their pain, and we are only as strong as are one in Christ." The Rev. Cannon Peterson also preached at the Holy Eucharist Service at St. Paul's Church Friday. The service at St. Paul's and the organ music was truly a wonderful service. In all of these presentations to the Convention there were some amazing facts and figures.

Did you know that the Diocese of North Carolina is made up of 48,850 baptized members, consisting of 123 Congregations, 7 Campus Ministries, 4 Institutions, and 190 clergy? We are the largest Diocese of the three Dioceses in North Carolina, spanning from Charlotte to Rocky Mount. In the world-wide Anglican community, we are 78 million members, in 164 countries, consisting of 1000 different languages. We are a global and diverse Anglican Community and family. As the three days began to wrap up I really began to think about the potential of Christ's power in numbers not only of our Diocese but our world-wide Anglican family.

To me the Convention was a direct challenge. It was a challenge to our thinking, our beliefs, and our ACTIONS. I recently read the following in *Forward Day by Day* (January 23), "A definition of the church's mission is to comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable". I think my comfort level was afflicted at Convention.

Post-convention, I am left with feeling amazed, challenged, and empowered for ACTION. And yet I wonder, what is Holy Innocents' role in the message from the Diocese Convention? Holy Innocents is such a giving church. This past year, we have supported things like ACTS, Katrina victims, Vance County Habitat for Humanity, and our own members on Missionary trips to Honduras. What more can we possibly be asked to do or give?

And then, I had this absolutely amazing recollection..... The miracle work of our Confirmation Class! Our Confirmation Class showed us how to put Stewardship into ACTION as in the Parable of Talents. This wonderful Youth Group; through love, commitment, and action turned \$80 dollars into almost a \$1000 for a little girl name Molly. I would say that is the miracle power of Time, Talent and Stewardship. This is the same message I heard and saw from other Churches presenting at Convention. So how do we, as a congregational family, continue to perform these same kinds of ACTIONS? We are a very giving church. Can you imagine, for a minute, if every time we gave of our money, what the power of our giving would be if we replicated the Parable of Talents? Multiplied by ten? That would be some amazing work for the Lord!

I believe in faith like this. The Confirmation Class has shown us, in our own very church, Holy Innocents, this is possible! We heard it from other churches at the Convention in our Diocese. So what is OUR role, YOUR role, the CHURCH'S role; in fulfilling this mission and vision of the Diocese and in our community? I don't know – but it is the collective WE, as the Confirmation Class showed us, that will make the difference. If a small part of you is stirred up / afflicted by this article, then I would say the mission and the challenges of Diocese Convention has been fulfilled, if WE can put this into ACTION! As you can tell, the Convention clearly challenged me in more ways than I ever imagined.

May the "affliction of discomfort" and Peace be with you!

Financial Score Card Report *by Robert Nelson*

At the request of the Vestry, we will begin a new feature in the newsletter in which we will give a snapshot of our current Operating Statement and budget on a quarterly basis. This "Financial Scorecard" will show on a quarterly basis the Pledges made, Income received, the Expenditures made and any Surplus or Shortfall for the year as of the end of a particular month. In addition, we will make comments concerning any unusual Income or Expense that have a significant impact on the Financial Statements.

A more detailed version of the Operating Statement and Budget will be placed each month on the church web site. As always, the treasurer and assistant treasurer will be available to explain in complete detail any income or expense item that is of particular interest to any member of the congregation.

By way of explanation, Pledges Made is the amount pledged for the year and the amount that is estimated to be received year-to-date.

Income is the total amount that is estimated to be received including pledges for both the year-to-date and the year.

Expenses are the total amount that is estimated to be spent for both the year-to-date and the year.

FINANCIAL SCORECARD			
Year-To Date through January, 2006			
	Actual Year-To-Date	Budget Year-To-Date	Budget For The Year
Pledges	\$74,241	\$69,400	\$204,000
Income	\$76,503	\$70,100	\$213,025
Expenses	\$18,341	\$16,983	\$213,025
Surplus (Deficit)	\$58,162	\$53,117	\$0

Note that Income represents more than one third of the annual Pledge Balance. This is because many pledges are prepaid in November and December of the prior year for tax purposes and these funds are taken into income during the first month of the year.

Mystery Parishioner Did You Guess Who?

Bell Tower Cub Reporter

Remember from last month we asked you to solve the riddle who this person might be? "What member of our congregation is a left-handed tennis player, a saxophonist (or used to be) and has served on the vestry six times, but never has as senior warden?"

This person was born in Westbury, New York and lived there for the first 12 years of his life. His family then moved to a quaint seashore village called Quogue. He was on the junior tennis circuit, but decided to give up the competitive side of tennis and turn to the teaching side. It was when he was teaching tennis in the summer of 1972 that he met his bride, who was working

in the area as a mother's helper for the summer. They fell madly in love and were married two years later, beginning their married life on Long Island. Fortunately, he came to his senses and they moved to Henderson in 1980, where they have resided ever since and raised three sons in the process. This person is not only deeply involved with and committed to his church, but to his community as well. He is a member of the Embassy Block Foundation and has worked tirelessly to help bring the fabulous new facility to fruition. In case you haven't guessed by now, the Mystery Person is Rick Palamar!

PS – Rick hasn't played the sax in 30 years!

Riddle solved!

Note from the Editor...

Gail Marsh

The April newsletter deadline is March 20th. Please submit items either to the church office or e-mail them to KenM393249@aol.com

Thanks for your support!

Adult Weekend Trip!

Scott Hartness

An adult white water rafting trip is in the planning process for Mother's Day weekend. Please contact Scott Hartness at 252-492-7652 or by e-mail at scotthartness@nc.rr.com if you are interested in going.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March

Birthdays

Annette Roberson, Taylor Betts..... 3/01
 John Stevenson 3/04
 Mary Ann Hill 3/06
 Cooper Gray 3/08
 Jessica Burke 3/11
 Barbara Madigan..... 3/15
 Jeff Floyd 3/16
 Wes Hight 3/18
 Jordan Williamson 3/22
 Mildred Kimball 3/23
 Mark Dubinski 3/26
 Elizabeth Behar..... 3/27
 Hunter Roberson 3/29
 Katie Cottrell 3/31

Anniversaries

Mildred & D. Boyd Kimball..... 3/01
 Anne & Larry Bliss..... 3/26
 Annette & Tommy Roberson..... 3/26

Remember in your prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Mary Ann Johnson, Jenna St. Clair, Gail Houle, Robert Groves, Rena Perry and Dorothy Proctor.



Special Dates

- Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2006
- World Day of Prayer, March 3, 2006
- Girl Scout Sunday, March 12, 2006
- St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2006
- First Day of Spring, March 06, 2006



March Unified Serving Schedule

Mar	Acolyte(s)	Crucifer	Lay Reader / Chalice Bearer	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lemonade/Coffee Host/Hostess
1 Wed	Noon: Bennett Perry 7PM: Tommy Roberson	Noon: B Perry 7PM: Tommy Roberson	Noon – Rose Flannagan 7PM – Lucy Gray	Butch Gray Richard Davis Chick Young	Anora Rainey	
5	Sam Long	Katie Long	8:00 – Anora Rainey 10:30 – Nick Long	Butch Gray Richard Davis Chick Young	Anora Rainey	Coffee Hour
12	Rebecca Behar	Macon Pearsall	8:00 – Steve Flannagan 10:30 – Lucy Gray	Butch Gray Richard Davis Chick Young	Mariana Davis	Coffee Hour
19	Ric Davis Parkins Davis	Jackson Blackburn	8:00 – Chip Hight 10:30 – Nancy Whitt	Butch Gray Richard Davis Chick Young	Mariana Davis	Coffee Hour
26	Mary Mac Long Katie Long	Libby Hartness – Banner Bearer Jackson Blackburn – Server / Psalmist Macon Pearsall – Bishop's Assistant	ONE SERVICE ONLY 10:30 – Tom Church – Lay Reader / Chalice Bearer Marshall Cooper – Chalice Bearer	Butch Gray Richard Davis Chick Young	Anora Rainey	Coffee Hour

Submitted by: Lucy Gray

YOUTH WATCH

Youth Schedule of Events:

- Every Wednesday - Children's Choir 3:30pm
- Every Sunday - Children's Sunday School
 - Libby Hartness - teaching pre-school
 - Marcia Hartness - teaching 1st grade +
 - Nick Long - teaching Confirmation Class

Acolyte Festival

At the Canterbury School, Greensboro, NC
April 29, 2006

The Celebration of Holy Eucharist will be held from Noon until 1:30. Acolytes will gather at 11:45am to line up (already vested) and then process in behind their church banner. The service will feature musician Fran McKendree and the righteous preaching of the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry.

Following the worship service join us for:

- The Spring Fair
- Lunch
- A Jam Session
- (Bring your drums, guitar, accordion, flute, tuba)
- Art Quest Activities
- Water-Balloon Volley-Ball
- Moonwalk
- Games
- And more!

If your church or youth group would like to sponsor an activity, give Kathy Pfister a call at the Youth Office: 1-800-486-0533 or e-mail: Kathy@summit youth.org .

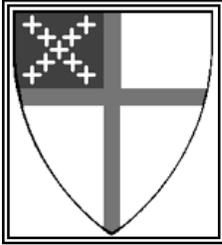
“All Things New” Sunday School Lessons...

Marcia Hartness

“All Things New” Sunday School Lessons for our young children are about God’s Spirit and the Church. We are continuing to meet at 9:30 every Sunday!

I am putting together a snack list so parents can take turns bringing snacks for the children.

There are a few dates where I can not teach Sunday School: March 26, April 16 & 23, and May 21 & 28. Please let me know if you can sub for me.
Thanks for your support!



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THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS
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Pictures taken from “Tour of the New Library” pg. 3 of Church Newsletter.

