

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

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March 2021

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FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



A Glimmer of Light on the Horizon

It seems every time I bump into a parishioner all ask the same question I am asking myself, "Will we ever reopen church for public worship?" We have not had a service in church since March and then three weeks in October of the past year. Our only worship gatherings have, sadly, been graveside services. None of these were COVID-19 related. Things are beginning to look up.

As I write this, the new infection numbers are in decline over much of North Carolina including Vance County. If the numbers continue to drop, I hope to resume something, live, before the month of March is over. I intend to begin slowly. First, we will have drop-in communion, much as we did on Ash Wednesday. I hope to be able to begin this on March 7, 2021. Between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. on

that Sunday, I will be in the church, vested, distributing communion in one kind (the host) from sacrament consecrated before the service. If the data continues to show improvement during the month we will move to a full service. I will probably shorten it to limit our time in the building. All will be done in accordance with the directions (rubrics) of the Prayer Book. That means I may omit a lesson. For the time being we will use only Form III of the prayers of the people because it is the shortest. As required by the health directives we have, no hymns will be sung but we will have music. We may not be able to sing, but golly goodness, we can sure hum along. While both bread and wine will be consecrated, only a token amount of wine will be used and it will be consumed only by the priest. Everyone else will receive the host. To avoid close proximity to one another, we will not gather and kneel at the communion rail but receive at a station in front of the choir steps. Masks will be required. If anyone lacks a mask, I will make sure some are available at the bell tower. I will use lots of hand sanitizer and cover my hands with surgical gloves. All this is intended to limit the spread of air borne particles and avoid physical contact. Folks will be asked to sit at a distance from each other, however, family groupings may sit together. I will not resume Wednesday Services until several weeks after the Sunday worship has resumed. Notifications will be sent out via the program we use to send out the Newsletter electronically.

I have had my first vaccination shot and have an appointment for the second. I had a pretty wild experience with the first shot. Along with pain in my arm, which I think is normal, I fell asleep for almost 22 hours. I had some pretty wild dreams, too. I wish I could have filmed them and made movies out of them. Those dreams would have made me the richest man outside Hollywood. I

... From the Rector cont. pg. 2 ...

can't wait for round two to see what new interesting side effects I have. If anything "visionary" happens, I will let you know.

Mostly, I have sounded like a health department official as I write. However, scripture continues to inform my life as a Christian and a priest. As I prayed Compline (the service of late-night prayers pp 127 – 135 in the Book of Common Prayer) last night I found myself pausing over these words and contemplating their power. These are words from Psalm 91, one of the passages appointed for use in that service:



3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *

and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with his pinions,

and you shall find refuge under his wings; *

his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.

5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *

nor of the arrow that flies by day;

6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *

nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.

7 A thousand shall fall at your side

and ten thousand at your right hand, *

but it shall not come near you.

I can only speak for myself, but it is not just the promise of deliverance from the pestilence that stalks us that comforts me. I know that the deliverance could come from not getting COVID-19 or making a full recovery if I do. However, because I believe in life after death, I also know that my deliverance could come after I walk through "the valley of the

shadow of death" as Psalm 23 says. My greatest comfort is found in the words, "You shall not be afraid...." Whatever may come, I want to face it unafraid, confident in my faith in my God.

In the Episcopal Church and many other denominations, seminarians are required to take a program called Clinical Pastoral Education. In this program, which is offered in many places nationwide, theological students are placed in a hospital, psychiatric institution or major urban homeless shelter to work with people in crisis. We are, for all practical purposes, supervised student chaplains dealing with people who were often in life-or-death situations. I did my CPE as we called it, at Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill, NC. I was assigned to neuro-surgery and experimental medicine. My patients included everything from folks with spinal injuries to people for whom an experimental treatment was their last and only hope as they battled cancer or some other life-threatening illness. Like the old-fashioned theory that the way to teach people to swim was to toss them into the river, sink or swim, we were sent out on the floor to provide pastoral care in the very first week we were there. I was scared to death. What did I have to say to someone clinging to their last hope or battling an injury that could leave them paralyzed? When I boarded the elevator to head for my floor and my assignments for the day, I would sing the words of Hymn 678 to myself.



1. Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.

2. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my Savior.

3. Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.

4. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

5. Make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his

Name is exalted.

6. Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world.

7. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.



The Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and he will be my savior. Amen †

PARISH NEWS...

Church Phone & Internet Service

Marsha Lougee

The church is switching from CenturyLink to Spectrum for phone service and the internet. The wall phone located in the church hallway will now be located on the dresser in the area in front of the bathrooms. Hopefully the installation will be completed by the first week of March.

The new church email address will be: hinnocents1783@gmail.com. †

Note from the Editor...

Marsha Nelson

APRIL

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

MARCH 26TH

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 your convenience.

There is a link to both current and past issues of our newsletter on the church website at www.churchoftheholynnocents.org

Thanks for your support !

VESTRY NEWS ...



A Message from the Senior Warden

It is a pleasure to serve as your Vestry Senior Warden for the 2021 calendar year and I am privileged to be working with such a talented group of leaders currently serving on your Vestry. In the January Vestry meeting, Richard Davis, IV was elected to serve as the Junior Warden and Bo Cheatham the Vestry Clerk for this year.

The Vestry will continue to meet virtually each month until such time it is deemed safe for us to meet in person. In January we planned an actual in person retreat to be held February 20th in a large space where we could safely spread out to meet. However, the COVID-19 area numbers continued to rise and our retreat was postponed.

In the meantime, the church Finance Committee met and has a 2021 budget ready for Vestry to review and approve.

During our next meeting each Vestry member will decide how they may best serve you by selecting the Commissions on which they wish to serve. Even (or perhaps especially) during times like these when we are still unable to hold services and meet as a congregation, the Vestry Commissions serve a vital role in the life of our church. Commission members continue to conduct essential church business and projects.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Junior Warden, Richard Davis, repairs on the Cooper House should be completed by mid-March. Bo Cheatham and Porter Shaw have also given of their time to see this project come to fruition. The lease agreement with the Women's Shelter for use of the Cooper House has been approved and signed. Father Don is working with the Director of the shelter and their planned move in date.



The Vestry meets (virtually for the foreseeable future) the third Monday of each month. Please contact us if you have a church item you wish addressed.

Please stay safe & healthy. God Bless ,

Tracy †

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

3/01/2021

**Church Of The Holy Innocents
Revenue and Expense Summary
Year-to-date, Through February 2021**

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)
Revenues				
Pledged Income	\$11,381.66	\$22,000.00	\$54,484.42	\$67,000.00
Other Income	\$200.00	\$50.00	\$160.00	\$100.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$11,581.66</u>	<u>\$22,050.00</u>	<u>\$54,644.42</u>	<u>\$67,100.00</u>
Expenses				
Compensation				
Salaries	\$2,828.34	\$2,600.00	\$5,656.68	\$5,200.00
Employee Expenses				
Rector's Expenses	\$1,001.85	\$900.00	\$2,251.88	\$2,000.00
Other Employee Expenses	\$5,935.48	\$3,300.00	\$9,935.91	\$6,600.00
Total Employee Expenses	<u>\$6,937.33</u>	<u>\$4,200.00</u>	<u>\$12,187.79</u>	<u>\$8,600.00</u>
Total Compensation	<u>\$9,765.67</u>	<u>\$6,800.00</u>	<u>\$17,844.47</u>	<u>\$13,800.00</u>
Administrative				
Supplies	\$204.39	\$100.00	\$296.36	\$300.00
Preschool Income/Expense	\$351.20	\$1,250.00	\$2,444.99	\$2,500.00
General Insurance	\$1,672.00	\$1,800.00	\$3,912.50	\$4,100.00
Other Administrative Expenses	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$339.77	\$0.00
Total Administrative	<u>\$2,337.59</u>	<u>\$3,150.00</u>	<u>\$6,993.62</u>	<u>\$6,900.00</u>
Utilities	\$2,257.45	\$1,700.00	\$4,256.29	\$3,200.00
Maintenance	\$1,869.91	\$1,500.00	\$4,442.45	\$3,000.00
Parish Life	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$80.00	\$300.00
Diocesan & Seminary Support	\$2,543.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,086.00	\$5,100.00
Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$18,773.62</u>	<u>\$15,850.00</u>	<u>\$38,702.83</u>	<u>\$32,300.00</u>
Net Total	(\$7,191.96)	\$6,200.00	\$15,941.59	\$34,800.00



Amazon Smile is a branch of the regular Amazon.com site, except all of the purchases that are made through smile.amazon.com will automatically donate 1/2% of the purchase (most everything is eligible) to a charity of your choosing. We are asking parishioners to consider making Holy Innocents that charity. Below is a link that will take you to the Amazon Smile site, and it should ask you to confirm that you wish to support Holy Innocents as your Smile charity. It's an easy way to add to your contribution without additional expense. †

Direct charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-0554227>



DIOCESE NEWS ...

**205th Annual Convention
of the
Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina**



The 205th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 6 as a safety precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendees will gather beginning at 11 a.m. in the parking lot of the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. They will remain in their vehicles, we will broadcast via FM radio, and voting will take place via honking of horns. The business of the Convention will take approximately 30 minutes.



**A Time of Challenge and Change
A Plan for Churches during a Pandemic:
The Diocese moves back to Stage 2
on March 7, 2021.**

On March 7,
you are here.



**STAGE ONE-B:
MOVING TO
LIMITED
OUTDOOR
WORSHIP**

Public Health Indicators:
The seven-day rolling average for percentage of positive COVID-19 tests is holding steady or declining.

All indoor in-person worship and gatherings are suspended.

Outdoor worship in groups of 35 or fewer continues.

**STAGE TWO:
TURNING THE
CORNER**

Public Health Indicators:
The 14-day rolling average for overall percentage of positive COVID-19 tests for a particular county must be 6.5% or lower. The 14-day rolling average of number of new cases in a county must be flat or declining.

Indoor worship in groups of 25 or fewer.

Outdoor worship in groups of 50 or fewer.

**STAGE THREE:
LEADING
RECOVERY**

Public Health Indicators:
Case, hospitalization and deaths are near zero. Widespread testing and tracing are available. Health care systems have the capacity to manage all in need.

**STAGE FOUR:
ADAPTING
TO A NEW
REALITY**

Public Health Indicators:
A vaccine is available to the general public. Treatment of proven effectiveness is widely available, as is widespread testing for the virus. Widespread immunity is present in the community.

Birthdays



Annette Roberson..... 3/01
 Mary Beth Parish 3/04
 Sarah Rose Parish..... 3/04
 John Stevenson 3/04
 Scott Brinkley..... 3/04
 Caroline Burnette..... 3/06
 Robin Scott Williams..... 3/08
 Jordan Williamson 3/22
 Mildred Kimball..... 3/23
 Hunter Roberson 3/29
 Linda Shaw 3/31

Anniversaries

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

Remember In Your Prayers



Cynthia Shaw
Barbara Collins
Melody Shearin
Bill Mast
Veneal Williams
Nancy Rogers
Rose Flannagan

Pray for Healing and Comfort:



Special Dates

- World Day of Prayer
March 5, 2021
- Third Sunday in Lent
March 7, 2021
- Daylight-Saving Time begins
March 14, 2021
- Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021
- First Day of Spring
March 20, 2021
- Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21, 2021
- Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021
- Holy Week
March 28-April 4, 2021

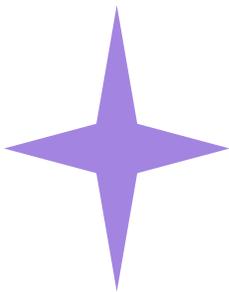


MARCH SERVING SCHEDULE

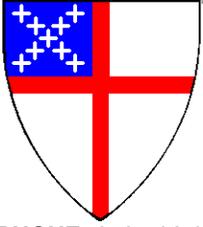
MAR	ACOLYTES	USHERS	LAY READER / CHALICE BEARER	ALTAR GUILD
7	10:30 –11:30 a.m. DROP-IN COMMUNION —(See details on p.1)			
14	Services TBD			
21	Services TBD			
28	Services TBD PALM SUNDAY			
~ ONLINE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED AS FOLLOWS~ 10:00 AM, Online—Episcopal Diocese of NC —www.episdionc.org 11:15 AM, Online– Washington National Cathedral —www.cathedral.org (Links to above websites are provided on our church website at www.churchoftheholynincent.org)				

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

FLASHBACK



Photos by MNelson



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THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS
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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.**