

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

Volume 9—Number 11



November 2013

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ECW

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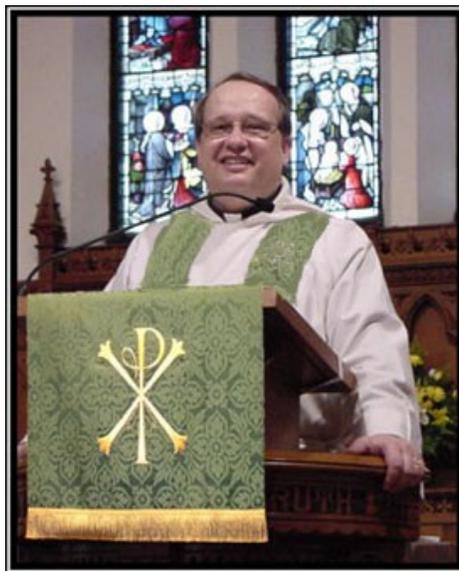
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FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



I am so Grateful

November is a month for reflecting on the things that make us grateful. Even living in a time of Spiritual, political and economic uncertainty, there is so much for which we can be thankful. I wish to reflect in writing on things and people for which I am thankful. My hope is that it will inspire those who read to remember the things and the people which inspire their own gratitude.

The first Sunday of the Month in November is always All Saints Sunday. All Saints Day is November 1, and the current Book of Common Prayer allows us to keep that day on the Sunday following. On this day we remember not only the heroes of the faith, the women and men who were pillars of faith in

ages past and who are often honored by Holy Days, stained glass windows and church dedications, but the folks who may not be in Church history books, but whose faith made a difference in our own lives. The person who comes to mind for me is Mrs. McBride. In the glory days of the late fifties and early sixties when most people actually attended church and Sunday Schools were bursting at the seams with children, she taught the Pre-K boys class, and followed us on up into elementary school. We were a rowdy bunch of boys, but she loved us and taught us with a joyful heart. I have heard full of children's songs, like "Jesus Loves Me" and "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and others besides that laid the foundations of my adult faith. She taught me John 3:16 and other verses of the Scriptures and I am so very grateful for the gifts she gave me. Mrs. McBride has been dead many years now, but she is still my personal saint because of the gifts of faith, hope and love she gave a group of wild little boys.

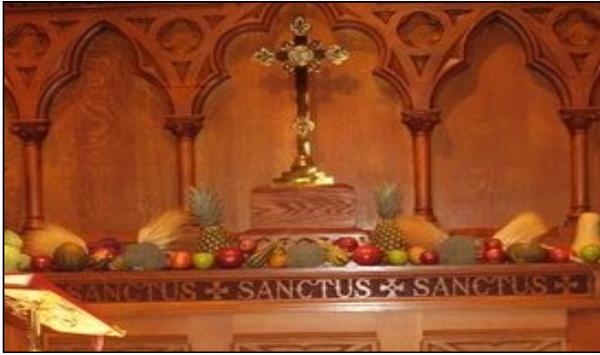


The end of the month brings us to Thanksgiving Day. This year I offer my particular thanks for the Church of the Holy Innocents. In January I will have been here nine years. It amazes me how quickly the time has passed. I give thanks for the buildings we possess as God's gift to us from our forebears. Please don't tell the folks at St. Mark's, Gastonia, NC and Good Shepherd, York, SC for both congregations have lovely and historic buildings, but Holy Innocents is the most beautiful church I have ever served. In my mind, it looks exactly like an Episcopal Church should look. A venerable building, beautiful stained glass, appointments rich in

From the Rector cont. pg. 2



symbolism and all lovingly cared for. When I think of the words from the scriptures, "Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness" Holy Innocents fits my vision of what that means exactly.



There is, however, something more precious than our buildings and our ecclesiastical appointments. What really makes Holy Innocents holy is the people who make up the congregation. This congregation loves its community. We are generous supporters of outreach projects in our community. We choose to make our buildings available to community groups whose mission and ministry are consistent with our own. Holy Innocents takes its place in the "counsels of the church" by my involvement at the Diocesan level, and not mine alone, but the involvement of folks like Tom Church and Nick Long on Diocesan committees. I find the folks of this parish to be warm and welcoming and caring. If I might add a personal word of testimony, I am grateful for the loving care I receive from Holy Innocents folks. One of my frustrations is that I seem to catch every bug and infection that comes through Vance County. Most are just a nuisance, but a few times, sinus infections and the flu have laid me flat on my back. I don't have enough words to express my gratitude for homemade soup delivered and errands run on my behalf. Who cares for the pastor when the pastor is down? At Holy Innocents it is the good parishioners who comprise the parish, and for this, I am grateful.

Most of all, I am grateful to God. God inspired Mrs. McBride to offer the gift of faith to a group of rowdy boys over 50 years ago. God planted a vision in the hearts of our ancestors to found, build and provide for the Church of the Holy Innocents. God is at work amongst as fine a group of parishioners as any priest or pastor to desire to make our congregation a place of worship for a good and holy people. For these precious gifts, Thanks be to God. †



Fr. Don's Sunday Class in a photo taken in May of 1962. Some of you know, can the rest of you guess which of the rowdy little saints in the making is Don Lowery?

PARISH NEWS...



The Rev. Donald Lowery

We will meet on all Sundays at our usual time of 5:00 p.m. We have not done a movie in a while, and some good ones are coming out between now and Christmas. We need to think about working some into our meeting schedule. †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

The Wednesday Healing Service will be held on November 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor of the Hughes House. †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

Wednesday Eucharist will be held at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday of this month, including the first Wednesday prior to the healing service and on the Eve of Thanksgiving. This service is only thirty minutes and offers a time of spiritual refreshment mid-week. This is also an excellent service for worship if Sunday service is difficult or impossible to attend. A short service with a quick homily yet still reverent and devout. It may be the best of all worlds for a busy Christian. †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Thanksgiving Day at 10:30 a.m. Nick Andrews will be home from Lenoir-Rhyne University for the holiday and has already volunteered to assist. It is an opportunity to give thanks for all God's many mercies to us. †





Church Office

Tithes & Gifts

The Rev. Donald Lowery

Vestry Nominations

The Rev. Donald Lowery

On Sunday, November 10th we plan to honor all Military Veterans. If you know of any of our fellow parishioners who are veterans, please contact the Church Office @ 252-492-0904 or email hinnocents@centurylink.net with Name, Branch of Service and where and when they served. Thanks! †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

We will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting on November 24th, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service. On this day, business needed for the good of the congregation will be conducted. New members will be elected to the vestry. Because of the Diocesan Canon, members can only vote at the meeting. Voting by proxy or at the 8:00 a.m. service is currently not permitted, though a member of our parish has been appointed to the Diocesan Committee on Constitution and Canons and vows to work to have this changed. For that reason, to encourage both attendance and voting, we will have only one English service on that Sunday at 10:30 a.m. I offer my apologies for folks at the 8:00 a.m. service. We are working to bring about a change in the canons. †

Stewardship letters have gone out and pledge cards are already coming in and November 3rd is the official launch of our fall stewardship campaign. The vestry will be serving breakfast on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Worshippers at both 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. are encouraged to attend this time of fellowship. As mentioned in my lead article, November 3rd is All Saints Sunday. On this day we remember all the heroes of the faith, both those who are included in the official histories of the church and our personal saints, that is, the people who made a difference our own faith development as Christians. For that reason, I think this is a propitious Sunday on which to launch the appeal for the donations to fund our 2014 budget.

Almost everything we have comes to us as a gift from the saints of a previous generation. From the buildings themselves to stained glass windows and silver chalices to adorn the altar and celebrate the sacrament, we have been gifted by people who loved this church and who, by anticipation, loved us as well. All these precious things are in excellent repair because the present generation of members chooses to keep them up and add to them. We have an handicapped ramp so well designed it looks as though it is part of the original design because of generous parishioners. We now handicapped accessible restrooms on the main floor because of that same generosity. If you have not seen the renovations to the lower hall and kitchen, that is twice the reason to attend breakfast Sunday. It is fabulous and again, present day generosity is the reason for the work done.

The rector and vestry ask for your continued generosity for the year 2014. We have an excellent and dedicated staff. We wish to expand and strengthen our outreach work in the community. The basics of paying the bills for everything from utilities to paper for copier use must continue. The church is a spiritual concern but because we have buildings and staff, we have temporal responsibilities. Your generosity enables us to live in a material world with constraints of time and space and bills to pay. †

We need confirmed communicant members in good standing to stand for election for a three year term to the vestry. A confirmed communicant in good standing is a confirmed member who receives communion three times a year and who is known to the treasurer as a donor of record. At this point in history the vestry meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We generally try to finish business in one and one half hours and our goal is for an hour meeting. We are open to changing the meeting day to accommodate the schedules of folks willing to serve.

Nominations can be made by parishioners. Persons may nominate themselves. Nominations can be made from the floor at the annual congregational meeting. For nominations from the floor, it is important that the nominator have ascertained that the nominee is a confirmed communicant is good standing and is willing to serve. †



198th Annual Convention
November 23, 2013

Diocesan Convention?

The Rev. Donald Lowery

“What?!?” you may well say. Did we not already have this in January? Well, we did and we voted to move the date of convention to November to avoid the winter weather that negatively impacts us from time to time. National Canon requires a diocese to have a convention every 12 months. If we wait until November of 2014 for our next convention it will 22 months out. So, we must have a special convention now so the 2014 one falls in 12 months. I have been nominated for election as a Deputy to General Convention in 2015 to be held in Salt Lake City. We will see what happens. †



Please submit any news items either to the church office or e-mail them to:
MJNELSON@nc.rr.com

December Newsletter
Deadline
November 20th

Printed copies of the newsletter are located in the Bell Tower for you if you have problems with email access. There is also a link to both current and past issues of our newsletter at:
www.churchoftheholynnocents.org
Thanks for your support!





10/14/2013

**Church Of The Holy Innocents
Revenue and Expense Summary
Year-to-date, Through September 2013**

Page : 1

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)
Revenues				
Pledged Income	\$12,075.66	\$11,000.00	\$154,232.54	\$155,000.00
Other Income	\$218.27	\$925.00	\$5,449.55	\$8,225.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$12,293.93</u>	<u>\$11,925.00</u>	<u>\$159,682.09</u>	<u>\$163,225.00</u>
Expenses				
Compensation				
Salaries	\$7,713.36	\$7,770.01	\$70,156.55	\$69,930.09
Employee Expenses				
Rector's Expenses	\$1,542.78	\$1,000.00	\$9,438.38	\$9,000.00
Other Employee Expenses	\$1,981.75	\$3,025.00	\$26,604.67	\$26,825.00
Total Employee Expenses	<u>\$3,524.53</u>	<u>\$4,025.00</u>	<u>\$36,043.05</u>	<u>\$35,825.00</u>
Total Compensation	<u>\$11,237.89</u>	<u>\$11,795.01</u>	<u>\$106,199.60</u>	<u>\$105,755.09</u>
Administrative				
Supplies	\$443.37	\$216.67	\$2,240.26	\$1,950.03
Preschool Income/Expense	\$1,388.31	(\$350.00)	\$4,117.45	\$1,850.00
General Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,121.30	\$9,000.00
Other Administrative Expenses	\$141.24	\$291.66	\$2,739.68	\$2,249.94
Total Administrative	<u>\$1,972.92</u>	<u>\$1,158.33</u>	<u>\$14,218.69</u>	<u>\$15,049.97</u>
Utilities	\$1,483.36	\$1,558.33	\$15,572.83	\$14,024.97
Maintenance	\$1,424.87	\$950.00	\$12,764.70	\$8,550.00
Parish Life	\$0.00	\$291.67	\$4,155.11	\$3,025.03
Diocesan & Seminary Support	\$2,463.00	\$2,458.33	\$22,167.00	\$22,124.97
Outreach	\$300.00	\$250.00	\$100.00	\$2,250.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$18,882.04</u>	<u>\$18,461.67</u>	<u>\$175,177.93</u>	<u>\$170,780.03</u>
Net Total	(\$6,588.11)	(\$6,536.67)	(\$15,495.84)	(\$7,555.03)

Bob Nelson, Treasurer



COMMUNITY NEWS ...

To Christmas Volunteers:

With the need so great in this community, we are asking for your help.

The joy of giving is priceless and rewarding. Please offer to help us by:

- Ringing the bells at one of our Red Kettle locations
- Adopt an Angel from the Angel Tree
- Make a monetary donation
- Food drive
- Pack food boxes
- Assist with Angel Tree preparation

If you are interested in helping us in any capacity, please call Rose Champion or Anita Smith at phone number 252-438-7107.

In His Service,

A/Captains Rick & Angie Langley



November 2013 Schedule of Events

Choir Weekly Practice Schedule

Hand Bell Choir — Wed. at 6:00 PM
Parish Choir — Monday at 6:00 PM

Daily Morning Prayer

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

Sunday – November 3

8:00 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite I
9:00 AM, Stewardship Breakfast
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
12:30 PM, La Misa Servicio

Wednesday – November 6

5:30 PM, Holy Eucharist
7:00 PM, Healing Service
(Hughes House)

Friday– November 8

** Handbell Choir Concert**

Sunday – November 10

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

Tuesday - November 12

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

Wednesday – November 13

3:00 PM, Nursing Home Ministry
5:30 PM, Holy Eucharist

Sunday – November 17

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

Wednesday – November 20

5:30 PM, Holy Eucharist

Sunday – November 24

****ONE COMBINED SERVICE****
10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist – Rite II
****ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING****

Wednesday – November 27

5:30 PM, Holy Eucharist

Thursday – November 28

10:30 AM, Holy Eucharist Service
-Thanksgiving Day-

The Church of The Holy Innocents
210 S. CHESTNUT STREET
HENDERSON, NC 27536

Handbell Choir Concert
Special Premiere
Friday, November 8, 2013
Great Hall

Hospitality	Dinner	Concert
6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	7:15 p.m.

CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE (252-492-0904)
OR HANDBELL CHOIR MEMBER FOR TICKETS **\$20 EA**
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE



Birthdays

Mary Shearin	11/01
Donald Lowery	11/03
Matilda Gholson	11/03
Ann Behar	11/04
Kate Blackburn	11/07
Marilyn Williams	11/10
Rick Palamar	11/11
Susan Ellis	11/13
Valerie Gwynn	11/14
Cole Whitt	11/16
Genie Parish	11/17
C. G. Williams	11/17
Betsy Herford	11/21
Katherine Kittrell	11/21
Henry Ross	11/21
Walter Burwell	11/25
Chase Palamar	11/25
Anne Almand	11/27
Jackson Blackburn, Jr.	11/28

Anniversaries

Dianne & Maurice Floyd	11/02
Ellen & Roger Dickerson	11/04
Jan & Bo Cheatham	11/05
Lucy & Butch Gray	11/29

Remember In Your Prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Cynthia Shaw, Helen Church Miles, Trayce Wheless, Barbara Colins, Staci Barnett, Virginia Wester, Harry Collins, Hazel Peck, MaryAnn Hill, Barbara Madigan, Melody Shearin, Virginia Frank, Carol Theodorou, Sam Parsons, Colt Moss, Lena Hogge, Bessie Edwards, Charlotte Sweeney, Mimi Adams, Carolyn Lowery, Belinda Catlett, Mary Shearin, Meghan Bunn, Randy Palamar, Marion Devoe, Rebecca Aiken, Dr. Beverly Tucker, Vivie Drake, John Amos, Joy Suther, and Marie Tunstall.



Special Dates

- Daylight– Saving Time Ends
November 3, 2013
- Veterans Day
November 11, 2013
- Thanksgiving Day
November 28, 2013



Calendar of the Church Year

According to the Episcopal Church

- All Saints' Day
November 1, 2013
- Christ the King Sunday
November 24, 2013
- Saint Andrew - the Apostle
November 30, 2013



NOVEMBER UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

Nov.	Acolytes	Crucifer	Lay Reader / Chalice Bearer	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lemonade/ Coffee Hour
3	William Parish Genie Parish	Matthew Williamson	8:00am—Lucy Gray 10:30am—Marshall Cooper	Bob Herford Bob Nelson	Shirley Young	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
10	Lehman Ford	Uriah Ford	8:00am—Hut Wester 10:30am—Tommy Roberson	Bob Herford Bob Nelson	Shirley Young	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
17	Matthew Williamson Genie Parish	William Parish	8:00am—Rick Palamar 10:30am—Ruth Hartness	Bob Herford Bob Nelson	Mariana Davis	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
24	Lehman Ford	Uriah Ford	-Annual Parish Meeting- Combined Service 10:30am—Nancy Whitt	Bob Herford Bob Nelson	Mariana Davis	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
28	****	****	Thanksgiving Day 10:30am—Nick Andrews	****	Mariana Davis	****

Submitted by: Lucy Gray





The Deacon's Bench

By the Rev. Harrel Johnson

In this issue of the newsletter I continue my review of different forms of spirituality. I wish that I could take credit for this reflection on Native American spirituality, but I can't. I can however claim credit for the fact that the author Milton Oxendine is a friend of me and my family. I first met Milton back in Elizabeth City when Milton was the pastor of a small Methodist church that my mother attended. The second time that our paths crossed was when Milton was the chaplain at Louisburg College. Milton was a gentle giant, a mountain of a man in stature and in faith. I am so very proud to know Milton. The following is Milton's pastoral reflection on Joel 2: 22-32

Is a better day coming for Lumbee Native Americans in North Carolina? Being an optimist, I believe that God's words, "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh" (v.28), will become a reality in the last days.

As a boy growing up in a triracial community in Robeson County, I recall how my people were treated. Many of my elders were farmers. They depended upon a white-owned hardware store to provide farming materials to assist in their work. Many would get their supplies on credit. At the end of the farming season, they went to the local hardware store to settle their accounts. Most of the time, the Indian farmers did not make enough money to pay for their supplies. As a result, many of them lost their farms. This created a type of bondage as they were forced to work off their credit as tenant farmers. The Indian families became like slaves living on land they once owned.

In the book of Joel, the Israelites are living in bondage in Babylonia. They once owned land, but now the Babylonians have conquered and captured the Israelites and put them in bondage. They are allowed to work and to make their own money, yet, they are in captivity.

Joel, the prophet, speaks and reminds the Israelites that God will pour out God's spirit on all flesh. The barren land, eaten by the locust, will receive rain, and the fields will produce wheat again. This blessing will be given in the form of dreams and visions seen by old and young, sons and daughters, and servants and handmaids. All of this will take place in the Last Days (vs. 30-32).

"I will pour out my spirit on all flesh" are encouraging words. These prophetic words speak of God sending help for my people, Native Americans in North Carolina. Help is a word meaning "aid," "save," and "relieve." Using these definitions, I believe my people need help in four areas.

First, North Carolina Indians have health problems. Many of them are dying of cancer and heart attacks. These diseases are killing both young and old. There is an epidemic of sexually transmitted disease among our youth and young adults. Drugs are a major problem among many of our people, too.

Second, ever since I was a child, my parents reminded me that education was the key to success. In our culture today, however, I find that many of our children are not being told that education is a priority in their lives. When I was in grammar and high school during the days of segregation, I had Indian teachers. Now during the days of integration with all races, our Indian children are still at the bottom of the totem pole in education. Even though our children have an opportunity to excel, many choose to be lazy and are not pushed by their parents to give their best efforts at all times.

Third, in the Indian world, land is called "Mother Earth." For us the land is sacred, as we acknowledge that God is everywhere. One of the most basic Indian values is "Respect for Nature." We know that the land (soil) must not be poisoned by many harmful things. To neglect to honor and to give respect to the land will cause the earth to rebel against us. It will become barren and lifeless.

Fourth, our Indian communities need to hear from our prophets. They need to receive dreams and visions for our people. Then, they need to share both with our people and with others.



Blessed
to Be a
Blessing





The Deacon's Bench Cont.

These four areas in which North Carolina's Native American communities need help can be addressed politically, socially, or economically. More importantly, they can also be improved through the involvement of our churches and in the act of worship. In our worship services, four elements are vital: praying, witnessing, singing, and preaching. Each element is dependent upon the others. Failure of any one means that the vision to help our people will not become a reality as we face the Last Days.

Prayer is a personal conversation with the Great Spirit. When an Indian prays, he or she depends upon the Holy Spirit in order to speak the words that will bring hope and healing to our broken world. We seek comfort and peace of mind through prayers that will relieve the hurts and pains of living in a White man's world. In many Lumbee congregations, an Altar Prayer is usually prayed before the sermon. The majority of the members will come to the front of the church, kneel down, and pray out loud. As the Holy Spirit descends upon the people, it's like a stick of dynamite is lit and then explodes. God's Spirit is felt by everyone. Members will cry, shout, and wail. The experience is alive with God's Spirit. During the moments of gathering around the altar for prayer, some members will give testimonies of what God has done in their lives. Some will share a miracle that might have taken place in their own lives or that of a loved one. After the Altar Prayer and testimonies, one person may begin singing a heartfelt song. As the spirit is felt, the congregation will join in singing. Joy and peace will settle upon their hearts.

When these three elements are completed, the minister will read the Scriptures and talk about what God has placed on his or her heart. Then, a sermon will be preached. While preaching the sermon, the members will usually say "Amen," "Preach brother/sister, preach," etc. These words encourage, provide, and invite God's Spirit to speak the words the congregation needs to hear. Thus, the preacher becomes a prophet. I believe he or she can also be a prophet for our people by encouraging our families to make education a priority for all our children and youth. He or she must also challenge our young people to become more health conscious. Finally, the Native pastor must continue to remind our farmers about the sacred nature of Mother Earth and encourage them to protect and respect our natural world.

It is of utmost importance that we in Indian congregations share our worship encounters with the Anglo community. When our people come together in worship, we look forward to hearing God's words, "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh." We look forward to seeing the visions and hearing of the dreams of young and old, our elders and our sons and daughters. Finally, we look forward to the Last Days of entering into God's Kingdom.

Lord, come and pour out your Spirit on our flesh.

By Rev. Milford Oxendine, Jr., Pastor, Cordova United Methodist Church, Cordova





ECW CHRISTMAS FOOD SALE

December 7, 2013



OTHER - CANNED
FROZEN - BAKED

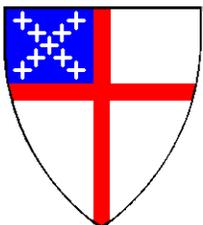


OPEN
9:00 a.m.

THIS MONTH'S ECW MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 12TH AT 10:00 A.M. ALL MEMBERS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING AS WE
PREPARE FOR OUR FOOD SALE

CLOSE
12:00 p.m.





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E-MAIL: hinnocents@centurylink.net

WEB: www.churchoftheholvinnocents.org

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS
210 South Chestnut Street
Henderson, NC 27536

Cut along the dotted line and share the below information with a friend....



The Church of the Holy Innocents
210 South Chestnut Street

ECW Food Sale

Saturday, December 7

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

INVITE A FRIEND!