

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 From the Rector...
A Time for Memories
- 2 From the Rector...cont.
Parish News ...
Sunday Service
Wednesday Service
Youth Group
ECW
September Schedule of Events
- 3 Treasurer's Report...
- 4 September Birthdays
and Anniversaries
Remember in Your Prayers
Special Dates
Unified Serving Schedule
- 5 Spotlight On...
HI Preschool



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FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



A Time for Memories

It is hard to believe that the brutal terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center Towers, The Pentagon and the thwarted attempt against either the Capital or White House happened twenty years ago. Time really is "...an ever-flowing stream..." as the hymn "O God our Help in Ages Past" states so powerfully. It is still hard to fathom that such a thing could happen in the United States. Even more, it is incomprehensible that the young terrorists who pulled off these atrocities had lived in the United States for several years and benefited from many of the good things this nation has to offer people, especially in the area of education. Americans tend to view themselves in a nation that is more or less invulnerable to attacks by foreigners. We are protected on the east and west by great oceans. Our

neighbor to the north, Canada, and to the south, Mexico are long time allies. While we have engaged with them in conflicts in ages past it was so long ago as to seem like ancient history. War gave way to peace, peace to alliances, treaties of peace to agreements about free trade, all of which have contributed to making North America a place that other parts of the world can only envy. That is not to say that our part of the world is perfect but the peace and prosperity shared by so many can only be counted as a blessing for so many of us.

September 11, 2001, was the most stunning attack on the United States since Pearl Harbor which launched our entry into World War II. It was made even worse by the fact that it was an attack not only against a Military target, i.e., the Pentagon, but primarily and most with the most devastation against a civilian target, that being the World Trade Towers. Had they not been thwarted by the passengers on the other plane heading toward Washington DC, either the Capital or the White House were to be hit. Those brave people chose to crash the plane on which they were passengers rather than have them add to the carnage of the gruesome day.

Our sense of safety was certainly damaged. Oceans and friendly neighboring nations were not enough to protect us. Those who would harm us and even destroy our nation could come from within. Even those who were not part of the military or the government were targets of those who hated our nation and its freedom. The world we had known no longer existed.

Because of the scope of what happened was so large, many of us have connections to those days. At least two people I know died in the Twin Towers that day, including the son of the rector

From the Rector cont. pg. 2

of the Episcopal Church of which I was a member in my Maryland days. Another friend was sitting on her deck in northern New Jersey drinking her morning coffee. She had a view of Manhattan and specifically of the World Trade Center and saw the horror unfold before her very eyes. I was in York, SC, at the time and the nephew of my Christian Education Director worked in a neighboring building. As with my friend in New Jersey he witnessed the entire drama unfold and saw countless people jump to their deaths rather than be burned alive in the fires. Yet another friend was a Marine Officer stationed at the Pentagon. He was running late for work that day and from his motorcycle witnessed the plane that plowed into the Pentagon. His office was close enough to the point of impact that he told me he would certainly have been killed had he been on time that day.



The consequences from the day still linger with us. The decision to invade Afghanistan was made because the Taliban Government of that country aided and abetted Al Qaida and Osama ben Laden who planned and executed the attack. Other things which flow from that day are more positive. Our government is more attentive to the possibility of attacks against the nation by terrorists. Travel safety, particularly, air travel has changed radically. I can attest personally that passengers are carefully screened from the top of their heads to the literal soles of their feet. We do not need to live in constant anxiety but we do live with the awareness that we are not invulnerable and that vigilance is required to protect our safety and defend our liberties.

One might rightly ask, "Don, this has been a powerful, even painful, rehearsal of the events of that day. What does our faith say to all this?" I recently saw a quote that seems relevant. "God never said that bad things would not happen to believers. What he promised was that he would walk with us through whatever happens." My clergy friend and his wife who lost a son that day struggled long and deeply with the grief. However, they found in their faith the confidence to commend their son

into the hands of God. The Marine officer who barely missed death at the Pentagon, and my friend who witnessed the attack on the World Trade Center thanked God they were not killed, offered up the souls of those who did die to God to welcome them into his eternal kingdom and prayed for the recovery for those who survived who were injured both physically and emotionally by the horror they lived through. God walks with us, not only on the bright days filled with light, but on the dark days of unspeakable tragedy. Eternal life is real and God has a place for those who meet an untimely death. Jesus, by his death on the cross suffered with us and for us. By his resurrection, Jesus assures us that death and destruction is not the final word, but Life grounded for all eternity in Divine Love. Twenty long years. Twenty years of memories, loss and pain. Twenty years of recovery and hope. Twenty years of seeking God in the midst of it all, and finding Him present as He walks with us every day of the journey. †

PARISH NEWS...

Sunday Services

The Rev. Donald Lowery

This is a reminder that Sunday Services have resumed. We are still required to maintain social distance. Folks from the same household may sit in normal proximity to one another. If one has been vaccinated and new infection rates in the county remain below 7.5% masks are not required in church, though one may continue to use one if desired. As of writing time, we still cannot gather at the communion rail, so communion is distributed standing at the choir steps. We can SING again. I know many folks have grown accustomed to a leisurely Sunday morning drinking coffee and reading the paper. If you want to bring your coffee (in a lidded cup, please unlike the gentleman below) and read the paper during the sermon, it won't hurt my feelings. Come on back to your church home. We need each other.



The Rev. Donald Lowery

Wednesday Services will continue with the First Wednesday being the Healing Service. All services are Holy Communion and begin at 5:30 p.m. †



The Rev. Donald Lowery

Youth Group will resume soon. A separate emailing will follow with information. †



*Betsy W. Seifert
President, ECW*

The ECW will meet in the Ladies Parlor on the 4th Tuesday (September 28) at 10:00 a.m. unless "things" Change! Hopefully conditions will not deteriorate to keep us from coming together as a group. We shall see! †

Schedule of Events

Sunday – September 5

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

Wednesday – September 8

5:30 PM, Healing Service
Holy Communion

Sunday – September 12

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

Wednesday – September 15

5:30 PM, Holy Communion

Sunday – September 19

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

Wednesday – September 22

5:30 PM, Holy Communion

Sunday - September 26

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

Tuesday – September 28

10:00 AM, ECW (*Ladies Parlor*)

Wednesday – September 29

5:30 PM, Holy Communion

Treasurer's Report

Bob Nelson, Treasurer

08/03/2021

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

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)
Revenues				
Pledged Income	\$12,901.66	\$9,000.00	\$117,666.72	\$119,000.00
Other Income	\$127.00	\$250.00	\$1,158.92	\$1,350.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$13,028.66</u>	<u>\$9,250.00</u>	<u>\$118,825.64</u>	<u>\$120,350.00</u>
Expenses				
Compensation				
Salaries	\$2,551.68	\$2,600.00	\$20,093.60	\$18,200.00
Employee Expenses				
Rector's Expenses	\$727.45	\$1,100.00	\$6,205.23	\$6,900.00
Other Employee Expenses	\$3,571.02	\$3,300.00	\$31,436.14	\$22,700.00
Total Employee Expenses	<u>\$4,298.47</u>	<u>\$4,400.00</u>	<u>\$37,641.37</u>	<u>\$29,600.00</u>
Total Compensation	<u>\$6,850.15</u>	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	<u>\$57,734.97</u>	<u>\$47,800.00</u>
Administrative				
Supplies	\$230.69	\$200.00	\$1,042.93	\$1,200.00
Preschool Income/Expense	\$3,327.67	\$1,150.00	(\$1,287.15)	\$8,550.00
General Insurance	\$1,973.50	\$2,300.00	\$8,126.50	\$9,000.00
Other Administrative Expenses	\$138.00	\$0.00	\$249.21	\$300.00
Total Administrative	<u>\$5,669.86</u>	<u>\$3,650.00</u>	<u>\$8,131.49</u>	<u>\$19,050.00</u>
Utilities	\$2,469.76	\$1,700.00	\$12,033.75	\$11,100.00
Maintenance	\$1,485.96	\$1,500.00	\$16,901.07	\$10,500.00
Parish Life	\$80.00	\$300.00	\$240.00	\$1,100.00
Diocesan & Seminary Support	\$2,543.00	\$2,600.00	\$17,801.00	\$17,800.00
Outreach	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$19,098.73</u>	<u>\$16,750.00</u>	<u>\$112,842.28</u>	<u>\$107,350.00</u>
Net Total	(\$6,070.07)	(\$7,500.00)	\$5,983.36	\$13,000.00

OUR CHURCH'S
FINANCIAL
HEALTH



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>



For questions or help, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/about>

Birthdays

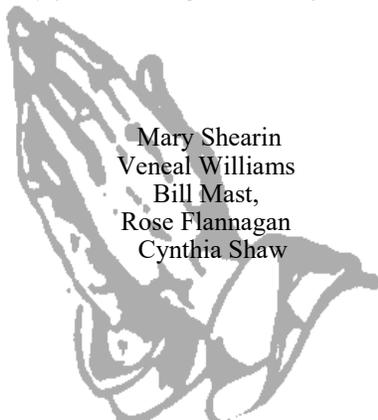
Gillie Church.....9/01
 Sean Hartness9/01
 Kermit Ellis9/02
 Katherine Williamson.....9/06
 Chapman-Scott Burnette.....9/06
 Greg Taylor.....9/08
 Mary Mac Long9/12
 Betsy Seifert9/14
 Chris St. Clair9/16
 Lucy Catherine Olmert.....9/17
 Nicholas Andrews9/20
 Cliff Rogers9/23
 Frank Madigan9/25
 Donald Seifert.....9/27
 Scott Hartness.....9/28

Anniversaries

Catherine & Pat Olmert9/19
 Nancy & Cole Whitt.....9/25
 Mary Beth & Tim Seitzer.....9/27

Remember In Your Prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:



Special Dates

- **Labor Day**
September 6, 2021
- **Patriot Day**
September 11, 2021
- **National Grandparents Day**
September 12, 2021
- **Nat'l Hispanic Heritage Month**
September 15-October 15, 2021
- **First Day of Autumn**
September 22, 2021

Calendar of the Church Year According to the Episcopal Church

- **Feast of the Holy Cross**
September 14, 2021
- **St. Michael & All Angels**
September 29, 2021

SEPTEMBER UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

SEP	ACOLYTES	LAY READER / CHALICE BEARER	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	GREENS/ FLOWERS	
5		8:00am - Bob Nelson 10:30am - Nick Long	Brian Paynter Kermit Ellis	Anora Rainey	Caroline Burnette	
12		8:00am - Tracy Madigan 10:30am - Caroline Burnette	Brian Paynter Kermit Ellis	Shirley Young	Bettie Cooper	
19		8:00am - Greg Taylor 10:30am - Richard Davis	Brian Paynter Kermit Ellis	Shirley Young	Lisa Miravalle	
26		8:00am - Rix Edwards 10:30am - Porter Shaw	Brian Paynter Kermit Ellis	Mariana Davis	Nick Long	

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

HOLY INNOCENTS PRESCHOOL

SUMMER 2021





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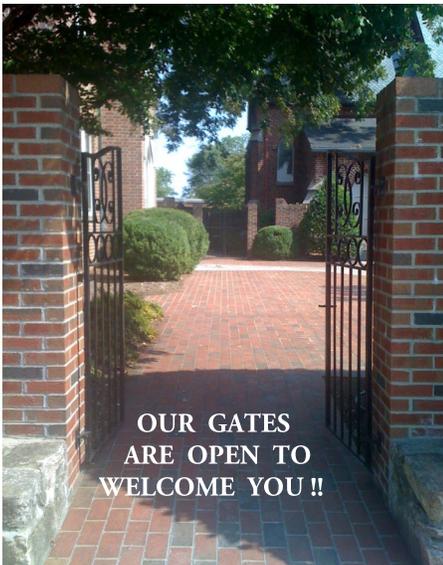
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THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

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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.**