



# TRINITY TIMES

The Newsletter of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Hampstead, NC  
[www.holytrinityhampstead.com](http://www.holytrinityhampstead.com)

January 2018

## The Feast of the Epiphany

from Pamela †

**T**he Feast of the Epiphany always falls on 6 January. It is a fixed date just like Christmas Day. When we reach the feast day, the 12 days of Christmas are over. It is a major feast day on our church calendar; however, we rarely celebrate it at Holy Trinity because it only occasionally falls on a Sunday.

For us, gift giving is usually over by December 26, although I do know a few folks that give gifts anytime during the 12 days of Christmas. In our culture today most folks think the 12 days of Christmas end on December 25<sup>th</sup>, not begin on that date.



In the Eastern churches, the gifts arrive with the coming of the Wise Men. In the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem it is a star that marks the place in the grotto where believers have gone for centuries to contemplate GOD's incarnation – the gift

of love that GOD has given to all humanity. It is the star that led the wise men through the desert to find this special child and offer Him the gifts that they had carried on their journey.

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth tells us that they brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. The story calls them wise men, but says nothing of wealth. Regardless, they brought the best that could be offered at that time in history. Fine gifts for someone they didn't even know. This parish family offered gifts to families that they didn't know this Christmas.

May we continue to be led by the brightness of the "star" to continue our giving to those in need. We, like the Wise Men, are called by our Savior to offer the best we have, our very selves, in the dark places that still exist in this world. May the bright light of Christ continue to shine through each of you and lighten those dark places you enter.



## Stewardship: No Need to Pledge?

**T**he story is told of a wise pastor who went to get a haircut. The barber, who also happened to be a parishioner, took the opportunity to tell the pastor all the reasons why the barber was not going to complete his stewardship pledge card.

*"I don't think we should have to promise to give money to God. We should give what our heart tells us at the time. I like to be able to just put in the collection whatever I have that week."*

The pastor listened carefully and after his haircut he handed the barber \$1 for the \$10 haircut, saying, *"I like to give what my heart tells me – just whatever I have in my pocket at the time."*

*"Father," the barber protested, "I can't pay my rent, take care of my expenses and run my business successfully if everyone would do that."*

*"Neither can God," the pastor replied.*

**It's NEVER too late to pledge. Pledge cards are on the table in the Narthex. Holy Trinity needs your commitment.**

## Opioid Crisis in Pender County: A Forum

A special forum to discuss the **Opioid Crisis in Pender County** is scheduled for **Thursday, January 11, at 7 p.m.** at Holy Trinity. Pender County Sheriff Carson Smith will lead the discussion and help answer questions and concerns from the public about the effects of the opioid epidemic in our county. The public is invited.



According to Castlight Health, a San Francisco-based health care information company, Wilmington rates #1 in the country for abuse of prescription painkillers. Castlight estimates 11.6% of the city's population that receives prescription painkillers abuses them. And that does NOT include those who obtain the pills outside of

a prescription. Actually, 22 out of the top 25 cities are located primarily in rural and Southern states. Hampstead is not immune from this growing problem.

The forum is sponsored by the Outreach Ministry. Coffee and light refreshments will be available. Please support this important event and invite your friends and neighbors.

## News and Notes from Outreach

The ending days of 2017 find us very grateful to all of our Holy Trinity Friends for supporting the projects of the Outreach Ministry in this past year. We strive to reach beyond the borders of our church walls to help those in need locally, nationally and internationally.

If you know of a need dear to your heart that we have not addressed, we invite you to share your ideas with any Outreach Ministry member...better yet, please join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 am** to brainstorm ideas for worthwhile projects for 2018. **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!** Think about what we want to achieve this year—more forums, new programs, new charitable opportunities. Just bring your ideas, suggestions, something off the wall, something to shake the pot, or something we've never done before. Put your imaginations to work!

The second phase of our *Holiday Baskets Project* {Christmas} was truly a success. When you chose

an angel from our **Angel Tree**, contributing a gas card, toy, or clothing for a child or family, you made an investment with a guaranteed outcome—BIG SMILES! Food was boxed for the families, including donated hams, purchased vegetables, staples and other ingredients for a fine Christmas meal and supplements for the week following Christmas when children are eating more meals at home.

We supplied 8 families, including a single adult, with food and toys for a total of 11 children. We wish all of you could have experienced the joy of loading one mom's car with boxes of food and a big bag of toys for each of her children. She had no idea how many boxes we would load into her car and it overwhelmed her. As the last bag was loaded, tears streamed from her eyes as she spoke her gratitude. We knew that she was a single mom, recovering from cancer treatments and raising 3 children. We feel that was perhaps the greatest gift we received this season and want you to know how you do make a difference in lives of those around you.



We also had the opportunity to participate in the **CHAP** (*Community Holiday Assistance Program*) Christmas efforts for gifts and food

by volunteering for various positions in this community phase of holiday assistance. Thanks to our Holy Trinity members who signed up to wrap gifts, run errands, pack food or assist in other ways in their "shopping day" at All Saints Catholic Church on Dec.17 or help pack food on Dec. 16.

The final numbers are not in for the number of children and families that CHAP touched, but the final tallies are in the several 100's.

2018 will open opportunities for us all to participate in additional outreach projects. One such project is a drug education presentation at our church on January 11, outlined in a separate article on this page. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend and learn about this extremely timely issue that is affecting all of our communities.

Holy Trinity's Outreach Ministry wishes you a peaceful 2018. May you give and receive God's many blessings in the New Year!

*Christie Hawkins, Outreach Ministry*

## Gaither Gospel Music Concert

A full evening of entertainment and meaningful music is a rare treat anytime, but when the occasion includes the best-loved voices in gospel music... it's a must-see celebration! If you attend just one musical event this year, an evening hosted by Bill Gaither and featuring these artists is one you can't miss. It will leave you encouraged, grateful and most certainly smiling!

The concert is **Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm** at Port City Community Church in Wilmington.



Tickets for seniors are \$25 plus \$4.50 handling and taxes. Call 1-855-484-1991 for tickets. Carolyn Beddow will coordinate car pools. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

## COME PLAY BINGO!



Holy Trinity Youth are hosting a **BINGO PARTY** on **Sunday, 28 January** from **5-7 pm**.

Bingo cards and refreshments will be on sale. This is a fundraiser for the youth to attend the *Annual Acolyte Festival* in Nags Head in the spring.

The Youth Group will appreciate everyone's support of this event. I mean, who doesn't like to play BINGO?!!!! And for such a good cause!

As an incentive, anyone who wins 3 games this night will receive a **FABULOUS** prize!



## Economy Money Budget Finance Spending

	Month Ended Nov. 30, 2017	Year to Date Nov. 30, 2017	Annual Budget 2017
Pledged Offerings	\$12,041.00	\$ 99,962.00	\$118,448.00
Total Income	\$14,197.18	\$130,050.90	\$138,058.00
Total Expenses	\$ 8,813.46	\$130,648.16	\$144,916.00
<b>Special Offerings</b>			
	\$ 0.00	\$9,313.78	\$ 2,000.00

### Special Offerings

**A BIG thank you to all who have contributed. It's never too late to write a check to Holy Trinity!**

## January Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays:

5 Gretchen Moore  
8 Brett Price  
11 Jennifer Starrett  
18 Mary Jo Tuplin  
20 Stephanie Clinch  
22 Betty Sanders  
30 Donna Spiers  
31 Catherine Charles

### Anniversaries:

1 Mike & Jennifer Starrett  
7 Jerry & Jendon Johnson  
17 Donna & Laura Smith

## Parish Life

Parish Life is planning a potluck in February. Be on the lookout for information.

If you have any ideas for a Parish Life activity or a speaker for one of our Potluck Suppers, please let Pat Gopsill know ([pgopsill@gmail.com](mailto:pgopsill@gmail.com), 910-270-0509).

## New Vestry Members

At the Annual Parish Meeting, the following were elected to 3-year Vestry terms: Bob Ronne, Norm Gopsill, and Jackie Redington. Congratulations!

Thanks go to Dolores Phillips, Vivian Kersey, and Jim Cornette for their service over the past 3 years!



## Know Where You're Going!

**B**illy Graham is now 99 years-old with Parkinson's disease. In January, 2000, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, invited their favorite son, Billy Graham, to a luncheon in his honor.

Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation because he struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, 'We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you.' So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said, "I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who this month has been honored by Time Magazine as the Man of the Century.

"Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there. He looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it. The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.'

"Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

"The conductor rushed back and said, 'Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one.'

"Einstein looked at him and said, 'Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going.'"

Having said that Billy Graham continued, "See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand-new suit. My children, and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious.

"So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you

to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this: I not only know who I am. I also know where I'm going.

"May your troubles be less, your blessings more, and may nothing but happiness, come through your door. Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil – it has no point.

"Amen and peace, my friends. And may each of us live our lives so that when our ticket is punched we don't have to worry about where we are going."

Even at his age and with Parkinson's Disease, he could still deliver a powerful sermon!

"Being a Christian is not essentially about joining a church or being a nice person, but about following in the footsteps of Jesus, taking his teachings seriously, letting his Spirit take the lead in our lives, and in so doing helping to change the world from our nightmare into God's dream."

*Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church  
An excerpt from Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus*

## 12 Days of Christmas

**First Day** - Partridge - God or Christ

**Second Day** - Turtle Doves - Old and New Testaments

**Third Day** - French Hens - Faith, Hope, and Charity

**Fourth Day** - Calling Birds - Four Gospels

**Fifth Day** - Golden Rings - First five books of the Old Testament, the Torah

**Sixth Day** - Geese a-laying - Six days of Creation

**Seventh Day** - Swans a-swimming - Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Eighth Day** - Maids a-milking - Eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)

**Ninth Day** - Ladies dancing - Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22)

**Tenth Day** - Lords a-leaping - Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)

**Eleventh Day** - Pipers piping - Eleven faithful disciples (Acts 1:13)

**Twelfth Day** - Drummers drumming - Twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed



## PHOTO GALLERY



*The Daughters of the King held their annual Christmas Lunch at the home of Pat Gopsill. The ladies enjoyed a delicious brunch, as well as presents from their "Secret Santas." Pictured here are: (From left, Top Row) Carolyn Beddow, Dolores Phillips, Gloria Kirwin, Lynn Ruhnke, Linda Cavanaugh; (Bottom Row) Jeanne Rick, Betty Sanders, Pat Gopsill, and Vivian Kersey. (Not pictured: Jackie Redington)*

*For his 24 years of exemplary service as Treasurer of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Mother Pam presented Bob Muller with a handcrafted olivewood star containing the Holy Family she had purchased in Jerusalem. This accolade took place during the Annual Parish Meeting.*



## CHRISTMASEVE SERVICES



*Each month, we will highlight one of the wild and crazy holidays our nation (and the world) celebrates....just for the fun of it!*

## **January's Wacky Holiday:**

### **January 29<sup>th</sup>, National Puzzle Day**

Don't be puzzled by today. **National Puzzle Day** honors puzzles of all size, shape and form. **Crossword** puzzles are by far the most common. **Sudoku**, a number puzzle, is the most recent puzzle rage. **Jigsaw** puzzles are a favorite of all ages. There are easy puzzles, and there are puzzles for experts. They fit the needs of every person, and every skill level.



Puzzles are a favorite pastime of millions of people, young and old. Why are puzzles so popular? There's numerous reasons for its popularity. For many, doing puzzles is fun. Some people just like the challenge of completing them, and graduating to evermore complex and difficult puzzle-solving levels. For others, it is a way to kill time, and to eliminate boredom. Others still, do puzzles to keep their mind sharp, or to learn new words.

Whatever the cause for your interest, spend National Puzzle Day doing puzzles.

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ **Holy Eucharist Begins Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

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"Leading, Loving, and Sharing through Christ"