



TRINITY TIMES

The Newsletter of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Hampstead, NC
www.holytrinityhampstead.com

January 2020

A New Year, A New Opportunity

By Father Ron

On New Year's Day each year British poet and hymnist Frances Ridley Havergal (she wrote the famous hymn, "Take My Life and Let It Be," Hymn #707) would sit down and compose a poem to send to her friends and family expressing her feelings about the beginning of a new year.



In 1874, not many years before her death, she wrote a poem that has become immortal. The poem is titled "**Happy New Year! Ever Such May It Be!**" Some believe this poem may even have been the inspiration for the Beatles hit, "Let It Be," in 1970.

This poem may seem simple at first, but its words are graceful and its meaning profound:

*Another year is dawning:
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with thee;
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.*

As we begin the year 2020, what will this new year bring? None of us knows this answer. In a time and era when so many individuals, as well as churches, prefer either isolation or self-preservation through rigidity, it is important to live into the poem's words – "**progress, praise, proving and presence.**"

In doing so we must begin with the last word, "**presence.**" When we stay connected to God through scripture, sacraments, fellowship and service, we will grasp in a deep spiritual way the power and gift of Jesus. The results of acknowledging this gift leads us to **praise** God for the love and hope bestowed upon us.

Once we live into God's presence and praise God, then we can **prove** to others the power of God's amazing grace. This will lead to wonderful opportunities for **progress.** From a Christian perspective, progress is not measured in dollars and numbers, but in faithfulness, in wounds healed, people loved, and comfort given.

If we accomplish these holy tasks this coming year, our personal lives, as well as our community life, will be filled with holy joy and Godly progress!

3rd ANNUAL TAILGATE POTLUCK

Based on the success of the past two years, Parish Life has planned another **Tailgate Potluck** after church on **Sunday, January 26th.**

**Support your team by wearing your team's jersey to church (it doesn't have to be football; any sport you support will do)!
Bring your favorite tailgate food to share.**

[Plans are being made to go bowling on a Sunday afternoon, date to be announced. We're looking for ideas for fun activities. If you can coordinate an activity, sign up on the bulletin board.]

The Gospel and Stewardship

by Donald Whitney

Stewardship is the care and management of that which belongs to another. While we often speak of things as “ours,” the reality is that all that we have and all we are belongs to another — God. As the Apostle Paul put it, “What do you have that you did not receive?” (1 Cor. 4:7). So it is from God that we have received our lives and everything in them for which we are responsible. Temporarily — that is, until God requires them from us — we are stewards of these gifts.



Though too often associated merely with money, stewardship has been memorably described as being stewards of our time, talent, and treasure. But stewardship isn't just about being good managers of our schedules,

our skills, and our stuff. The discipline of biblical stewardship calls us to use all these things in the way the Lord wants, to employ them for His glory. However, no one can be a biblical steward who doesn't first understand the gospel — the story of what God has accomplished through the life and death of Jesus Christ.

The gospel is infinitely more than a ticket to heaven. It is a message that changes not only a person's destination in eternity but his heart and mind here and now. The gospel transforms more than a person's relationship to God; it also transforms a person's relationship to everything else.

That's why one of the most reliable evidences that a person has been converted is that he begins looking for ways to use his time, talent, and treasure in service to the gospel. When a person eagerly begins to use his resources to serve and spread the gospel, it testifies to the value he places upon the gospel and to the fact that he treasures the God of the gospel above all.

Sin makes us selfish and wasteful with all that we have and all that we are. But “the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Cor. 4:4) helps us to see that knowing Him is infinitely more important and valuable than grasping the clock and the dollar for ourselves. It causes us to find spiritual pleasure in using these things to meet the needs of others and to enable them to hear the gospel and turn to Christ.

Coming to know Christ through the gospel leads us to evaluate our resources on the one hand and the souls of lost people on the other, and to say with the apostle Paul: “I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls” (2 Cor. 12:15).

Stewardship must be a discipline, for there's always something else clamoring for our resources. Without discipline, the best intentions to use our time, talent, and treasure for the gospel will be overwhelmed by circumstances and the feelings of the moment, resulting in inconsistency or, worse, neglect in using our resources most effectively for the gospel.

In a sense, the discipline of stewardship is central to all other spiritual disciplines. If we don't develop a God-centered use of our time, for example, we won't consistently engage in personal disciplines such as prayer or the intake of God's Word, nor will we participate faithfully in interpersonal spiritual disciplines such as corporate worship or Communion.

What does disciplined stewardship look like? It's using your spiritual gifts to serve God in your local church. It's designating a portion of money for the church each month before paying other bills, so that the use of your treasure is consistent with your most treasured priorities.

Discipline enters the stewardship picture because it is so easy to waste our time, squander our talent, and be careless with our treasure. But even the most scrupulous use of our resources is worthless apart from the gospel. For it's only through the gospel that we receive eternal time in heaven, glorified talents, and the richest of treasures — God Himself.



	Month Ended Nov. 30, 2019	Year to Date Nov. 30, 2019	Annual Budget 2019
Pledged Offerings	\$12,136.00	\$100,318.00	\$112,000.00
Total Income	\$14,872.04	\$121,918.65*	\$131,710.00
Total Expenses	\$ 8,713.46	\$126,110.76	\$129,092.00
CASH FLOW	\$ 6,158.58	(\$ 4,192.11)*	\$2,618.00

*NOTE: Includes Investment Income: \$6,821.17

Adult Education to Begin in January: 20th Century Saints

So often when we think about the saints of the Church, we think of those biblical saints or saints from ancient church history. During the season of Epiphany, our Priest in Charge will lead an Adult Education series entitled “20th Century Saints.” We will examine the lives of faithful men and women who shaped the Christian church during our lives and those of our parents. Each of the people we will explore are found in our liturgical cycle with dates assigned to celebrate their faithful lives in the Episcopal book of saints entitled “A Great Cloud of Witnesses.”

Before we start this series, our Winter/Spring programming will begin with Ron sharing his faith journey, so that the Holy Trinity family can get to know him and his family better.

Each Sunday we will gather from 9:00 a.m. to 9:40 a.m. As people of faith, we are on a continual journey which should include educational formation. Please join us!

Sun., Jan. 5, 2020 - “Sharing My Journey”

On this first Sunday of the new year, The Rev. Ron Abrams will share his journey with us.



Sun., Jan. 12, 2020 - “Saintly Women Reformers”

We will begin our study of 20th century saints by looking at four devout women who witnessed to the Gospel by being reformers: Florence Nightingale 1910 (August 12), Frances Perkins 1965 (May 13), Dorothy Day 1980 (November 29), Pauli Murray, 1985 (July 1)

Sun., Jan. 19, 2020 - “Martyr Bishops”

On this day we will examine the lives of two remarkable Bishops from different parts of the world – Janani Luwum 1977 (February 17) and Oscar Romero 1980 (March 24) – two men of faith who gave their lives in proclamation of the Gospel and in support of God’s people against the evils of violent dictatorships.

Sun., Jan. 26, 2020 - “Civil Rights Martyrs”

The Civil Rights movement changed the course of our nation and the Christian church was at the center of this change. We will look of the lives of two men who could not have been more different, except they gave their lives for the cause of justice

and equality shaped by the gospel imperative. Jonathan Daniel 1965 (August 14) and Martin Luther King 1968 (January 15 & April 4) are both inspirational saints who walked the earth in our lifetime!

Sun., Feb. 2, 2020 - “A Spiritual Force for Christ and Against Addiction”

As we begin the month of February, we will glimpse into the remarkable life of The Rev. Samuel Shoemaker 1963 (January 31), a spiritual mentor to the Alcoholics Anonymous. Much of the foundation upon which A.A. rests was developed and proclaimed by Shoemaker, one of the great 20th century American evangelists.

Sun., Feb. 9, 2020 - “A Towering Voice Against Evil”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer 1945 (April 9) was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who was at the center of the Protestant resistance during the Nazis occupation of Europe in the 1930's and 1940's. Bonhoeffer's books are some of the most important Christian writings of the 20th century and have influenced generations of clergy and lay leaders across the world.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

5	Gretchen Moore
9	Brett Price
11	Jennifer Starrett
18	Jo Tuplin
20	Stephanie Clinch
31	Catherine Charles



Anniversaries:

1	Jennifer & Mike Starrett
17	Donna & Laura Smith



The ECW is selling beautiful handknitted items at extremely discounted prices! Check in the Sunday School room after church on Sundays to get a look at the bargains available!

News and Notes from Outreach

The Outreach Ministry wishes you a joyous New Year as we look at the first few days of our new decade! If you were unable to attend the annual meeting, you may be interested in a recap of 2019 projects that were reported there.

- Food for over 100 elementary and middle school children was collected through the **Backpack Program** which sends food items home each weekend and over the summer vacation weeks for children who may not eat as well at home as they do at school.
- Collections of gently used clothing have **supported two domestic violence shelters** in Wilmington and Burgaw. Clothing sales at Safe Haven thrift shop in Hampstead and the bargain Box in Wilmington go to these organizations.
- Sturdy men's long-sleeved shirts and heavy pants were put aside and delivered to the **Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry** in Newton Grove.
- A small Christmas Party was held for the children who attend the **Brigade After-School Program**, along with their parents. (See photos on page 5.) Smiles were seen in abundance as Father Ron entertained the children with his telling of O'Henry's classic tale of *The Gift of the Magi* and offered a gift grab bag. Thank you to the bakers of Holy Trinity for providing lots of sugar treats. We consider our relationship with Brigade an important part of our community outreach.
- Our largest activity for the year is always the **Holiday Baskets Program**. The 4 C's Food Pantry provided names of local families who could use some help at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We provided turkeys and a box of groceries at Thanksgiving to 4 families with 11 children and one senior family.



Your help in providing toys and clothing for the children in these families by taking an Angel from our **Angel Tree** was an important part of the Christmas portion of the program. The families received hams and a food box for Christmas. We also support a larger community Christmas effort, **CHAP** (Community Holiday Assistance Program) through donations and volunteer opportunity hours.

We would like to grow our Outreach Programs in 2020. We invite you to join us – we meet once a month and are seeking new projects and an important focus on our fellow men, women and children in need. If you have thought of or read about a particularly worthy project, we invite you to share your ideas with our group.

We would like to say that, once again, Holy Trinity Epis-copal Church has made an important difference in the lives of others. Best wishes to you and yours in 2020!

Christie Hawkins, Outreach Ministry

News from Your Vestry

The December meeting of your vestry was held Tuesday, December 17. We welcomed our newly elected members, David Mahoney and Robert Muller, and thanked Jimmy Wolfe and Roger Rick for their service over the past three years.

The following elections were held:

Senior Warden	Norman Gopsill
Junior Warden	Jackie Redington
Treasurer	Roger Rick
Clerk of the Vestry	Lynn Ruhnke

Bob Muller will replace Roger Rick as liaison to the Finance Committee. Bruce Pennington, Lou Ellis, and Roger Kersey have agreed to be our Building and Grounds Committee, helping the Junior Warden. We are working with a local electrical company to improve the lighting in the sanctuary. In addition, we are getting quotes to stain the church exterior.

The Vestry Retreat will be held Saturday, January 11, 2020. During this time, we will be reviewing 2019, as well as setting goals for 2020. We are looking forward to the New Year to grow and improve Holy Trinity. If you have any questions or concerns, please address a member of your vestry.

137th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina

Invite • Welcome • Connect

February 6-8 • Wilmington, NC

The Convention will be held locally at The Hotel Ballast in Wilmington. Lynn Ruhnke and Jeanne Rick are Holy Trinity's Delegates. Dave Mahoney and Roger Rick are our Alternates.



Boys & Girls Brigade Christmas Party

Holy Trinity hosted the Brigade Christmas party Dec. 17. Thanks to your generosity, the children feasted on sweets of every kind. Father Ron told a short Christmas story and there was a grab bag of toys for all.



ADVENT



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 3rd – **National Fruitcake Toss Day**

Fruitcake Toss Day is your opportunity to finally throw away the old fruitcake. After the holidays are over, it's time to bring in the new, and toss out the old. Today is the day that the fruit cake goes....hooray! There is not one way to toss out the old fruitcake. Why not make a little fun out of it? Gather up a few friends who also are fortunate enough to have received a fruitcake for the

holidays. Go out to a field and see who can toss it the farthest. Caution: do not toss the cake at anyone. This weighty steel-like mass of sugar, flour and fruits could injure someone, if they are hit by it. If you do not toss the fruitcake today, you must keep it until next Christmas. Our extensive research traced the origin of this day back to 1995. The first Fruitcake Toss occurred in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

Fruitcake Tossing runs counter to the tradition of many people to pass the fruitcake around from one person to the next. In this tradition, the person who is holding the fruitcake on New Year's, must store it away until the next Christmas season.

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"Leading, Loving, Listening, and Sharing through Christ"