

# TRINITY TIMES

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

May 2018

## Opportunities Abound from Pamela †

**W**e often miss the opportunities that God places before us. There are numerous reasons we let the opportunities slip by. It is comfortable to stay where we are, or we don't think we are capable of the task or ministry at hand. Maybe we are fearful that we will say or do the wrong thing and sometimes we are just plain lazy.

There is so much joy that comes into our lives when we take that risk, even if it means change or disruption in our lives. This is the poem I shared Sunday 5/29/18 when I reflected on the encounter of Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch. Both went on their way rejoicing.

*"A Morning Offering" by John O'Donohue*

*I blessed the night that nourished my heart  
To set the ghosts of longing free  
Into the flow and figure of dream  
That went to harvest from the dark  
Bread for hunger no one sees.*

*All that is eternal in me  
Welcomes the wonder of this day.  
The field of brightness it creates  
Offering time for each thing  
To arise and illuminate.*

*I place on the altar of dawn:  
The quiet loyalty of breath,  
The tent of thought where I shelter,  
Wave of desire I am shore to.  
And all beauty drawn to the eye.*

*May my mind come alive today  
To the invisible geography  
That invites me to new frontiers,  
To break the dead shell of yesterdays,  
To risk being disturbed and changed.*

*May I have the courage today  
To live the life that I would love,  
To postpone my dream no longer  
But do at last what I came here for  
And waste my heart on fear no more.*



	Month Ended Mar. 31, 2018	Year to Date Mar. 31, 2018	Annual Budget 2018
Pledged Offerings	\$ 9,813.00	\$27,762.00	\$119,155.00
Total Income	\$10,642.03	\$30,481.13	\$141,415.00
Total Expenses	\$14,799.80	\$37,718.03	\$146,239.88

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

## Vestry News

**B**ishop Skirving met with the vestry on April 17 to answer questions and address concerns. He assured the vestry of his continued support in the future.

**Ascension Day Service  
& Potluck Picnic  
Thursday, May 10, 6 pm**

Father Gerry Blackburn will be back with us again to lead the Ascension Day service while Mother Pam is away.

As usual, we are asking parishioners to bring their favorite picnic side dishes to share, and something to drink for themselves. Holy Trinity will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, and condiments. (A big "Thank You!" to those men who volunteered to do the grilling!)

## News and Notes from Outreach

We are preparing for our second Pender County opioid crisis forum, **Road to Recovery**, on **Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7-9 pm**.

We invite our Holy Trinity members to support this important endeavor of community education by attending. Residents of the Pender County community and neighboring counties are invited to attend.



Two dynamic speakers, Catherine McDowell and

Mary Parks, will present information and education regarding recovery and treatment for persons who have become addicted to opioid substances. Help from the community is needed in order for their programs to succeed.

Catherine McDowell is the founder of **Roots of Recovery**, a cottage community which serves women with alcohol and other drug addictions and their children. The foundation of Roots of Recovery is the theme of women supporting women, walking the path of recovery together. "Receiving positive social support, while living free of the fear of becoming homeless, is a key component of Roots of Recovery's philosophy," said Catherine.

Mary Parks represents **Pavillon by the Sea** which offers an intensive outpatient service in Wilmington. Pavilion's Intensive Outpatient Program is a level of care that is appropriate for those who have enough structure in their community to maintain sobriety while undergoing treatment. The benefits of outpatient care to a recovering addict are numerous and include being able to remain in their home and include their family in their recovery process.

Coffee and light refreshments will be available. A Q&A session will follow the presentations. We hope to see you there!

## Parish Life

On **Friday, May 18**, we'll meet at UNCW's Brooks Field to watch the Seahawks play the College of Charleston as the baseball season winds down. Come enjoy some good college ball with your parish family. A possible **mini golf outing** at Shipwreck Point, Surf City, is being considered for June.



Looking forward to the **Ascension Day picnic** on **Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** at our picnic area. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Last year was loads of fun and we had a large turnout. Father Gerry Blackburn will be the officiant for the service.

If you have any ideas for Parish Life activities, please contact Pat Gopsill, [pgopsill@gmail.com](mailto:pgopsill@gmail.com).

*Pat Gopsill, Parish Life Ministry*

## Stewardship: Have You "Insured" Your Parish?

Did you know that there are different ways you can use a life insurance policy to make a very special planned gift to our parish?

1. You can name Holy Trinity as the full or partial beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy which is no longer important to the financial stability of your family. This can be an easy way to support your parish and make good use of a life insurance policy that has "outlived" its original purpose.

For example, insurance policies that were originally purchased to cover a mortgage or provide for a spouse or dependent children may no longer be needed for that purpose and could now be designated to help Holy Trinity and continue your support of the parish beyond your lifetime.

2. You can purchase a new insurance policy in which the parish is irrevocably named as the beneficiary. Again, this extends your generosity to your parish beyond your lifetime and the premium payments may qualify for a charitable income tax deduction.

For more information on remembering your parish with the gift of a life insurance policy talk to your financial planner, attorney or insurance representative. Insuring your generosity to the parish is an outstanding gesture of faithful stewardship.

Also: **Are you receiving a tax refund this year?** Consider donating 10% of your tax refund this year to Holy Trinity's general fund. You will be providing a benefit to your faith community, making an impact on society and you can claim the donation on your 2018 taxes. If you have questions, please contact the stewardship committee.

## May Birthdays & Anniversaries

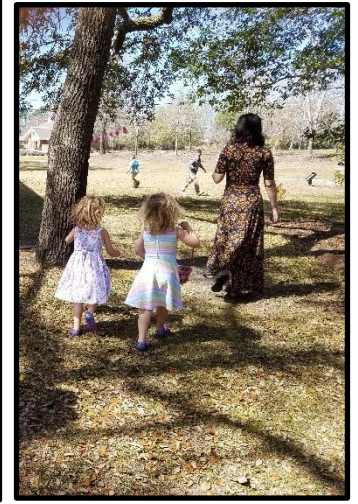


### Birthdays:

4	Bud Johnson (98!)	29	Michelle Price
5	Jim Vaughn	31	Bill Spender
11	Jeanne Rick		
13	Bill Crawford		
19	Lynn Ruhnke		
21	Janice Fox		
	Gloria Kirwin		
22	Jim Cornette		
25	Elle Graham		

### Anniversaries:

6	Jimmy & Dee Wolfe
15	Kris & Gloria Kirwin
18	Darrell & Sally Markovitch



The younger set had a blast searching out all the Easter Eggs hidden by the Youth Group.

## *Easter 2018*



The traditional "Flowering of the Cross" by the youngsters (with a little adult supervision).



Once again, the ladies outdid themselves with delicious finger foods to enjoy after the service. Thanks to all who contributed!



## News from the Youth Group

**H**oly Trinity's Youth Group took to the road again for the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual 2018 Acolyte Festival**, April 20-22, at St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea, Nags Head. The theme was Western Hoedown and the workshops kept them busy honing their skills at the altar, baking bread, and sharing music with Jamey Graves.



On the road again, headed to Nags Head!



From top:  
Ryan Morris,  
Rachel  
Ardekani, Sam  
Wolfe, Mark  
Smith, Dominic  
Clinch, Lauren  
Clinch. At  
Teacher's Lair,  
Okraçoke



Waiting for things to get started is HARD!

Following the Festival, the kids headed down to Okraçoke to break in the Cornette's new rental home, "Teacher's Lair." The weather cooperated, and everyone agreed the place was ready for "real" paying guests. Thanks to Jim and Ellen for allowing the Youth Group first dibs on the house!



Baking Communion Bread...move over, Ellen!!



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. In 1988, the law was unanimously amended by both the House and the Senate and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on Thursday, May 5, 1988, designating the first Thursday of May as a day of national prayer. Every president since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation.

Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges between opposing persons and even political parties. Prayer reminds us that we are created in God's image and He desires for us to represent Him everywhere we go. Prayer brings UNITY.

In 2018, our theme will be **Pray for America - UNITY**, based upon Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, *"Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

Our hope is that individuals, churches, and spiritual leaders in America, will humble ourselves and unify in prevailing prayer for the next great move of God in America. We can come together in clear agreement that this is our greatest need. We can become a visible union, standing together in prayer. We can pray more than ever before, and practice extraordinary prayer for the next great move of God in America that will catapult the message of the gospel nationally and internationally.

Pray with us. We will be gathering with other churches and community members covering at least 7 prayer-points. Attending: Robert Mueller, House of Representatives; Jeff Rivenbark, Channel 3 reporter and host. We will meet at **Noon at the Gazebo** in Hampstead Village. In the event of heavy rain, will meet at Hampstead United Methodist, across the street. Please join us! Together, we can mobilize unified public prayer for America!

*"There is no great movement of God that has ever occurred that does not begin with the extraordinary prayer of God's people."*

Dr. Ronnie Floyd

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

### May's Wacky Holiday: **May 3: Hug Your Cat Day**

**Hug Your Cat Day** is one of those pleasingly straightforward holidays. Quite simply, it is a day in which cat owners everywhere are encouraged to hug their cats. The more dedicated amongst them will not need this encouragement, of course, but it is always good to be reminded of our feline friends.

The obvious downside to the day is that people without cats may be left out. This need not be the case, however – it should be straightforward enough to simply adapt it into "Hug Someone Else's Cat Day".



*Felix*

So, whether or not you are the proud housemate of a purring kitty, **Hug Your Cat Day** is the perfect excuse to put a bit of warmth and companionship into your life. No matter what's going on around you, no matter how bad or troubling things get, you can always count on your furry friend to be there for you.

Unlike dogs, cats do not show affection towards humans through loud, obvious gestures. This can lead people to believe that cats do not love their humans as much as dogs so. The truth, however, is far from it. According to animal behaviorists, cats are independent creatures who show love in subtle ways. They may purr at you or just spend time hanging with you to show you their love and appreciation. Bumping heads on their humans is another way cats reveal their affection.

Although the origins of Hug Your Cat Day, which is also sometimes celebrated on June 4, are unknown, it is clear that the creators of the holiday wanted people to let their cats know that they are loved by embracing them in a warm hug. Hugging cats can also have health benefits. Studies have shown that giving your cat a cuddle can reduce stress and help you relax.

## Why Wear **Red** for Pentecost?

The Sunday that is seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Day is the **Feast of Pentecost**. Pentecost is the day on which we remember the story given to us in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. The story goes:

- 40 days after the resurrection (which we celebrate at Easter) Jesus ascends into heaven (which we celebrate on Ascension Day)
- But before he ascends, Jesus promises that he will not leave us “comfortless” but will send the Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide us, to guide the church.
- Ten days later, on the Day of Pentecost, Holy Spirit descended on the people gathered. (*Note: Pentecost is an ancient Jewish festival of the harvest, the name of which translates from the Hebrew as The Festival of Weeks.*)
- In the Book of Acts, the story is told:

*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.*

So... on The Day of Pentecost in the church year, fifty days of Easter and ten days after the Ascension, the clergy wear **RED** vestments to signify the work of the Spirit. It is also a custom in many churches for the people in the congregation to wear **RED** on the Day of Pentecost as well. We wear **RED** to remind us of the fire of the Spirit. In addition, a congregation with many dressed in **RED** is colorful.

And perhaps most of all, **it is fun.**

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

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
107 Deerfield Road  
Hampstead, NC 28443

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