



# TRINITY TIMES

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

March 2020

## Lent: A Season for Feasting and Fasting

By Father Ron

In the Bible, from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation we find both feasting and fasting. Feasting is the celebration of the joy and goodness of God in our lives. Fasting is a reminder of the sin and pain of our existence.

As Americans and as Christians we are good at feasting. From Thanksgiving dinner to a Super Bowl party; from an all-you-can-eat buffet to a church potluck supper, food and feasting are at the heart of who we are, and rightly so. As God's beloved, we are abundantly blessed. Therefore, it is a right and good thing to give thanks and enjoy the blessings bestowed upon us!

*feast.  
fast.  
repeat.*

This is only half the story though. In order to truly appreciate and understand who we are and what we are about, we also need to fast. In our Ash Wednesday liturgy, we hear these haunting words:

*"Dear people of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting."*

We sometimes forget that Jesus began his journey with fasting in the stark wilderness. During this time our Lord drew deeper into himself and into the presence of God. This time of fasting provided clarity for the mission ahead. As one writer put it:

*"Jesus made a solemn commitment to a great truth we often forget: we do not live by bread alone."*

During this season of Lent, may the same be true for us. May we fast from those things that distract us, annoy or anger us, and those things that simply occupy valuable space in our lives and take up important energy from the things that matter most.

During this holy season of Lent, may we also draw deeper into the heart of God by feasting on God's Word and Sacraments; by living out our faith in meeting the needs of those who are truly hungry – both physically and spiritually.

In doing so, we will feed more than our bodies. We will nourish our souls and prepare for that certain time reflected in the Ash Wednesday liturgy when ashes are put on our foreheads with the words:

*"Remember you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."*

## Daylight saving time starts at 2 a.m.



Clocks should be turned forward one hour

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

# Stewardship: HOW MUCH DO I OWE?

By Bill Marianes

“How much do I owe” asked the parishioner. “For what?” I asked. “You know, for my church dues.” I truly did not know what to say next, so I asked a simple question: “How much have you been blessed?” “A lot” they said, “but what has that got to do with anything? I just want to know how much of my money I have to give to the church as dues to be a member?”

They failed to understand that Christ’s church does not sell “memberships” or charge “dues” and that everything “they” had was really a gift from God. Everything! Their life, their talents, their genetic composition, their life experiences, the people who loved them, the opportunities presented them for greatness, the chances to make a difference in the world, their stuff and even their money. None of it was really theirs. They were merely a temporary steward (caretaker) of God’s gifts.



They didn’t get it and just wanted me to give them a magic number as if it were written in some golden tablets. So I replied with what Christ taught us on the subject: Give it all, I said. In Matthew 19:16-21 we are presented with the parable of the young man who

asked Christ: “*What good deed must I do to have eternal life?*”

The young man was focused on the right thing, namely eternal life, and not some temporary success, job promotion or nice lifestyle. Christ responded with the following clear guidance: “*If you would be perfect, go sell what you possess and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.*”

How many of us are ready to go “all in” and take the journey down that path toward an ultimate goal that is richer and more fulfilling than anything we could imagine? The young man was not, and “...he went away sad.”

Paradoxically, it is kind of funny, because eventually we will give everything. When we die, we will not take any of our stuff with us. You will never see a hearse followed by a UHaul trailer. So why not give it now and experience the joy that comes from helping someone else. Or would you prefer to also “go away sad.”



	Month Ended Jan. 30, 2020	Year to Date Jan. 30, 2020	Annual Budget 2020
Pledged Offerings	\$ 6,895.00	\$ 6,895.00	\$118,000.00
Total Income	\$ 8,371.53	\$ 8,371.53	\$131,660.00
Total Expenses	\$ 9,842.90	\$ 9,842.90	\$131,660.00
<b>CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(\$ 1,471.37)</b>	<b>(\$ 1,471.37)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

An endless number of Scripture passages make it clear that our obligation of stewardship over God’s many gifts to us is to give in proportion to the blessings we have received. Indeed, the Parable of Talents from Matthew 25:14-30 is all about taking whatever gifts God gives us, putting them out into the world and causing them to multiply, and then giving them back in proportion to what we earned.

In Holy Scripture we find many references to the tithe. The tithe is an obligation to give at least 10% of our blessings. Notice the words are “at least” and notice that it is giving 10% of ALL of our first fruits and blessings. That includes our time and our talents, as well as our treasures.

Christian parishes that practice some form of tithing of a percent, or true stewardship, have an abundance of resources, ministries and blessings. Brothers and sisters, this is just not that hard. In the literally hundreds of parishes I have been blessed to work with over the last five years throughout the country, I have repeatedly discovered that when people stop thinking about their commitment to Christ’s Church as a bill to be paid, but rather see it as the opportunity to share willingly and joyfully the blessings that God has bestowed upon them, their lives and parishes are full of joy, peace and love and true riches and abundance.

My definition of stewardship is relatively simple. I believe stewardship is what you do with all of the gifts God gave you. All of those gifts. So if you want to be judged as a great steward, then be generous with all the gifts that have been given to you by your Father.

So each day you get to look in the mirror and assess your life as a steward (caretaker) of all of the many gifts and blessings God has given and entrusted to you, and ask yourself: “How much does God owe me, and how much do I owe God?” The choice is yours. As are the consequences. That is the beauty of free will. You know what you need to do to choose wisely!

## Parish Lenten Potluck: "Having Fun with your Funeral"

**C**asket or cremation, memorial service or funeral, hymns, readings, internment, Rite I or Rite II, memorials, and the list goes on. There are many decisions that need to be made when you die.

The greatest gift you can give your loved ones at this difficult moment is to have all your arrangements made and wishes known to both your family and the church.



On **Wednesday, March 18**, we will have a parish potluck supper. At this time our Priest in Charge will lead us through some important questions and considerations as we make our funeral plans. Even if you have been faithful and done this, Lent is a perfect time to review your decisions and explore other options. It starts at **6 pm** and will conclude by 7:30. **Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us!** (It'll be fun....really!)

## A Lenten Prayer

This short song of petition for **God's** presence is taken from the 1514 **Sarum Primer**, which was a collection of prayers and worship resources developed in Salisbury, England, during the 13th century. "Sarum" is the abbreviation for the Latin word for Salisbury.

*God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at mine end, and at my departing.*

*Christ be in my mind, and in my seeking;  
Christ be in my ears, and in my hearing;  
Christ be in my hands, and in my serving;  
Christ be in my feet, and in my walking;  
Christ, be at mine end, and at my departing.*

*Spirit be in my hope, and in my helping;  
Spirit be in my soul, and in my praying;  
Spirit be in my joy, and in my laughing;  
Spirit be in my love, and in my learning;  
Spirit be at mine end, and at my departing*

*Lytlington, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (Composer/Organist)*  
*Words: st. 1 - Sarum Primer, 1514;  
sts. 2-3 - Ronald George Abrams*

## March Birthdays

- 11 Judy Bradley
- 15 Ashley Ketner
- 16 Bob Ronne
- 19 Joanne Muller



## Parish Life . . .

A great time was had by all who attended the play, "Guys and Dolls," and dinner at Nikki's Steakhouse and Hibachi. Thanks to Sharon Seago for planning this event!

Upcoming events: (1) **Parish Potluck on Wed., March 18, 6 pm.** Father Ron will show us how to have fun with our funerals (see above); (2) The Methodist Church Ladies will be having their annual **Card-A-Rama on Thurs., March 19, 11 am**, at the United Methodist Church. Cost is \$12.00 pre-paid. Pat Gopsill will get the tickets. (Last year we hosted this group because their church was damaged due to Hurricane Florence.) There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. (3) A **Murder Mystery Night** is in the planning stages for after Easter. An interest sign-up sheet will be posted. There will be a cost for the Mystery Troupe to come in and stage the murder. Audience participation is encouraged and expected! Thank you, Donna Smith, for organizing this event.

*Pat Gopsill, Parish Life Ministry*





The youth collected \$691 at the Souper Bowl of Caring to donate to the 4 C's Food Pantry in Hampstead. Shown here are (top) Ryan Morris, Sam Wolfe; Dominic, Christian and Lauren Clinch. Awesome job!



Sierra and Sydney will be wrapped in love with their beautiful hand crocheted prayer shawls, made by Gloria Kirwin and presented during Sunday School. What a blessing!



(Right) Laura and Donna Smith (with Don and Janice Fox in the background) await the start of the musical, "Guys and Dolls" at Kenan Auditorium. (Above) After the play a delicious meal was cooked right at the table with lots of flair! A great evening of fun and fellowship!





## Vestry News

If you have not noticed yet, take a look at the outside of the church. It has been recently power washed and stained. Prism Paints did an excellent job. In addition, new lighting is being installed over the altar area and back by the choir seating.



We have appropriated funds for nursery care for Easter Sunday. We will have certified childcare for this service. We may need a few pack-and-play units or play pens. We are also looking for a highchair. If you have any of these items and are willing to donate them to the church, please bring them into the Sunday School room. Thank you!

Permission has been granted to replace our sign on Highway 17 that was taken down by Florence. Funding was donated and it should be installed shortly. Be on the lookout!

ECW will purchase new faucets for the bathrooms. We are looking for a volunteer to install them. If you can help, please contact Vivian, Gretchen or Jeanne for details.

**Reminder:** Vestry Minutes and the Treasurer's Report are posted in the hallway opposite the office. They are posted after they are accepted by the Vestry; therefore, they are a month behind.

Please see any Vestry member with any suggestions to improve Holy Trinity. We are all members of one body. We are all responsible for each other and for the facility in which we worship.

## Spare Change Sunday

Beginning this Lent and continuing each month on the **third Sunday of the month (March 15)** we will have "Spare Change Sunday." What does this mean? Simply, a box will be placed in the back of the church and worshippers will be encouraged to leave their spare change (pennies, nickels, etc.) in the box. Each month a specific outreach ministry will be designated to receive the loose change. These local ministries assist in meeting the needs of people in our community and our diocese.



**Be generous!**

## ECW Indoor Yard Sale



ECW is looking for donations for a congregation-wide, indoor yard sale on **Sat., May 9, 8am-2pm.**

Household items only – no electronics or clothing. Please price your donations before bringing them to church. If you need assistance, check with Vivian or Gretchen.

## Adult Ed: The Parables of Jesus

Beginning on the first Sunday of Lent (March 1) we will focus on the parables of Jesus during the **Adult Formation Class from 9:00 am to 9:40 am.** From the parable of the Prodigal Son to the parable of the Good Samaritan, each parable of Jesus gives us great insight into our relationship with God and each other. Please join us in the Sunday School room as we take this Lenten journey together.

**March 1:** *Parable of the Rich Fool*

**March 8:** *Parable of the Good Samaritan*

**March 15:** *Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector*

**March 22:** *Parable of the Prodigal Son and his Brother*

**March 29:** *Parable of the Wedding Banquet*

## Parish Weekend

Reserve your room now! On September 11–13 the Holy Trinity family will once again gather at Trinity Center for a weekend of fun and relaxation. Trinity Center is the Diocesan retreat located on Emerald Isle in Pine Knoll Shores, NC. The Center reaches from the Atlantic Ocean across Salter Path Rd. to the sound, with all of the natural beauty of both beach and estuary.

You should plan to be part of the fun – we will eat together, play together, worship together, relax together. And this year Father Ron will be relaxing with us, giving us a chance to get to know each other better.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. We have 15 rooms available, and any rooms not reserved by March 31 must be relinquished back to the Center. **A deposit of \$100 will reserve your room, so mark your check "Parish Weekend" and get it to the Treasurer before March 31.**

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



## March's Wacky Holiday: March 21<sup>st</sup> – National Quilting Day

We all had that grandparent who was deeply obsessed with creating complex and beautiful blankets through quilting. If you've inherited this passion or know someone who still carries on the tradition, then National Quilting Day is for you. This ancient art has produced comfortable pieces used to keep us warm on long winter nights and have been given as gifts on birthdays and weddings. Quilting practices can be found in almost every area of the world, and Quilting Day celebrates them all.

The first remnants of quilting were dated to 3400BC. By the 5th Century AD in Europe, it was an integral part of their tradition of needlework. While quilts were traded extensively, they wouldn't become commonplace until sometime in the 12th century when they were returned from the Middle East by the Crusaders. Since then the tradition of quilting has been ongoing and developing, with local styles developing everywhere the artform traveled. Quilting was an integral part of the Colonial textile arts and is one of the things that these colonists were known for.

The National Quilting Association started National Quilting Day in 1991. Their members passed a resolution at the 22nd Annual Show in Lincoln, Nebraska, on June 1991. It is a day that is celebrated around the country with special quilting shows, classes, open museums and much more.

Today is a day to recognize and appreciate the quiltmakers. If you are a quiltmaker, spend a minute to recognize and appreciate that you have truly been blessed with a special skill. If you are not a quilt maker, wrap yourself into a quilt and enjoy the warmth.

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

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
107 Deerfield Road  
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Holy Trinity is a Christ-centered community. We are dedicated to reaching and helping people seeking to know God and to serve God.