



# TRINITY TIMES

The Newsletter of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Hampstead, NC

[www.holytrinityhampstead.com](http://www.holytrinityhampstead.com)

April 2017

## Walking the Via Dolorosa

from Pamela †

*The **Via Dolorosa** ("Way of Grief," "Way of Sorrow," "Way of Suffering" or simply "Painful Way") is a street within the Old City of Jerusalem believed to be the path that Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion. It is marked by 14 Stations of the Cross.*

St. George's Campus, which includes the college where I stayed while on sabbatical in 2011 and the Anglican cathedral, is just a short walk from the Old City of Jerusalem. The Old City is the walled area where many of the sacred sites of Judaism,



Christianity and Islam can be found. It is not a museum as might be expected, but an active and vibrant place where many people live and work. It is, of course, full of tourists and the many shops, hotels, restaurants and vendors who offer anything one could possibly want. It is also home to Jews, Christians and

Muslims alike, some of whom have been there all their lives and others from countries all over the world.

The Old City can be entered through any one of seven gates that today are always open. Some are large enough for vehicles to pass through, others for pedestrians or carts only. From the college you have easy access into the Old City through three of these: Herod's Gate, Damascus Gate or New Gate. Your destination usually determines which gate you will choose.

During my three visits to Jerusalem I have entered through Herod's Gate for the purpose of walking the **Via Dolorosa**, the way in which Christians through the centuries have remembered Jesus' walk from judgment to burial.

Around the world in Christian churches, especially during Lent, the practice of saying the Stations of the Cross is performed. This usually means following a

particular liturgy, depending on one's denomination while walking around the church, stopping at pictures depicting this crucial day in our savior's life.



This is a far different experience than walking the Via Dolorosa in the Old City. The groups I have walked with started very early in the morning before the noise and crowds had emerged for the day. Someone in the group carried a fairly large cross, which members who wished could take turns carrying. As we went along, more

and more folks were out in the streets beginning their day. We would stop at each of the nine stations, reading the liturgy with very little interruption. Yet, while walking the Old City at other, busier, times of the day, I would still encounter various groups at the stations reading and singing midst the hustle and bustle of the city.

John Peterson, a past Dean of St. George's College, wrote the book, *A Walk in Jerusalem: Stations of the Cross*. The "liturgy" in this book attempts to add some of the feeling of what it would be like to walk the Via Dolorosa.

Walking the Via Dolorosa was always a powerful experience for me, so I wanted to offer a worship experience that is as close to it as possible. Canon Peterson's version comes as close to that as any I have found. It includes scripture, a meditation, prayers and verses and responses for each of the 14 stations. We used this last year on the Wednesday of Holy Week along with pictures of the actual places in the Old City.



**Please come and join us at 6:30 pm on Wed., 12 April, as we remember Jesus' judgement and walk to Calvary by praying the Stations of the Cross. The way will begin in the church, then wander out onto the church property ending in the memorial garden.**

## Stewardship: Seizing Our Role as Stewards

*"You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things."*—

Matthew 25:23

A few years ago, a biographer researched the life of the Duke of Wellington. He had no difficulty tracing the major events of his life, but pushing beyond public knowledge to an understanding of the private side of the Duke remained difficult. Then this researcher came across a box of his financial records. When the researcher learned what the Duke had done with his money, he finally discovered the Duke's deepest values and most important priorities.



If someone were to come across our financial records a hundred years from now, what would our check registers or our Quicken files say about us? Would we be embarrassed by our use of money? Would our financial records give any sign that we sought to live as faithful stewards of the treasures God had entrusted to us?

We don't use the word "steward" very much in our culture. The only steward most of us meet is the one who brings us a cup of coffee or a bag of peanuts on a flight. But in biblical times, stewards were among the most important people in society. A steward had command over the resources of another.

In a world without computers, smart phones, and Skype, a wealthy man had no choice but to entrust his holdings to his steward while he was away from his estate.

In the parable from Matthew, Jesus teaches that all of us are stewards entrusted by God with vast wealth. Even the steward who received just one talent was given a fortune worth the equivalent of 35-years of daily wages.

But exercising our stewardship is often intimidating. Whenever we use our gifts, we risk what we think might be failure. It's tempting to think that if God is really so powerful, God hardly needs our meager efforts to multiply his wealth!

Each of us faces the temptation of compromising our calling. Is it really so evil to do nothing with the resources God has left in our keeping? Jesus' parable answers this question with a resounding

**YES!** As the master illustrates, God treats us severely when we offer excuses to justify our reluctance to be stewards.

It's good to know that another option is open to us. We can seize our role as stewards with the eagerness of the first two stewards in the parable. Both of these faithful stewards multiply the master's resources. And both receive the same reward at their master's return: "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matt. 25:21).

At the end of time, will we hear those same words from our Lord?



	Month Ended Feb. 28, 2017	Year to Date Feb. 28, 2017	Annual Budget 2017
Pledged Offerings	\$ 8,372.00	\$22,952.00	\$118,448.00
Total Income	\$14,819.13	\$32,882.87	\$138,058.00
Total Expenses	\$15,991.83	\$25,007.90	\$144,916.00
<b>Special Offerings (APPEAL)</b>			
	<b>\$ 5,375.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,375.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>A BIG thank you to all who stepped up to the plate! It's not too late to write a check to Holy Trinity!</b>			

## Parish Leadership Conference

On March 17-19, I (Bob Muller) attended a "Leadership Conference" at Trinity Center conducted by the Diocese. There were approximately 100 attendees representing most of the 61 Parishes in the Diocese of East Carolina. Unfortunately, I was the only one from Holy Trinity Hampstead. I say unfortunately because we, Holy Trinity, could have benefited from more of the Leadership attending.

The workshop ran from Friday evening until Sunday noon. There were four sessions where all attendees were present and ten Breakout Session workshops covering all aspects of Parish Leadership. I was only able to cover three of the Breakout Sessions. They were on **Stewardship, Financial Matters, and Vestry/Clergy Relationship**. The facilitators for the meetings I attended included Bishop Rob Skirving, Canons Stockard and Brown, Rev. Ron Abrams from St. James, and Ms. Bonnie Holton, Diocesan Administrator.

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## Leadership Conference from page 2

It was a great learning experience for me – not only from the workshops attended, but the friendships and discussions around the dining tables with members from throughout the Diocese. The "commonality" of the concerns and problems throughout other parishes was interesting. I will be following up with the information learned to our Vestry and the Stewardship Committee in the coming weeks.

I feel so strongly about what was gained by going to the Conference that I will propose to the Vestry that we include in the budget for next year funds that we should have at least 2 members from Holy Trinity attend the 2018 meeting which has already been scheduled.

We are not alone with our concerns. We are not an island unto ourselves - we have the Diocese and its parishes as partners. We just need to learn from others and find actions that will help.

*Bob Muller, Treasurer*



## Schedule of Services

*Please try to come to one, several, or all of the services listed below. They can be powerful reminders of whose we are!*

Sun., Apr 9, 10 am	<b>PALM SUNDAY:</b> Holy Eucharist
Mon., Apr 10, 7 pm	<b>TAIZÉ:</b> Chant and Meditation
Tues., Apr 11, 10 am	<b>HEALING:</b> Sacrament of Healing and Holy Eucharist
Wed., Apr 12, 6:30 pm	<b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>
Thurs., Apr 13, 6 pm	<b>MAUNDAY THURSDAY:</b> Dinner, Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing (opt), Stripping of the Altar
Fri., Apr 14, Noon	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
Sat., Apr 15, 8 pm	<b>EASTER VIGIL:</b> Holy Eucharist
Sun., Apr 16, 10 am	<b>EASTER:</b> Holy Eucharist



## Help Needed...

- ★ **FOOD, FOOD, FOOD:** Sweet and savory goodies for the Easter Reception after service, April 16. **Make your favorite dishes to share!** 
- ★ **COORDINATOR FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER:** A person to generally make sure everything gets done! (See Jackie Redington for duties) **Also, please sign up to attend!**
- ★ **FLOWER DONATIONS FOR EASTER LILIES:** Please take a donation envelope (found in the pouches in the Sanctuary) and give a donation for Holy Trinity to purchase Easter lilies to decorate the church. List your "Memorial" or "Thanksgiving" on the envelope & put it in the offering plate. **Let's make Holy Trinity beautiful!** 
- ★ **SMALL WRAPPED CANDIES OR TOYS:** Our Youth Group is, once again, sponsoring an **Easter Egg Hunt** after service on Easter. They need wrapped candy or toys to load into plastic eggs for hiding. **Help them make this memorable for the children on Easter!** 
- ★ **HELP TO SET UP/TAKE DOWN SANCTUARY FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY:** We'll begin moving chairs/kneelers and putting up tables at 9 am on Thurs., April 13, and again on Fri., April 14, at 9 am, to put it all back together again in time for Noonday Good Friday Service. Any and all help appreciated. **Many hands will make it go quicker!**
- ★ **HELP TO FOLD SUNDAY BULLETINS ON FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH:** This is something as easy as pie! The bulletins are ready to be folded after 2 pm on the Tuesday before. Just come to the church and fold away, inserting any inserts. Let Mother Pam know if you can help in this way on a regular basis.
- ★ **PREPARE COFFEE HOUR REFRESHMENTS OR YOUTH DINNER ON SUNDAYS:** The signup sheets are in the Narthex. The same people sign up each year. Let's get some new blood. It's not difficult. Anyone who has done it before can help you. **Let's fill up the empty dates!**



## News & Notes from Outreach

**O**utreach is struggling to find its way. They will be meeting on **Thurs., April 6, at 2 pm**. Please join them to plot out worthy projects for the coming year.

**The Backpack Collection** continues as we enter April. Foods are sent home with children at selected local schools on Friday afternoons as a source of nutrition for the whole family over the weekend. We continue to need your donations of *cereals, Meals in a Box (meat included in the box), canned vegetables and fruits, plastic jars of peanut butter and jelly, canned meat, chunky soups, beef stew, macaroni and cheese, canned pasta, 100% fruit juice—low sugar/reduced sodium.*

Outreach teamed up with ECW to provide lunches for workers at the Hampstead Habitat for Humanity house! Great job!

## April Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

- 10 Nicolas Chludzinski
- 11 Libet Cottle
- 17 Donna Smith
- 18 Sydney Price
- 19 Brent Livingood
- 20 Rich Murnock
- 22 Marge Miller
- Kenneth Norman
- 28 Cameron Starrett
- Connor Starrett



### Anniversaries:

- 3 Roy & Christie Hawkins
- 11 Baxter & Earline Phillips

## Parish Life

**O**ur annual bowling outing was a great success! There were 16 bowlers, including parish members and youth. High scorer for adults was Jackie Redington, 112, and youth high scorer was Sam Wolfe with a game of 144. Justin Clinch, the youngest member, had his first strike!



Our next outing will be the **UNCW Men's Baseball game** against Delaware on **Sun., April 30, at 2 pm**. There will be a signup list to see who we can expect. We will meet at the stadium. Tickets are \$8.

## What's Coming Up:

**Early May (date TBD)** – Wilmington Water Tour  
Sunset Cruise with music

**May 25, 6:00 pm** – Ascension Day Service and Potluck Picnic (Youth Group to provide games)

**June 4, 10:00 am** – Service and picnic at Topsail Beach, beach house facilities courtesy The Cornettes (TENTATIVE)

**July (date TBD)** – Dinner at *The Chef and the Farmer* in Kinston, offering creative farm-to-table American fare in an upscale, urban-rustic spot (featured on a PBS series)

**September 8-10** – Parish Weekend at Trinity Center

**ISO:** Responsible adult to schedule and coordinate regular potlucks (after service or on a weekday evening); may or may not include theme or speaker. Contact Pat Gopsill, [pgopsill@gmail.com](mailto:pgopsill@gmail.com).

Don't forget to sign up for Maundy Thursday dinner. We are looking for someone to organize this event.

*Pat Gopsill, Parish Life Ministry*

## What is a Taizé Service?



If you've never been to a Taizé service, it's worth trying. It only lasts half an hour and is a tranquil way to end a busy day. Taizé Prayer is a form of prayer that originated in the Taizé Community in France. It is meant to focus and deepen our faith through the power of collective prayer. It is a candlelight service filled with silent meditation, reflection, readings, and music. All are welcome to join in or sit quietly.



**April 12:** *Sting* by Sandra Brown  
(Note date change due to Maundy Thursday.)

**May 11:** *Reckless Creed* by Alex Kava

The Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month at 12 Noon at the church.

Pack a lunch and come join us!

Stay for Dominoes after.

## Easter Reminder

- Everyone bring your “jelly jars” of money for Episcopal Relief & Development. A check with ERD in the memo line will suffice.
- Bring cut flowers to be used for the traditional “Flowering of the Cross” by youth.

## Photo Gallery



Our Youth Group in Nags Head for the 2017 Annual Acolyte Festival.



Our recent Parish Life Bowling Party was a big hit! We had 16 adults and kids participate.



The Daughters of the King prepared 24 Easter Baskets filled with chocolate bunnies, stuffed animals, candy, toys and books to give to the children of the migrant farm workers.



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

## April's Wacky Holiday: **April 7<sup>th</sup>, National Beer Day**

On March 22, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, signed into law, the Cullen-Harrison Act. This act, repealed prohibition for beer. Effective April 7, 1933, people could once more buy, sell and consume beer. The night before was called "**New Beer's Eve.**" That night millions of Americans lined up waiting for the stroke of midnight.

On April 7, 1993, the first National Beer Day, Americans consumed 1.5 million barrels of legal beer and ale. This year, put the Bud Lite on the shelf, and try one of the local microbreweries: Broomtail Craft Brewery, Front Street Brewery, Flytrap Brewery, Waterline Brewery, Wilmington Brewery - all in Wilmington. Widen your beer horizons!



Let's all lift our frothy mugs in celebration of the repeal of prohibition for beer on this very special day.

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

Each of us has been entrusted with the light of the Gospel. It is a light which was handed on to us by others. What do you need to do in your own life of discipleship to ensure that that precious candle burns brightly, and that you will be able to pass it on to the next generation? They're depending on you.

-Br. Geoffrey Tristram  
Society of Saint John the Evangelist

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"Leading, Loving, and Sharing through Christ"