

TRINITY TIMES

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

July 2018

Truly Believing "Love Heals Every Body" from Pamela †

I recently attended the recent 2018 Theology & Peace Conference as part of my continuing education. The conference centered around the theme "accepting the invitation to the 'beloved community.'" The conference was held at American Baptist College in Nashville, TN. This institution is currently a small black liberal arts college on the north side of Nashville. It began its life as a seminary to educate black men and women for ordained ministry and continues to have a strong theological emphasis.



The conference covered topics including Mimetic theory, beloved community, ministry in the black community, prison ministry and ministry with women who have been trafficked, abused, and/or addicted.

All the presentations were thoughtful and thought-provoking. However, the one that drew me to attend the conference was by Becca Stevens, founder

of Thistle Farms, an industry that makes and sells natural body products in addition to a variety of other items. It is a ministry for trafficked and abused women, based in Nashville. The thistle is prickly on the outside but has a beautiful purple flower that emerges.

Becca is an Episcopal priest, who was abused as a child. She was raised by a single mom with 5 children after Becca's dad, also an Episcopal priest, was tragically killed in a car accident when Becca

was five. The ministry began some twenty years ago, with a house for six women. The women are in the program for two years. They have a safe comfortable place to live, support of a community, a stipend and, when able, a job in the cottage industry which has grown into a national global ministry.

No one oversees the women in their homes; they work out living together. The day begins with circle time and the lighting of a candle for those who are still on the streets. This ministry stresses love without judgement – "lavish love" as one of the graduates called the type of love received.



There are now sister ministries across the United States and cottage industries around the globe. Thistle Farms has a gift show and restaurant in which graduates work, and products from around the world are made. Becca's latest endeavor is with women refugees in a camp on one of the Greek islands. She was told that the project wouldn't be possible, but Becca is persistent.

Nine women were each given a loom and taught to weave. They weave welcome mats which are sold for \$100. The weaver gets half, a third goes to transportation around the refugee camp and the rest for postage. Five women have made enough to get themselves out of the camp and they have taught five others to take their place. These mats are made with the blankets that wrapped them as they arrived and the life vests that they were wearing.

One person's dream can spark many to join the circle of love that heals thousands. Love grows and flourishes touching the lives of countless women and their families. May we all be the spark of love that can make a change in someone's life!

Stewardship: By Giving We Have More!

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten, and more by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. Jesus gave completely of himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. And so, it is that by giving completely of himself, he made us citizens of his eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us.

For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives—our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question—How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others—to asking the question—what have they done for me lately? We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we have more because when we give we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus we are reflecting the divine nature. As Jesus said “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

News and Notes from Outreach

On Sunday, June 24, our congregation gathered for a brunch “shower” following the Sunday service. Lovely tables were arranged and buffet-style egg casseroles, fruit and coffee cake were served. Everyone, about 50 persons, seemed to thoroughly enjoy the event.

At the brunch, an overwhelming tableful of household items gathered by our church members was presented to Catherine McDowell, founder of **Roots of Recovery**. This non-profit has 20 acres of

land in the Hampstead-Holly Ridge area to develop a 200-bed residential, long-term community addressing substance use disorder. Residency in the first phase of development will be open to women, pregnant women, and women with children who demonstrate a commitment to obtaining sustainable sobriety. The goal of the project is to provide live-in support for women and their children.



Catherine and Joy (a Board member) were visibly overwhelmed with the items collected to support their clients. We thank all of you for being so generous in your concern for

these women and for the success of the **Roots of Recovery** initiative.

After her introduction, Catherine used the opportunity to announce that enough funds had been collected to begin a road and sewer hookup into the campus of the cottage community which supports women who are battling alcohol and other addictions. “We are committed to empowering women through a strength-based recovery program, education, life skills, and career planning in a natural, peaceful setting,” explained Catherine.



This is such wonderful news, indicating the success of efforts to help in the battle against opioid addiction in our area. Holy Trinity has sponsored two community awareness events in the past few months, in the hope of educating area persons about opioid addiction and awareness of treatment options in the area. We will wait for more success stories in the future from the “Roots” project!

Don’t forget the hungry in our community when you head to the grocery. We continue to collect food items for the children’s **Backpack Program** for items such as peanut butter and jelly in non-breakable containers, mac and cheese and sugar-reduced cereal. Canned fruits, vegetables and meats can be placed in the shopping cart for the **4C’s Food Pantry**. Thank you for your generosity and, remember, newly-purchased, unopened goods are appreciated.

Christie Hawkins, Outreach Ministry

Economy Money Budget Finance Spending

	Month Ended May 31, 2018	Year to Date May 31, 2018	Annual Budget 2018
Pledged Offerings	\$ 5,945.00	\$42,670.00	\$119,155.00
Total Income	\$ 8,041.21	\$50,120.16	\$141,415.00
Total Expenses	\$11,731.01	\$61,957.34	\$146,239.88

CASH FLOW (\$3,689.80) (\$11,837.18) (\$4,824.88)

As you can see, our shortfall is growing. Please keep your pledge up-to-date and don't forget Holy Trinity when you go on vacation. We need every penny!!

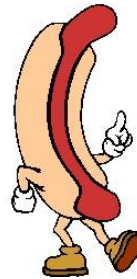
July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

1	Jimmy Wolfe	22	Jennifer Loewen
4	Roger Rick	27	Carole Solak
7	Doris Castellano	31	Rachel Chludzinski
9	Karen Sloan	<u>Anniversaries:</u>	
14	Emily Graham	10	George & Judy Bradley
21	Eric Loewen	28	George & Joy Ball

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

National Hot Dog Day: July 18th



Hot dog, hot dog, hot diggity dog!
Today is *National Hot Dog Day*. On this date, we celebrate one of America's favorite summer sandwiches. It is only fitting that this dog gets its day.

It's summertime. Hot dogs are center stage on the grill, and at picnics all across America. They are at the ballpark. They are sold from carts on street corners in every city. It's not hard to find them. We consume hundreds of millions of hot dogs on the Fourth of July alone.

In fact, we consume so many hot dogs, in so many venues, that the National Hot Dog and Sausage Council hesitates to forecast consumption. But, it does report that each year we buy over 837 million packages of hot dogs at retail outlets, and over 24 million hot dogs at baseball stadiums alone.

The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council created this day and holds an annual hot dog lunch in Washington, DC. They established this special holiday on the third Wednesday of the month.

Enjoy National Hot Dog Day to the fullest. Have a couple of hot dogs for lunch or dinner. And, don't forget to cook a few on a stick at the evening campfire.

What's in a hot dog? Don't ask, and we won't tell. Sometimes, it's best if you don't know.



Mother Pam recently celebrated the youth ministry leadership given so selflessly by Dee Wolfe by presenting her with two icons she had written. Sam Wolfe, Mark Smith, and Rachel Ardekani joined in. The post is now open...see Mother Pam if you are interested.

Volunteer Opportunity

Arbor Landing at Hampstead has been anxiously awaiting to open and start moving in residents. Their activities department is actively recruiting volunteers for this independent living memory care facility. Here are some of the activities:

- Sunday Church services
- Bible study
- Hymn sing-a-longs
- Bingo
- Arts & Crafts
- Musical entertainment
- One-on-one visits

If you are interested in helping out in any way, please call Tabitha Bailey or Laura Ortman at 910-406-1451.



The hardworking women of our Outreach Ministry: Bobbi Crawford, Christie Hawkins, Carolyn Beddow, Joy Ball, and Janice Fox.

Save the Date

136th Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina will be held at the Hotel Ballast (formerly Hilton Downtown Wilmington) in Wilmington, NC on February 7-9, 2019

The hotel rate is \$141.00 (plus taxes, per night) and this includes parking. Early Bird Registration cost is \$141.00. Details will be sent to parishes this October.

Christianity is a way of life, a way of living and doing, not just a system of beliefs.
 We do Christianity with our hands and feet.
 If you do Christianity right, you might even break a sweat.

*-Br. Mark Brown
 Society of Saint John the Evangelist*

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

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