



TRINITY TIMES

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

February 2018

Is It Really Time to Think About Lenten Discipline?

from Pamela †

So, what will it be this year? Taking on? Giving up? Maybe just allowing GOD to have a say in your life. How might one allow GOD to have a say in one's life? Our baptismal covenant offers some direction in answering that question. It occurred to me that I/we might focus on just one of the five promises we make at baptism and reaffirm it several times yearly.

The first promise we make is:

"Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?"

I will, with God's help.

(BCP pg.304)

We can discern some of the apostles' teaching by reading and studying the *Acts of the Apostles*. **There will be a service on Wednesdays from 6-6:30 pm beginning on 21 February, during which we will explore and meditate on passages from the *Acts of the Apostles*.** This will offer an added time for corporate prayer in addition to the two regular weekly services.

For those who do not already attend Sunday morning service weekly, or the Tuesday service, an extra effort to be present for one of these certainly provides you the opportunity to continue in the apostles' fellowship and the breaking of bread.

Church attendance is a habit. We all know that it is much easier to break a habit than it is to make a habit. Lent affords us the discipline to make new habits. Yours might be to join your Holy Trinity family weekly on Sunday and/or Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am.

There are many types of prayer and communication with GOD. We all need to be open to learning new ways and methods, particularly if our prayer feels old and stale. I will have some books on prayer in the Narthex available for check out that can assist in freshening your prayer life.

This thought on prayer that I received recently was new to me.

Intercede

When we pray, as our Rule puts it, we are not calling down a divine presence to come to the place where we have seen a need, for the Christ who fills all things is already in that place. Christ is already there in grace and mercy beside those in greatest need - sharing their sorrows. In our prayers we are willing to take on the suffering of others and join God in God's compassionate presence.

-Br. Geoffrey Tristram
Society of Saint John the Evangelist

New Vestry Officers

Congratulations to the following Vestry officers:

Senior Warden – Lynn Ruhnke
Junior Warden – Steve Handy
Treasurer – Roger Rick
Asst. Treasurer – Norm Gopsill
Clerk – Pat Gopsill

Please thank these men and women for serving our church in this way.

Stewardship: Planned Giving

We come into this life with nothing, and we leave with nothing even though we live with abundant gifts from God. We believe in the importance of returning to God part of what God has given us. Therefore, when you consider or review your individual financial/estate planning, please commit to make some provision for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. The provision can be for any amount, large or small. Holy Trinity encourages every member of the parish to make such a consideration. There are pages on the table in the Narthex to declare your intention.

HOW TO MAKE A PLANNED GIFT NOW

Appreciated Securities (or other assets): The gift of appreciated securities is most often in the form of common stock or mutual funds. Such a gift is a valuable way to benefit Holy Trinity and for you to receive tax benefits based on the fair market value of the assets. Other appreciated assets, like real estate, may be gifted, but it is important to discuss these in advance with the Church.

Real Estate: Real estate may be deeded outright to the Holy Trinity or left by bequest. The irrevocable gift of property may provide an immediate tax deduction and avoid capital gains. Due to complexities, be prepared to work with the Church and your qualified advisors to ensure that this is a suitable gift for both you and for the Church.

Life Insurance: Make a gift of a policy or buy a policy making Holy Trinity Episcopal Church the owner and beneficiary.

IRA Charitable Rollover Gifts: If you have a traditional or Roth IRA and are age 70 ½ or older, you may transfer up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA account directly to Holy Trinity without first having to recognize the distribution as income. (If you have not already taken your required minimum distribution (RMD) in a given year, a qualifying rollover gift may count toward satisfying this requirement.) Contact your IRA plan administrator and tell them you wish to make an IRA charitable rollover gift.

GIFTS THAT PAY INCOME

Charitable Gift Annuity: The gift annuity is an irrevocable gift of cash or securities where you

receive a predictable fixed income for life. At termination, the Church receives the residual value of the annuity. There are also potential tax benefits depending upon your particular situation.

Charitable Remainder Trust: The remainder trust is an irrevocable gift of assets into a charitable trust that provides you a fixed (Annuity Trust) or variable (Unitrust) income for life or for a set term. At the trust's termination, the trust assets become a generous gift to Holy Trinity. There are also potential tax benefits dependent upon your situation.

GIFTS LATER

Bequest: The bequest is a gift through your will or revocable trust that enables you to retain the asset during your life and provide significant support when you no longer require the asset. You may choose a specific item, a percentage, or a residual bequest. You may also choose to make Holy Trinity a contingent beneficiary in case the heirs are unable to receive the estate.

Retirement Plan Assets: In some cases, retirement assets can be the heaviest taxed assets in an estate. Naming Holy Trinity as beneficiary can avoid that taxation, enabling the asset to pass tax free to the Church. You may also make Holy Trinity a percentage beneficiary or a contingent beneficiary of a retirement plan.

Bank or Investment Account: Financial accounts can be a simple and inexpensive way to leave a legacy gift for the Church. Contact your financial advisor to see how easy the process is to make Holy Trinity the beneficiary of a particular investment or bank account.



	Month Ended Dec. 31, 2017	Year to Date Dec. 31, 2017	Annual Budget 2017
Pledged Offerings	\$19,496.00	\$119,458.00	\$118,448.00
Total Income	\$24,951.56	\$155,002.46	\$138,058.00
Total Expenses	\$14,529.32	\$145,177.48	\$144,916.00
Special Offerings			
	\$ 290.00	\$9,603.78	\$ 2,000.00

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

News and Notes from Outreach

Many of you attended the opioid forum sponsored by Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on January 11. The forum was well attended by area residents as well as church members.



We wanted to provide a platform for area residents to learn about this tragic issue that has become one of North Carolina's most persistent health problems. Sheriff

Carson Smith of Pender County and his deputies provided facts and educated the group attending on how Pender County law enforcement is seeking to alleviate the problem of addiction.

The forum was covered by local news agencies. In attendance were several persons who spoke from the audience about their personal



experiences. Some tragic personal experiences have led two area women to proactively establish groups that support separate needs.

One woman personally visits streets in Wilmington where drug traffic occurs, seeking users to talk to her and share their needs. She established a non-profit which then seeks to get individually-designed assistance for these persons.



Another woman saw a need to support women in recovery and also established a non-profit as emergency shelter and non-medical detox service. Her group is named **Roots of Recovery** and provides job skills training, daycare, parenting/family support, and education support.

Their stories were moving. We hope through the networking and sharing of information obtained at

this forum that positive and forward steps will be taken in the community and within our own church walls to support victims and eliminate the sadness of opioid addiction, sales, and related crime.

NEXT OUTREACH MINISTRY MEETING IS **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 9:00 am**. WE WANT TO GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP AND ASK ALL TO CONSIDER JOINING OUR RANKS. WE SEE MANY SMILES IN OUR WORK AND WANT TO SHARE THAT EXPERIENCE WITH YOU!

Christie Hawkins, Outreach Ministry

February Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays:

- 4 Beth Ronne
- 7 Caitlin Wiggins
- 10 Ryan Ketner
- 13 Dale Ray
- 14 Roger Kersey
- 19 Dave Mahoney
- 22 Sharon Seago

Anniversaries:

- 11 Steve & Joan Handy
- 25 Jack & Carole Solak
- 26 Branch & Jean Crawford



This annual conference will take place via live stream at St. James Parish, Wilmington, hosted by St. James, St. Mark's, and St. Paul's, and the YWCA.

We all want to create a better world – and that requires action and connection. Discerning shared values is crucial to forming powerful partnerships and moving forward with courageous intention.

Come for the speeches, panels, reflection groups, and networking events. Leave with new skills, ideas, inspiration, and a greater capacity to take action rooted in core values and powerful partnerships.

The event will take place **Friday, February 2, beginning at 6 pm and continue all day Saturday, February 3**. \$10 donation appreciated.

To register go to stjamesp.org/TI2018.

Tailgate Potluck

Join us on **Sunday, February 4**, after the service for our **2nd Annual Tailgate Potluck**. Bring your favorite tailgate food to share and root for your favorite Super Bowl team (or wanna-be!). Team colors and jerseys can be worn!



If you have any ideas for a Parish Life activity or a speaker for one of our Potluck Suppers, please let Pat Gopsill know (pgopsill@gmail.com, 910-270-0509).

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Once again, the Men's Group is sponsoring [AND producing] a pancake supper which has been described as the best deal this side of Lent.

We will be serving buttermilk pancakes, apple sauce, Jimmy Dean sausage and a drink for the unbeatable price of \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for those 18 and under, with a family maximum of \$10.00! Tickets will be available at the door on Tuesday.



**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

All are invited to attend from 6 to 7:15 pm on February 13, in the Narthex.

February's Wacky Holiday:

February 22, National Margarita Day

National Margarita Day is smack dab in the middle of winter. Many people think of Margaritas as a summer cooler, but Margaritas can be enjoyed any time of the year.

There's all kinds of flavors, from strawberry and peach to mango and berry. Almost any fruit can be used to make the perfect Margarita. Margaritas are comprised of tequila, citrus or other fruits, and sugar.



It is the most popular alcoholic beverage that uses Tequila. Margaritas are poured over ice or can be put through a blender to make frozen margaritas.

Margaritas have been around since the 1930s and 1940s. Frozen Margaritas came on the scene in the 1970s.

This is not a fundraising event but a parish fellowship evening where we can get together as we prepare for the beginning of Lent. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend. That's Tuesday, February 13 at 6 pm.

Gary Miller, Chairman

LENT



News from Youth Group

Seven of our youth attended a weekend retreat at Trinity Center, January 12th-14th. The weather was more cooperative this time than in the past.



We started out discussing stewardship and ministry on Friday night. Saturday, we continued with stewardship and looked at how the church creates a budget by examining the budget from 2016-2017. Well, needless to say with this highly intellectual math savvy group, they were extremely interested in the way the church operates and conducts their finances. The budget also generated the most thought-provoking of discussions.



Saturday afternoon, we took a little excursion to the NC Aquarium @ Salter Path that is always enjoyable.

That evening we concluded with a discussion about Epiphany and how we ourselves can change or share "our light" to the world that at times, can seem so dark these days.

Sunday morning, we the youth leaders enjoyed the service/sermon that was prepared and conducted by the youth. We really do have a great group of kids

with some real talent in so many ways and they are always ready to shine.

Jimmy Wolfe, Youth Leader

In Memorium: Howard J. Brackett

Former parishioner and Vestry member Howard Jamison Brackett, 89, of Solomons, MD, died on July 25, 2017 at Washington Hospital Center. He was born November 26, 1927 in Bradford, Maine.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Randall Brackett; his daughters, Ruth Ann Newkirk, Rebecca B. Shick, and Barbara B. Blackwell; his sons Robert J. Newkirk and Michael J. Newkirk; his 12 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his second wife Jane Brackett.

Howard was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. Howard served in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged after the war ended. He graduated from Bridgton Academy, Muskingum College and received his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. Howard had a successful career in management at Woodward and Lothrop department stores in Washington DC, FAO Schwarz in New York City and Franklin Mint in Wawa, PA.

Howard was a long-standing member of the Mason's and the Shriner's. Howard loved to travel. He visited over 100 countries; one of the highlights was a 100-day trip around the world on a freighter. Howard was a real jazz lover. He attended every North Carolina Jazz Festival since it started in 1980, as well as other festivals around the country. Upon Howard's retirement in 1985, he moved to Oak Island, NC, where he served in several local government capacities.

He also was a real estate broker for over 20 years. He was a member of St. Phillips Episcopal Church. He was an Oak Island Library booster and was instrumental in raising funds for the purchase of the land for the Oak Island Library.

Howard moved to Plantation Village Retirement Community in June 2000, and was an active member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Howard moved to Asbury Solomons in May 2015, where he married Judy Randall on October 26, 2016.

His ashes will be interred in Holy Trinity's Memorial Garden on Friday, February 2, at 11 am. No funeral service will be provided. If you wish to attend, please arrive a little early as the Service of Committal will not take long.

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Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 107 Deerfield Road Hampstead, NC 28443
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"Leading, Loving, and Sharing through Christ"