

TRINITY TIMES

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

November 2019

A New Beginning

It is an honor and privilege to be joining the Holy Trinity family as Priest-in-Charge. I have had a relationship with Holy Trinity Church in an indirect way since I arrived in the Diocese of East Carolina over 28 years ago. Though we have taken different roads to this time and place, we are now called to join our hearts and hands, our talents and treasures as we move forward in faith as stewards of this portion of God's vineyard known as Holy Trinity.

I am sure each and every one of us has numerous goals, hopes and dreams for the days and years to come. For now, though, as we enter this new chapter, I would like to share three goals all of us will need to live into by our words and actions.

First, our journey must be a mutual journey anchored in community. Sharing the good news of Christ and the growth of Holy Trinity can only take place if each of us, lay and ordained, share the ministry by joining together. In this season of All Saints and Thanksgiving we are reminded that our blessings occur in and through each other under the divine providence of God.

Second, no matter where we have been in life and the journey we have taken, we must keep our eyes on the risen Christ. There are many voices in our world calling us to various activities that can diminish our relationship with Jesus, but Holy Trinity is the place where we can find purpose and peace. Whether at work or play, in worship, fellowship or service to others, we must keep the words of the marriage liturgy as our focus: *"Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair."*

Finally, we are called to have open hearts and open doors. Life is unpredictable. If you had told me a year ago, I would be Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity Church, I would not have believed you. I am sure you may feel the same way. Yet, God is predictable and is in the middle of our lives offering us new beginnings and opportunities as long as we stay open to the Holy Spirit.

So, as we begin this new chapter in Holy Trinity's life, let us live joyfully into our faith community, keeping our eyes on Christ and being open to the ministry before us!

Faithfully,
Rev. Ron Abrams



The Rev. Ron Abrams is a lifelong Episcopalian, having been born in Hempstead, NY and grown up on Long Island. After graduating from Long Island University with a BA in history, Ron entered Virginia Theological Seminary earning his Master of Divinity degree in 1982. After serving as Assistant Rector of St. Mark's Church in Westhampton Beach, NY, he became rector of St. Ann's Church in Bridgehampton, NY in 1984. In 1991, Ron, his wife Kathleen, and their sons, Kyle and Ryan made the journey south when Ron accepted the call to serve as rector of Holy Trinity Church in Fayetteville, NC. During his time in the Diocese of East Carolina Ron has served on many committees and boards, including Standing Committee, Deputy to General Convention, Diocesan Trustee and Executive Council. In 1999 Ron accepted the call to serve as rector of St James Parish in Wilmington where he served until his retirement in March of 2019. During this time Ron served on several community boards as well as national church committees. Ron and Kathleen's family has expanded over the years. Kyle is married to Laura and they have two children, Oliver and Rowan. Kyle is the Assistant Director of Good Shepherd Center in Wilmington. Ryan is married to Lindsay and they live in Falls Church, VA, where Ryan is a High School teacher and golf coach.

Stewardship: Give Cheerfully

St. Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”* (2 Cor 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God’s sight.

Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware.

So also were **David** and **Solomon**. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel’s God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.



So also, our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world.

Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

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GENERAL FUND

	Month Ended Sep. 30, 2019	Year to Date Sep. 30, 2019	Annual Budget 2019
Pledged Offerings	\$ 8,213.00	\$ 77,227.00	\$,112,000.00
Total Income	\$11,505.00	\$ 94,620.34 *	\$,131,710.00
Total Expenses	\$ 7,205.57	\$110,717.69	\$,129,092.00
CASH FLOW	(\$ 4,908.59)	(\$16,097.35)*	\$ 2,618.00

*NOTE: Includes investment income of \$5,530.86.



November 2, 9am-10:30pm;

Fireworks at 9pm

November 3, 9am-5pm

The Annual Spot Festival, providing live music from featured bands, inflatable rides, arts & crafts, food vendors, performances by community groups, and more, is the only major fundraiser in Hampstead benefiting Topsail Schools and Pender EMS & Fire.

Admission is \$3 per adult with children 12 and under free. Fried spot dinners are provided for \$8.

Holy Trinity is serving iced tea at the Festival, so please sign up to help out. This is a way to get our name out in the community.

News & Notes from Outreach

It's difficult to believe that we are already looking at the holiday season from a planning standpoint! Thanksgiving and Christmas are Holy Trinity's opportunities to help our local families and seniors in a meaningful way. Our parish has always taken a personal approach to our contacts with the families we aid, getting to know them by name and circumstance, seeking to understand the unique needs of each recipient.

We will be able to assist 3 families with 8 children and 2 seniors who live alone at Thanksgiving by providing food collected by our congregation in conjunction with donations which have been deposited in our Holiday Baskets Fund and budgeted Outreach Ministry funds. A gift from Holy Trinity ECW will also extend our aid.



Want to help? We need food that would provide families with a scrumptious Thanksgiving Day meal as well as providing extras to cover meals following Thanksgiving during the days that children are not attending school. You will see **Tom Turkey** on the Outreach

Bulletin Board in the narthex. He is adorned with feathers naming a food needed for our collection...pick a few feathers, Tom won't mind, and take them with you when you food shop. Return the feathers and food to the area under the bulletin board. We will distribute boxes of food to our families on **Saturday, November 23**.

Holy Trinity also helps the larger community holiday effort, **CHAP (Community Holiday Assistance Program)**, an organization of volunteers from churches, civic groups, schools and businesses. In 2018, they gave out 700 food boxes at Thanksgiving. This year, along with volunteer opportunities to help this group, we will donate \$25 grocery cards to their cause.

There is a Christmas component of the Holiday Baskets Project... remember the **Angel Tree!** The Angel Tree will be up by November 26. By taking angels from the tree and purchasing the



items on the Angel, you will be providing 8 children in our assigned families with clothing and toys. Our seniors will also receive a small gift and all families will receive food boxes.

Thank you for supporting our Holiday Baskets Program again this year. Monetary donations can be made to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, with the memo line "Holiday Baskets" on the check.

Christie Hawkins, Outreach Ministry

November Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays:

4 Gary Miller
5 Sam Wolfe
11 Pat Gopsill
Chris Wolfe
14 Doris Cook
15 Ryan Morris

17 Madeleine Graham
29 Bobbi Crawford

Anniversaries:

17 Bill & Bobbi Crawford
Ken & Kitty Norman

Harvest Game Day

The ECW will hold a **Harvest Game Day** on Friday, **November 1 from 10 am to 2 pm** to raise funds for its outreach activities and its inreach projects here at Holy Trinity.



Snacks and beverages will be provided to nosh during game time. A potluck lunch will be offered as well. There will be crafts for sale and several unique raffle baskets so you can try your luck. There may even be a few door prizes!



Tickets are \$15 per person, which includes a table for 4 people, potluck lunch, snacks, and beverages.

DOMINOES

Harvest Game Day

**November 1
10am-2pm**

Photo Gallery...



The ladies of Holy Trinity had a blast getting their hands dirty and creating various items at the Hot Mess Studios in Wilmington during a recent Parish Life activity. Shown proudly displaying their creations are: (top from left) Sharon Seago, Vivian Kersey, Pat Gopsill and Jeanne Rick (bottom from left) Janice Fox and Doris Castellano.



Our youngest members, Sydney and Sienna Peñuela, enjoy the handcrafted dollhouse and furniture made especially for them by parishioner George 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!

November's Wacky Holiday: **November 15: Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day**



What's that in the back of the refrigerator!? I don't want to find out. Don't open it..... the odor may overwhelm you!!! Hold your breath, scrunch your nose if you must, and get to the task.

Everything in your refrigerator was once a fresh, healthy food, ready for your consumption. It may have been a tasty leftover, intended for later enjoyment. Unfortunately, over the course of weeks or more, things get pushed to the back of the refrigerator and slowly transform into something impossible to identify.

The timing is perfect for this day as Thanksgiving is coming soon. We will need room for all of the upcoming leftovers. This job may be dreaded by many, but it is an important task none the less. Due to our hectic and busy lifestyles, the cleaning of the refrigerator gets neglected, hence the creation of **National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day**. There may be a surprise or two found at the back of the shelves.

Some suggestions for your cleaning are:

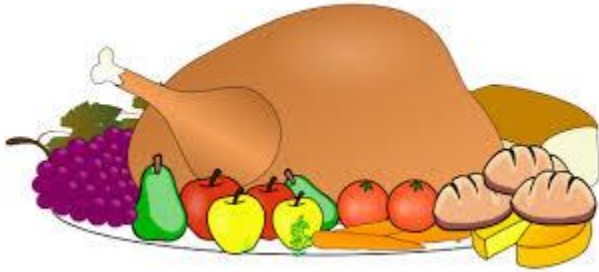
- Empty each shelf.
- Completely wipe down the inside.
- Wash drawers and beneath drawers.
- Throw away all expired or moldy food.
- Get rid of anything you do not use.
- Vacuum condenser coils.
- Vacuum out under the refrigerator.

Use this day to clean out your refrigerator, top to bottom. When it comes to food safety, fall back to the old saying:

" When in doubt, throw it out!"

Spend Thanksgiving at Trinity Center

The beach is wonderfully relaxing during a holiday week, and Trinity Center is always a stress-free destination. They do all the work, and you have all the fun with your family!



Thanksgiving Overnight Special Package is \$82 per adult; \$48 per youth 5-17 yrs.; \$12 per child 1-4 yrs. (\$102 per single occupancy). Rates are per night. Includes:

- Lodging (one twin and one double per room)
- Daily Meals
- Thanksgiving Meal at 3 pm (no lunch or dinner)

Reservations not accepted after Mon., Nov. 25.

**Call 888-874-6287
to make your reservation now!**

Let Go!

When Jesus looks at you and me, and longs to fill us with his life, who does he see? Does he see someone too full already? It could be too much stuff: possessions can suffocate us, possess us. Or we may be so overwhelmed by busy-ness that we cannot attend to the things of God. Or maybe God can't find room to fill you, because you are filled with anger, or resentment, or an inability to forgive. Imagine Jesus looking at you with love, and saying gently, "Let it go, let it go." Let it fall away like the autumn leaves.

*-Br. Geoffrey Tristram
Society of Saint John the Evangelist*

From the Junior Warden...

It seems fall is trying to arrive, which would mean less yard work, mowing, weeding, etc. Hopefully, we are seeing the last of summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those folks who worked so hard this summer keeping the grounds looking wonderful. All of you – and you know who you are – have my undying thanks for the support you have shown me. Some people went above and beyond: **Dave Mahoney** decided the bushes in the front needed to be cut back and one needed to be removed. With the assurance of **Bobbi Crawford**, our resident plant expert, that it would be a good thing to do, he trimmed and then removed the bush in question. Thank you, Dave, for going the extra mile.

Then we have Bobbi who, by all standards, goes above and beyond for our church. She not only keeps the weeds under control and puts mulch on the beds, she also painted the columns in back which were in dire need of fixing and painting. Thank you, Bobbi, for all you do.



The grounds are looking good and now we need to concentrate on the interior. As you may or may not know, one of our HVAC units has stopped working. We are in the process of getting quotes to either repair or replace the unit. We still need to address the lighting in the Sanctuary, the floors, and the walls need to be painted again. When our finances dictate we have the means to do these jobs, they will be addressed.

Your Senior Warden, **Norm Gopsill**, is getting lighting for the entrance to Holy Trinity and is looking into getting a sign that we can attach to our large sign which will show our service times.

We have had the church sprayed for silverfish and spider nests. We also addressed a potential ant infestation.

I hope if anyone sees a problem in the church, either inside or out, they will let me know so it can be taken care of in a timely manner. Again, I thank you all for the support I have received this year as your Junior Warden and, if asked to continue to be this officer next year, I trust you will continue to help me in whatever way you can. God Bless.

Jackie Redington, Junior Warden



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

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
107 Deerfield Road
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Listening, Learning, Loving, and Sharing through Christ