



TRINITY TIMES

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

April 2021

The Roller Coaster and Easter

By Father Ron

Life is like a roller coaster. It is filled with ups, downs, twists and turns. There are days when babies are born and baptized. There are days when wedding bells ring and anniversaries are celebrated. There are days when careers begin, promotions occur and the satisfaction of retirement is achieved.



But, there are also days when children bring home bad grades, jobs are lost, divorces are decreed, cancer is diagnosed and people

we love and know take their final breath on this earth. I am sure for each of us, the last year has indeed been a roller coaster that we may have never imagined!

No one is immune to the cycle of life. The Book of Ecclesiastes has it right: *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die...a time to mourn and a time to dance."* Everyone rides the roller coaster, but it is the way we ride it that matters!

The roller coaster is either something we fear and just try to survive, or it is an adventure that is filled with joy and fun. The events of Good Friday and Easter embody both of these elements.

Good Friday (April 2) is a stark reminder that we are going to die to this life. Someday everybody will return from the cemetery but you and me. When we focus just on the downward roller coaster of our mortality, then death becomes the end of the ride. If though, we focus on Easter, then the roller coaster is not scary, nor the end of the ride.

Thriving on the roller coaster of life depends on a resurrection view of life. It is the only way to rise above it all. Many people who live for the immediate ultimately only see the twist or turn in front of them. Christians thrive because we can look at life through the eyes of what is yet to come.

Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter morning (April 4) we are assured there awaits for us steady ground, a loving embrace and peace at the last when the roller coaster ride of life is over. As people of the resurrection not only can we be assured of the final outcome, but as we ride the roller coaster each day, we can hear Jesus whispering into our ears through every up and down, twist and turn, *"Fear not, I am with you always!"*



HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 28, **Palm Sunday**

Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist 10 am

Tuesday, March 30, **Holy Tuesday**

Holy Eucharist 10 am

Thursday, April 1, **Maundy Thursday**

Holy Eucharist 12 noon and 7 pm

Friday, April 2, **Good Friday**

Good Friday Liturgy 12 noon

Sunday, April 4, **Easter**

Holy Eucharist 10 am

Stewardship: Your Giving will be Blessed with More Receiving

The Lord promises: *“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine”* (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in God’s generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support – your family, your society, and your church. And God’s promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: *“But that’s from the Old Testament!”* Our Lord Jesus himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: *“For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance”* (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: *“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money”* (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against

this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. God loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, God challenges us to challenge Him: *“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need”* (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: *“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”*



	Month Ended Feb. 28, 2021	Year to Date Feb. 28, 2021	Annual Budget 2021
Pledged Offerings	\$ 11,115.00	\$42,061.00	\$113,000.00
Total Income	\$13,545.88*	\$46,609.19*	\$121,900.00
Total Expenses	\$10,171.93	\$19,032.81	\$121,900.00
CASH FLOW	\$ 3,373.95*	\$27,576.38*	\$ 0.00
* NOTE: Includes Investment Income/(Loss) of: (\$ 1,729.88) (\$ 1,640.55)			

April Birthdays and...

- 2 Don Powell
- 17 Donna Smith
- 18 Sydney Price
- 22 Marge Miller



...Anniversaries

- 3 Roy & Christie Hawkins



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

All women of Holy Trinity are encouraged to come to the ECW meeting on **April 13 at 10:30 am**. The main topic of discussion will be the

upcoming **May 1 Yard Sale**. Come and help us plan for our first fundraiser since the pandemic started.

News and Notes from Outreach

Several ladies of Holy Trinity joined forces on March 16 to create spectacular Easter baskets for the boys and girls of farmworkers in Newton Grove, NC, through the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry. Twenty-six colorful baskets filled with chocolate bunnies, candy, toys and books were tied up with bright ribbons and cellophane.



(l-r) Bobbi Crawford, Kathryn Krummel, Jeanne Rick, Christie Hawkins and Carolyn Beddow

Thank you for the help of many from our church group who responded to our call for assistance on this special project. We know that the baskets will bring smiles when they reach their destination on Easter morning!

A mighty big "thank you" goes out to our own Easter Bunny, Fr. Ron, who volunteered to personally deliver the baskets to Newton Grove in time for them to be given to the boys and girls on Easter morning.

The next meeting of the Outreach Ministry will be on **Tuesday, April 20 at 10:30 am**. Please consider joining our group and bring any knowledge you have of areas of need in our community, our nation and our world. Any project ideas are welcome as we seek ways to reach out to those in need. We have fun and could always use extra hands to do God's work!

Parish Life is Alive and Kicking!

It's been over a year that the Parish Life committee has planned any events! The last one, if you can remember back that far, was a Tailgate Party after church, on the last Sunday of January 2020.

Join us for our **First Annual**



Minigolf Tournament, Saturday, April 24th, 3:30 pm, at Shipwreck Point, in Surf City. Cost is \$9.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children. Afterwards, we can go for ice cream and award trophies to the winning teams! Yes, we can be very competitive and still have a good time. Please sign up in the Narthex by April 18th.

An Opportunity to Get Rid of Your "Stuff"

Now is a good time to clean out the closets, the attic, and the shed and donate all that extra stuff to the ECW! Your ECW is planning a congregation-wide **Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, May 1**. We are looking for any household or holiday items. No electronics or clothing, please.



And we are asking, if you are able, that all items be priced before bringing them to the church. If you need help with pricing, just let us know. All items must be brought to the church no sooner than April 18th and no later than Friday, April 30th.

Signup sheets for volunteers to help with the sale can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex. All proceeds from the sale will go to the ECW to help meet their out-reach and in-reach goals for 2021. For more information, see Gloria Kirwin, Vivian Kersey, Jeanne Rick, or Gretchen Moore.

The Case of the Missing Fabric: Can you solve it?

Pat Gopsill and Vivian Kersey are searching for some missing fabric that was used to recover the chairs in the sanctuary. According to Vivian, it's kind of a tweedy, burgundy, nubby fabric; and we are told that there once was a whole extra bolt of the fabric stored at church. Joy Ball has been up in the attic searching, and we have looked in every nook and cranny that we can think of. Does anyone have any idea where this missing fabric might have been stored? If you've seen it, please call Pat or Vivian.

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 National Walking Day

Spring is in the air. It's time to go outside for some fresh air and a little exercise. Most Americans do not get enough exercise. That makes today the perfect day to get outside and take a hike or walk. National Walking Day was created by the American Heart Association in 2007 to remind people about the health benefits to walking. The goal of this special day is also used to encourage us to begin, maintain, or expand the healthy habit of regular walks.

The American Heart Association encourages everyone to walk at least 30 minutes a day. If you are new at it or in poor health, start with just a short walk. For the average person, set your sights on a 30-minute walk today. For the very experienced walkers or runners, make it a goal to walk 10% over your normal walk. TIP: You will find that walking with another person or in groups, will make for a pleasurable walk, and the time will fly by.

There are so many ways you can get a walk in today. Here are just a few ideas.

- Walk to and back from work or school.
- Walk during the lunch hour with friends or work associates.
- Take an early evening stroll in a park.
- Organize or participate in a walkathon today.
- If you have a dog, take him or her for that 30-minute walk. Long walks are good for your dog, too.
- It is okay to walk or run.

LILIES: Use Flower Envelopes to remember loved ones with Lilies on Easter. Make checks out to Holy Trinity with "Lilies" in memo line.



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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.