

The Bell Tower

The Church of the Holy Innocents Newsletter

Volume 3 — Number 12

December 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** From the Rector
Advent Brings in
Diocese News...
Bishop Curry Responds...
- 2** From the Rector continued
- 3** Parish News...
Congratulations-Baby News!
Schedule of Holiday Services
Schedule of Events
- 4** Parish News... continued
Christmas Caroling
Community News...
Men's Breakfast
Holiday Puppet Show
- 5** Diocese News... continued
Notes From the Editor
Vestry Notes...
- 6** December Birthdays
and Anniversaries
Remember in Your Prayers
Unified Serving Schedule
- 7** Christian Formation
Coping with Illness During
the Holidays

The Church of the Holy Innocents
210 South Chestnut Street
Henderson, North Carolina 27536
Telephone: 252-492-0904

E-mail: hinnocent@ncol.net
Church Web Site Address:
www.churchoftheholynnocents.org

FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Donald Lowery



Advent Brings in the New Year for the Church

We forget sometimes that January First has not always been New Years Day and still is not in some settings. Until the middle of the eighteenth century, at least in the United Kingdom and therefore in her North American Colonies, March 25th was considered the beginning of the New Year. Some businesses and institutions work on a fiscal calendar that begins on a day other than January first. Most of us are aware that our Jewish and Chinese friends have a different date for the new year than the one in our secular calendars. So, it is no surprise that the Church keeps her new year on a different date. For the liturgy, New Years Day is the First Sunday in Advent.

Advent is our season of preparation to remember the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and to open our hearts to his second coming in Glory to complete the work begun by his death and resurrection. Though I do not indulge in wild speculations about when that coming might be, I do still believe that at some point in history the Risen Lord will return in Glorious Majesty to judge the living and the dead and transform human existence forever so that God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. I also believe that in the course of our spiritual lives Jesus comes to us in ways that are transforming, so much so that they are almost like small anticipatory moments of second coming. And, of course, I am convinced that our

From the Rector cont. pg. 2

DIOCESE NEWS...

Bishop Curry Responds to House of Bishops Statement

Episcopal Diocese of NC Website

Brothers and Sisters,

The Statement of the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church responding to the requests, questions and concerns addressed to us, by the Primates of the Anglican Communion is a significant accomplishment, a positive step, and a hopeful sign.

Our statement was crafted after two days in prayer and conversation with the Archbishop of Canterbury and other leaders of the Anglican Communion. It follows two days of work and worship in New Orleans and Mississippi to support the work of rebuilding by the church and

Diocese News... cont. pg. 5





Lord comes to greet us at the moment of death, so that we cross that great divide without fear and enter into the eternal life God has prepared for those who love him.

Advent will be a particular time of new beginning all over the Episcopal Church. The Revised Common Lectionary becomes the official list of readings for Sundays and Major Holy Days on Advent One. This lectionary is based on the one that we have followed for years with our current prayer book. The original Common Lectionary was an ecumenical production with Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians and Methodists playing a key role in its compilation. The revision of the lectionary was undertaken by an equally diverse team of scholars committed to the idea that as many Christians as possible should hear the same lessons read in their churches on Sunday.

Changes were made in several areas. Some of the epistle lessons were changed so that they made more sense when read in conjunction with the Sunday Gospel. Over the years those of us who have preached the Common Lectionary have complained that sometimes the Gospel lessons seemed to have been arbitrarily cut short, leaving out the meatiest parts of the scripture. To correct that problem, many of the Gospel lessons have been lengthened. The most noticeable change will be in the Old Testament lessons. During the Green Seasons of the year, there will be more choices in the Old Testament.

Many of the great stories of the Old Testament, missing from the Common Lectionary are now included as optional choices to be read. It is hoped that the careful use of the wider choice of Old Testament lessons will deepen congregational understanding of the Jewish roots of the Gospel story and give a fuller appreciation of the presence of God in the workings of the history of the Jewish Nation.

These changes have resulted in some practical needs. We have purchased two new Gospel Books. One will be used on Sundays in place of the current, now superseded gospel book. The other will be inserted into the brass ceremonial gospel cover to replace the gospel book now in it. The old gospel books will be preserved in the bookcases of the Ingle Parlor, where the historic service books of this parish are now kept. The preservation of these books is important for two reasons. They are memorials and the memory of those for whom they were given will thus be preserved. Then, they remain part of the history of the parish. Another decision that I have taken as rector is to place a large type Lectionary with the Sunday Lessons and Psalm for each week on the Eagle Lectern. At present we have a wonderful large Bible on the Lectern. Should lay readers forget the copy of the lections sent to them prior to the service, said readers must look them up in the Bible (which I think is not such a bad thing) and read it. The potential problem is that the Bible currently on the lectern is not the same translation this parish uses. Prior to my arrival, the parish made a decision to use the New Revised Standard Version Bible for the Sunday readings. Our lectern Bible is the old Revised Standard Version. The new lectionary book is in the New Revised Standard Version. However, the lectern Bible will not be tucked away. Because I believe that a church should have a Bible in a prominent place in the church, I will move the Bible to the pulpit where it will continue to be on public display and available for public reading.

I also plan to introduce another enrichment to the liturgy derived from the historic tradition of the church. It was the custom in ancient times, and still is in some parishes, to mark the Third

Sunday in Advent and the Third Sunday in Lent with Rose Colored Vestments. In the days when Advent and Lenten disciplines were much more rigorous than they are today, those two Sundays were set apart as days when the fast kept could be broken and a hearty meal taken to build up one's strength for the keeping of the rest of the season. Both were commonly called Rose Sundays, the one in Lent was also called Mothering Sunday and was kept as day when one ought to visit one's own mother and the Cathedral of the Diocese (if it has one) as the mother church of the diocese. I have owned a Rose Chasuble and Stole, which were custom made for me in England, for a number of years and used said vestments on the Rose Sundays in my previous parish. As they were my personal property, they came with me to Henderson. We are fortunate that they match some of the embroidery on both our Blue Advent and Purple Lenten hangings. I look forward to putting them back into use.

We enter a season of expectation and hope. It is a time of new beginnings as we start a new liturgical year. Come, worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness, that when we arrive at the celebration of his birth, we may with pure hearts come and adore him. †

*"The child to be born
will be holy;
he will be called
Son of God."*



Luke 1:35, NRSV



PARISH NEWS...

Congratulations—Baby News!

Church Office

Congratulations to Karen Rollinson on the birth of her son, Lucas Blake. He weighed 8 lbs, 7 ozs. Proud grandparents are Berkeley and Linda Ellis, and PROUD great-grandmother is Ann Ellis.

Also, congratulations to Sam and Amine Seifert on the birth of their daughter, Katherine Amine. Proud grandparents are Betsy & Donald Seifert.

Stewardship Update

*Richard Palamar,
Stewardship Committee*

Thanks to all who have submitted your pledge cards on or before Pledge Sunday. The Stewardship Finance Committee recently had a follow-up meeting on Monday, November 26th. At this point in time there are still a significant number of pledges outstanding.

If you have not had the opportunity to turn in your pledge card, please take a moment to prayerfully contemplate and prepare to complete your pledge card and to turn it into the church office within the next 10 days. If you do not have a pledge card, please go by the church office or call and one can be sent to you. The Vestry will meet on December 17th, and the stewardship committee hopes to provide the Treasurer enough information to begin developing a final draft of the 2008 budget for the Vestry to consider.

Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration this year of your time, talent, and resources. Your pledge matters.



Stewardship Update



Worship in Advent and Christmas!

Father Donald Lowery

Please note that on the four Sundays of Advent, both 8:00 and 10:30 services will be Rite One. On Christmas Eve, we will return to Rite Two, Eucharistic Prayer B for those services and the subsequent 10:30 services of Christmas Season and Epiphany tide. Of course, 8:00 will always be Rite One. We use Prayer B during Christmas and Epiphany because of its special emphasis on the Incarnation or coming in human flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ

Advent Lessons and Carols will be held at Old St. John's Church in Williamsboro on December 16 at 5:00 PM. This is a wonderful, candlelight service in the oldest wooden church still standing in North Carolina, which is also the oldest church in our diocese (ca. 1772.) The combined choirs of Holy Innocents', Henderson and St. Stephen's, Oxford will provide the music.

Christmas Eve Schedule:

- 3:00 PM, Christmas Eve Service in Spanish with Communion
- 5:30 PM, Christmas Eve Service with Communion
- 11:00 PM, Midnight Mass. This will be a sung service with incense.

Christmas Day

10:30 AM Communion

Sunday, December 30

We will follow our usual schedule.

New Year's Day

10:30 AM Communion.

Sunday January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany and the Twelfth Day of Christmas, will be kept at 10:30AM with a Sung service and just a whiff of incense. 8:00AM service will be as usual and with no incense.

December 2007 Schedule of Events

DAILY MORNING PRAYER

Monday —Thursday (weekly)

7:30am, Hughes House

Sunday – December 2

8:00am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

9:30am, Sunday Education

10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

5:00pm, La Misa Servicio –

Santa Eucharistia

Wednesday – December 5

7:30pm, Healing Service

Hughes House

Sunday – December 9

8:00am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

9:30am, Sunday Education

10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

Sunday – December 16

8:00am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

9:30am, Sunday Education

10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

Christmas & Carol's Service

5:00pm, St. John's, Williamsboro

Sunday – December 23

8:00am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

9:30am, Sunday Education

10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

Christmas Caroling

5:00pm, Departure 'Holy Innocents

Monday – December 24

Christmas Eve Schedule

3:00pm, Spanish Holy Eucharist

5:30pm, Christmas Eve Service

11:00pm, Midnight Mass

Tuesday – December 25

Christmas Day Schedule

10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite II

Sunday – December 30

8:00am, Holy Eucharist – Rite I

9:30am, Sunday Education

10:30am, Holy Eucharist – Rite II

All services are conducted in the Church, unless otherwise noted.



Rector Away

Father Donald Lowery

I will be on vacation from December 26 – 29, first to be with my parents and sister, then I will be going to Laurinburg, North Carolina to check on several elderly relatives after Christmas. I will be back for Sunday Services on December 30th.

Youth Group News

Marsha Hartness

The Youth group is going to play paint ball in Raleigh on December 15. Details will be sent to youth group members by e-mail. We need several adults to help drive and chaperone the trip. While Fr. Lowery plans to play paintball, other adult chaperones are not required to place themselves in the line of fire.

Also, on Dec. 2, 9, 16, & 23— Youth will be in charge of the Children’s Homily at the 10:30 a.m. Service.

Salvation Army Santa Sacks

Church Office

Salvation Army Santa Sacks are available for pick up at the Church. The due date for returning the Santa Sacks will be on Sunday, December 16th.

The Salvation Army has been truly appreciative of our response to them with this project in the past.

2008 Flower Chart

Church Office

The 2008 Flower Chart is posted in the Church Bell Tower. Signing up to give flowers on a worship Sunday is a special way to remember a loved one and to offer glory and praise to God.

The following dates are open: February 17th, March 30th, April 6th, May 4th, June 8th & 22nd, July 20th & 27th, August 31st, September 1st & 28th, October 5th, and November 30th.

If you haven’t signed up yet, next time you’re in the bell tower—please sign up.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

*Mary Cottrell,
Altar Guild Chairman*

Christmas Poinsettia order form will be in the Church Sunday Bulletin. Please fill out the order form and return it to the church by December 7, 2007. You may place the form and your check or money in the collection plate on Sunday, or bring it by the church office.



December 23rd - 5:00PM

Mark your calendars —

Join us in an evening of Caroling and Christmas Joy. Bring your friends, neighbors, children, parents or anyone else you would like to invite for an evening of reaching out to those members of our congregation who can’t get out as much as they would like.

DATE: December 23rd, Sunday
TIME: 5:00 PM
STARTING LOCATION PLACE: ‘Holy Innocents – Hughes House
ENDING PLACE: ‘Holy Innocents, Parish House for apple cider, hot chocolate, and more fun.
RSVP — Call the church office at 252-492-0904. Last minute arrivals are Welcome!

COMMUNITY NEWS...

Men’s Breakfast at First United Methodist Church—Dec. 9th

Church Office

The men of the First United Methodist Church invite the men of ‘Holy Innocents for Breakfast, December 9th at 8:00a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Church.

Secretary of State, Elaine Marshall will be the guest speaker. Any men interested in attending are asked to contact Donald Seifert (252-438-8355) or the church office prior to December 5th.

Holiday Puppet show to benefit United Way—at ‘Holy Innocents

Church Office

The Mountain Marionettes are coming to town to help children of all ages prepare for Christmas! Their appearance will also benefit the United Way of Vance County’s efforts to help needy citizens of the area.

The Mountain Marionettes, a professional puppet company from Cedar Mountain, NC will perform “In a Nutcracker Mood” on Friday, Dec. 7th at the Great Hall at ‘Holy Innocents. Show times are at 3:45pm, 5pm, and 6:15pm.

School groups and other youth groups are welcome—space is limited and advance tickets are recommended. Tickets are \$5.00, and will also be available at the door. To make reservations, contact the Kerr-Vance Academy Development Office at 252-492-0018, ext. 232, or the United Way office at 252-492-8392.

All proceeds from this event, sponsored by Kerr Vance Academy, will go to support the Vance County United Way.



Diocese News... Continued

.... community there after hurricane Katrina.

The result was that bishops holding different perspectives on the issues before us were able to find common ground. The statement was approved by a nearly unanimous vote of those present and participating. I am aware of only one bishop who was unable to vote in the affirmative. Liberals, conservatives, and those in between were able to find agreement in a context of mutual respect and fervent prayer. In finding common ground, we were able to discover the high ground.

Bishops Gregg, Marble, and I participated fully in the discussions and we support the actions of our House of Bishops. There is good reason to be hopeful that the response by the bishops will be positively received by the leadership of the Anglican Communion.

This is a significant accomplishment, a positive step, and a hopeful sign.

Keep the Faith,
+Michael

Diocese Upcoming Events....

- December 6, 2007
The 6th Annual Evening of Jazz featuring the St. Ambrose Jazz Mass Quartet. St Ambrose Episcopal Church, Raleigh, NC 7:00 p.m. For Directions contact St. Ambrose Church, 813 Darby, Raleigh, NC (919) 833-8055.
- December 20, 2007
The Songs of Charles Wesley Concert. Church of the Holy Family, Chapel Hill, NC 7:00p.m. This concert commemorates the 300th anniversary of Charles Wesley's birth. The program honors the professional and personal dimensions of Wesley's life sharing his sacred hymns and playful songs and poetry. Charles Wesley's message lives through the soulful voice of internationally acclaimed baritone S.T. Steven Kimbrough, Jr. accompanied by his son, The Rev.

Timothy E. Kimbrough, Rector of the Church and an accomplished pianist. Admission is complimentary but reservations are encourage.

- January 18 & 19, 2008
Diocese 2008 Annual Convention
The 192nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina will be held at the Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, North Carolina, from Friday, January 18, 2008, through Saturday, January 19, 2008. †

Note from the Editor...

Gail Marsh

**January Newsletter
Deadline - December 20th !**

The January church newsletter deadline is December 20th. Please submit any newsletter items either to the church office or e-mail them to KenM393249@aol.com.

Thanks for your support!

**The January Newsletter will be
mailed out late because of the
Christmas Holiday Season.**

Part III of Dr. Burwell's Four Part Series on "The Episcopal Church History in Virginia 1607—1776" will resume in the January edition of the church newsletter.

*Christ
IS Born!*

VESTRY NOTES...**2007 Church Annual Report
and elected Vestry Class of 2010**

Ken Marsh, Senior Warden

Congratulations to Bo Cheatham, Jerry Cottrell, Beth Hubbard and Parkie Stewardson who were elected to the Vestry at our Annual Church meeting on November 18th.

A thanks to Scott Hartness and Marshall Cooper for allowing your names to be submitted as vestry candidates and willingness to run. Your leadership within the church is valued.

Copies of our 2007 Church Annual Report are in the Bell Tower. Please pick up a copy if you have not had an opportunity to see it. The Annual Report will also be posted on our church web site in the next couple of weeks. A special thanks to Marcia Hartness who compiled, designed and published this year's annual report.

In other news, the 2008 Vestry Retreat is scheduled for January 11th—13th. More information will be forthcoming for Vestry Members. Vestry Members please mark your calendars. †



**ANNUAL
REPORT**



December Birthdays

Art Burke..... 12/03
 Stephanie Wiggins..... 12/09
 Emily Houle 12/10
 Tommy Roberson 12/10
 Ken Marsh..... 12/13
 John Palamar 12/14
 Tom Church..... 12/16
 Keith Aiken..... 12/16
 Harrison Ford 12/18
 Tricia Seitzer 12/20
 Phil Harris 12/25
 Mason Stewardson..... 12/26
 Linda Ellis..... 12/26
 Parkins Davis..... 12/30

Anniversaries

Meredith & Kermit Ellis 12/09
 Sharon & Bill Stark..... 12/17
 Mary & Jerry Cottrell..... 12/22
 Shirley & Chick Young..... 12/26
 Cathie & Craig Clodfelter 12/27

Remember In Your Prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Bill Stark, Jane Zollicoffer, Nancy Whitt, Nancy Rogers, Mary Nell Hight, Melissa Stamper, Frannie Joyner, Juan Santos, Nancy Jackson, Melody Shearin, Ben Hollowell, Hunter Hartness, Johnny Davis, George Hardin, Donna Horton Amanda Kraft, and Keith Shaw.

Pray for the Departed:

Sympathy is extended to Barbara & John Foster on the death of his mother, Ester Foster, who passed away in October. May her soul and the souls of all of the departed rest in peace.

Special Dates

Calendar of the Church Year

- SAINT THOMAS—
the Apostle,
December 21, 2007
- THE NATIVITY OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST—
Christmas Day,
December 25, 2007
- SAINT STEPHEN—
Deacon and Martyr,
December 26, 2007
- SAINT JOHN—
Apostle and Evangelist,
December 27, 2007
- THE HOLY INNOCENTS
December 28, 2007

DECEMBER UNIFIED SERVING SCHEDULE

Dec.	Acolyte(s)	Crucifer	Lay Reader / Chalice Bearer	Ushers	Altar Guild	Lemonade/ Coffee Hour
2	Kathryn Blackburn	Sean Hartness	8:00am—Steve Flannagan 10:30am—Rick Palamar	Bennett Perry Donald Seifert Mike Behar	Mariana Davis	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
9	Taylor Betts	Libby Hartness	8:00am—Tommy Roberson 10:30am—Marshall Cooper	Bennett Perry Donald Seifert Mike Behar	Mariana Davis	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
16	Alexis Van Venrooy	Anna Van Venrooy	8:00am—Hut Wester 10:30am—Tom Church	Bennett Perry Donald Seifert Mike Behar	Shirley Young	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
23	Uriah Ford	Sean Hartness	8:00am—Chip Hight 10:30am—Lucy Gray	Bennett Perry Donald Seifert Mike Behar	Shirley Young	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall
24	Sam Long	5:30pm—Katie Long 11:00pm—Macon Pearsall	5:30pm—Nick Long 11:00pm—Tommy Roberson	Bennett Perry Donald Seifert Mike Behar	Shirley Young	
25	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed	Bennett Perry Donald Seifert Mike Behar	Shirley Young	
30	Parkins Davis	Ric Davis	8:00am—Lucy Gray 10:30am—Richard Davis	Bennett Perry Donald Seifert Mike Behar	Anora Rainey	Coffee Hour in the Great Hall

Submitted by: Lucy Gray





CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Coping with Illness During the Holidays

When there's illness in the house, holiday cheer can ring hollow. Here are some tips for reclaiming the season.

The Reverend Duane Parker, Ph.D.

In our culture, the holidays are a time for parties, merriment, gift buying, decorating and family gatherings. But when we or someone we love is sick or injured, the bustle and glitter of this season can be jarring. Families already stretched to the limit by the demands of an illness wonder how they'll find the time or energy for shopping. Individuals already struggling with the isolation and depression of illness can feel further alienated when it seems the whole world is celebrating - while they stay at home.

Whatever your particular circumstances, it's important to remember you are not as alone as you may feel. Despite the images of universal gaiety we see on TV, the fact is many people struggle with the holidays. People who have recently lost a loved one or a job; people isolated by a recent move or divorce; people alienated by the prevailing commercialism - and people of non-Christian faith backgrounds all face the challenge of navigating a holiday season that deepens their sense of being "set apart" from the happy majority.

There is no magic formula for coping with the complex emotions the holidays can bring. But any one of the following ideas may help you and your family weather the hard moments--and savor the good times.

- Use the holiday season to stop and reflect on what really matters in your life. Illness and injury bring traumatic changes, but some good always remains. Identify the relationships and activities that bring you joy--and make time for the people and events that nourish your spirit and make you smile.
- Let others help. If your list of holiday list of "things to do" is overwhelming you, assign a few tasks to others. They'll get the satisfaction of helping--and you'll find you have a little more breathing room.

- Reach out. Friends and even family may not understand exactly how you're feeling, but they genuinely want to help. Sometimes just talking about your feelings of sadness or isolation can lighten the burden of those feelings.

- Consider a simpler approach to gift-giving. Tell all those friends who've been wanting to do something for you that they can help most by expecting no presents or cards this year. Within your own family, save time and deepen the true spirit of the season by giving personal gifts with no monetary value. A family I know made good use of this idea. One person agreed to read a story to another; one gave a 15-minute back rub; and a third family member offered to baby-sit one evening so a young couple could have a night out. Be creative and personal rather than expensive and commercial.

- Savor the simple pleasures of the season. If you enjoy the decorations, ask a friend to take you for a night drive through well-decorated neighborhoods. If Christmas music carries happy memories, invite friends over to sing. If hosting your own party is too demanding, why not let a relative or church member know you would enjoy caroling from the local youth group.

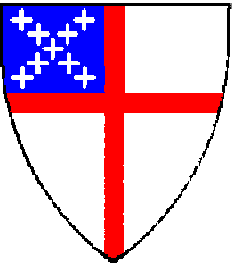
- Even in the hospital, there is room for holiday cheer. One hospitalized patient made a Christmas Tree on her wall with cards wishing her well and hoping for healing. Though she longed to be home, she made her hospital room the next best thing by decorating it with the love of friends and family.

- Find a way to do something for somebody else. Living with an illness, acute or chronic, can be all-consuming. Avoid being defined by disease, by reaching beyond the limits and preoccupations of illness to connect with others. Send a card to someone you know who's sick or lonely. Or phone, just to let them know you're thinking about them. If you don't have the energy for direct contact, remember others who need help in your prayers. It may seem a small gesture, but we heal by helping others.

- Disease and disability can turn lives upside down. But whatever changes you face, you still have a spirit that needs nourishment and encouragement. This year--and in all the years to come--focus on the aspects of the holiday season that bring you joy and feed your love of life and of others. That's the true holiday spirit--and it's available to everyone.

(EDITORS NOTE: The Rev. Duane Parker is executive director of Interfaith Health Care Ministries in Providence, R.I. This article reprinted from the Beliefnet.com website.) †





Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
HENDERSON, NC
Permit No. 8

PHONE: 252-492-0904
E-MAIL: hinnocent@ncol.net

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS
210 South Chestnut Street
Henderson, NC 27536

The Church of the Holy Innocents

Season's Greetings to You and Your Family!

