

TRINITY'S TRUMPET

The Newsletter from the Church of the Holy Trinity
Hertford, North Carolina

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December 2011

Before each service, speak only to God.
During the service, let God speak to you.
After the service, please speak to your neighbor.

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The Rector's Voice

The Rev. John H. Bonner, III

Andy Williams sings "It's the most wonderful time of the year..." and it always seems that way. But before there is Christmas there is Advent. "Cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light..." are words from the Collect for the First Sunday of Advent. What a grand season of expectation!

The Church calls us to a special place unlike the hustle and bustle of "Black Friday" and beyond. We are to link up with "prophets" and the expectation that God will "come among us" and that even "daily" God is among and soon to be "with" us. What powerful imagery we deal with in this "wonderful time."

"Gladness" and "Holy Nights" are what lie in store for the faithful. But before that is the season of wonder and expectation. Pay attention to prayers and readings in this Advent journey. The color is purple and in some places royal blue and rose and white. That which draws us back to a stillness in all the hubbub is our Savior.

It is for us to remember that along with expectations for many come disappointments for others. It is especially difficult for those who have lost loved ones. This sacred season includes pain and longing. Prayer is the antidote for loss and presence. God's promise is the security we need and long for. That is a mark of the season. It is the fulfillment of God's great Word to us. He "comes" and thus is life's richest meaning fulfilled. So with all the traffic jams and ornery people and lists with more to be done than we have time for and long... long lines at stores, find joy in the expectation and don't let the details get you down.

Cathy George writes: "The secret to living fully might be simply to *be* where we are, keenly aware of the present moment. In the next four weeks we will pause to pray and seek the peace that is always there in the midst of whatever else we are doing. We will sing: "Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee" (Hymnal 1982 #66). I pray that those words will come true for you this Advent."

Enjoy the season and come to Church often to embrace God's ever present presence.



Faithfully,

John Bonner

Advent

Christmas





Choir Notes

Joan Ernst, Director

December is without a doubt one of the busiest months for church choirs. As we prepare for our traditional Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve services we are invigorated by the familiar music that tells the story of our Lord's incarnation.

On **December 11th**, we will be hearing the word of John in scripture and in song. The choir's offertory, "This is the Record of John" by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1685) is a very challenging, new piece in our repertoire; and we will be accompanied by a string quartet. Don't miss this special offering.

Our service of Lessons and Carols will take place during our regular 10:00am service on **December 18th**. Trinity Bells, our English handbell choir will be playing the prelude starting at 9:40am.

This is a unique Anglican service dating back to early 19th century England, and has become a favorite throughout the Christian world. The traditional service has taken different forms as both an Advent and Christmas event. In some churches the use of Christmas carols prior to December 24th is considered inappropriate. In others the familiar Christmas carols are used regardless of the date of the service. The Lessons and Carols service may be heard anytime from the First Sunday of Advent to The Feast of the Epiphany. Regardless of the date and choice of Bible readings and carols, the message remains the same – the loving relationship of God to man.

It is our prayer that the musical offerings of Advent and Christmas enrich your spiritual journey during this most sacred season.

♪ *What can I give Him, poor as I am?* ♪
♪ *If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb;* ♪
♪ *If I were a wise man I would do my part,* ♪
♪ *But what I have I give Him,* ♪
♪ *Give my Heart.* ♪
♪ *Give my heart.* ♪



Kathie Columbus

Albemarle Chapter of the International Order of St. Luke



Liz Foster

The November 16th meeting of the Order of St. Luke was meaningful in many ways; each of the eleven people attending the meeting had a strong sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit. We read (in advance) the 3rd Chapter of "Going Deeper"-Prayer of the Heart. A lively discussion with many questions and concerns moved us closer to developing a more mature spiritual journey with God. Fr. John reminded us that prayer starts with God and that it is useful to remember The Five Elements of Prayer:

1. Adoration.
2. Thanksgiving.
3. Confession.
4. Intercession.
5. Petition.

Everything is grace and all is given by a gracious, generous and mysterious God who always is present within and among us and unconditionally loves us. God is the soul's center-Psalm 48:10 "Be still and know that I am God." Praise be to God "Going Deeper" Page 74.

Our next meeting in December will be a week early-December 14th at 10:30am in the Parish House. We

will enjoy a time of meditation on the season of Advent and Christmas. There will be the Holy Eucharist and the Healing Service at noon. We hope to share our upcoming plans over lunch following the service.

We would like to welcome our three visitors, Martha, Carol and Ann. We hope you will all join us in December.

May the mystery of that first Christmas morning fill our hearts with the power of God's Healing Love. Kathie, Liz and all the members of The Order of St. Luke wish you Joy and Peace.



Through New Eyes

Susan McRae

"Go be an evangelist. Hmmm? I wonder what this is going to look like? Stay tuned" ... those words ended last month's "Through New Eyes." As so often happens, they were words I spoke into my own mind and heart. So, I spent November looking for myself as an evangelist. I listened for words or encouragements or blessings I might be speaking into people's lives that I was unaware of at the moment. I looked for times that I might be showing kindness, tenderness, or compassion. And certainly, occasionally these various expressions of caring and love would occur and I would attribute them to God.

Still, I didn't feel much like an evangelist, until last Sunday when Fr. John offered us a suggestion through his sermon. As we sat there in Church trying to fathom how we have or can serve "the least of these" (and thereby Christ) among us, John asked us to look up as we travel our daily paths through life and "look them in the eyes." It seemed too simple to be possible. Just walk around in life and when I see someone so different from myself I feel that familiar discomfort, just keep on walking and look he or she straight in the eye. Hmmm... could Fr. John be on to something here?

Isn't that what Jesus did? Whenever he was along the way (which was most of the time) he took notice of the people around him. He looked at them and "was moved with compassion." Yes, those are the words spoken over and over again about Jesus. He looked at someone and was moved with compassion. In most instances Jesus looked, saw, spoke, and responded to peoples' needs. Okay, so he was Jesus after all... that is what Jesus does. But, we can do that too!

So, for a week now I have been looking people in the eye as I approach them. I sometimes exchange a simple pleasantry: "Nice morning." "Looks like it's going to rain!" Or, my favorite, just a smile. It costs me nothing, not even time. Walk, look, perhaps speak, and continue to walk. End of encounter, but an opening for an instant of human (or divine) compassion. You may find yourself moved with compassion just as I did, and just as Jesus did. Looks and feels like evangelism to me. There may be the occasional blessing, gift, or good deed attached to these moments of looking someone in the eye, but mostly you will spread the gift of God's love by truly noticing and acknowledging another human being. This is quite a gift coming from a stranger... a simple look that says, "Hello, I see you."

Advent is here and our new Advent calendar tells you that you have "28 days to watch for Jesus in your life and in your world." I'm taking this Advent season and spending it looking people in the eyes when I see them approaching me. I am excited to find out who I will see and what I might do. Again... I am wondering if this isn't the key to evangelism? Tell me who you see this Advent season. My email is susanmcræ7@gmail.com.



Event Reminders

The Rev. John H. Bonner, III

INQUIRER'S CLASS

"Everything you wanted to know about the Episcopal Church and were afraid to ask" is the title a friend gives to this class. It is for those who want to review and those who want to join the Episcopal Church and be Confirmed or Received or Reaffirm their Baptismal Covenant. We will take a book entitled "Welcome

to the Episcopal Church” by Christopher Webber and study the history, faith and worship of our Church. Come and join us starting Sunday December 4th at 11:45am for six one hour sessions. If you have to miss don't worry, we will make it up. We conclude with Dinner at the Rectory the week of January 22nd and the Bishop will be here on Sunday, January 29th for Confirmation and his Annual Visitation. Come and join us!

THE BIG GREEN BOOK

In this age of computers and high speed technology some may find it hard to understand that Parish Churches ‘still’ use hardcopy for their “Official” records. Today these books are not as important as they once were due to “Big Brother” and all the countless courthouse records that are kept. Having said that, I will be doing an update for our current Parish Membership over the next few weeks. You may get a call if I find some information is ‘needed’. Be patient with me if I remind you of the little monk in the old Xerox commercials.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH AT 9:40AM

Our annual service of Lessons and Carols will take place on this day. The importance of 9:40am is that the Trinity Bells will begin their Prelude at this time. So, come early and enjoy!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Our Schedule of Services for Christmas weekend will be:
5:30pm on Christmas Eve
10:00am on Christmas Day

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We will have a Men's Breakfast on Thursday, December 15th at 8:00am. The program will be a Christmas theme with some Carols and a speaker. Come and join us. We will also do a wrap-up of the Lobster Feast. Look forward to seeing you.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study will continue on each Tuesday through December 20th at 2:30pm. We will not meet on Tuesday, December 27th.



St. Catherine's Guild

Cam Rivard, President

The next meeting of St. Catherine's Guild, the Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) organization of Holy Trinity will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012. **Please note: there will be no meeting of St. Catherine's Guild in December due to Soup Café on December 3rd and the Parish Annual Meeting on December 4th.**

At the November 7th meeting of the Guild, we continued our program topic for this year “We Are We and Why Are We Here?” Nancy Gruner and Annette Mueller, Program Co-Chair have organized monthly programs to help guide us through this topic. In November Kathie presented the Order of St. Luke. It was a powerful and rich program as she explained how the Order of St. Luke works to promote healing through prayer and contemplative study. She also encouraged the Guild members to come to one of the Order of St. Luke's meetings and/or the Healing Service held monthly.

In addition, we will get reports on two outreach projects:

1. The collection of clothing for children at Thompson's Children Home. Thank you to Pat Smith, Grace Mohler and Cherry Powell for coordinating this outreach project. There is a collection bin for the donated articles of clothing and back packs in the Parish House. There are lists of suggested items and sizes in the Track Rack in the Parish Hall.
2. The serving of lunches during the week of October 31st through November 4th for Habitat for Humanity construction volunteers building a Habitat for Humanity home in Hertford. Thank you to Regan Westra for coordinating this outreach project. The Episcopalians win the prize for the best

lunches – voted by the Habitat volunteers.

At the November 7th meeting we planned the annual Soup Café – one of two fundraisers St. Catherine’s Guild holds each year. This Soup Café will be held on December 3rd before the Hertford Christmas Parade. This fund raising project brings many Hertford residents to Holy Trinity for a warm bowl of soup and good fellowship before enjoying Hertford’s finest on parade. We also raise much needed funds for outreach projects. Check the sign-up sheet in the Parish House for ways to help with this fun event. Make soup, bake cookies, help set-up, help serve or help clean-up. Sign-up and come. We need all the help we can get.

Please join us for our meeting on January 9, 2012. **All women of Holy Trinity parish are invited to attend.**



Sr. Warden's Report

Bill Horton, Sr. Warden

As the year is coming to an end, and my term as Senior Warden is finishing, I want to thank the Rector, Vestry, Lay Ministry Committees, and members of the congregation for your hard work in making this year a great success. We started the year with an austere budget in a very austere economy and through all of your efforts we were able to accomplish a lot during the year.

- We developed a strong Vision for shaping our future for the next five years and a Strategic Plan to accomplish this vision through realistic goals and strategies.
- We grew our outreach funding during the year from ECW fundraising activities, Men’s Group Lobster Sale, and other private donations which helped make a definite impact on the local community.
- Our Stewardship Program was one of the strongest and most effective that I have seen. The theme “step out of the boat” was perfect for encouraging us to increase our pledges and regular giving. The increased pledge funding generated will significantly help us this next year with our outreach and other important ministries.
- Our Evangelism Program continued to excel this year and has produced a Welcoming Package and other literature that will be extremely helpful in attracting new members to our church.
- Our Holy Trinity Facility Improvement Program (HTFIP) was able to clear and landscape the adjoining property that we purchased last year. Through HTFIP pledges, monies programmed in the 2012 Operating Budget, and some other funds, we should be able to repair and paint the exterior of the Church, Cloister, and Parish House in the spring.

We will be presenting our 2012 Operating Budget at the Annual Parish Meeting during the morning service on Sunday, December 4th. I am pleased to report that due to your generous pledges, our proposed budget will be approximately \$15,185 greater than this year’s budget and will allow us to significantly increase our outreach, property repair, and other key programs.

I think we are on track for another productive year and I want to wish all of you a very safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Senior Warden.



Outreach Committee

Nancy Baker

The Outreach Committee met on October 30, 2011 and allocated the following contributions:

Woodard’s Pharmacy.....	\$ 150.00
Open Door.....	1,000.00
Mobil Food Pantry.....	300.00
Episcopal Relief & Development.....	300.00
Habitat for Humanity.....	200.00

Rector's Discretionary Fund 250.00
Total.....\$ 2,200.00

These contributions were made possible by the generous support of the Men's Fellowship Group. The proceeds of the Lobster Fest held in October were allocated to Outreach, all of which were sent to local charities. I would like to thank the ECW and the Men's Fellowship Group for making it possible for us to reach out to those in need. Holy Trinity continues to make a difference in the lives of so many.



Stewardship

Dick Mohler

We have received responses from most of the members in our congregation for the 2012 pledges and we have "stepped out of the boat":

- 2010 Pledge total 62 pledges \$156,211
- 2011 Pledge total 66 pledges \$155,992
- 2012 Pledge total 70 pledges \$178,242**
- 29 Out of the Boat checked off**
- 35 pledges increased**
- 22 stayed the same and 4 decreased**



If you have not yet returned your pledge card to us , please do, even if you have decided not to pledge.



Grocery Gift Cards

Annette Furnal

First and foremost, a big THANK YOU to all supporters who faithfully every month purchase gift cards to enable us to carry on this fundraiser. As an idea to involve more church member participation, we might consider the following suggestion. If for whatever reason, you don't use gift cards personally, you might wish to purchase gift cards as a donation to OPEN DOOR. The way this works is you would make out your check to St. Catherine's Guild (as usual) but designate it to Open Door. Then, Rocky or I would bring the designated Food Lion gift cards to Rosemary Smith, who would be overjoyed because this gives her the opportunity to purchase items she may be lacking. This is a win/win situation for both Rosemary and our church. We are here most Sunday mornings and will gladly accept your checks for the purchase of gift cards. The denominations available for Food Lion are \$20, \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$100. The denominations available for Farm Fresh are \$50, \$100 and \$200. To keep you up to date, Ray and I will be spending the months of December, January and February in Florida. Rocky Motter will be handling the sale of gift cards in my absence. Please support her in any way you can, many thanks. Wishes to everyone for a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and many blessings in the NEW YEAR!!!!




Farm Fresh Receipts


Warren Walter

Thank you for your support to Perquimans Central School in the 2010 – 2011 school years. The school received supplies for their music and art programs: specifically, instruments, water colors, paints, brushes and an iPod dock with speakers.

Farm Fresh is continuing to provide the opportunity for Perquimans Central School to receive free educational supplies and equipment for the 2011 – 2012 school years. Your help is requested in collecting all Farm Fresh receipts which include those for food, prescription medicine and gas. The **DATE ON THE**



ECW Card Party



Mark your calendars for Monday, February 6, 2012 for the ECW's annual card party held at Holy Trinity from 1:00-4:00pm. Be thinking of ideas for your basket and get involved making this event successful. Pass the word to all that might be interested. February will be here before we know it.

RECEIPT MUST BE FROM 8 SEPTEMBER 2011 TO 31 MAY 2012. The **BOTTOM PORTION OF THE ORIGINAL FARM FRESH RECEIPT WITH "TOTAL FOR 123-4" IS REQUIRED.** No receipt amount is too small. Please deposit your receipts in the "Farm Fresh Receipts for Perquimans Central School" container in the Parish House.

Our goal is to exceed the \$ **52,031.00** in Farm Fresh receipts.



The Albemarle Choral will present *Rejoice and be Merry*

A John Rutter Christmas

December 4, 2011 4:00pm Edenton United Methodist Church
and

December 11, 2011 4:00pm First United Methodist Elizabeth City



The deadline for the January 2012 newsletter is December 18, 2011



November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays			
Fr. John Bonner.....	12/05	Barbara Brown	12/18
Rocky Motter	12/05	Byron Bengé.....	12/19
Jackie Wyman.....	12/05	Marc Rivard.....	12/22
Don Keith	12/07	Bill Johnson.....	12/23
Christie Fields	12/12	Susan Powell	12/26
Merle Bengé.....	12/13	Sandra Sperry	12/27
Anniversaries			
John & Joan Ernst.....	12/17	Dick & Grace Mohler	12/28
Carlton & Mettha Davenport .	12/22		

Remember in your prayers

Pray for Healing and Comfort:

Carolina McDonald, Marion Delar, Joe & Dillie Streuli, Elizabeth Fields, Tara Murano, Paula B., Guerin V. Muzzulin, Sr., Millie Henry, Art Rikstad, Zack Kelly, Beth Harrington, Susie Montague, Skyler Burden, Barbara & Byron Kehayes, Amanda, Joyce Hobbs, Mike Gronck, Cotrisha Aycock, Jean Wilson, Ursula Pendry, Dr. Barbara A. Sawyer and Ellie Ernst.

Pray for our Armed Forces:

The Rev. Ralph Clark, Casey Bouch, Kati Brinn, Jay Johnson, Greg Carroll, Christopher Boyer, Rich Souza, Leanne Bridges, Chris Heughan, John Titus, Glenn Whelan, Cristi Whelan, Casey Carroll, Ethan Westbrook, Will Ross, Seth Spannier, Billie Cartwright, DeAndre Privott and Justin Harding.

Lay Ministers

December	Acolyte	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Prayer Leader	Usher	Offering Counters	Coffee Host/Hostess	Altar Flowers
4	Robert Earl Lane	Wes Brown	Wes Brown	Beth Harrington	Dave Smith & Edison Ward	Wes & Barbara Brown	Daphne Marshall	Sandy Sperry
11	Ed Mueller	Vince Gullotta	Joe Easterwood	Erie Haste	Frank & Connie Jaklic	Dave Foster & Beth Harrington	Virginia Miller	Kent & Lorraine Saunders
18	Ed Muzzulin	Susan McRae	Various	Bill Horton	Don Johnson & Carlton Davenport	Dick & Carole Medford	Debbie Bonner At the Rectory	John & Joan Ernst
24 Christmas Eve	Billy Rowell	Laura Rowell	Jerry Gehrig	Robert Earl Lane	Courtney Ritzmann	Carl Jonson & Carlton Davenport		Christmas Poinsettias
25 Christmas Day	Barbara Ward	Debbie Bonner	Carol Gullotta		John & Nancy Gruner	Norm & Annette Brown	Coffee Only	Dan & Regan Westra

December Altar Guild: Norma McMullan, Helen Mae Murray and Virginia Miller

December 2011

This Month's Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Please check the Master Calendar on the Office wall in the Parish House for any changes.</i></p>	<p>OFFICE HOURS 8:30a—12:00n Mon–Thu, & Sat</p> <p>24 hours a day, 7 days a week by appointment</p>	<p>Rector: 426-3914 Home 426-5542 Church 619-4124 Cell</p> <p>Do not hesitate to call Fr. Bonner at home when need arises!</p>		<p><i>1</i></p> <p>09:00a, Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p>Fr. Bonner's Day Off 10:00a, PH Trinity Bells Practice 6:00p, PH Helping Hands</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>10:00a, CHT Altar Guild 12:00p, PH Soup Café</p>
<p><i>4</i></p> <p>9:00a, CHT Adult Choir Practice 9:10a, PH Sunday School 10:00a, CHT Holy Eucharist Parish Meeting Inquirer's Class</p>	<p><i>5</i></p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>7:00a, Rotary Club 2:30p, PH Bible Study</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>4:30p, CHT Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>8</i></p>	<p><i>9</i></p> <p>Fr. Bonner's Day Off 10:00a, PH Trinity Bells Practice 6:00p, PH Helping Hands</p>	<p><i>10</i></p> <p>9:30a, CHT Adult Choir Practice 10:00a, CHT Altar Guild</p>
<p><i>11</i></p> <p>9:00a, CHT Adult Choir Practice 9:10a, PH Sunday School 10:00a, CHT Holy Eucharist Inquirer's Class</p>	<p><i>12</i></p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>7:00a, Rotary Club 2:30p, PH Bible Study</p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>10:30a, PH Order of St. Luke 12:00p, CHT Eucharist/Healing 4:30p, CHT Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>8:00a, PH Men's Breakfast</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>Fr. Bonner's Day Off 10:00a, PH Trinity Bells Practice 6:00p, PH Helping Hands</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>10:00a, CHT Altar Guild</p>
<p><i>18</i></p> <p>9:00a, CHT Adult Choir Practice 9:10a, PH Sunday School 10:00a, CHT Lessons & Carols Holy Eucharist Rectory Coffee Hour Inquirer's Class</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>2:30p, PH Vestry Meeting</p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>7:00a, Rotary Club 2:30p, PH Bible Study</p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>4:30p, CHT Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>22</i></p>	<p><i>23</i></p> <p>Fr. Bonner's Day Off 10:00a, PH Trinity Bells Practice 6:00p, PH Helping Hands</p>	<p><i>24</i> <i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p>10:00a, CHT Altar Guild 5:30p, CHT Holy Eucharist</p>
<p><i>25</i> <i>Christmas Day</i></p> <p>9:00a, CHT Adult Choir Practice 9:10a, PH Sunday School 10:00a, CHT Holy Eucharist Inquirer's Class</p>	<p><i>26</i></p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>7:00a, Rotary Club No Bible Study</p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>4:30p, CHT Adult Choir Practice</p>	<p><i>29</i></p>	<p><i>30</i></p> <p>Fr. Bonner's Day Off 10:00a, PH Trinity Bells Practice 6:00p, PH Helping Hands</p>	<p><i>31</i></p> <p>10:00a, CHT Altar Guild</p>

CHT = Church of the Holy Trinity ❖ PH = Parish House