

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

December 4, 2011

Welcome This Week...

Welcome to Holy Trinity Church! Whether you are just exploring the Christian faith or have been a Christian for many years, we are so pleased you are here to worship with us today. We hope you enjoy your time with us. If you have any questions or requests please fill out a green "Communication Card" and place it in the offering plate or visit the Welcome Table where we would love to meet you.

A Word from the Rector

Dear Friends,

During a season of stewardship it is common for people to ask about tithing. What exactly is a tithe? Does God expect us to pay a tithe? Should we give it all to our local church? These are good questions to ask and although they deserve more space than I can give in the HTC News I want to address them briefly.

In the Old Testament a tithe is generally understood to mean 1/10th of flocks, crop or income. God instructed his people to give a tenth of their earnings to the temple (Leviticus 27:30ff.) as an offering of praise and thanksgiving to God. In the New Testament Jesus mentions tithing on several occasions as an assumed part of following God (Luke 11:42, Matthew 23:23). And yet, he never explicitly instructs the early church to tithe. So what should we do?

What is abundantly clear in the New Testament is that God intends for us to be generous (Acts 4:32-37 and 20:35). Generosity in that context meant giving over and above the 10% that was expected. The way we apply these things in our family is to use 10% as a baseline minimum, giving in excess of that as much as we are able. But to whom should we give? Does God expect us to give 10% to the local church and only the excess elsewhere?

I really wish I could say "yes" to that question! The answer just isn't that clear. The local church is not the temple, and the apostles never demand a tithe to the Church. There are many great ways in which we can serve God's kingdom by giving outside the local church. And yet, without generous giving the local church will struggle to fulfill the mission God has given us. My best guidance is this: support the local church substantially because it is in and through the local church that you participate in God's kingdom and serve him. But do not neglect other ministries, missionaries and non-profits that participate in kingdom work. They depend on our sacrificial giving as well.

Remember who God is and what he has done. Everything that we have is his. And one of the signs that we have understood God's generosity to us is by being generous ourselves. May God give us grace and wisdom in this season of stewardship!

Yours, John

- Mon 5 5:00 pm.....All Parish Prayer
The Underwoods, 828 Vance St.
TMC, WOW & WWOW will resume
January 10th, 2012
- Thurs 8 7:00 am.....Men's Bible Study
3700 Glenwood Ave-5th floor
- Fri 9 7:00 pm.....Advent Open House
The Woods, 2104 Ridge Rd.
- Sat 10 4:00-5:30pm.....Choir Rehearsal
Choir Room, St. David's
9:00 am.....Morning Worship
10:15 am.....Adult Sunday School
and Middle School Sunday School
- Sun 11 11:00 amMorning Worship
5:00 pm"Refuge" (Middle School)
In the Old Gym at St. David's
7:00 pm "Asylum" (High School)
The Broughton's 1106 Marlowe Road

Students and Parents!

Check out www.htc-r.org/theasylum
Weekly updates and important information regarding what is happening in Holy Trinity's student ministry.

Vestry Person of the Week
John Wood

Annual Advent Open House *December 9th ~ 7 to 10 pm*

To Honor All Holy Trinity Volunteers!
Adults & Teens are Welcome
Food, Fellowship and Caroling

At the Home of John
and Randi Wood
2104 Ridge Road, 27607

Please RSVP 781-6970 or
call the Church Office



Mark Your Calendars for
"A Celebration with Lessons and Carols"
Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 PM
Invite your friends!
Cookie & Cider Reception to follow!

Announcements

Special Prayer Time for Women: All the women of Holy Trinity are invited to a prayer meeting on Friday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 pm to pray for protection & health over the children in our congregation. The meeting will be held at the home of Paul & Cynthia Harris, 2731 Anderson Drive (half a mile from St. David's).



*Help spread the
gospel of
Jesus Christ
in Rwanda.*

Drink Coffee. Do Good.
Give Coffee for Christmas.
\$12.00 per bag in the lobby

Time to Order Poinsettias!

Beautify the Church this Christmas with Poinsettias
3.5 Quart - \$15.00 each (These are big and gorgeous!)

Put your check in the offering plate on Sunday, bring to the office or mail to the office.

Let us know if they are to be in memory of or in honor of someone as we will have a bulletin insert on Christmas Eve.

You can take them home after the service.

Please have your orders in by December 15th!



Prayers of the People

We pray for those expecting the birth of a child: Sarah & Austin Barnhill, Liza & Jady Koch, Laura Ann and Tom Parrott

We pray for those in need of healing or God's strength: Warren Briggs; Betty and Bucky Buckingham; Tana Carlton's mother, Grace; Peggy Collins; David Cumbie, Jr.; Claudia Dixon; Hardy Duerson; Kathe Garrison's sister, Ellen; Ann Grigereit; Gillian Raymond and her mother, Joan; Ryann Warlick; Alexander Yates; Becky and Graham Yates son-in-law Aaron.

We pray for Mallory Cunningham, our missionary in the Dominican Republic. That God would empower her as she serves Jesus Christ at Kids Alive Orphanage.

We pray for our loved ones serving in the military – keep them safe, enfold them with your protection and fill them with courage each day: including the Kemp family in Germany and Clyde and Suzanne Wiley's son in law, Jared Volavka, in the US Navy.

We pray for Ger and Lizzie Jones and family and the work of our daughter church, Vintage Westside L.A. That God would bless them as they seek to reach the lost in the name of Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the provision of the Peace Street property, and we pray that you would provide us with all the resources necessary to establish our church home on this site. As we move to the edge of downtown give us grace to faithfully bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ, and use us to transform the heart of the city for the glory of your name. Amen.

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of her father, Floyd Jenkins by Jan Thalman.

To Reach Us...

Holy Trinity Church
1520-5 Brookside Drive
Raleigh, NC 27604

For more information about HTC worship, events,
sermon downloads, and vestry details
Please visit our website: www.htc-r.org

Parish Office (M-Thurs 9 am—5 pm, Fri 9am—4pm) 919-833-4202

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