

The Anchor



Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church



Late Pentecost 2012

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I trust you know, we are currently in the midst of our Annual Campaign. We are asking that pledges be returned on All Saints Sunday, November 4. One purpose of our stewardship ministry is to celebrate the work our wonderful parish is doing and to ask for your pledge of financial support. This is also a time when we get in touch, once again, with God's many blessings and cultivate an attitude of generosity and thanksgiving. The ultimate goal is to strengthen our faith and commitment to God in word and deed.

That is a serious goal, but it doesn't mean we can't have fun getting there. As a part of our efforts there has been a series of parties. It has been my pleasure to go to all of these and my wife Katherine was able to come with me to all but one. (One was in the afternoon and she was at work.) But I was struck by several things at these parties. One has to do with geography. There was a party in Northside at Westminster-Canterbury. One party was in the Fan and another in the Museum District. There was a party in the near West End and another in the Far West End. Also, we enjoyed gathering at a home in Midlothian. We truly are a destination church drawing people from all over who choose to be a part of a special congregation, in a special location with a super mission.

I was also struck by how wonderful you all are. I felt a deep connection with everyone and am so grateful to be part of the GHTC community. I also enjoyed the way you care for each other. You support one another with grace, humor and compassion and I saw that clearly at these events. One of the missions of our church is to build a strong church community and this was lived out at these parties. It is great that the fulfillment of our mission can be such fun!

And of course, at each party, we enjoyed a witness from a member of our Stewardship Team. These talks were all beautiful and heartfelt. I know it is not easy to stand up in front of our peers and open ourselves in such a vulnerable way. But what a blessing each talk was.

Our church is a great place to belong and it is my privilege to support it financially. You know, my personal stewardship journey in the church has been a progression and I am not there yet! I have been involved in church for my entire life. In my young years and in early adulthood, I didn't think very much about what it took financially for the church to do what it did. I participated and I just assumed that it would be there for me when I needed it and it was. It began to dawn on me that I should make more of a financial offering to support the church which was always there for me. And so I did.

But I also thought, "There are a lot of people better off than me and they can really carry the weight. I'll do what I can with what I have left over." At some point, and it was a slow process, I stopped focusing so much on the church and on what other people could do and started looking at my own heart and faith. I realized that giving is more about my faith than it is about anything external, even the church.

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Grace & Holy Trinity Church - Contact info

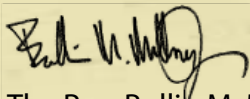
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I have always been struck by the martyrs of the early church, ever since I sat wide eyed in Sunday School and learned about how they gave their lives for God. The word "martyr" means "witness." The early church martyrs witnessed to God with their lives. I came to understand that part of my witness can be sacrificial giving. Thank God, I don't have to pay with my life. But I can witness by giving a significant percentage of my income away to further God's work in the church and in the world. The tithe, giving 10%, has been a great teacher and guide in this process. This is not to be applied in a legalistic way but it is actually an experience of grace.

At each moment of my life God has been present to me. God met me right where I was. God did not condemn, nor did he simply leave me where he found me. And that is good news.

So, for me, here is the bottom line. God wonderfully created this beautiful world and when through humanity's pride sin and death entered in, God chose not to give up on us. God raised up the children of Israel to be the way of salvation and in the fullness of time, God sent Jesus, his beloved child, to live and die as one of us. And when God raised Jesus from the dead, God made the whole creation new. We know, in hope and faith, that this world will be recreated. Jesus' resurrection is the earnest payment on that reality. There will be a new heaven and a new earth where sin and death are no more and God will wipe every tear from the eye.

In Christ,



The Rev. Bollin M. Millner, Jr.

2012 Vestry

Edward Hutton Starr, Jr.
Senior Warden

Suzanne Y. Williams
Junior Warden

2013 Vestry

Edward Catesby Beck
Donald Paulding Irwin
Jean Louise DeShazo
Shelli Clemens Lord
Edward Hutton Starr, Jr.

2014 Vestry

David M. Abbott
John Davenport Blackwell, Jr.
Dan McNamara
Eugene Shelburn Smithson, III
Suzanne Y. Williams

2015 Vestry

Kathleen Bishop-Pevsner
Suzanne S. Davenport
Kathy Colwell Hill
F. Nicholas Sollog III
Sara Jo Williams

At Grace & Holy Trinity Church we strive to do three things:

We build strong disciples.
We build a strong church community.
We serve God and the world God has made.

We are committed to helping individuals become better disciples of Christ Jesus and we believe in the power of community. We also believe that we exist not just for ourselves, but for God and for God's world. We live out this mission through a variety of ministries represented by the acronym SWEEPPS: Service, Worship, Education, Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Parish Life and Stewardship. You can learn more about these ministries in the newsletter or on the web at www.ghctc.org.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)

LEMs are people who volunteer to take communion out to people who are unable to attend church. At the point in the service after everyone present has received, they come forward to the altar rail to receive the consecrated bread and wine. They are sent out directly from the church with these or similar words: "You are sent forth in the name of God and from this congregation with this bread and this wine that those to whom you go may share with us in the sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood. We who are many are one because we drink from the same cup and eat the same bread." LEMs are trained by the clergy and licensed by the Bishop. It is a great way to develop relationships, member to member, and provides superb pastoral care.

***The Anchor is the official newsletter of
Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, a
parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.***

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Our Pastoral Care Team, led by Vestry member Sara Jo Williams with support from Dawn McNamara would like to establish this ministry at GHTC. If you are interested please contact the Rev. Bo Millner. (359-5628 or bmillner@ghtc.org).

***Class for New Members, Visitors
and the Curious***

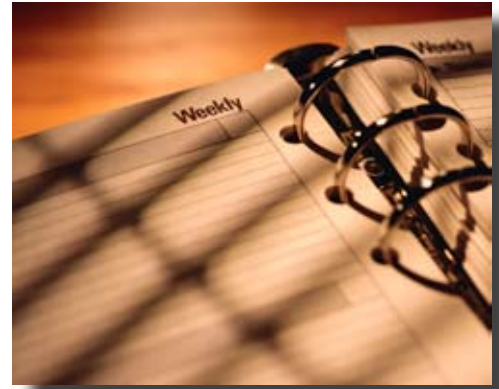
Would you like to learn more about our parish's history, architecture and stained glass windows? Meet new people at GHTC? Learn about Episcopal worship and traditions? Our "Doorways Class" will be held on Sundays, October 28th and November 4th and 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the Library (and a few other secret places). This class is a great introduction for those who are new to GHTC, and a great refresher for those who have been here for awhile. We'll have a tour of the building (and stairways to nowhere), learn about our many programs and meet the people who work in them, learn about GHTC history and Episcopal Church history, and much more. Questions? Contact Carolyn Chilton, carolyn@ghtc.org



Sunday Worship

We are on our regular schedule with services at 7:45 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The best breakfast in Richmond is served beginning at 9:15 a.m. and Sunday School for all ages begins at 10:00 a.m. The 5:00 p.m. service is followed by dinner.



Thanksgiving Service

Please come to GHTC at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 20th for our Thanksgiving Service. We will enjoy wonderful music from the Greater Richmond Children's Choir. It is the perfect way to begin the holidays and doesn't conflict with travel schedules or with Thanksgiving Day feasts.

Mid-Week Worship

On the first Wednesday of each month, at 6:00 p.m. there is a beautiful mid-week service of Evening Prayer at St. Mark's on the Boulevard. (Right beside the Virginia Historical Society.) This service also includes the laying on of hands for healing. Your participation is encouraged. There is plenty of parking directly behind the church.



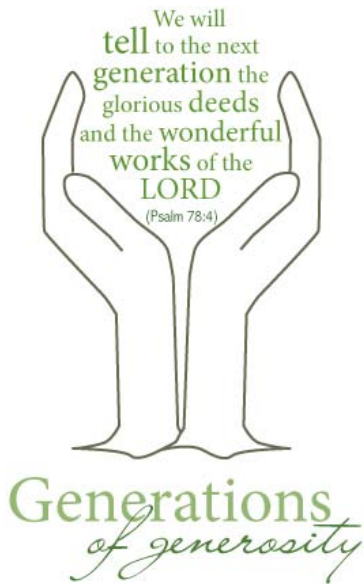
Rob Bell on November 18 and 25th

Thoughtful DVDs by Rob Bell, the author of "Love Wins" will be presented at 10:00 a.m. on November 18 and 25. Bo Millner will be present to lead the discussion.

Advent Service Of Lessons And Carols

There will be a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, sung by our Adult Choir, on Sunday, December 9 at 11:00 a.m. This lovely service will include traditional carols, anthems and hymns for the Advent season. Invite your family and friends to this special worship service! There will be a reception, hosted by the Parish Life Committee, in the parish hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.





What is one of your earliest memories of money?

My name is Sandra Hartley. I'm a member of the stewardship committee. You know our theme for this year is once again "Generations of Generosity." When I was doing stewardship consulting for the Diocese of Virginia, one of my favorite conversation-starters was to ask people about their earliest memories about money, what they were told about it and what they first recall about sharing it. For me, those memories center on my parents.

I don't recall any deep theological discussions, but I know they were regular and consistent givers to the church. But it didn't stop there. They modeled Christian giving to support others in need as well, for example, sending money to my grandparents in North Carolina and Sweden, and assisting friends' children in furthering their education.

But back to the church...every Saturday evening before going to bed, I remember putting money into the three pockets of my church envelope – one for missionary work, one for the building fund and one for the general fund. And we were in church every Sunday to deposit those envelopes in the offering plate. Through regular attendance two little girls started to get a glimpse of that magnificent, omniscient, omnipresent and overwhelmingly generous being we call The Lord. And as we grew, we learned to give back, by filling our envelopes, teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, attending youth group...and we came to

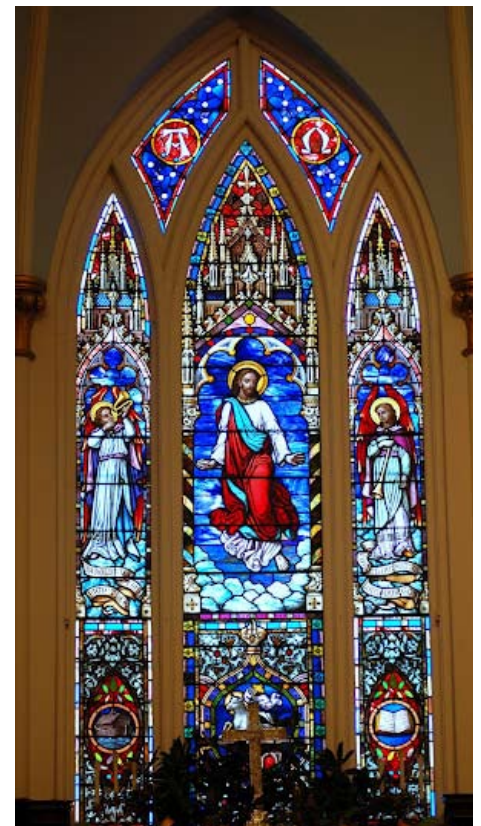
understand the value and power of the church community.

So this whole, "return to the Lord" thing is a piece of cake for me – right? Well, not so much. I struggle. Especially with the financial piece. Sometimes I get so doggone scared and angry that my theme song should be "Laissez le pity party rouler." I fret about the past. About bad decisions I've made. About wasting a dozen years on the wrong things and the wrong people. I worry that five companies I worked for are no longer in existence and my retirement funds reflect that. Some days I get exhausted thinking about how tired I am and that I may never be able to retire.

Then I get gobsmacked by a heavenly two by four. Something invariably happens to make me remember that I've had the same fears off and on for years. And through all of those worries, God has been calming and constant. In fact, when I manage to stop focusing on what I don't have and look at what I do have, I'm a bit incredulous - if not totally overwhelmed. I don't just have a good life. I have everything I need and more – in spades! God is true. He has delivered on his promises. I want to be like this God. I can never match or out-give him. But I can give back in thanksgiving for his steadfastness and generosity. I can commit to this God. I can be generous. And there is more than enough for me to do that.

Now, I choose to direct my generosity to a place that makes a statement to the world about whose I am and why I give. That place is my Christian community, my church. Thanks to you, Grace and Holy Trinity Church is a vibrant urban church. You give generously of your time, talent and treasure. You make it possible for us to reach out to people in Richmond through Caritas, our Friday Soup Kitchen, our financial help with prescription costs for the needy, our tutors at schools across the city. You go on mission trips to Belize and South Africa and Petersburg and New Orleans. You attend Sunday worship in our beautiful sanctuary with our thoughtful liturgy and glorious music; you teach Sunday School; you go to Young Adult and Boomers events; you come to classes and throw great parties! You pray for the sick and dying and so much more. I want to work with you to continue to make it so.

Our beautiful stained glass windows attest to the fact that we are a generous people. We have been for generations. As we begin our planning for 2013, and enter the time when we must talk about financial stewardship, I hope I have given you some food for thought. We ask you to consider your financial pledge with prayer and trust that God has even greater things in store for you and for Grace and Holy Trinity. With your support and generosity, we will be more available to the needy outside our doors and to the spiritual growth and fellowship of our own parishioners.



You Make It Happen

Making a financial pledge to Grace and Holy Trinity Church and giving your time and talents in our many ministries, has an impact on the community around us and on our life together in this church.

Service

- We feed 80-100 people every Friday in our Soup Kitchen.
- We provide over \$7000 in prescription drug assistance to the needy.
- We serve as an in-take center providing volunteer staff for Caritas (Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter) in the fall.
- We volunteer at Summer Camp-on-the-Hill in Richmond; our van and drivers transported students; we had pizza parties.
- We sent mission teams to South Africa, Belize and our youth went to mission camp in Petersburg.

Worship

- We offer four distinct and beautiful worship services every Sunday.
- We have three choirs: The Angel Choir, the Adult Choir and the 8:45 Music Team
- We offer special services and retreats throughout the year: Lessons and Carols, Advent Quiet Day, Stations of the Cross, Thanksgiving Eve and many more.
- Our Music Team offers concerts throughout the year.

Education

- The Nursery is staffed and open every Sunday and for many special services.
- Christian Education for all ages is offered each Sunday even in the summer.
- Over 30 people are involved in teaching children, youth and adults.

Evangelism

- We added 32 new members in 2011 and 16 so far this year.
- Our Campus Ministry program involves over 40 students in three distinct programs.
- We advertise in local media, Google, WCVE, in theatre programs and in many other places.

Pastoral Care

- Clergy are on call 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week/ 365 days a year.
- We knit prayer shawls and make baby blankets.
- We have two prayer teams.
- We provide love and support to those who are sick, dying or grieving.

Parish Life

- We participate in Foyer Groups, the "Boomer's" Group, and the Young Adult's group.
- We have beautiful receptions for special services.
- Over 70 people went on the Fall Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont.
- We purchased a 14-seat van and it makes weekly trips to and from Westminster Canterbury.

Stewardship

- You are involved in giving your time and talents through teaching, leading and serving others.
- We added 32 new pledges in 2012.
- 75% of our new members pledged in 2012; 95% of current pledgers renewed for 2012.

Our priorities here at Grace and Holy Trinity Church are:

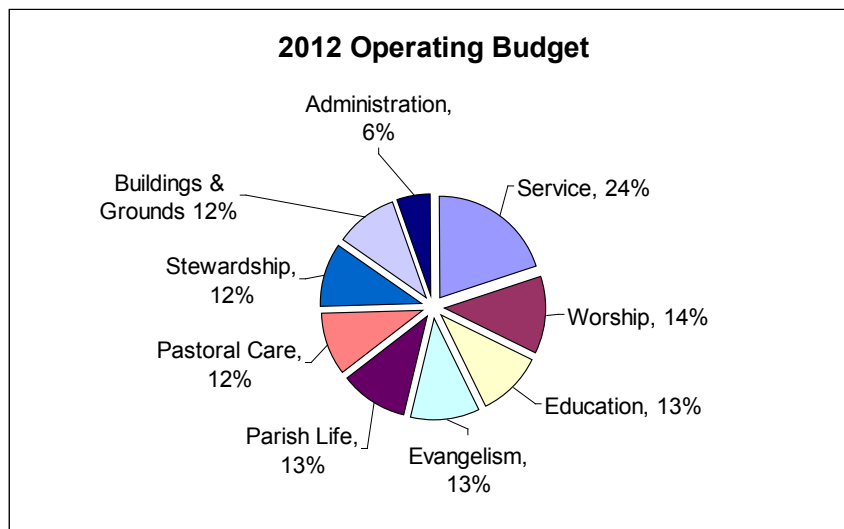
- To Build Strong Disciples
- To Build a Strong Church Community
- To Serve God and the World God has Made

You make this happen.

Just as you have a budget in your personal life, so does Grace and Holy Trinity Church. What does it look like?

Look at the pie chart below. It shows the nine major categories of our 2012 operating budget. There are the seven SWEEPPS areas (service, worship, education, evangelism, parish life, pastoral care, and stewardship), Administration (communications/publicity and office expenses) and Building and Grounds.

As you look at the pie chart, you can see that, for example, 24% of our total operating budget is allocated for Service ministries; 13% on Education, etc. The amount for each SWEEPPS category is made up of two figures – leadership costs (personnel) and program expenses.



A purely monetary picture doesn't reflect the countless hours and talents that YOU give to God through this church as a member of the Altar Guild, teaching Sunday School, going on mission trips, and so much more.

What is our current financial picture?

September 30th was the end of the third quarter - 75% of the year was finished.

As of September 30th, the total income for the church stood slightly below target at 67% of what was budgeted. Pledges received, which make up the bulk of our income stood at 70% of the budgeted figure. Thank you for keeping your pledge payment current.

On the expense side, as of the end of September we are again slightly below target. Personnel and basic administrative expenses (office expenses, computers, and so forth) are at 72%. The building and property expenses are at 70% of that budget. The total program ministry/ SWEEPPS budgets stood at 63%.. Total expenses are at 71% as of September 30th.

If you would like more financial information, please contact Judy Miller in the church office and she will be glad to answer your questions. She can also give you information on your pledge payments. Thank you for your pledge and your support. The Vestry, all of our volunteers and the staff work hard to be good stewards of the resources you make available to them.

Advent Quiet Day – Saturday, December 1st
Grace and Holy Trinity Church
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Advent is a waiting season, a time for us to turn away from the busy and noisy rush of the culture and open ourselves to mystery and joy. Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ – a time to prepare our minds, hearts and souls for the movement of God’s spirit within us.

Carolyn Chilton will lead the day offering several meditations on the spirituality of the Advent season. There will also be time for prayer, silence and conversation with others.

We will begin at 9:30 a.m. and finish at 12:30 p.m. Please dress comfortably. You might like to bring a favorite Bible, a journal or a favorite book of meditations or prayers.

In our lives today, Advent is often recognized for its busyness rather than its quiet preparation for our Lord’s coming. Give yourself – or someone you love – the gift of this day.

There is no cost, but reservations are needed for planning purposes. Please RSVP to Carolyn by November 28th: Carolyn@ghtc.org or 359-5628 ext. 16.



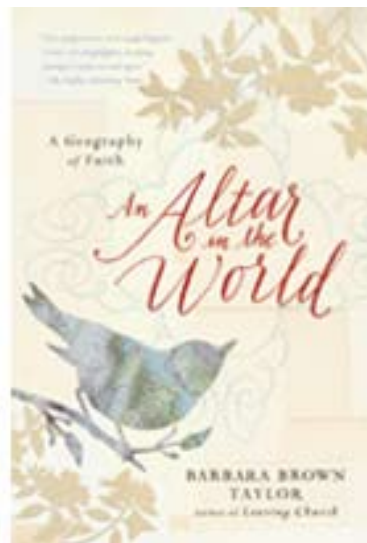
Party Mavens Needed!

If entertaining is your passion, the Parish Life Receptions Committee is a great place to plug in your talents, have a good time and make new friends at Grace and Holy Trinity. Whether you enjoy the entire party-planning process or just one aspect, we have a place for you. Here’s a partial list of how you might be able to help: baking cakes and cookies, planning a reception, creating table decorations, making canapés, arranging platters of food, assisting with set-up and clean up. No job is too small! Interested?

Please contact Sandra Hartley, Carter Abrahams or Carolyn Chilton.

Monday Night Book Club

You are invited to join the Monday Night Book Group in a discussion of “An Altar in the World” by Barbara Brown Taylor on November 5th. The book discusses meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, such as simple practices like walking, working, and prayer. As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do. Through Taylor’s expert guidance and delicate, thought-provoking prose, we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.”The group will meet from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Hal and Kathy Hill’s house, 3733 Chellowe Road. Please contact Carolyn Chilton, Hal or Kathy Hill if you’d like more information and plan to attend.



Parish Hall Renovation: What's next?

Todd Dykshorn, our architect, presented an exciting and compelling outline of our proposed Parish Hall Renovations on September 30. Building from the ancient idea of a cloister or courtyard, the plans call for the original outside wall of the church including the stained glass windows to be released from behind the storage wall to become a centerpiece of a renovated space for fellowship, meetings, communion and community. Adding more light, opening the space by the removal of pillars and some walls will give the effect of an ancient cloister or courtyard. A cloister is a place within a place. It is a place of meeting and encounter. From medieval times they were attached to the walls of churches, and allowed for the mingling of people and ideas.



For many people, one of the most exciting aspects of the proposed renovations is that we will recover, or uncover the original stone wall of the sanctuary and also see the back side of our beautiful stained glass windows. The two pictures here give you an idea of that. While the pictures don't show the stained glass windows themselves, they are represented by the window spaces that you see in these pictures. A model of the proposed changes, and more pictures, are now in the Parish Hall for you to see and explore.



What is the next step? The architect has begun to get pricing information on the proposed changes. Parts of the plan will be priced separately, so, for example, we will probably see separate prices for the parish hall renovation itself, a price for the kitchen upgrades, a price for the HVAC system upgrades. These prices with the drawings will be presented to the congregation.

The Renovation Committee and Vestry continue to discuss these proposals. Look at the model and pictures and please ask questions and make suggestions!

Who do I contact with ideas and questions? Pem Hall and Gregg Beck are co-chairs of the Renovation Committee. Other members are: Suzanne Williams, Ed Starr, Julie Joyce, Suzanne Davenport, and Carolyn Chilton serves as staff support. You may also contact the Rev. Bo Millner or any member of the Vestry.

Youth and Children's Ministries:

The beginning of the 2012-13 Sunday school year has offered our families and young people a great opportunity to reconnect after the summer. We enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at the Sauer's home on the river for our 6th-12th graders **Youth Picnic** – pictures are available on the new Grace & Holy Trinity Youth Group Facebook page. We also held our first **Intergenerational Sunday** program which had us combing GHTC for treasures like our hidden stained glass windows and quirky staircase to nowhere, along with climbing the steep wooden stairs of the church tower for a great view of Monroe Park.

Look for future **Intergenerational Sundays** to include service opportunities, book discussions and most of all, fun and fellowship for our GHTC members of all ages! Have ideas for future programs? Please contact Mary Cay Kollmansperger at ext.15, or marycay@ghtc.org.



November 9th-11th: Diocesan 6th and 7th Grade Weekend at Shrine Mont

Sign up now for the 6th and 7th Grade Diocesan Youth weekend! We will go to Shrine Mont and join other youth from all over the Diocese for a weekend long retreat, November 9th - 11th. The bus will leave Grace & Holy Trinity on Friday afternoon and will return Sunday after lunch. Registration is due Sunday, October 28th. Please contact Mary Cay at marycay@ghtc.org or by phone at 359-5628 ext. 15 for more information.

Advent Wreath Making Sunday, December 2nd

Please join us for this very special Grace & Holy Trinity tradition as members of all ages get together during the education hour to put their own special touches on Advent wreaths to take home and enjoy.

In the Middle Ages, Christians adapted the Germanic and Scandinavian pre-Christian practice of using wreaths lit with candles. This practice marked the people's hope of the coming Spring as they watched the December days begin to lengthen. Christians adapted this and other traditions to mark our time of waiting on Christ's coming.

We will have materials and greens available – you are welcome to bring any greens from home that you would like to add to the supply. (Suggested donation to cover the cost of materials \$10)



Calling all Angels, Sheep and Shepherds... The Christmas Pageant is coming!

That's right, it's the time of year when we all are surprised to realize that Christmas is right around the corner. The Grace & Holy Trinity Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 pm. Be sure to add this date to your calendar and join us for one of GHTC's most endearing holiday programs! Look for more information in the weeks to come. If you would like to join us as a planner, director or helper of any kind, please contact Mary Cay Kollmansperger, marycay@ghtc.org.

Christmas Minstry

The Service Ministries team will be in the Parish Hall November 11th, 18th, and 25th to assist you if you would like to adopt a child or a family for Christmas this year. ***Ingathering of gifts will be December 2nd*** and we will distribute gifts to families December 7th and 8th. We will be available to help you at every step of the process. Please participate in our Christmas Ministry program - it provides a wonderful way for us to share our many blessings with our neighbors who are less fortunate. You may also make a donation to our program - these funds will be used to purchase Christmas meals for our families. For more information or if you would like to adopt earlier than November 11th, please contact Kay Gray at 741-2984 or kaytgray@aol.com.



CARITAS (*Congregation Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter*) serves as the first line of community support for anyone in need of emergency shelter. Over 185 participating congregations provide shelter, food, and necessities on a weekly basis to individuals and families in need of immediate assistance. It's the largest and most inclusive shelter in Richmond. CARITAS fills an alarming gap in the shelter system by reaching segments of the population ineligible for any other program: adults facing addictions, families with fathers, large families, and families with adolescent sons. It provides the support, training, and material assistance necessary to break the cycle of homelessness and restore stable, productive lives.

For many years, GHTC has provided daily hospitality, serving as an intake site where clients check-in and are met by transportation to their shelter sites. We are once again participating in this ministry. We began Saturday, October 6th and will conclude on Friday, December 7th. The work of volunteers in this ministry is simple: make coffee, put out refreshments, visit with clients, and help clean up afterwards. The hours will be from about 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Please contact the Rev. Michael Cadaret for more information.



Donations Needed

Non-perishable food

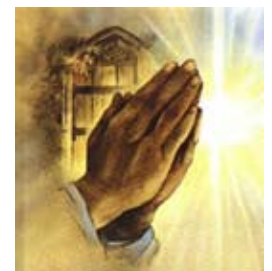
With no promotion whatsoever, the Service Ministry bin in the back hallway quietly fills with donated non-perishable food. When it's full, we send this on to the Central Virginia Food Bank. ***Thank you, Thank you, Thank you***, whoever you are that brings the food in. **The Central Virginia Food Bank** brings hunger relief to 31 counties and five cities through a comprehensive approach that includes acquiring needed foods and distributing these items to communities, families, and individuals that need them to meet their unique needs. Through targeted programs designed to address

specific hunger challenges, CVFB also works to ensure that our region's most vulnerable populations—children, families, and seniors—have access to a reliable source of healthy nutrition.

Grocery Store Gift Cards are a very convenient way for Michael to address emergency need for food. Please consider picking up a few (in denominations of \$25 or smaller) to donate to Service Ministries.

Your Prayers

The need we encounter everyday is overwhelming. Whether we are confronted by those who pan-handle and hold signs on street corners, or the sight of the poor sleeping in parks and alleyways and in transitional or transient housing, the need is greater than we are able adequately answer. At GHTC, we try hard to be as responsive and generous as is possible, and still we know that we can't help everyone. When faced with this inadequacy, the Christian turns to God for solace and strength, mercy and hope. So please, pray for the poor and those whom it would be easy to forget and for those who work to relieve the suffering of those less fortunate than we are.



*Grace & Holy Trinity
Episcopal Church*

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ORGAN SPOOKTACULAR CONCERT

Tuesday, October 30, 7:30 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Richmond Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Members from the American Guild of Organists will perform entertaining works for the organ concert, such as "Rhumba" by Robert Elmore, Henry Mancini's "Pink Panther" for pedal duet, and J.S. Bach's "Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor." There will also be several "Pumpkin Carols" for all to sing. There will be a reception, following the concert, hosted by the Music Ministry Team. Please invite your family and friends to this opening concert in our series!



WELCOME NEW CHOIR MEMBERS!

Angel Choir:
Sita Lewis

8:45 Music Team
Paul Hughes

