The Anchor



Grace & Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2013-2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

In the church year, since the Festival of Pentecost (remember that!?), we have been in "ordinary time." "The English name 'Ordinary time' translates the Latin term tempus per annum -literally 'time through the year'" (see Wikipedia). With the start of a new church year in Advent the pace of change picks up.

The four week season of Advent focuses on the first coming of the Messiah and also highlights the hope that "Christ will come again." The twelve days of Christmas celebrate the Incarnation. And in Epiphany we affirm who Jesus the Messiah is and also renew our commitment to be evangelists- to share the good news of God in Christ Jesus. These seasons are meant to help us serve God with joy and with all our mind, bodies and strength.

The new church year brings changes. And where the calendar year is concerned, as we move into 2014, we will see significant changes at Grace and Holy Trinity Church as well. We are completing a very successful capital campaign. I am grateful to everyone who worked on this, beginning with Marshall and Caroline Morton and ending with every person who made a gift or pledge. Construction should begin in the Spring and continue over the Summer. I am so grateful to and excited for this congregation. We will keep you posted as things continue to move forward.

Also important, and for whom I am profoundly grateful, are all the people who made a pledge to support the annual mission of Grace and Holy Trinity Church. These pledges represent our faith in Christ Jesus. We are hoping that through sacrificial giving we can increase the over-all budget by 4%. This is where we need to be to fully answer what we believe is God's call to us. I am writing this on Halloween, and I hope by the time this is in the mail, we will have made our goal.

Blessings and peace to you. I wish you a meaningful Advent, a joyous Christmas and an Epiphany full of good news!

-The Rev. Bollin M. Millner, Jr.

Grace & Holy Trinity Church - Contact info

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

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Vestry

Suzanne Y. Williams Senior Warden

Sara Jo Williams Junior Warden

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

2016 Vestry Jennifer B. Johnson Nelson D. Lankford Aisha Huertas Michel Bruce B. Nolte Sarah B. Beck

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.ghtc.org.







Grace & Holy Trinity Church has been serving children and families in need during the holidays for more than two decades. What started out as part of the Social Services Ministry, evolved into what we know today as the Christmas Ministry. For many years and as a result of your generosity, 75 schoolaged children have received basic necessities like new clothing and a small toy during the holidays.

This ministry continues to evolve. In 2013 we are working with several new organizations – Dumbarton Elementary School, St. Andrew's School and Peter Paul Development Center. These organizations have identified children, 12 and under, who are in need of assistance. Many are from the same family.

How can you help?

Adopt a family

Each family is comprised of two or three children. There will be an opportunity to select a family in the Parish Hall on the following Sundays:

November 17 November 24 December 1

Detailed instructions will be provided. Items purchased can be brought to the Ingathering in the Parish Hall on December, 8.

Food baskets

These children are often part of a larger family unit – living with brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents. Monetary donations will help purchase grocery store gift cards to assist all.

Delivery assistance

After the Ingathering, parcels will be taken to their respective organizations for distribution. If you have a large vehicle (and a strong back) and are willing to assist, we welcome your help.

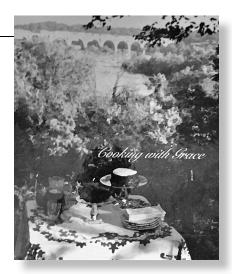
The members of the Christmas Ministry committee thank you for your immense generosity and caring, and look forward to your continued support of this invaluable service to the community.

For more information contact Kim Vullo at Kimberly.Vullo@davita.com



Cooking With Grace

"Cooking with Grace" is a visible sign of Grace & Holy Trinity Church's long history of hospitality and food for body and soul. This cookbook features recipes that have been honored for generations. The recipes are brought to life by the artwork of our members. Wouldn't you love to have the recipe for Pear and Leek Soup? How about Orange Pound Cake? This wonderful cookbook is on sale for \$20 at the church. If you would like one shipped to you or someone else, please contact Jodie Pully. There is an additional cost for shipping and handling. It is the perfect Christmas or birthday present!



The United Thank Offering (UTO)

will be received on Sunday December 8. Offering envelopes are available at the church or if you would like one mailed to you, please call Barbara Hobson-Simpson at 359-5628. The UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women. Thank offerings are made and presented and then the national ECW is able to make grants to help organizations at home and abroad. Thank you for your support of this great ministry.

Vestry Elections

The Vestry is the governing board of the parish. They are elected members of the parish. Elections are held yearly at our Annual Meeting. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for nomination to the Vestry you are encouraged to contact Suzanne Williams, our Senior Warden. Terms are for three years. In order to be considered you must be at least 16 years of age and have your baptism and confirmation or reception registered on the books of this parish. Also, candidates should be members in good standing, meaning that unless for good cause prevented, they have been faithful in the corporate worship of the church and in working, praying and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God. It is the expectation of Grace and Holy Trinity Church that all Vestry members make a financial pledge to the GHTC operating budget. The nominating committee, consisting of the Senior Warden and other members of the Class of 2014, will present at the congregational meeting on February 2, 2014.



If you would like to subscribe to the weekly eNews please send the Rev. Bo Millner an e-mail (bmillner@ghtc.org). This is the very best way to stay informed.



The Rev. Bo Millner is on twitter. Find him at bo_millner.



Don't forget to visit the Grace and Holy Trinity facebook page! Also, share it with all your friends. Social media is a great way to share GHTC with others, so please be sure not to just "like" a post, but to share it.

The trustees of the GHTC Endowment fund were pleased to receive a gift in honor of the Rev. W. Hill Brown III from the Scott Foundation. He had served for many years on this board and this gift will be used to further the outreach efforts of Grace and Holy Trinity Church. We are pleased that Hill was honored in such a meaningful way!

We have several online Adult formation and education communities at GHTC. A Faith and Family group discusses ways to practice the faith at home through facebook and a blog. An Adult Inquirer's/Confirmation group examines the faith utilizing online resources. A New Testament class watches online lectures from Yale professor, Dale Martin and discusses them on facebook. Each one of these groups meets once a month for "Face to Face" conversations. If you are interested in Faith and Family please contact Mary Cay Kollmansperger. If you are interested in the Inquirer's group please contact the Rev. Michael Cadaret. For the New Testament class, contact the Rev. Bo Millner.

Sunday Mornings for Adults

The Adult Forum meets, usually in the chapel, at 10:00 a.m. to enjoy presentations and conversations on a variety of topics. On December 1 all ages will make Advent Wreaths together in the Parish Hall. On December 8, 15 and 22 Carolyn Chilton will lead a program on "Unplugging the Christmas Machine" and the Seasons of the Church Year. Look for a visit from Dr. Mark Biddle in the new year as well as a series on "Abrahamic faiths." Please watch the eNews or check the website for more information on the Forum. Also, each Sunday morning, we have a wonderful small group Bible discussion led by Beth McClelland. They are currently studying at the Gospel of John. This group meets in the library.



Mid-week Groups

GHTC has Foyer groups, the Boomers group, a Monday night book group, a Wednesday evening "Lean In" women's group and an Education for Ministry class. To learn more please contact Carolyn Chilton in the Church office.

Sunday School will meet throughout the Christmas holidays. On December 29th this will take the form of "The Good Book Club". This is an informal, intergenerational gathering which discusses Bible stories. Breakfast is also served.

Pastoral Care

Write a note this week! Note cards are kept at the back of the church so that you can take one home and write to someone who was remembered in prayer, or perhaps someone who you don't see in church and you miss them. These simple yet profound acts of caring empower us to share God's love.

Many thanks to the Pastoral Care Team under the leadership of Sara Jo Williams for the superb three week series on "Transitions." We look forward to further offerings from this Team.

A member of the clergy is on-call 24 hours and day 365 days a year. Call 359-5628 ext 17 to find out who is on call and how to reach them.



Service



Your Drayers for the less fortunate in our community
Often, often, often
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise
O, oft and oft and oft
Goes Christ in the Stranger's guise
- Celtic Blessing of hospitality

The need we encounter every day is overwhelming. Whether we are confronted by those who panhandle 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 to 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. Pray for the grace and courage to sacrifice some of the comfort that you enjoy for the relief of others.

CARITAS (Congregations 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 is 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 at GHTC, we have provided hospitality daily for at least 8 weeks, serving as an intake site where clients check-in and are met by transportation to their shelter sites. The work of volunteers in this ministry is simple: make coffee, put out refreshments, visit with clients, and help clean up afterwards. This is an easy opportunity to commit to regular service of the most vulnerable in our community.

This year, we are doubling our commitment to 16 weeks of service. We began on Saturday, October 19 and will continue through Friday, February 21. The hours will be from about 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, please contact The Rev. Michael Cadaret.



Holiday Soup Kitchen Opportunities

Soup Kitchen will be open on through the holidays: Friday, November 29, December 20 and 27. These are great opportunities to add an experience of service to the poor to your celebration of the holidays, and great opportunities for middle school and high school students to get community service hours. We serve from 1:00-1:45. Some people get to church about 10:00 a.m. to cook and set-up. Others come around 12:30 to serve and clean-up. Normally everyone (the cooks and servers) gather around noon to eat lunch together.

Cooking for Jesus:

Cooking for Jesus is a program where Grace and Holy Trinity Parishioners cook Sunday night dinner for the Campus Ministry Students. Dinner is served at 6pm on Sundays, and Grace and Holy Trinity can reimburse you for your grocery costs.



Thank you to everyone who has already signed up for Cooking For Jesus this fall. The campus ministry students love your home-cooked dinners on Sunday nights and really appreciate your time, energy, and of course, great food!

If you would like to cook dinner for the Campus Ministry students, please contact the Rev. Michael Cadaret. There are dates available for the Spring semester and we are pulling that list together now.

GHTC VCU Food Pantry needs you! Looking for a way to give back to the local community? We are looking for volunteers who would be able to assist in sorting and distributing food during operation hours. Food donations are constantly needed and greatly appreciated. Lists are located in the back of the church and in the main office. If you are interested in aiding our ministry, contact Grant Hudson (hudsonhg@vcu.edu) or the Rev. Michael Cadaret (michael@ghtc.org). Our food pantry is a growing ministry and any support is greatly appreciated.

Donations for the needy

As the year comes to a close, many assistance agencies have exhausted their funds for the year, and yet requests for assistance continue to climb. Please consider these simple donations to help the staff of GHTC respond.

Clothes and Personal Hygiene Items

When available, we put out donated clothes and hygiene items for our guests who come to Soup Kitchen. Please only donate items that are still serviceable, and we much prefer that donated socks and undergarments be new. Traveler size soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, and feminine hygiene products are always in demand.



Empty Jars, Plastic Bottles, and Plastic Grocery Bags

At Soup Kitchen, we put together "to go bags" which contain jars of soup, cornbread, and iced tea, and we need you spare bottles and bags and jars to do it. So don't throw those things in the recycle bin, bring them to us.

Non Perishable Food

We are always collecting non-perishable food. Please find the collection bin in the back hallway, just outside the choir room. Often recipients of assistance will "browse" what we have on hand, but most often we pass what we have col-

lected on to the Central Virginia Food Bank. The Central Virginia Food Bank (CVFB) serves 31 counties and 5 cities, but approximately half of those agencies are located in the Richmond Metro area. Recipients of CVFB food and programs include, but are not limited to children, the elderly, the disabled, the newly unemployed, the mentally challenged, the homeless, the working poor, battered women, victims of natural disasters, and single-parent families. Of critical importance to the CVFB is stopping childhood hunger. Poverty and food insecurity negatively influence the diet and health of many low-income children. For more information on the CVFB please see http://cvfb.org and for more on childhood hunger and CVFB's efforts to combat it, please see their Kids Café page on their website.

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

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Celebrate the Season of Advent!

Please join our Grace & Holy Trinity Church family in celebrating the wonder-filled season of Advent. The following events are a wonderful way to enjoy fellowship with your parish family – feel free to include friends and family members who may be interested in joining you!



Family Faith at Home: Advent

Join the Family Faith at Home group on Sunday, November 24,

10:00 a.m., to discuss ways to celebrate the Season of Advent at home. Family Faith at Home meets monthly at Grace & Holy Trinity Church on Conversation Sundays to share thoughts and ideas about faith at home. Content related to each month's topic is offered online on the Family Faith at Home blog, http://ghtcfamilyfaithathome.blogspot.com/ as well as through a closed Facebook group. Please join us for this discussion – we'd love to hear from you! For more information, please contact Mary Cay Kollmansperger at marycay@ghtc.org.

Advent Wreath-Making

Bring your favorite greens and make your own Advent Wreath to take home and enjoy throughout the season. All the supplies will be available for you to add your own special touches. We will also have Advent packets available to take and use at home as you celebrate this special season. *Sunday, December 1, 10:00 a.m.* A donation of \$5 per wreath is suggested.





Youth Holy-Day Brunch

All 6-12th graders are invited to gather at the Kollmansperger's house, **Sunday December 8th from 1:30 to 3:30**, for the annual Youth Holy-Day Brunch.

- Our afternoon will include food, fun, ping pong and the G&HTC Youth's annual White Elephant Gift Exchange!
- Please bring a gift valued at \$10 or less a special prize will be awarded for the most "creatively" wrapped gift!
- The Kollmansperger's address is: 7916 Blueberry Hill Court, Richmond.

Please RSVP (marycay@ghtc.org) by December 2nd!



Telling time and learning to wait

Carolyn M. Chilton

There are many ways to tell time. We use clocks and calendars, for example. We might mark time by our birthdays or when school begins and ends. A day has 24 hours, a week has 7 days, and a year has 365 days. If we think of these conceptually, we generally see them on a line. January is at the beginning; December is at the end.

But the Church tells time differently. The Church's year is Christological. As the Rev. Jerome Berryman explains in his book *Young Children and Worship*, the Church "tells time by celebrating the events of Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit." These are divided into two cycles. A key word here is cycle—it denotes a circular movement, not a linear one. The two cycles—Christmas and Easter—are divided further into our six Church seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

We begin the season of Advent on December 1 this year. The first Sunday of Advent is also the first Sunday of a new church year. It marks the end of the old Church year and the beginning of the new. The word advent comes from a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival." In Advent we are waiting for the coming of the birth of Christ. In our own lives, Advent can be a special time of learning to wait and slow down.



Art made by Helena Ogburn facebook.com/HelenaonEtsy etsy.com/shop/LivsGlad

Margaret Wheatley in an article, "Servant Leadership and Community Leadership in the 21st Century", writes that one of the crises of our age is the belief that we can ignore or negotiate with time. This mis-guided belief, she says causes us to forget about the natural rhythms and cycles of life. "Instead we believe that it's a straight trajectory into the future, and we can go as fast as we please. This can move us away from nature, from rhythm, from others, from God and even from a sense of place. Wheatley adds that as people in the Christian tradition, and especially for those of us in liturgical churches, it is time to say ENOUGH! We must take time to think. We must take time to reflect. We must take time to slow down and enjoy the cycles of nature and our own lives. Advent is a season for helping us do just this.

Advent can teach us to wait. How do you learn to wait? Our culture is not a particularly adept teacher at this. It seems to teach us to hurry, be impatient, and want instant gratification. Some of the traditions of Advent such as the Advent calendar and Advent wreath are about the opposite – about slowing down and learning to wait. How might you use them this Advent? As we await the birth of Christ what might we be waiting to be born in our own lives?

Advent is a gift of time if we will only grasp it. It is a time to move more slowly, spend more time with family, friends, and with God. Where is Christ trying to break into your life but you are too busy and anxious to notice?

Worship and Youth

Thanksgiving Service

Please come to GHTC at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 26 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.





We look forward to Advent Lessons and Carols at the 11:00 a.m. service on December 22 and to our wonderful children's pageant at 5:00 p.m. on December 15. Mark your calendars!

We will not have the 5:00 p.m service on *December 29 and January 5*.
We'll be back on our regular schedule on January 12.



Christmas Worship Services: The Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:30 p.m. and at 10:00 p.m. Both services will be preceded by thirty minutes of special holiday music. There will also be a service at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas Day.

The church office will be closed on December 24, 25 and 26 for Christmas and on December 31 and January 1 for the New Year.

GHTC Christmas Pageant

Calling all Christmas sheep and angels! It's time to start preparing for Grace & Holy Trinity Church's annual Christmas Pageant, *Sunday evening, December 15, at 5:00 p.m.* We will have one Pageant run-through on December 15, during the Sunday school hour at 10:00 a.m. Please contact Mary Cay Kollmansperger to add your child's name to the cast list, marycay@ghtc.org. Be sure to add this event to your holiday calendar - it promises to be a magical evening!



Holy Baptism

There are several times of year that are especially appropriate for baptism. One of those is the First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord which falls on *January 12*. For the full baptismal schedule please check the "Worship" link on the homepage of our website (ghtc.org) or call the church office.

ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 22, 11:00 a.m.

There will be a service of Advent Lessons and Carols, sung by our adult choir, on *Sunday, December 22 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 Hospitality Team, in the parish hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.



IN LOVE WITH MUSIC CONCERT

Saturday, February 8, 4:00 p.m.

There will be an In Love with Music concert on *Saturday, February 8 at 4:00 p.m.* This annual concert in its eighth season will feature internationally renowned soloists Anne O'Byrne, soprano, and Ben Kwak, tenor and *The Grace Notes*, a vocal ensemble from Grace & Holy Trinity and the Richmond area. The concert will include traditional and much-loved arias and duets from light opera, opera, and musicals celebrating love in its many forms. The concert will be presented in collaboration with Lyric Opera Virginia. There will be a reception following the concert hosted by the Music Ministry Team. Please invite your family and friends to this wonderful and popular concert on our series!

Grace & Holy Trinity **Episcopal Church**

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compassion ⇒ \mathbf{p} o parish life 2014 Annual Stewardship Campaign

Thank You for Participating in our Campaigns

4 Annual Stewardship Campaigness of the Holy Thank of the Holy Tha Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Capital and Annual Stewardship Campaigns. As you know the Capital Campaign has reached and is exceeding its' goal of \$2.1 million. Your generosity in giving of your time, talents and financial resources means that we will not only complete the projects in the campaign, but also have additional monies for construction overages and upgrades to equipment and materials. We will recognize and celebrate the generosity of this parish at the morning services on November 24. This will include a list of all those who have contributed to the Capital Campaign either through a financial gift, pledge, or their time and talents. If you do NOT want your name listed, please notify Carolyn Chilton. If you have given time and talent to the Capital Campaign – stuffing envelopes, cooking... - please contact Carolyn so that we're sure to include your name.