Dear Friends in Christ,

Time waits for no one! This seems to be especially true at this time of year. Where the church year is concerned, we make a series of transitions. A new year begins with Advent and then continues with the 12 day Christmas season and then with Epiphany. Each one of these seasons helps us to reconnect with the story of our faith. In Advent, we remember that Christ not only came two thousand years ago but that in Christ, God will one Day, make the whole creation new. In Christmas we celebrate Emmanuel, God with us. In Epiphany, we celebrate the Light of the world and commit ourselves to reflecting this light.

In our regular calendar there has also been and will be a lot going on as well, with Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. We all know that this can be a stressful time of year along with all the joy it brings.

Recently I came across a series of sayings, called the “Five Simple Rules for Happiness”. As with all things like this, it doesn’t tell the whole story. But I think it is helpful. The rules go like this:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

It is possible to find biblical support for each one of these rules, from the sayings of Jesus especially. Regardless, I put it out there not to make anyone feel guilty or to create a new set of laws. It is just that with the start of a new church year with Advent and the start of a new calendar year in January, it gives us the chance to reset and these simple rules might help us focus. And as the Book of Lamentations states: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning...” There is always time for new hope and new beginnings. This is what our Lord gave his life for and we can embrace it each and every day. This is good news, indeed!

May the God and Father Almighty of us all, who created this world and who promises to renew the entire face of the earth, bless you in his beloved Child Jesus; May you receive God in Christ into your heart and live out his commands in your life; May you thrive and be filled with joy, sincerity and hope, rejoicing always in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

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

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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.

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
We wish everyone a Peaceful Advent, a Merry Christmas and an Enlightening Epiphany!

[Signatures]
Barbara Helen Simpson
Warren M. Mullen
Jamie J. Smiley
Judy F. Miller
Jim Roberts
Valérie Cussonnaire
Carolyn M. Chilton
Beth Melcher Davis
J. Michael Colby
Mary Kay Kollmannsperger
Thank You to everyone who has made a pledge to the mission and ministry of Grace and Holy Trinity Church for 2013. The support you give through your time, talents and treasure means that together we can do extra-ordinary things in our Lord’s name, and continue to change lives here in Richmond and around the world. Our Annual Campaign goal for 2013 is to have 100% participation. If possible, we would appreciate having your 2013 pledge as soon as possible so that we can finalize our budget and planning process. Members of the Stewardship Committee will soon be making phone calls and will be happy to answer your questions about pledging. If you have never pledged, we ask you to take this important step in your spiritual journey. All of our pledge information and forms are available on our website or contact Judy Miller in the church office. Thank you very much for your prayerful support.

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.

The United Thank Offering (UTO) will be received on Sunday December 9. 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 Ed Starr, our Senior Warden (804-697-1268 or ed.starr@troutmansanders.com) or any member of the Vestry. 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 2013, will present a slate consisting of five nominees corresponding to the open five seats. Elections will take place at our congregational meeting on February 3, 2013.

The GHTC Bus

provides transportation to and from Westminster Canterbury most Sundays. Anyone who resides at Westminster Canterbury is welcome to ride. This is a great evangelism opportunity for current Westminster Canterbury members of GHTC. Please, invite your friends who may not have a church community to ride with you on Sunday. Also, even if you drive, taking the bus is a great way to go. You don’t have to worry about parking! Please call Barbara Hobson-Simpson at the church office with any questions.

Sign Up for the eNews

One of the best ways to stay informed at Grace and Holy Trinity Church, is to sign up for the eNews. We will not inundate you with e-mails, but once a week, typically on Wednesday afternoon, we send out an informative e-mail that tells what is happening and when. It focuses on what is happening the very next Sunday. The format is designed so that you can read through it quickly. Often, if you want to read more about a particular item, there is a link which will take you to a web page with further information. With the eNews you can stay informed and it literally only takes a minute to do so. To sign up please send an e-mail to the Rev. Bo Millner (bmillner@ghtc.org).

Would You Like to Go Paperless with “The Anchor”? 

If you are a subscriber to the eNews, you can go paperless with The Anchor. Simply contact Valérie Aussanaire at the church office (359-5628 or vaussanaire@ghtc.org) and let her know. Then, whenever a new edition of The Anchor is published, you will be informed via the eNews. Just click on the link and you will be taken to a full color PDF (a portable document format) of the newsletter.

Episcopal Church Women Annual Pot Luck Luncheon on Tuesday, December 11

Plan to join the Episcopal Church Women at Betsy Featherstone’s home located at 212 Gun Club Road for our traditional Pot Luck Luncheon. This is a wonderful opportunity to capture the Spirit as we wrap Christmas gifts and stuff stockings for girls living in a cottage at Jackson Field Home for Girls. Come at 10:30 a.m., bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship. Westminster Canterbury Bus pick-up will be available at the Tower at 10:00 a.m. and at the CCL entrance at 10:10 a.m.
A new book!

Renowned novelist, Barbara Kingslover has just published her fourteenth novel entitled Flight behavior. With a climate change theme, amazon.com describes it as “a restless farm wife ... encounters... a silent, forested valley filled with what looks like a lake of fire. She can only understand it as a cautionary miracle, but it sparks a raft of other explanations from scientists, religious leaders, and the media. The bewildering emergency draws rural farmers into unexpected acquaintance with urbane journalists, opportunists, sightseers, and a striking biologist with his own stake in the outcome. As the community lines up to judge the woman and her miracle, Dellarobia confronts her family, her church, her town, and a larger world, in a flight toward truth that could undo all she has ever believed.”

Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia

Annual Council is the governance meeting of the Diocese of Virginia that meets every January. The members of the parishes in the Diocese elect Vestry members and the Vestry then elects delegates to Annual Council. Your representatives at Council are Sara Jo Williams, Dawn McNamara and Shelli Lord. In the event the delegates can’t serve Nancy Trego, Bill Perkins and Nancy Chafin will serve in their place. All clergy canonically resident in the Diocese are also members of Council so that the Rev. Michael Cadaret and the Rev. Bo Millner have seat, voice and vote. You may read about Council at the diocesan website. (www.thediocese.net) Any of your representatives would be happy to talk with you. The 218th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia will take place January 24-26, 2013 in Reston.

Campus Ministry Christmas Tree Ornaments

Campus Ministry will be selling GHTC Christmas Tree ornaments this year as a fundraiser for their several ministries. These will be on sale at worship services very soon. The cost is $20. To pre-order please send an email to the Rev. Michael Cadaret.
Parish Hall Renovation:

The 80% Coffee Hour Goal

If you have been following the proposed renovation project, you may already know that:

- A survey of parish members and staff in 2006 revealed the number one priority for our facilities was a renovation of the Parish Hall.
- More recently, the membership of GHTC shared their vision for our church in 10 years and recommended renovations to help us better serve our community and fulfill our mission.
- Based on congregational suggestions, architect and parishioner Todd Dykshorn has drafted plans for a more open, functional, and welcoming Parish Hall, kitchen, and choir space. Please visit the model in the hallway outside of the Parish Hall! The Chapel and Church entranceways may also be improved.
- The Episcopal Church Foundation has been engaged to help us discern the feasibility of financially undertaking a construction project.

So, what does all of that have to do with 80% and coffee? Before GHTC begins to look at how much can be raised for a building project, parishioners need to know what the project entails and give feedback. Over the past several months, several opportunities have brought the congregation together for conversations about proposed renovations to our facilities. And more opportunities for feedback will be available. The goal is to have 80% of folks polled during coffee hour (or breakfast!) know about the project. Don’t worry – you won’t be quizzed over bacon and eggs, but Bo may be asking for a show of hands during services!

So, if you are not yet a part of the “80% Coffee Hour” crowd, here’s how you can join:

- Stop by the architect’s model and drawings in the Parish Hall hallway to familiarize yourself with the proposed project.
- On Sunday, January 6, hear from our Episcopal Church Foundation consultant about fundraising for a major project. More details to come.
- Talk with any Vestry member, Bo Millner, Carolyn Chilton, Gregg Beck, or Pem Hall about the plans.
- Read your service bulletins, e-newsletter, and Anchor for updates!

Thank you for helping Grace and Holy Trinity Church build for the future!

December 24th at 4:30 p.m. – This service enjoys the lively presence of our youngest members and follows the format of our Sunday 8:45 a.m. service. A nursery for babies is provided.

December 24th at 10:00 p.m. - This service enjoys the offerings of our renowned adult choir.

Both Christmas Eve services are preceded by special music.

Looking Ahead…

We will hold our Annual Meeting on February 3, 2013 at 9:45 a.m.
Read more about Vestry nominations in this newsletter.

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on February 13, 2013.
Services will be offered at 7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
**Christmas Ministry Ingathering of gifts will be Sunday December 2nd**

and we will distribute gifts to families on Friday, December 7th and Saturday, December 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, please contact Kay Gray at 741-2984 or kaytgray@aol.com.

“The Christmas Ministry Team thanks all parishioners who adopted families and who made donations for Christmas meals. All families have been adopted. The committee appreciates your generosity so much.”

**Thanks, Kay Gray**

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**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.

**Your Prayers**

The need we encounter everyday 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.

**Your Time**

Soup Kitchen is a 30+ year old ministry of GHTC. We gather every Friday to cook and serve Bean Soup, cornbread, canned peaches, and fruit to 70-100 guests who come to us from a broad spectrum of need and circumstances. The day basically goes in two shifts: the first, from 10:00am-noon, cooks and sets up; the second, from 12:45-2:30, serves and cleans up. From noon-12:45, the entire team eats lunch together. We are always welcoming new volunteers.

**Holiday Soup Kitchen opportunities**

Soup Kitchen will be open on **Friday, December 21st and 28th**. These are great opportunities to add an experience of service to the poor to your celebration of these 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 10am 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.
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 collected 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 (in denominations of $25 or smaller) to donate to Service Ministries.

Christian Education Hour on Sunday Mornings During the Holidays
We will offer Christian education on December 23 at 10:00 a.m., plans are underway for a special church family event. Stay tuned!

In place of regular Christian Education classes, we will have a hymn sing for all ages on Sunday, December 30th at 10:00 a.m. Join us for fun and the chance to sing all your favorite Christmas carols.
Pastoral Care & Evangelism

Please remember to wear your name tag on Sundays!

A Member of the Clergy is On-call
twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. Please call 359-5628 ext 17 to listen to the message as to who is on-call and how to reach them. Messages left at the church may not be picked up in a timely fashion so in the event of an emergency please call the clergy person on-call at the number above. Please do not rely on e-mails for emergency purposes as these may not be reviewed in a timely fashion.

Clergy Schedules
For your planning purposes it may help to know when the Rev. Michael Cadaret and the Rev. Bo Millner have days off. Michael observes Saturdays and Mondays as days off and Bo takes Friday and Saturday. Bo and Michael share on-call responsibilities on Saturdays in the event of an emergency.

Sara Jo Williams Leads the Pastoral Care Team
and if you’d like to join, please be in touch with her at your earliest convenience. The role of this Team is to discern pastoral care needs and them develop ministries to meet them.

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 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. 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).

If You’d Like to make a Donation to Help those Affected by Hurricane Sandy
Please contact Episcopal Relief & Development. It is an international relief and development agency and a compassionate response to human suffering on behalf of The Episcopal Church in the United States. They are accepting donations to help those affected by Hurricane Sandy in the Caribbean and along the U.S. East Coast. Visit their website (http://www.er-d.org/donate-select.php) to donate. To donate by phone call 1-855-312-4325.
Children’s Programs for December

**Youth Holy-Day Brunch!**

All 6-12th graders are invited to gather at the Kollmansperger’s house, **December 9th** 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!

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**Celebrate the Season of Advent!**

Please join the Grace & Holy Trinity family in celebrating the wonder-filled season of Advent. Beginning December 2, Advent packets will be available at the church for anyone interested in learning more about ways to celebrate this very special season with family and friends at home. For more information, please contact Mary Cay Kollmansperger at marycay@ghtc.org.

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**Christmas Pageant!**

Calling all Christmas sheep and angels! It’s time to start preparing for Grace & Holy Trinity’s annual Christmas Pageant, Sunday evening, December 16 at 5:00 p.m. We will have one complete Pageant rehearsal on December 16 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!
SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS
Sunday, December 9, 11:00 a.m.
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 Hospitality Team, in the parish hall following the service.

CELEBRATION OF UNITY CONCERT
Monday, January 21, 7:30 p.m.
There will be a Celebration of Unity concert on Monday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. This concert will feature the Grace & Holy Trinity Adult Choir, Greater Richmond Children’s Choir, and the Sanctuary Choir of Ebenezer Baptist Church. These three wonderful choirs will perform anthems and spirituals in honor of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Please plan to attend this exciting annual community event in its seventh season!

IN LOVE WITH MUSIC CONCERT
Saturday, February 9, 4:00 p.m.
There will be an In Love with Music concert on Saturday, February 9 at 4:00 p.m. This annual concert in its seventh season will feature internationally renowned soloists Anne O’Byrne, soprano, and Tracey Welborn, tenor. Also joining us this year will be Ben Kwak, tenor, as well as Fran Coleman, soprano, Bekah Hughes Davis, alto, and George Pugh and Elizabeth Martin, piano accompanists, along with The Grace Notes, a vocal ensemble from Grace & Holy Trinity and the Richmond area. The musicians will present traditional and much-loved arias and duets from light opera, opera, and musicals celebrating love in its many forms. 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!