

# The Church of the Holy Family

# Family Affairs

November 2019

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Deadline for December *Family Affairs*: November 17

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A friend of mine is rector of a parish that's maybe a little too small for a monthly newsletter, so what she does is write a weekly email message to her parish and the first part of it, like in our newsletter, is a short "message from the rector." This month—since there's so much to say—here are four short messages instead of one.

The Every Member Canvass is going well, but we need to hear from you. In general, parishioners are increasing their pledges and this is heartening to see. I reckon we are about 40% of the way to our goal. Over the years, I've heard many of my colleagues state—with greater and lesser degrees of humor and despair—that many in their congregations view the canvass as an intolerable bore, something to be endured like the NPR pledge drive. I'm pleased to say that is not my overall experience at Holy Family. God asks us to return a share to Him of what we have been given and this claim is absolute. But for a canvass to be joyous, folks need to believe in their church and its potential. I know that our parishioners believe in Holy Family and meet Jesus Christ here in the sacraments and their fellow parishioners. I also know that Holy Family wants their church to flourish, so this is why I trust that the canvass is viewed primarily as a gift, a real chance to participate in the church's mission. If you have already made your pledge, we thank you. If you have not yet done so, please visit [www.chfepiscopal.org/pledge](http://www.chfepiscopal.org/pledge) right now, or look for a pledge card at church, or be in touch with Julie in the church office today. Thank you.

On three occasions in recent weeks, Holy Family has welcomed/will welcome members of the wider community into our common life. The first two are behind us: the Chapel Hill 9/Mary D. Williams concert in September, about which much has been said, and the statewide meeting of Church Women United, which happened last weekend. These two events brought many people to Holy Family from different denominations and traditions. In both cases, we visited together and grew in Christian fellowship and understanding. I am convinced that ecumenical collaborations like these are part of the future of mainline American Christianity; in them we discover each other's best kept secrets and heal the fabric of our society. The third event this fall is the choral presentation of Rutter's Requiem. Our musicians are partnering with those of St. Philip's and the community to present this concert in honor of All Saints. It is something we have not done in a long time. Kudos to Bill Adams for driving this project.

A few, fun celebrations are coming up soon. First of all, I'm looking forward to the next few weeks in the church's liturgical calendar. All Saints and Advent are luminous seasons when the veil between heaven and earth is unusually thin. It is a time of expectancy and hope, culminating in the great festival of the Nativity of Jesus. We have three things coming up over the next few weeks: one that's not quite ready for prime time—stay tuned!—and two that are. This November marks the 20th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood and some plans are in place to celebrate that. (Note: I'm the one letting you know about this because Sarah, as of writing, is finishing up the second part of her much-deserved sabbatical leave). On Sunday, November 17, the bishop who ordained me both deacon and priest will be with us at Holy Family. Victoria Matthews was Canada's first woman bishop. She served first as a bishop suffragan of Toronto, then as Bishop of Edmonton, and then she moved "down under" and served for many years as Bishop of Christchurch in New Zealand. She was bishop there when a devastating earthquake destroyed their iconic cathedral. She has quite the story to tell and I am so glad she accepted our invitation to come. On Sunday, December 1, we will formally dedicate our new icon *Flight into Egypt* and celebrate with Annie Liptzin and her extended family, many of whom will come to Chapel Hill for the occasion. Annie so generously gave the money to commission and install the icon. In the weeks since its installation, many people have told me how *Flight into Egypt* has quickly become treasured part of their devotions at Holy Family.

Lastly, I want to talk with you about Orange County's new revolving community bail fund. Led by our friends up the road at Binkley Baptist Church, the excitement in the community behind the Orange County Bail Bond Justice Project continues to grow. More and more congregations are entering into formal partnership with the project. Holy Family has done so. I serve on the project's board of directors. A shocking number of justice-impacted individuals languish in jail for non-violent offenses simply because they cannot raise the money to post bail. Weeks, even months can pass by while they await trial. During this time of unnecessary incarceration, they often lose their homes, their jobs, and sometimes even custody of their children. This revolving fund (the money is returned to the fund when the individual shows up to trial) is a replication of a very successful and impactful model in use across the country, and is based on the premise that how much money you have should not determine whether you sit in jail. The onerous practice of requiring cash bail for relatively minor offenses is slowly changing (like in Durham!) but, in the meantime, we can have a dramatic effect on peoples' lives right now. Have you ever wondered how you can live into Jesus' command to proclaim release to the captives? This is a big part. Holy Family made a leading gift to the fund through a grant from our Endowment. There is a part for you to play, too. Would you like to be a part of an interfaith team of people who go to the magistrates' court and record how bails are set? In physics, the observer effect is the theory that the mere observation of a phenomenon inevitably changes that phenomenon. We are already noticing a change in bail practices since we began showing up to record how each magistrate assigns bail. Amazing. Learn more at [ocbailbondjustice.org](http://ocbailbondjustice.org) or speak with me. In the Scriptures,

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Directory Updates - Please make these changes in your directory:

Russell Jones: russelljones121@gmail.com  
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**Summary of Vestry minutes**

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON **September 17** THE VESTRY:

- Heard the Rector's report, including the backyard stabilization project is scheduled to begin on or about October 15. This will involve re-landscaping of the grassy/sandy area between the church building and the house, and the installation of a retaining/sitting wall. There was robust turnout for acolyte training. There were 26 at the EYC startup event.
- Associate Rector's Report, including Fellowship Time coordinators are in need to serve with Peggy Duhamel. Denise Fair needs a backup for Sundays when she has a conflict for Fellowship Time cleanup.
- D'Ann George has agreed to be the vestry liaison to the Outreach Commission.
- Finance Commission recommended and moved that the Vestry appropriate \$21,000.00 from the Vestry Discretionary Fund to cover the approved Backyard Stabilization Plan (\$19,000) and The Steering Committee efforts (\$2,000). The motion passed unanimously.
- Christianity and the Arts has had several successful events-Adult Forum for the Chapel Hill Nine was standing room only; 156 people attended the Mary D. Williams performance and potluck; Native Son play at Playmakers was well attended. Dave and Lisa Worster are transitioning out of the chairship of the commission and Amy and Anson Burtch are stepping into those rolls.
- Kim Gotwals noted that the roof repair over the nave was a large anticipated expense that came in extremely under budget.

**Commission Meetings in November:**

**Christianity and the Arts:** Sunday, November 3,  
11:30 a.m., St. Augustine Room

**Outreach Commission:** Wednesday, November 13,  
7:00 p.m., Library

**Finance Commission:** Tuesday, November 19,  
6:00 p.m., Conference Room

**Vestry:** Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall



## Adult Education in Opportunities in November

Sunday, November 3, 9:00 a.m., Adult Forum, Parish Hall: **The 2020 Census and the Church.** The first United States Census was taken in 1790. The twenty-fourth will be taken in 2020. Why is this a matter of particular concern for the Church? Because, among other things, the Census affects how much federal funding each state receives for vital public services like schools, roads, and hospitals. Unfortunately, in past Census counts, children, people of color, and immigrants have been undercounted, leading to fewer resources for our state as a whole. If everyone counts in God's eyes, everyone should be counted. Please join us as Sheryl Forbis leads a conversation about the census and how Holy Family can help.

Sunday, November 10, 9:00 a.m., Adult Forum, Parish Hall: **Suzette Cayless, Food for the Journey, Part 3.** Each of us has to find our own personal way to pray but we can benefit from the experience of others through written and spoken word. In a four-part series this fall, Suzette Cayless will lead us in sharing, asking questions, and discussion in relation to some major ingredients in the life of prayer. Each session will open with a short presentation, and Suzette will also provide passages for reading and personal exploration. This week's session, "Rooted and Grounded in Love," will explore the fact that true prayer requires that we love others and allow God to love us.

Monday, November 11, 7:00 p.m., the **Canonical Crime Squad** will be in the Library with our favorite royal Irish nun and detective, Peter Tremayne's Sister Fidelma. The good sister is on a pilgrimage to Saint James in Spain without Brother Eadulf when she meets the man who abandoned her ten years earlier. She's quickly plunged into a case of murder on the high seas in "An Act of Mercy".

Sunday, November 17, 9:00 a.m., Adult Forum, Parish Hall: **The Right Reverend Victoria Matthews.** In 1994, Bishop Matthews became the first woman ordained bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada when she was made a suffragan bishop of the Diocese of Toronto. She then served as Bishop of Edmonton from 1997-2007, where, among other things, she ordained our very own Clarke French to the priesthood. Bishop Matthews was elected Bishop of Christchurch in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia in 2008 where she served until 2018. Please join us in welcoming our honored guest this morning and hearing from her about her life and work.

Sunday, November 24, 9:00 a.m., Parish Hall: **Crèches/Nativity Scenes on Display.** This morning the Christianity and the Arts Commission invites you to come see, enjoy, and learn about some of your fellow parishioners' most beloved nativity sets, which will be on display in the Parish Hall. While you are there, you can enjoy some of the delicious goods on offer at our annual Bake Sale in the Gallery. We will have coffee ready!

***The First Thousand Years A Global History of Christianity*** (2012) by Robert Louis Wilken attempts the impossible task of summarizing the spread of Christianity from the birth of Jesus to approximately the year 1000—from the Roman empire into the middle ages. Wilken writes as a Christian, but in covering a time span without predominating political or cultural trends, he organizes his material with many individual biographies, with geography as a strong secondary principle. Chronology tends to be circular as a result. It can be heavy going as reading. There are interesting chapters on the Persian, Nubian and other churches I previously knew nothing about. I was sorry to see no footnotes, to say nothing of many anonymous quotes. For at least some of the major East-West topics, I would prefer the faster-moving (although even more partisan) *Ye Are the Body* by Bonnell Spencer, which is also in the parish library. At the very least, I would recommend reading Wilken's "Afterword" first, since it is a summary of the book, to see if one wanted to undertake the whole. *By Pat Jones*

# Christian Education for Children and Youth

The Rev. Angela Nelson, Minister of Christian Education (anelson@chfnc.net)

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## Episcopal Youth Community

Join our Episcopal Youth Community as we grow in love and friendship with God and one another as we learn to welcome the stranger. We gather on Sunday evenings from 5-7 in the Parish House, unless otherwise noted. We have quite a bit happening through the rest of fall. For updates, subscribe to the “youth” group on Holy Family’s mailchimp, find us on Instagram at CHFChristianEd, or sign up to receive Remind texts with information about upcoming weekly meetings and events.

November 3: All Saints Bonfire at Micah’s home

November 10: EYC Group photo

November 17: EYC Baking Day in the Parish kitchen (In preparation for our Bake Sale)

November 24: Bake Sale in the morning, no EYC in the evening

December 1: Film and Discussion

December 8: rADVENT party

December 15: Holy Family Scavenger Hunt

## Acolyte Festival

Last month we sent 12 youth and 4 adults to Washington DC for the National Acolyte Festival at the Washington National Cathedral. Youth had the opportunity to join in the Grandest Procession (truly a logistical feat!), work with jubilation banners, and swing thuribles. Some among our group even received a behind the scenes tour that I am sure was at least two hours long. Ask them about the folks buried at the Cathedral and you might hear some fascinating stories. As for me, it was a dream to hear students say, “Luther and Zwingli? Who are they?” Thanks to our chaperones Keith Brown, James Brown, and Kim Powell. They were truly wonderful and a great resource for our students and youth minister.

## Setting up a space for Prayer at Home

Advent is the start of the liturgical year and the part of the year we sometimes call the “cycle of light.” As you prepare to set your home up for the Advent and Christmas seasons, consider what it might look like to set up a prayer space for all the members of your family to explore and pray together or on their own. It does not need to be complicated; indeed, simple is better. Lay a cloth napkin (purple for Advent, if you have one) on a low table (if you have very young people) or in a central place where the members of your family pass daily. We use a square of our family bookshelf because it is in our primary living space and items there do not get strewn about.

Mark the space as special and sacred. If you have an icon, especially one of Jesus or of the Holy Family, place it on the table or hang it at eye level for your household’s smallest members. In a bowl, place a cross, a set of prayer beads for children, or a laminated icon or prayer. We have all of these things available for you in the Theological Library for young people in the Christian Education Commons and you can keep them (they are on the shelves in colorful bins). Consider putting a small stack of pictures that you don’t mind people handling—members of the household, grandparents, good friends, your child’s class—to help everyone remember the people for whom they might pray. If you have small children, a picture book, such as *Silent Night* by Lara Hawthorne, or a set of nativity figure blocks make an excellent companion for meditation and playing, praying, or working on stories together. Include a family Bible or prayer book marked with a ribbon, and a sand timer (with one, three, or five minutes) to help facilitate short periods of silence.

Encourage members of your household to stop by throughout the day and to think about the images and objects there. What do they remind us about Jesus? How do they help us remember the love of God? Who do we know who needs our prayers? Can you tell someone you love what you learned about Jesus today? Write names or ideas down on small pieces of paper and put them in a bowl on your prayer table. Do you have questions about what this might look like in your home or need help thinking through how to introduce it to children and grownups alike? Send me an email or come talk to me on a Sunday morning. During Advent, we will have a small prayer table set up just this way in our Christian Education commons. Come there and pray for the students at Holy Family and check out our library while you are at it!

**Save the dates! The Annual Alternative Christmas**, to raise funds for Church of the Holy Family Outreach ministries and purchase unique gifts for loved ones will be held Sundays December 8, 15, and 22.

**HARVEST TIME IS SHARING TIME!**

**“RSVVP DAY” is coming on Tuesday November 12.** Dine out all day at one of many participating restaurants in town and 10% of what you spend will be donated to the IFC Food Pantry and the Community Kitchen which serves hot meals every day to everyone who comes. Check list of restaurants at <http://www.ifcweb.org/rsvvp>. Last year about \$6,000 was raised.

Please take a **HOLIDAY MEAL COUPON** and support IFC’s promise to provide Thanksgiving AND Christmas meal ingredients (Turkey and all the sides!) to 400 families who have signed up. \$50 provides a family with both meals. Coupons will be included in the weekly bulletins during November and can be found in the Narthex and downstairs lobby. Share the joy of an abundant meal with people in our town. You can see more info at [www.ifcweb.org/projects/holiday-meals](http://www.ifcweb.org/projects/holiday-meals).

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING: the MUSICAL:** On Sat November 23 at 7:30 p.m. or Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m., at the “Current Art Space,” 123 W Franklin St., an original musical written and performed by Chapel Hill artists, residents and grassroots advocates will share powerful stories and good humored satire about affordable housing in our community. For tickets go to [www.affordablehousingmusical.org](http://www.affordablehousingmusical.org)



## Meals For Molas

Holy Family has a long-term tradition of raising money to provide lunches for the students in our partner elementary school in Molas, Haiti. For many of the children - it may be their most substantial meal of the day.

For many years, the Kids In Need (KIN) offering of pre-made soup and sweet mixes sold during Alternative Christmas has raised funds to meet this need. For a number of reasons, the KIN program has come to an end.

To help address the ongoing need to provide nutritious lunches – Holy Family is reviving the sale of Haitian Coffee and Chocolates. Partnering with Singing Rooster provides the opportunity to directly support vulnerable Haitian farmers, help reforest Haiti, and build rural economies – all while we raise money for school lunches. The purchase of a single bag of coffee or five chocolate bars - raises enough



money to feed one child lunch for two months!!

During the month of November, orders will be taken for the following products:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <u>Coffees (ground or bean) (\$18 per 12oz. bag)</u>  | <u>Chocolates (\$4 per 2.2oz bar) – 78% dark</u>  |
| <u>cocoa</u>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DECAF (served at CHF)</li> <li>• Full City (medium)</li> <li>• Tete (medium-dark - served at CHF)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Plain Chocolate Bar</li> <li>* Peppermint Chocolate Bar</li> <li>* Sea Salt &amp; Nib Bar</li> </ul> |

Orders can be placed online – by using your phone to scan the QR code at right, or by placing order forms in the boxes in the Narthex and Gallery. Payment will be required upon delivery during the Sundays of Alternative Christmas.



If you have any questions, or need assistance – please contact:  
Leslie Andersen (919-306-4811 or [leslieandersen@gmail.com](mailto:leslieandersen@gmail.com))



**Fall Blood Drive:** Mark your calendars for the next blood drive on November 14, 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. We need four to six volunteers the day of the blood drive, to register people, and assist with snacks and drinks. We also need people to provide homemade snacks for donors to have after giving blood. If you can help, please contact Jim Gray or the church office. To be a donor, sign up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), look for the red box with the words “Find a Blood Drive.” Our sponsor code is **chf**. Follow the prompts to schedule an appointment. If you have questions, contact Jim Gray at [jimgray546@gmail.com](mailto:jimgray546@gmail.com)

*My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.*

—Mark 11:17

Your prayers are invited for the people of our parish and of all nations,  
and for the extension and establishment of the kingdom of God.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

# house of prayer

**Intercessory Prayers** on behalf of specific individuals or groups can be recorded in the notebook kept on a lectern in the Narthex. Intercessions are offered at Morning and Evening Prayer during the week. To have a prayer included in the parish prayer list, please call the church office: 919-942-3108.

**The e-mail listserv** is a means of inviting the community to join in praying for particular concerns or thanksgivings. To make a prayer request in this way, contact either the Rev. Clarke French (cfrench@chfnc.net) or the Rev. Sarah Ball-Damberg (sballdamberg@chfnc.net).

**Confidential requests** for prayer may be made directly to one of the clergy, or by asking members of the Prayer Team at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service to pray with and for you.

*This month, please pray for:*

- **The victims** and perpetrators of violence, and the victims of war and natural disasters.
- **Those who lead the nation**, especially Donald Trump, our President, and Roy Cooper, our Governor. Please pray that they may serve justice, and promote equality and peace.
- **Those who risk their lives** in the service of their country, especially members of the armed forces and the diplomatic corps.
- **Our sick, homebound, and recovering**, especially Dave Worster, Bill and Mary Harrison, Mary Hunter, Marie Carotenuto, George Bloomer, Sara Smith, Steve Dixon, Aileen Womark-Montes, Dese Simpson, and Celia Lata.
- **Those who have died**, especially Betty Holmes and Jane Forbes.

• **Those expecting children.**

• **Those in any need or trouble**, especially Billy Ray, James, and Ray in prison; Eddie on Death Row; incarcerated men and staff of Orange Correctional Center and those recently re-entering society from prison.

• **Our bishops**, The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop; the Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman, Bishop of North Carolina; the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan of North Carolina.

• **Our seminaries**, especially the University of the South, Sewanee, and the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies at the Duke Divinity School.

• **Our mission partners**, Gyani Thapa in Nepal (Kirtipur Christian Fellowship), Catherine Piwang in Uganda (ChildReach Africa), and Karen Calani in Guatemala (Food for the Hungry).

• **L'École de Notre Dame** in Molas, Haiti, its students, teachers, and staff, and priest-in-charge Père Wildaine André.

• **The Augustine Literacy Project** students, tutors, staff, and board members.

• **Our clergy**: Clarke, Sarah, Paula, and Angela.

• **Our seminarian**: Brett.

• **Our diocesan intern**: Alice

• **The staff of our parish**: Tom, Gary, Julie, Bill, and Micah.

## **Family Affairs**

*The Church of the Holy Family (Episcopal)*  
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## **Comings and goings**

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*The Lord shall watch  
over your going out  
and your coming in,  
from this time forth for  
evermore.*

*—Psalm 121:8*

**Enrolled:** Sara and Todd Rich, Anna and Wallis  
609 Sugarberry Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**Births:** Silas Rinn Gallaher, to Laura and Jared Gallaher  
Roberto Luis Copa Matos, to Roberto Copa Matos and Rebecca  
Turnbull  
Wendell Elizabeth Graham Grant, to Alice and Benjamin Grant



### ***Holy Eucharist for the Feast of Thanksgiving***

Our observance of the Thanksgiving Holy Day will be held  
on the Eve of Thanksgiving Day, Wednesday, November 27,  
at 7:00 p.m.