

Greetings from our new rector



Greetings, Church of the Advent!

I am grateful for the opportunity to introduce myself to you as I step into the role of your Priest in Charge December 1, 2017. Advent has always been my most favorite liturgical season, with

its rich themes of anticipation, hope, journey, welcome, and revelation. Resting in the season of short days and long nights, Advent for me has always been bright with possibilities as Emmanuel, God with us, carries the mystery of the incarnation into even the darkest spaces, filling them with light and peace.

To share some of my story that I bring with me to Williamston: I was born in Jacksonville, Florida, and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia (when you could still drive through it in less than a day). I went to medical school in Augusta, Georgia shortly after marrying Mark Richardson, 37 years ago at last count. Mark is a college writing teacher (they used to call it Eng-

lish) and has always loved his profession—wherever I have dragged him to serve in it. Our older son Will was born during medical school and our younger son Owen was born during my residency in Family Medicine in Kingsport, TN. They are now both grown and married. Will works in administration at the University of Georgia and Owen is a first-year surgical resident at Vidant East Carolina Medical Center in Greenville.

I was a small-town family doctor in rural Tennessee and Georgia for many years before making a shift to do full time medical work in hospice and palliative care for the last 10 years of my medical career. Discerning a mid-life call to ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church led me to explore the common ground between the work of physician and priest in the care of both patients and members of congregations. After my ordination in 2008 I served small churches in the Diocese of Georgia and the Diocese of Virginia while working

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my “day job” in hospice and palliative care.

Since retiring from medicine in 2014, I have served full time in parish ministry with an emphasis on pastoral care, and have been blessed to have a book published by Church Publishing called Holy Dying: Stories and Struggles. It is my hope that the book will be useful assisting individuals, groups and congregations in addressing many of the medical and spiritual questions often faced by those who find themselves in a medical crisis with lots of complex decisions to make.

I am excited about our move to Williamston. Mark and I look forward to scouting

out places to walk by the river and maybe taking up kayaking again. I look forward to learning more about horses, and to being closer to the smell of a salt marsh. Most of all I look forward to meeting each of you, to hearing your stories about life in East Carolina and your stories as a family of faith at Church of the Advent. I look forward to breaking bread with you—at the Chicken Kitchen, in the parish hall and in the Eucharistic feast. Thank you for your invitation, your welcome, and your preparations for this new Advent journey we begin together.

*All blessings,
Ellen+*

Church Year begins with season of Advent

December 3 is the first Sunday in Advent — the first day of the liturgical Church Year.

Lectionary B will be used during the year for the readings that provide an opportunity to relive the events of the life of Jesus and to examine the beliefs of our faith.

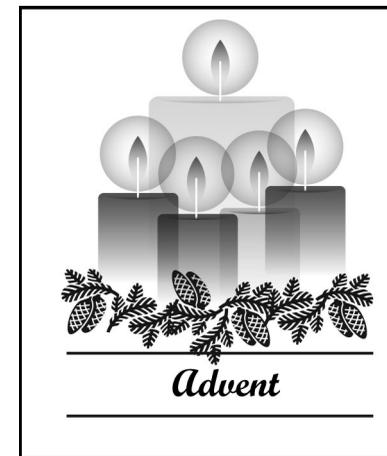
The word Advent means “coming” and the Advent season covers the four Sundays coming before Christmas.

The season is symbolized by the Advent wreath with its three purple and one rose candles, one for each Sunday in Advent. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday in Advent. Advent is now half over. The center white candle is the Christ candle.

Purple will also be seen in the church hangings. Purple is the color of royalty, in recognition of Christ the King In ancient times, purple dye was expensive and used mainly by kings and royalty and wealthy people.

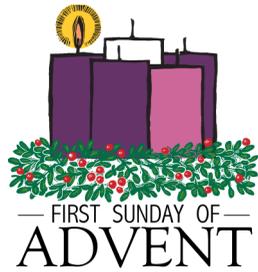
Penitential means turning to God in sorrow after doing something wrong. Advent is also a season of preparation, preparing for the coming of Jesus.

As Advent is a penitential season, the praise hymn “Gloria” will not be sung during the Eucharist. Instead, the “Kyrie eleison” or “Lord, have mercy” will be used.



Parish convenes for annual meeting

On the first Sunday in Advent,— December 3— the annual parish meeting convenes in the church after a service of Morning Prayer led by the Rev. Dr. Ellen Richardson.



Canon, or church law, states that once a year — as soon as possible after the first Sunday in Advent — the parish conducts a parish-wide meeting.

The 2018 budget, along with a report on Stewardship Sunday, will be presented.

An elections will be held for three vestry members for three year terms.

Candidates should be contacted ahead of time to ensure their intent and commitment.

The vestry meets monthly as well as for called meetings.

The following are retiring from the vestry this year.

*Al Chesson
Frankie Biggs
Grant Michel*

An election will also be held for delegates to the diocesan convention to be held February 8-10 in New Bern.

Christmas outreach

Our Christmas family is a mother and an 11-year-old boy.

The stepfather is now in prison for child molestation.

The mother is solely responsible for the

financial needs of the two of them and is working hard to support them with only her income.

Therefore, some of her requests are for household goods and supplies in an effort to stretch her budget.

Requests will be posted in the narthex on Sunday, November 26 with instructions on delivery.

Please read your requests carefully as some will ask for gift wrapping and some will not.

It is very important to get the requests in by Sunday, December 17 so that the gifts can be inventoried and organized for delivery before Christmas.

If you wish to bring your gifts in during the week, call the church office and Joe Jernigan can assist you.

You have only three (3) weeks to shop, wrap, and deliver!



Meet and Greet Ellen



Very casual and very brief!
Sunday, December 3
10:30—10:50 A. M.
Parish House
Coffee, Juice, Cinnamon Buns

Farewells, welcomes

The parish family bade Organist **Russ Johnson** a very fond farewell as he leaves us to be able to spend more time with his mother.

On his last Sunday, Russ was gifted with a basket of Freezer Pleaser foods from the Episcopal Church Women, a plaque of appreciation from Millers, and a framed print of the church from the vestry.

On his last Sunday as supply priest at the Church of the Advent, the Rev. **Don Weisner** was gifted with a Bonefish Grill gift card.

Don has served us since 2012. He and Judy are now leaving the diocese and relocating to Charlotte.

The Rev. **Bill Smyth** was also gifted with a Food Lion gift card on his last Sunday as supply priest at the Church of the Advent.

Bill has also served the Church of the Advent since 2012. He and Frances are making plans to leave the diocese.

Welcome to our new organist **Brandon Woodley**.

Brandon is an Episcopalian and has had much experience as a church organist.

He is also on the faculty of Riverside High School as an English teacher.

And a very big welcome to the **Rev. Dr. Ellen Richardson**, our new priest. (See her letter of introduction on page 1.)

The vestry has welcomed Ellen with a gift basket and the Episcopal Church Women has welcomed her with a year's subscription to *Our State* magazine.

The rectory has been freshened up with interior painting and exterior pressure washing and new kitchen counter tops. Thank you to Doug Chesson, Don Beach, and Joe Jernigan for their work on the rectory.

*Christmas at St. Martin's
Friday, December 8
7 P.M.*

*207 South Front Street
Hamilton NC*

*The Rev. Jim Horton, officiant
Reception follows.*

*Moravian Love Feast and
Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 10
7:30 P.M.*

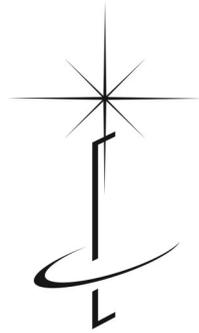
*First United Methodist Church
114 East Church Street
Williamston*

*Brandon Woodley, Organist
The love feast is a service of music, both congregational and choral. A special Moravian bun and coffee is served during the service. The service ends with the spreading of candlelight.*

*Christmas Eve at Church of the Advent
Sunday, December 24
10:30 P.M. Prelude Music
11:00 P.M. Eucharist
The Rev. Dr. Ellen Richardson*



**A Candlelight Service for
the Eve of the Longest Night
Wednesday, 20 December 2017
6:00 P. M.
Soup/Chili Supper
Service
Cookies and Spiced Cider**



When the sun sets on Thursday, December 21, the longest night will begin — the winter solstice.

As we near Christmas with all of its energy promoting joy and happiness and family warmth, some of us may think instead of those no longer with us. Or some of us may be thinking of separation from family due to distance or finances or work situations. Or some of us may be thinking of other losses.

This service recognizes that Christmas does bring some sadness in the midst of all the lights, decorations, and music.

The service consists of prayers, scripture, a litany of remembrance, and an Advent wreath candle lighting.

Worshippers will be given votive candles to receive the light of the Christ candle.

Come join us as we take time from our busy preparations to be quiet and feel the presence of Christ.

Come join us as we seek comfort knowing that Christ is the true light leading us out of the darkness.

Men's Christmas Fellowship Hosted by Doug Chesson

Sunnyside Oyster Bar at 1106 Washington Street

Thursday, December 7 at 6 P. M.

Price to be announced at meal.

Women's Christmas Fellowship ~ Dinner and Gift Exchange

Home of Mary Anne Crowe at 301 Woodlawn Drive

Sunday, December 17 at 5:30 P. M.

Featuring a Prosecco Bar with various juices and fruits for mixing.

Bring an appetizer or salad or dessert to share with everyone.

Bring your own beverage.

Bring a wrapped holiday gift from \$10-\$12 for exchange fun.

RSVP to Mary Anne at 217-3938

Poinsettias Decorate Christmas Eve Altar

John Price of the December Altar Guild sends out a call for donations of poinsettias as honorariums and memorials to decorate the altar for Christmas Eve.

John would like you to order your poinsettias from him. He is ordering only 40 plants this year with a limit of three to a family.

You may order yours by paying him \$6.42 by December 17 so he can pick up the plants in the coming week. Checks are to be made out to John Price.

After you have ordered your poinsettia, you can then call Parish Administrator Joe Jernigan with the name of the donor and the name of honorarium and or memorial.

- ◆ Parish Administrator Joe Jernigan is updating the list for the *e-newsletter* version of *Advent Advisor*. Contact Joe if you need to add your email to the list or need to modify your address. If you do not opt for this, you will continue to receive your newsletter in print format either hand-delivered or mailed. Joe reports he has received a very good response so far.
- ◆ Joe is also working to update the *Prayer Notebook* as we begin another Church Year. In December you will find a blank sheet in the notebook to enter or reenter your requests. He plans to go through this process every six months.
- ◆ Joe has also installed a *planning calendar* on the bulletin board in the Common Room of the Parish House. He asks that anyone or any group using the Common Room for meetings or socials — either church or personal — enter the event with time on the calendar after talking with Joe.



CHURCH OFFICE

INSIDE OUR CHURCH

- ◆ Approximately \$431.00 was raised from the *Freezer Pleaser Sale* in November to help the ECW offset the cost of the kitchen remodel.
- ◆ Thank you to all those parishioners who supported Jean Miller in the recent 2017 *CROP WALK*. Together we contributed \$350.00 to the fight against world hunger.
- ◆ Approximately ten tote bags of food were delivered to our *Thanksgiving Family* by Sue House and Kit Reddick. The family consists of a single mother with four children. The mother received the offering with tears in her eyes and proffered hugs. Thank you to the ECW for contributing the ham and turkey and fresh fruit.
- ◆ There is a need for *chalice bearers*. If you are interested in this ministry, see Joe Jernigan.
- ◆ Thank you John Price for working out such an easy way to help us in our commitment to ensure that the Church of the Advent will be suitably adorned for Christmas with *poinsettias*.
- ◆ The church kitchen is in need of *disposable plastic containers* with lids to be used for distributing food after parish meals. Please leave your offerings in the kitchen.
- ◆ Beginning in January, the collection bins will be out in the church narthex and in the Parish House for *plastic grocery bags* to be used for Blessings in a Backpack during our commitment in March.

Coming in January

The church has received some very thoughtful thank you notes from the Raiford family and the Bonner family as well as from Jim Horton in response to our ministry in time of joy and sorrow. We will publish those in the January *Advisor*.



Celebrate Epiphany on Epiphany

Saturday, January 6
 Annual Twelfth Night Party
 Benefits Blessings in a Backpack
 Home of Don Beach ~ Corey Baker
 Invitations to follow.

The Prayer List is found on a notebook marked "Prayer Lists" found on the table in the narthex of the church. Names may be added at any time by writing them in the notebook or calling the church office. The Prayer List is read weekly at Sunday services. Periodically, names are removed from the list. Contact the church office if you wish to have a name added, re-listed, or taken off the list.

Prayer List

Rudy Worsley Katherine Skinner
 Warren Gordon James Ford
 Bridgette Fleming Nan Chesson
 Kathleen Johnson Molly Speller
 Mac Allen Paul DelMastro
 Luther Harden Linvert Roberson
 Regina French Webb Anderson McGinley
 Bill & Nita Smith
 Corey McDaniel & Family
 Madison & Matthew Palmer
 Goldie Brown & Family
 The Meade Family

Birthdays in December

6, Sue Westervelt
 9, Jim Allen
 9, Kit Reddick
 10, Lucia Peel
 10, Emily & Tanner Swift
 12, Robert Bonner
 12, Jeanie Sessoms
 14, Kathleen Johnson
 17, Anna Chesson
 25, Ann Wallace
 29, Chelsea Biondi
 30, Ann Raiford

The Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

The Rev. Dr. Ellen Richardson, Priest
 Jim Allen, Senior Warden
 Doug Chesson, Junior Warden
 Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator

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 Bishop

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Kinston, NC 28503

Telephone 888.622.4778

Fax 252.523.5272

www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

Trinity Center

P. O. Drawer 380

Salter Path, NC 28575

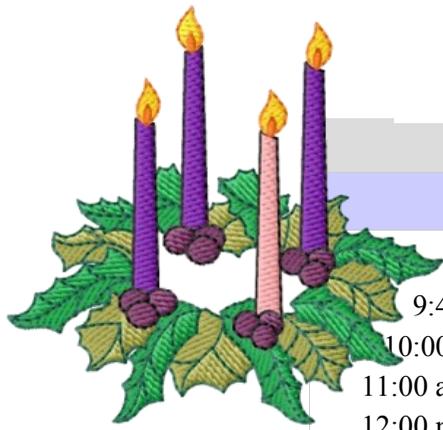
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December 2017

Church of the Advent

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Phone:
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advent1850@gmail.co
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>Birthdays in Italics</i>				1	2
3 1 Advent 9:45 am, Choir Practice 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, MP II 12:00 noon, Annual Meeting	4	5	6	7 Men's Fellowship @ Sunnyside 6:00 pm <i>Sue Westervelt</i>	8 Christmas Service @ St. Martins 7:00 pm	9 <i>Jim Allen Kit Reddick</i>
10 2 Advent 9:45 am, Choir Practice No Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II 12:00 noon, Luncheon <i>Lucia Peel Emily & Tanner Swift</i>	11	12	13	14 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm <i>Kathleen Johnson</i>	15	16
17 3 Advent 9:45 am, Choir Practice 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, Lessons & Carols 5:30 pm, ECW Fellowship @ Mary Anne's <i>Anna Chesson</i>	18	19	20 Candlelight Service for the Longest Night 6:00 pm	21 Winter Begins	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:45 am, Choir Practice 11:00 am, HE II 10:30 pm, Prelude Music 11:00 pm, HE II	25 Christmas Day The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ <i>Ann Wallace</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31 1 Christmas New Year's Eve 9:45 am, Choir Practice 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II					<i>Chelsea Biondi</i>	<i>Ann Raiford</i>

