



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

December 2018

The Season of Advent

It is a lovely thing to be beginning another year of service as your priest at The Church of the Advent, a congregation whose name invokes images of threshold, tying past, present and future in an in-between time of preparation and expectation of new beginnings. Thresholds are doorways, entranceways, gates--places which, when crossed, signify movement from one place to another in a way that is meant to be noticed. Think about the things we notice just moving every day from inside to outside and back: changes in temperature, light, sound, smells, each sense calling our attention from where we have just left, to where we are going. Thresholds are the transition spaces we don't often acknowledge as important--just doors that we make sure to shut tight and lock, hopefully with our keys safely in our hands. Yet in larger sense, thresholds are markers of change in where we live and work, moments of coming together and letting go among family and friends, shifts in identity and meaning of place and home, incorporating births and deaths into our stories. We could do worse than to pay attention thresholds.

Advent--meaning *arrival, appearance, emergence*--is a season to stop, to pause, to breathe, and to take in the thresholds of our lives--if not the few inches of space that encase the back door, then the spaces in our lives between what has passed and what is yet to come. In spite of Advent sometimes seen as just a run up to Christmas, it can also be appreciated as a holy time--a season of unpredictability and uncertainty, attending the present while discerning the future, a time set apart where God is very near, as promised in *Emmanuel*, God with us.

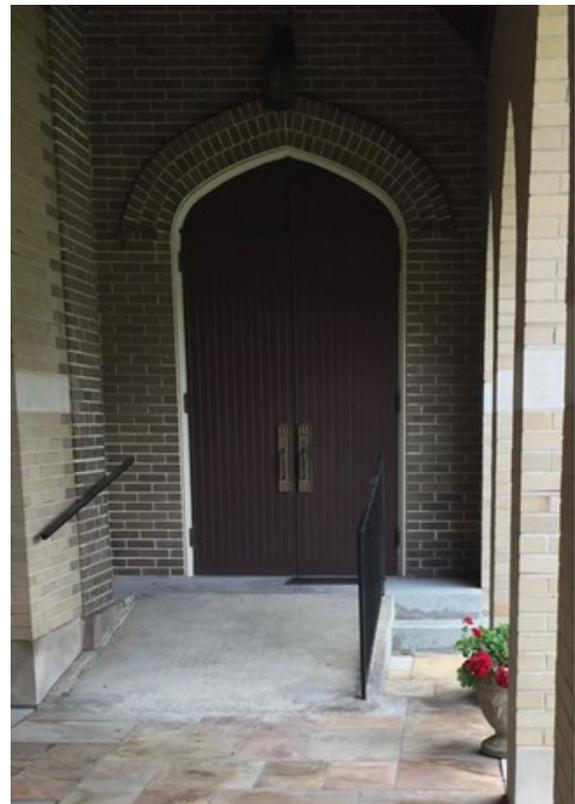
The season of Advent is short, and sometimes it is overtaken by monster calendars that eat our time for lunch. It takes some deliberate attention not to miss its gifts. It takes some spiritual discipline and prayer and intentional quiet to listen to its deep and mysterious rhythms, its themes of anticipation, restoration, light in darkness, wonder, strength, faithfulness, journey, home, comfort and joy. It takes opening ourselves to Advent's

hope, revelation and incarnation.

Author and poet Jan Richardson says "Advent is a season to look at what we have fashioned our lives around--beliefs, habits, convictions, prejudices--and to see whether these leave any room for the Christ who is so fond of slipping into our lives in guises we may not readily recognize." This is one way of saying that Advent is placed at the beginning of our church year for a reason--to give us time and another chance to begin again, to rededicate ourselves to the One who longs to land in our mess and make a home. It is a season to pause, to take stock, to stay grounded and mindful, and to participate in the redemption that is already at hand.

I hope to greet you many times across the thresholds of Advent in this coming season, and that you know blessings in your comings and goings.

Ellen+



Celtic Eucharist for Advent

On the three Advent Wednesdays in December, there will be a Celtic Eucharist at 6 pm, followed by a simple soup meal and short Advent program based on three of the many themes brought forth in the season of Advent: Anticipation, Journey, and Hope

A Celtic Eucharist is a celebration of Holy Eucharist using prayers from the Celtic Christian tradition. This style of worship honors ancient traditions that go back to the time of St. Patrick, who brought Christianity to Ireland in the 5th Century; St. Columba, who brought it back to West Britain in the 6th Century, and St. Aiden, who brought it to East Britain in the 7th Century. Patrick embraced the tribal cultures of indigenous people, learning their language and using their own stories and oral traditions to help them accept the paradox of a relational Holy Trinity and a belief that Christ was as close to them as the natural world they lived in. Celtic traditions that have been brought forward to our time still offer deep love and respect for the natural world, and an openness to all to know God in sacred "thin places" in life, where we become acutely aware of God's presence in the world.



If you could use a bit of quiet time to bathe in beautiful prayers, join us Advent Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 6 pm. We will meet afterwards for a simple soup meal and discussion.

Ordination to the Priesthood for The Rev. Stephen Batten

On **Sunday December 16 at 4 pm** Bishop Skirving will return to The Church of the Advent to ordain Stephen Batten to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. Stephen spent his formative years at Church of the Advent and has been sponsored spiritually and financially through his three years of seminary education at Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in May 2018 with a Masters in Divinity. He is serving at Trinity Church in Chocowinity and will become their Priest in Charge following his ordination.

It is a rare privilege to attend a Service of Ordination, and even more so for a small congregation to be invited to offer hospitality to the one



being ordained on behalf of the Bishop the clergy, and the entire Diocese of East Carolina. There will be a reception following the service

Advent Blue

This Advent, you will be greeted in the sanctuary by something new. In memory of Don and Beverly Mills, the family has commissioned and donated new set altar hangings and vestments in Advent blue, hand made by Rosemary St. Clair of New Bern, North Carolina. Purple has been the traditional color for the season of Advent, symbolizing both the royalty of the King of Kings and the repentance of God's people as they await the arrival of their Lord.



In recent times, however, many Episcopal churches have adopted a deep blue color for Advent, associated with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and representing hope, expectation and heaven. Advent blue also reminds us of the clear predawn sky that covers the earth in the hours before the sun rises, thus emphasizing that in our penitent preparation, we keep watch with expectation, anticipation, and hope for the promise of the light of Christ to change night into day, filling our lives with joy and peace.

Decorating for Christmas

John Price and Brandon Woodley of the December Altar Guild are planning to decorate the altar with white poinsettias that can be purchased for memorials and honorariums.



The poinsettias have been ordered but the supply has been endangered due to excessive rain in Florida from hurricanes. If the grower cannot supply the poinsettias, then John plans to revert to the traditional plan of donors supplying their own red poinsettias wrapped in a green sleeve.

Names to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin are due to Joe by December 19.

Fresh Greenery Needed



The December Altar Guild is in need of fresh greenery for decorating the altar and Advent wreath. Especially needed is nandina berries for the wreath. If you think you have some greens such as magnolia or holly suitable for adorning the church, please contact John Price or Brandon Woodley.



December 2
 10 am No Sunday School
 11 am Holy Eucharist with Reception
 Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving
 12 noon Chili Lunch

FIRST SUNDAY
Advent



December 9
 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Holy Eucharist
 Annual Parish Meeting
 7:30 pm Love Feast
 at First United Methodist

SECOND SUNDAY
Advent



December 16
 10 am Sunday School
 11 am Morning Prayer
 Christmas Outreach Deadline
 12 noon ECW Christmas Party
 4 pm Ordination of Rev. Stephen Batten
 Reception

THIRD SUNDAY
Advent



December 23
 10 am Baptism Reception
 11 am Lessons and Carols
 Holy Baptism
 Holy Communion

FOURTH SUNDAY
Advent



December 24
 10:30 pm Special Music
 11 pm Holy Eucharist

Christmas
 EVE

Moravian Love Feast and Candlelight Service
 Sunday, December 9 at 7:30 P. M.
 First United Methodist Church
 114 East Church Street in Williamston
 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.



Kit Reddick and Brandon Woodley
 are singing in the choir.

Feeling overwhelmed?



Rediscover the reason for the season.
 Visit your local Episcopal church for Advent and Christmas services.



Christmas Outreach

Requests have been posted in the church narthex for this year's Christmas Outreach.

This year, thanks to Christine Chesson of the Martin County Department of Social Services, Church of the Advent is participating in the Adopt a Foster Child for Christmas.



We are adopting five children and have prepared requests from their wish lists.

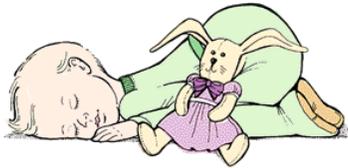
The requests give you complete instructions along with the child's name and age and wish. You may wish to partner with someone else to fulfill a request.

Please remember to wrap your gift and use the request tag to tag the gift. Gifts are due Sunday, December 16.

If you have any questions or if you find that all requests have been taken and you still wish to participate, please see Kit Reddick and she will help you.

Also Needed

One of the foster children that we are adopting for Christmas is three-months-old. The baby's wish list includes a high chair and a walker.



If anyone has any suggestions for obtaining these either new or pre-owned, please see Kit Reddick.

Church of the Advent,
 Thank you all for celebrating our marriage with us at Houghton Hall. It means so much to us to have the love and support of the church family. Thank you for your generous gift.



Love,
 Kemp and Amanda





Parish Convenes for Annual Meeting

On the second Sunday in Advent,— December 9— the annual parish meeting convenes in the church after a service of Morning Prayer.

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 2019 budget, along with a report on Stewardship Sunday, will be presented.

An election 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.

An election will also be held for delegates to the Diocesan Convention to be held February 7-9 in Wilmington.

Follow Up on Stewardship Sunday

Thank you to everyone who responded with your 2019 pledge on, and subsequent to, Stewardship Sunday on October 28, 2018. Your commitment to support of the ongoing and future ministry of The Church of the Advent is an important expression of faith in God's work within this particular Christian community, and your vestry leadership is committed in turn to being good stewards of our collective resources to fulfill as best we can our call to know Christ and make him known. The annual budget for 2019 will be presented to the parish during the Annual Meeting scheduled immediately following Holy Eucharist on Sunday, December 9.



The total amount from 34 pledges (as of November 19) for 2019 is \$83,688. This includes:

- 11 pledge units **increased** amount from previous year
- 15 pledge units **unchanged** from previous year
- 2 pledge units **decreased** amount from previous year
- 6 **new** pledge units who did not pledge previous year

A pledge unit is one pledge, representing either an individual or a household. For comparison, the total amount pledged for 2018 was \$93,721, with about \$17,000 still outstanding and uncollected as of November 19.

Pledging is *not* a requirement to be a Christian and should never be a barrier to attending or supporting one's church--we will always continue to pass the plates every Sunday and welcome any contributions in any form offered by a generous heart. Pledging *is* a traditional act that can accomplish two things: The first is to acknowledge that all that we have comes from God--including that which we offer back to God's work in the world--and that we want to hold ourselves accountable to the discipline of giving over time. The second is more practical, in that it gives the vestry leadership the opportunity to set a budget for the coming year and to make faithful decisions that are sustainable going forward.

So, again, thank you, and bless you, and if you missed the chance to offer a pledge for 2019, it is not too late!



Report on Hurricane Relief

The Diocese of East Carolina was given a grant in cash for the amount of \$20,000.00 from Episcopal Relief and Development for immediate relief work following Hurricane Florence.



The grant was disbursed to 13 churches and agencies.

The following is some of the relief work done in East Carolina through our financial support of Episcopal Relief and Development:

- childcare and activity camps
- distribution of food and cleaning supplies
- feeding and housing of Cajun Navy and other volunteers
- distribution of prepaid Visa cards
- Aid in housing deposits and relocation costs for displaced persons
- distribution of prepaid gas cards

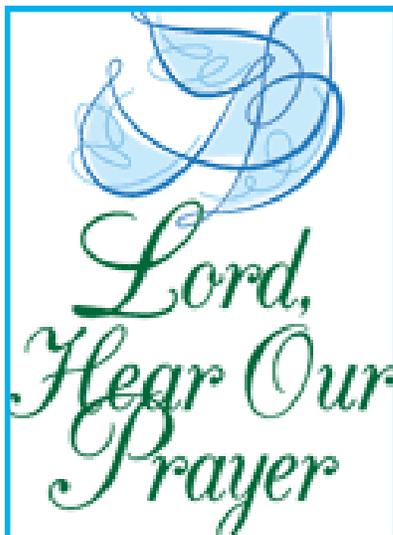
The Prayer List is found in the notebook marked "Prayer Lists" on the usher's table in the narthex of the church. Names may be added at any time by writing them in the notebook or calling the church office after requesting permission of those for whom prayer is requested. The Prayer List is read aloud weekly at Sunday services. Contact the church office if you wish to have a name added, re-listed, or taken off the list.

Prayer List

Betty Crowe Florence Baker
 Lennox Palmer Sandra Allen
 Nan Chesson Annie Jones
 James & Janice Ford Dorothy Jones
 Frances Sumner Larry Watson
 George & Goldie Wright
 Ronnie Wynne Mary Charles Coppage
 Mac Allen Frances Whittington
 Ethel Smith Tink Jenkins
 Geraldine Bateman Greg Crumplin
 Ricky Roberson Warren Gordon

Birthdays

7, Gail Young
 9, Jim Allen
 9 ~ Kit Reddick
 10, Lucia Peel
 12, Jeanie Sessoms
 12, Robert Bonner
 17, Anna Chesson
 29, Chelsea Biondi
 30, Ann Raiford



The Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

**The Rev. Dr. Ellen Richardson,
 Priest-in-Charge**

**Sunday-Thursday, 9:30 a. m.-3:30 p. m.
 ellenrichardson52@gmail.com**

**Doug Chesson, Senior Warden
 Don Beach, Junior Warden**

**Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator
 Monday-Friday, 8:00 a. m. -12 noon**

**124 West Church Street
 P. O. Box 463**

**Williamston, NC 27892
 Telephone 252.792.2244
 advent1850@gmail.com**

www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

Diocese of East Carolina

**The Rt. Rev'd. Robert S. Skirving,
 Bishop**

**Diocesan House
 705 Doctors Drive
 P. O. Box 1336**

Kinston, NC 28503

Telephone 252-522-0885

Fax 252.523.5272

www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

Trinity Center

P. O. Drawer 380

Salter Path, NC 28575

Telephone 888.874.6287

Fax 252.247.3290

trinity@mail.clis.com

www.trinityctr.com

The Church of the Advent is a nurturing, vibrant, and inclusive community inviting spiritual growth through liturgical worship, outreach, and fellowship.

Church of the Advent

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Birthdays in italics</i>						1
2 1 Advent Bishop Visit 11:00 am, HE II 12:00 noon, Luncheon	3	4	5 HE, Soup & Advent Program 6:00 pm	6 Men's Fellowship @ Sunnyside 6:00 pm	7 <i>Gail Young</i>	8
9 2 Advent 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II & Annual Meeting 7:30 Moravian Love Feast @ United Methodist <i>Jim Allen</i> <i>Kit Reddick</i>	10 <i>Lucia Peel</i>	11	12 HE, Soup & Advent Program 6:00 pm <i>Jeanie Sessoms</i> <i>Robert Bonner</i>	13	14 Christmas Service @ St. Martins in Hamilton 7:00 pm	15
16 3 Advent 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, MP II 12:30 pm., ECW Fellow- ship @ Mary Anne Crowe's 4:00 pm, Stephen Batten Ordination, Reception to follow	17 <i>Anna Chesson</i>	18	19 HE, Soup & Advent Program 6:00 pm	20	21	22
23 4 Advent 10:00 am, Reception 11:00 am, Lessons & Carols, Baptism & Holy Communion	24 Christmas Eve 10:30 pm, Music 11:00 pm, HE II	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29 <i>Chelsea Biondi</i>
30 1 Christmas 11:00 am, MP II <i>Ann Raiford</i>	31 New Year's Eve					

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Lay Schedule

	2 <i>1 Advent HE II 11:00 A.M. Bishop Visit</i>	9 <i>2 Advent HE II 11:00 A.M.</i>	16 <i>3 Advent HE II 11:00 A.M.</i>	23 <i>4 Advent HE II 11:00 A.M. Lessons & Carols</i>	24 <i>Christmas Eve Music 10:30 P.M. HE II 11:00 P.M.</i>	30 <i>1 Christmas MP II 11:00 A.M. John Price</i>
Acolyte	All Acolytes	Standrick Jefferson	Jean Miller	Will Michel	All Acolytes	
Acolyte		Adison Bosso	Dawson Taylor	Adison Bosso		
Acolyte						
Acolyte						
Lessons	Michael Biondi	Valerie Cooke	Kit Reddick	TBD	Jane Jernigan	TBD
Intercessor	Bill Webb	Lucia Peel	Lucia Peel	TBD	Al Chesson	
Eucharistic Minister	N/A	Don Beach	Doug Chesson	Bill Webb	Chloe Tuttle	
Altar Guild	Lori Taylor	Lori Taylor	Lori Taylor	Lori Taylor	Lori Taylor	Lori Taylor
	John Price	John Price	John Price	John Price	John Price	John Price
Ushers	Joey & Angi Godard	Joey & Angi Godard	Joey & Angi Godard	Joey & Angi Godard	Joey & Angi Godard	Joey & Angi Godard
Nursery	Sue House	John Price	Jim Allen	Mark Richardson	N/A	Sue House