



Church of the Advent

# Advent Advisor

February 2019

## Water, Water Everywhere

Grace and peace to everyone in this season after Epiphany. Quiet and usually cold, this stretch of winter is like a fallow field, biding time and waiting for a bit of sun and warmth to wake us from our post-holiday stupor and long winter's naps. Lent and Easter come late this year, stretching out this time of in-betweenness. Yet there is something different about this time of year compared to last. The river is up, all the way back to its source and fills the forest between Williamston and Windsor. Small animals crowd the few islands of solid ground or live in the trees. The January fishermen are not in their boats. The ditches are full of dirty water and the fields are saturated. The rain gauges are reading twice the usual annual rainfall.

Along US 17 from Charleston through Wilmington, there is still evidence everywhere of hurricane devastation and some recovery--a lot of new metal roofs on houses, trailers and businesses, and a lot of piles of furniture and sheetrock still on the side of the roads.

At a recent Albemarle Deanery meeting, I was selected (after being the only one to volunteer) to represent the Albemarle Deanery on the Diocesan Disaster Relief Recovery and Preparedness Commission and attended my first meeting on January 15, 2019 at Diocesan House in Kinston. Along with the seven other representatives present, I had the privilege to review the previous distribution of funds which had been granted by Episcopal Relief and Development and donated by individuals and organizations to the Diocese of East Carolina to assist victims of Hurricanes Florence and Michael. We reviewed and considered grant applications from representatives of Episcopal churches in our diocese seeking support and maintain ongoing ministries to those still in significant need of immediate support and long-term storm recovery.

The applications granted represented many kinds of unmet needs: churches who were continuing to distribute gift cards to families still out of a permanent home, restocking a small congregation's food pantry,

providing air mattresses and sleeping bags to families trying to live in their homes without heat for the winter months, and financially supporting restoration of an Episcopal day care/preschool which primarily serves active duty service personnel in Fayetteville. The hurricane drama is over, but the aftermath lives on.

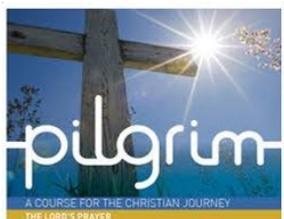
Our random fortune to escape the wrath suffered by many from both hurricanes was a blessing we should remember to count. I admit that it is hard in the gloom of another cloudy day to appreciate that all the water all around us did *not* creep into our homes and places of work or destroy our vehicles. Perhaps the gift of this gray fallow season is the time to contemplate how to pay our blessings forward, either locally, or to our neighbors still suffering down the highway, praying that they may soon know, as we will, the joy of spring.

*Ellen+*



## Adult Christian Formation Opportunities

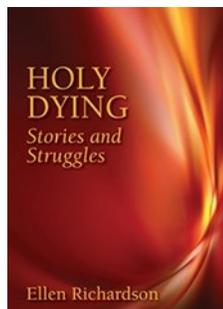
On Sunday mornings (January 27 and February 3, 17 and 24) at 10-10:40 a.m., the Adult Sunday School class is undertaking a study and discussion group based on the Pilgrim series volume on The Lord's Prayer. So familiar that most Christians have known it by heart from an early age, the richness and power of The Lord's Prayer can become lost with time and inattention, though an early Church Father said that if we truly understand it, this prayer contains the whole of the Good News. This 2000 year old prayer was a gift from Jesus to his disciples, and can become a renewed gift to us as a guide to deepen our relationship with God.



## Wednesday Nights

The Wednesday Night group welcomes all comers to our next meeting on **February 6 at 6 p.m.** for Evening Prayer, followed by a dinner of loaded baked potatoes and the conclusion of our discussion class on the nature and identity of Jesus, *Who is Jesus, Anyway?*

During the season of Lent, the group will meet **weekly** on Wednesdays beginning March 13 through April 17 at 6 p.m. for Holy Eucharist followed by a simple soup and salad meal and a discussion about a Christian's perspective on end of life using Rev. Ellen's book, *Holy Dying: Stories and Struggles*. There are copies available in the church library to borrow if you want to read the book ahead of time, or you can find your own copy on amazon at [Holy Dying: Stories and Struggles on amazon](#). (More about this in next month's *Advent Advisor*)



## Cub Scouts

With unanimous consent of the vestry, Church of the Advent has taken on a new ministry to host a newly



forming Cub Scout troop under the organization Boy Scouts of America. The regional director Grady Mullis has been recruiting new children - boys and girls - and parents by visiting local elementary schools and scheduled a first meeting in the Parish Hall on January 16.

In this first meeting, the group formed a Charter Committee to represent what it is hoped will eventually become a Pack, or group of one or more Dens. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mullis, two families, Mr. Pat Parker of First United Methodist Church, Zach Dickerson, who is an Eagle Scout, and Rev. Ellen Richardson. Zach has agreed to serve on the Charter Committee as Pack Leader for now, coordinating meetings for the scouts and activities for group. Rev. Ellen will serve as the Committee Chair for now.

Boy Scouts of America is now a co-ed organization, and girls are very welcome. This first Cub Scout Den at Church of the Advent will have girls and boys as members, working on the same service projects and on badges to represent their participation and accomplishments. The ages include all elementary grades beginning with kindergarten. An ideal Den has a minimum of five children of similar age and grade. A Pack is comprised of multiple dens with an ideal size of around 15. Once children reach middle school, boys and girls meet in separate troops, though there are co-ed programs through high school and all are eligible to work towards becoming Eagle Scouts.

The first service project scheduled for the new Cub Scout Den in February 2019 is the Annual Food Drive, where door hangers are distributed by the Scouts through the community and non-perishable foods are picked up from porches the following week. The food is then donated to a local Food Bank to help our neighbors who find themselves challenged to feed their families.

If you or a child you know might like to participate in Cub Scouting, contact Rev. Ellen through the church office or email. If you would like to support the group by bringing a simple snack (cookies, fruit and juice) for meetings, let her know that too. The Den will meet twice a month and the Pack together monthly or as needed for projects.





During February we will be collecting canned soups and canned meals ready to eat such as spaghetti-  
os, ravioli, and mac and cheese for the pantry of our local Department of Social Services.

You can pick up posted requests in the church narthex. Donation may be left anytime in the Love on Wheels outreach wagon.

Thank you to those who helped replenish Rev. Ellen's Pantry during January. The pantry has recently helped a homeless mother with three children being helped by a school counselor. The family was living in a cheap motel and waiting for Social Services to find housing for them.

It has helped a family with two small children that has recently moved here. Both parents had jobs at Perdue but lost them because they were still in the probationary period when their car broke down and they could not get to work.

It has helped an individual - known by a parishioner - who had just broken his ankle doing odd jobs and was staying on a friend's sofa while trying to make it until he entered a 30-day rehab program.

Thank you to all who contributed Christmas presents for our foster children. The thank you letter from the Department of Social Services reads in part, "The caregivers and children were overwhelmed by the wonderful selection of gifts that you provided from their 'wish lists'."

## 12th Night Party Successful

Thank you to all those who contributed monies for Blessing in a Backpack at the 12th Night Party.

We collected \$1,209.00 which will sustain over 11 children for the year.

Thank you to Corey Baker and Don Beach, who hosted the affair at their home.

And congratulations to Bill Smith for finding the baby in the King Cake generously donated by Carroll Brown. Bill went home with a gift bag.



Thank you to John Price, Lori Taylor, and Brandon Woody for creating beautiful, joyous decorations in the church during Advent and Christmas.



## Christ's unstinting mercy

North Carolina novelist Reynolds Price, who died in 2011, had a strange experience while suffering from cancer in his spinal cord. Just before he was about to undergo five weeks of radiation, he had a sudden epiphany while fully awake. He felt himself suddenly transported to the Sea of Galilee and saw Jesus' disciples asleep around him. He sensed Jesus coming toward him silently beckoning Reynolds to follow him into the water.



While standing in the water, just off the beach, Jesus poured handfuls of water down the author's back and said to him, "Your sins are forgiven."

"Am I also cured?" asked the writer.

"That too," answered the Savior.

The cancer was eliminated entirely. Since that strange encounter, Reynolds had had other health problems, but he said that his life had been more rewarding and productive since the washing in Galilee. In an article in *Time* (December 6, 1999) he wrote, "My experience of his overwhelming ... healing and the memory of the unstinting mercy in his grave face and eyes are indelible."



The Feast of Lights Service retold the story of the Wise men bringing gifts to the Christ Child and the taking the light of Christ away with them, calling us to be apostles carrying that light out into the world.

Thank you to those who participated in moving, candlelight service:

Audrey Stanton as Mary

Caleb Stanton as Joseph

Maddie Michel as the Angel

John Price, Will Michel as the Shepherds

Exum Taylor as Paul

Joe Jernigan, Jane Jernigan, Don Beach as the Kings

Rev. Ellen as the reader

Thank you to Brandon Woody and Lori Taylor for bringing the service to life.



## **“The Wise May Bring Their Learning”**

The wise may bring their learning, the rich may bring their wealth,  
And some may bring their greatness, and some bring strength and health;

We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the King;

We have no wealth or learning; what shall we children bring?

We'll bring him hearts that love him; we'll bring him thankful praise,

And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways;

And these shall be the treasures we offer to the King,

And these are gifts that even the poorest child may bring.

We'll bring the little duties we have to do each day;

We'll try our best to please him, at home, at school, at play;

And better are these treasures to offer to our King;

Than richest gifts without them — yet these a child may bring.

—Anonymous

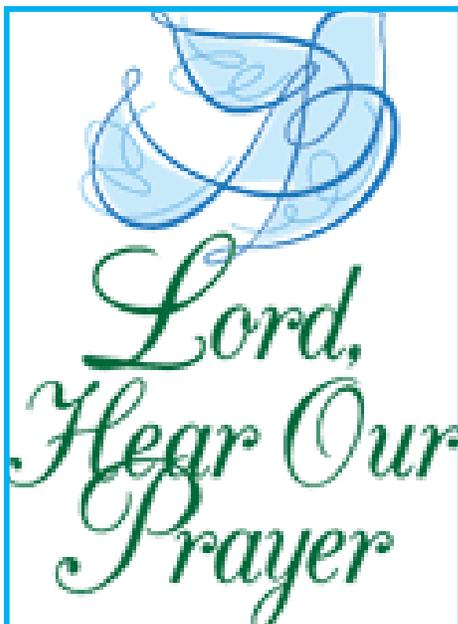
The Prayer List is found in the notebook marked "Prayer Lists" on the usher's table in the narthex of the church. Names may be added at any time by writing them in the notebook or calling the church office after requesting permission of those for whom prayer is requested. The Prayer List is read aloud 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

James & Janice Ford Jane Perry  
 Mac & Sandra Allen  
 Della Leggett Doward Jones  
 Faye & Mann Lilly  
 Bridgette Fleming & Family  
 Annie Jones Christopher Scott  
 Lucia Peel Powe Bob Greene  
 Joanie & Francis Ganis  
 Julia Biggs Joanne McNall  
 Geraldine Bateman Lennox Palmer  
 Lindburgh Mitchell Ethel Smith

Birthdays

3 ~ Christine Chesson  
 4 ~ Garrett Godard  
 16 ~ John Price  
 23 ~ Paul Sessoms  
 27 ~ Rex 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  
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 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.*

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## February 2019

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<i>Birthdays in italics</i>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day
<b>3</b> <b>4 Epiphany</b> 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00 pm, Evening Prayer, Supper & Program	<b>7</b> Diocesan Convention	<b>8</b> Diocesan Convention Church office closed	<b>9</b> Diocesan Convention
<b>10</b> <b>5 Epiphany</b> No Sunday School 11:00 am, MP II	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>6 Epiphany</b> 10:15 am, Cookies & Coffee Fellowship in the Parish Hall 11:00 am, HE II	<b>18</b> Presidents' Day	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm, Game Night Parish Hall	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>7 Epiphany</b> 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II 12:00 Vestry Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		

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# **February 2019**

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### **Lay Schedule**

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	<b>3</b> <b>4 Epiphany</b> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>10</b> <b>5 Epiphany</b> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b> <b>Bill Webb</b>	<b>17</b> <b>6 Epiphany</b> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>24</b> <b>7 Epiphany</b> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Dawson Taylor		Jean Miller	Dawson Taylor
<b>Acolyte</b>	Will Michel		Will Michel	Standrick Jefferson
<b>Acolyte</b>				
<b>Acolyte</b>				
<b>Lessons</b>	Kit Reddick	Jane Jernigan	Michael Biondi	Gail Young
<b>Intercessor</b>	Kit Reddick		Al Chesson	Gail Young
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Don Beach		Doug Chesson	John Price
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bob Greene	Bob Greene	Bob Greene	Bob Greene
	Janice Greene	Janice Greene	Janice Greene	Janice Greene
<b>Ushers</b>	Joe Jernigan	Joe Jernigan	Joe Jernigan	Joe Jernigan
	Johnny Miller	Johnny Miller	Johnny Miller	Johnny Miller
<b>Nursery</b>	Sue House	Mark Richardson	John Price	Jim Allen