

Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

July 2021

An Opportunity to be a Good Neighbor

Have you noticed that there are some new businesses on Main Street? John Price is joining them. It is heartening to see signs of new life in town as COVID seems to be loosening its grip.

Well, it's more than heartening. I am excited and downright optimistic that the clearly detectable movement may be an important step towards renewed vitality that will gain momentum. Luck will not be the deciding factor. Commitment will be. A vision is taking shape but not yet clear which is to admit that I have more questions than answers. Instincts convince me that it is appropriate – in fact, faithful – for the Church of the Advent prayerfully to consider how the Spirit may be urging our participation in the renewal process. Surely, we celebrate it, but how? Surely, we support those who hope to make a go of it in a town where too many buildings have been empty too long, but what does support ask of us? Some of us feel the need to celebrate the new businesses *and* others resilient enough to have hung in all along. There are government entities and civic organizations that provide incentives and hospitality, but is there a specific role for us as good neighbors and perhaps active participants in the revitalization of our community? I hope we'll consider this together with some

attention to how we commemorate life events, extend welcome and provide hospitality, congratulate, celebrate, support persons and causes. An

ordinary way of communicating caring and support is with flowers. Similarly, simple beautification projects spark hope and can inspire dedication to positive change by creating pride of place and a sense of being part of something good. Beatification is not just visual enhancement; it promotes commerce. As such, it is a proven catalyst for making a real difference in people's livelihood and the life of a community.

Could that be our way in? A few persons with whom this already has been discussed seem very interested in exploring where this might lead. We will begin



the conversation soon after Labor Day, and I hope that every member of our parish will be participating.

Transformation sometimes sneaks up when least expected, but sometimes it begins with imagining what could be and then living into a vision that just might be God's.

Summer Break for Midweek Service and Choir

Monthly Wednesday Evening Service will take a break during July and August.

Choir practice will also take a break during July only.

During July interested choristers are welcome to meet with Choir Director Brando Woody around 10:30 am before Sunday service and go over the hymns and then vest for the service to be song leaders.

Choir practice resumes in August at 9:30 am on Sundays.



A memorial service for Mary Charles Coppage, who died on January 12, will be held on Sunday afternoon, July 11 at 2:00 pm at the Church of the Advent conducted by the Revs. Connie Connelly and Jim Horton..

A reception will follow in the Parish House.

The family has requested that those attending who have not been vaccinated for COVID wear masks.



A reminder that there will be no Sunday service on July 18 when the parish is away for Parish Family Weekend at Trinity Center. Those who are not participating are encouraged to seek out worship opportunities in neighboring churches.



Thank you to **Corey Baker** and **Don Beach** for hosting a Parish Cookout at their home in mid-June. Around 50 people including parishioners, friends, and neighbors enjoyed the hearty hospitality and the flavorful food.



Thank you to **Bobby** and **Janice Greene** for their gift of homegrown sunflowers to grace the altar in honor of Janice's sister Patti. You are invited to come out and see Bobby's field of happy sunflowers located next to Green Acres.

Dear Church of the Advent Family,

Al and I have decided to move early this summer to the Albemarle Sound in Hertford, NC. We are very sad to leave this wonderful and beloved church, as well as this community, but we feel this is the right decision for us. At some point, we will put the Academy Street house on the market; most likely before the fall of 2021 as we are awaiting the results of an appraisal. The market indicates the sooner the better but this is certainly different from our original plans to take our time and have longer to say our goodbyes.

It's been a wonderful 31 years owning and loving our house but it's time for another family to enjoy. You are exceptional friends and we will miss you and Academy Street so much!

Our farewells for now but we are only an hour northeast!

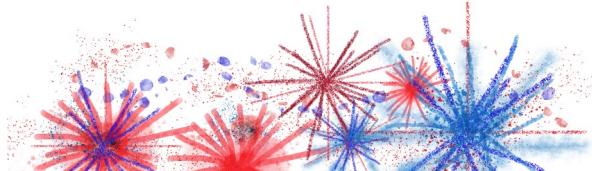
Margaret and Al Chesson and family

New Address

126 Perquimans Court, Hertford NC 27944

Margaret – mschesson56@gmail.com 252/809-9066

Al – al@archesson.com 252/809-2475



A Gentle Answer

As it does this year, July 4 fell on Sunday in 1937. While Pastor Eldred Johnston led worship that morning in Paulding, Ohio, local kids set off firecrackers nearby (restrictions were rare back then). Realizing he needed to act, the pastor slipped outside during a hymn and found the revelers.

But instead of scolding or shouting, Johnston stayed calm. "I used to enjoy shooting fireworks too," he said, adding that he knew it was a fun way to celebrate. "But many in this town are gathered in worship, and the noise is very distracting. All I'm asking is that you wait until church services are over — about noon — and then shoot firecrackers all you want." The pastor smiled at each youth and returned to church.

Recounting that experience in *Liberty* magazine, Johnston said he half-expected to hear defiant explosions. Instead, the kids waited respectfully until worship was over. When conflicts loom, may we heed that example — and this advice from Proverbs: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (15:1, NIV).

Reach the Sun

The quickest way for anyone to reach the sun and the light of day is not to run west, chasing after the setting sun, but to head east, plunging into the darkness until one comes to the sunrise. ... Walk into the darkness rather than try to outrun it.

—Gerald Sittser, *A Grace Disguised*

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

Janice Ford

Chris & Lindsay Cannon

Betty Jones

Chris Carroll

Bill & Nita Smith

Lucia Peel Powe

Birthdays

3 ~ Rachel Chesson

4 ~ Johnny Miller

12 ~ Audrey Stanton

12 ~ Doug Chesson

13 ~ Jean Miller

14 ~ Khalil Jefferson

14 ~ Khira Jefferson

15 ~ Caleb Stanton

15 ~ Jon Courtney

27 ~ Ethan Godard



Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

The Rev. Connie Connelly, Priest in Charge

Lucia Peel, Senior Warden

Don Beach, Junior Warden

Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday,
8:00 a.m. – 12 noon**

Brandon Woody, Organist/Choirmaster

124 West Church Street

P. O. Box 463

Williamston, NC 27892

Telephone: 252.792.2244

Email: advent1850@gmail.com

www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

***For fire, police, injury or other emergencies, call 911 for assistance. Then please contact in this order: Connie, Joe, Lucia, Don.

***For pastoral emergencies, contact in this order Connie, Lucia, Joe.

***For all problems or issues dealing with the church and rectory buildings and grounds, please contact Joe and then he and Don will determine how to proceed.

Connie 704-651-0244

Joe 252-809-3405

Lucia 919-523-3382

Don 203-645-4614

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 4 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

July 11 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

July 11 Mary Charles Coppage Memorial Service 2:00 pm

July 16-18 Parish Family Weekend, Pine Knoll Shores/ No Service @ COA

July 25 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

August 1 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

August 8 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

August 15 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

August 16 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm

August 22 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

August 29 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

No Vestry Meeting in July
No Evening Prayer in July and August

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

July 2021

Lay Schedule

	4 6 Pentecost HE II 11:00 A.M.	11 7 Pentecost HE II 11:00 A.M.	18 8 Pentecost HE II 11:00 A.M. Parish Family Weekend Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores ** No Service @ COA **	25 9 Pentecost MP II 11:00 A.M.
MP Leader				Bill Webb
Lector	Kit Reddick	Valerie Cooke	Collins Crowe	Ginny Webb
Intercessor	Kit Reddick	John Price	Lucia Peel	
Chalice Bearer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Acolytes	TBD	Exum Taylor	N/A	N/A
Altar Guild	TBD			
Ushers	TBD			