



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

July 2022

Crown Thy Good with Brotherhood

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak and taught them. (Matthew 5:1-2)”

The Sermon on the Mount introduces the central theme of Jesus’ message: God is establishing a new age in which love will triumph. The Beatitudes professed in Jesus’ sermon proclaim God’s favor to those whose acts of mercy and justice not only exemplify life in a kingdom founded upon God’s love but also bear witness to their lived faith. As such, they will be “the light of the world, a city built on a hill.”

The ethic of love as the identifying mark of the inheritors of God’s kingdom in Jesus’ enduring proclamation has inspired imaginations and attempts to establish just societies based on kingdom principles. Sermon on the Mount precepts are reflected in our nation’s founding documents that in turn have been used as rallying points for justice and peace. The metaphor of “a city built on a hill” was the central feature of “a Model of Christian Charity,” a speech delivered in 1630 to English Puritans on a treacherous voyage across the North Atlantic to plant the first permanent colony in Massachusetts. John Winthrop who gave the address had been appointed Governor of the colony and was aboard the “Arabella,” the flagship of the fleet of 11 ships that was the first wave in the Great Migration. The title and the obvious influence of Holy Scripture seemed homiletical so Winthrop’s speech is popularly referred to as the “Arabella Sermon.” It is considered a seminal document of early American history because the settlers’ intentions to be a guiding light to the rest of the world became the genesis of American exceptionalism initially envisioned as a paradigm of God’s kingdom cast as an ideal democratic society.

The practical application centered in the biblical law of loving one’s neighbor worked out in the care of one another. Politicians with views as diverse as John Adams, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan referenced the expression in public speeches asserting unity and justice. The Declaration of Independence and the Con-

stitution infer a sense of responsibility as stewards of God’s gifts secured by a faithful response in acknowledging and perpetuating the blessings of liberty. Some recent references to American exceptionalism have a slant that insinuates a privileged status. That seems to be a distortion of the original meaning that tended towards an understanding that American democracy is not the fulfillment of an ideal but an experiment that aspires to but is still short of a more perfect union. The unalienable rights endowed by the Creator – life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – are unavailable and frankly denied to some people.

The Fourth of July is a hallowed day in our country, and most of us will celebrate it. Independence and the liberties that have sprung from freedom from tyrannical rule are our inheritance and no doubt attributed to God’s grace. Sacrifices have been made for the welfare of the nation. Patriots have fought and died to defend the liberties we enjoy. In the unfinished work of becoming a real democracy, some liberties are taken for granted. Some are at risk. Regardless, we are blessed. But as we celebrate, I hope that we will be mindful that the torch of liberty does not shine in some very dark places. Freedom does not ring throughout the land much less throughout the world.

The founding ideals are still shaping us into a more perfect union. We may come to be a model of

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No Wednesday evening services during June, July, and August.

No choir practice during June and July.

Sunday morning services at 11 a.m.

No Sunday Service on July 17.

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Christian charity. Justice and mercy may be normalized and love may reign. We are an unfinished work, God's work; and it is God who has endowed every one of us with the unalienable rights. Jesus has told us that the way to life, liberty and happiness is interdependence among people that every person, in the words of the Arabella Sermon, "might have need of others, and from hence they might be all knit more nearly together in bonds of brotherly (and sisterly) affections. God permits one man to be wealthy so that the wealthy man may share his riches with the poor man, benefitting both."

Our heritage and our inheritance of the basic prosperity and protections of American life make us rich. America has been and is a refuge from the ravages of poverty, oppression, bondage, war and other calamities. It is a beacon of hope, and our Lord calls us to be light and help that beacon shine bright and illuminate for us and our posterity the way to a more perfect union.

Connie



In keeping with our mission from Convention 2020 called "Invite, Welcome, Commit", we now have WELCOME BAGS available in the narthex for the ushers (or anyone else) to give to visitors to our parish services. A few are located above the coat rack in the narthex and contain: water bottle, hand sanitizer, most recent copy of Advent Advisor, Connie's business card and a tin of mints with heading "Welcome to Church of the Advent, Williamston". The backup supplies will be kept in Joe's office and can be easily prepared if necessary. Let's all work to make our visitors feel included and warmly welcomed!

Senior Warden Lucia Peel



Letters have been mailed to **Parish Family Weekend XXX** participants. At this time, Trinity Center is operating under normal procedures. Attendees are advised to bring masks in case guidelines change.

Thank you to **Maria Allen** for volunteering to collate and

update various birthday lists being used around the parish. Maria is spending much time contacting individuals to create a master **birthday list**.

There is **NO vestry meeting** in July.



heavenly Father."

Do you have special musical talents that could be a light to us at the Church of the Advent?

Perhaps you play an instrument that would make a nice addition to a special anthem? Kazoos are welcome among other instruments such as guitars.

Please contact Rev. Connie Connelly, Brandon Woody or Joe Jernigan for guidance.

Dual Citizenship

For Christianity and democracy to work, both need responsible citizens. Consider what happens to a republic when its citizens won't run for public office, won't vote, won't work for the common good, duck paying taxes and mistreat others. Now consider what happens when Christians won't volunteer at the church, won't give, won't practice their faith, won't love their neighbors. Both our country and our faith need sincere practitioners. Nationally, we need a citizenry committed to making the ideals of liberty the practices of life in America. Christianity needs followers of Jesus committed to making the ideals of God's kingdom the practices of daily life.

This is not an either-or situation. Christians everywhere are citizens of two countries, one on earth and one in eternity. The kingdom of God is not yet fully come, but it's already in effect. Our two citizenships can neither be fully united nor fully separated. We cannot withdraw from the world and pretend we are somehow dwelling only in the kingdom of God now; nor can we simply embrace the world and assume earthly governments fulfill God's will. Those are extremes, and they are unbiblical.

—from a sermon by Stan Purdum

A Prayer for Strength

God of inexhaustible strength and limitless energy, our refuge, strength and very present help in trouble: When even youth faint in weariness and the young fall exhausted, help us wait patiently for you to come to renew our strength, so that we will mount up with wings to soar like eagles, riding on the undercurrents of the wind of your Spirit.

You who need no slumber nor sleep, by your Holy Spirit's power keep us from all evil, safe in Jesus' nail-scarred hands. Help us never weary as we run after you and never faint as we walk in Christ's footsteps, now and forevermore. Amen.



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 Carrol
Betty Jones
Chris Curley
Jessie Critcher
Lucia Powe Lucia Peel
Nita Smith
Eddie Rogerson
Buzzy Miller
Ray Roskopf
John Curley
Robert & Ann Wallace
Chloe Tuttle
Mary Anne Crowe
John Price

Birthdays

1 ~ Jesse Critcher
2 ~ Katie Mills
12 ~ Diana Stanton
12 ~ Don Beach
18 ~ Al Chesson
20 ~ Kim Michel
22 ~ Maddie Michel

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 3 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
July 10 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
July 17 **No Service at COA**
Parish Family Weekend @
Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores
July 24 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
July 31 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
Rev. Donna Kraus
Aug. 7 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
Aug. 14 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
Rev. Donna Kraus
Aug. 21 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
Aug. 28 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

Note: Due to Connie having surgery on Aug 2 and her recovery afterwards, the Aug 21 and 28 services are subject to change.



Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

The Rev. Connie Connelly, Priest in Charge

Lucia Peel, Senior Warden

Doug Chesson, 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, Doug.

***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 Doug will determine how to proceed.

Connie 704-651-0244

Joe 252-809-3405

Lucia 919-523-3382

Doug 252-809-2476

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 2022

Lay Schedule

	3 <i>4 Pentecost</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>	10 <i>5 Pentecost</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>	17 <i>6 Pentecost</i> <i>Parish</i> <i>Family</i> <i>Weekend @</i> <i>Trinity Ctr.</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>	24 <i>7 Pentecost</i> <i>MP II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>	31 <i>8 Pentecost</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>
<i>MP Leader</i>				Bill Webb	Donna Kraus
<i>Lector</i>	Kit Reddick	Valerie Cooke	Collins Crowe	Ginny Webb	John Price
<i>Intercessor</i>	Kit Reddick	Lucia Peel	Kit Reddick		John Price
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Don Beach	Doug Chesson	John Price		Don Beach
<i>Acolyte</i>					
<i>Altar Guild</i>	John Price Lori Taylor				
<i>Ushers</i>	Joe Jernigan Jim Allen				