



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

November 2019

Many Thanks

November is a month dedicated to gratitude. As a placeholder between Fall Festivals—celebrating everything from back to school to harvest time—and what we now call the Christmas Season—which we recognize as something way more than anticipation and celebration of the birth of Jesus, November serves as a reminder to be thankful.

November begins with All Souls Day—when family and friends who have died are remembered, and All Saints Day—when particular people whom we believe to be in eternity with God are honored for their exemplary examples of a Christian life lived well on earth. Some Christian communities combine these celebrations and offer public prayers of gratitude to revered ones who have gone before us and left important lessons that have had a lasting impact on our lives.



November ends with Thanksgiving, the most important holiday in America, for those with and without religious faith and practice that has grown into a several-day event that calls for travel, cooking and family time for re-connecting and making new memories. And for some there is a blessing said before one or more shared meals, now arranged throughout the long weekend to accommodate multiple stops at in-laws, grandparents and grown children.

This year I have much to be thankful for: physical and mental health (always debatable), a wonderful spouse and healthy children, and a new granddaughter, and the opportunity to become a part of her life. I am also intensely grateful for the opportunity to have served as priest and pastor to Church of the Advent for these last two years. Celebrating the Eucharist, teaching and preaching, and offering pastoral care to those who

sought it has brought me great joy, and I am so appreciative to so many who have welcomed Mark and me to Williamston and supported me in my ministry at Church of the Advent. My last Sunday here will be November 24, the Last Sunday after Pentecost and the Feast of Christ the King.

The Church year begins again with the First Sunday of Advent on December 1, the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend. The quiet themes of the season of Advent invite self-reflection, self-examination and open conversation about the present and future of the congregation and the commitment of its members to listen to God's particular call to this particular community in this particular time. More than just prep time for the emotionally laden traditions of the Christmas season, Advent is a season of new beginnings. The Annual Meeting with election of new Vestry members and representatives to Diocesan Convention occurs in Advent and hold particular importance this year. Church of the Advent's worshipping congregation is getting smaller, as are many congregations in the Diocese of East Carolina and across the country, but that does not mean that God is finished with this church or with those who call it their spiritual home. This time of transition is not a time for holding back to "wait and see what happens," but rather a coming forward with deeper commitment and faithfulness to God and one another. My prayers and blessings will be with all of you for the coming Advent season and always.

Ellen+



In Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving outreach

Thirty requests have been posted to help a local family of four -- grandparents and two grandchildren -- have a traditional Thanksgiving meal.



The turkey and ham are being donated by the ECW.

Donations need to be in the narthex by Sunday, November 24 for delivery before Thanksgiving.

Please consider taking more than one request. If all the requests are taken and you still wish to help, see Kit Reddick for suggestions.

If you want to contribute but are unable to shop, please contact Kit, who will be glad to be your personal shopper.

Wednesday Night and World Religions

The last in a series about the major World Religions will be on Wednesday November 13. Evening Prayer will



begin at 6 pm in the sanctuary followed by a pot luck meal and a presentation on Islam. Rev. Ellen has been sharing presentations borrowed from the college class on World Religions she taught while serving in Georgia. The theme for the meal will be Mediterranean — however the gatherers and cooks want to interpret it. Please join us!

A Special Thanksgiving Offering

On Sunday, November 24th, a special offering will be gathered in to honor Rev. Ellen Richardson on her last Sunday with us.

The offering is for the Food Bank of the Albemarle located in Elizabeth City.

A \$5 offering will provide 20 Thanksgiving meals and a \$10 offering will provide 40 meals and a \$20 offering will provide 80 meals to those in need.

The Food Bank supports the local Senior Center with a variety of food donations. It also

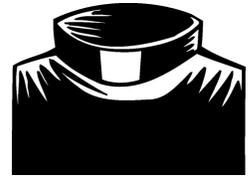


distributes supplemental food boxes monthly in Martin County and supports other food outreach projects in Martin County and the Albemarle Deanery.

Checks may be made out to the Food Bank of the Albemarle and tagged “In honor of Ellen Richardson.”

In Transition

The Vestry met with The Reverend Michael Singer, Interim Transition Ministry Officer for the Diocese of East Carolina.



Rev. Singer presented a list of suggestions to guide the Vestry as it leads the church without clergy in place.

The Vestry was reminded not to look backward as it moves forward and to trust the process.

Rev. Singer assured the Vestry of Diocesan support.

The Vestry now begins a self-examination to answer the questions “What do we need?” and “What can we afford?”

The Vestry welcomes any comments or concerns from parishioners.

You Can Help

Presently, Zach Dickerson’s Cub Scout Pack is selling pop corn to raise monies for equipment.



See Zach or Maddie or Kim Michel if you wish to support this fundraiser.

Looking to December

Zach Dickerson, Kit Reddick, and Brandon Woody are singing in the Martin County Arts Council Christmas Chorus. The concert is on Friday, December 6.

Kit Reddick and Brandon Woody are singing in the Love Feast at the First United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 8.

Christmas Music



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

Mary Charles Coppage
James and Janice Ford
Anthony McNeile
James & Janice Ford
Johnny Curley
Bill and Nita Smith
Rev. Susan Bentley

Birthdays

3, Chris Cooke
6, Lucy Horton
15, Dawson Taylor
18, Russell Young
24, Ginny Webb
25, Frankie Biggs
26, Chuck Cohen
28, Bob Greene
30, Charlotte Critcher



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**

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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

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 All Saints Day	2
3 21 Pentecost End Daylight Savings 9:00 am, Choir Practice 11:00 am, HE II 5:00 pm, All Saints Evensong & Reception <i>Chris Cooke</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9
			<i>Lucy Horton</i>			
10 22 Pentecost 9:00 am, Choir Practice 11:00 am, MP II	11 Veterans Day	12	13 6:00 pm, Evening Prayer Dinner & Program on World religions: Islam	14	15	16
					<i>Dawson Taylor</i>	
17 23 Pentecost Stewardship 9:00 am, Choir Practice 11:00 am, HE II 12:00 noon, Luncheon 5:00 pm, Vestry Meeting	18	19	20	21	22	23
	<i>Russell Young</i>					
24 Last Pentecost 9:00 am, Choir Practice 11:00 am, HE II <i>Ginny Webb</i>	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30
	<i>Frankie Biggs</i>	<i>Chuck Cohen</i>		<i>Bob Greene</i>		<i>Charlotte Critcher</i>