



Church of the Advent

# Advent Advisor

November 2021

## Our Hope

Hope is a beautiful, life-giving, life-changing gift. It is God's gift, and there are abundant reminders of that throughout the Bible and the ongoing narrative of God's people. God brings hope to the world. We become channels of hope through ministries that bring healing and transformation in situations of grief and uncertainty in a world ever groaning, weary with pain. Sometimes hope is given through simple acts of kindness; sometimes through generosity; sometimes through assurances of abiding, caring relationships. Prayer, inspirational material, listening, presence help. Remembering may be comforting, or not. Many persons unintentionally provide hope, unaware of the impact of their words or actions. Some people, who themselves live by hope, are committed to accompanying others towards restoration, renewal, peace. Messengers of hope often are considered angels.

As it may apply to the life and ministries of the Church of the Advent here and now, hope is conceived to be the instigating dynamic from which springs our intention to encourage members to offer their gifts of time, talent and treasure to promote and sustain the welfare of the body and the commitment to serve in order to provide hope for others. The initial stimulus may be an inkling of God's hope for us, God's call to us.

Martin Luther insisted that everything that is done in the world is done by hope. German theologian Jurgen Moltmann expanded on that. He stated that, "In hope we count on the possibilities of the future and we do not remain imprisoned in the institutions of the past." November 7 is designated as our Stewardship Sunday celebration. In the spirit of Luther and Moltmann, hope will be central to this year's stewardship message. Specifically, several members of the parish will help us imag-

ine what may be possible with broad participation. The brief presentations will focus not on what we have done, except as a foundation on which to build, but on the prospect of being able to strengthen current commitments and develop emerging concepts for ministry. Our resources are not infinite and not meager as we sometimes are tempted to think. They are sufficient to carry on for now but not plentiful enough for what we could be about. Our hope is that we will respond in good faith as we recognize ourselves as stewards of what we have and a future that is not our own. We do not choose to be stewards. God has gifted, graced and called us to be stewards of a potentially great bounty. We can neither thrive nor survive without responsible stewardship of that with which we are entrusted. Metaphorically, that may mean watering seeds that others have planted and planting a few of our own. Visioning is an important step in a critical process of assessing what we already have and potential that nurturing may produce abundance in ways hardly imaginable. The Stewardship Sunday presenters will offer us some seeds of hope.

By God's grace we are given time, talent and treasure. These gifts are proportionally different and given for various purposes, but each is a facet of stewardship of equal value. The Advent will be able more and more faithfully to function as agents of hope as each person shares wholly, or at least generously, according to the gifts given. This may entail helping members discover and offer their particular gifts and talents, an exercise that typically gives a realistic account of a parish's important resource. Some things are in the works to help identify the spiritual gifts with which each person is endowed. Gifts along with interests and availability are crucial factors in deliberating and discerning how to set attainable goals that address actual needs and capture the enthusiasm and dedication of pa-

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rishioners. We may find that the components are in place that equip and enable us to do new things to enliven our life together and enhance our presence in our community in ways that make a difference in the lives of our neighbors, and our capabilities can be enlarged. Nonetheless, we need to be mindful that little steps will keep us from tripping up or wearing down, yet move us along, perhaps eventually beyond our highest aim and even beyond our imaginings.

God has a dream for us, hope for our growth by our participation in the fulfillment of God’s purposes. We are constituted and sustained by God’s Spirit and instilled with hope to grow as a community committed to bearing God’s healing, transformative love. We are not the hope of the world; but, as witnesses in our process of becoming disciples of the one who is designated as such and motivated by our own hope to be faithful, we may be instrumental in bringing hope to others and build up a church that becomes a beacon of hope.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 15:13

## Sunday Provides Opportunity for Pledging

The vestry has set aside November 7 as Stewardship Sunday as an opportunity for parishioners to make their pledges to support the work of the Church of the Advent.

Like the Diocese of East Carolina, the Church of the Advent relies on a voluntary method instead of a fixed system of apportionment to gather in money from its members for the mission and ministry of the church.

During the service various parishioners will make remarks concerning stewardship and the life of Church of the Advent.

Pledge cards will be available for parishioners to make their financial commitment.





**Wednesday  
November 10  
6:00 pm**



Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

Psalm 95:2

## Returning to (Some) Traditional Worship Practices

The latest guidelines from the Diocese of East Carolina now allows for the administering of wine during the Eucharist. This means that chalice bearers are now allowed to help celebrate the Eucharist. On the Sunday that you are assigned to serve, please arrive early so that Rev. Connie can brief you on the changes.

The wine will be administered in individual offering cups.

The offering will be collected during the offertory and not before the service.

The Peace will be still be exchanged at a distance and there are still separating pews.

Masks are optional.

Changes are ongoing and not unexpected as we slowly and tentatively return to our traditional worship.

## Thanksgiving Outreach Helps Food Bank

For every \$1 given to the Food Bank of the Albemarle, the Food Bank can provide four (4) Thanksgiving meals.

Located in Elizabeth City, the Food Bank services northeastern North Carolina including Martin County.

Posted in the narthex are special offering envelopes in support of the Food Bank’s Harvest of Hope Thanksgiving Campaign.

Place your offering in this envelope and put in the offering plate by November 21st.

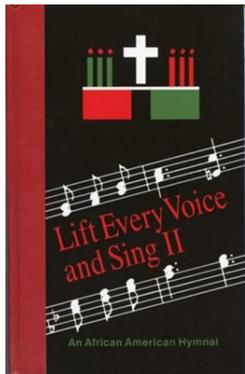
Checks may be made out to Food Bank of the Albemarle.

Please call Kit if you need an envelope delivered to you or you need to have your offering picked up.



## New Hymnal in the Choir Loft

Under the tutelage of Organist and Choirmaster Brandon Woody, the choir is expanding its repertoire of hymn and service music with the supplemental hymnbook *Lift Every Voice and Sing* or as it is more fondly called LEVAS.

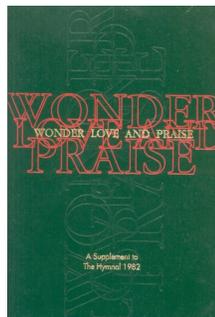


The collection of Afro-American Spirituals and other songs was published in 1981 by the Church Hymnal Corporation as a supplement to *The Hymnal 1940*.

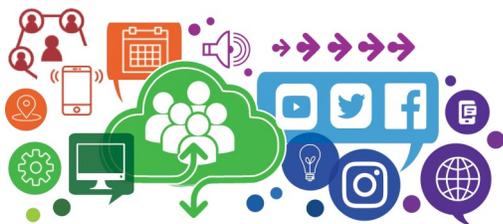
The selections emphasize the themes of personal assurance, comfort, and hope.

The choir has been singing selections for offertories and after communion.

The choir continues to sing out of *Wonder, Love, And Praise: A Supplement to The Hymnal 1982* published in 1997 and introduced to the Church of the Advent by former Choirmaster and Organist Adele Dees Hatfield.



The book is an eclectic collection of two hundred hymns, songs, and spiritual songs with a selection of service music and devotional pieces. It also includes selections from Music from Taizé.



## Please, Beware

It has come to the attention of Rev. Connie and Parish Administrator Joe Jernigan that parishioners have been receiving emails and texts appearing to be from Connie and asking for financial help.

Be assured that is not the work of Rev. Connie but some cyber intruder. Please ignore these and delete. You can also block them or mark them as spam.



## Honoring Our Veterans



Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918.

President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice.”

In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel.

It’s a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

## A blessing or a curse?

Holocaust survivor and devout Christian Corrie ten Boom recounts how her sister Betsie thanked God for the fleas infesting their packed barracks. When Corrie resisted the idea, Betsie pointed out that 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says to “give thanks in all circumstances.”

Still, Corrie wasn’t convinced — until the sisters realized the infestation kept the guards away, giving prisoners in those quarters freedom to worship and pray. The biting pests, which seemed like added misery, became a blessing.



Anger and bitterness sometimes cloud our vision, causing us to forget to thank God *in* all situations, though not necessarily *for* them. Other times we don’t wait long enough for blessings to be revealed. But faith is like waiting through a storm, knowing a rainbow is coming eventually. Meanwhile, the Lord holds an umbrella for us, and the closer with him we walk, the less wet we’ll get.

—Julie Lee





## Doug Chesson Serves the Diocese on The Foundation

For its size, the Church of the Advent has a strong presence on the diocesan level.

We have learned of Lucia Peel and her work on the Executive Council. And we will learn of Bill Webb and his work on the Standing Committee in a future issue.

Parishioner Doug Chesson has been active in the Church of the Advent as a choir member, in Sunday School, vestry member with pastoral care, junior warden, senior warden with a priest, and senior warden without a priest.

Now we will hear from Doug about his service on The Foundation of the Diocese of East Carolina.

### What is The Foundation of the Diocese of East Carolina?

The Foundation was formed by the Diocese of East Carolina for the purpose of holding, managing and investing property of the Diocese of East Carolina, either temporarily, for a specified or indefinite time, or permanently and the purpose of providing (1) funds, the income from which is to be used for the promotion of new work in the Diocese and for the development of the religious, educational and charitable work of the Diocese. (2) funds to be used for making loans to parishes, missions, diocesan instructions and church organizations for capital improvements and (3) funds for capital grants to parishes, missions, diocesan intuitions and church organizations for capital improvement.

### How does it work?

Members meet once a quarter to review diocesan investments (and parishes/funds that are aligned with the diocesan funds) with our securities advisor group, to monitor investments and to make changes to maximize all investments. Yearly, we analyze return on investments and if the board can justify, establish an amount

of proceeds that can be offered to parishes and institutions for capital improvements. The board considers grant requests for physical improvements of facilities and most aspects of needs.

### How long have you been serving? When does your term expire?

My first term was 2014 to 2018. I rejoined the foundation in February of 2020 and will serve through February 2025.

### What specific position do you have at this time on The Foundation?

I am presently chair of the Grants Committee and a member of the Finance Committee.

### Explain what grant the Church of the Advent is applying for?

The Church of the Advent is applying for a grant to completely re-wire and recondition the organ. The wiring in the organ is not North Carolina Building Compliant and reasonably dangerous. Brandon (church organist) is also targeting several improvements that can be accomplished while the technicians are on site.

### What have you learned while serving?

I have had the pleasure of visiting many parishes during the grants application process and have seen what great things are going on in our Diocese. I have seen parishes that have thrift stores and literally give clothing to people in need, several parishes that have daily lunch for the hungry, communities providing after school programs for music, Bible study and computer labs, whatever their communities need.

### Any surprises while serving?

How diverse our Diocesan Community is and each parish is so accepting and truly seeing the face of Jesus in everyone. Our family knows no strangers.

### How did you come to be an Episcopalian?

I grew up in the Southern Baptist Community, because my mom was so raised and part of the Farm life Community. When I attended UNCCH, I joined a fraternity and most of my brothers were Episcopalian. I joined their families for church while visiting and participated in many of their weddings. After UNC, I returned home and my brother and sister-in-law invited me to the Church of the Advent, I never looked back. I was drawn to the openness of the parish and the acceptance of each person with their individual walk with God, Christ and The Holy Spirit.

### What are some of your fondest memories of life at the Church of the Advent?

My wedding, our children's confirmations and baptisms of our children, raising my family in our church, Caroline, my daughter's wedding, Men's Fellowship, serving our parish and fellowship over the last 32 years. My relationship with the Big Three has grown so much in the last 30 years and I credit COA for aiding in this relationship.

Thank you, Doug, for your service.



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*

*Christopher & Lindsey Cannon*

*Father John Brown*

*Jessie Critcher Dawn Myers*

*Lucia Peel Powe Suzanne Lawrence*

*Nita Smith John Curley*

*Joyce Moye Deborah Willoughby*

*Cheryl Klein*

**Birthdays**

*3 ~ Chris Cooke*

*6 ~ Lucy Horton*

*15 ~ Dawson Taylor*

*24 ~ Ginny Webb*

*25 ~ Frankie Biggs*

*26 ~ Chuck Cohen*

*28 ~ Bob Greene*

*30 ~ Charlotte Critcher*



**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**

**November 7 Holy Eucharist/**

**Stewardship Sunday 11:00 am**

**November 10 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm**

**November 14 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am**

**November 15 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm**

**November 21 Morning Prayer 11:00 am**

**November 28 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am**

**December 5 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am**

**December 8 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm**

**December 12 Holy Eucharist/Annual Meeting 11:00 am**

**December 19 Lessons & Carols**

**11:00 am**

**December 20 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm**

**December 24 Holy Eucharist 10:30 pm**

**December 26 Morning Prayer 11:00 am**

***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**  
**Lay Schedule**  
**November 7 Through December 26, 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>
<b>Nov 7</b> Stewardship Sunday		Jane Jernigan	Bill Webb	Don Beach		Joe Jernigan Sue House	Bob & Janice Greene
<b>Nov 14</b>		John Price	John Price	Chloe Tuttle		Joe Jernigan Sue House	Bob & Janice Greene
<b>Nov 21</b> MP	Bill Webb	Ginny Webb				Joe Jernigan Sue House	Bob & Janice Greene
<b>Nov 28</b>		Valerie Cooke	Lucia Peel	John Price	Exum Taylor	Joe Jernigan Sue House	Bob & Janice Greene
<b>Dec 5</b>		Michael Biondi	Kit Reddick	Don Beach		Jim & Maria Allen	John Price Lori Taylor
<b>Dec 12</b> Annual Meeting		Chuck Cohen	Cathy Cohen	Doug Chesson		Jim & Maria Allen	John Price Lori Taylor
<b>Dec 19</b> Lessons & Carols		TBD	Bill Webb	Bill Webb	Exum Taylor	Jim & Maria Allen	John Price Lori Taylor
<b>Dec 24</b> Christmas Eve		Jane Jernigan	Lucia Peel	Chloe Tuttle	Exum Taylor	Jim & Maria Allen	John Price Lori Taylor
<b>Dec 26</b> MP	Kit Reddick	John Price				Jim & Maria Allen	John Price Lori Taylor

Due to the newest guidelines from the Diocese, Chalice Bearers will now be needed to help celebrate Holy Eucharist.

Celebrating Holy Eucharist will be a bit different than in the past so Chalice Bearers will need to see Connie to familiarize themselves with the changes.