



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

January 2019



Epiphany

Many blessings for the New Year. May it be one of deepening joy in your life in Christ. This time of transition from one year to the next is always a mixed bag of old memories of what has passed, new anxieties about what is to come, and the compulsion to pay at least lip service attention to familiar traditions we practice to honor its passing. Dress-up parties, special menus, and football all have their place in setting the New Year up right. Memories from childhood of the special permission to stay up past midnight (in Eastern Standard Time) and the struggle to make it, fold into the memories of my own children doing the same. Over time this compulsion gave way to the comfort of a good book under the quilts, and the trust that the New Year would be there in the morning whether I stayed up to greet its first moment or not.

The Church has her own rituals for each New Year, actually jumping ahead to begin the liturgical year with the Season of Advent four weeks before Christmas. Then the 12 Days of Christmas carry us to the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. *Epiphany* means *manifestation*, or *striking appearance* and acts as a lighted gate-

way from the dark stable of Christmas towards the brilliant and striking appearance of the world with the manifestation of God incarnate in it. At Epiphany we remember the three kings, the wise men who followed a star in the heavens to find a new king in the form of a helpless newborn infant being cared for in a stable. This dramatic second chapter in the Christmas story and involves wonder, drama, danger and salvation, as the Holy Family become refugees on their way to Egypt to escape the jealous rage of King Herod, so afraid of a newborn king that he has infant boys murdered all over his kingdom.

Sometimes a joyous beginning in life takes a turn down a more challenging path. Sometimes one year's expectations are superseded by the unexpected turn of events in the next. The message of the season of Epiphany is that in spite of what has gone before and what lies ahead, there will always be a powerful light to guide us where we need to go. There will always be a star in the darkness and strangers bearing gifts and others willing to protect our best interests and welcome us to places of safety and rest. The turning of the New Year is also a time to pray and ponder about how we can be that light, that welcome, and that safety and rest to others. May you be blessed through this season of light, and in God's grace have a Happy New Year.

Ellen+

**Wednesday
Worship**

**January 9 at 6 pm
Evening Service
Shared Meal
Program**

Need to Feed Church Pantry

Rev. Ellen reports that the church pantry is bare.

She has used up all the available items to assist several situations that involved helping people that parishioners had encountered.

The pantry is used to help those in a true emergency — homeless or waiting for shelter.



Food Pantry Needs

Therefore, the items need to be ready to eat such as fruit cups, apple sauce, soups, peanut butter, squeezable jelly, crackers, and pop top ready to eat meals

Requests will be posted in the narthex by the first Sunday in January.

If you need a personal shopper or would like to donate monies, please see Kit Reddick.



Thank you to Rev. Ellen, Dawson Taylor, Sue House, and Kit Reddick for organizing the Christmas outreach and delivering it to Christine Chesson at the Department of Social Services.



A Word of Caution about Food Donations

Thank you for your always generous response when Outreach puts up requests for various food pantries. Your response is most appreciated.

When requests come in for donations, Outreach works closely with the requesting agencies and takes time to create a careful, specific list.

In recent months, when preparing donations for delivery, Outreach discovered that some of the donated goods were outdated and had to be discarded.

Outreach also came across items that were not requested such as lavender infused olive oil and pumpkin spice hot chocolate mix and packages of rosemary remoulade mix. Sadly, these well-intended donations had to be discarded as they were not appropriate and not needed.

Please be careful when making your donations to check for dates. Also, be mindful to give only what is requested.

If you have any questions, see Kit Reddick or Sue House.



O God, you give the winter's cold,
as well as summer's joyous rays.
You warmly in your love enfold,
and keep us through life's wintry days.

—Samuel Longfellow

Feast of Lights



from Christmas to Epiphany, from the season celebrating our Savior’s birth to that celebrating the spread of his truth to the whole world,” Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

As followers of Jesus, we are the light of the world, and we must remember from whence the light originates. On Sunday, January 6th, beginning at 5 pm, we will gather for our Feast of Lights, a service led by our youth commemorating the spreading of the Light of Christ from his earthly days to our present day. We hear of specific deeds faithful people have been moved to accomplish. We sing praise to the Almighty who has moved eternally for the purpose of our salvation. It is a quiet and stirring service of worship that is truly good.

The Feast of Lights culminates with each person receiving a candle lit from the Christ Candle which he or she will use to exit the darkened church, symbolizing our commitment to sharing the Light of God with all nations and to being the light of the world. By the gentle warming of our hearts, the Light transforms our lives and the world around us. Like the Wise Men, come, bend your knee, and worship the newborn King.

Come and celebrate the **Feast of Lights on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6 at 5 pm**. The service will be followed by a pizza party in appreciation for our participants, young and old, and musicians.

Special Service Celebrates Epiphany

“Of ourselves we have absolutely no value, yet we are chosen and loved by that which is all Value. In comparison to the Light we are utter darkness, yet the Light shines upon us and, so, we are light. With such a truth proclaimed, we, the people of Christ, are moved

Twelfth Night Celebration
 Sunday, January 13 at 5:30 p.m.
 Home of Don Beach and Corey Baker
 (Park in the yard or on Church Street)

Chili Dinner with Appetizers, Salads and Desserts
 We will plan the specifics in the in New Year!!!

Casual Dress ~~ Bring your friends!
 RSVP to Lucia Peel at 792-0070 or luciapeel@gmail.com
 Bring your own beverage of choice.

Donations to Blessings in a Backpack are greatly appreciated
 and will be accepted at the party.

Christian Education

Christian Education for Adults and Children can be an important support for living a life in Christ. Children need a foundational understanding for their young growing faith to help them make sense of the world.

Adults also benefit from the opportunity to learn and share what they profess to believe in worship and beyond the walls of the church. For the Christian faith to stay strong and relevant in our everyday world, it needs nurture and growth.

Sunday School for grades K-high school are offered every Sunday morning at 10am before worship. Younger children are taught by Lori Taylor and older ones by Jim Allen.

Adult Christian Education is offered at 10-10:45 am in the Adult Library Classroom in the Parish Hall on the Sundays when Rev. Ellen is celebrating Holy Eucharist. Topical classes are also on the second Wednesday evening of each month following Evening Prayer at 6pm. (Special weekly Wednesday evening programs are offered during Advent and Lent.)

Through January the Adult Sunday School class is continuing an ongoing discussion on The Beatitudes. This will be followed in February with a 4 week class on The Lord's Prayer and in March with a 4 week class on The Ten Commandments (just in time for Lent). Consider how participation with your fellow parishioners in Adult Christian Education might be a blessing in your life.



Vestry News

Sunday, January 27 at 5 pm
Meal at 6 pm



The first vestry meeting of the year is a transitional meeting with the outgoing members and the incoming members meeting together.

Thank you to outgoing members

Jim Allen, Don Beach, and Ginny Web. Welcome to the incoming members Don Beach, Chuck Cohen, and Bill Smith.

Also thank you to those willing to serve as delegates to the Diocesan Convention in February: Christine Chesson, Doug Chesson, and Joe Jernigan.



You can pick up your copy in the church narthex. Look for the blue folders.

Thank you Rev. Ellen and Joe Jernigan or their work on this project.



The table is laid for a Celtic Eucharist at Church of the Advent during Advent.



Lessons in Wise Faith

“The Magi teach us true faith,” said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were “off the mark,” coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a “royal palace.” Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight “so utterly out of keeping with a king” — a poor young woman and child, in a “poor hut” — that one might expect them to head straight home. “But,” declares Luther, “with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart,” bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

—Based on Luther’s sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), *Luther’s Works*



Looking Back Through Advent at Church of the Advent

Bishop's Visit

Congratulations to the newest members of Church of the Advent received into the household of God on December 2 during Bishop Rob Skirving's visit: Christopher Stanton, Shannon Stanton, Emily Douglas, Sheri Orvis and Russell Young (not pictured). Also pictured with Bishop Skirving is James Green from Elizabethtown, confirmed, with his daughter Isabella.



Advent Blue

Many thanks to the family of Beverly and Don Mills, who have in their memory donated new paraments and vestments in Advent Blue. Handmade by Rosemary St. Clair of New Bern, they were blessed by Bishop Rob during his visit on the First Sunday of Advent December 2, 2018 and will be used each year during the Advent season. This beautiful blue is being welcomed throughout the Episcopal Church as a hope-filled symbol of light and promise during Advent, replacing the more penitential purple that has been used in the past and is used during Lent.



Needlepoint Cushions:

The needlepoint project begun over 25 years ago to cover seat and kneeling cushions for the chancel of the church is almost finished. Five seat cushions and four kneeling cushions were upholstered by Mr. and Mrs. Clark Cummings of Pinetops, NC and blessed during Bishop Skirving's visit on December 2.



The last seat cushion needlepoint for the Priest's Chair is being completed by Charlotte Critcher and will be blessed at a later date when it has been finished..

Ordination of Stephen Batten on Sunday December 16, 2018

Thank you to everyone who made the ordination service and the following reception so special for Rev. Stephen Batten and his family. From the stunning flowers to the lovely music to the insightful sermon to the pertinent readings to the festive centerpieces to the delicious food, it was a great way to celebrate the ordination of a new

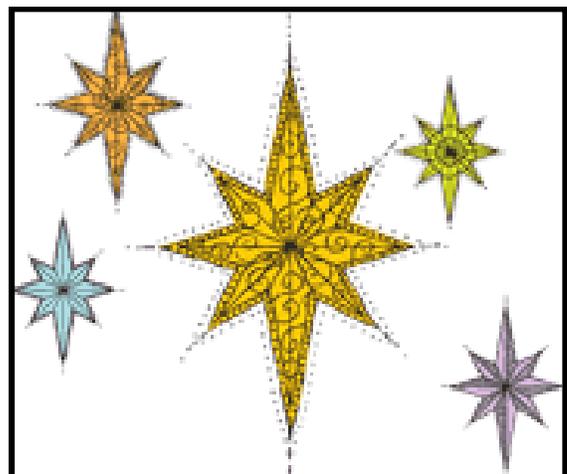


priest in the diocese – and especially one who grew up in this parish.

Thank you to Rev. Ellen for arrangements for the service and visiting clergy and to



Brandon Woody and the choir and Lucia Peel all of whom worked closely with Trinity of Chocowinity on music and reception.



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

Betty Crowe Florence Baker
 Lennox Palmer Sandra Allen
 Nan Chesson Annie Jones
 James & Janice Ford
 Dorothy Jones Frances Sumner
 Larry Watson
 George & Goldie Wright
 Keith Kremer Ronnie Wynne
 Mary Charles Coppage
 Mac Allen Frances Whittington
 Ethel Smith Tink Jenkins
 Geraldine Bateman Greg Crumplin
 Ricky Roberson Warren Gordon
 Lucia Peel Powe

Birthdays

2, Mark Richardson
 5, Ellen Richardson
 6, Lowell Taylor
 12, Adison Bosso
 13, Will Michel
 15, Joey Godard
 18, Maria Allen
 19, Carrie Mills
 22, Don Mills
 22, Mary Anne Crowe
 25, Sara Chesson



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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 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
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**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.

Church of the Advent

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Birthdays in italics</i>		1	2	3	4	5
6 Epiphany 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II 5:00 pm, Feast of Lights Service <i>Lowell Taylor</i>	7	8	<i>Mark Richardson</i> 9 6:00 pm Evening Prayer, Supper & Program	10	11	12 <i>Ellen Richardson</i> <i>Adison Bosso</i>
13 1 Epiphany 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II 5:30 pm, 12th Night Party at home of Corey Baker & Don Beach <i>Will Michel</i>	14	15	16 6:30 pm Cub Scout Meeting	17	18	19 <i>Maria Allen</i> <i>Carrie Mills</i>
20 2 Epiphany 11:00 am, MP II	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 3 Epiphany 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II 5:00 pm, Vestry Meeting	28	29	30	31	<i>Sara Chesson</i>	
		<i>Joey Godard</i>				
		<i>Don Mills</i>				

January 2019

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Lay Schedule

	6 <i>Epiphany</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>	13 <i>1 Epiphany</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>	20 <i>2 Epiphany</i> <i>MP II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i> <i>Jane Jernigan</i>	27 <i>3 Epiphany</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>
<i>Acolyte</i>	Will Michel	Dawson Taylor		Jean Miller
<i>Acolyte</i>	Standrick Jefferson	Adison Bosso		Standrick Jefferson
<i>Acolyte</i>				
<i>Acolyte</i>				
<i>Lessons</i>	Gail Young	Valerie Cooke	John Price	Chuck Cohen
<i>Intercessor</i>	Al Chesson	Lucia Peel	N/A	Bill Webb
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Doug Chesson	Chloe Tuttle	N/A	Bill Webb
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Angi Godard	Angi Godard	Angi Godard	Angi Godard
	Lucia Peel	Lucia Peel	Lucia Peel	Lucia Peel
<i>Ushers</i>	Don Beach	Don Beach	Don Beach	Don Beach
	Rex Raiford	Rex Raiford	Rex Raiford	Rex Raiford
<i>Nursery</i>	Kit Reddick	John Price	Jim Allen	Mark Richardson