



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

April 2023

New Life

New life! How sweet that sounds. Or does it? Does embracing anything new really appeal to most of us? We get comfortable in our routines, and setting out on a different course or taking on something different is not easy. We tend to prefer familiarity. That was the experience of our ancient Hebrew ancestors. They seemed to long for the familiar trappings of slavery in Egypt during their grueling trek through wilderness towards God's promise of new life. The fading luster of potential may be a common human reaction to a going-getting-tough situation or even uncertainty about what the unknown may have in store.



We know that sometimes a change of course may be critical to our well-being; and, if not that, change is usually healthy one way or another. Nonetheless, embarking on a new course, moving to another place, wel-

coming a new person into a family, workplace or circle of friends are the type of things that are not easy no matter the upside. A leap of faith that prompts an arduous spiritual journey is a big deal that disrupts practically every aspect of what had been construed as normal. I can attest to the fact that such upheaval may lead to life choices that turn out well, and staying the course is sustained not so much by personal dedication as by realization that God is in the mix. Hoping to respond faithfully to the ongoing process of discernment as life unfolds, I still am challenged as I suspect each of you are when confronted with the possibility of moving beyond comfort zones. It is just plain hard to give up something whether that something is good or not so good and move towards something else.

The need to give change a chance comes at us variously and often has spiritual implications. A heavy load I've sometimes carried is resentment. I intended to abandon that during Lent, but I emerged from the season dragging some remnant of it. Seems the sticking point is that resentments usually are connected with something

unresolved. I am beginning to understand that getting unstuck requires an attitude adjustment even as a person to whom I attribute an



offense continues what riled me in the first place. What I think will set things right is accountability, my own accountability and resolve to be mindful of and correct *my* mistakes, *my* offenses. Since it's unlikely that I will continue to muster enough motivation to stay on track, the change-agent I count on is grace, God's grace changing my heart, calling me to lay down the burden of trying to manage something I cannot, and forgive myself so that I genuinely forgive others.

Carter Heyward holds the distinction of being my only childhood playmate younger than I who got away with bossing me around. She grew up to be a remarkable person: one of the "inordinate" priests ordained when the Episcopal Church had not sanctioned women's ordination; an esteemed professor of theology at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts; noted author, lecturer and preacher; and horse therapist. In a recent rereading of her book, *Saving Jesus*, I encountered grace in Carter's commentary about forgiveness. She writes, "Our salvation is not rooted in a Jesus who lords his righteousness over us or a God who will beat us into submission or cast us into a fiery furnace if we aren't right. Whether we are right or wrong in the specifics of lives and deeds, we will be saved primarily by a capacity (that is innate in us all) and a willingness (that can be learned with each other's help) to practice forgiveness precisely because so often, we 'know not what to do.' The Jesus we need is the one we have in *learning how to forgive* (for that's where most of us are). We need him to be what he is – through faith, our brother and ally, teacher and friend, spiritual presence and ongoing resource of hope." She goes on to insist, "Forgiveness is the letting go of resentment over

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what has been done in order to get on with life. It has at least as much to do with the capacity of those who have been wronged to move forward as with those who have inflicted the injury. We forgive as much for ourselves, our own well-being, as for others.” Carter’s most hopeful statement is, “Because God is our power in the struggle for justice-love, we are indeed able to forgive, provided we realize how truly empowered we are in and through God.” Forgiveness is the way of life.

Real faith development entails change, conversion and transformation. God makes us people of the resurrection by giving us courage to embrace change that orients us more and more fully toward becoming who we are created to be so that our lives are testimonies of God’s redeeming grace and transforming love. Believe.

Happy Easter!

Connie



Observance of Palm Sunday begins at 11:00 a. m. on Sunday, April 2 in the Parish House.

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, which is the last Sunday before Easter, marks the beginning of the last week in Lent — Holy Week.

The Sunday is so named for it celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as people ran before him shouting “hosanna” — from the Hebrew word “hoshsa’na” meaning “save us” — and scattering palms before him.

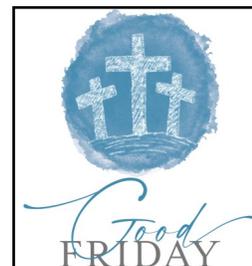
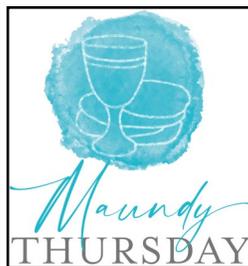
During the Liturgy of the Palms, which is the entrance rite for the morning’s service, worshippers process into the church carrying palms.

The service then changes focus from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the solemnity of the Passion.

The customary responses before and after the gospel are omitted and the people will read specific roles in the Passion Gospel.

- Narrator: Rev. Connelly
- Judas: Chuck Cohen
- Disciples: Choir
- Jesus: John Price
- Peter: Brandon Woody
- Accuser: Ginny Webb
- High Priest/Chief Priest: Kit Reddick
- Servant Girl: Lucia Peel
- Bystander: Lori Taylor
- Pilate: Bob Greene
- Pilate’s Wife: Janice Greene
- Soldiers All Men
- Centurion: Jim Allen
- Assembly: Congregation

The service concludes with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, Rite II.



During **Holy Week**, services will observe **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday**, using the liturgies from the Book of Common Prayer. Both services begin at 6:00 p. m.

Easter Sunday begins with an invitation from Janice and Bobby Greene to the **Sunrise Service** at Green Acres around 6:45 a. m. The service includes scripture readings, prayers, meditations and songs.



Chairs are provided.

Worship continues at the Church of the Advent at 11:00 a. m. with a service of **Holy Eucharist**. Worshippers are invited to bring cut flowers for the **Flowering of the Cross**. The cross will be placed outside and the flowering will be done as worshippers enter the church.

The flowering of the cross has been traced back to the 6th century to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus’s death on Good Friday. The entire cross is covered with flowers and is placed prominently at the front of the church to symbolize the new life in our risen Lord to all the worshippers present on Easter Sunday morning. The contrast between the starkly bare cross that worshippers have seen for 40 days and the living flower cross of Easter Sunday dramatically and visually represents the new life that we are celebrating after witnessing the very instrument of death now transformed by Christ’s rising.

The parish choir, along with guest singers from neighboring churches and a chamber orchestra, will perform the Lenten cantata “Colors of Grace” by Joseph Martin on Palm Sunday at 6 p. m. in the church. This promises to be a moving and inspiring performance that will set the tone for the rest of Holy Week.



The Lenten cantata “Colors of Grace” is a powerful musical work that explores the theme of redemption and renewal through the story of Christ’s journey to the cross. The music is hauntingly beautiful, and the lyrics are deeply moving, capturing the heart of the Lenten season and the profound significance of Christ’s sac-

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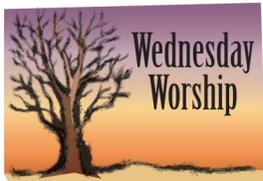
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rifice.

In addition to the choir and orchestra, two guest soloists will be performing, adding their own unique voices and talents to this already impressive production. It promises to be a true collaboration of musicians, all working together to create something truly special.

Following the performance, there will be a small reception in the parish hall where attendees can mingle with the performers, enjoy some refreshments, and reflect on the meaning of the Lenten season. This will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and celebrate the joy and beauty of music.

All are welcome to attend this special event, and we encourage everyone to invite their friends and family to join us for this moving performance. We look forward to seeing you there!

Brandon Woody
Choirmaster and Organist



April 12
6 p. m.

April is our month to pack for Blessings in a Backpack.

Our days are Wednesday, April 5, Wednesday, April 19, and THURSDAY, April 27.

We will pack at the Memorial Baptist Church at 10:00 a. m.

Please come out and **Blessings in a Backpack** help.

If 6 to 8 volunteers are present, then we can be finished in an hour.

Each time we are packing 88 bags but on April 5 we will pack double the number as the children are on Spring Break the following week.



April is Cancer Month.

We will be lighting candles on Sunday, April 30th in honor of or in memory of a friend, family member or loved one who is fighting cancer or who has lost that battle.

If you would like to contribute, please give Lucia Peel a check payable to ECW for \$10 per person being honored or memorialized along with their name(s).

Names will be printed in the bulletin for the service.

A donation will be made to the Hope House in Greenville, that serves Pitt and Martin County cancer survivors.



Parish Family Weekend XXXI Moves to June

In an effort to avoid the hot weather of July, the vestry voted to change move Parish Family Weekend at Trinity Center from the third weekend in July to late June for future dates.



The new date is June 23-25.

Adults

Single occupancy \$107.00 per person, per night

Adults

Double occupancy \$87.00 per person, per night

Children

5-17 years old \$32.00 per person, per night

Children

1-4 years old \$12.00 per person, per night

A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. You may also contact Joe in the church office.



How Jesus Says Your Name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."



Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Prayer for World Peace

Great God, who has told us
 “Vengeance is mine,”
 save us from ourselves,
 save us from the vengeance in our hearts
 and the acid in our souls.

Save us from our desire to hurt as we have been hurt,
 to punish as we have been punished,
 to terrorize as we have been terrorized.

Give us the strength it takes
 to listen rather than to judge,
 to trust rather than to fear,
 to try again and again
 to make peace even when peace eludes us.

We ask, O God, for the grace
 to be our best selves.
 We ask for the vision
 to be builders of the human community
 rather than its destroyers.
 We ask for the humility as a people
 to understand the fears and hopes of other people.
 We ask for the love it takes
 to bequeath to the children of the world to come
 more than the failures of our own making.
 We ask for the heart it takes
 to care for all the people
 of Afghanistan and Iraq, of Palestine and Israel
 as well as for ourselves.

Give us the depth of soul, O God,
 to constrain our might,
 to resist the temptations of power,
 to refuse to attack the attackable,
 to understand
 that vengeance begets violence,
 and to bring peace—not war—wherever we go.
 For you, O God, have been merciful to us.
 For you, O God, have been patient with us.
 For you, O God, have been gracious to us.

And so may we be merciful
 and patient
 and gracious
 and trusting
 with these others whom you also love.
 This we ask through Jesus,
 the one without vengeance in his heart.
 This we ask forever and ever. Amen.

Joan Chittister
 Author
 Member of Benedictine Sisters of Erie

Contributed by Jim Allen

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
- Nita Smith
- Betty Jones
- Jessie Critcher
- Joanie Davis
- The Cohen Family
- Robert & Mary Bonner
- Fay Wathers
- Rose Allard
- Patti Malone
- Lucia Peel
- Dawn Myers

Birthdays

- 3 ~ Diana Greene
- 16 ~ Angi Godard
- 16 ~ Virginia Medford
- 17 ~ Douglas Chesson
- 23 ~ Amanda Allen
- 23 ~ Standrick Jefferson
- 27 ~ Toussaint Biondi
- 29 ~ Jeannette McGinley

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Apr. 2 Palm Sunday/HE 11:00 am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon
- Cantata & Reception 6:00 pm
- Apr. 6 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm
- Apr. 7 Good Friday 6:00 pm
- Apr. 9 Easter Sunday/HE 11:00 am
- Apr. 16 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Apr. 23 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
- Apr. 30 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- May 7 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon
- May 9 Evening Service 6:00 pm
- May 14 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
- May 21 Green Acres/HE 11:00 am
- Parish Picnic 12:00 noon
- May 28 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am



Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

Rev. Connie Connelly, Priest in Charge
Office Hours:

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Other hours by appointment

Office Phone #: 252.792.2244

Cell Phone #: 704-651-0244

Doug Chesson, Senior Warden

Michael Biondi, Junior Warden

Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Office Phone #: 252.792.2244

Brandon Woody, Organist/Choirmaster

124 West Church Street

P. O. Box 463

Williamston, NC 27892

Email: advent1850@gmail.com

www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

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

*****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.**

The Church of the Advent is a nurturing, vibrant, and inclusive community inviting spiritual growth through liturgical worship, outreach, and fellowship.

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April 2023

Lay Schedule

	2 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>HE II</i> 11:00 am	6 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> <i>HE II</i> 6:00 pm	7 <i>Good Friday</i> 6:00 pm	9 <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>HE II</i> 11:00 am	16 <i>2 Easter</i> <i>HE II</i> 11:00 am	23 <i>3 Easter</i> <i>MP II</i> 11:00 am	30 <i>4 Easter</i> <i>HE II</i> 11:00 am
MP Leader						Kit Reddick	
Lector	Kit Reddick	John Price	Brandon Woody	Jane Jernigan	Chuck Cohen	Valerie Cooke	Chuck Cohen
Intercessor	Kit Reddick	John Price		Lucia Peel	Cathy Cohen	Kit Reddick	Cathy Cohen
Eucharistic Minister	Doug Chesson	John Price		Don Beach	Chloe Tuttle		Don Beach
Acolyte		Exum Taylor		Exum Taylor			
Altar Guild	Brandon Woody Lori Taylor						
Ushers	Jim Allen Maria Allen						

Readers for the Passion Gospel for Palm Sunday

Narrator: Rev. Connelly, Judas: Chuck Cohen, Disciples: Choir,
 Jesus: John Price, Peter: Brandon Woody,
 Accuser: Ginny Webb, High Priest and Chief Priest: Kit Reddick,
 Servant Girl: Lucia Peel, Bystander: Lori Taylor,
 Pilate: Bob Greene, Pilate's Wife: Janice Greene,
 Soldiers All Men, Centurion: Jim Allen, Assembly: Congregation