



# Advent Advisor

August 2022

## The Sacrament of the Present Moment

Summertime, and the living is easy— or isn't. It's supposed to be. It's healthy to slow down in hot, humid weather, even to take siestas as our neighbors in warmer climates typically do. It's been a very long time since I've taken a nap, and I suspect that is true of most of you. I bet that you, like me, are about as busy in the so-called "idle days of summer" as in cool seasons and function pretty much the same now as September to May when we expect to be in full gear. The clock ticks, and we seem unable to ignore it. So we schedule and do and schedule and do, and bemoan the perpetual dilemma of seeming to have too little time to do what we deem essential.

Annie Dillard writes, "The way you spend your days is the way you spend your life." She's not telling us something we don't already know. We may want to slow down, but it's not easy letting go of our routines and making adjustments rather than excuses. It would be nice to have enough leisure to figure out what really matters and carve out time for it. For most of us, me included, that takes an attitude adjustment. Busy people tend to be convinced that it's not feasible to dedicate some time to really living in the moment. Too many things vie for attention.



Mindfulness may be a corrective. Intentionally taking in the sights, sounds, smells, intimacies of the various nuances of our lived experiences, even things not of our choosing, creates awareness that may seem more important than mindless activity. That may prompt a bit of prioritizing. Although it may not make us slow down all at once, intending to savor our moments and trying to appreciate the simplicity or complexity of each as it happens may lead to actually doing that, i.e., not letting moments that seem to need our attention pass by. Willingness drives persons to do what they want to do, and resolve to make time to be present with ourselves



No Wednesday evening services during June, July, and August.  
 No choir practice during June and July.  
 Sunday morning services at 11 a.m.

and present with others can unfold into something that transcends any merit of abeyance to getting things done. Presence can be an encounter with the holiness of life. It sets us apart from the frenetic stuff of unrelenting busy-ness and helps us come to value and dare not miss out on what is precious: relationships, the beauty and wonder of creation, stories that touch us deeply, freedom, a feeling of self-worth and well-being, defining moments experienced variously but commonly perceived as Spirit-filled.

The possibility of the present moment as sacrament has intrigued religious writers. Frederick Buechner in *Now and Then* admits, "By examining as closely and candidly as I could the life that had come to seem to me in many ways a kind of trap or dead-end street, I discovered that if you really keep your eyes peeled to it and your ears open, if you really pay attention to it, even such a limited and limiting life as the one I was living ... opened up extraordinary vistas. There is no event so commonplace but that God is present within it, always hiddenly, always leaving you room to recognize him or not to recognize him, but all the more fascinatingly be-

*(Continued on page 2)*



(Continued from page 1)

cause of that, all the more compellingly and hauntingly.”

A 17<sup>th</sup> Century Frenchman, Jean-Pierre de Causade, wrote about the sacrament of the present moment in *Abandonment to Divine Providence* in which he observes that “to achieve the height of holiness, people must realize that all they count as trivial and worthless is what can make them holy – everything in life is to be welcomed as God speaking to us all through what happens to us moment by moment.”

We are created to live the life of God but frenzied, over-scheduled lives are not the way in. Instead, let us encourage one another to be open to the urgings of the Spirit, and slow down. Perspectives evolve. What we may have discounted as too ordinary to distract us from “important” matters may attract our attention and engage our presence, and such moments may become occasions of grace. I hope that you will discover the sanctity of being still and fully present in more and more of those moments and come to know who you are, who you are meant to be and who longs to ease you into living abundantly by embracing each moment, tasting life and savoring its goodness and knowing the gift it is. Pray that I will, too.

Connie



The **Rev. Connie Connelly** is headed to Charlotte for back surgery on Aug. 2. At this time she is expected to return after Aug. 14. We welcome Rev. Donna Krauss as our supply clergy.

Rev. Connie is now mic'd during worship services.

Thank you to **Bobby and Janice Greene** for sharing sunflowers from their extensive field as altar flowers. They gave the flowers for peace in Ukraine. The sunflower is Ukraine's national flower and



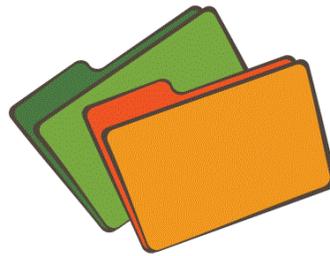
has become a symbol of resistance against the country's invasion by Russian forces. Thank you to **Joe Jernigan** for photographing the flowers but sadly the technology failed in transferring the photos to the *Advisor*.

Thank you to **Maria Allen**, who has volunteered to continue the birthday card ministry. If you wish to include a friend or family member or extended family member on the list, please contact Maria or Joe.



## Trinity Center Outreach Very Successful

Thanks to you our offering of hospitality supplies to Trinity Center in honor our 30th Parish Family Weekend was very successful.



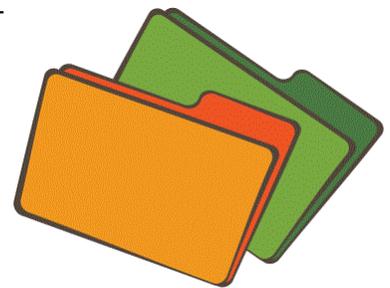
We collected 30 toothbrushes, 30 tubes of travel-sized toothpastes and 15 sets of shampoo and conditioner. With these 90

items, we offered back to Trinity triple the hospitality it has offered us!

### BTW....

By the way, if you missed your chance to participate in the Trinity Center collection or if you wish to extend your offering, you have another chance.

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) across the diocese will gather at Trinity on August for its Annual Gathering on August 17. The women are collecting office supplies from a list given to them by the staff at Trinity.



Here are some of the requests:

- ★ Reams of white paper, 8 ½ X 11.
- ★ Standard legal pads
- ★ Plain white business envelopes
- ★ Padded mailing envelopes, various sizes used to return Lost and Found items
- ★ Mailing labels
- ★ “Hello, My Name Is...” sticky nametags
- ★ 3x5 post-it notes, not 3x3

If you wish to donate any of these items, just drop them off in the wagon by Sunday, August 14 and Lucia and Kit will deliver them.

## Heavenly Envoys

If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore; and preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown! But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.



—Ralph Waldo Emerson





*I have been asked by Lucia (Vestry) and Connie to work with church members to restart our Pastoral Care Ministry. Attached is an article about this for inclusion in the August Advent Advisor. I will also ask Joe to include a weekly message in the church bulletin after the article appears in the August Advent Advisor. We plan to get started in September. Please change format as needed to allow this article to appear in the Advent Adviser.*

## Importance of Pastoral Care Ministry

The Episcopal Church has long recognized the importance of Pastoral Care to the health and wellbeing of the church. Early Holy Scripture references God as a shepherd of the people of Israel and Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In the Episcopal Church, the priest serves as pastor of each church congregation in the sense that the priest cares for the people, protects them, directs them and feeds them with spiritual food in the Holy Eucharist. The term “pastor” and the related work of pastoral ministry are deeply important for the Christian tradition of ordained ministry. The priest and the Pastoral Care Committee will share this work with other church members in providing Pastoral Care assistance under the guidance and instruction of the priest.

You might be asking yourself what do I have to offer Pastoral Care. If you think about it, you have much to offer. In Galatians 5:22-23, the Apostle Paul lists nine traits given to us by the Holy Spirit. These include love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. As Christians, we seek knowledge and understanding from the Holy Spirit. We are all blessed through God’s love and grace. In return, we share His love with our fellow church members and others.

The Pastoral Care Ministry serves an important role in the life of the church. here are many ways to serve in Pastoral Care such as offering prayers, sending cards, phone calls, visits and providing assistance to those in need. Additional Pastoral Care may include hospital visitation, counseling, ministries of shared presence, listening and support. Pastoral Care Committee

members will receive training and guidance from the priest in accordance before performing such duties. Pastoral Care members work together with the priest and other church groups such as the Vestry, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministry, Altar Guild, Outreach, Fellowship and Church Music Ministry in performing Pastoral Care in the church.

In September, the Pastoral Care members will begin this journey of Pastoral Care Ministry with our priest, Connie. I ask that you consider Pastoral Care ministry in your thoughts and prayers and consider joining us in September. In John 13:34 NKJV, Jesus says to His followers, **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”**

Blessings,  
*Jim Allen*

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## Summer — Time to Stand and Stare

*What is this life if, full of care,*

*We have no time to stand and stare.*

*No time to stand beneath the boughs*

*And stare as long as sheep or cows.*

*No time to see, when woods we pass,*

*Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.*

*No time to see, in broad daylight,*

*Streams full of stars, like skies at night.*

*No time to turn at Beauty’s glance,*

*And watch her feet, how they can dance.*

*No time to wait till her mouth can*

*Enrich that smile her eyes began.*

*A poor life this if, full of care,*

*We have no time to stand and stare.*

—“Leisure,” W.H. Davies



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  
Nita Smith  
Eddie Rogerson  
Buzzy Miller Ray Roskopf  
John Curley Sandy Campbell  
Robert & Ann Wallace  
Jim Allen Bill Karas  
Winfield Crews John Taylor  
Connie Connelly*

**Birthdays**

*4 ~ Christopher Bosso  
8 ~ Kismet Matthews  
9 ~ Betty Jones  
10 ~ Cathy Cohen  
12 ~ Jess Miller  
15 ~ Collins Crowe  
15 ~ John Roney  
20 ~ Caleb Fay  
23 ~ Jane Allen  
26 ~ Janice Greene  
26 ~ Tom Slade*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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  
Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon  
Sept. 4 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am  
Sept. 11 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am  
Luncheon 12:00 noon  
Sept. 14 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm  
Sept. 18 Morning Prayer 11:00 am  
Sept. 25 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am  
Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon

**Note:** Due to Connie having surgery on Aug 2 and her recovery afterwards, the Aug 21 through Sept 4 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.***

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# ***Church of the Advent***

## ***August 2022***

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### ***Lay Schedule***

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	<b>7</b> <i>9 Pentecost</i> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>14</b> <i>10 Pentecost</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>21</b> <i>11 Pentecost</i> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>28</b> <i>12 Pentecost</i> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>
<b><i>Service Leader</i></b>	Jane Jernigan	Rev. Donna Kraus	Kit Reddick	Bill Webb
<b><i>Lector</i></b>	Michael Biondi	Cathy Skinner	Chuck Cohen	Ginny Webb
<b><i>Intercessor</i></b>		Lucia Peel		
<b><i>Eucharistic Minister</i></b>		John Price		
<b><i>Acolyte</i></b>		Exum Taylor		
<b><i>Altar Guild</i></b>	Doug Chesson Christine Chesson			
<b><i>Ushers</i></b>	Doug Chesson Christine Chesson			