

The **Prayer List** is found in a notebook marked "Prayer Lists" on the table in the narthex of the church. Names may be added at any time by writing them in the notebook, calling the church office.

Prayer List

Keathley Malone

Beverly Mills

Ed Harrington

Kathleen Johnson

James Ford

Verner Godwin

Deborah Willoughby

Abby Cameron

Randy Scott & family

Julia Carr

Mac Allen

Pepper Etheridge

Tommy Wellington

James Swain

Trey Weldon

Norman James

Mary Baker

Hal Ocamb

Katherine Burdick

Bev Manning

Birthdays in December

9, Kit Reddick, Jim Allen

10, Lucia Peel

12, Robert Bonner

17, Anna Chesson

29, Chelsea Biondi

30, Ann Raiford

For Those Departed

Rudy Whitley

Evelyn Mary Louise Jones

Jan Ocamb



The Church of the Advent  
 The Rev'd. J. Robert Spainhour  
 Priest in Charge  
 Ms. Kit Reddick, senior warden  
 Mr. Don Beach, junior warden  
 Mr. Stephen Batten, parish administrator

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Salter Path, NC 28575

Telephone 888.874.6287

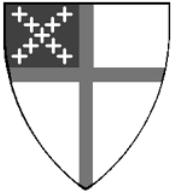
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## CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

### ADVENT ADVISOR

DECEMBER 2014



ADVENT/CHRISTMASTIDE EDITION

## December begins as the old is remade new in the holy season of Advent

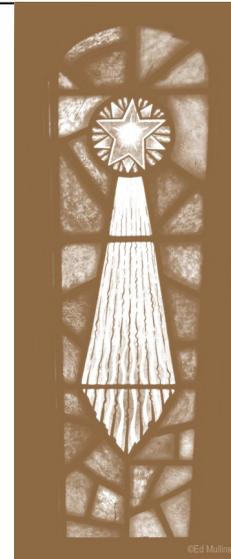
If you take a little time to look around our Church and Parish Hall these days you can see many things that have been made new recently. Our parlor has been redecorated. The door connecting the parlor and Rector's Study has been removed with the wall sealed. The front office has been repainted. The walkway ceiling between Parish House and Sacristy has been restored and the leak over the Credence Table has been repaired.

This holy season of Advent reminds us, however, to look even deeper at the entire world around us, the world of love, family and the peace for which the world continues to hunger, year after year. As we approach the miracle of the Incarnation at the feast of Christmas, we are reminded in scripture and song of how God forever changed the world through the miracle of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Set high in the walls of the Church, there is a stained glass star at both the altar and west ends of the church. Both windows are the Advent star. This parish was named for the season of Advent. It seems right and fitting that these stars (the one pictured here is above The Four Evangelists' Window) are before us as we approach the altar and then again before us as we leave the church after services.

These stars remind us how God is constantly making all things new in the world around us through God's love of us as God's own children, sent into the world to bring love and peace through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, not only in the season of the Advent or Christmas or Lent or Eastertide but always.

A blessed and holy Advent to all.



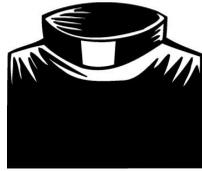
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## Father Rob's Reflections

Dear Church of the Advent Family,



A Blessed Advent to you all! Can you believe we have arrived at “our” season already? Life gets so much busier at this point. With all the holiday hub bub, in the church we also add annual meeting and vestry selections. It is on this note that I want to concentrate in this article.

Since we operate under the canons of the Diocese of East Carolina, when it comes to referring to our source for how we lead and elect persons, we appeal back to our Diocesan canons. As such these “laws” allow us to have a vestry of 12 persons or less. Canon 4, Section 2 reads: “A Vestry shall have not fewer than three (3) or more than twelve (12) members, confirmed adult communicants in good standing of the Episcopal Church as defined in Article XIV of the Constitution of this Diocese”.

Church of the Advent has had 12 vestry persons for many years. And this has worked very well in the past for us. But with the changing population trends of our area and even the parish, it does behoove us to look at many things as we continue to grow, always asking how can we be the most effective in our ministry today in the society and culture that we live.

As we look at the turnover rate for vestry, one person taking a year off and then frequently coming back onto vestry, it struck me that in a parish that is small to moderate in size, perhaps we are taxing our leadership too severely. In fact, after some discussion over that last year with several members of the parish, the idea of a nine person vestry seemed a kind and wise pastoral and leadership move on the

part of the parish. We would still have wide parish representation. We would continue to rotate off in three year increments, but the hardship that has been posed in the past trying to fill 12 slots each year would be eliminated.

With this in mind, I am glad to speak to anyone with ideas or thoughts in this regard. What sounds like a “no brainer” to one, may in fact be bone of contention to another. I would like you to share any thoughts you may have, for I am interested in having this come up at our **Annual meeting on December 7th, directly after church.**

The Canons do not specify two meetings for a parish change and since our Bylaws are righty those of our Diocese, we can approve this change in one meeting. If approved for a change to a nine person vestry, the current vestry would voluntarily resign, be placed back up for election and resume their position, with congregational approval, and then we would elect new members, all serving rotating 3 year terms. This would be explained in detail at the meeting, but would in fact move us from 12 persons to nine in that meeting. Again, let me know what you think. Many have chimed in on this and feel that given our membership, the community and the stress filling 12 seats has become, that this represents a kinder and gentler number for our Parish.

Faithfully and respectfully submitted,

Father Rob+

### December 7th Vestry Election

12 person Vestry Election:

Needed: 5 persons

4 persons for a 3 year term

1 person for a 2 year term (filling Jodi Beauregard's unexpired term)

*Continued on page 3*



Congratulations are in order to **Mr. and Mrs. Will and Rachel Chesson** on their marriage on November 29 in New Orleans, Louisiana. An entire contingent of the Church of the Advent was in attendance including the parents and sisters of the groom, **Al, Margaret, Sara and Anna**. Also in attendance: **Bill and Ginny Webb and family; Doug & Christine Chesson and family; and Jim and Lucy Horton**.

**Church of the Advent** was well represented in the recent Martin Community Players production of *Twelve Angry Jurors*. **Bill Webb and Valerie Myers Cooke** set the stage alight according to local drama critics.

The **Martin County Ministerial Association** will hold a series of interdenominational Advent prayer services at noon on the first three **Wednesdays of December at Memorial Baptist Church (December 3, 10 and 17)**. Following each service, led by different local clergy each week, area churches will serve a simple soup and sandwich lunch.

The **Executive Council of the Diocese of East Carolina** is scheduled to meet for the first time under our new bishop at **The Church of the Advent on December 4 beginning at 9:30 a.m.** Executive Council is a body of clergy and laity from throughout the diocese that governs the diocese in between our annual conventions. Our Fellowship Commission chair **Lucia Peel** has put together a menu of juice, coffee and pastries for the morning and plans to serve lunch to the assembled group at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Kit Reddick** has once again put her gathering skills to the fore and has assembled gift bags for our visitors.

Williamston United Methodist Church will hold its annual Moravian Love Feast on Sunday, December 7 beginning at **7:30 p.m.** **Kit Reddick** once again joins the Methodist choir to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.



We will once again decorate the sanctuary (the space around the altar) of the church with memorial poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service.

If you would like to place a poinsettia around the altar in memory of someone, please contact Beverly Mills at 252.792.2038 by December 17 to list your loved one's name in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

Plan to have your poinsettia here at the church **no later than noon Sunday, December 21**.

Poinsettias should be wrapped in red or dark green floral foil and have the name of the donor affixed so that people can pick up their poinsettias on **Sunday, December 28 after church**.



### Enclosed please find ...

In the envelope with this month's *Advent Advisor* you will find a refrigerator magnet with a picture of the church, our heraldry, street and web address and phone number.

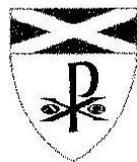
Thanks to **Don Beach and all members of the Pastoral Care/New Member Commission** for bringing this idea to the Vestry.

After the Vestry endorsed the idea, Kit Reddick made contact with HTM Enterprises, a Martin County business promotions company.

The photograph on the magnet is one taken by The Rev'd. Ed Mullins, a retired priest and talented photographer on the N.C. Outer Banks.

These magnets will form part of a newcomer's welcome package for visitors to our parish.

If you would like a few more to give some to friends, call the parish office at 252.792.2244.



### In memoriam



Vernon R. Whitley, known to us as Rudy, died peacefully at home on the morning of Friday, November 14 in Louisville, Kentucky surrounded by his loving family.

A graduate of Wake Forest University, Rudy had an abiding love for the life of the mind and was an active member of this parish for thirty years serving at Advent as a Sunday School teacher, singing in the choir, organizing many CROP Walks, and as a member of the Vestry.

Many of us here can remember with fondness his eagerness to debate politics, always on the side of the poor, the disadvantaged, and the voiceless.

Rudy had been awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his service in the U.S. Army in Viet Nam. This service led to his worldview as a peacemaker.

He helped to integrate the Williamston Rescue Squad and the Williamston Public Library.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Katerina Katsarka of Thessaloniki, Greece and Louisville; his children Niki Whitley and Ken Craig of Boone, NC, and Maria Whitley and Gregg Rochman of Louisville; and his beloved grandchildren, Alexandra Craig of Durham NC, Luke Craig of Nashville, Tennessee, and Jeremy and Miles Rochman of Louisville; and a beloved aunt, Sybil Pearson of Greenville, SC.

If you wish to make a memorial in Rudy's honor, the family has requested donations to Episcopal Relief and Development, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

### 9 person Vestry Election:

Needed: 3 persons for a 3 year term\*\*

\*\*We would ask the current Vestry to step down temporarily and be reelected at the pleasure of the congregation---class of 2015 (Stephen, Don, Kit and Alison to serve a 1 year term—one would step down as they choose), the class of 2016 (Joe, Lowell, and Bill to serve a 2 year term, eliminating Jodi's term) and elect three new persons for three year terms. This process makes the new Vestry and rotation possible and continues the old class structure and terms.

Much love and thanks go to our class of 2014, Mary Charles, Joey, Kim, and Tom for their wonderful and committed service!



Cass Park Church's carolers were always ready to make necessary adjustments.

## Gift Collection



have been posted in the

## December Outreach; Helping a Family Celebrate Christmas

As we prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christmas, we are asking parishioners to help a family in our community do the same.

We will be providing Christmas presents for our Thanksgiving family – grandparents and six grandchildren. Over thirty requests with very specific instructions have been posted in the narthex.

With so many gifts to buy, we really need lots of volunteer gift givers. The deadline for presents is Thursday, December 18. Delivery is scheduled for the morning of Friday, December 19 before the children get out of school at noon. We also need donations of oversize paper tote bags with handles to transport the presents. We are collecting only presents, not food.

If you have questions, please contact Kit Reddick at 252.792.1158 or Sue House at 252.814.7075.



## Bishop Skirving to visit Advent on December 21



Please plan to attend the Christian Formation Hour (10 a.m.) and Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. on Sunday, December 21, when our newly consecrated bishop, The Right Reverend Rob Skirving will come for his first official visitation of The Church of the Advent.

Before being called to be the eighth Bishop of East Carolina, Bishop Skirving served as the rector of Saint John's Episcopal Church in Midland, Michigan. Our last visit from our bishop was in January 2013 when Bishop Daniels visited the parish.

After the service on the 21st, lunch will be served in the Parish Hall. Details about the meal and what you can do to help our Fellowship Commission will follow at a later time.

Come and welcome our new bishop and join in the fellowship this last Sunday before Christmas.

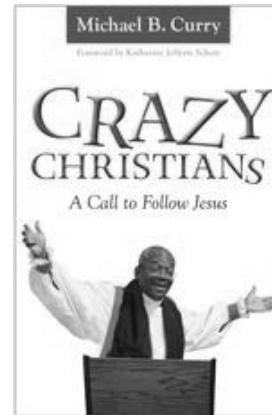
Loose offering on this Sunday will be donated to the Bishop's discretionary fund.

## Crazy Christians: An Advent Teaching Series

Father Rob begins a special teaching series for Advent this Wednesday, immediately after Holy Eucharist. Soup and bread will be provided for a simple meal.

The series is based on the book *Crazy Christians* by The Right Rev'd. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina. At the General Con-

vention of The Episcopal Church in 2012, Bishop Curry preached a sermon that touched on themes of redemption and a call to life in Christ, living as Christ would live today:



*"We need some Christians who are as crazy as the Lord. Crazy enough to love like Jesus, to give like Jesus, to forgive like Jesus, to do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God—like Jesus. Crazy enough to dare to change the world from the nightmare it often is into something close to the dream that God dreams for it.*

*And for those who would follow him, those who would be his disciples, those who would live as and be the people of the Way? It might come as a shock, but they are called to craziness."* from the sermon delivered by Bishop Curry.

You don't have to have read the book or seen the sermon (though it is on YouTube); the parish office will order copies of the book at your request.

This series will continue on Wednesday, December 10 and end on Wednesday, December 17. Plans are for a simple meal of soup and bread (provided). The evening will end no later than 7:30 p.m. If you're interested in attending, just call the Parish Office (252.292.2244) so we will know how much soup to make.

Take one evening a week to come to Holy Eucharist and share in fellowship of table and spirit during these busy holiday weeks.



## ANNUAL MEETING

**Our Annual Parish Meeting is on Sunday, December 7** and will be held during our 11 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist in the Church.

**We will be deciding on reducing the number of persons serving on our Vestry from twelve to nine.** Father Rob's Reflections in this month's edition of *Adviser* (see page 2) outlines the Vestry's rationale behind this issue. The matter of changing our Vestry structure requires a vote from the parish assembled for this meeting.

Should we vote to reduce the size of the Vestry, we will proceed with nominations for three classes: three persons to serve one year; three to serve two years and three to serve three years.

Also at annual meeting, we elect our delegation to the diocesan convention February 5-7, 2014 in New Bern. We are entitled under diocesan canon to three lay delegates. We also seek to elect an alternate should one of our delegates be unable to attend the convention.

Please plan to attend this important event in the life of our parish. Your vote matters. All adult (over 16) baptized communicants are entitled to vote in the parish meeting. If you plan on nominating someone to serve on the Vestry or as a convention delegate, please secure their consent before placing their name in nomination.

## YOU ARE INVITED TO AN ADVENT QUIET DAY ... a day away to prepare for the season of Christmas

### "PEACE AMIDST THE HUSTLE"

**Leader: The Rev. Rob Spainhour, Priest in Charge,  
Church of the Advent, Williamston**

**WHEN: Saturday, December 6th**

- Day begins at 9:30 a.m. (registration/coffee/snack),
- Reflection begins at 10:00 am.,
- and closes at 2:30 p.m. after Eucharist.

**WHERE: Zion Episcopal Church  
Hwy 264E (approx. 1 mile east of BCCC)  
Snacks/Soup Lunch provided**

**Dress casually**

**Sponsored by the Sue DuVal Chapter of the Daughters of the King.  
For more information, please contact Carolyn Lewis – 946-1673.**