



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

December 2022

Christmas is Compassion and Faith

I bet most of us are ready for Christmas, not necessarily ready with preparations but oh so ready for the joy we'll celebrate, exuberantly or simply. The busyness of the weeks leading up to Christmas may not be to our liking as exhaustion mounts. Most of us probably buy into the message that the most wondrous time of the year depends on our scurrying about to make ready. Some of us may actually enjoy all the planning and doing, merrily operating in high gear. Others not so much.

We'll mark Christmas's arrival at the Church of the Advent as we customarily do with a service that begins at 10:30 p. m. on Christmas Eve. Children and some adults may be snug in their beds, but many parishioners and perhaps some of our neighbors will gather to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord with a traditional festival Eucharist. Persons who have completed many of their errands of love and acts of kindness finally can be still and bask in the wonder of the holiest of nights.

Christmas will come, after the four long weeks of Advent leading up to it. Advent, the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, is a time of preparing for the birth of a savior, to be born again in us, and anticipation of his Second Coming to restore God's good creation. The vision of Advent is one of promise and hope for a better world. The reality is that each of us needs to honestly take stock of those things that we ought to have done and ought not to have done before we dare take on the pain of the world and participate in God's work of restoration. Belief that the redemptive power of God's



love was incarnate in Jesus is theological. God knows the world needs a savior. Faith in Jesus Christ as the hope of the world is merciful when we know our own need for a savior to set things right. Theologian Walter Brueggemann points out that in Advent we lean forward in hope. We get glimpses of what is "not yet," and that is the function of the promise of a future world redeemed by the saving work of God in Jesus Christ.

Verna Dozier in her book *The Dream of God, A Call to Return* calls the faithful to action. She references Second Isaiah who envisioned a saving people, "a people who would live out before the world a new possibility for human life. The light of that community would change the world and bring the world nearer to God's dream." She states, "The driving force for Jesus, the source from which all his actions came, was compassion. What he wanted was to awaken the same compassion and faith in the people around him, and enable them to receive and exercise God's power." That's where we come in.

Ministry is serving the world God loves. Pastoral care is the heart of ministry. As we more deeply care about others, we may more earnestly care for them. Care is a primary facet of love that constitutes the beloved community. The newly formed Pastoral Ministry Team led by Jim Allen hopes to bear the concern and care of the parish to fellow parishioners in ways that draw us all into more authentic relationships and enhance our life together. Critical to that is providing opportunities to listen to persons who need to be heard. That means creating trust. If you feel an inkling that you may be called to participate or you'd welcome a pastoral visit, please call Jim or me to learn more or be open to a visit from a member of the team who may contact you. Sometimes it is appropriate to offer care and other times to accept another's caring as the gift it is.

Christ has come. Christ will come again. Christmas need not be a season we eagerly await year after year. Christmas lives on in the compassionate hearts and activities of individuals who know that they belong to a beloved community where the spirit of love abounds.

Connie



It is customary in the Episcopal Church to have greenery and Christmas poinsettias decorating the church as we celebrate this special holy season.



Decorating the Church for Christmas

To do so, the Altar Guild is asking parishioners to make a donation in memory or honor of loved ones. We are suggesting a \$10.00 donation per

honoree; however, a contribution of any amount is welcome. Make checks payable to Church of the Advent and put "poinsettias" in the memo line.

Do not put checks in the offering plate.

Honorees will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Joe with the honoree's name(s).

Monies collected are used to purchase greenery for the church. Plans are to order 30 poinsettias.

After the Christmas Eve service, poinsettias will be available for parishioners to take home on a first-come, first serve basis.



Annual Meeting

Canon, or church law, states that once a year — as soon as possible after the first Sunday in Advent — the parish conducts a parish-wide meeting.

This year the meeting will be on Sunday, December 11 following the morning service.

The 2023 budget, along with a report on Stewardship Sunday, will be presented.

An election will be held for three vestry members for three year terms.

The vestry meets monthly as well as for called meetings.

An election will also be held for delegates to the diocesan convention. The 140th Annual Convention will be held at the Greenville Convention Center Friday, February 10 - Saturday, February 11, 2023.



Christmas Eve

Service begins at 10:30 p. m. with carol singing and instrumental music.

The liturgy of Holy Eucharist begins at 11:00 p. m.



LESSONS AND Carols

On the last Sunday in Advent, the choir will lead the congregation in A Service of Lessons and Carols.

Based on the medieval vigil service, this service was first instituted at Truro Cathedral in England.

The service consists of a procession, bidding prayer with the Lord's Prayer, Invitatory Hymn, nine lessons followed by appropriate carols and hymns, closing prayer, benediction, and hymn.

The service begins with the traditional opening hymn "Once in Royal David's City," calling the congregation to the story of the salvation as a story teller might with "Once upon a time..."

The lessons then go on to retell the story of the salvation with the musical selections emphasizing the previous readings.

The music includes congregation hymns, choir anthems, and instrumental music.

When the sun sets on Wednesday, December 21, the longest night will begin — the winter solstice.



Service for the Longest Night

As we near Christmas with all of its energy promoting joy and happiness and family warmth, some of us may think instead of those no longer with us. Or some of us may be thinking of separation from family due

to distance or finances or work situations. Or some of us may be thinking of other losses.

This service recognizes that Christmas does bring some sadness in the midst of all the lights, decorations, and music.

Worshippers will be given votive candles to receive the light of the Christ candle.

Bobby Green will offer the singing of "Silent Night" on his ukulele. Bandon Woody will provide quiet meditative organ music.

Come join us as we take time from our busy preparations to be quiet and feel the presence of Christ.

Come join us as we seek comfort knowing that Christ is the true light leading us out of the darkness.

After the service which also includes Holy Eucharist, hot cider and cookies will be served in the church.



Women ...

Check your mailbox for an invitation for Christmas Fellowship on Sunday, December 18 from 4 to 7. Contact Lucia Peel if you think yours was lost in the holiday mail.

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
Lucia Powe
Joanie Davis*

Birthdays

*9 ~ Jim Allen
9 ~ Kit Reddick
10 ~ Lucia Peel
12 ~ Jeannie Sessoms
12 ~ Robert Bonner
17 ~ Anna Chesson
25 ~ Ann Wallace
29 ~ Chelsea Biondi
30 ~ Ann Raiford*



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

Lucia Peel, Senior Warden

Doug Chesson, 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, Lucia, Joe, Doug.**

*****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.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dec. 4 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
Dec. 11 Holy Eucharist/Annual Meeting 11:00 am
Dec. 18 Holy Eucharist/Lessons & Carols 11:00 am
Dec. 21 Longest Night Service 6:00 pm
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service 10:30 pm
Dec. 25 Christmas Day/Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

Jan. 1 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
Jan. 8 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
Jan. 11 Evening Service 6:00 pm
Jan. 15 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
Jan. 22 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
Jan. 29 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

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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Lay Schedule

	4 <i>2 Advent</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>	11 <i>3 Advent</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>	18 <i>4 Advent</i> <i>Lessons</i> <i>& Carols</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>	24 <i>Christmas</i> <i>Eve</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>10:30 P.M.</i>	25 <i>Christmas</i> <i>Day</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i>
MP Leader					
Lector	Cathy Skinner	Michael Biondi	TBA	Jane Jernigan	Jane Jernigan
Intercessor	Kit Reddick	Lucia Peel	Cathy Cohen	Jane Jernigan	Lucia Peel
Eucharistic Minister	Chloe Tuttle	Doug Chesson	Don Beach	Chloe Tuttle Don Beach	Don Beach
Acolyte			Exum Taylor	Exum Taylor	
Altar Guild	Lori Taylor John Price				
Ushers	Jim Allen Maria Allen				