



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

February 2023

The Voice of Fasting

There is no evidence that early Christians fasted for forty days; however, there is some that they fasted for forty hours between Good Friday and Easter. As the initial glow of the movement paled, Christians became lax even about observing the paschal cycle of Holy Week that celebrates the dying and rising again of Jesus Christ. So a renewal was in order to remind the faithful of what discipleship really is. The church instituted a season of Lent, from the old English word *Lenten*, meaning “spring,” a word that referred to the season and inferred a springtime for the soul. Reminiscent of Jesus being led by the Spirit in the wilderness where for forty days he was tempted by the devil, for forty days Christians observing a holy Lent



Thoughts
ON LENT

would deny themselves of all the props humans use to pacify themselves rather than live by the grace of God alone.

Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest whose wisdom and wit impress me, has written a provocative piece about Lenten Discipline in her book of essays entitled *Home By Another Way*. This particular entry is a dive into the depths of devotion that can be brought about by denying temptations and illusions. While challenging, its hopeful message is that we are not stuck with anxious yearnings and compulsions. Time-honored Lenten discipline can help us to let go of them, give ourselves over to God and become who and whose we are meant to be. Below is an excerpt.

The simplest definition of an addiction is anything we use to fill the empty place inside of us that belongs to God alone.

That hollowness we sometimes feel is not a sign of something gone wrong. It is the holy of holies inside of us, the uncluttered throne room of the Lord our God. Nothing on earth can fill it, but that does not stop us from trying. Whenever we start feeling too empty inside, we stick our pacifiers into our mouths and suck for

all we are worth. They do not nourish us, but at least they plug the hole.

To enter the wilderness is to leave them behind, and nothing is too small to give up. Even a chocolate bar will do. For forty days, simply pay attention to how often your mind travels in that direction. Ask yourself why it happens when it happens. What is going on when you start craving a Mars bar? Are you hungry? Well, what is wrong with being hungry? Are you lonely? What is so bad about being alone? Try sitting with the feeling instead of fixing it and see what you find out.

Chances are you will hear a voice in your head that keeps warning you what will happen if you give up your pacifier. “You’ll stare. You’ll go nuts. You won’t be you anymore.” If that does not work, the voice will move to level two: “That’s not a pacifier. That’s a power tool. Can’t you tell the difference?” If you do not fall for that one, there is always level three: “If God really loves you, you can do whatever you want. Why waste your time on this dumb exercise?”

If you do not know whom that voice belongs to, read Luke’s story again. (Luke 4:1-13 - *Jesus full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.*) Then tell the devil to get lost and decide what you will do for Lent. Better yet, decide whose you will be. Worship the Lord your God and serve no one else. Expect great things, from God and from yourself. Believe that everything is possible. Why should any of us settle for less?

Connie



Ash Wednesday Service

Lent begins on February 22 with the traditional Service of Imposition of Ashes followed by Holy Eucharist.

The service begins at 6:00 p. m.

During the service, worshippers will be invited to come forward for the Reverend Connie Connelly to use ashes to impose, or mark, the sign of the cross on their foreheads.



The use of ashes this way reminds the worshippers of their mortality and their penitence.

In practice since the ninth century, imposition of ashes recalls those times when people who repented of their sins would scatter themselves with ashes and dress in sackcloth.

It was customary in the very early Roman Catholic Church to use ashes from burning the palms blessed on Palm Sunday of the previous year.

To emphasize the austerity of the day and the coming of Lent, the altar will be bare in appearance with only a minimal of ecclesiastical appointments in use.

New Year, New Leaders

Senior Warden Doug Chesson

Junior Warden

Clerk Kit Reddick

Treasurer Lowell Taylor

Pledge Recorder and Assistant Treasurer Bill Webb

The positions of Senior Warden and Clerk must be vestry members.

As the result of the failure to fill the position of Junior Warden from vestry members, the vestry revised its by-laws to read that Junior Warden could be a non vestry parishioner if the position could no be filled from the vestry.



OUR NEW LAY LEADERSHIP

The vestry meets on the first Sunday of the month following the morning service.

The 140th Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina takes place February 10 and 11 In Greenville. Representing Church of the Advent as lay delegates are Lucia Peel and Bill Webb, sitting with the Rev. Connie Connelly.



Workshops, opening worship, ministry exhibits, and legislative meeting are open to all in the diocese who would like to join.

The diocese will livestream the opening worship and the Bishop's address, and after Convention there will be a recap all the highlights.



Thank you to all who gave so generously to *Blessings in a Backpack Twelfth Night fundraiser*. You helped us make over our goal.

Copies of the *new Parish Directory* are available in the

church narthex. Thank you, Parish Administrator Joe Jernigan, for his work in producing the directory.

The *2023 Parish Weekend* will now be June 23 - 25. Hopefully, this will make for more pleasant temperatures.

The *organ* is back together and is being played but there are still some minor adjustments needed.

A Word About the "New" Brass

I am pleased to announce that all of the altar brass is now lacquered. This means NO MORE POLISHING. It should last 5-8 years if we are vigilant about wearing gloves each time the pieces are handled. This includes the Eucharist Ministers and acolytes who handle the large alms basin. Gloves will be provided in the sacristy. Thank you to John Price who organized this project and to Johnny Miller for the gloves.

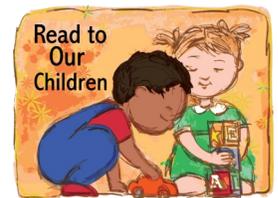


Lori Taylor
Altar Guild

A Volunteer Opportunity

The Williamston Rotary Club has purchased a personalized book *I Like Me* for every Martin County kindergarten student.

The Rotary Club will present the books to the students on Tuesday, February 28 at the Martin County Schools Innovation Campus.



Volunteers are needed to present and read the books to the children. It is hoped that enough volunteers will be available for a one to one reading.

The following are the time slots:

8:15 to 9:15

9:30 to 10:30

10:45 to 11:45

12:00 to 1:00

1:15 to 2:15

Volunteers can sign up for the full day, half-day, or just one hour.

Volunteers can email Chase Connor at cnccchase@gmail.com or text or call 252-217-9230.

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
John Cowan
Patti Malone

Jessie Critcher Cathy Buchannan
Lynanne Taylor

Joanie Davis Rose Allard
Kemp & Amanda Allen
Michelle Berisford

Fay Wathers Patrick Cohen
The families of Lori Thigpen & Jeannette Wood,
Sonona Jefferson and family
Lucia Peel and family

Birthdays

3 ~ Christine Chesson
4 ~ Garrett Godard
8 ~ Margaret Covington
16 ~ John Price
23 ~ Paul Sessoms
23 ~ Carroll Stanley
27 ~ Rex 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

Doug Chesson, Senior Warden
TBD, 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.
*****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

- Feb. 5 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon
- Feb. 8 Evening Eucharist 6:00 pm
- Feb. 12 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
- Feb. 19 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm
- Feb. 26 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

- Mar. 5 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon
- Mar. 8 Evening Service 6:00 pm
- Mar. 12 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Mar. 19 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Mar. 26 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

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

February 2023

Lay Schedule

	5 <i>5 Epiphany</i> HE II 11:00 A.M.	12 <i>6 Epiphany</i> MP II 11:00 A.M.	19 <i>Last Epiphany</i> HE II 11:00 A.M.	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> HE II 6:00 P.M.	26 <i>1 Lent</i> HE II <i>Great Litany</i> 11:00 A.M.
<i>MP Leader</i>		Bill Webb			
<i>Lector</i>	John Price	Ginny Webb	Valerie Cooke	Brandon Woody	Chuck Cohen
<i>Intercessor</i>	Kit Reddick		Cathy Cohen	N/A	N/A
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	John Price		Chloe Tuttle	John Price	Chloe Tuttle
<i>Acolyte</i>				Exum Taylor	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Bob Greene Janice Greene				
<i>Ushers</i>	Bob Greene Janice Greene				