

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 or by calling the church office.

Prayer List

- Beverly Mills  
 Kathleen Johnson  
 James Ford  
 Verner Godwin  
 Deborah Willoughby  
 Abby Cameron  
 Mac Allen  
 Pepper Etheridge  
 Tommy Wellington  
 James Swain  
 Trey Weldon  
 Norman James  
 Mary Baker  
 Hal Ocamb  
 Katherine Burdick  
 David Stocks  
 Alton Hopewell

Birthdays in January

- 6, Lowell Taylor  
 12, Adison Bosso  
 13, Will Michel  
 15, Joey Godard  
 18, Maria Allen  
 19, Carrie Mills  
 22, Don Mills, junior; Maryanne Crowe  
 23, Jennifer Bucher  
 25, Sara Chesson

Birthdays in February

- 3, Christine Chesson  
 4, Mike Stancill; Garret Godard  
 23, Paul Sessoms  
 27, Rex Raiford

For Those Departed

Keathley Land Malone  
 Henry Edward Harrington, junior



**The Church of the Advent**

**The Rev'd. J. Robert Spainhour**  
 Priest in Charge

**Mr. William O. Webb, senior warden**  
**Mr. Joseph E. Jernigan, junior warden**  
**Mr. Stephen Batten, parish administrator**

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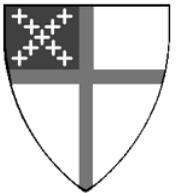
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**CHURCH OF THE ADVENT**

**ADVENT ADVISOR**

**JANUARY 2015**



YEAR IN REVIEW/EPIPHANY EDITION

**Something Different**

First, allow me to thank you all for your patience as this edition of *Advent Advisor* was delayed in its production and distribution to you.

As January is drawing to a close, I have included in this edition the calendars not only for January but also the February calendars. If you missed someone's birthday in January, its never too late to wish them happiness in their new year of life!

I have also included the February calendars because your next edition of *Advisor* will be produced after I return from Diocesan Convention in New Bern and mailed during the last week of Epiphanytide in time for Ash Wednesday.

The February *Advent Advisor* will focus on Lent and the Lenten programming that Father Rob is currently studying and evaluating. By distributing the calendars with this edition, we'll have more room to bring you news about the special offerings here at The Church of the Advent during Lent 2015.

Also, you'll get the latest news from Diocesan Convention and a copy of Bishop's Skirving's first convention address to the diocese.

It's a different approach to the beginning of our calendar year and I hope that you find value in it.

It is with gratitude and joy that I am able to now tell you that I have been admitted as a postulant for priestly Holy Orders in our diocese by Bishop Skirving and am in the process of beginning to look at seminaries. Thank you to everyone, EVERYONE, in this parish for helping me along this path, encouraging me to continue seeking God's will for my life, and having faith when my own faith may have flagged or ebbed as I walked this journey with all of you.

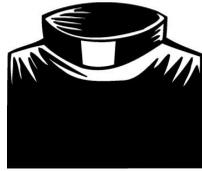
Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your kindness and well-wishes throughout the holiday season into this new year. I continue to tell everyone I know that working for this parish is the best job I have ever held.

Faithfully,  
 Stephen Batten

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## Father Rob's Reflections

*"Resolved that . . ."*



Happy New Year and wishing you a blessed Epiphany! As you know our Episcopal Church, based upon English tradition, has some very fancy ways of doing business as a community. We generally follow Robert's Rules of order, tend to be very polite even in disagreements (How very English of us) and we do a whole lot of "resolving" of one thing or another when we meet in General, Diocesan and even Annual meetings.

We may pass resolutions whereby a person of great importance to our Episcopal family is officially recognized by vote of the body of delegates. We may resolve that all parishes in the Diocese "go green" as a way of stewarding God's precious resources. And we could resolve to recognize the faithful ministry of a Priest or lay person who has served at continuous convention for 70 years for instance, as I had happen in another Diocese. Yes, we are a resolving people. And this carries over into our personal lives as well.

It is New Year's and the thing to do at this point is to make a New Year's resolution. We may promise to lose weight. And by golly we are going to do it this time! We are going to quit smoking or jog/walk every day. We may wish to add a quiet time or bible study to our resolution list. We could ever resolve to be a kinder, gentler soul to our most irritating neighbors. All are good ideas and most resolutions are specific to our life's journey or specific needs at the time. This is a wonderful way to begin a secular New Year.

But I wonder, what resolution resulting from prayer might God be calling us to in 2015. Well, it may differ from one person to the next. And whatever it is for us, it is ok if it not inherently Benedictine or Dominican, if you will, in its demeanor. But I dare say, that whatever it is, God would likely tell us to pattern it according to Christian ideals. And on this, we have some clear guidelines. We may want to refer to the promises made at our baptism in the Baptismal Covenant on page 304 in the Book of Common Prayer. We may go back to a commitment that we all make based on scripture found in the Rite One Holy Eucharist on page 324 in the Book of Common Prayer. It is sometimes called the Summary of the Law. It's all about loving God first, and your neighbor as yourself. This is always a good template on which to pattern a resolution. And of course you could simply refer to the rule that all cultures have stumbled upon, by God's grace, because it works. It is to "treat others as you want to be treated". The Golden Rule is a top Christian method of proceeding.

As good Episcopalians we are rife with resolution possibilities at all gatherings of our folk. And as good Episcopalians looking to make new commitments to new patterns of living, may we resolve to pattern all that we do and are in the coming year based upon the three possibilities listed before. It's very English and very Episcopal!

In Christ's love,  
Father Rob+



## The Newly Remodeled Parlor: Old and New as One

The Episcopal Church Women of the Church of the Advent have finished their redesign of the Parlor incorporating old and new for a fresh and comfortable room. What's new? Several lamps that were given specifically for this redesign now grace occasional tables for more indirect lighting giving the room a warmer, cozier feel. There's a new sofa that practically invites you to sit down and be comfortable. Add cornices over the windows and larger plantation-style blinds and the room feels all new yet intimately familiar.

The doves hanging over the sofa were tiles in the original floor of this room which served as a preschool when the Parish House was new. Thanks to **Margaret Chesson, Ginny Webb, Lucia Peel, Mary Charles Coppage** and everyone who helped make the parlour new again.



## Closed for Convention

The parish office will be closed on Thursday, February 5 and Friday, February 6 as our delegates (which includes office staff) attend the all 132nd Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina in New Bern. Pray for our delegation: **Christine & Doug Chesson, Stephen Batten, & Father Rob** for not only safe travels but for wisdom and thoughtfulness as they represent our parish.

## In memoriam

We have bid farewell to two parishioners since the last Advent Advisor was published.



**Eloise Keathley Land Malone**, age 94, went peacefully to heaven on Saturday morning, December 6, 2014. A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend, she will be sorely missed by all whose lives she

touched in such a loving and caring manner. All who knew her took comfort and inspiration from her strong Christian faith.

After graduating from Rocky Mount High School, she worked at the Kress candy counter and later as a telephone company switchboard operator. She met the love of her life, Roy Clifton "Tim" Malone, also an ACL Railroad employee, who was a patient sharing the same hospital room with her cousin's friend, whom she went to visit. Keathley and Tim were married at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Rocky Mount on August 16, 1942. They lived in Wrightsville Beach, NC; Sumter, SC; and Gastonia, NC, before settling at Tim's homeplace in Bear Grass in 1948, where they both happily spent the rest of their lives.

Keathley and Tim were committed to nurturing their family in a devout Christian home filled with love, respect, laughter and music. She and Tim founded and built the Green Acres Family Campground which opened in June 1966. The campground operations and philosophy is still rooted in traditional family values. They diligently worked together until his

untimely death in February 1979, and she remained the driving force of the campground for the next 35 years.

Keathley, affectionately known as "Ma Lone," was a loving mother to her two daughters as they grew up and then to their families, which in her opinion was her most important job. She was dedicated to serving the Church of the Advent in Williamston, as a Sunday school teacher, and a member of the altar guild, vestry, and Episcopal Churchwomen. She is survived by her sister, Loyce Land Nelms of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, her daughters, Janice and husband, Bob Greene, of her home, and Patti and husband Frank Ganis of Fairfax, Virginia. She also has two loving grandsons, Will Greene, who lives with his wife Diana in Farmville, and Gabriel Ganis of Fairfax, Virginia. Other survivors include twenty one nieces and nephews and their families.

She was buried on December 9, 2014 in the Malone family graveyard in Bear Grass following a service of Burial of the Dead here at the Church she had known and loved for so many years.

**Henry Edward "Ed" Harrington, junior**, 70, died peacefully Saturday at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, following a long illness. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 25 here at the Church of the Advent with the Rev. J. Robert Spainhour officiating. Committal will follow in the church's columbarium. Harrington was born Feb. 26, 1944 to Alta Anna Critcher Harrington and Henry Edward "Herc" Harrington, Sr. Harrington graduated from Williamston High School and Wake Forest College. Attended Vanderbilt University, lived in California and upon his return to Williamston in 1996 became a parishioner here at Advent.

## ANNUAL MEETING

At this year's annual Parish Meeting on December 7, many important decisions were made and all vestry commissions gave their reports on their activities for the year preceding.

**The parish voted to reduce the number of serving vestry members from twelve to nine** on the recommendation of the retiring vestry. This meant that a new vestry of nine persons was elected. **Stephen Batten, Don Beach** and **Kit Reddick** were elected to serve a one year term that will expire at the end of 2015. **Joe Jernigan, Lowell Taylor** and **Bill Webb** were elected for a two-year term and **Al Chesson, Sue House** and **Grant Michel** were elected to serve until 2016.

It was thrilling to be in the Annual Meeting and hear the Wardens' and Priests' Reports. For a small parish, we remain an active community if Christian disciples engaged in the work that we have been given to do. The outgoing Senior Warden, Kit Reddick, and Junior Warden, Don Beach, were warmly thanked for their year of devoted service with a gift from Father Rob and rounds of applause from the assembled parish.

This year, all of the Vestry Commissions filed written reports outlining their activities in 2014.

**Buildings & Grounds** accomplished several projects that had been pending for the last few years. Leaks in the Church and the

repair of the plaster walls were significant achievements of this commission in the year ahead. Under the guidance of **Don Beach**, roof repairs were made, railings installed, the cloister ceiling repaired, and our outside lighting was improved and brightened.

**Outreach** continued to lead us in helping others outside the walls of our Church under the leadership of **Kit Reddick**. Projects in the last year included the night light drive for seniors, numerous Martin County Department of Social Services food pantry drives, a Thanksgiving meal for the an adopted family and then Christmas gifts to help that family celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Worship & Education** reported a successful Blessing of the Animals for St. Francis Day, attended by members of our local community at Barnes Plaza. And, once again, thanks to the efforts of Lori Taylor and Kim Michel, youth Sunday School joined Adult Forum this year in our hour of Christian Formation on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.

**Pastoral Care and New Member Ministry** continued to send birthday cards to members and friends of our parish and sent notes of encouragement to those suffering in mind, body, and/or spirit.

The Fellowship Commission as always helped mark the important events in our parish life through funeral lunches, receptions and parties. **Thank you Lucia for all you do!**

**Father Rob gave his report for the year** which tells us that we remain a strong and committed parish of The Episcopal Church. We are truly blessed to have such talent and commitment here at Advent.



## Church Commissions

Because we all have different talents, gifts, and interests, there are eight commissions here at The Church of the Advent, each with its own mission and focus in ministry. If you can't find your name under a commission heading, its because we don't know on which commission you might feel called to serve. If you are listed on a commission but want to serve on another, contact Father Rob or the commission chair listed below. **AND NOTE:** You may serve on more than one!

**Buildings and Grounds:** Joe Jernigan (chair), Don Beach, Rex Raiford, Joey Godard, Bob Greene, Don Mills, junior, Brian Swift, Michael Biondi, and Anthony McNeile.

**Fellowship:** Lucia Peel (chair) Sue House, Alison Swift, Kim Michel, Angie Godard, Margaret Chesson, Ellen Miller, Katie Mills, Lori Taylor, Ginny Webb, Core Baker, Maria Allen, John Price.

**Pastoral Care/New Member:** Don Beach (chair), Jim Allen, Eric French, Julia Biggs, Mary Bonner, Maryanne Crowe, Regina French, Janice Greene, Nita Smith, Chloe Tuttle.

**Outreach:** Kit Reddick (chair), Jane Jernigan, Sue House, Frankie Biggs, Lee-ann Courtney, Charlotte Critcher, Betty Peel, Ann Raiford, Billie Roney, Anne Slade, Wendy Stancill, Ann Wallace (Roye).

**Sustainability/Marketing:** Bill Webb

(chair), Lowell Taylor, Al Chesson, Tom Slade, Rex Raiford, John Roney, Robert Bonner, Johnny Miller, Henry Peel.

**Worship/Education:** Stephen Batten (chair), Grant Michel, Mary Charles Coppage, Alison Swift, Shannon Stanton, Lori Taylor, Kim Michel, Christine Chesson, Russell Johnson, Valerie Cooke, Jessie Critcher, Beverly Mills, Katherine Skinner, Jane Jernigan, Chris Stanton.

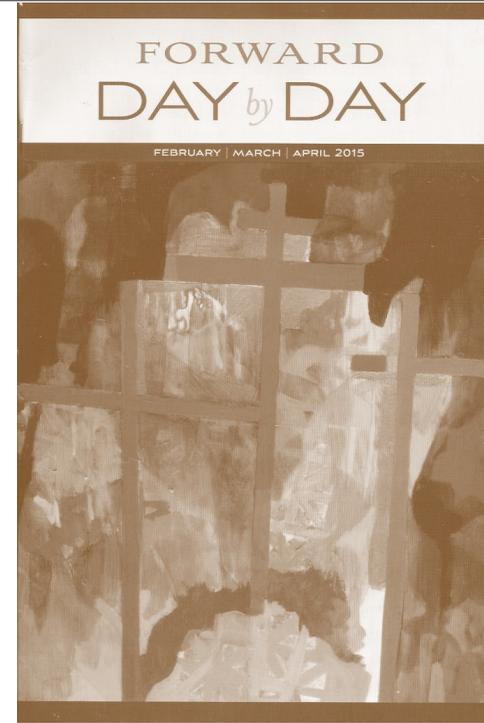
**Young Adults and Youth:** Jennifer Bucher, Jeff and Kristen Caldwell (when in town), Anna Chesson, Garron Chesson, Christopher Bosso, Adison Bosso, Chris Cooke, Dawson Taylor, Alison Swift..

**Nursery:** Kim Michel, Shannon Stanton, Sonona Jefferson, Lori Taylor, Katie Mills, Kirsten Caldwell (when in town).

## Gifts to the Parish

Thank you to **Mary Bonner** for the gift of a safe for the altar silver and canonical registers. Now our Altar Guild can set up for services without having to retrieve and tote the silver from the Rector's Study to the sacristy. **Don Beach** and **Joe Jernigan** installed the safe in the sacristy and improved the under counter lighting for the safe and the counter used by the Altar Guild.

Thank you to **Beverly Mills and Louisa Celebrezze** for a *In Remembrance Register* in which to list the various gifts given to the parish in memory and honor of loved ones.



## Forward Day by Day

The February through April 2015 edition of *Forward Day by Day* is now available in the narthex in regular and large print editions.

This edition will carry the reader through the readings in our Daily Office (Monday through Saturday) and Eucharistic (Sunday) lectionaries from late Epiphany through Lent and into Eastertide. Every day, a writer offers their own perspectives and thoughts drawn from one of the scripture readings.



## Church Thrift Store

Are you looking for a place to donate used clothing and household goods?

Consider The Opportunity Shoppe in Windsor, NC.

The thrift shop is a charity run by St. Thomas Episcopal.

Now in its third year of operation, the shop is manned by all volunteers except for one part-time paid employee.

The monies earned from donations are turned around to support various community agencies through grants and gifts.

**The Opportunity Shoppe**  
**124-A East Granville Street**  
**Windsor, NC**  
**252-794-5595**

*Open every Tuesday through Saturday at 10 a. m.*