



# Advent Advisor

January 2020

## Remembering Epiphany with Feast of Lights Service



As followers of Jesus, we are the light of the world, and we must remember from whence the light originates.

On Sunday, January 5th, beginning at 5 pm, we will gather for our Feast of Lights Service, led by our youth commemorating the spreading of the Light of Christ from his earthly days to our present day.

We hear of specific deeds faithful people have been moved to accomplish. We sing praise to the Almighty

who has moved eternally for the purpose of our salvation. It is a quiet and stirring service of worship that is truly good.

The Feast of Lights culminates with each person receiving a candle lit from the Christ Candle in our Advent wreath which he or she will use to exit the darkened church, symbolizing our commitment to sharing the Light of God with all nations and to being the light of the world. By the gentle warming of our hearts, the Light transforms our lives and the world around us. Like the Wise Men, come, bend your knee, and worship the newborn King.



## Twelfth Night celebration and benefit

Thank you to Corey Baker and Don Beach for once again hosting our annual Twelfth Night Celebration on Sunday, January 5th immediately following the Feast of Lights Service.

Please invite family and friends.

Just as the Wise Men brought gifts to the Christ Child, we are asked to bring our monetary gifts to benefit Blessings in a Backpack, an ecumenical weekend feeding program for children in our county.



During the school year each Friday selected students receive a bag of six (6) food items to take home to help sustain them until Monday.

Without this bag of food, these children might have to go the entire weekend with no food due to either parental neglect or lack of resources.

These children have been identified as needing nutritional food.

Jody Bickerstaff, Memorial Baptist Children's Ministry Director, directs the Martin County Program. It is a national organization which means there is accountability and monies roll over back into Martin County.

When making contributions at the Twelfth Night Celebration, please make checks out to *Blessing in a Backpack* with *Church of the Advent* on the memo line.



## In Transition

On Sunday, January 12th at 4 pm, recently graduated vestry members will meet with new and present vestry members.



Thank you to outgoing members Doug Chesson, Betty Jones, John Price and Bill Smith.

New members are Frankie Biggs filling a two year term vacated by Bill Smith, Don Mills, Tom Slade and Ginny Webb.

New members will be inducted during the morning service on Sunday, January 19th.

Elected delegates to the Diocesan Convention are Joe Jernigan, Lucia Peel, and John Price.

Enclosed is the 2020 budget.

Joe Jernigan is the Administrator for Safe Guarding Our Children and the parish liaison for the Cub Scout pack.

## A Shout Out to ...

**Catherine Cohen** who for remembering the Vestry at their meetings with sustenance sent by Vestry Member husband Chuck Cohen. Her recent offering of macaroni and cheese on a cold Sunday night was a hit.



**Joe Jernigan** for plaster and painting work in the narthex and carpet shampooing, done in time for Christmas service.

**ECW** for its holiday contribution to Heifer International to provide bees to several villages for cross-pollination and honey.

**Church of the Advent** for opening your hearts and your spirits in honoring Rev. Ellen Richardson for her time with us with your donations to the Food Bank of the Albemarle for Thanksgiving. Because of your generosity, we were able to feed 1,740 people!

**Church of the Advent** for contributing Christmas presents for the foster children of Martin County. All of the requests were fulfilled with colorfully wrapped presents.

**December Altar Guild John Price, Lori Taylor, and Brandon Woody** for their lovely and festive decorations throughout the church both inside and outside.

**Brandon Woody** for orchestrating A Festival of Lessons and Carols, coordinating the choir and the musicians and readers.

**Brandon Woody** and choir and musicians for all their musical contributions to the Christmas Eve Service to make it joyful.

December 3, 2019

To Church of the Advent,

I want to express my appreciation to everyone who made a contribution in my honor to Food Bank of the Albemarle. Their ministry is the source of a vital lifeline to many in Martin County and I encourage your to continue to support them in the future as our way to express gratitude for abundant blessing.



I am also grateful for your parting gift of a Corey Baker platter. I will think of you all with every use.

Much love and blessing.

Ellen +



## A Prayer for the Journey

The following prayer, almost 1,000 years old, was written for pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) — 500 miles across northern Spain. Use this adaption as you journey into the new year:

*God, you called your servant Abraham from Ur in Chaldea, watching over him in all his wanderings, and guided the Hebrew people as they crossed the desert. Guard your children, who seek to grow in you this year. Be their companion on the way, their guide at the crossroads, their strength in weariness, their defense in dangers, their shelter on the path, their shade in the heat, their light in the darkness, their comfort in discouragement, and the firmness of their intentions. Through your guidance, may they be enriched with grace and virtue, and be filled with salutary and lasting joy.*

—from the 12th-century *Codex Calixtinus*



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.

**Prayer List**

*Bill & Nita Smith*  
*Cameron Price Nikki Rogerson*  
*Lucia Peel Powe Laurel Cox Smith*  
*Lynn Beach Riffe Culpepper*  
*James and Janice Ford*  
*Mike Moore*

**Birthdays**

*6 ~ Lowell Taylor*  
*12 ~ Adison Bosso*  
*13 ~ Will Michel*  
*15 ~ Joey Godard*  
*18 ~ Maria Allen*  
*19 ~ Carrie Mills*  
*19 ~ Laura Voorhis*  
*22 ~ Don Mills*  
*22 ~ Mary Anne Crowe*  
*25 ~ Sara Chesson*



**The Church of the Advent**

*Founded 1850*

**Doug Chesson, Senior Warden**  
**Don Beach, Junior Warden**

**Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator**  
**Monday-Friday, 8:00 a. m. –12 noon**

**Brandon Woody, Organist/Choir Master**

**124 West Church Street**  
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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jan 5 Morning Prayer – Bill Webb 11am

Jan 5 Feast of Lights Evensong Service 5pm followed by ▼

Jan 5 12<sup>th</sup> Night Fundraiser for Blessings in a Backpack - Don & Corey's home

Jan 12 Holy Eucharist – Rev. Polk Culpepper 11am

Jan 12 VESTRY Meeting (new & old) 4pm

Jan 19 Holy Eucharist, Webb granddaughter baptism & NEW Vestry Installation – Rev. Jim Horton 11am

Jan 26 Holy Eucharist – Rev. Malcolm Roberts 11am

Feb 2 Holy Eucharist – Rev. Polk Culpepper 11am

Feb 9 Holy Eucharist – Rev. Donna Kraus 11am

Feb 16 Holy Eucharist – Rev. Ted Malone 11am

Feb 23 Holy Eucharist – Rev. Adele Dees Hatfield 11am

Feb 26 ASH WEDNESDAY service – Rev. Joe Cooper

March 1 Morning Prayer / Great Litany – Jane Jernigan

March 15 Rev. Polk Culpepper

March 22 Rev. Donna Kraus

*The Church of the Advent is a nurturing, vibrant, and inclusive community inviting spiritual growth through liturgical worship, outreach, and fellowship.*