

The **Prayer List** is found on a notebook marked "Prayer Lists" found on the 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.

Prayer List

Keathley Malone
Beverly Mills
Ed Harrington

Kathleen Johnson, mother of Russell Johnson

Abby Cameron

Jennifer Harris

Verner Godwin

James Ford, father of Lori Taylor

Jim Maner

Jerry Griffin

Debra Willoughby

Larris Tolson

Clara Bell

Barbara Burns

Mac Allen

Connie Bachelor

Margret Griffin

Nita Smith

Michael Biondi

Robert Swain

John Gurkin

Mike Cushman

Betty Spainhour Williams, aunt of Fr. Rob

Charles Wooten, father of Christine Chesson

Kevin Clancy

For those departed and their families

Della James

Don Mills, senior

Yancey Eli Jones

Birthdays in July

4, Johnny Miller

12, Doug Chesson

14, Jean Miller

15, Jon Courtney

27, Ethan Godard

27, Grant Michel

27, Matthew Swift



The Church of the Advent

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

Miss Cathryn A. Reddick, senior warden

Mr. Don Beach, junior warden

Mr. Stephen Batten, parish administrator

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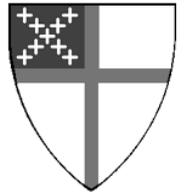
www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

ADVENT ADVISOR

JULY 2014

MIDSUMMER EDITION



**Province IV Synod held
at Kanuga in June**

Dear Church of the Advent family,

You may recall that from June 4th-6th, 2014, Stephen and I attended the Province IV 2014 Synod meeting at the lovely Kanuga Camp and Conference center of the Diocese of Western N.C. The term Synod according to Merriam Webster Dictionary is "the governing assembly of an Episcopal province". This Synod is made up of the 10 Dioceses in our Province IV. Each Diocese sent teams of our elected leaders to our meeting in an effort to grow and learn individually and as delegation teams to General Convention in the summer of 2015.

During this retreat time, our schedule was very intense. Days began at 7am and ended at 10 pm or later. This time was usually followed by a wonderful gathering for wine and refreshments at each group's cabin porches. The days included worship, workshops, reports from various groups, financial decision making

and lots of networking.

In a packed workshop much time was spent explaining about our process regarding the blessing of same sex marriages. This discussion was led by our own Chancellor, Joan Geizler-Ludlum, and the Upper diocese of S.C. Bishop Waldo. Much progress has been made and resources are available on line to help parishes as we all open conversation on this issue at hand. All conversations were welcomed.

We heard very disturbing news that while our province is thriving in terms of growth, it is also the center for the largest growth in new HIV/AIDS infections in the country. And one corridor of traffic along I20 in Mississippi has the highest rate of human trafficking violations in the county.

We heard that much work still remains to be done to combat American and worldwide racism. In this light, a themed movie night was offered Thursday evening. I went to see *12 Years a Slave*. I would recommend it, but please know it is graphic and stirring. I was reminded of the many slaves owned by my

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family at one time and only hoped that none of
Continued from page 1
 my ancestors treated other humans the way depicted in the movies. Of course realizing that regardless of treatment, the institution of slavery in whatever period is simply unacceptable.

We heard a report from Bishop Charles Von Rosenberg of the Episcopal Church in S.C. He interspersed humor, most appropriately, in his sharing of the desperate situation and law suits pending in the court. He did say that in order to prepare for the latest deposition, which he knew would be quite difficult, that 2 weeks before he scheduled a colonoscopy! Of course this produced enormous laughter and eased the emotions surrounding a very difficult matter facing our sisters and brothers in SC. By the way, all money collected, \$1700+, at the initial conference Eucharist went to the remaining Episcopal Churches in S.C. This will be added to future budget monies to come.

We heard reports from ECW and the United Thank Offering and a report on the possible and pending election next year of our Presiding Bishop. Our current one can serve another term, if reelected, as she is young enough to do so. She has yet to make her decision as to running or stepping down.

Lastly, we heard that Youth Ministry is thriving and Campus ministry is strongest in our Province. This is true, but we are still a long cry from where we want to be as a Province for these sensitive times in the life of our young people.

My hope is that this gives you a little background on our time with Synod and you grasp the magnitude of the fact that a smaller parish having two representatives going to General Convention is quite an honor. And by the way, Stephen was further honored by our

Bishop Peter Lee by being asked to stay on at Kanuga and represent our whole Diocese on a leadership team in a ministry geared especially for folks with HIV/AIDS. He will provide a report to you in this Advisor.

In Christ's love,



Parish Family Weekend to be held July 18-20

Church of the Advent's Parish Family Weekend will be held July 18 though July 20 at Trinity Conference Center.

As usual, the weekend features times for those attending to join in worship and fellowship as they enjoy the surroundings of the maritime forest at Pine Knoll Shores. Ample free time is built into the schedule to allow parishioners and their guests the chance to take in the beach and other activities according to their own schedules.

This is Father Rob's first Parish Family Weekend with us. Pictures of the weekend will be published in the August edition of *Advent Advisor*.

Albemarle Deanery Confirmation Service Held at Grace Church, Plymouth on The Day of Pentecost



Congratulations to John Price, Bill Smith, Nita Smith and Will Michel on the occasion of their confirmation on The Day of Pentecost (June 8, 2014) at Grace Church (Plymouth) by **The Right Reverend Peter James Lee, Bishop Provisional of East Carolina**. They were presented for confirmation by **Father Rob** after the conclusion of an Inquirers' Class held over the last few months in our parish. The confirmands, pictured above, from Church of the Advent were joined by eight others from parishes throughout the Albemarle Deanery. **Kit Reddick, Grant Michel and Kim Michel** participated in the Deanery Choir for the service and parishioners **Chloe Tuttle, Lori Taylor Lucia Peel, Jim and Lucy Horton, Amanda Smith and Stephen Batten** attended the service. The service was followed by a covered dish supper in Grace Church's Parish House. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped support our newest confirmed members here at Church of the Advent.



Feasts observed in July

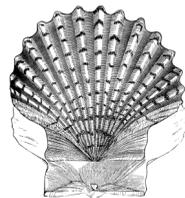
From The Calendar of the Church Year according to The Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church recognizes three (3) principal feast days on the calendar of the church year during the month of July.

Independence Day on July 4 commemorates the American holiday dedicated to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia on that date in 1776.

Saint Mary Magdalene is honored on July 22. Mary Magdalene is mentioned in the Gospels as being among the women of Galilee who followed Jesus and His disciples, and who was present at His Crucifixion and Burial, and who went to the tomb on Easter Sunday to anoint His body. She was the first to see the Risen Lord, and to announce His Resurrection to the apostles. Accordingly, she is referred to in early Christian writings as "the apostle to the apostles"

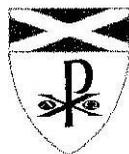
Saint James the Apostle is remembered on July 25. James the son of Zebedee and his brother John were among the twelve disciples of Our Lord. They, together with Peter, were privileged to behold the Transfiguration, to witness the healing of Peter's mother-in-law and the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and to be called aside to watch and pray with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane on the night before His death. Saint James is sometimes referred to as "James Major" (i.e., greater or elder) to distinguish him from other men named James in the New Testament.



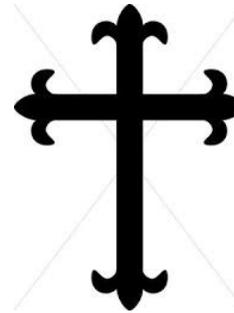
Lay Worship Assistants

Would you consider becoming a volunteer lay-reader, chalice bearer or intercessor. Lay worship assistants are truly ministers of the liturgy, adding to the chorus of voices we hear every Sunday. If you are interested in helping with worship, then please consider taking an active part in helping to lead services here at the Church of the Advent. Contact **Father Rob** and let him know you're interested. He can be reached at the Parish Office (252.792.2244) or on his mobile phone (843.343.6871).

If you're interested in being in the choir, please contact **Grant Michel** at 252.809.3969. Perhaps helping out with Altar Guild? Contact **Lori Taylor** at 252.799.1951.

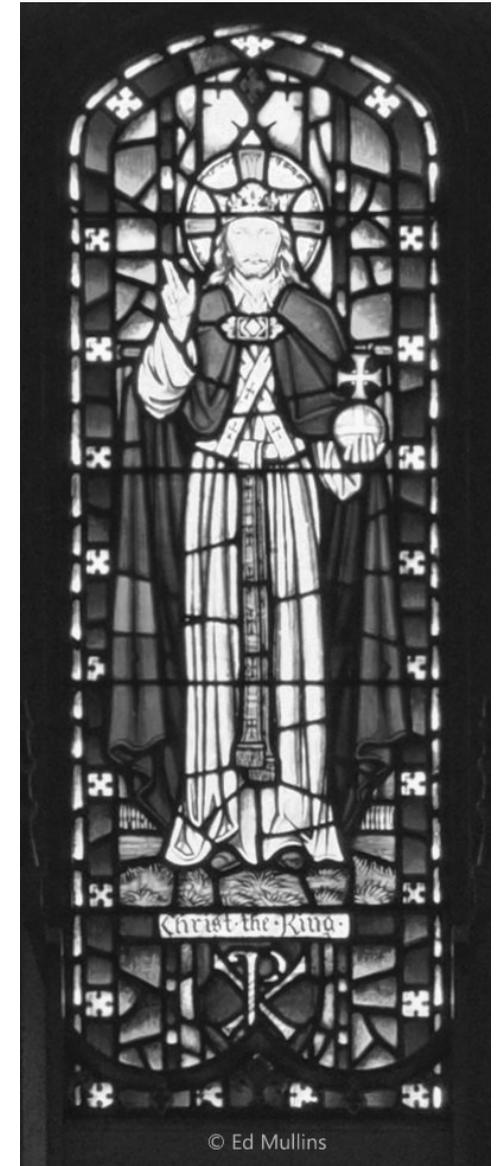


In Memoriam



Della Margaret Griffin James entered into joy on her eighty-ninth birthday, June 25, 2014. The widow of Milton James, Della was a Martin County native, raised in Griffin's Township. She joined the Church of the Advent around the time of her marriage to Milton. A professional cosmetologist and hair-dresser, Della owned and operated the Dell-Mar Beauty Salon in downtown Williamston for many years before her retirement. She made the finest brownies on earth that graced many a church supper or social occasion and her warm, quiet presence is already missed throughout the parish. Her burial services and requiem were held on Friday, June 27 here at the Church of the Advent. She leaves a son, Charles James, his wife Jill, and a grandson, John.

Donald Wayne Mills, senior, a former Vestryman and Junior Warden of the Church of the Advent, left this earthly life for a more permanent place with Our Lord on Saturday, July 12, 2014. He was a fixture throughout Martin County and a figure of great love and good humor for generations of parishioners here at Church of the Advent. We continue in prayer for his wife Beverly, his children Don and Wendy and their spouses, and all of his family and friends. His nephew, David Celebrezze, played the bagpipes at both the church and Woodlawn Cemetery for his funeral services held on Tuesday, July 15.



Christ the King, center panel, altar window, The Church of the Advent, Williamston, NC



Father Rob's Reflections

“God and Mysterious Ways”

On June 18, Stephen Batten and I had the honor of travelling to the monthly Albemarle Deanery meeting held at the Parish of Saint Paul's, Edenton. It was an honorific mission for two reasons: First, I had never been inside St. Paul's Parish, our state's oldest vestry; and secondly, actually having them ask us to be there was miraculous for as many of us know, St. Paul's has been theologically distanced from the rest of the Diocese of East Carolina for some time.

As if our meeting was not enough excitement, a lovely lady recounted for those attending a brief and most interesting history of the parish. In the midst of her presentation, she talked about her husband being a direct descendant of The Reverend Thomas Benbury Haughton (former Rector of the Church of the Advent for whom Haughton Street was named and namesake of Lucia Peel's B&B.

The interesting and ironic part was not the fact that the The Reverend Haughton had been our Rector for 28 years (1866 to 1894) or that he had simultaneously served our sister parishes of St. Martin's (Hamilton) and Grace Church (Plymouth) but that recently Mr. Richard Clayton of Williamston had apprised me of the fact that Fr. Haughton's grave marker at Woodlawn Cemetery was in a state of great disrepair. I took Mr. Clayton's message quite seriously and visited the marker.

Afterwards, I met a Mr. Peaks who works at Woodlawn for Greenville Monument

Company. Mr. Peaks, a most pleasant man, offered to repair the monument for \$200. The Vestry approved this move and all was done. The Church of the Advent would take the burden of the cost for this repair. Further irony arose as the lovely Edenton docent shared that she knew many descendants of Fr. Haughton and his wife who would help reimburse us for the cost of the restoration.

My friends, what are the chances of such a series of incidents taking place in this way except that we serve a gracious and giving God who cares not only about “the number of hairs on our head,” but also whether or not we are financially blessed? The repairs have been made as represented in the following before and after photos. Further smoothing around the repaired areas and recoloring will take place soon to make the monument as attractive as possible. And reimbursement will soon be in the mail!

Faithfully submitted,

Father Rob



The 2014 HIV/AIDS Retreat at Kanuga

In late May, I was honored by Bishop Lee with an appointment to the Planning Committee for the annual Province IV HIV/AIDS Retreat held at Kanuga Conference Center outside of Hendersonville, NC from June 6 through June 8. This retreat has been an annual event in Province IV for many years and is the only retreat of its size and scope in The Episcopal Church.



The purpose of this retreat has been and continues to be the offering of a spiritual oasis for those battling the disease and stigma of HIV/AIDS. For three days and two nights, all of Kanuga was filled with an overflowing spirit of love, acceptance, and community as the over three hundred persons attending the retreat attended social activities, craft instruction, healing services and services of Holy Eucharist offered by various clergy from throughout Province IV. Individual spiritual direction was offered to anyone who desired such by Brother Daniel-Chad of the Community of the Gospel. The spiritual director of the entire weekend retreat was The Right Reverend Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, who preached a Gospel message of unconditional love and hope for those attending.

For many of the participants, these few short days at Kanuga are the only time of respite and vacation they are able to take during their year. Over 80% of the participants attend through grants or scholarships offered by parishes and dioceses throughout the southeastern United States. By sharing their stories and gathering together in a safe and holy place, they hopefully take back with them the strength to carry on for another year.

HIV/AIDS is no longer the automatic death sentence it was. Through advances in medical treatment and pharmaceuticals, some people can live longer lives provided they have the access to care and treatment that the disease requires.

HIV/AIDS is still a disease, however, that carries a stigma which continues unabated up to the present day. For these few days at Kanuga, no one had worry about that stigma or being treated as less than. For those few days, in the mountains of North Carolina, all were simply beloved children of a loving God. It was the most healing retreat I have ever attended.

-Stephen Batten

The Parishes of the Albemarle Deanery are:

Saint Thomas (Ahoskie); Saint Andrew's (Columbia); Christ Church & Galilee Mission (Creswell); Saint Luke's Mission (Currituck); Saint Paul's (Edenton); Christ Church (Elizabeth City); Saint Mary's (Gatesville); Holy Trinity (Hertford); Grace Church (Lewiston-Woodville); Saint Andrew's-by-the-Sea (Nags Head); Grace Church (Plymouth); Saint Luke's & Saint Anne's (Roper); Saint Peter's (Sunbury), All Saints (Southern Shores); Church of the Advent (Williamston); and Saint Thomas (Windsor).

