



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

June 2021

Giving Up to God in Trust

I skied most of my adult life. (Notice the past tense.) Now, I fantasize about cruising down a snow-covered slope. My interests and caution kept me at an intermediate level, but I could play with the big boys by choosing the easiest route down their preferred kamikaze runs. More than once I took on the normally out-of-bounds stone face of a mountain that was evacuating the marked terrain because dangerous weather was rolling in. I probably had the skill to advance, but I was happy to be a garden variety recreational skier who met the challenges of really great mountains on my own terms.

It is said that skiing in North Carolina is a sport, basically a contact sport, whereas skiing almost everywhere else is a pleasure. The first time I skied in the Rockies, almost every lift off-ramp had a sign, "No guts, no glory." That message did not pertain to me because I nearly always skied in control. The first time I skied in the Alps that sign made an appearance here and there, but another caught and held my attention: "No pain, no gain." I was willing to endure intense thigh burn for the exhilaration of cruising non-stop down a long, long run.

When it was beginning to be crazy expensive to ski out West and bitter cold made New England's lodges more appealing than its slopes, my husband Charlie and I gave European skiing a try. Our favorite place was Zermatt, a charming little town in the shadow of the Matterhorn. During our first trip photos of that incomparably impressive chunk of granite were all we had. The Matterhorn was hidden in clouds all week so we had nary a glimpse of it. We were teased by several brief sightings the following year. The third year the huge massif's constant spectacular presence and grandeur dazzled us.

Zermatt has extreme ski terrain with which I have not been up close and personal, but occasionally I'd spot hot shot skiers on narrow ridges in the steeps where only mountain goats have sure footing. It also has one of the longest runs in the world for cruising. After disembarking from Europe's highest aerial tram, taking note of the posted symptoms of altitude sickness and avalanche warning, the vast expanse of the Trockener Steg piste beckons. Head turned left to keep the unshrouded Matterhorn in view, skis pointed downhill, I

could cruise the entire length of that fabulous run ignoring the searing burn in my thighs, not stopping until I got way down to mid-mountain. There one could feast on a hardy lunch and dance away any residual aches. "No pain, no gain." Indeed.

I approached my recent hip replacement with that attitude, and so did some family members who know a thing or two about skiing and other activities to which such a mantra as "no pain, no gain" might apply. The replacement may have been my first orthopedic surgery, but I have had other types of surgery and have some familiarity with post-operative discipline. I intended to take on all challenges with grit and determination.

I have been humbled.

I have not skied in 20 years. Arthritis seems to have little regard for one's former physical condition. Modern medicine has new strategies for healing.

My surgeon has built a team of health-care professionals who declare in one voice: pain is debilitating, not restorative.

In their practice "no pain, no gain" is a relic of the past. They and others in their network do not want patients to experience any unnecessary discomfort. I have an important part to play, but am not the director. I may have had experience listening to and taking responsibility for my own body, and my surgeon's team respects that, but only in the context of their insistence that they actually know what is best for my recovery and that their regimen is the proven product. They have an enviable success rate in their field, and I am determined to listen to them and give them primary responsibility for my healing. I am not fully on board in practice, but have high regard for the playbook, and making progress giv-

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ing in to their standard of care.

Giving in. My life's journey seems laden with calls to give in and trust that much of the time it is God who is calling me to a faithful response. Giving in is always spiritual whether or not we recognize it as such. The forces vying for control are various; but, when we prayerfully discern God's Spirit in the mix, we may be willing to be led by the Spirit to persons and systems whose intentions we can trust are for our own good. That is the process I'm in as I recover from the procedure that has given me a new hip. This is not an entirely new experience but a new opportunity to be open to another's lead and rest in the goodness, care, wisdom and expertise of others. It is a new encounter with a God who acts to deepen our understanding that, in its fullest spiritual potential, giving in is God-driven movement towards God in a life of faith as we let go of our need to be in charge of what is not our prerogative, letting God be God.

So I hope you will pray that I give myself over to healthcare professionals to do their restorative work and involve my participation as they think best so that pain subsides, the new hip functions properly and I have better mobility. That's no less critical at this time than my need to let go and let God's mercy, healing and restorative work bring about new life, again and again.

I miss you, and will be glad to be back. I am aware of many things you are doing as a faithful community in my absence as well as work at the rectory to welcome me home. I treasure your cards, letters, phone calls and especially your prayers. Thank you.

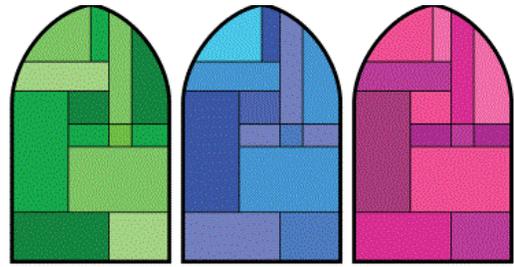
Connie



Yard Work@the Rectory

Volunteers are needed at the rectory on Saturday morning, June 5 from 9 to 12 noon to distribute a large load of mulch around the property. Please bring work gloves and a shovel if you have one.

Lucia Peel will host volunteers to lunch.



New Guidelines for Worship

On May 26, Bishop Rob Skirving issued new guidelines for worship through a letter posted on the Diocese of East Carolina website.

The vestry met after church on May 30 to clarify the guidelines and to prepare for putting them in place for the first Sunday in June.

- Use of masks is now optional. As Bishop Skirving said, "All may, some should, none must."
- Singing is allowed.
- Hymnals and prayer books have been placed back in the pews but both will be available in the narthex for those parishioners preferring to use the same books each week.
- We will continue to use every other pew for all services and we prefer parishioners and guests to wait until they are outside to visit with each other.
- For now, we would like to ask people to remain in their pews during the Exchange of the Peace
- The lectors are encouraged to move to the chancel.
- The collection plate will remain in the back of the sanctuary for the beginning of the service. An usher will then take the offerings to the chancel at the appropriate time during the service and can collect additional offerings if necessary on the way up.



A New Sound

There is a new sound heard during the service of Holy Eucharist.

Thanks to a gift of Sanctus Bells from Brandon Woody in memory of his grandmother, we can now hear them rung three times — when the bread, then the wine, then both elements are raised up and at the great AMEN..

Sanctus Bells can also be rung at various other times during the liturgy.





Church of the Advent
Parish Cook-Out
Home of Corey Baker
and Don Beach

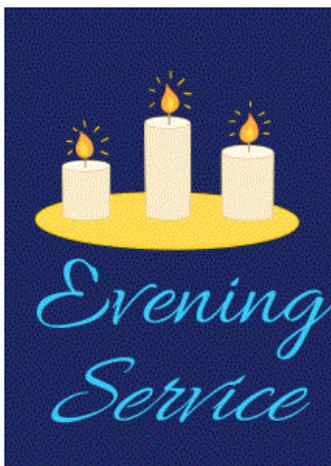
115 North Houghton Street
Park in their side yard or
on Church Street

Sunday Evening, June 13th
5pm til around 8:30ish

BYOBeverage

Fellowship Commission is providing
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Buns, Ice and Tea
Look for the June 7th **Comings & Goings** to sign up
to bring side dishes, condiments and desserts.

Questions??? Email Lucia at luciapeel@gmail.com
or Corey at coriander220@yahoo.com



Wednesday
June 9
6:00 p. m.



The following note is in response to the surprise presentation of a plaque honoring the 40 years of service to the Church of the Advent by the Reverend Jim Horton. The presentation was made on Sunday, May 9 during the morning service. The plaque has been installed in the narthex,

Dear Church of the Advent,

Lucy and I were very grateful for the gifts we were given this past Sunday and I am very grateful for the plaque remembering my time at Church of the Advent. I was truly surprised and most certainly very humbled by that day and the kind words offered. As I indicated during the service Lucy and I are both very grateful for the time we and our family were able to live with this parish family. I want to thank everyone involved in planning and making this day happen. My best and love to this very dear parish family.

Faithfully,
Jim

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
 Frankie Biggs
 Betty Jones Norma Casper
 Christian Switzer
 Linda Findels & Family
 Chris Carrol
 Bill & Nita Smith
 Lucia Peel Powe Jackie Miller
 Lisa Mauriello
 Wayne Mickie Nelson
 Rev. Connie Connelly

Birthdays

1 ~ Jesse Critcher
 2 ~ Katie Mills
 6 ~ Lee-ann Courtney
 12 ~ Diana Stanton
 12 ~ Don Beach
 18 ~ Al Chesson
 20 ~ Kim Michel
 22 ~ Maddie Michel
 29 ~ Corey Baker



Church of the Advent
 Founded 1850

The Rev. Connie Connelly, Priest in Charge

**Lucia Peel, Senior Warden
 Don Beach, Junior Warden**

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

Brandon Woody, Organist/Choir Master

**124 West Church Street
 P. O. Box 463**

Williamston, NC 27892

Telephone: 252.792.2244

Email: advent1850@gmail.com

www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

*****For fire, police, injury or other emergencies,
 call 911 for assistance. Then please contact in
 this order: Connie, Joe, Lucia, Don.**

*****For pastoral emergencies,
 contact in this order Connie, Lucia, Joe.**

*****For all problems or issues dealing with the
 church and rectory buildings and grounds,
 please contact Joe and then he and Don will
 determine how to proceed.**

Connie 704-651-0244

Joe 252-809-3405

Lucia 919-523-3382

Don 203-645-4614

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 6 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
 June 8 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm
 June 13 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am **
 June 13 Cookout @ Don & Coreys 5:00 pm
 June 20 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
 June 21 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
 June 27 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

July 4 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
 July 11 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
 July 14 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm
 July 16-18 Parish Family Weekend, Pine
 Knoll Shores/ No Service @ COA
 July 19 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm
 July 25 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

** May Change To Morning Prayer

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
Lay Schedule
June 6 Through July 25, 2021**

Date	Worship Leader	Lector	Intercessor	Chalice Bearer	Acolytes	Ushers	Altar Guild
June 6 MP	Kit Reddick	John Price					Brandon Woody Mary Anne Crowe
June 13* HE	Jane Jernigan	Jane Jernigan	Lucia Peel	***	Exum Taylor		Brandon Woody Mary Anne Crowe
June 13* MP	Jane Jernigan	Lucia Peel					Brandon Woody Mary Anne Crowe
June 20	Rev. Mollie Roberts	Michael Biondi	Lucia Peel	***	Exum Taylor		Brandon Woody Mary Anne Crowe
June 27		Chuck Cohen	Catherine Cohen	***	TBD		Brandon Woody Mary Anne Crowe
July 4		Kit Reddick	Kit Reddick	***	TBD		
July 11		Valerie Cooke	John Price	***	TBD		
July 18*** PFW		Collins Crowe	Lucia Peel	***			
July 25 MP	Bill Webb	Ginny Webb					

*** June 13 may have to change from Holy Eucharist to Morning Prayer if Rev. Connelly has not returned from surgery.**

**** July 18 Service at Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores/No Service at COA**

***** If COVID protocols change to allow for wine during communion, Chalice Bearers will be notified.**