



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

June 2023

We do not know what we do not know

It was a beautiful spring day in New York City. I had just turned in the thesis on which I had been intensely focused for two months, had a few attractive job offers in my pocket and was anticipating graduating from seminary in a matter of weeks. As I saw it, in the nearly three years already spent at General Theological Seminary, my theological assumptions had been turned inside out and given back with refined clarity, depth and sense of purpose. I felt grounded and somewhat smug that I was ready for ordination and wherever that might lead. However, the day changed dramatically after I listened in on a conversation during lunch in the refectory. I internalized what I heard, upsetting any notion I had had that things were all right. I had been sitting at a table with several Middlers, second year seminarians, who had just finished a class discussion on the Doctrine of the Trinity. Their confusion caused me to doubt what I had sorted out for myself when I had been in the same theology class the year before. I walked out of the refectory and headed straight to the Dean's office. I barged in unannounced.



Dean Ward Ewing was a close, personal friend of Michael Curry's, then Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina and, as such, would ordain me. I was a wreck, insisting that Dean Ewing break the news to the bishop that I could not understand Trinitarian doctrine and did not believe the little of it that I thought I understood. Knowing that it was a seminal doctrine of the church, I could not submit to the ordination requirement to "solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church." The dean let out a sigh as he hugged me and literally patted me on the head, declaring that I would be fine and Bishop Curry would be fine with my predicament about not believing Trinitarian doctrine. Unconvinced, I ran down the theology professor and tried to involve him in my distress,

but he seemed to share the dean's opinion and even suggested that I welcome any questions stirred up by doubt. By the time I found my academic advisor, I had told two classmates about the situation, and word had



gotten to my advisor ahead of me. She agreed with the dean and theology professor. Their seeming lack of concern compounded my misery. Later that day, I was alone in my apartment feeling confused,

scared and plainly sorry for myself. I had tried unsuccessfully to reach my husband Charlie who was away on a business trip. I hoped to enlist some compassion but did not want my angst to be the stuff of gossip swirling about the seminary. There was a knock on the door. I opened it to see a friend holding out some papers, explaining that what he had brought to me was an outline of Augustine's classic Doctrine of the Trinity that was prepared by a classmate – prepared by me. I had forgotten that the year before I had wrestled with the Augustinian doctrine and came to understand it sufficiently to make that outline and share it with everyone struggling to grasp it. I had become content with Augustine's premise that we do not know what we do not know and settled on making an outline of what seemed cogent enough to satisfy course requirements.

When Augustine of Hippo began his work on the Doctrine of the Trinity, the ecumenical councils of the Fourth Century already had authoritatively clarified the doctrine. It took him several decades to organize his research and thoughts into the volumes articulating his conviction that God is love and understanding of the relational aspects of love as ways into probing the depths of Trinitarian theology. I had not delved deep so my shallow level of understanding was summarized in the outline that got me and some others successfully through a theology course and was then forgotten.

As it happened, Ward Ewing had told Michael Curry about my spree of madness. When I met with Bishop Curry for my ordination interview, he expressed

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delight about the incident. Delight! I do not recall the exact words, but the gist of what he said was: "Ah, how I wish we all could be as honest with our doubts and open with questions as seminary encourages us to be. You probably have learned more about the Trinity than you realize. Keep living the questions and help others do the same. We do not know what we do not know."



Connie

The first Sunday in June is Trinity Sunday that celebrates "the one and equal glory" of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, "in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being" (BCP, p. 380). It is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost.



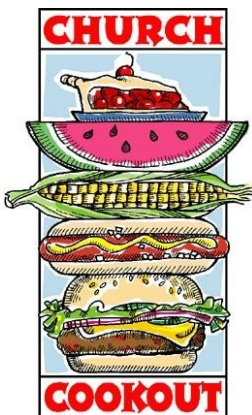
Trinity Sunday is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year.

This year, Trinity Sunday will also be a day to highlight one of the Diocese of East Carolina's favorite ministries: Trinity Center. Trinity Center is the Diocese of East Carolina's camp and conference center located on Bogue Island. A bulletin insert will highlight the life of Trinity Center.

Especially written for the first ever Trinity Center Sunday, the Prayers of the People will help worshippers to remember the Trinity and to pray for the ministry of Trinity Center.



Sundays in June...



At 5:30 p. m. on **June 11th**, the parish is invited to the home of Don Beach and Joanie Davis at 115 North Haughton Street for the Annual Parish Cookout.

The Parish Life Commission is providing burgers, hotdogs, buns, tea, ice, chips, mustard, and ketchup.

Contact John Price to sign up for side items, desserts or fresh condiments such as onions, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and

cheese.

email johndanielprice123@gmail.com

or

text (252-508-3151)

In addition to bringing a side or dessert or condiment, please bring your own beverage (tea and ice and cups are provided) and ...

bring a friend!



On **June 18th** Rev. Connie will baptize the grandson of Michael Biondi. Grandson James is the son of Michael's daughter Chelsea.

A reception in the Parish House will follow the service.

On **June 25th** the parish will be away at Trinity Center for Parish Family Weekend. The Sunday service will be beachside at Trinity at 9 a. m. All are welcome to attend.



Do we have your

e-mail address?



Parish Administrator Joe Jernigan is now publishing Comings and Goings. He is working to update the email group,

If you know someone who is no longer getting Comings and Goings, please let Joe know. Also If you have something you need to get into Comings and Goings, it is best to

email advent1850@gmail.com or call the church office at 252-792-2244.

Joe tries to send Comings and Goings out on Mondays or Tuesdays.

For such a small church as ours with only 12-15-20 in attendance at Sunday services, we are very fortunate to have full liturgies because of our volunteers singing in the choir, reading the lessons, leading the intercessory prayers, assisting the priest in administering the Eucharist, ushering, and setting up the altar for services. We are also fortunate to have volunteers to lead services on those Sundays we are without clergy.



If a volunteer does not show up having made no arrangements for a substitute, it is difficult to pull someone else in at the last minute with so many volunteers already engaged. If you are one of these volunteers and realize you will not be able to fulfill your obligation, please either contact another volunteer to help or contact Joe at the church office.

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
- Jessie Critcher
- Ann Wallace
- Robert & Mary Bonner

Birthdays

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



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

Michael Biondi, 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, Michael.**

*****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

- June 4 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon
- June 11 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Parish Cookout @ Don Beach's house 5:30 pm
- June 18 Holy Eucharist/Baptism 11:00 am
- Reception in Parish Hall 12:00noon
- June 23-25 **No Service at COA**
- Parish Family Weekend @ Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores
- June 2 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- July 9 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
- July 16 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- July 23 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- June 30 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

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

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June 2023

Lay Schedule

	4 <i>Trinity Sunday HE II 11:00 A.M.</i>	11 <i>2 Pentecost HE II 11:00 A.M.</i>	18 <i>3 Pentecost Holy Baptism HE II 11:00 A.M.</i>	23 <i><u>No Service</u> <u>@ COA</u> 4 Pentecost <u>@ Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores</u> HE II 11:00 A.M.</i>
MP Leader				
Lector	Valerie Cooke	Jane Jernigan	Michael Biondi	Collins Crowe
Intercessor	Kit Reddick	Jane Jernigan	Michael Biondi	Collins Crowe
Eucharistic Minister	Chloe Tuttle	Bill Webb	John Price	Don Beach
Acolyte				
Altar Guild	Brandon Woody Mary Anne Crowe			
Ushers	Valerie Cooke Michael Biondi			