

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
- John Gurkin
- Deborah Willoughby
- Abby Cameron
- Mac Allen
- Pepper Etheridge
- Tommy Wellington
- James Swaim
- Trey Weldon
- Norman James
- Mary Baker
- Hal Ocamb
- Katherine Burdick
- David Stocks
- Alton
- Betty Robinson
- Donald Hargrove
- Carolyn Whitley

Thanksgivings

- In great thanksgiving for the birth of Harper Caroline Farrell,
- Great-niece of Kit Reddick and Granddaughter of Brenda and Arthur Brown and Mark Reddick

Birthdays

- 2, Stephen Batten
- 6, Kemp Allen
- 11, Deborah Brown
- 13, Henry Peel

- 14, Sarah Smith
- 17, Garron Chesson
- 19, Anthony McNeile, Will Raiford, and Wendy Stancill
- 29, Margaret Chesson
- 30, Lori Taylor

The Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

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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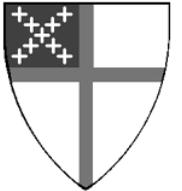
Fax 252.247.3290

E-mail trinity@mail.clis.com

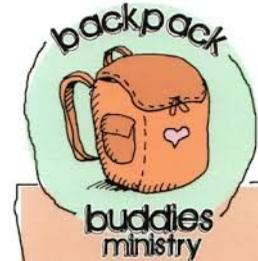
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

ADVENT ADVISOR

MARCH 2015



LENTEN OUTREACH EDITION



Advent assists Blessings in a Backpack

Blessings in a Backpack is a ministry program that helps feed children in our county. 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.

Children in this program have been identified as needing nutritional food. The school system provides meals during the week; however, these children sometimes have to go the entire weekend with no food due to either parental neglect or lack of resources.

Each Friday a child in the program receives a bag of food to help sustain them until Monday.

The following schools are being ser-

vised by this program:

- Edna Andrews Elementary
- E. J. Hayes Elementary
- Williamston Primary
- Riverside Middle
- Jamesville Elementary
- Rodgers Elementary
- South Creek Middle
- East End Elementary

Churches presently participating in the program agree to pack and deliver bags for a month at a time. Memorial Baptist serves as the workplace.

For the 2014-2015 school year, the following churches are participating:

- Memorial Baptist Church
- First United Methodist Church
- First Christian Church
- and

Church of the Advent..

Yes, the Church of the Advent has volunteered for the month of March.

The food is purchased at Wal-Mart Wednesday morning at 9:00 a. m. and then the *continued on page 2*

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packing of 141 bags is done around 9:30 a. m. at Memorial Baptist. Packing and delivery takes about 1 1/2 hours.

How You Can Help:

Volunteer

- 4 to 6 packers and deliverers
- 2 bag tiers (*This is a sit-down job.*)
- 1 person to fold activity sheets to be put in bags. *This job can be done at home in front of the television.*

Donate

- Food Lion style plastic bags
- 141 bags are needed every week
- Look for collection bins in both the Parish House and Church narthex

Sort and straighten out donated plastic bags
This job can be done at home in front of the television.

Donate

- Large cloth shopping bags for use as carrier bags
- Kit Reddick is coordinating for the Church of the Advent. Please see her to volunteer.

You can also donate monies to help purchase the food for these children. It takes \$85.00 to feed one child for the entire school year. The program presently serves 141 at a cost of \$11,985.

Donations may be made to Blessings in a Backpack and sent to Memorial Baptist Church and can be in the forms of honorariums and memorials.



Backpack Buddies
Because Hunger Doesn't Take the Weekend Off

MCMA Lenten Series at Methodist Church

The 2015 Martin County Ministerial Association Lenten Services continue throughout the month of March.

Each week a different local member of the clergy will lead the service and provide a Lenten message followed by a light lunch provided by the church of the clergy speaking on that day.

- March 11: Minister Jimmy Elks
- March 18: Fr. Rob Spainhour
- March 25: Memorial Baptist Clergy
- April 1: Rev. Larris Tolson



Father Rob's Reflections

Well, we have celebrated "Fat Tuesday" or Shrove Tuesday using the Chinese New Year's Party as our pre-shrove Tuesday opportunity to get rid of the fatty and rich foods, symbolically, from our pantries.

In other words, instead of using the rich pancakes, syrup, and meats many parishes have on Shrove Tuesday as part of a "madri gras" type of celebration to get rid of those things we might be tempted to eat during Lent, we chose to use Chinese New Year's.

All in preparation for Lent, a time, as you know, traditionally designated as a season of fasting and denial. Part of the reason we do this is revealed in the root of the word "shrove". Shrove comes from the word 'shrive' which

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Toussainte Biondi, daughter of **Michael Biondi** and **Pepper Etheridge** is completing her second year of Physical Therapy Study at Texas Woman's University in Dallas, Texas. She will be completing part of her clinical studies this summer in Raleigh.

Brian Swift was named the Region 1 Assistant Baseball Coach of the Year 2014 by the North Carolina Baseball Coaches Association.

Advent author and historian **Amanda Smith** continued her book tour of eastern North Carolina with appearances in Bath and Greenville following the publication of her book, *The Williamston Freedom Movement*.

Congratulations to **The Pastoral Care and New Member Ministry Commission** for their successful Chinese New Year's Party on Friday, February 13. With great attendance and much good cheer, we hope it becomes an Annual Event. Also, the Commission raised over **\$275** to put towards their projects in pastoral care for current parishioners and welcoming new members of the Church of the Advent.

The **Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting** is being held at St. Francis in Goldsboro on **April 15th** beginning at 9:30am. Lunch costs \$15. The guest speaker is **Rev. Deacon Nancy Crawford, President of the National ECW** -- her topic is "Stir Up the Spirit." Kit Reddick, Diocesan ECW Treasurer, and Lucia Peel plan to attend and invite others to join them.

Father Rob Spainhour will be the featured speaker at the MCMA Lenten Service on

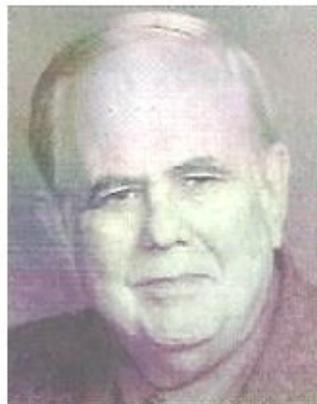
Wednesday, March 18 at noon at Williamston United Methodist Church on East Church Street. We are responsible for serving the lunch following the service on that day. Details about coordinating this effort will follow in the Sunday bulletins and in Lucia's *Comings & Goings*.

Thank you to all parishioners who participated in the production of the new Pictorial Directory and special thanks to **Nita Hilliard Smith** for her continued hard work and concerted efforts to make this directory a success for the parish.

The Martin County Ministerial Association will again host a community Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 3, at Noon beginning in Barnes Plaza, weather permitting.

Stephen Batten will be attending the **Province IV HIV/AIDS Retreat** planning committee meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, at All Saints' Episcopal Church, March 13 and 14, representing the Diocese of East Carolina.





From The Parish Office

The following letter was received after Ed Harrington's funeral here at the Church of the Advent. The letter is reproduced with the

permission of its author.

February 2, 2015

Reverend Spainhour,

Please accept the enclosed check as a gift from my wife and myself on behalf of Ed Harrington. I cannot thank you and the members of The Church of the Advent for all you did for Ed these past months. As a Reformed Presbyterian I do not believe you can earn your way to Heaven. It is a gift, however, that the Church of the Advent and its members certainly took many steps in that direction.

Please pass a special thanks to the Hortons and Nita.

Again on behalf of my wife and Ed, Thank You.

-Heber Himmelwright

Enclosed in the envelope was a memorial donation of \$1000 to the Church of the Advent in Ed's memory. The funds have been added to the Church of the Advent Memorial Trust Fund.



Holy Week

Schedule of Services

†Wednesday in Holy Week, April 1

MCMA Lenten Service, Noon
Williamston United Methodist Church
NO Wednesday Eucharist at COA

†Maundy Thursday, April 2

The Church of the Advent, 6.30p

†Good Friday, April 3

Community Stations of the Cross
Barnes Plaza at Noon
Good Friday Liturgy at
The Church of the Advent, 6.30p

Lenten Meal **March 25 at 6:15 p.m.**

Come join your fellow parishioners for a Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 25 immediately After the 5.45p Holy Eucharist.

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according to the Oxford Dictionary refers to that which was often done the days just before Ash Wednesday: that is to (shrive oneself); to present oneself to a priest for confession, penance, and absolution.

As such we are shriving in our behavior, if you will, by preparing ourselves for the time of reflection and self-sacrifice of the 40 days of Lent. 40 days that recall the 40 that Jesus spent being tempted by Satan. Recalling the 40 years the people of God wandered in the wilderness before they were settled in the Promised Land.

At this point then the hard part comes. What will we take on during this time and /or give up. What habit needs attention? What ministry needs our care? There are so many opportunities. If you're feeling led to start a new ministry or get on board with an existing one, feel free to do so now. In fact at any time, because Lent should be a microcosm of the way God is calling us to live 365 days a year. It is a snapshot of the way we may walk this Christian walk and talk this Christian talk that may be most effective for us.

Oh, should you need formal confession, and I recommend it to everyone periodically, please contact me. (See BCP page 447) I discovered years ago that formal confession can free us from so many hidden burdens, knowing that a real person hears us and still loves us. This of course reflects the reality of our relationship with God. That being said, if you are not there yet, it is ok. For as with so many practices in our church, "All may, some should, none must!" Have a blessed Lent.

Love in Christ,
Father Rob+



Saint Thomas', Windsor Saint Patrick's Day

Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Windsor is once again hosting a Saint Patrick's Day Dinner on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 from 5.30 to 7.30 pm.

Tickets to this traditional Irish dinner cost \$10.00 for teens and adults and you can conveniently purchase your tickets at Miller's Sporting Goods at 101 Washington Street in downtown Williamston. Tickets at the door will be \$12.00.

The menu includes Irish Stew, corned beef and cabbage, Irish artisanal breads, desserts and more.

Saint Thomas' Church is located at 302 South Queen Street in Windsor.

If anyone is interested in motoring as a group that evening, please contact Stephen in the parish office at 792.2244.



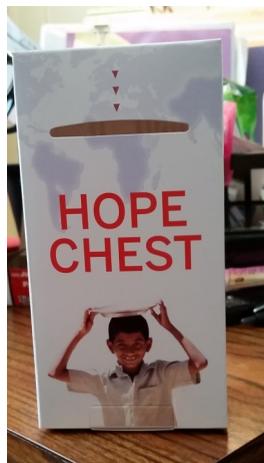
Lenten clean water project

All the churches in the Diocese of East Carolina are being challenged to collect monies during Lent to provide clean water for those without.

The monies will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) for its Gifts for Life program. Look for the bucket displayed during church services where you may drop in change or checks. Checks need to be made out to the Church of the Advent with ERD Clean Water on the memo line.

To help us with our collection, Stephen Batten has secured some special ERD collection boxes ("Hope Chests") that you can use at home to collect loose change during Lent. Your filled collection box can also be deposited in the bucket.

Remember, it only takes \$35.00 to provide clean water for one person and \$215.00 for a family. Do you think the Church of the Advent can raise enough monies to help one family?



Mission Trip to the Diocese of the Dominican Republic

Members of St. Mary's Church, Kingston, will return to the village of Mosovi in the Dominican Republic to continue the relationship with the people of this small village and at Divinia Gracia Church.

While there, the group will offer Vacation Bible School, paint the church, repair the roof, and work to get clean drinking water to the village.

The group leaves July 14th and returns July 22nd. The cost is \$1,500 which pays for transportation, room (double occupancy) and most meals in the DR.

Could God be calling you to this place? Should you wish to go, or have questions, please contact The Rev. Michael Singer at 252-523-6146 or



Advent in February's Pictures

Above: Joe and Jane Jernigan and Blitz checking in for their portrait for the new pictorial directory with Nita Smith. On the left, various scenes of the Church in the several ice/snow events we had in February. Top: Church and view of Parish Hall along Hassell St.; Ramp and Hassell St., Maples under ice, frozen Memorial Garde.