



# Advent Advisor

March 2023

## Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Everybody prays whether or not they call it prayer. "Help" probably is prayed more often than any other thing. We pray intentionally because faithful people insist it's the faithful thing to do. I think the more compelling reason we pray is because we want to connect with God. We even may know or sense that we have a primal need to be in relationship with God. Connections are critical to our well-being. We pray for persons we care about either because we have a personal connection or because we are emotionally touched by something we know about them. Prayers take various forms: confessions; laments, petitions for ourselves; intercessions for individuals, groups, entire populations;



praise and thanksgiving. We do not need an intermediary. Our tradition teaches that we can pray directly to God. However, we believe that Jesus, saints and others intercede on our behalf.

When we call on the name of Jesus, it is a confession of faith in his presence. "Come, Holy Spirit," calls

on the activating Spirit of God whom we are told moves us to pray.

Ann and Barry Ulanov in their brilliant book, *Primary Speech, the Psychology of Prayer*, suggest that the impetus for prayer is interdependence that underlies relationships. They write, "We only achieve being through relationships with others, with other real persons. A glimpse of this mystery and its fundamental reality appears in the image of the Trinity. The internal being of God exists as relationship, a love so vital and vividly expressed that only the image of persons in unceasing connection to each other can capture it. Jesus indicates that this sort of interconnectedness both precedes his birth and survives after his death as a principal way to link us to God through him. 'He always lives to make intercession for us,' as the words of Hebrews put it."

Prayer is the way into relationship with God and with others and the fruit of it. When we turn ourselves

over to the grace of God, the silence of our heart may be our entry into authentic communication with God. Spoken words that convey deep yearnings may be. Being still and centering may help us hear God speaking to us. Praying the scriptures can be profoundly insightful. Written prayers may be treasures we visit again and again. The stirrings of the Spirit move our spirits to reach out to God in many ways. Praying is the point; how we pray is individual and influenced by life happening.

The spiritual classic, *The Way of the Pilgrim*, commends St. Paul's exhortation to acquire the habit of prayer and pray without ceasing. That book was my required reading during a directed retreat at an Episcopal monastery that helped me to realize the possibility of living a life as prayer. After leaving that hallowed place, the best I could do with the book's prescribed practice of constant prayer was a commitment to pray as I can. The commitment is real. Discipline wavers, but being intentional is making a difference.

I hope that prayer will be the guiding force in our separate lives and in our life together. God has a dream for us. Prayer will help us to discern it. We need everyone to join in. The family that prays together stays together and may become deeply connected and agents of God's grace among neighbors near and far.

Pray as you can.

Connie

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 12 to begin Daylight Savings Time. If you forget, when you arrive for church, thinking it is 11:00, it will be 12:00 instead and you will meet everyone coming out the door!



Spring Forward

# Forty Days of Lent

## Organ Recital and Service



On Sunday, March 5 at 6:00 p. m., Martin Barstow, organist and choir director of Green Acres Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth, Virginia will give a short recital, which will be followed by the service of Choral Evening Prayer, using music from the *Hymnal 1982*.

## Sunday Mornings

What's in a name?

Rev. Connie Connelly is leading discussions on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a. m. in the parlor on exploring biblical names. The discussions are on March 5 and March 12.



Evening Worship

Wednesday, March 8

6:00 P. M.

## Shrove Tuesday Spaghetti Fundraiser Successful

as reported by Brandon Woody

The spaghetti supper was a huge success, raising \$657.00 and selling 60+ plates and six jars of meat sauce. Cooks Terry and Cathrine outdid themselves with the meal. John Price, Chuck Cohen, and Chuck and Cathrine's grandson Mark helped serve. Lori Taylor provided the delicious brownies. We hope to make this an annual Shrove Tuesday event.

Other tentative fundraising events are a Chinese raffle and chicken salad luncheon. We have also begun the application process for the Episcopal Foundation Grant from the Diocese of East Carolina, which provided the funds required for the first phase of the organ restoration.



Online Study

Brandon Woody is auditing a ten-week course entitled *Creating Worship That Works*, offered by the Stevenson School of Ministry and the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. The course explores principles and best practices for designing worship that is transforming. The full breadth of the *Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, The Hymnal 1982, Lift Every Voice and Sing II, Wonder, Love, and Praise*, and other liturgical and musical supplements are discussed and studied. The topics to be covered include the liturgical year, the Eucharist, Baptism, Lenten and Holy Week services, and special services. Special attention is paid to smaller-resourced parishes. Brandon's study is being funded by the vestry.

Michael Biondi is teaching an English as a Second Language (ESL) class in the Parish House on Wednesday nights. At present, his class consists of four or five people,

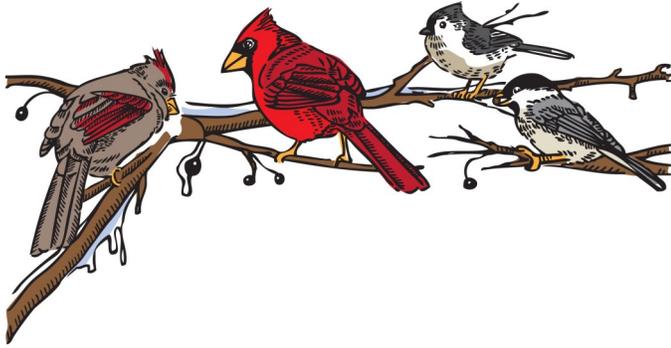


## Lighthearted blessings



- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.





## Birds and Reflections of God's Promise of Spring

As someone who is retired, I enjoy the quiet moments in my living room that begin a new day. I have two glass doors on either side of the fireplace that provide a great view into the backyard. With winter still in season, I can see the trees, not yet "leafed", with birds moving about. It is easy to see the cardinals, blue jays, robins, mourning doves, brown thrushes, and a variety of woodpeckers that move about the sycamore and poplar trees. In the quiet moments, you hear their calls. The other day, I watched a pair of Pileated woodpeckers behind the house with their flaming-red crests, black and white feathers, and strikingly majestic size. The male and female look much the same except the male is somewhat larger with red feathers on its cheek. That was an unexpected gift from nature.

Our northern state neighbors are seeing considerable snow from another Pacific storm named Olive. Although there is still time for a late season snow in the South, today's Ash Wednesday weather calls for sun and 80 degree temperatures. Over the last few days, we hear news about a train wreck in Ohio with chemicals escaping to the ground and into the air. I have given thought to Rachel Carson and her well known book entitled *Silent Spring*. In the book, she forewarns us about the danger and harmful affects of chemicals in the environment and the imagery of what would happen if there were no birds to sing in spring. To someone who now has hearing aids, I cannot imagine nature without the beauty and sounds of birds.

In reading about Rachel Carson, I learned she was born on May 27, 1907 on a farm in Springdale, Pennsylvania. She developed a love of nature from her mother, a devout Presbyterian, and Carson became a published writer for children's magazines by age 10. She attended the Pennsylvania College for Women (now Chatham University), graduating magna cum laude in 1929. She next studied at the oceanographic institute at Woods Hole, Massachusetts and at Johns Hopkins University, where she received a master's degree in zoology in 1932.

After outscoring all other applicants on the civil service exam, in 1936 Carson became the second woman hired by the US Bureau of Fisheries. She remained there for 15 years, writing brochures and other materials for the public. She was promoted to Editor-in-Chief of

all publications for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

As we move into the Lenten season, I choose to think about Jesus preparing for his ministry over the 40 days of Lent. I will also be giving thanks to Rachel Carson and others like her who study and write about the gift of nature in our world. I will also think about God, the creator of the universe and His gift of nature as we also move into spring.



In closing, I will leave you a quote by Rachel Carson that to me reflects her thoughts and message to others. Her quote is "Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."

God's blessings with thanks,  
Jim Allen

St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.



Palm Sunday

April 2



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
- Joanie Davis
- Kemp & Amanda Allen
- The Cohen Family
- Fay Wathers
- Rose Allard
- Patti Malone

**Birthdays**

- 7 ~ Kemp Allen
- 13 ~ Henry Peel
- 14 ~ Sarah Smith
- 17 ~ Garron Chesson
- 29 ~ Margaret Chesson
- 30 ~ Lori Taylor



**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](mailto:advent1850@gmail.com)**  
**[www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com](http://www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com)**

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

- Mar. 5 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon
- Choral Evening Service 6:00 pm
- Mar. 8 Evening Service 6:00 pm
- Mar. 12 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Mar. 19 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Mar. 26 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
- Apr. 2 Palm Sunday/HE 11:00 am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon
- Apr. 6 Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm
- Apr. 7 Good Friday 6:00 pm
- Apr. 9 Easter Sunday/HE 11:00 am
- Apr. 16 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Apr. 23 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
- Apr. 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.*

---



---

# *Church of the Advent*

## *March 2023*

---



---

### *Lay Schedule*

---

	<b>5</b> <i>2 Lent</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>12</b> <i>3 Lent</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>19</b> <i>4 Lent</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>26</b> <i>5 Lent</i> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>
<b>MP Leader</b>				John Price
<b>Lector</b>	Michael Biondi	Cathy Skinner	Valerie Cooke	Jane Jernigan
<b>Intercessor</b>	Cathy Cohen	Bill Webb	Lucia Peel	
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Don Beach	Bill Webb	Chloe Tuttle	
<b>Acolyte</b>				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Johnny Miller Ellen Miller			
<b>Ushers</b>	Johnny Miller Ellen Miller			