



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

May 2018

Come, Holy Spirit, come!



The Feast of the Pentecost in our Anglican Christian tradition marks the end of the Great Fifty Days of Easter. Long before Pentecost was celebrated in the Christian church as the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, it was a Jewish feast called Shavuot. Pentecost (which in Greek means *fiftieth*)

followed 50 days after the Jewish Passover, celebrating both the spring harvest and the act of God giving the tablets of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai. It was a time of gathering together with people from all over Judea coming to Jerusalem to celebrate.

We are told in the Acts of the Apostles that it was on this feast day of Pentecost that the disciples were gathered in the Upper Room, wondering what to do next. They had experienced the resurrected Jesus—but only for a short while, and were likely still processing the meaning of having recently witnessed their Lord being taken up into the heavens—an important event we will commemorate at Church of the Advent on the Feast of the Ascension on May 10 at 6pm.

The dramatic entrance of the Holy Spirit into that upper room, described as tongues of fire that inspired the disciples to throw open the doors and begin preaching powerfully and convincingly about Jesus the Messiah and having their words understood in many languages, is unequalled in scripture—as no one really witnessed the moment of Resurrection. We celebrate this pivotal time in the life of the Church in flaming red, calling on the Holy Spirit to ignite our hearts with a passion for the gospel in our lives, inspiring us to bring that same passion to others.

This year for Church of the Advent the celebration of Pentecost on May 20 coincides with our annual Sunday morning Eucharist outside at Green Acres. We will gather and welcome the Holy Spirit to come on the wind and kindle our hearts to lives of faithfulness and

joy in Christ. We will also congratulate our graduates, Chris Cooke, Khalil Jefferson, and Khira Jefferson, and welcome the very newly ordained Transitional Deacon Stephen Batten, also a new graduate from Virginia Theological Seminary. Stephen will be serving in the role of the Deacon at the service—his first after his ordination in New Bern just the day before. Then in the spirit of all true feast days, we will feast on a pot-luck dinner Green Acres style. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Feast of the Ascension

On Thursday May 10, we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, celebrating the last moments of Jesus on Earth after his Resurrection. De-



scribed in the gospel of Luke, Jesus led the disciples out to Bethany, opened their minds to the meaning of the scriptures, gave them some last minute instructions and told them that the Spirit would be coming to them. Then, as depicted in this painting by Brian Whelan, he took off into the heavens, leaving them, ironically, full of joy.

(Notice the bare feet and you will be ahead of the sermon.) This weekday Holy Eucharist, which happens to fall on the second Thursday, will take the place of the May second Wednesday service of Evening Prayer. As per the Wednesday night custom, we will head out after the service for dinner at the Red Heron, and anyone is welcome to join us.



May is UTO Month

The **United Thank Offering (UTO)** is a ministry of The Episcopal Church where everyone is invited to embrace and deepen an intentional spiritual discipline of gratitude to God. Noticing the good things that happen each day, we turn our gratitude into prayers and offerings for others. UTO has been entrusted since 1889 to receive these offerings annually, and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. In recent years, grants have been awarded to support refugees; women and children; garden projects; intercultural growth and outreach; and congregations in their offering of social services, ministries, and support for their communities.



You might remember the Blue Boxes from years past inviting daily prayers and deposits of change, and a Sunday when all the boxes were brought to church and collected at the offertory. Since the world has changed since 1889, and many of us no longer use cash or collect change, Church of the Advent, through its long-time UTO coordinator Frankie Biggs, has chosen to use special envelopes for donations to UTO by cash or check. This year our envelopes, which are available in the narthex or from an usher, will be collected throughout each Sunday service in May 2018, hopefully giving everyone a chance to participate in this offering of thanksgiving and praise to the God of all blessings. Please consider your generosity to be a measure of your blessings, and know gratitude will abound in those whose ministries you will be supporting.

Gracious God, source of all creation, all love, all true joy: accept, we pray, these outward signs of our profound and continuing thankfulness for all of life. Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach of the United Thank Offering; and keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and challenge that come our way; through Him who is the greatest gift and blessing of all, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Graduation, ordination of Stephen Batten

Seminarian Stephen Batten from Church of the Advent in Williamston will graduate from Virginia Theological Seminary on May 17 with a Masters in Divinity and then be ordained to the Diaconate at Christ Church

New Bern on Saturday May 19 at 10:30 am. Everyone is invited to the ordination service. It is the Canonical requirement for a priest to have served as a Deacon in the church for a period of at least six months prior to ordination to the priesthood. Stephen will join Church of the Advent the following day on May 20 for our Sunday worship on the Feast of Pentecost at Green Acres outdoor amphitheater, and will serve in the liturgical role of the Deacon.



Annual service at Green Acres

Sunday morning service on May 20 will move to the Outdoor Amphitheater at the Green Acres Campground as part of the worship schedule for the campers.



The service of Holy Eucharist begins at 11:00 am. In case of rain, the service will move indoors to the Clubhouse.

The Clubhouse is the place for a potluck picnic at noon. Picnickers need to be sure to bring utensils for their favorite dishes as there is no kitchen in the Clubhouse. Tea and paperware and eating utensils are provided by Green Acres.

Owners and operators as well as parishioners Bobby and Janice Greene extend a cordial and open invitation to the parish family to spend the afternoon enjoying the various activities offered by the campground.

Parishioners need to be sure to identify themselves as members of the Church of the Advent to the staff when using the facilities.

Green Acres is located six miles south of Williamston on Highway 17.



Honoring...

Our parish high school graduates will be honored at the outdoor service at Green Acres on May 20.

Graduating from Riverside High School are Chris Cooke, Khalil Jefferson, and Khira Jefferson who will receive the gift of inscribed Bibles from Church of the Advent. We will also honor our newly graduated and ordained Stephen Batten with a parish gift.



Sign up for Parish Family Weekend

Our 27th Parish Family Weekend will be July 20-22 at Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores. The sign-up sheet has been posted in the narthex.

\$82.00 per person, per night for double occupancy

\$102.00 per person, per night for single occupancy

\$29.00 per person, per night for 5 to 17 year olds

\$12.00 per person, per night. For 1 to 4 year olds



The Summer Reading Program at Martin Memorial Library is in need of the following to be used in its craft program.

cardboard toilet and paper towel tubes

empty coffee cans and Pringle cans

straws

empty plastic bottles with caps

The bottles can be 8 or 16 oz. and either water or soda.

Donations may be left in the narthex until June 1. See Kit Reddick if you need anything picked up or if you have questions.



Needlepoint Cushions

We are working with a reputable and recommended upholsterer to complete a project begun long ago of needlepoint covers for all of the cushions in the chancel around the altar. There is one



tapestry missing from the collection—the one meant for the priest's chair. If anyone knows or suspects where this lost work of labor and love might have hidden itself in an attic or storage room, please have a look and rescue it before an alternative plan is hatched to create a substitute.

(Editor's note: The lost tapestry was given in honor of the ministry of Rev. Jim Horton.)

Confirmation and Blessing of New Ministry

There will be a service of Confirmation and Blessing of New Ministry at 4pm on May 13 with Bishop Robert Skirving celebrating. Khira Jefferson, Khalil Jefferson and Exum Taylor will be confirmed and the



entire parish is invited to participate in the Blessing of New Ministry, which is not strictly about having a new priest but more about the journey of parish ministry that the members of a congregation and a new priest leader embark on together.

A cookout will follow the afternoon service. Church members are encouraged to invite family and friends, as this will be an opportunity for others to experience wonderful Episcopal worship and hospitality that does not conflict with Sunday morning worship elsewhere in the community.

For the cookout, the vestry is providing hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, tea and all the fixings. Parish members are asked to bring slaw, potato salad, baked beans or a dessert to share with the parish, our invited community guests, and family and friends of the Rev. Ellen Richardson and confirmands Khalil Jefferson, Khira Jefferson and Exum Taylor.

Join us
 Sunday, May 13th at 4:00 PM
 for
 A Special Service for the Blessing of New Ministry
 and
 Confirmation
 with
 Bishop Skirving
 Followed by a Parish Cookout

The Vestry is providing hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, tea and all the fixings. Parish members are asked to bring slaw, potato salad, baked beans or a dessert to share with the parish, our invited community guests, and family and friends of the Rev. Ellen Richardson and confirmands Khalil Jefferson, Khira Jefferson and Exum Taylor.

Around the church

Bill Webb accompanied Khalil Jefferson and Standrick Jefferson to the Acolyte Festival held at St. Andrew's in Nag's Head in April.

Kit Reddick and Rev. Ellen Richardson attended the Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women at St. Peter's in Washington in April. The speaker was Dean Duncan, head of the program No Rest out of the UNC-Ch School of Social Work. Project No Rest is a statewide project to increase awareness and prevention around human trafficking and how it affects our children and young people in North Carolina. Kit attended the Diocesan ECW Board meeting as well, concluding two consecutive two-year terms.

Ginny Webb has agreed to fill an unexpired term on the vestry for one year. Betty Jones has agreed to serve as clerk to the vestry.

Don Beach and Kit Reddick attended an evening service of Holy Eucharist at St. Mark's in Roxobel to

celebrate with volunteers after a successful deanery-wide workday. Following the service, worshippers enjoyed a picnic on the church grounds.

The Church of the Advent raised \$660.00 for the annual county-wide Relay for Life. Thank you to Lucia Peel for her leadership in the candle project.

Rev. Ellen has been working to update our church web site with new pictures, vestry biographies, and all the latest activities. You can also read Ellen's sermons.

Check it out at

www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

Church of the Advent also has a Facebook page. Please see Ellen if you wish to post any news or item.



Thank to the following who volunteered for Blessings in a Backpack during March:

- Lori Taylor
- Frankie Biggs
- Kit Reddick
- Ellen Richardson
- Mark Richardson
- Charlotte Critcher
- Bill Smith
- Joe Jernigan
- Jim Allen
- Lucia Peel
- Billie Roney
- Laura Vorhees
- Janice Greene
- Bobby Greene
- Betty Jones
- Doug Chesson
- Margaret Chesson

Thank you to Doug and Christine Chesson for delivery our April pantry collection for the Martin County Department of Social Services.

Thank you to Jane Jernigan for accompanying the choir anthem with her Irish harp.



John Price, Bill Smith, Bill Webb, Mark Richardson, and Ellen Richardson spent Sunday afternoon on April 22 picking up trash along the River Road at Moratoc Park to celebrate Earth Day. *Photo by Ellen Richardson*

Easter Day at the Church of the Advent April 1, 2018



Thank you to Brandon Woody and William Hendrickson for the beautiful floral decorations. Thank you to Joe Jernigan for the photography.

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.

The Prayer List will be updated at the end of May.

Prayer List

James Ford

Mary Charles Coppage

Margaret & Asa Bailey

Paul DeMastro

Mac & Sandra Allen

David Martin

Annie Jones

Bridgette Fleming

Luther Hardin

Frank Ganis

Pat Jones

Findlay Judy

Evelyn Smith

Michael Lilley

Ricky Roberson

Nan Chesson

Nita Smith

Candy Chambers

Reesie Bradshaw

Warren Gordon

Lindburgh Mitchell

Florence & Marc Reynolds

Betty & Charles Crowe

Jim Roberts

Birthdays

9 *Jim Horton*

13 *Sonona Jefferson*

14 *Mary Bonner*

15 *Exum Taylor*

19 *Michael Biondi*

20 *Jeanne Batten*

25 *Henry Mills*



The Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

**The Rev. Dr. Ellen Richardson,
Priest-in-Charge**

Sunday-Thursday, 9:30 a. m.-3:30 p. m.

ellenrichardson52@gmail.com

Doug Chesson, Senior Warden

Don Beach, Junior Warden

Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a. m. -12 noon

1:00 -2:00 p. m.

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Diocese of East Carolina

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

May 2018 Church of the Advent

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Birthdays in Italics</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Easter 9:45 am, Choir Practice 10:00 am, Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II 5:30 pm, Vestry Meeting	7	8	9 <i>Jim Horton</i>	10 Ascension Day HE II & Supper 6:00 pm	11	12
13 Easter / Mother's Day <u>NO A.M. SERVICE</u> 4:00 pm,, Blessing of New Ministry & Confirmation 5:30 pm, Cook-out <i>Sonoma Jefferson</i>	14 <i>Mary Bonner</i>	15 <i>Exum Taylor</i>	16	17	18	19 Ordination of Stephen Batten @ Christ Church in New Bern, NC 10:30 am <i>Michael Biondi</i>
20 Day of Pentecost <u>@ Green Acres</u> 11:00 am, HE II 12:00 noon, Parish Picnic <i>Jeanne Batten</i>	21 Girl Scouts Parish Hall 6:00pm	22	23	24	25 <i>Henry Mills</i>	26
27 Trinity Sunday 9:45 am, Choir Practice No Sunday School 11:00 am, HE II	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

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Lay Schedule

	6 <i>6 Easter</i> 11:00 A.M. <i>Holy Eucharist II</i>	13 <i>7 Easter</i> ** 4:00 P.M. ** <i>Holy Eucharist II</i> <i>Blessing of a New</i> <i>Ministry &</i> <i>Confirmation</i>	20 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 11:00 A.M. <i>Holy Eucharist II</i> <i>Green Acres</i>	27 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> 11:00 A.M. <i>Holy Eucharist II</i>
<i>Acolyte</i>	Khira Jefferson	Jean Miller	NO ACOLYTES	Will Michel
<i>Acolyte</i>	Khalil Jefferson	Dawson Taylor		Standrick Jefferson
<i>Acolyte</i>		Khira Jefferson		
<i>Acolyte</i>		Khalil Jefferson		
<i>Lessons</i>	Kit Reddick	Ginny Webb	John Price	Jane Jernigan
<i>Intercessory Prayers</i>	Kit Reddick	Bill Webb	Lucia Peel	Jane Jernigan
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	Chloe Tuttle	Bill Webb	John Price	Don Beach
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Kit Reddick	Kit Reddick	Kit Reddick	Kit Reddick
<i>Ushers</i>	Betty Jones Anthony McNeille	Betty Jones Anthony McNeille	Betty Jones Anthony McNeille	Betty Jones Anthony McNeille