



Church of the Advent

# Advent Advisor

May 2023

## Becoming Beloved Community

The Episcopal Church has joined a worldwide movement popularly known as the Beloved Community, whose guiding principle is the recognition of the intrinsic worth of all people and the intent of replacing intolerance, cruelty and greed with an all-inclusive spirit of friendship and goodwill.

In its advocacy for social equity and belonging, freedom from prejudice, and peace, the Beloved Community has converts across a range of religious traditions. They have become powerful witnesses of God's work of redemption and reconciliation and the breaking in of a new order where love reigns. Crossing barriers that once may have caused alienation are foundational for building bridges of hope, trust and kindness.



The concept of a peaceable global community in which mutuality, cooperating and sharing earth's abundance so that all may thrive draws on the ideal of a unified human family that values belonging and caring for one another. It grew out of the work of Harvard philosopher Josiah Royce who in 1913 founded a fellowship dedicated to creating a non-violent and better world by dismantling racism and all other forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice.

Whereas diversity is a hallmark of the Beloved Community, the movement is decidedly Christian. It was the centerpiece of the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King III that he articulated in his "I Have a Dream" speech. Dr. King's eloquent writings and speeches are testimonies of faith in God bringing about a growing understanding of the connection of all life and all things as God's beloved. King hoped that from that would evolve a world where suspicions would cease and justice and harmony would prevail, a world less fragile as people work together to take on the serious issues of climate change, political upheavals and ongoing conflict and wars. It is a dream yet unrealized.

But under the leadership of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry the Episcopal Church is keeping the dream alive. Curry commends what he calls "the Way of Love" as the Anglican way of discipleship. Certain practices help to develop a Jesus-shaped life to which we commit in baptism specifically as we declare our affirmation to the questions asked in the Episcopal baptismal rite. Two questions are the basis for perpetuating the concept of the Beloved Community because they are particularly concerned with racial reconciliation and healing which are primary objectives not only for harmony among all God's people but also for authentic, visible discipleship. Those questions are: "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?" and "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?" The promises we make or are made for us at our baptism ask a lot of us and are especially challenging and frankly too difficult for many of us to keep. But they are the way of love, the way of life.

Bishop Curry is convinced that God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ to show us the way to be reconciled and in right relationship with God who created all of us and with one another who are the children of that God. Jesus came to show us how to love, how to live. Michael Curry bids us to commit ourselves to reach out our hands, take God's hand and each other's and do the hard, holy work of love that brings healing and hope and binds us together and lifts us up to be all that God dreams and intends for us all to be.

We are God's beloved called into community constituted by love to be love to one another and to our neighbors. We are called to be love in this world that God loved so much. We can become a Beloved Community as we discover and live into God's particular dream for us as agents of hope for our families, our communities, our society, and our world. We can trust that God asks of us only what, with God's help, we can do.



*Connie*



During the morning service on the first Sunday in May, Rev. Connie Connelly will bless the great-granddaughter of Chuck and Catherine Cohen.

Following the service, worshippers are invited to a reception in the Parish House.

### Video Sermon from the 80th General Convention

At the 80th General Convention in 2022, Julia Ayala Harris was elected president of the House of Deputies, the presiding officer who works alongside the presiding bishop.



President Ayala Harris is the first Latina and woman of color to hold the position.

She delivered the closing sermon which was played at the Diocese of East Carolina Convention in February.

And now the video sermon will come to the Church of the Advent on Sunday, May 7 during the morning service,

### Prayer Vigil



Our hearts ache that our dear Lucia is suffering with cancer and we cannot ease her pain. She is beloved by her family, many friends, the communities to which she has given so much and our parish where she has been at the heart of our life together.

There will be a prayer vigil at the Church of the Advent on Thursday, May 11, from 6:00 to 7:00 p. m.

People may come and go as they need to. We hope that by coming together that evening to pray for Lucia she will be comforted knowing of the love from which our prayers flow and we will find comfort in the fellowship of community holding her up to God's tender care.

Please join us and spread the word to others.

Connie



The Sunday morning service on May 21 will move to the Green Acres Campground as part of the worship schedule for the campers.

The service begins at 11:00 a.m. at the Outdoor

Amphitheater. In case of rain, the service will move indoors to the Clubhouse.

Host Bobby Greene will be the guest preacher.

After church, we will gather in the Clubhouse for a covered dish picnic luncheon.

Green Acres is located six miles south of Williamston at 1679 Green Acres Road. Take Highway 17 South and turn right onto Rodgers School Road and right at Green Acres.



### Parish Family Weekend XXXI Moves to June

In an effort to avoid the hot weather of July, the vestry voted to change move Parish Family Weekend at Trinity Center from the third weekend in July to late June for future dates.



The new date is June 23-25.

#### Adults

Single occupancy \$107.00 per person, per night

#### Adults

Double occupancy \$87.00 per person, per night

#### Children

5-17 years old \$32.00 per person, per night

#### Children

1-4 years old \$12.00 per person, per night

A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. You may also contact Joe in the church office.



Dawson Taylor, son of Lori and Lowell Taylor, graduates from East Carolina University on May 6. He will be remembered by the Church of the Advent with a gift card.

### Pentecost

Red will be the color of the day as the Great Fifty Days of Easter ends with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist for Pentecost Sunday on May 28.

The service commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles as they gathered seven weeks after Passover to celebrate the ancient Jewish feast of Shavouth to acknowledge the revelation of the Law on Mount Sinai. Now filled with the Holy Spirit, the apostles began to go out and preach. Subsequently, Pentecost is informally referred to as the birthday of the church, the day the church began to grow.

In the early church, Pentecost was a time for the administration of the sacrament of baptism. Sometimes Pentecost is called Whitsunday for Whitesunday in reference to the white robes worn by those being baptized.

Green is the color of the coming season of Pentecost, which continues until Advent.

## Reflections on Time, Light and Faith

If you are like me, time seems to pass by so quickly. As I ponder this, the summer of 2022 will soon become the summer of 2023. As a child, the daytime hours seemed to pass slowly; at school, it seemed like the lunch bell and end of school day took forever. I looked forward to the holiday breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. After Easter break, there was the final long weeks before the start of summer.



As a parent of two active children, I saw the day pass a little quicker with the rush to get the kids up and off to school before beginning the work day. After work, I'd rush away to get home to attend or help with the children's practices, playtime, homework, games, or recitals. After dinner was finish homework, play a game, bath time then tuck them in bed with story time. Then relax for an hour or two before going to sleep and awakening to begin a new day.

In reflection, I think about after the Easter break and the beginning of summer. For our family, tennis, baseball and softball were in full swing before camps and vacation. In early summer, the kids went to, and later helped with, Vacation Bible School.

VBS was a fun time for children with Bible stories, singing songs, making crafts, reciting bible verses and learning about Jesus and God's love for one another. On the last day of VBS, family and friends would come to see the crafts and pictures, listen to the children singing and performing in skits about bible stories. Afterwards, lunch would be provided for everyone. One of the favorite songs I recall was "This Little Light of Mine". I still remember their smiling faces as they sang this song.

### "This Little Light of Mine"

1 This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Ev'rywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Ev'rywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Jesus gave it to me,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

This song has a long history, deeply rooted in African-American traditions and later sung by many singers including Sam Cooke, Bruce Springsteen, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, The Kingston Trio, Pete Seeger and George Michael. From scripture in John 8:12, Jesus says, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** In Matthew 5:16, Jesus encourages each of us to **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."**

Thanks Be To God  
Jim Allen



Thank you to those who helped pack for Blessings in a Backpack during April.

We could not have done it without you.

Lori  
Joe  
Cathy  
Jim  
Richard  
Bob  
Janice  
Maria  
Jim  
David  
Linda  
Kit  
Jane  
Darla



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  
 Lucia Peel

**Birthdays**

2 Shannon Stanton  
 9 Jim Horton  
 12 Connie Connelly  
 14 Chris Stanton  
 14 Mary Bonner  
 15 Exum Taylor  
 17 Joanie Davis  
 19 Michael Biondi  
 20 Jeanne Batton  
 25 Henry Mills



**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, 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**

- May 7 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- May 11 Prayer Vigil for Lucia 6:00 pm
- May 14 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon (tentative)
- May 21 Holy Eucharist/Green Acres 11:00 am
- Parish Picnic 12:00 noon
- May 28 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- June 4 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00 noon
- June 11 Morning Prayer 11:00 am
- Parish Cookout @ Don Beach's house 5:00 pm
- June 18 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am
- June 23-25 **No Service at COA**
- Parish Family Weekend @ Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores

***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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# **Church of the Advent**

## **May 2023**

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### **Lay Schedule**

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	<b>7</b> <i>5 Easter</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>14</b> <i>6 Easter</i> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>21</b> <i>7 Easter</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b> <i>@ Green Acres Campground</i>	<b>28</b> <i>Day of Pentecost</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>
<b>MP Leader</b>		Jane Jernigan		
<b>Lector</b>	Chuck Cohen	Michael Biondi	Kit Reddick	Cathy Skinner
<b>Intercessor</b>	Cathy Cohen	John Price	Kit Reddick	Kit Reddick
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	John Price		Doug Chesson	Don Beach
<b>Acolyte</b>				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kit Reddick			
<b>Ushers</b>	Joe Jernigan TBD			