

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, calling the church office.

Prayer List

Keathley Malone
Beverly Mills
Ed Harrington
Kathleen Johnson
Russell Johnson
James Ford
Verner Godwin
John Gurkin
Deborah Willoughby
Abby Cameron
Becky Bundy
Randy Scott & family
Julia Carr
Mac Allen
Pepper Etheridge
Tommy Wellington
James Swain
Trey Weldon
Rudy Whitley

Birthdays in November

3, Chris Cooke
6, Lucy Horton
8, Keathley Malone
10, Eric French
15, Dawson Taylor
17, Julia Biggs
24, Ginny Webb
25, Frankie Biggs
28, Bob Greene
30, Charlotte Critcher

Thanksgiving for the upcoming marriage of
Will Chesson & Rachel Durston

For Those Departed

Jennifer Harris
Michael Leggett
Daniel Upchurch, a friend of the Spainhour family; and
Evelyn Mary Louise Jones,
Grandmother of Jennifer Bucher &
Kristen Caldwell

The Church of the Advent

The Rev'd. J. Robert Spainhour
Priest in Charge
Ms. Kit Reddick, senior warden
Mr. Don Beach, junior warden
Mr. Stephen Batten, parish administrator

124 West Church Street
P. O. Box 463
Williamston, NC 27892
Telephone 252.792.2244
Fax 252.792.2244
E-mail coa@coastalnet.com
www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev'd. Peter James Lee

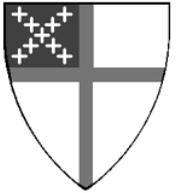
Bishop Provisional
Diocesan House
705 Doctors Drive
P. O. Box 1336
Kinston, NC 28503
Telephone 888.622.4778
Fax 252.523.5272
www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

Trinity Center
P. O. Drawer 380
Salter Path, NC 28575
Telephone 888.874.6287
Fax 252.247.3290
E-mail trinity@mail.clis.com

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

ADVENT ADVISOR

NOVEMBER 2014



STEWARDSHIP EDITION



Father Rob's Reflections

"Guilt free giving"

Martin Luther, the great Reformer, is said to have shared that life is about many, "mini," conversions. That is rather than just a conversion of salvation that one might emphasize in some churches at an altar call, life as a Christian is about many occasions on our journey when we just completely change the way we think or what we do. It can come from a long time of study on topics like the famous Anglican C.S. Lewis who came to Christ thru the mind, or from a dramatic breakthrough in our lives.

Some have experienced this as they suddenly realize that they must give of their time to help the poor, or victims of domestic violence, or food drives, or collecting money for refugees, missions, etc. You know what I mean. The wonderful folk at Advent have ex-

perienced many of these changes in thinking and practice over the years and thus our outreach is known to many.

But Martin Luther, the founder of Lutheranism, is said to have also shared that the most difficult conversion for Christians is in the pocket book. Why would this be? If as Christian we believe all that we have is a gift from God, why would he pick on us about the topic of money? We understand this, don't we? Of course we do. But putting it into practice with all our family expenses to prioritize, well that is a different matter.

Jesus knew this to be the case, so he spent more time talking about money than he did about hell. It is because wealth, or lack of it, has the potential of opening us up to God or shutting us down. Any of you having death with a family inheritance know exactly what I mean. The rich young ruler who said, "What I must do to be saved" was told by Jesus to sell everything and give it to the poor. This was not

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252.792.2244
coa@coastalnet.com

“Guilt free giving”

advice to all of us who have resources, it’s just Jesus knew his faith was being endangered by his great wealth and so guided him accordingly. The rich man who lost his life because he was so wealthy that he built more storage bins in which to store his wealth is a story most of us cannot relate too because we know our priorities. But it is always a tug--money and our keeping or releasing it. John D. Rockefeller is said to have been asked by a writer, how much more money would be enough? He is reported to have responded, “Just a little more”. And this gets at it. Rockefeller was generous as was his family to a fault, but many do not get this conversion. And it highlights the problem of money and the Bible. Money is not the root of all evil, the love of it is. WE at Advent don’t seem to have this problem at all. And that is why I will feel free to ask what I am about to ask.

In the past year since I arrived we have lost 14 of our community here. This is not only loss of presence but also of giving. This loss of course affects us emotionally and physically. They’re no longer with us, worshipping and sharing with us. But is also affects a bottom line, the budget. As we move further in our goal to allow the Endowment money to grow and fund capital projects only, as opposed to supplementing our budget, it will now especially be incumbent on the gracious generosity of our members, old and new, to step up and cover the gap of loss. I am asking that each of us, as we follow the Scriptural tradition of striving toward the title of 10% as prescribed by Malachi and practiced by the Episcopal Church, that each of consider (NO GUILT WILL EVER

BE APPLIED BY ME) a 1 to 2% increase in giving.

As based on my salary in my package at the parish, I give \$600 a month. I don’t mind telling you because I can’t expect others to do something I will not. I will increase by at least 1% and this should bring me over 10% giving. I am using this as an example, as we are not all in the same spot on this. And you know what, “That is ok.” Again, guilt is never the way to real conversion, love is, and it has always got to be matter of our conscience, not someone else’s demand.

As we head to Stewardship Sunday on November 16th, would you pray about this increase, or more as you are led, in order to help to continue to support the budget set as preliminary at \$166,000 for 2015 from the Sustainability and Marketing Committee. As new folks come, they will eventually give, but new people do not give immediately according to Church statistics. The faithful carry the burden until the new folk can feel connected and sense the calling to support the ministry of the family.

What are you giving toward? Just a few thoughts.

Nursery care—every Sunday little ones are coming to Church;

Christian Formation—Adults are meeting and learning and are you ready?

Young people are having Sunday school again upstairs!

Excellent traditional music lead by our music team—and have you heard EYC band? Beautiful Brass at Christmas and Easter!

VBS and Curriculum Conference in Kinston—for the first time in years we have folks looking again into Sunday school and Vacation Bible School Curricula.



Planning Ahead

The Church of the Advent Memorial Garden

Did you know one of the most caring things we can do for our families is to plan for the inevitable? Of course, in this case, I am referring to the day when we die. Planning our services and where to be buried may seem like a morbid thing to do, but is in fact one of the greatest gifts we can give the grieving family left behind. With this in mind, I can tell you that the Memorial Garden of the Church of the Advent is one of many things that drew my attention upon my first visit. It is so lovely. Did you know we have columbarium spaces left? The center cross is taken, but the side crosses have spaces remaining. They are \$750 per space. If this is too much for a one time expenditure, talk to us about paying over time. Just come speak to us, Stephen or Father Rob. We will look at the plat of the crosses with you to determine a location, and set up a plan for payment if that is needed. Again, planning ahead will tell those we leave behind exactly how we wanted to be celebrated, and take a great deal of pressure off those we love.

Father Rob+



NEWS & Notes

Thank you to everyone who helped make our community **St. Francis Day/Blessing of the Animals** a success. Thank you to **Jane Jernigan** and **Kit Reddick** for baking homemade dog treats; to **Lucia Peel** for organizing the human treats; to **Father Rob** for developing the liturgy and to **Pastor Ray Tavenner** of the Williamston Methodist Church for assisting. Attendance included 30 people and 26 animals including the safety canine from the Martin County Sheriff's Department,

Twelve parishioners from the Church of the Advent have registered to attend the Consecration of our Bishop elect, The Rev'd. Rob Skirving on Saturday, November 8 in Greenville. Father Rob is chairing ushers and greeters and **Jim Allen, Doug Chesson** and **Sue House** will serve as ushers.

Our playground is in better shape after **Joey Godard** made some much needed repairs to the outdoor playset.

The Church of the Advent appears in the Thanks for Gifts brochure from **The School of Theology at the University of the South** for our annual gift.

Thank you to **Mary Bonner** for purchasing a safe to store the altar silver and the canonical register in the sacristy.

Stephen Batten attended the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition Board Meeting at Retreat at Waycross Camp and Conference Center in southern Indiana.



"Even if friends did always call you a saint, I still have to look it up."

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

I would like to thank the COA Parish for their support of me in the Martin County Cropwalk. Because of your generosity, I almost **tripled my goal and raised a total of \$450.00**. This will purchase almost 4,000 lbs of food! It was a beautiful day for the walk and even better knowing that you were walking with me in spirit. This year's recipients are: the **Senior Center's food program, Holy Trinity's food pantry, Faith Community, and Friends of God's Ministry** which reaches so many in our community. It's a great feeling to understand this program provides some relief in the near future for those that hunger. Thank you so much; together we make a difference!

Anna Chesson

Sunday and Wednesday Worship services.

Have you see the Parlor and Stephen's office?—wonderful project by our Ladies group and supported by the budget of the parish.

Check the inside and outside of the Parish—plaster repaired—back window over the organ pipes outside completely restored—ceiling going to Parish hall—gorgeous!

Beautiful gatherings for Fellowship—funerals, baptisms, confirmations, etc. (three baptisms on November 2 and at Easter Jeff and Kristin Caldwell's baby to be baptized)

AND A PLETHORA of outreach ministries including support of seminaries, hunger fund, scholarships for students, etc.

The wonder that is Advent, the only Episcopal Church fully operating in Martin County since 1850.

I'll close with a verse I have seen work in my life many times. It is from **Luke 6:38** and it follows Jesus' teaching on loving ones enemies and not judging others. It says,

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."



In Christ's love,
Father Rob+

Annual Proportionate Giving Chart

Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%
\$ 10,000	\$ 200	\$ 400	\$ 600	\$ 800	\$ 1,000
\$ 20,000	\$ 400	\$ 800	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,000
\$ 30,000	\$ 600	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,000
\$ 40,000	\$ 800	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,200	\$ 4,000
\$ 50,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000
\$ 75,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,500
\$100,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 8,000	\$10,000
\$150,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 9,000	\$12,000	\$15,000
\$200,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$20,000
\$250,000	\$ 5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
\$500,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$50,000

Thanksgiving Outreach



Requests have been posted to help a needy local family have a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The turkey and ham will be purchased with Outreach funds.

This is a larger family than we have had in the past few years so we will need extra help. The family consists of a grandmother with three grandchildren living with her, one who has cerebral palsy and one who has autism and one who has ADHD. She also has two more grandchildren who frequently stay with her for a total of six people.

The grandmother is known to case-workers to be kind, patient, and caring with the children. Donations need to be in the narthex by Sunday, November 23 for delivery on Monday, November 24. If all the requests are taken and you still wish to help, consider calling Mary Charles Coppage and purchasing Food Lion gift cards either in the amount of \$10.00 or \$20.00 and give these to either Sue House or Kit Reddick to pass on to the family.



Its busy again as we approach the holidays. The deadline for submissions to the December *Advent Advisor* will be Friday, November 21.



United Thank Offering is Sunday, November 9

Our parish celebrates United Thank Offering this year on November during our 11:00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist.

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church.

Through United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God.

These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings.

Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity.

United Thank Offering is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the UTO monies to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

If you are unable to attend church on November 9 and wish to contribute to UTO, please contact our parish UTO chairwoman, Frankie Biggs at 252.792.2227.



The Blessing of the Animals on St. Francis' Day



Pictured from left to right: John Price holds Teddy Graham as Fr. Rob prepares to bless them and Pastor

Ray Tavenner gets ready with the asperges (sprinkling of holy water).

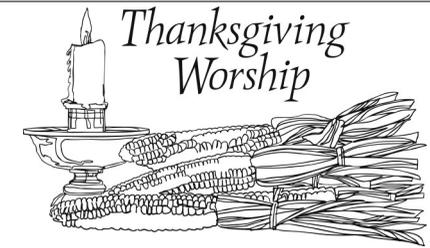


Garron Chesson and Krueger waiting for their blessing.



Jane

Jernigan holds Blitz as Valerie, her adorable



Thanksgiving Day became a national observance in this country following a Presidential decree by Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

The Episcopal Church, however, began celebrating Thanksgiving on the first Thursday of November after George Washington's 1789 declaration of the first American holiday: Thanksgiving/

It is customary in the majority of parishes throughout The Episcopal Church that a Holy Eucharist or other service of worship be held on the day of the national observance of Thanksgiving, the fourth Thursday in November.

This year, we hold **Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. in the church on Thanksgiving Day (November 27)** with special invitation to all members of the Williamston and Martin County communities to gather as one in thanking the Lord for all that we have been given. **ALL ARE INVITED TO THIS SERVICE** so please, ask your friends and neighbors if they might wish to attend.

The offering collected on Thanksgiving is dedicated to Thompson's Children's Home. Thompson's is located in western North Carolina and is dedicated to helping children with emotional and behavioral problems. The children treated are fragile, bruised and broken.

Come on Thanksgiving Day and give thanks for all that God has given us!