



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

October 2021

God's Call to Us

God has a dream for us. It is not necessarily unique but particular to who we the people of the Advent are in contexts of time and place. It is an accounting of sorts, based on how we have been gifted and graced by God. Actually, God is stirring up something in us that is essentially more compelling than a dream, more imperative than an accounting. We are being called to participate in God's great enterprise of bringing in God's kingdom. What is



BEYOND CHURCH WALLS

being stirred up is a vision we can ignore or grasp. If we grasp it, it can guide us to discern God's voice in the mix of the world's noise, and come to understand how God is speaking to us and showing us what could be. God's call is not meant to confound us but to challenge us with a vision of not only what could be but also of what might make the vision a reality. Imagination is an instrument of God. And, here's the thing: by God's grace the imaginations of the faithful may be conformed to God's vision and become their own vision.

We are encouraged to envision how we might respond faithfully to God's call. That might open us up to all possibilities, and that may be overwhelming. So, we'll have to use deliberative techniques and reason to discard what seems extraneous to who we are, who we honestly are, fully are as God's gifted and graced people who want to do God's will. We need to do that together. The vestry will do a visioning exercise at its retreat in October. The purpose is to establish priorities and set goals that are consistent with the Church's mission to live more deeply into the life of God by being Christ's presence one to another and to our neighbors, making disciples and making a difference. We have to hone that down a bit and be specific, mindful that God's call usually entails planting a seed or two that others will water

or watering seeds already planted. However, in order to discover and commit to even the simplest ways we are to respond in faith, we need to include the hopes, dreams and imaginings of all parishioners in the visioning process. Please give a vestry member your input before October 17.

Share Your Thoughts



What are your ideas or suggestions or visions on the Church of the Advent connecting with our community and neighbors?

Share these with a vestry member either orally or written.

The vestry will be meeting Sunday, October 17th from 4 to 8 pm in the Parish House to respond to your input.

The Bishop is Coming!

The Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving, bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina, is coming to Church of the Advent for his annual visit on Sunday, October 3rd.

He will join us in a celebration of Shared Ministry in acknowledgement of our new clergy leadership Rev. Connie Connelly.

He will also confirm Carroll Stanley, who resides in Robersonville. Carroll is very eager to be involved in our parish work.

After the service, we will gather in the breezeway to welcome the bishop and newly confirmed Carroll and enjoy light refreshments.

Out of concern for the continuing rise in Covid cases, Fellowship is preparing refreshments in individual containers or individually wrapped.



UTO Offers Opportunity to Return Thanks



Frankie Biggs, parish chair of the United Thank Offering (UTO) has designated Sunday, 17th as the fall in-gathering of the UTO. Offering

envelopes will be distributed before October 17th.

The UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that provides a way for women, men, and children to give thanks to God.

At first the fund was mainly used to support the work of women missionaries and missionary work among women and children.

Now 138 years old, the UTO has broadened its work to include all areas of the church's work.

All money collected is given away in the form of grants. None is used for administrative purposes.

The In-Gathering is submitted to the diocese and then, in turn, submitted to the national level of the UTO.



Please Help Our Community

Every night in the United States, there are an estimated 600,000 people who are living on the streets and more than 400,000 children who are living in foster care.

With the cold weather approaching, we want to help make a difference in the lives of our neighbors who are homeless and in foster care.

Socks are one of the least donated items in homeless shelters, yet they are one of the most needed.

Also, when children are entered into the foster system, they are often left with little to no belongings such as this basic necessity.

To help these two populations, *Socktober* is a movement that was started in 2011 and has turned into a worldwide donation drive. It is a time of reaching out to those in need from the feet up! Who knew such a small thing could make such a huge difference?

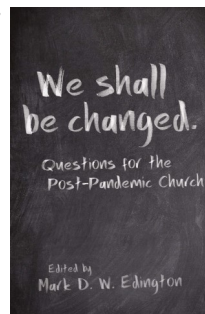
We want to warm hearts and feet by collecting donations for these much-needed items. In addition to socks (of any kind), we will also be accepting donations of blankets and hygiene products throughout the month of October.

There is a special need of large socks for diabetics.

Please leave your donations in the Love on Wheels wagon in the narthex. In turn, they will go to the Martin-Tyrell-Washington District Health Department.

Look for posted requests in the church narthex. Contact Kit Reddick if you need a personal shopper. She will also be glad to accept monetary contributions for shopping.

Copies of the book entitled *We Shall Be Changed: Questions for the Post-Pandemic Church*, are available for pickup in the Church narthex. The book is a series of essays edited by Mark D. W. Edington.



"How will we regather the church after the pandemic? How will we change habits of isolation and regather the church? How will we manage the impact on church finances? How is God calling us to embrace the energy and creativity of this moment—and the longing people have felt for a return to community? What challenges will we face regathering the people of God, particularly in already weakened communities?"

The booklet is designed to spur conversation within parishes, fellowship groups, and clergy gatherings about how to embrace the gifts this time has given while anticipating and addressing the very real challenges the church will confront in its wake."

Rev. Connie plans to begin discussions first with the vestry and then, with the vestry, develop opportunities for discussions with parishioners.



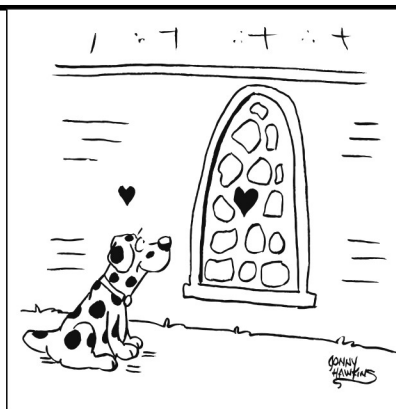
**Wednesday
October 13
6:00 pm**



For Love of Animals

St. Francis of Assisi, known for his affection for animals, is honored on October 4. Some congregations observe this day by blessing pets, remembering that God pronounced animals — along with all creation — good. God saved not only Noah's family but animals of all kinds from the Flood. And despite Jonah's protests, God had compassion on Nineveh — "and [its] many animals" (Jonah 4:11). How intriguing that the prophet adds this point!

Care for all living creatures is clearly part of the divine character. Animals don't do anything to earn God's favor except be themselves. From this, we can learn that God pours out love unconditionally. As Psalm 36:6 (CEV) declares, "All people and animals are under your care."



Blessing of the Animals



Honoring St. Francis, Patron Saint of Animals

Saturday, 16 October 2021

10:00 A. M. at the Barnes Plaza

Corner of Main and Smithwick in Williamston, NC

Please bring your pets - all sizes, all kinds - to be blessed followed by refreshments of water and treats for humans and animals.

In case of bad weather, the Blessing will be at the Church of the Advent, Episcopal on the corner of Church and Hassell Streets.



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

Chris Carrol

Betty Jones Nita Smith

Lucia Peel Powe Trudy

Cheryl Klein Robert Bonner

Sandy Jones Chloe Tuttle

Chris & Lindsay Cannon

Carroll Stanley

Birthdays

1 ~ Sarah Lewis Peel

3 ~ Chloe Tuttle

3 ~ Will Greene

8 ~ Bill Webb

14 ~ Ellen Miller

17 ~ Joe Jernigan

18 ~ Jane Jernigan

21 ~ Betty Peel

22 ~ Ann Slade

28 ~ Amanda Smith



Church of the Advent

Founded 1850

The Rev. Connie Connelly, Priest in Charge

Lucia Peel, Senior Warden

Don Beach, Junior Warden

Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator

**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday,
8:00 a.m. – 12 noon**

Brandon Woody, Organist/Choirmaster

124 West Church Street

P. O. Box 463

Williamston, NC 27892

Telephone: 252.792.2244

Email: advent1850@gmail.com

www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

*****For fire, police, injury or other emergencies, call 911 for assistance. Then please contact in this order: Connie, Joe, Lucia, Don.**

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

*****For all problems or issues dealing with the church and rectory buildings and grounds, please contact Joe and then he and Don will determine how to proceed.**

Connie 704-651-0244

Joe 252-809-3405

Lucia 919-523-3382

Don 203-645-4614

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**October 3 Holy Eucharist/Bishop
Visit/Confirmation 11:00 am**

October 10 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

October 13 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm

**October 16 Blessing of the Animals
@ Barnes Plaza 10:00 am**

October 17 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

October 17 Vestry Retreat 4:00 pm

October 24 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

October 31 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

November 7 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

November 10 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm

November 14 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am

November 15 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm

November 21 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

November 28 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

October 2021

Lay Schedule

| | 3 <i>19 Pentecost</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>Bishop Visit</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i> | 10 <i>20 Pentecost</i> <i>MP II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i> | 17 <i>21 Pentecost</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i> | 24 <i>22 Pentecost</i> <i>MP II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i> | 31 <i>23 Pentecost</i> <i>HE II</i> <i>11:00 A.M.</i> |
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| | | | | | |
| MP Leader | | John Price | | Kit Reddick | |
| | | | | | |
| Lector | Valerie Cooke | Jane Jernigan | Kit Reddick | Michael Biondi | Chuck Cohen |
| Intercessor | Lucia Peel | | Kit Reddick | | Cathy Cohen |
| Chalice Bearer | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Acolytes | Exum Taylor | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Altar Guild | John Price Cathy Skinner | | | | |
| Ushers | Lowell Taylor Don Mills | | | | |