



Church of the Advent

# Advent Advisor

October 2023

## And All Will Be Well

Judy Connelly was an energetic, vivacious woman of exceptional grace. She was dearly loved by her family and many, many friends, and her death at 69 was a shock. Every day except when it was bitterly cold or she was traveling as she often did, she swam 100 laps in a neighbor's pool. Her last conscious day was spent visiting friends, and that evening she cheered on her 7-year old granddaughter at a swim meet.

The call came from her son Larry that she was unresponsive with an apparent stroke. When Charlie and I got to the hospital, the news was grim. She presented with classic symptoms of a subarachnoid hemorrhage, a rupture of the brain stem from which only 5% survive. She was comatose for two days before she died.

Death is often tragic; Judy's was heartbreaking. Charlie and I left the hospital nearly numb with disbelief. We dreaded telling our young daughters whose grandparents, one and all, were a vital part of their lives. My parents had them staying at their house, but my mother brought them home when we telephoned her with the news and said we would be there soon.

When we pulled into the garage and entered through the kitchen door, we were met with more excitement than grief. The girls announced that when they had come into the house through the front



door there was a rainbow on the inner door. My mother corroborated their announcement explaining that indeed there was a fully arched rainbow greeting their arrival.

The front entrance to our house had two doors. The outer one was an antique relic with a beveled glass pane. Often light coming through the pane refracted into a small spectrum of color that appeared on the inner door. It always resembled only a piece of a fully-formed rainbow. But an honest to God fully arched rainbow – no way!

Our priest who came by minutes later was greeted with the same excitement. His response resonates

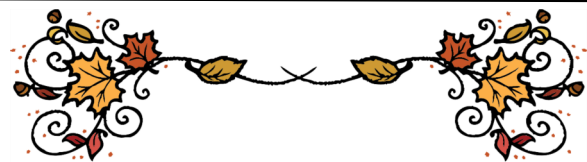
still. He urged us to keep an eye out for rainbows, God's historic symbolic promise that all will be well. For years that followed, rainbows seemed to be constant when we needed hope, courage, or faith that indeed all would be well. But, mysteriously, after Charlie's sudden death over 20 years after his mother's, rainbows did not necessarily appear when they would have been particularly welcomed. They were random, and I nearly forgot how significant their appearance once had been.

We were all affected by the events of September 11, 2001. I did not personally know anyone who died on that terrible day, but I did have a personal reaction to the series of near encounters that could have happened. I had the common reaction to the incredible events that swept many of us up long after they occurred.

General Seminary, my Manhattan home for three years, is about a block from the Hudson River where a beautiful promenade along the river begins. Charlie regularly attended Morning Prayer in the seminary chapel. Immediately afterwards, around 8:30, he began his routine of taking a solitary walk along the river, stopping about 15 minutes later at a World Trade Center coffee shop for a shot of caffeine. He circled the towers and walked back to our apartment. The morning walk was reverie, and he had a deep sense of familiarity with the towers, the hubbub of activity at the site and especially with the coffee shop personnel. Sometimes I accompanied him, but, respectful of his preference to make the trek alone, I usually stayed back. I remember how we reminisced about how special those walks were as we drove from New York City on our return to North Carolina. Charlie said that they put him in touch with the human scale of that big city. We left New York three weeks before the attacks.

On September 11, I was newly ordained as a transitional deacon and had been at work for just over a week at St. Martin's Church in Charlotte. As the hideous news unfolded, the rector closed the church offices for the rest of the day, so I went home. I arrived, turned

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on the television, and saw the towers collapse. About an hour later, on that sunny, calm Tuesday, the transformer



behind my house exploded followed by another transformer exploding nearby. I remember a sense of dread coming over me as the phone rang. Charlie's mood matched mine and my fear escalated as he reminded me that our future son-in-law and my seminary classmate

Jonah had told him that he expected he would be at Trinity Wall Street early that morning. It seemingly was to be some type of advance planning involving him and other candidates scheduled for ordination that week at the cathedral. Trinity Church is very close to the Trade Towers. As it happened, Jonah was not there, but we did not know that until later. I also was worried about my friend Lyndon who was the vicar at St. Paul's Chapel, and knew that he probably was there. Lyndon was the person who within a couple of days of the terrorist attack transformed the chapel into a respite for those working on the "pile."

The phone rang again. My sister Caroline was on the line. She lives in Arlington, Virginia, and was calling to tell me that our daughter Kess was safe at their house. Kess lived in Arlington in near proximity to the Pentagon, but I knew that she regularly left early for work so I did not think she had been home during that attack. She had left later than usual that morning, and was in route to her workplace in suburban Maryland when she heard the awful news on her car radio. It was reported that the Pentagon and everything in the vicinity were being sealed off. She headed home to discover federal agents at the entry to her block and saw a tank poised at the other end. Kess could see and smell the smoke. She verified proof of her residence and was permitted to go immediately home so that she could quickly gather what she needed for a few days. She hurriedly grabbed some things and went to my sister's.

I did not know anyone who lost their life that day or because of their participation in the long period of recovery that followed. But, probably like many of you, I lost some innocence, even some peace. Beginning in 2005, I lived in suburban Connecticut for over four years, and frequently went into the city. The pain always seeped back in when the absence of the twin towers reminded me of what had happened. A hole was left not only at the site but in many hearts who mourn what their loss signifies. I have not been to the memorial at Ground Zero.

Year after year, I watch the televised accounts of that fateful day, and usually cry during the poignant commemorations. I do not know why I hold onto it all as I do because I was not a victim, but it is not a stretch to conclude that all of us were victimized to some degree. I do not want to forget, but I am grateful that the

horror has subsided as the years go by. I look for hope that all will be well, whatever that may mean, and finally have found a tangible indicator that God is at work in the vestiges of this tragedy and all others, bringing in a kingdom where love reigns. A rainbow has renewed the ancient promise that God brings restoration out of ruin, that love can heal this old world.

This year, September 11 in New York City was not like that day in 2011, a day described as having dawned into a beautiful fair day with a splendid blue, cloudless sky. This year, September 11 was a stormy, gray day. I stayed up late to watch television and once again get immersed in the memorializing of loss, heroism and generosity of spirit. I suspect it is an attempt to remain connected in a meager, distant way to events I may prefer to forget but dare not. At midnight, Stephanie Ruhle on her MSNBC telecast ended her show with a glorious sight. It was a double rainbow after over the city after a storm, a city struggling to believe it is being given new life after being so terribly wounded. God keeps promises. All will be well.

*Connie*



### Choir School

The Choir School has had two successful rehearsals to date with three choristers, one male and two females.

They are progressing quickly through their curriculum and have even sung a song in a round.

Everyone is enjoying themselves, both leaders and choristers. Terri and Cathy's spaghetti was a big hit with the kids!

We are grateful to all who have volunteered to help, are helping, and who have contributed to this endeavor.

*Brandon Woody*

A spaghetti fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, October 15 immediately following the Eucharist.

Plates will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Patrons will have the option of meat sauce or meatless sauce and ranch dressing or Italian dressing.

All proceeds will go toward the music program.



Wednesday, October 11  
 5:30 p. m. Blessing of the Animals  
 Churchyard  
 6:00 p. m. Holy Eucharist  
 Church  
 Soup and Sandwich Supper  
 Parish House

Soup and cookies and bottled water will be available.  
 Bring your own sandwich, crackers, or other beverage.  
 Animals are welcomed for service and supper.

The Church of the Advent welcomes The Right Reverend Rob Skirving, bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina for his annual visit on Sunday, October 29.



In addition to preaching and celebrating Holy Eucharist, Bishop Skirving will also confirm Joanie Davis and receive Jody Roskopf.

After the morning service, we will host Bishop Skirving to a Soup and Sandwich Lunch in the Parish House.

John Price of Parish Life is coordinating the lunch. Volunteers for soups and sandwiches and other tasks are needed and should see John.

A collection basket will be available at lunch for a dollar donation from each person for his or her meal.

The collection will be submitted to the Food

Bank of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, where each dollar can purchase four meals.



Dear Church of the Advent Vestry Members,



Thank you so much for the generous scholarship! This will help me out so much with my fee costs and will allow me to work on my Thesis and school work. Thank you so much for your generosity and all the members of the church

have been like a family to me. Thank you again for your kindness.

Best wishes,  
 Paul Sessoms

9/18/23  
 Thank you so much for your help and kindness in honoring our Mom, Nita Smith. The "Celebration of Life" was great and offered Manely and I some much needed closure. Special thanks to Connie, Joe, Kit, Lori + John for all of your help.  
 Best,  
 Sarah + Amanda Smith

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
- Betty Jones
- Ann Wallace
- Carlis & Faye Lee
- Jessie Critcher
- Moss Vance
- Bishop Michael Curry
- Bertha & Larry Teele

**Birthdays**

- 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
- 30 ~ Valerie Cooke



# 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

- October 1 Holy Eucharist 11:00am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00noon
- October 8 Morning Prayer 11:00am
- October 11 Blessing of the Animals 5:30pm
- Evening Holy Eucharist 6:00pm
- Lite Supper 6:30pm
- October 15 Holy Eucharist 11:00am
- Spaghetti Fundraiser 12:00noon
- October 22 Morning Prayer 11:00am
- October 29 Holy Eucharist/Confirmation/  
Bishop Visit 11:00am
- Luncheon 12:00noon
- November 5 Holy Eucharist 11:00am
- Vestry Meeting 12:00noon
- November 8 Evening Holy Eucharist 6:00pm
- November 12 Holy Eucharist 11:00am
- November 19 Holy Eucharist/Stewardship  
Sunday 11:00am
- Community Thanksgiving  
Evensong 6:00pm
- November 26 Morning Prayer 11:00am

*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**

## **October 2023**

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### **Lay Schedule**

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	<b>1</b> <i>18 Pentecost</i> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>8</b> <i>19 Pentecost</i> <b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>15</b> <i>20 Pentecost</i> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>22</b> <i>21 Pentecost</i> <b>Morning Prayer</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>29</b> <i>22 Pentecost</i> <b>Bishop Visit</b> <b>Holy Eucharist</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>
<b>MP Leader</b>		Kit Reddick		Bill Webb	
<b>Lector</b>	Jane Jernigan	Chuck Cohen	Valerie Cooke	Ginny Webb	Kit Reddick
<b>Intercessor</b>	Jane Jernigan		Bill Webb		Kit Reddick
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Don Beach		Bill Webb		Chloe Tuttle
<b>Acolyte</b>					Exum Taylor
<b>Altar Guild</b>	John Price Cathy Skinner				
<b>Ushers</b>	Don Beach Don Mills				