

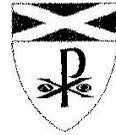
The **Prayer List** is found in a notebook marked "Prayer Lists" on the table in the narthex of the church. Names may be added at any time by writing them in the notebook, calling the church office.

Prayer List

- Keathley Malone
- Beverly Mills
- Ed Harrington
- Bill & Nita Smith
- Michael Biondi
- Ann Wallace
- Kathleen Johnson
- James Ford
- Jenette Griffin
- Verner Godwin
- John Gurkin
- Betty Spainhour Williams
- Deborah Willoughby
- Abby Cameron
- Jennifer Harris
- Becky Bundy
- Gus Griffin
- Randy Scott & family
- Julia Carr
- Mac Allen
- Billy Peel
- Pepper Etheridge
- Birthdays in August
- 4, Kate Mann
- 6, Harrison Peel
- 6, Sue House
- 9, Will Chesson
- 11, Fr. Rob Spainhour
- 12, Cayce French
- 12, Tara Stancill
- 23, Billie Roney
- 27, Caroline Chesson

For Those Departed

Charles Wooten, father of Christine Chesson
The Reverend Robert D. Cook



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

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

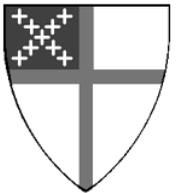
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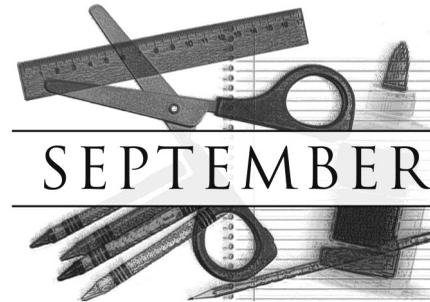
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

ADVENT ADVISOR

SEPTEMBER 2014



BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION



SEPTEMBER

School is back in session, Labor Day is past. Welcome to **September 2014** here at The Church of the Advent.

As I am writing this article, the restoration and repair of the walls around the altar and The Four Evangelists' Window are almost complete. **Steve Hester and his crew of workman** have cleaned and sealed the exterior of those walls and completed their scheduled repairs ahead of schedule. They also cleaned the exterior wall of the Parish House that faces the memorial garden and columbarium.

On Sunday, September 7, we will once again return to our traditional Sunday schedule with **Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m.** There will also be an hour of Christian Forma-

tion on Sundays at 10 a.m. for youth and adults in the parish house (Adults will meet in the parlor, youth will meet upstairs).

On Sunday the 7th we will briefly organize each class and then join our fellow parishioners at 10:15 a.m. for light refreshments in the Parish Hall as we celebrate the arrival of **Jeff and Kristen Caldwell's new baby boy, Taylor Sullivan.**

After their summer vacation, we welcome our parish choir back to Sunday worship! The choir will practice **every Sunday at 9 a.m. in the chancel.**

The new acolyte and lay minister schedules also begin this month. Though the current month's assignments will continue to be published here in *Advisor*, **all acolytes and lay ministers** are asked to mark their calendars per the schedules sent out from the parish office two weeks ago. This current schedule runs through Thanksgiving Day.

Please keep sending the office your calendar events and notes so that I can include them in future editions.

Stephen Batten, editor

Volume 42, Issue 4
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Father Rob's Reflections Discerning a Call

Dear Advent Family,

The Scriptures reveal that all of us have a calling upon our lives. At times we have simply fallen into that calling as we follow a parent in one's profession. Others will seek out disciplines in college and find a home in that subject that guides their career. Still others, search tirelessly to find that place where the fit is right with their gifts and where the old adage seems to be true, "the person who truly ties their God given gifts to their work place, will never work a day in their lives." This is a process, usually very private, but sometimes shared with family and counselors.

In the ordained ministry, it is quite different. In the call to ordination, many groups and people must come along to concur with this calling. This is in an effort to assist the individual and the wider Church to see, together, God's will for each of their lives.

This year, a discernment process, which began in Stephen Batten's life decades ago, has come into active play for us. This process has a Parish and Diocesan beginning by meeting with the Priest of the Parish in which the person worships and subsequently meeting with the Bishop of their Diocese. Then the lengthy discernment process by the individual and wider Church has its official start.

From there, the person seeks out the Priest for direction. This leads to four very specifically guided sessions of discernment being undertaken between the individual and the Priest. If the Priest concurs that a process of

discernment for Holy Orders is warranted, this is communicated with the person and the Bishop.

At this juncture, the canons call for the Priest to form a committee, in consultation with the individual, of 5 to 7 representative people from the Parish. This group is called a Parish Discernment Committee. The matters discussed are strictly confidential, since the committee members are asked to share their personal journeys along with the person. Much prayer and work go into these 6 sessions, the last of which the seeking individual is not included. Questions for use are provided by the Diocese for each of the groups. In addition, clear steps for the entire process are provided by the Diocese.

Following these designated steps, the Discernment Committee then discusses the individual and their continued process of discernment toward Holy Orders, acting as any committee in the Parish who will then make appropriate recommendations to the Vestry. The Committee will draft a letter of support, failure to support, or a call for continued search before moving forward.

The Vestry then is called to meet in order to have the committee present its findings and recommendation. The Canons require that at least two thirds of the vestry, if in agreement, are then to sign a "Parish Endorsement for Postulancy". Up to this point Stephen has been an "Aspirant", aspiring to Holy Orders. If the Vestry agrees that further discernment is warranted and that he move to next step, the Bishop and Commission on Ministry look to see that all the requirements have been met.

If approved, he becomes a Postulant for Holy Orders, later in the process becoming a Candidate. Eventually before ordination, he is an ordinand. Don't you just love Episcopal verbiage? *(continued on page 3)*



Around East Carolina

The Albemarle Deanery held its August 2014 meeting at Holy Trinity, Hertford on August 28. Father Rob and Stephen Batten attended as Advent's representatives. Upcoming events in both our deanery and the diocese were the major topics of discussion.

The ordination and consecration of our bishop-elect, **The Rev'd. Rob Skirving**, will be held on **Saturday, November 8, 2014** at Rock Springs Center outside of Greenville. This is a joyous moment of our shared life as a diocese of The Episcopal Church. The Most Rev'd. Dr. Katherine Jefferts Shori, Presiding Bishop & Primate of The Episcopal Church will be chief consecrator.

The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry will hold their **24th Annual Farmworker Festival on Sunday, September 21 from noon to 6 p.m. in Dunn**. The festival honors farmworkers' contributions to North Carolina. The festival will include information booth, live authentic Hispanic music and dance, free food and water, soccer/volleyball tournaments, attractions for the kids and free medical exams.



From the family of Donald W. Mills, senior

August 6, 2014

To our Church of the Advent Family,

My family and I would like to express our thanks for the multitudes of things you have done for Donald and us.

You have thought of us;

Prayed for us;

Given gentle hugs;

Called;

Sent cards;

Visited; and

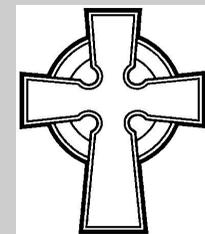
Attended his funeral service and the reception afterwards.

It's wonderful what can happen when people care and love you.

Our hearts are full—we thank you. And we know Donald would thank you too and be very grateful.

Our love,

Beverly and family.



Three feasts observed in September

The Episcopal Church recognizes three (3) principal feast days on the calendar of the church year during the month of September.

The Feast of the Holy Cross is celebrated this year on Monday, September 15.

During the reign of Constantine, first Roman Emperor to profess the Christian faith, his mother **Helena** went to Israel and there undertook to find the places especially significant to Christians. (She was helped in this by the fact that in their destructions around 135, the Romans had built pagan shrines over many of these sites.) Having located, close together, what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (at locations that modern archaeologists think may be correct), she then had built over them the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which was dedicated on 14 September 335. It has become a day for recognizing the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as a sign of Christ's victory over death, and a reminder of His promise, "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32).

Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist falls on September 22.



One day Jesus was walking and saw a tax collector named Matthew sitting at a tax collection post, and said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew stood up and followed Him, and became one of His twelve apostles. (See M 9:9-13 = P 2:13-17 = L 5:27-32) Tax collectors in those days were social outcasts. Devout Jews avoided them because they were usually dishon-

est (the job carried no salary, and they were expected to make their profits by cheating the people from whom they collected taxes).

Throughout the Gospels, we find tax collectors (publicans) mentioned as a standard type of sinful and despised outcast. Matthew brought many of his former associates to meet Jesus, and social outcasts in general were shown that the love of Jesus extended even to them.

Whether the Apostle Matthew is also the Evangelist Matthew -- that is, whether the Apostle Matthew wrote the Gospel that bears his name -- is disputed. The Gospel itself does not say who wrote it, but the designation "according to Matthew" is very old.

The Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, September 29.

On the Feast of Michael and all Angels, popularly called Michaelmas, we give thanks for the many ways in which God's loving care watches over us, both directly and indirectly, and we are reminded that the richness and variety of God's creation far exceeds our knowledge of it.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, it is occasionally reported that someone saw a man who spoke to him with authority, and who he then realized was no mere man, but a messenger of God. Thus we have a belief in super-human rational created beings, either resembling men in appearance or taking human appearance when they are to communicate with us. They are referred to as "messengers of God," or simply as "messengers." The word for a messenger in Hebrew is *malach*, in Greek, *angelos*, from which we get our word "angel."



Discerning a Call continued from page 2

Anyway, from our initial process at Advent if approved, this would then begin a journey of nearly 4 years of continued discernment and training where at any time the process, in this case for Stephen, and the pilgrimage could come to an end. The Commission on Ministry must approve, and the Standing Committee ultimately. The Bishop can end that process at any time as can the individual.

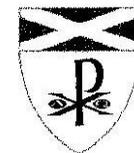
Well, that may have been a little much, but believe me this is how interesting and lengthy the call to Ordination really is. I say it is sloppy work in a way, because we want clear answers as to how we are to be sure of this call in our lives, but in fact each calling is different for each person. Clear answers aren't so readily available and instead the work of the Spirit through the individual, Parish, and Diocese help to bring clarity. For this reason many people figure into the process.

At this point, with Vestry consent, we would be approving Stephen to continue his search, acknowledging that with the tools we possess, we too are doing our best at assisting with the discernment of the calling of another. This we do with some trepidation but mostly with great care, prayer, and love.

Should you have other questions, do not hesitate to ask.

In Christ's love,

Father Rob



From the Senior Warden

Dear Parish Family,

On Wednesday, August 27, the vestry voted enthusiastically and unanimously to support Stephen Batten in beginning his journey toward Holy Orders.

This is only the first step of many, many more for Stephen as Fr. Rob explains in his letter in this month's Advisor.

The vestry wishes Stephen well and is pleased and honored that he will begin his journey here at the Church of the Advent.

Although the vestry has voted its approval, the work of the vestry and the Church of the Advent is far from done. Some parishioners have already begun their work by serving on Stephen's Parish Discernment Committee. This vestry and vestries in the next few years will be called on to lead the parish in supporting Stephen emotionally, spiritually, and financially.

Please extend your congratulations and best wishes to Stephen and keep him and the Church of the Advent in your prayers while we walk this path together with Stephen as he answers his call to ministry just as Peter and his fellow fishermen walked their path together with Jesus answering his call to them.

Faithfully yours,
Kit Reddick

Kit Reddick, Senior Warden

Cookie Sale
Sunday, September 21 after Morning Service



Support Jennifer Bucher, Kristen Bucher Caldwell, and Jeff Caldwell as they participate on Momma Bucher's Team in Tour de Cure, a bike ride in Washington, D. C. on September 27 to raise monies for diabetes research in memory of Laura Bucher. Make a donation with cash or check and take home some delicious cookies from the ovens of our renown parish chefs. You will not want to miss an opportunity to pick up Father Rob's Famous Peanut Butter Cookies. Make checks out to Tour de Cure with Momma Bucher's Team on the memo line.



Episcopal Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

Treasurer Lowell Taylor recently remitted the Easter 2013 offering to Episcopal and Development (ERD).

The total offering was \$295.00 with \$25.00 designated for one Women's Literacy Group, \$60.00 for one Savings Group, and \$200.00 for one Micro Credit Loan. The remaining \$10.00 was given to the ERD General Fund.



STRIKE UP THE BAND! We are pleased to announce that the **Episcopal Youth Club (EYC) Band** is being started up again here at Advent under the direction of Kim Michel.

EYC Band will meet for practice every **Wednesday at 5 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Practices end by 5:45 p.m.



The young people (Grades 6 & up) of the Church of the Advent have been invited to participate in a **Youth Group** organized at First Christian Church under the guidance of Jimmy Elks, FCC's new Youth Director.

The group held an organizational meeting the last week of August and meets again this **Sunday, September 7 at 5:30 p.m. at First Christian followed by a 6:30 dinner.**

The group will also meet on **Sunday evening, Sept. 21** for a presentation on the planned **Youth Mission Trip**. A covered dish dinner will follow the meeting.

A **Youth Fall Retreat** is planned for the weekend of September 26-28 at Camp Caroline. Registration for this retreat is due on September 16.

If you would like to know more about the group and its activities, please contact Jimmy Elks at 252.661.0411



Altar Guild Dinner and Training planned

Our Altar Guild members are asked to attend the dinner and training session scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 14.

Father Rob has developed our very own comprehensive altar guild manual as a resource and reference for the altar guild's use in setting for the many services that take place here at Advent throughout the church year.



The Church started a new Facebook page at the beginning of this month at www.facebook.com/adventinwilliamston.

The page will help to spread parish news through pictures and announcements.