



Church of the Advent

# Advent Advisor

September 2021

## On Being Good Stewards of Our Earth

In a recent sermon I commented on my reaction to the smoke pollution I saw from the plane on my return trip from visiting my family in Idaho. The brown gunk I saw trailing all the way across the country remains vivid, heightening my concern for the environment. Fires are ravaging the West, killing people and wildlife and destroying property and resources. This past week my daughter and her children have been housebound because the air where they live is at an unhealthy level for everyone. Smoke rides the prevailing wind currents across the continent and affects the Eastern states and beyond. Droughts and tropical systems do their damage as well. Plastic swirls about in the oceans. Too many people are blasé about the situation. Too many people think that the dire predictions about global warming are a hoax. I count myself among the believers who worry that we are recklessly destroying the planet and that we should take seriously pleas to make critical adjustments before it's too late.



As painful as damage, destruction and certainly death are for those who experience them first-hand, many of us who witness the awful scenes in the media are emotionally victimized. The few alterations I can make in my own behavior seem too little and too late to really make a difference especially when indifference seems rampant and major polluters have little incentive to stop. My inert response to that feeling of inadequacy contributes to the problem. Until movement towards environmental protection crosses social and political lines, too few of us will be roused into effective action – action that is frankly sacrificial, frankly theological. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.

Maybe God is doing a new thing in spite of our-

selves. Maybe awareness that has not seemed to catch hold by messages that sound alarm is emerging from ashes and ruins. The horrible images are hard to ignore. Reality is sobering. Reality can be corrective. The environmental crisis is of human origin, human doing; but, in time, God's purposes prevail over human behavior. That reality eclipses the realities of dismal circumstances. In that is our hope.

An excerpt from a piece by theologian John B. Cobb expresses the point that the results of environmental insensitivity may have gotten enough attention that there will be a reversal. Cobb writes:

*We live in the ending of an age. But the ending of the modern period differs from the ending of previous periods, such as classical or the medieval. The amazing achievements of modernity make it possible, even likely, that its end will also be the end of civilization, of many species, or even of the human species. At the same time, we are living in an age of new beginnings that give promise of an ecological civilization. Its emergence is marked by a growing sense of urgency and deepening awareness that the changes must go to the roots of what has led to the current threat of catastrophe.*

May a sense of urgency and deepening awareness actualize our prayer in the Prayers of the People “for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it.”



**Wednesday  
September 8  
6:00 pm**



## Special Sunday

### With Special Music and Food

As noted in *Comings and Goings*, Sunday, September 12th is shaping up to be something special in terms of music, service, and food.

The Martin County Ramblers will be our guest church musicians.

Members of the local group are Justin Edwards, who plays guitar and harmonica, Jacob Vaughn, who plays bass, and Matthew Manning, who plays guitar and mandolin.

The group originally began in Bear Grass in 2005. The band's lineup has changed through the years with Jacob joining in 2016 and Matthew in 2020.

Look to your mailbox for flyer with all the details.



Dear COA Family, 8/24/2021  
 Thank you so much for your support over the past few weeks. Every call, visit and prayer has been so kind. We also appreciate all of the hard work that went into Bill's memorial service and reception. It was such a comfort for us.  
 Thanks again,  
 Nita, Amanda + Sarah Smith

### Learn From Leaves



*As you're enjoying the fall colors and sipping apple cider, ponder this saying: "Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go."*

*When leaves stop producing chlorophyll, they turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red. This yearly spectacle makes way for the*

*leaves to let go and fall. It also serves as a good reminder of things we may need to drop: clutter around the home, a desire for control, commitments that no longer bring joy, personal expectations that cause added stress, a need to always be right and so on.*

*Just as the Israelites had to let go of their past as slaves in Egypt and Saul-turned-Paul had to abandon his persecuting ways, we, too, can let go of what weighs us down and gets in the way of God's best for our lives. Embrace fall as a season of change and see just how beautiful it is to let things go!*

—Janna Firestone



### Be still (and silent)

*We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature — trees, flowers, grass — grow in silence; see the stars, the moon, the sun, how they move in silence. ... The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us. All our words will be useless unless they come from within — words which do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness.*

—Mother Teresa

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, Amanda & Sarah Smith*  
*Lucia Peel Powe*  
*Cheryl Klein*  
*Sandy Jones*  
*Chloe Tuttle*  
*Trudy*  
*Chris & Lindsay Cannon*  
*Carroll Stanley*

**Birthdays**

*6 ~ Harrison Peel*  
*6 ~ Sue House*  
*8 ~ Nita Smith*  
*9 ~ Will Chesson*  
*23 ~ Brandon Woody*  
*23 ~ Billie Roney*  
*27 ~ Caroline Galler*



**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/Choir Master**

**124 West Church Street**  
**P. O. Box 463**  
**Williamston, NC 27892**  
**Telephone: 252.792.2244**

**Email: [advent1850@gmail.com](mailto:advent1850@gmail.com)**  
**[www.williamstonepiscopalchurch.com](http://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**

September 5 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am  
 September 8 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm  
 September 12 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am  
 September 19 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am  
 September 20 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm  
 September 26 Morning Prayer 11:00 am

October 3 Morning Prayer 11:00 am  
 October 10 Morning Prayer 11:00 am  
 October 13 Evening Prayer 6:00 pm  
 October 17 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am  
 October 17 Vestry Retreat 4:00 pm  
 October 24 Holy Eucharist 11:00 am  
 October 31 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.***

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# **Church of the Advent**

## **September 2021**

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### **Lay Schedule**

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	<b>5</b> <i>15 Pentecost</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>12</b> <i>16 Pentecost</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>19</b> <i>17 Pentecost</i> <b>HE II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>	<b>26</b> <i>18 Pentecost</i> <b>MP II</b> <b>11:00 A.M.</b>
<b>MP Leader</b>				Jane Jernigan
<b>Lector</b>	John Price	Kit Reddick	Chuck Cohen	Michael Biondi
<b>Intercessor</b>	John Price	Kit Reddick	Cathy Cohen	
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>				
<b>Acolytes</b>		Exum Taylor		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bill Webb Ginny Webb			
<b>Ushers</b>	Bill Webb Ginny Webb			