

The **Prayer List** is found on a notebook marked "Prayer Lists" found on the 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.

Prayer List

- Keathley Malone
 Della James
 Joyce Ward
 Donald and Beverly Mills
 Ed Harrington
 Kathleen Johnson, mother of Russell Johnson
 Abby Cameron
 Jennifer Harris
 Verner Godwin
 Deborah Brown
 Becky Bundy
 James Ford, father of Lori Taylor
 John Peel
 Jim Maner
 Clara Bell
 Barbara Burns
 Mac Allen

For those departed and their families

- Betty Griffin
 Helen Winslow, sister of Mary Reddick

Birthdays in April

- 16, Angi Godard
 17, Douglas Chesson
 18, Rachel Raiford
 25, Bill Smith
 27, Toussaint Biondi
 30, Jude Tanner



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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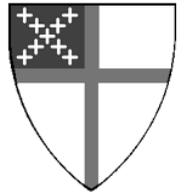
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CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

ADVENT ADVISOR

APRIL 2014

HOLY WEEK & EASTER EDITION



Holy Week and Easter at Church of the Advent

The penitential season of Lent is ending soon with the joyous celebration of Our Lord's triumph over the grave.

But before we can get to Easter, the holiest week of the church year begins with **Palm Sunday on April 13**. Our service of worship will begin that morning at **10:45 a.m.** in the Parish Hall where we will once again commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem with the



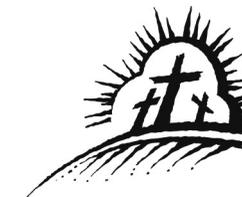
Holy Week

Liturgy of the Palms. And we will walk (as we are able) to the church where we once again hear the Gospel of the Passion during the service of Holy Eucharist.

There will be a service of Holy Eucharist at **5: 45 p.m. on Wednesday in Holy Week, April 16**.

Maundy Thursday begins the **Paschal Triduum**, the three days from Maundy Thursday until the eve of Easter Day. **Maundy Thursday service will begin at 7 p.m. on April 17**. The service will include the Liturgy of the Washing of the Feet *as an optional portion of the service for worshippers*. The service concludes with the traditional "stripping of the altar before worshippers leave the church in holy silence.

This year we will commemorate the crucifixion of Our Lord on **Good Friday, April 18 at 7 p.m.** with the Good Friday liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer and communion with the pre-consecrated elements held over as reversed sacrament from Maundy Thursday.



Come join the parish celebrate **Easter Day on Sunday, April 20** with a continental breakfast at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall followed by a festal Holy Eucharist with a brass section to complement the organ and choir.

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Father Rob's reflections

Lent puts us in mind of many things. One of these is that the cold, harsh winter is slowly fading and the warm, sunny days of spring are ahead of us. In addition Lent reminds us that Easter, 40 days in the making, is coming soon. This comes to us through the most gracious and generous gift of all time, the sacrifice, death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. The resulting wonder, amazement, and great thanksgiving that ensue are thus no surprise. However while all of this is true theologically, I wish to add something more practical. As Lent reminds me of Christ's generosity towards us it also puts me in mind of my wonderful parish family and its generous, giving nature. And thus I am going to spend a little time patting us on the backs.



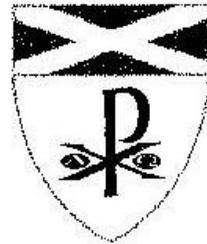
This year-long Lenten generosity encompasses the wonderful work of the altar guild who tirelessly and lovingly provide a service whose actual labor is unseen but whose work is always noticed on Sunday morning. Add to this our choir who faithfully offers richness and warmth to our worship every Sunday. Of course with them we must include our wonderful and skilled Acolyte teams who are often tired but serve with a smile. Dedicated Ushers and Readers, LEMS and chalice bearers provide leadership and support. This generosity of spirit includes the yummy and well planned (thank you dear Lucia) meals we so often consume, and the events of fun and happiness that revolve around our parish family. In addition we must

list wonderful celebrations such as those hosted by Margaret and Al on my behalf, and invitations galore that come from a caring and loving parish family to their priest and others. We mustn't forget our leaders on Vestry whose service provides for the day to day operating of the buildings and grounds. And of course all those who give financially and of time and talents to our Lord in this place. Our generosity extends to those whose homes have burned, and to the elderly who need night lights to avoid falls. It includes providing special bounty to the local food closet and food cards for those in need.

Lent puts me in mind of Christ's generosity and this generosity puts me, the newcomer, in mind of my new family....Church of the Advent.

With deep love and affection,

Father Rob



Vestry

The Vestry will meet on **Sunday, April 6** in the Parish House immediately following the 11 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist. Vestry members unable to attend are asked to contact Father Rob prior to the meeting.

NEWS & Notes

Fr. Rob and **Stephen Batten** attended two events together representing our parish to the diocese and our deanery. On March 8, they attended the **2015 General Convention of TEC Delegation** meeting at **Saint Timothy's, Greenville** and the March Albemarle Deanery meeting on March 13 at **Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Hertford, NC.**

On **Wednesday March 9**, our parish gathered for the first of our Lenten soup and sandwich dinners and listened to **Pastor Tim Teboe** outline his vision for a rescue mission in Martin County. Thank you to **Sonona Jefferson** for making it all come together.

St. Thomas, Windsor once again hosted a Saint Patrick's Day fling on March 17 as a fundraiser for **The Opportunity Shoppe**, northeastern North Carolina's premier thrift store. All proceeds from the store benefit St. Thomas's community outreach. **Eleven (11)** from our parish attended the festivities: **Fr. Rob, Mary Charles Coppage, Beverly Mills, Lou Celebrezze, Bill & Nita Smith, Don Beach & Corey Baker, Kit Reddick, John Price** and your humble editor enjoyed a hearty Irish meal and convivial fellowship with our neighbors across the Roanoke River.

Musicians and actors from our parish helped to stage **The Martin Community Player's** production of Rodger's & Hammerstein's *The King & I* which was held from March 20 through 22 at the Martin County Auditorium. **Will Michel** was notable as one

of the Royal Children and The Bhudda. **Bill Webb** portrayed Sir Edward Ramsey with relish and aplomb. Kim and Grant Michel were in the Orchestra supporting the cast and actors. After all, what's a Broadway musical without the music?

On March 26, **Fr. Rob** was the featured speaker the Martin County Ministerial Assn. Community Lenten Services at First Christian Church here in Williamston. Our parish provided and served the lunch. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the food and to the servers: **Lee Ann Courtney, Mary Anne Crowe, Lori Taylor, Kit Reddick, and Lucia Peel.**

Later that evening, we held our second Parish Lenten supper with a lyrical and beautiful musical performance by **Heidi Souza** of Bath, NC.

At the end of the month, **Stephen Batten** attended the Spring Board of Director's Retreat of the **National Episcopal AIDS Coalition** at Waycross Conference Center in southern Indiana. Stephen currently serves as the Secretary of the NEAC Board.

Our Pastoral Care Commission continues to ask members of the parish to let them know of a person or family that would appreciate a note from our church. Please contact Jr. Warden Don Beach at 203.645.4614 or by email at cyrleme@aol.com.

In other news, **Garron Chesson** got a puppy, **Kruger**, a labrador mix.

See you around the church yard.

Do you have something you want to see in News & Notes? Call the church office at 252.792.2244 and ask for the Advisor Editorial office or send us an email at coa@coastalnet.com. If we use your story, you get a complimentary prize!



turned around to support various community agencies through grants and gifts.

The Opportunity Shoppe
 124-A East Granville Street
 Windsor, NC
 252-794-5595

Open every Tuesday through Saturday at 10 a. m.

Are you looking for a place to donate used clothing and household goods?

Consider The Opportunity Shoppe in Windsor, NC.

The thrift shop is a charity run by St. Thomas Episcopal.

Now in its third year of operation, the shop is manned by all volunteers except for one part-time paid employee.

The monies earned from donations are

Easter offering benefits women

In reading your *2014 Lenten Meditations* booklet, you have become aware of the focus on the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 3 — *promote gender equality and empower women.*

One way we can help is to consider an

Easter offering to programs benefiting women sponsored by the Episcopal Relief and Development, publisher of the meditation booklet.

One program promotes Women's Literacy Groups at a cost of \$25.00 per student.

In addition to teaching reading and writing, this gift of \$25.00 per student also educates women on how government and financial institutions run and empowers the women in their decision making processes.



Another program is Savings Groups for Women at a cost of \$60.00 per member.

With the \$60.00, a woman can join a savings group to learn financial management, develop leadership skills and gain access to economic resources.

A third program is Micro-Credit Loans for Women at \$200.00 per loan.

With the \$200.00 loan, women receive the essential tools and training they need to start small businesses, become independent and earn enough money to support their families.

You may make your offering on Easter Day as well as anytime during the Great Fifty Days of Easter.

You may make your Easter offering using the envelope provided in your box of offering envelopes or an envelope of your choice, being sure to write Easter offering on the envelope.

If you write a check, write it out to Church of the Advent and mark it Easter offering ERD.

Church reaches out to others in recent months

Canned Goods Collection

Received from Veronica Taylor, Adult Services Supervisor of the Martin County Department of Social Services — *"A very big THANK YOU for the food you delivered to Social Services recently. We are truly blessed to have such a generous church in Martin County! We appreciate the support that you frequently give us so that we might be able to help others in their time of need."*

Nightlights

Thanks to your generosity and concern, our nightlight project to assist the elderly serviced through Roanoke Home Care was quite a success. Eighteen nightlights and extra bulbs were left in the outreach basket. The total monies collected were \$52 which helped to purchase 29 more nightlights for a total 47 nightlights. Again, thank you for helping to make some homes safer for our older adults.

Received from Social Worker Lanita Garrett for Roanoke Home Care — *"Roanoke Home Care appreciates your support as we endeavor to keep our seniors safer in their homes. God's abundant blessings to you all!"*

Burned Out Family

Angi Godard alerted us that a student at her school had lost her home to a house fire.

We sent out an appeal through the bulletin and through e-newsletter for paper goods and toiletry items and gift cards.

Senior Warden Kit Reddick delivered over six bags of items and an abundance of gift cards to the student at her school. The student was most touched and overwhelmed that complete strangers were wanting to help her.

More goods have collected and Kit will make a second trip.



Washing Each Other's Feet: Overcoming Our Fears About Doing It

by Gretchen Haight, St. Augustine's by the Sea, Santa Monica, CA. ©

Several of us recently (at an Altar Guild pot-luck supper) fell into a conversation with [our Rector] about Maundy Thursday and about the foot-washing that's the focus of that evening's service. Most of us felt uncomfortable about the ritual, expressed in a variety of reactions: Embarrassment about one's own feet; disgust about feet in general; feelings about it being just too intimate. One person said, "We just don't do that. Back in Jesus' time, people took off their sandals and washed their feet—or had them washed for them—when they entered a house; we don't do that."

I, on the other hand, have valued this ritual, almost more than any other in our church. Which isn't to say that I didn't have the same feelings of discomfort the first time I participated. I did. But Peter and I had returned to church, having been away for decades—it was Holy Week, 1994, the last week of our first Lent at St. Augustine's—and we were

continued on page 4

curious about it all and so did it all. So much had changed in the Episcopal Church since we'd last been members. There was an openness—exchanging the peace each Sunday, for example—that hadn't been part of the Episcopal Church we'd each grown up in. Let alone, washing other people's feet.

Sure, I was nervous about what the foot-washing would be like. I probably washed my feet at home before we left for church! But there was nothing to worry about; it was safe. No, we don't do this in our culture, but that didn't matter. In fact, perhaps it's because it's so foreign to us that it's so powerful. Just as the imposition of ashes on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday is a powerful gesture. Hartshorn [our Rector] quoted a former associate rector at St. A's as having once said about such rituals, "Matter matters." Such acts make real for us the abstract, whether it's our mortality or our Christian call to service.

Some years at St. A's, members of the clergy have washed parishioners' feet; other years, we've washed each other's feet. In John 13, there's precedent for both: Jesus washes the feet of the disciples, setting an example of servanthood which gets reenacted in the clergy's washing our feet. Yet afterwards, Jesus says to his disciples, "So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

Many of us are actually more comfortable washing someone else's feet than we are having it done for us. We'll pay money to get a pedicure, yet wince at someone caring for our feet out of their own desire to give. Sitting on the little stool before the altar, watching someone's hands wash my feet, one at a time, in warm soapy water in a small plastic tub, I had to put my nervousness aside and surrender to a gift of loving service.

It was worth it. At the end, when we hugged, I felt there was a tacit agreement that we both wanted to grow in love toward all peoples of the earth. It was just a couple of minutes, a brief encounter, but a moment on my spiritual journey so memorable that I hope I can persuade others to try it this Maundy Thursday, as Jesus asked us to do.

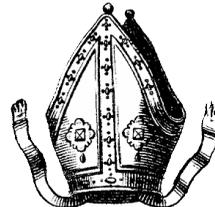
Father Rob adds: "As with any liturgical custom or practice in the Episcopal Church, foot washing on Maundy Thursday is an optional and voluntary part of the service. All may, some should, none must. Do as the spirit moves you."

Walkabouts begin at the end of April.

The Transition Committee of the Diocese of East Carolina has scheduled a walkabout in each of the five deaneries in our diocese. These are your chances to meet the candidates for VIII Bishop of East Carolina.

All walkabouts begin at 7 p.m. The first will be at **St. Paul's, Greenville** on Monday April 28. The second walkabout is at **Christ Church, Elizabeth City** on Tuesday, April 29. They continue throughout the week in Morehead City, Wilmington and Fayetteville.

Our delegates to the Special Electing Convention are Doug & Christine Chesson, Stephen Batten and of course Fr. Rob is a clerical delegate. Our delegates want to hear from you about who you think should be the Bishop of East Carolina.



Holy Week in our stained glass

On the left, is a detail of the **Crucifixion Window** given to the Church of the Advent in memory of **Robert Wright Newell, junior** by **Sylvia and Cortez Green**. This window is at the rear of the nave on the western side of the church nave immediately after the narthex.

To the right is the central panel found in the **Resurrection Window** which is immediately adjacent to the pulpit at the front of our church. The window was given in honor of **Sylvia and Cortez Green** and in loving memory of the **Samuels-Upton Family** by **Sylvia Green Smith and Family**.

If you're interested in obtaining a color image of these windows, call Stephen at 252.792.2244.



Relay for Life Candles

Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

The Church of the Advent will light a candle every Sunday in April in memory of someone who has died from cancer or in honor of someone who is fighting the battle with cancer.

If you would like to so honor or memorialize a friend, family member or loved one, please send the following to me at your earliest convenience:

1. Names of the person/people you would like remembered; and
2. Check made payable to the American Cancer Society (\$10 per candle)

If you have any questions, please contact me at 792-0070. Thanks. Lucia

