



Church of the Advent

Advent Advisor

June 2019

Going Forward: From Sunday School to Wednesday School?

One of the most important features of a Christian church, what sets it apart from a social club or community service organization, is its attention to the spiritual life of its members. All Christians might agree that the spiritual path is about sustaining a relationship with God through Jesus Christ; however, the particulars of how that is accomplished vary.

The Episcopal tradition invokes *tradition* (as in the liturgies of worship), *scripture* (offered in our bible lectionary) and *reason* (our God-given abilities to apply learning and understanding) as mutually foundational pathways for encountering the holy. We invoke the first two in each worship experience.



The exercising of reason calls for a bit more: a commitment to going a little deeper by reading, listening, and praying in community. Jesus never taught that our faith should be an exclusively private affair; we are meant to exercise our reason together, to learn from one another in an environment of mutual support without judgment. This deeper level of spiritual commitment is foundational to the health of any church. More important than a beautiful building, a long shared history, or a comfortable bank account, what sustains a congregation together over time is their intentional, transformational growth in the love of God, together. How this happens is somewhat different and somewhat the same in each congregation.

Since this past year's commitment to hold Sunday School for Adults and Children every week during the 2018-2019 season was not met with sufficient

participation to justify continuing to offer it on Sunday Mornings, I have proposed that Church of the Advent try something new in scheduling Christian Formation opportunities for Adults and Children on Wednesday nights.

As a follow up to a recent survey of a group of parishioners who have been regular attenders of Wednesday night worship and Christian Formation programs during the past year, a group of them met for an open discussion on what might work going forward to support our spiritual growth in community.

The consensus is was to continue with the current schedule of monthly worship with Evening Prayer (weekly Holy Eucharist during Lent), followed by a program for Adults with discussion. The most popular topics for consideration were World Religions, Christian History, and Being Christian in a Contentious World. Most agreed that sharing a meal is important, though there would always be the freedom for anyone to attend the 30 minute worship without feeling an obligation to stay.

Because gathering adults for Christian Formation has been more successful on Wednesday nights than on Sunday mornings, it has been suggested that we try the same kids. We could offer a monthly Wednesday evening program of kid-friendly worship, followed by a kid-friendly meal and a faith-based program or activity for our children and their friends. Parents would be encouraged to participate if able, and other adults in the parish would need to commit some time and energy to the project for it to work. Children are not only the future of the Church, but they are going to have to care for the world we are leaving to them, and they could use a strong and sustaining faith for that task.

Being God's Church calls for recurrent renewal, recommitment, and resurrection, and this occasionally means trying something new. I ask that you ponder these things in your heart, listen to what the Spirit of God is saying to this Church, and offer your ideas, feedback, support and leadership to this new project to begin in September 2019.

All Blessings,
Ellen+

Looking Back to May

Wednesday, May 1

Sue House, Lucia Peel, Kit Reddick and Rev. Ellen attended the Annual Meeting of the Diocese of East Carolina Episcopal Church Women. Speaker was Rev. Jay Sidebotham of St. James in Wilmington, who is also a cartoonist. His cartoons appear on the calendar published by Church Pension Group posted on the bulletin board in the Parish House. During the service, Lucia was installed as Frist Vice-President of the Diocesan ECW Board.



Sunday, May 12

On behalf of the Church of the Advent, Rev. Ellen thanked Sonona Jefferson for her service as our nursery attendant. Rev. Ellen presented Sonona with an appreciation card, gift card, balloon and chocolates.



Sunday, May 19

Thank you to Bobby and Janice Greene for hosting the Church of the Advent at Green Acres for its outdoor service and pot luck picnic afterwards. High school seniors Jean Miller and Dawson Taylor were presented inscribed Bibles and college graduate was remembered with a book of spiritual reflection.

Tuesday, May 21

Lucia Peel and Kit Reddick traveled to Nags Head to work with a committee preparing gift bags for the Episcopal Church Women Province IV Conference coming to Trinity Center June 3-5. Lucia and Kit will also attend the conference.

Looking Forward to June

Sunday, June 2

Choral Evensong for Ascension is scheduled for 5 pm. with a light reception to follow. Evensong is a quiet, peaceful service of lessons, prayers, and music -- an opportunity for calm before beginning another week.

Tuesday, June 4

Game Night at 6:30 pm in the Parish House.

Note: During the summer months, Game Night will be on the first Tuesday only.

Sunday, June 9 Pentecost

10:00 am. Holy Eucharist for Pentecost

6 pm. Cookout

Home of Corey Baker and Don Beach

Details in Comings and Goings and in mailed invite

See Lucia or Corey for questions and offerings.

Wednesday, June 12

6 pm

Holy Eucharist, Pot Luck Summer Salads

Relay for Life

The Church of the Advent annual drive for Relay for Life/American Cancer Society funds to benefit Martin County raised \$440 during the very hectic month of April. Sadly, Martin County did not host a Relay for Life event this year so I went to the Hope Lodge in Greenville which is the home of our local ACS and also houses adult cancer patients for free from surrounding counties -- including Martin -- during their chemotherapy and radiation treatment. It is very similar to Ronald McDonald houses. The facility is quite impressive and offers a true home away from home for over 200 patients and caregivers a year. One guest wrote: "Warm thoughts and kind gestures can make the sun a little brighter, the sky a little bluer and the world a little nicer. That is what you, the Hope Lodge community, have done for my family."

Assuming there is no Relay for Life next year, Kit and I have discussed raising funds as well as collecting much needed items -- socks, magazines, robes, hygiene products -- for one of our Outreach projects.

Lucia Peel



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

*David Martin
Ryan Kovac
John Curly*

Birthdays

*1, Jesse Critcher
2, Katie Mills
6, Lee-ann Courtney
12, Diana Stanton
12, Don Beach
18, Al Chesson
20, Kim Michel
22, Maddie Michel
29, Corey Baker
30, Mary Charles Coppage*



The Church of the Advent
Founded 1850

The Rev. Dr. Ellen Richardson,
Priest-in-Charge
Sunday-Thursday, 9:30 a. m.-3:30 p. m.
ellenrichardson52@gmail.com

Doug Chesson, Senior Warden
Don Beach, Junior Warden

Joe Jernigan, Parish Administrator
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a. m. -12 noon

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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 June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Birthdays in Italics</i>						1 <i>Jesse Critcher</i>
2 7 Easter 10:00 am, HE II 5:00 pm, Choral Evensong Reception to follow <i>Katie Mills</i>	3	4 6:30 pm, Game Night	5	6 <i>Lee-ann Courtney</i>	7	8
9 Pentecost 10:00 am, HE II 6:00 pm, Cook-Out @ Corey & Don Beach's house	10	11	12 6:00 pm, HE II & Dinner <i>Diana Stanton Don Beach</i>	13	14	15
16 Trinity Sunday Father's Day 10:00 am, HE II 12:00 noon, Vestry Meeting	17	18 <i>Al Chesson</i>	19	20 <i>Kim Michel</i>	21 Summer Begins	22 <i>Maddie Michel</i>
23 2 Pentecost 10:00 am, MP II	24	25	26	27	28	29 <i>Corey Baker</i>
30 3 Pentecost 10:00 am, HE II <i>Mary Charles Coppage</i>						