

THE ANCHOR

Newsletter



Episcopal Church of the Advent

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Dear Friends,

On Friday, September 13, we will have another great potluck supper at Church of the Advent, hosted by our ECW. I hope you will sign up to attend, as these are always great fellowship events. Over dessert, I'll be sharing a bit about my sabbatical time in May and June, with loads of great photos from Scotland.

In my July/August newsletter article, I talked a bit about some of the religious sites we visited in Scotland. Really, there was so much to see, that it's difficult to sum up! We visited a number of late Stone Age ruins, especially in the Orkney Islands off the north coast of the country. These monuments date to between 2500 to 2000 BC, over a thousand years before King David ruled Israel, which gave me a very different perspective on what life was like in Scotland before Christianity came there.

One of the Stone Age sites was the Ring of Brodgar, a structure similar to Stonehenge, though significantly larger. Archeologists believe this was a place of some type of worship. The Ring felt like a sacred space to me. I believe that wherever people gather for prayer, their prayers sanctify that place.

Another take-away for me from the sites in the Orkneys was that those ancient people are a good example of a strong community. People from small Neolithic communities all over those islands must have come together to build the numerous monuments we saw. It was also interesting to me that in the Neolithic village of Scara Brae, no weapons were found. Those people seem to have lived, worshiped, and gathered peacefully with each other. That gives me hope that when we follow God—whatever name we call God—it is possible to live in prosperity and peace as we care for each other. I pray that future generations will look at Church of the Advent as inspiration for living a faithful Christian life.

After returning from Scotland, I spent some time at home and concluded my sabbatical with a week at St. Gregory's Abbey in Michigan. St. Gregory's observes the seven traditional monastic services: Matins, Lauds, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers, and Compline. The service of Matins is at 4:00 am and the day concludes with Compline at 7:45 pm; the services range from 15 minutes in duration to almost an hour. This practice of daily prayer is a very different life experience. I truly enjoyed going to all of the services during the week I was there, but I am convinced that it was the right choice for me not to become a monk. (Yes, I did consider this as a career choice at one point!)

The visit to the abbey was a perfect way for me to end my sabbatical. I had plenty of time to worship, pray, and reflect on my experiences in Scotland. I spent some time talking with the monks and with other guests. And I came away from the abbey with a vision of how I would like to see Advent move forward. I am continuing to work with the vestry on that, and you'll hear more about it in coming months.

Faithfully yours,
Alan+

FROM THE INTERN'S DESK

One of the most exciting things about my ministry as a Diaconal intern is the adventure of traveling to a new place and meeting new people! I grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania. I lived there from the time I was five until I moved to Ocean City, New Jersey, nine years ago. As you can see, changing that place called home was not in my story. God's first challenge in my call to ordained ministry has been leaving that safe place called home and to explore the diversity of the home in the Diocese of New Jersey.

Trinity, in Ocean City, Christ Church in Somers Point, St. Mary's in Stone Harbor, St. Stephen's in Ware Town, St. Barnabas in the Villas, and now Church of the Advent in Cape May all have become home and family to me.

What does it mean to find a family and a place called home in a church? Church is a place where the family gathers. It is like the gathering together of a large family. We share the joy of gathering as a family, welcoming each other, singing and praying together, hearing the story of our family history, learning how that story will guide us through the best of times and strengthen us for the difficult times. We have affirmed for us, one of the most important things for our survival, we are not alone!

The culmination of our gathering, the sacred meal, in which we remember what was done for us, for this family to survive, we are nourished and empowered to go out from this home and take the love that we have received and share it with others.

I will be with you for a little while, but I will take you, my Advent family, with me and will share the good news I am and will find here, at Church of the Advent in Cape May.

As with any family, there are some who are not able to gather with us. It is so very important to help them to know they are remembered and included by their family. That will be my focus during my time here. Pastoral care ministry is vital to those who are unable to gather with us. I hope you will consider joining our care team to visit with our brothers and sisters who need this connection. We will begin in September to train for this vital ministry. Please let Father Alan or me know if you have any sense of calling to this ministry. I hope to meet and get to know more of you then!

Peace,
Charlene Snyder

RECENT PARISH SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent parish survey from the Rector and Vestry. We had a response rate of 30 percent of those surveyed, representing 46 individuals. The responses reflect that Advent is a key part of the life of our parishioners

and that Advent is a friendly and welcoming Church. There were an overwhelming number of positive comments about our Church life. Moreover, there were many constructive comments and suggestions.

The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry have reviewed the survey responses and are working with the appropriate Church Committees to follow up on the suggestions and recommendations you made. We encourage each of you to review the tally of anonymous responses by clicking on the link below.

<https://capemayadvent.org/documents>

If you would like a hard copy of the tally of the responses, please contact our Church Secretary, Kathe Christensen at 609-884-3065.

After reviewing these comments, please share your thoughts and suggestions with us. Father Alan and the Vestry will be planning a forum to review and discuss these results as a parish family.

Yours in Christ,
Father Alan, The Wardens and Vestry

EXCITING UPDATES FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee has been diligently reviewing the recent survey results to better understand the needs and desires of our congregation. We are excited to announce that we will be introducing more programs in the future that reflect your feedback.

Our regular Sunday School Program will resume on September 22nd, following a successful summer Vacation Bible School. We are also pleased to share that Carol Obligado will be taking a more active role in this program, bringing more music and joy to our children's education.

Adults can look forward to expanding their education through our regular Bible study sessions with Father Alan, held on Monday nights via Zoom. These sessions will continue our examination of the book of Proverbs. Additionally, beginning on Sunday, September 29th, Father Alan will be launching an Episcopal Church 101 program that will be held between services. This program is a wonderful opportunity for those who want to learn more about the Episcopal Church.

If you would like to become more involved in the education programs at Church of the Advent, we encourage you to attend our next committee meeting on Sunday, September 22nd at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact our committee chair, Trisha Andrzejczak, at trisha.andrzejczak@gmail.com or 609-224-3188.

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the home of Corbin and Lynda Cogswell. The book for discussion is The Girls in the Stilt House by Kelly Mustian. All are welcome. For more information please call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675.

ECW NOTES

We are sponsoring a Friday the Thirteenth Pot Luck Dinner on September 13 at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall. There will only be good luck as we feast on boneless turkey breast. Fr. Alan will give us a tour of Scotland with our dessert. Sign up on the poster in the vestibule of the church or call the church office (609-884-3065) to reserve your spot. You will receive a phone call to tell you what we need for the rest of the meal.

Crafts will begin on Monday, September 9 at 4:00 PM in the Parish Hall. We will be making things to sell at the Christmas Bazaar. If you do needlework or crafts at home, please think of donating some of your work to the bazaar. We want to make this bazaar even better than last year's. Please bring scissors. No experience necessary.

Since we had a meeting in August, we will not be meeting in September. The next regular meeting will be October 17, 2024.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The ECW is working hard to have the best Christmas Bazaar ever. Right now, we are looking for folks to help with the Handmade Christmas Crafts. We will also need folks to manage the needlework, plants and collectibles tables. If you would like to help in one of these areas, please contact Carol Obligado at cobligado@aol.com or 609-898-9699.

We need folks to donate raffle baskets (talk to Sharon Werth) and soup (Joel Rutenberg). Both are very popular tables as well as the jewelry table (Karann Murphy).

Pre orders will be taken for pecans and also for live decorated wreathes and centerpieces. (Glenda Unzelmann). More about that next month.

Make it a point to come to the Bazaar on December 7 from 10:00 until 2:30.

-Carol Obligado

September Birthday Celebrations

September Anniversary Celebrations

7	Jason Brown	5	Ed & Barbara Cattaneo
9	Jane Kotz	15	William & Susan DeHart
12	Lana Thompson	21	Dwight Coleman & Karann Murphy
13	Ashley Brownstein	22	William & Collette Keltie, Jr.
14	Mia Wood	25	Anthony & Lynn Canesso
15	Brenda Leonard	27	Richard Hudson & Joy Wadleigh
19	Donna Brownstein		
21	Rhonda Jackson		
21	William Keltie, Jr.		
23	Jean Horn		
28	Kelly DePietro		
30	Fred Thomas		

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday: The Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The 10:30 service is also livestreamed on YouTube

Wednesday: Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday: The Holy Eucharist at 12:00 Noon



PANCAKE BREAKFAST FOR THE COMMUNITY

**Episcopal Church of
the Advent**

WASHINGTON AND
FRANKLIN ST, CAPE MAY

**Sat., Sept. 7
8:30 to 11:00 AM**

Includes Juice, Coffee, Sausage,
Bacon, & Fruit

Adults \$10
12 & Under \$5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pentecost 15 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	2	3	4 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Rosary-9 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	5 Holy Eucharist- Noon	6	7 Pancake Breakfast 8:30 to 11:00 AM - Parish Hall
8 Pentecost 16 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	9 ECW Crafts-4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study-6:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	10 Men's Breakfast- 8:00 AM	11 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Rosary-9 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	12 Holy Eucharist- Noon	13	14
15 Pentecost 17 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Vestry Meeting - Noon-Upper Room	16 ECW Crafts-4:00 PM-Parish Hall No Bible Study	17	18 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Rosary-9 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM Outreach Mtg. - 3:00 PM-Parish Hall	19 Holy Eucharist- Noon	20	21
22 Pentecost 18 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Education Comm, Mtg-9 AM-Parish Hall	23 ECW Crafts-4:00 PM-Parish Hall No Bible Study	24	25 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Rosary-9 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	26 Holy Eucharist- Noon	27	28
29 Pentecost 19 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Episcopal Church 101-9 AM-Parish Hall	30 ECW Crafts -4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study-6:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800					AA Meetings: Sun-4:00 PM Tues-7:30 PM Wed-7:30 AM Thurs-7:30 PM