

THE ANCHOR

Newsletter



Episcopal Church of the Advent

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Dear Friends,

Clergy people occasionally hear the line, "Must be nice to only work one day a week!" Celebrating services is certainly the most visible part of being clergy, but only one aspect of the job. You all do know that we work more than that.

Since we are talking about stewardship this month and paying me is a significant piece of our budget, I thought that in the interest of transparency, I should detail for you the different kinds work that I do. As I see it, a priest's job divides into three parts: work within the parish, work for the diocese, and work in the community.

Within the parish, I plan and celebrate services on Sundays and holidays and during the week. I provide pastoral care and meet people wherever is best for them: in my office, in their home, in the hospital. I handle a portion of the administrative tasks of Advent, which range from dealing with the inspections to hiring and supervising staff members to approving contracts for work done on the church. I attend vestry and other committee meetings. Sermon preparation is part of my weekly routine, as is preparation for the weekly Bible study I lead and other reading for classes or personal enrichment. There is plenty to keep me busy as your rector!

I also have roles in the Diocese of New Jersey. All active Episcopal clergy should serve the diocese as part of the shared governance of the church. As a clergy person, I am a deputy to Diocesan Convention. I attend meetings of the Atlantic Convocation, both for clergy (called Clericus) and with our lay convocation delegates. I also serve on three diocesan committees. I was elected to Diocesan Council, which functions as the vestry of the diocese. I was appointed by Diocesan Council to the Board of Missions, which supports mission congregations and advises the Bishop on the allocation of funds to mission churches. And I have been on the Mental and Spiritual Health Committee since its founding in 2020. We provide resources and presentations about mental and spiritual health matters.

Finally, clergy should also be involved in their own community. The Cape May clergy have a working group called the Ministerium; I am currently the convener of that group. As an Iraq war veteran, working with veterans is close to my heart. I am currently the Senior Vice Commander of the Cape May post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I receive calls to offer a prayer at various community functions; I also occasionally receive calls from funeral homes to officiate a service for someone who did not have a church home. My favorite community ministry is as a volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary Chaplain working with recruits at basic training in Cape May. The Episcopal Church's Office of the Bishop for the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries endorses and supports me as an auxiliary chaplain. I take a week of continuing education time each year to attend the conference put on by that office.

All these ministries are extensions of my job as your rector. I love my job and the many opportunities for ministry to all of you, and others in the community and diocese. It is the best job I can imagine (even when people think I work only one day a week!).

Faithfully yours,
Alan+

ART SALE AND SILENT AUCTION IN NOVEMBER

Advent is having an Art Sale! Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 4, 2023, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. We will have silent auction art and some music in the sanctuary and refreshments and art for sale in the parish hall. All of the art has been donated, including some fabulous silent-auction pieces by local artists. You do not want to miss Walt Kuemmerle's watercolor of our church, a watercolor of St. Peter's by Carol Moore, a beautiful pastel by Dot Mitchell, and many more. For more modest budgets, we have already received some nice donations of "second chance art" - pieces that other folks have enjoyed but now need a new home.

There is no entrance fee, so invite your friends, colleagues, and neighbors to come join us for a fun afternoon of art buying. (Remember, Christmas is just 51 days after the sale!) The silent auction will run from 3:00 to 5:00 PM, but sales and refreshments will continue until 6:00 PM.

If you have art donations, please contact Kathe in the office to make arrangements for drop off or pick up. Thank you for checking your walls and your closets for art that you would like to donate to our second-chance sale. If you are an artist or the friend of an artist, your Art Sale committee would be delighted to talk to you about a donation. Thank you for your support, both in donations and in attending on November 4. All profits directly support our church.

Committee Members: Brenda Leonard, Lew Price, Dave Hammond, Sharon Werth, Robert Bullington, and Heather Turner

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

We discussed our Christmas projects at our October meeting and decided to continue with Caring for Kids and Seamen's Institute. The collection for ditty bags for the sailors who arrive in Philadelphia on commercial ships has begun. The receptacles for the items are in the narthex and the Parish Hall. Check the list and drop items in the boxes. We are collecting earlier this year in order to deliver in early December.

Last year we collected 40 gifts for area children through Caring for Kids. We decided to continue this year with 40 gifts. The Christmas trees will be in the sanctuary starting November 26. The tags will tell the child's name, age, and gift wishes. Please take a tag, chose a gift, wrap the gift, and tie the tag on the gift. Please return all gifts by December 17.

In response to the war in Israel we donated \$1000 to American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. This agency transforms the lives of the vulnerable and displaced in the Middle East through the support of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

and its schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities. This is a nonpolitical, nonsectarian 501(c)(3) organization serving everyone, irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay from Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. They build hope for all in the Holy Land. The Christian values of equity, justice, and respect for the dignity of all are the heart of their efforts.

Our next meeting will be November 15, 2023.

- Marrie Cassidy

FAMILY PROMISE

Church of the Advent will join Cape May Methodist Church as hosts for Family Promise the week of November 13-17, 2023. Our guests are two adults (Lou and Alicia) and four children (Sariah, age 16; Amiyah, age 9; Nia, age 5; and Aliyah, age 15 months). **We will be responsible for the main meal on Monday, November 13, 2023.** The meal will consist of an entrée shared by our guests. It should be delivered to the Day Center on Townbank Road between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM that day. The family is fond of salads so please consider including one of these in your prep, ...and, of course, dessert. Donations for pizza for weekend consumption and also for breakfasts are also welcomed.

A signup sheet with specific information about the family and their particular likes is on the back table of the church. As we draw closer to this date, updated information will be provided as necessary.

- Marty Torpey (802-238-0545)

COOKIES!!!!!!

Once again, we will be hosting MAC's Christmas Candlelight House Tour on December 2, 2023, from 5:30 to 8:30. Our job is to provide hospitality (refreshments and restrooms) for those who are visiting the houses open on the tour. In the past we have had more than 600 people visiting the church and stopping in the parish hall for cookies and beverages, so you can see that we need plenty of cookies. (MAC does compensate us, so this is a fund raiser.) Please bring your MAC cookies to the parish hall during the week before the event marked clearly that they are for MAC and leave them in the kitchen. Thanks so much.

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the home of Joy Wadleigh and Richard Hudson. The book for discussion is The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict. All are welcome. For more information please call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675.

-Lynda Cogswell

SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

This year we are again collecting donations for Seamen's Church Institute so they can provide Christmas Ditty Bags to the seafarers on ships docking at terminals along the Delaware River in PA and NJ.

SEAFARERS WISH LIST

Knitted Hat & Scarf in dark colors	Chap Stick
Razor & Shaving Cream	Nail Clippers
Toothbrush & Toothpaste	Playing Cards, puzzles
Shampoo & Comb	Hand lotion
Work Socks & Work Gloves	Hard or boxed candy
Deodorant	Cough Drops, gum
Mini Sewing Kit	Pen & Stationary

Please do not send mini sizes

Founded in 1843, the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) serves the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of 35,000 visiting seafarers on 1,500+ ships docking at terminals along the Delaware River in PA and NJ on a yearly basis. Every December SCI's chaplains and ship visitors distribute around 2,200 Christmas Ditty Bags to the merchant mariners who will be at sea during the Christmas Holidays. Our Ditty Bags bring real joy to the brave men who spend 9-10 months at sea bringing us the things we need for our everyday lives. For some, this is the only Christmas gift they receive. Imagine your Christmas morning...far away from your family, friends and familiar surroundings. Now, imagine how happy it would make *you* to find a bag of necessities, packed by people sharing in God's love, on Christmas morning! We hope you will be able to help our seafarers.

Please place your donations in the box in the church vestibule or drop off in the Parish Hall during office hours by November 12, 2023.

To request pickup, please contact Glenda Unzelmann, 443-243-7615 or werneru@verizon.net.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEN (ECM)

My first involvement with the group was for the Tuesday Men's Breakfast. As a relatively new member of Advent, I found it a great way to spend an hour with a dozen or so interesting men of the Parish. It meets at 8 am on the second Tuesday of the month, and we welcome all Advent men and their like-minded friends to join us. As the short order cook, I can promise you the best \$5.00 breakfast in Cape May.

During 2023, we have focused our activities on fellowship, fundraising for the church and ways to promote our church in the community. I am pleased to say that we have been picking up steam this year on all fronts. We organized the first Lenten Pancake supper since COVID, which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Just recently, we held a very successful Yard Sale, which generated over \$3000 in proceeds that we have proudly donated to the church. That is only part of the story. We were fortunate enough to have Richard Hudson lead the charge, backed up by incredible

support from his wife Joy and the ECW group whose experience in organizing, promoting and running these types of events is unparalleled. Their willingness to advise us and pitch in on the many activities speaks volumes about the dedicated members of this group. We are pleased to pass along these proceeds in honor of the ECW, which provided so much help.

The sale was a great opportunity for our Men's group to work together, but also share the event with members of ECW and members of the Church of the Advent. Your interest, hard work and support is deeply appreciated,

Our next event is the Art Sale and Silent Auction coming up on November 4, 2023. We have already gathered a great collection of art that we are sure will be in high demand and encourage everyone to join us for that event and spread the word to your friends. Although organized by the Episcopal Men's Group, we would be remiss if we did not recognize the support we have received from many church members.

We are looking to expand the activities of the Men's group to include additional events, such as regular pancake breakfasts that will not only bring members of the congregation together, but also expand our footprint in the Cape May and let people know of the wonderful community that we have at Church of the Advent. We need to get our message out to the community, and we are committed to be part of that effort.

-Peter VanSyckle

CHARITABLE GIVING THROUGH AN IRA

Did you know that you can make a charitable contribution directly to Church of the Advent from your IRA and have that contribution not count toward your income for tax purposes? The American Taxpayer Relief Act allows an individual, eligible to make an IRA withdrawal, to have all or part of that Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) sent directly to a charity—this is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). By doing so, the donation is not included in taxable income. Many people today take the standard deduction so charitable contributions, which do not cause the standard deduction to be exceeded, have no tax benefit but do not increase income, thereby potentially minimizing Medicare premiums. Making a QCD is not a complicated financial transaction. If you have not taken your RMD this year, you might want to discuss this with your financial advisor.

LESSONS AND CAROLS AND ECW

On Sunday, December 10 at 3:45 PM the choirs and friends of Church of the Advent and Cape May Presbyterian Church, along with the Joyful Ringers bell choir and Advent Bells, will join to offer the traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols at Advent. ECW will be hosting a reception following in the Parish Hall! Donations of finger food would be appreciated and can be brought that Sunday.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols follows a very old format from England with readings that recount the prophecies and then tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Between each of the readings are anthems and carols for the choirs and the

congregation. No matter how you celebrate Christmas, this is a wonderful way to be ready for the day, listening to the stories and hearing and singing the traditional music of the holiday.

ADVENT EDUCATION MATTERS . . .

The Church of the Advent Education Committee met on October 1, 2023, in the parish hall to review existing parish Christian formation programs' status and to consider future programs. It commends the following to the parish:

- Parish Sunday school has commenced the 2023-24 calendar year, convening Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall designated classroom. Trisha Andrejczak and Meredith Markley continue in their important ministries of Christian education and formation for our young.
- Parish adult bible study led by our rector meets online at 6:30 p.m. on Monday nights.
- Adolescent programs are on hold pending the identification and recruitment of participants.
- EfM, under the mentorship of the Rev. Maggie Otterburn, has resumed online, and our parish has three persons participating in the program this year.
- A new initiative—a theologically-focused reading club—is meeting online the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- Plans for a study program—*Advent Ethics*—is being prepared for the upcoming Advent Season. The chosen venue for this program is to be determined.
- Plans for the annual parish Lenten reading offerings and a study program for Lent 2024, are coming into focus.

For more information about these programs please contact Sam Wilson through the parish office.

CONTAINER GARDENING IN A FRAUGHT WORLD

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail (Isaiah 58:11).

After several years of mixed success, this past summer I decided to do container gardening for my front bed horticultural efforts. Excessive wind gusts, street flooding, heat, bandit squirrels, doggie walking hygiene visits, and a suspected sandy soil base—all had become just too much to overcome. So, I consulted a nursery worker who actually was a farmer who disliked container gardening. Nevertheless, he gave me the practical advice I needed: matching the right size container to the right plant, suitable potting soil; the right amount of watering for each type of plant; the depth of planting; and the right degree of sun versus shade.

I left the nursery armed with different kinds and shapes of containers, a half-dozen plant cages, a variety of young, healthy vegetable and flower plants, bags of different mixtures of potting soil, a fresh box of Miracle-Gro®, and a couple of packs of California Poppy flower seeds to cast about for the heck of it. Forty-eight hours later, I wobbled up from my labors on my better leg to examine my work as a whole. I was pleased. My little green friends—neatly planted in their caged homes—looked like something out of *Better Homes and Gardens*, full of promise and hope. Within 24 hours, blessed rains came and stayed a couple of days, and my plants immediately began to flourish. Soon, my container garden revealed the blooms and buds of promised vegetables that would make their way to our kitchen. Watering was a piece of cake. Weeding, ditto. Training the branches and tendrils of each plant as they advanced toward the sun gave me the satisfaction of a Bonsai tree apprentice. In the late summer, my garden's produce wound up in salads, taco fixings, tomato sandwiches, and even yielded up fried green tomatoes for this transplanted Virginian.

The lesson in all of this?

Sometimes, especially nowadays, I get wrapped around the axle about all the wrong going on in the world—the daily injustices, climate change, violence, the greed, the neglect, the cynicism, the realities of wars, ongoing and threatened, the dying of the innocent—the lamentable list goes on in too many spaces and places. I get more than upset and frustrated by what God calls me to do in the sheer scale of these dark times. Where is the Christian Hope? I prayed, hard. However, I was losing my focus. I was feeling deflated. A numbness began to creep over me from prolonged gritting of teeth as I slogged on in faith by sheer discipline.

Yet, my little exercise in container gardening this past summer helped get my focus back. I discovered a fresh link between my gardening and what I saw many of you doing in the garden of humanity. There was no paralysis by analysis that I could see, but there was a focus on the *immediately particular*. Thrift shop volunteering; food distribution work; hospital visits; meals on wheels; taking the non-ambulatory to the doctor's; working in faithful committee to give scholarships and tuition assistance; supporting people throughout the world who are trying to help themselves or are in dire need; and keeping up with pledges amidst inflation and even raising additional funds to help sustain our physical home, a place to worship and to gather to plan redemptive projects.

Reflecting on this observation, I made a reaffirming connection. Just as I can sow, feed, water, weed, prune, and harvest produce *right outside my front door*, I can concentrate on my place in the garden of our church community's focus on the needs at hand. With God's help I can break the near paralyzing synapse of my engrossed concern for what is happening in the world. Tragically, the suffering for so many goes on. It comes from evil. It is wrong and immoral. Yet, in response, I can work with others to alleviate what we can. God calls us to do that, even as God is present in all human suffering. However, there is that I can do right outside my front door in the garden of human need! The redemption of this rediscovered wisdom came from a quiet seed that God planted in my container garden this past summer and brought to gestation and growth by the nurturing light of Advent's many ministries. Isaiah is right, *The Lord will guide you always*

—Sam Wilson

November Birthday Celebrations**November Anniversary Celebrations**

1	Frank Garcia	3	Jason & Kathryn Brown
10	Kitty Garcia	8	Dale & Joanne Morrison
12	Dale Morrison	22	Corbin & Lynda Cogswell
19	Lew Price	26	Dean Michelson & Ginny Lang
20	Savannah Brown		
23	Donafaye Burke		
25	Dwight Coleman		
30	Jane Carol Wilson		

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



ECW Christmas Bazaar – Dec. 2 from 10:00 to 2:30

It's time for our annual Christmas Bazaar! It is a good old-fashioned church bazaar with everything handmade and/or donated by the good people of Church of the Advent. As usual, we need your help to make this fund-raising effort a success.

PLEASE BEGIN BRINGING YOUR DONATIONS TO THE PARISH HALL BEGINNING NOVEMBER 26, 2023, with the exception of the soup.

Here is what we need:

SOUP-TO-GO: donations of homemade soups. Please call Marty Torpey at 609-884-0784 if you can donate soup. She will tell you all about when to bring it.

GREENS: Glenda Unzelmann would appreciate donations of greens. Call her at 443-243-7615.

BAKED GOODS: Do you bake? Call Barbara Smith at 609-276-2775 and let her know what you can donate and how best to package it. (Make sure you label your cookies clearly so that we know whether they are for this table or for the MAC house tour.)

CRAFTS AND HANDMADE NEEDLEWORK: If you are into crafts and needle work, please consider making something for this table. Check with Jo Ann Armstrong, 609-602-8849, if you have questions.

BASKETS: Sharon Werth, 914-980-1761, is in charge of the Gift Baskets at the Chance Table. Please call her to tell her what gift basket you are donating. If you can't make a basket but still want to help, you might donate to someone else's basket. Let Sharon know.

COLLECTIBLES AND ANTIQUES: We are looking for new or gently used items that you would love to keep if only you had room or maybe you changed the color scheme, and they don't match anymore. Call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675 to discuss.

JEWELRY: This is a great time to clean out your jewelry box and donate those gems that you haven't worn for a while. Karann Murphy at 215-880-7899 can answer your questions.

CHRISTMAS PASTS: Please consider looking through your gently used decorations for things that are still good but you want a new look! We need a chairperson for this table, so you may call Carol Obligado at 609-898-9699 with questions or to volunteer.

We need help to set up, sell, and clean up. Email Carol Obligado at cobligado@aol.com or 609-898-9699 if you can help out. THANK YOU!

PS: Our Fabulous Pecans are again for sale!!! Contact Glenda Unzelmann (443-243-7615) to order them.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed Advent Walkers- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM Bell Choir- 4:00PM	2 Holy Eucharist- Noon	3	4 Art Sale & Silent Auction- 3:00 -6:00 PM-Church & Parish Hall
5 All Saints Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Education Comm. Mtg.-9:00 AM-Parish Hall	6 ECW Crafts-4:00 Bible Study -6:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	7	8 Office Closed Advent Walkers- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM Bell Choir- 4:00 PM Holy Bookworm Club- 7:30-Zoom	9 Holy Eucharist- Noon	10	11
12 Pentecost 24 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	13 ECW Crafts-4:00 Bible Study -6:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	14 Men's Breakfast- 8:00 AM-Parish Hall Book Club- 7:00-Cogswell's	15 Office Closed Advent Walkers- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM Outreach Comm. Mtg. – 3:00 PM- Parish Hall Bell Choir- 4:00 PM	16 Holy Eucharist- Noon ECW Mtg –10:30AM- Parish Hall	17 Parents Group Potluck Dinner – 5:30 PM-Parish Hall	18
19 Pentecost 25 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Vestry Mtg.-Noon	20 ECW Crafts-4:00 Bible Study -6:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	21	22 Office Closed Advent Walkers- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM Bell Choir - 4:00PM	23 Holy Eucharist- Noon Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26 Last Pentecost Christ the King Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	27 ECW Crafts-4:00 Bible Study -6:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	28	29 Office Closed Advent Walkers- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM Bell Choir - 4:00PM	30 Holy Eucharist- Noon		AA Meetings: Sun-4:00 PM Tues-7:30 PM Wed-7:30 AM Thur-7:30 PM

November 2023

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT