

THE ANCHOR

Newsletter



Episcopal Church of the Advent

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Dear Friends,

We all received spiritual gifts in our baptism. In the New Testament, spiritual gifts are discussed in Romans, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, and 1 Peter.* Each list has different spiritual gifts, but even with multiple lists, the lists are incomplete. So how do we know what gifts we have been given?

We understand that the gifts we receive are for the community and for God's Kingdom in the world. Learning to use our spiritual gifts is the work of a lifetime. In the process of discerning our spiritual gifts, we ask, "What am I good at?" Are you a good speaker or reader? Then you might be called as a lector. Do you listen well when people are struggling? Perhaps you are called to provide pastoral care. Do you have a passion for justice? You may find your calling in advocacy for the marginalized.

Preaching, teaching, and healing are commonly known spiritual gifts. But Paul specifically lists administration in 1 Corinthians as a spiritual gift. Yes, the ability to organize people and things is a gift. Encouragement is also a gift that Paul writes about in Romans. We have several members of our congregation who regularly demonstrate the spiritual gift of encouragement. (They may not even realize this is their gift!)

Vocation is where our spiritual gifts and the needs of the community intersect. For example, some of our parishioners have gifts as teachers and we need a Christian formation program at Advent. These people's gifts help meet our church's needs. The result: a wonderful program of Christian education.

After Pentecost on June 5, we move into "green season," the season the church calls "ordinary time." This is the time of the church year when we ask the Lord to stir up our faith and allow us to grow in our spiritual lives. It's a most appropriate time to consider your spiritual gifts and how you might use them to support your church and community.

At Advent, we need people to lead worship, read scripture, acolyte, operate the livestream, sing in the choir. Outside of Advent, there are also many needs. Poverty, hunger, and homelessness are problems. Many in our community are elderly and need help to stay in their homes. We can advocate for change, provide the labor ourselves, help connect with the people in our community, and encourage others to join us.

The work and ministry of our church is at the intersection of our gifts and their needs. What are your spiritual gifts?

Faithfully, Alan

*Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 and 28-30, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:11

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Did you know that charitable contributions drawn directly from IRAs (individual retirement accounts) provide tax advantages for some individuals?

The donor must be 72 years or older (have required minimum distributions). The charity must qualify, (foundations and donor advised funds do not qualify). Church of the Advent does.

Such contributions do count toward the required minimum distribution (RMD) but are "above the line deductions" and do not count toward Adjusted Gross Income.

Potential benefits include:

- Possibly reduced taxable amount of Social Security and income related adjustments to Medicare parts B and D
- Potentially obtaining the charitable deduction and using the standard deduction
- For those who itemize, less income related reduction of Medical and other deductions.

Note: Keep copies of the checks. You will receive a 1099. Your tax preparer must know that the contributions are direct from the IRA.

Parishioners should discuss this option with their IRA custodian, financial advisor or tax consultant prior to any action.

*-Calvin Stafford MD
Church of the Advent Finance Committee*

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

ECW thanks everyone who contributed to a successful Spring Market. We made \$1,955.00, despite raging winds and torrential rain! We had so many nice things, thanks to you, that the folks who ventured out had no choice but to buy them. The baskets were wonderful and a big draw, too. We also had 18 ECW volunteers who served as sales people and hotdog cooks. We are looking forward to our next big sale on December 3, 2022. Hope you are, too.

-Carol Obligado

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the home of Jack and Lorraine Shaw. The book for discussion is The Lincoln Conspiracy by Brad Meltzen. All are welcome. For more information please call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

Thanks to great participation from our congregation we are happy to report the total collected from the Mustard Seed Jars was \$1209.32. This is designated for the

Collateral Repair Project for refugees from Syria residing in Jordan. This will help so many with food, housing, medical and educational needs. We will write in the fall to obtain a Sustainable Grant from the Diocese which will match our total up to \$750. This money allows the Collateral Repair Project to help refugees to start over in Jordan after fleeing their homes in Syria.

-Marrie Cassidy

MAC MUSIC SERIES AT CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Each spring some of the MAC Music Series presentations are offered at Church of the Advent. Our parishioners are able to attend these at a reduced rate. Following is a listing of these presentations during June.

1. Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM – The New York Chamber Ensemble, Genius of Women Composers, Past and Present.
2. Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM – The Bay Atlantic Symphony.
3. Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM – The New York Chamber Ensemble – Brahms Masterpiece plus Gems from Bloch and (Quantz).

June Birthday Celebrations

June Anniversary Celebrations

2	Charles Markley	5	Fr. Alan & Brenda Leonard
2	Alyssa Morrison	12	David & Sandi Eakin
13	Lynn Canesso	17	Fred & Carol Obligado
13	Martha Torpey	24	Dick & Marrie Cassidy
21	Ruth Hand	25	Richard & Lana Thompson
22	Josh Pierce	28	John & Connie Gallagher
24	Jana Andrzejczak		
24	Caroline Craig		
29	Angela Gloria		

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

AN ANGLICAN ROSARY OF INTERCESSION

Some have asked for a way to use the Anglican Rosary in private intercession for family, friends, community members, and others. Below is one example of how to use the rosary for this purpose. Start at the cross, move to the first bead (the Invitatory) and then to the first Cruciform bead, and then the seven "Weeks" beads, before repeating the Cruciform bead, then the Weeks again . . . moving completely around the rosary three complete "cycles," before exiting through the Invitatory bead and the Cross. The Anglican Rosary addresses the Holy Spirit using scripture verses in a flowing, rhythmic prayer, ending in silent meditation.

The Cross

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen.***

The Invitatory Bead

*Visit this place, O Lord, and give your strength, healing, comfort, and hope to us and to all for whom we pray; let your holy angels dwell in our midst, to preserve us in your peace, and let your blessing be upon us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

[We remember at this time]

The Cruciform Beads

*Be present, O God, in your goodness with your faithful servants, that their weakness may be banished; their strength, restored; their health, renewed; their needs, met; their sorrow, comforted, and their hope in you rekindled; that they may bless your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen***

The Weeks (each phrase on a separate bead)

- *From the ends the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint, lead me to the rock that is higher than I;*
- *The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and, great in mercy;*
- *The Lord is good to all, and HIS tender mercies are over all of His works;*
- *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds;*
- *The Lord sets prisoners free;*
- *The Lord gives sight to the blind;*
- *The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.*

The Invitatory Bead (Last time through)

The Lord's Prayer

The Cross

*Heavenly Father, who gives all life and health, restores all strength and courage, comforts all lonely and sorrowful, and delivers all in hope, give grace and benefit to all whom we pray, and to ourselves, that all may be mindful of your infinite compassion, mercy, and loving care. **Amen.***

—Sam Wilson (Inspired by and using generous excerpts from a similar intercessory prayer rosary used at St. Mary's, Stone Harbor, NJ)