



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Dear Friends,

I am writing to you at the request of Father Alan who is on a much-deserved sabbatical, returning on June 19. As Senior Warden, I in no way can substitute for Father Alan. I am developing a deep appreciation though for all that he does to keep Advent going on a day-to-day basis to serve God and meet the needs of the Advent Family. Fortunately, I am supported by a competent and caring staff including Kathe our Parish Administrator, Rich our Sexton, and Tom our Organist and Choir Master, our Junior Warden, Noel, the Vestry, and our other numerous Committee Chairs and volunteers. Everyone is pitching in while Father is away. I am developing a great appreciation for all that happens throughout the week to keep Advent running smoothly.

Father Alan has only been away for 19 days; and, we have held all scheduled services with supply priests without a hitch, one funeral and are planning another, held our Spring Market, a Vestry meeting, arranged for pastoral care for parishioners, and addressed various property and administrative issues. We are all blessed to have the many Advent parishioners who have stepped up to help out.

Before he left, Father Alan led the Vestry in a day-long, off-site retreat in early April. At this retreat we focused on preparing to launch a visioning process for Advent. The objective of this process is to envision what we as a parish family want Advent to be over the next 5 to 10 years. A predominant, initial theme emerging is to strive to make Advent a welcoming Church for all visitors and newcomers.

At the retreat the Vestry worked on the development of a parish survey to solicit the input of all parishioners. Each of you have received a copy of this survey. If you have not already completed your anonymous survey, please do so now. It is critical that we receive your thoughts and suggestions. The goal is for the Vestry to analyze the results and to have this analysis available for Father Alan when he returns in mid-June. Father Alan plans to take time to focus on the visioning process throughout his sabbatical. The Vestry plans to take the information derived from the survey analysis and share this with the entire congregation. The forum for this process has not yet been defined.

I want to thank our various supply priests who have stepped up to lead our worship and provide pastoral care in Father Alan's absence. And I want to thank all of you who have stepped up to support the parish in our various missions.

Lew Price
Senior Warden

SECURITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Vestry has approved the purchase of walkie-talkies for communication between our Sanctuary and the Parish Hall. A walkie-talkie will be placed in each building with instructions for use. These devices should improve and expand communication between those two buildings. Additionally, the Vestry approved the purchase of a Lifevac Device. This is a new tool that is used to dislodge a blockage in someone's throat. This device and its operating instructions will be stored next to the defibrillator in the Parish Hall. Operating instructions can be viewed at Lifevac on YouTube. The device will be demonstrated to the Vestry at their June meeting.

-Joy Wadleigh

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Outreach Committee is happy to announce our Lenten Mustard Seed Jar monies have been counted and we exceeded our last year total. As of this date our 2024 total is \$1136.38 which is terrific! All of this will be sent to the Collateral Repair Program in Jordan where refugees from Syria and surrounding areas are welcomed with care. Presently they communicated with us about their Hashemi Center. They run a program called "Super Girls" which encourages girls with education, nutrition, and self-esteem. Many girls have been denied education and experience of self-worth.

Women are given opportunities to learn skills to produce products in a Coop program that results in income-generating sales to sustain their families. The products created are for sale in the Hope Workshop. This is a snapshot of programs offered to the refugees. The goal is to learn skills to start a life in a new place after fleeing their homelands.

We will apply to the Diocese for a Sustainable Grant that can match the money we collected with \$750 additional funds.

Thank all of you who collected change or wrote a check to make our Lenten project such a success.

- Marrie Cassidy

MAC MUSIC SERIES AT CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Each spring some of the MAC Music Series presentations are performed at Church of the Advent. Our parishioners are able to attend these at a reduced rate. Following is a listing of the presentations for 2024.

1. Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM – OK Cello
2. Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM –George Mesterhazy Tribute Concert
3. Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM – The Bay Atlantic Symphony
4. Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 7:00 PM –New York Chamber Ensemble
5. Sunday, June 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM – New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the home of Carol and Fred Obligado. The book for discussion is The Daughters of Yalta by Catherine Katz. For more information please call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675.

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