



Episcopal Church of the Advent
Franklin & Washington Streets
PO Box 261, Cape May, NJ 08204
609-884-3065
adventsecretary@comcast.net
capemayadvent.org

Fr. H. Alan Leonard, Rector

Patricia E. Keltie, Editor Emeritus

Kathe Christensen, Editor

Volume 45 Number 6 May 2024

Dear Friends,

This month begins my sabbatical. A sabbatical is a time of reflection and renewal for clergy. Under the policies of our diocese, every clergyperson earns two weeks of sabbatical per year and may take that time beginning in the fifth year of their ministry at a church. Since I have been serving Advent for five years, through times of crisis and the pandemic, I desire some time to reflect and consider where we are heading for the future. I will take six of the ten weeks I have earned this year and will be gone from May 8 through June 19.

During the first three weeks, Brenda and I will travel to sacred places in Scotland. After some time at home, I will spend a week on retreat at a monastery in Michigan, engaging in prayer and seeking God's will for my ministry at Advent. I have chosen this monastic location in part because they offer all nine of the daily offices. I find this repeating cycle of prayer and silence brings clarity to me. I trust in the Holy Spirit to lead us according to God's will, and I hope to bring wisdom and insight back to our church so we can work together to follow the Spirit's lead.

While I am away, your Wardens will be in charge of the church. (Lew Price is your Senior Warden and Noel Smith Wong is your Junior Warden.) At their recent day-long retreat, the vestry created a survey of parishioners to learn about your dreams and visions for Church of the Advent. Please, do participate in the survey and give your answers prayerful thought. Things are going well at our church in many areas, but there are always things we can address, and we want to discern together where we are heading as disciples of Jesus Christ in the future. My sabbatical gives us all a time of reflection and visioning for the future.

My absence also gives you the chance to enjoy some variety in preacher and celebrant! Fr. Glenn Matis and Fr. John Mitchell will supply for the Sundays that I am gone. The Thursday noon Eucharist will be covered by Fr. Doug Eberly and Mother Caroline Carson (Rector of Holy Innocents, Beach Haven). If there are any pastoral emergencies, Mother Allison Burns-LaGreca (Rector of St. Mary's, Stone Harbor) and Deacon Jane Carol Wilson will be on call. Please reach out to Kathe Christensen in the office, or to one of the wardens if you need a clergy person for support. I know that Church of the Advent will be in very capable hands while I am on sabbatical.

May God bless all of us as we move forward together to love God, each other, and the people of Cape May.

Faithfully yours,
Alan+

LADIES SPRING TEA

All women at Church of the Advent are invited to a tea on May 5, 2024, at 4:00 PM, hosted by the women of the Episcopal Churches in Cape May County. Our special guest is Bishop Sally French. The tea will be held at Church of the Advent. Sign up in the parish hall or in the back of the church or call the church office – 609-884-3064.

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the home of Lynda and Corbin Cogswell. The book for discussion is Secret Life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar and Dana Morton. For more information please call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675.

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. Thursday, May 30, 2024 at 7:00 PM – New York Chamber Ensemble.
2. Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM – OK Cello.
3. Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM – George Mesterhazy Tribute Concert, "A Time for Love".
4. Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM – The Bay Atlantic Symphony.
5. Sunday, June 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM – New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players.

FAMILY PROMISE

Church of the Advent will again join Cape May Methodist Church to host Family Promise in May. We will provide the meal for Monday, May 13, 2024, for the family of three we have served in the past. As in the past, the meal should consist of an entree and dessert...a salad is always welcomed as well. Please consider signing up for all or part of the meal that needs to be delivered to the Day Center at 505 Town Bank Road in North Cape May. It should be delivered between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Monday. Items should be provided in disposable containers and please be aware that there is a microwave for reheating but no oven at the Day Center. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table of the church - please provide your phone number.

Donations for breakfast items as well as money for weekend pizza is welcomed. A list of favorite food items is attached to the sign-up sheet. Please consider supporting this worthy ministry. For additional information contact Marty Torpey (802-238-0545 or marthatorp@verizon.net).

SECURITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

On April 17, 2024, we hosted a very comprehensive program conducted by Race Hodges, FEMA Region 2 New York, on how to handle difficult situations. Race is a Faith-based Preparedness Coordinator for FEMA so his presentation was tailored to our community. The techniques he shared can be used in a variety of situations. He provided an informative handout that is included here.

As an ongoing effort, we are in the process of accounting for all of our church and parish hall keys and ask that, if you have a key to either or both buildings, please contact the church office (adventsecretary@comcast.net or 609-884-3065) so our key log can be updated.

-Joy Wadleigh

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