



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Dear Friends,

It is time to celebrate! It has been a long few years but we have survived COVID and continue to have a vital congregation. Now we are trying to get on with life and adjusting to a new normal both in the world and at Advent.

So, we are having a "Celebration Dinner" on Friday, September 9th at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. David Craig and the Lucky Bones staff will provide us dinner. There is no cost to you; just come and enjoy the food and fellowship. This is an opportunity for your vestry and me to show our appreciation for how faithful all of you have been in supporting the church. It's also a time for us to celebrate our wonderful church community and renew our commitment to Advent.

I am looking forward to the fall and bringing back more in-person activities. (Yes, we said this last year, too. But it's really happening this year!) We will kick off Sunday school, begin an adult forum on conflict resolution, and offer a class to prepare people for confirmation and reception into the Episcopal Church during Bishop Stokes' visit next year.

During the pandemic, we learned so much about staying connected digitally. I am glad we are able to live-stream our services for people who are shut-in to watch at home. This is also a great ministry to people who live elsewhere or are on vacation.

But while the live-stream keeps people connected to the church in some ways, it really is not a true substitute for being together in person. In-person fellowship, through the Eucharist service, Christian education, and social activities keep us connected to God and each other. In our coming together, we support and strengthen each other. Being together in community is central to our faith.

As we begin a new season in the church, let's celebrate who we are, what we have accomplished, and being together as we minister together to Cape May and beyond. Please sign up for the dinner by calling the church office (609) 884-3065, or by emailing adventsecretary@comcast.net. Remember the food, drink, and fellowship are free, so come join us!

Faithfully,
Alan+

VESTRY MINUTES

In the interest of transparency, all Vestry meetings are open to members of our parish. The most recently approved Vestry minutes are now posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We continue to post the minutes on our website - www.capemayadvent.org. If you would like a copy of any approved Vestry minutes, please contact the church office – 609-884-3065 or adventsecretary@comcast.net.

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will reconvene on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the home of Corbin and Lynda Cogswell. Please bring suggestions and recommendations for books that we should consider reading. All are welcome. For more information please call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

We will kick off the fall season with a brunch at our regular meeting on Thursday, September 15, at 10:30 AM. Besides having some social time, we will talk about our fall and winter schedule, including the Christmas Bazaar on December 3. Crafts will also be starting on Monday, September 12, at 4:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Remember, all women of Advent are members of ECW, so please join us. Check out the Fall Close-Out Sale flyer at the end of this newsletter.

-Carol Obligado

GARDEN PARTY

An early summer morning proved to be a celebration of camaraderie and dedication as volunteers arrived with garden tools, both small and powerful, to tidy up. They tackled the weeds, trimmed the pyracantha hedge along the ambulatory, tamed the vegetation along the rear of parish hall, removed an old wood pile, and hauled two loads of debris to the dump! A hearty "Thank You" extended to: Pam Bullington, Jack Currier, Mike Kirk, Sue McIntyre, Sandy Thomson, Sharon Werth, David Hammond, Barbara Smith, and, especially, Fr. Alan for the donuts and coffee.

- Barbara Smith



PROPERTY COMMITTEE NEWS

The saga of the leaking roof at the rear of Parish Hall has finally been resolved with the installation of new shingles, to include three replacement ceiling panels. Likewise, the sanctuary now meets regulations regarding the design of exit doors, lighted exit signs, and a total of three carbon monoxide detectors. These features also merit full occupancy rating, a boon for special events.

Within the next few weeks, be sure to “look up” to admire newly pruned trees along the perimeter of the entire property, currently contending with roofs and wires, soon to be sporting beautifully restored crowns! Also to be repaired, one of the posts on the “Brides’ Porch” has deteriorated at its base. As cooler temps return, the ambulatory will be power washed and re-stained.

The committee is currently engaged in preparation of a diocesan grant proposal to address issues pertinent to property safety and maintenance. Outdoor steps of both buildings will be repaired, as needed, striped with “caution yellow,” and appropriately lighted. The parking lot will be striped per ADA requirements. And - grounds will be landscaped with low maintenance in mind. MOVING FORWARD ...

- *Barbara Smith, Property Chair*

PARISH EDUCATION MATTERS . . .

The parish education committee met on August 28, 2022 and commends the following information to all parishioners:

- **Sunday school** for the upcoming school year begins Sunday, September 18th. Plans are to hold class in the church garden, weather permitting. A decision to move it to the parish hall Sunday school room will be made in October. Contact Trish Andrzejczak or Meredith Markley for more information.
- The Cape May Ministerium-sponsored **young adult fellowship** will resume in September with a cookout at the Lutheran Church. Contact Fr. Alan for more information.
- **Adult Bible Study** will resume online on September 12th at 6:30 p.m. The topic will be the *Gospel of Luke*. Contact Fr. Alan for details.
- **Education for Ministry (EfM)** will begin its fourth year of parish-sponsored sessions online on September 7th, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Sam Wilson for more information.
- The committee is taking a detailed look at the **Archbishop of Canterbury’s online *Difference Course***, a five-lesson course on overcoming the polarizing effects of disagreement and conflicting beliefs. This was used successfully at the latest Lambeth Conference—the every ten-year gathering of worldwide Anglican Communion bishops. It is being considered a possible subject for the 2022-2023 **parish Adult Forum**. More information will be forthcoming in next month’s *Anchor* newsletter.

- **Parish Security & Safety training and initiatives** were shared with the committee by Frank Garcia. More information is forthcoming at the next education committee meeting, on September 25th.
- Plans for **parish confirmation classes** were discussed in anticipation of Bishop Stokes' visit to the parish next spring. There will be more information at the September parish education committee meeting.

--Sam Wilson, Ed. Committee Chair

WE NEED SUNDAY WORSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

Each Sunday morning we have a few faithful folks who assist at each service to make sure the services flow smoothly. We really need more of you to participate in these rewarding ministries – ushers, readers, and chalicists are needed at each service and livestream operators are needed at the 10:30 service. Volunteers for each ministry will receive instructions so you will know what to do when. Our goal is to have enough participants so that those serving only need to be on duty once a month instead of every week as some currently are doing. Please contact the church office if you can join our Sunday service ministries. Thank you.

TSIM-TSUM, THE BOY, AND THE TIGER

My summer reading has included Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*, a 2001 novel of the coming-of-age of a sixteen-year-old Indian boy, Pi, and a Bengal Tiger. They find themselves sharing a lifeboat following a sudden and unexplained ship sinking in the middle of the night in the Philippine Sea. Pi is the eldest of two sons of a zoo keeper father who has been running a successful zoo in historically French-colonized India. Due to rising political violence in Indian national politics at the time and its adverse impact on zoo revenues, Pi's father decides to emigrate, contracting transportation for his family and those animals he could not safely place in other zoos on a Panamanian, Japanese-crewed freighter, the *S.S. Tsimtsum*, bound for Vancouver. The story after that event centers on Pi, who practices elements of Islam, Hinduism, and Christianity in his struggles to stay alive from the perils of being adrift at sea and the predilections of jungle carnivore.

Other religious allusions to one side, I zeroed in on the curiously named freighter, *Tsim-Tsum*. I previously discovered the term *Tsim-Tsum* in my studies on the Christian doctrine of Creation this past spring. Jurgen Moltmann, a German theologian, had used the word, borrowing it from a Jewish Kabbalistic concept. Tsim-Tsum is a Hebrew term for "contracting" or "self-limiting." Moltmann and Isaac Luria, a 16th-century Kabbalist, employed it "to describe God's first move in creating the universe: God had to Tsim-Tsum because if not, there would be no room for the material world."¹

¹ Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tzimtzum>

I pondered this term, the name of the ship, and its role in the unfolding narrative of survival-at-sea during my early morning swimming laps at my borough's community pool. Much too slowly, it dawned on me that Martel's tale might be an unfolding narrative of the principle of Tsim-Tsum. Pi fashions a raft to live on to keep him a safe distance from the lifeboat-occupying Tiger and not just for his safety. It allowed him safely to provide for the Tiger, as well. Moreover, the coming-of-age values that formed in the young man during his 230 + day voyage increasingly surfaced in the care, watering, and feeding of the tiger—a fellow survivor adrift in the natural world. Pi's focus on the tiger distracted him from his plight and the daily ravages of despair that would confront him left alone with his thoughts.

Pi prays daily as a Muslim during his voyage. He also images Hindu polytheism in the interactions of the various elements of his journey—storms, lightning, provision of fish and turtles, and confronting the reality of death a thin rope line away. Yet, he also discovers the heart of Christianity in his daily exercise in humility, so hard otherwise to come by in modern life. He mirrors the teaching of Jesus in John 15:13. The laying down of one's life in daily unselfish, even sacrificial service to others is not only Jesus' call to radical love; it also fulfills Jesus' promise in Matt. 11:28-30. One's cares and burdens are lightened and lessened when we "contract" and "self-limit" our wants and desires in the hospitality and respect for others or in what our own Bishop Curry would say, "Following the Jesus movement."

—Sam Wilson

PRAYER BOX IN OUR FRONT GARDEN

I often see folks sitting in the garden in front of our church. One of the features of this garden is a Prayer Box that was made for us several summers ago by the young women of The Girls Friendly Society who spend a week at Holiday House each year. Many people who rest in our garden have left prayer requests in the Prayer Box and Fr. Alan does honor these requests for prayer. A few days ago he found two prayer requests with a monetary donation attached. We invite you all to join in offering prayers for these two requests.

"May God protect the family. Let my husband come to me in America as soon as possible."

"Let there be a peaceful sky over Ukraine. May God protect my son Yury in Ukraine."

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

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
14	Mia Wood	25	Anthony & Lynn Canesso
15	Brenda Leonard	29	Charles & Gail Markley
19	Donna Brownstein		
21	Rhonda Jackson		
21	William Keltie, Jr.		
23	Jean Horn		
28	Kelly DePietro		
21	Sandi Eakin		
23	Jack Shaw		
25	Art Bourgeau		
25	Mary Ann Coyle		
30	Lorraine Shaw		
31	Bill Holmes		