



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 47 Number 8 September 2026

Dear Friends,

I was encouraged by the good turnout and thoughtful discussion at our recent Coffee and Conversation. Sixteen members of Advent came together to talk about our financial future and share ideas about how we can strengthen the parish. These are important conversations, and I appreciate the thought and concern for Advent that everyone brought to the discussion.

As we talked, we considered ways to reduce expenses and use our resources more efficiently. One practical step will be an energy audit of our buildings to identify opportunities to reduce utility costs. We also discussed strengthening Advent's endowment by encouraging planned and memorial gifts that can help provide long-term financial stability. These are important parts of good stewardship.

But financial health has two sides: prudent control of expenses and thoughtful investment in the things that make a healthy parish possible. Every church has limited resources, and we have a responsibility to use the money entrusted to us thoughtfully. At the same time, it is important to remember why those resources exist. Our purpose is not simply to balance a budget or preserve an institution. We are here to worship God, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, care for one another, and serve the community around us. Our financial decisions should help us carry out that mission.

Another positive result of Saturday's conversation was the decision to form a Community Engagement Committee to look at how Advent presents itself to the wider community and how we can help more people discover what our parish has to offer. We know that long-term financial health ultimately depends upon a healthy and growing congregation. Growth brings not only additional financial support, but new people with gifts and energy to share in the work of the Church.

That means asking some important questions. Do people in Cape May know who we are and what we do beyond Sunday worship? Are we making it easy for someone looking for a church to find us and feel comfortable here? How can we build on our Invite, Welcome, Connect ministry and become more intentional about sharing the life of this parish with others?

None of this means that we should stop looking carefully at our expenses. We must continue to make prudent choices and look for sensible savings. But cutting expenses alone cannot create a thriving church. We also need to invest our time and

energy in worship, ministry, hospitality, and other things that give people reasons to become—and remain—part of this church community.

As we continue these conversations, we should ask both “What can we afford?” and “What is God calling us to do?” Good stewardship requires both questions. Our task is to use what God has entrusted to us wisely while making sure that the ministry those resources support remains at the center of our decisions.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Coffee and Conversation and to all of you who continue to give your time, talent, and financial support to Advent. I look forward to the ideas that will come from our new Community Engagement Committee and from our continuing conversations about the future of our parish.

Faithfully,
Alan+

FROM THE DEACON’S DESK

As summer gives way to fall, the world seems to pause between brightness and quiet. Warm afternoons linger, but the air carries a new crispness, hinting at change. The season reminds us that endings can be gentle, and that letting go often makes room for something beautiful to begin.

As we begin this seasonal change it is a good time to reflect on where we have been and look at where we want to go. One of the wonderful things that has happened this summer was the influx of visitors. It was so nice to see them and so nice to see how well we made them feel so welcomed! One couple commented to me that they return year after year because they feel like this is their home away from home! Good job to all who made this happen!

Our experiment with combining our services this summer seems to have worked out well!

We have become one community and so many of you commented on how wonderful it was to get to know each other! It was nice looking out from the sanctuary and seeing a large congregation worshipping together each Sunday.

This was a wonderful start for community building and I hope we can keep it going. We will be starting our first fall class on September 13th. I am very excited and hope you will make an effort to attend. We will be exploring our understanding of the Eucharist and its importance to the life of the Church. It will be held between the two services at 9:00 AM. There will be coffee and light refreshments available so come and join us! We will also begin an expanded coffee hour after the 10:30 service. Come and get to know each other. There is food and a lot of good conversation. Let’s keep this summer experience alive into the next season of our life as a family at Church of the Advent!

Deacon Charlene

PLENTY GOOD ROOM

With each season we complain about what is not right: It’s too hot, too cold, too rainy, too buggy, too dry, or too snowy. We anticipate the next season until that new season annoys us. The seasons of our lives are also not constant and we are all challenged and significantly stressed at times. We are not always content and happy.

What is constant is God's love and grace which is wide enough to hold us all. This year's theme from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship is Plenty Good Room, which reminds us that there is always room in God's house for more people, more love, more generosity, more service to others, more ways to share, more connections to God and one another, more peace, and more spiritual creativity and growth in our daily lives. Plenty Good Room invites us to recognize the abundance God has entrusted to us. Even in uncertain times, we are called to trust that there is enough for our families, enough for our church, and enough for our neighbors.

Our Church of the Advent has Plenty Good Room as a strong spiritual anchor in our lives with many ways to fulfill our spiritual obligations and needs with prayer, education, outreach and other service opportunities. Our community supports those who grieve or who face health or other crises. Each week we are encouraged to reflect spiritually and to be thankful for God's gifts to us. Each week we are asked to reflect upon our relationship with God as we try to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. In the coming months, please consider the value our church has for you and how you can individually support its many missions and ministries. May our Lord always be with you during the seasons of your life and after.

Joel Rutenberg
Stewardship Chairman

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

MaryAnn (Micki) Wilmer is the newest member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Micki makes the lovely, portable prayer squares you can find in a basket at the back of the church.

All of the available prayer shawls have been delivered to people who need them, and we have received notes from several of them telling us how much the shawls mean to them. We are working on making more, so if you know of someone in need of a shawl, please let Deacon Charlene or Fr. Alan know.

-Carolyn LaMountain

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

As colleges and universities begin the 2026-2027 academic year, the Scholarship Committee wishes to share joyful news. All three scholarships offered by Church of the Advent have been awarded looking toward this coming year.

On behalf of the committee, it is my pleasure to announce Melissa Maahs to be the recipient of the Sunday School Scholarship in support of her acceptance to the Baccalaureate Program at Stockton University. An annual renewal of the Frances McDougal Scholarship continues to support Colin Kirk during his senior year at the University of Vermont. In addition, Isaiah Kohler will transfer to Rutgers University with a renewal of the Frances McDougal Scholarship. Julia LaVance will enter her sophomore year at the College of New Jersey, supported by combined renewals of the Evelyn McCoy Scholarship and the Frances McDougal Scholarship.

Much appreciation is extended to members of the committee who work tirelessly across the internet to review applications and to conduct interviews as promptly as possible: Marrie Cassidy, Anna DeForest, Pam Kelly, Larry Morier, Joy Wadleigh, Fr. Alan Leonard. Volunteers are always welcome.

-Barbara Smith, Chairperson

PAINT THE CHURCH CAMPAIGN

We are pleased to report that our special campaign to raise funds for painting the church is a success, so the painting will begin in September. We have raised over \$47,000 which will cover the estimated \$25,000 cost of the painting and leave a much needed \$22,000 to replenish the REPLACEMENT FUND for future needs. We thank the 16 Parishioners and friends of Advent that generously contributed to this project. If you did not participate and wish to do so, we are still accepting donations that will be applied to the REPLACEMENT FUND. You can contribute through the web site:

capemayadvent.org or by writing a check to Church of the Advent. In both cases indicate that it is earmarked for PAINT THE CHURCH CAMPAIGN.

ECW NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

ECW will begin the fall season with our meeting on the third Thursday in September (Sept. 17) at 10:30 in the Parish Hall. We will have coffee and coffee cake and review the coming year. See you then!

We will begin craft meetings on Monday, September 14 at 4:00 PM in the Parish Hall to make things to sell at our Christmas bazaar. No experience necessary, just bring scissors and join the fun.



ECW Christmas Bazaar – Dec. 5 from 10:00 to 2:30

You're thinking it's a little early to think about ECW's biggest fund-raiser of the year, but it's never too early to put things aside to donate to the bazaar. We can't put greens or baked goods aside early, but here is a list of stuff that we can.

CRAFTS, HAND MADES

COLLECTIBLES

GOOD USED CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

JEWELRY

RAFFLE BASKETS

YOUR SOUP RECIPE (to make up a batch later for the ever popular soup sale)

DATE: PUT DECEMBER 5, 2026, ON YOUR CALENDAR TO HELP.

September Birthday Celebrations**September Anniversary Celebrations**

7	Jason Brown	5	Ed & Barbara Cattaneo
9	Jane Kotz	15	William & Susan DeHart
12	Lana Thompson	16	Jack & Kelly Currier
13	Ashley Brownstein	21	Dwight Coleman & Karann Murphy
14	Mia Wood	22	William & Collette Keltie, Jr.
15	Brenda Leonard	25	Anthony & Lynn Canesso
19	Donna Brownstein	27	Richard Hudson & Joy Wadleigh
21	Rhonda Jackson		
21	William Keltie, Jr.		
23	Jean Horn		
28	Kelly DePietro		
30	Fred Thomas		

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday: The Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

The 10:30 service is also livestreamed on YouTube

Thursday: The Holy Eucharist at 12:00 Noon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	CHURCH OF THE ADVENT SEPTEMBER 2026	1	2 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	3 Holy Eucharist- Noon	4	5
6 Pentecost 15 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	7 Bible Study-7:30- 9:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	8 Men's Breakfast -- 8:00 AM	9 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	10 Holy Eucharist- Noon	11	12
13 Pentecost 16 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	14 Outreach Comm. Mtg.-3:00 PM ECW Crafts -4 PM- Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30- 9:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	15	16 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	17 Holy Eucharist- Noon ECW Mtg. -- 10:30 AM-Parish Hall	18	19
20 Pentecost 17 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Vestry Mtg. -Noon	21 ECW Crafts-4 PM- Parish Hall Bible Study -7:30- 9:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	22	23 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	24 Holy Eucharist- Noon	25	26
27 Pentecost 18 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	28 ECW Crafts-4 PM- Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 9:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	29	30 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM			AA Meetings: Sun-4:00 PM Mon - 7:30 PM Tues-7:30 PM Wed-7:30 AM Thurs-7:30 PM Sat - 6:30 PM