



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Dear Friends,

"The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members." – Archbishop William Temple

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed. We serve others not because they belong to our parish, but because we are moved by Christ's love for all people.

At Advent, our outreach takes many forms. We collect food for local pantries, provide food cards to those in need, support children and families, and partner with organizations such as Volunteers in Medicine, Family Promise, and the Coalition Against Rape & Abuse. Our parishioners also give of their time to St. Barnabas Thrift Store, the Cape May Food Closet, Habitat for Humanity, and Animal Outreach of Cape May County, among others. Advent is deeply woven into the life of our community.

Bishop French has reminded the clergy of the diocese that we, too, are expected to be active in our local community as part of our ministry. Drawing on my years as an Army chaplain, I volunteer with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Cape May Fire Department, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I spend about four to five hours a week in these ministries—about ten percent of my workweek. My service is offered freely, with no expectation of financial benefit for Advent or of recruiting new members. Community engagement is simply part of a priest's calling.

Even so, such service sometimes bears fruit. Members of the Coast Guard have joined us in worship—including our seminarian, Greg Schell. Firefighters have supported our parish events, as has the mayor of Cape May. Members of the VFW have also joined us in worship. While growth is never the goal of volunteer work, God can use these connections to draw people into the life of the church.

This is at the heart of what it means to be the Church: a spiritual home for those who gather here and a sign of Christ's love for those outside our doors. Service is not an add-on to our faith—it is central to who we are at the Episcopal Church of the Advent. If we are not making a positive difference beyond our walls, we are not fully living our vocation as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for all you do—individually and collectively—to make God's love visible through service. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure continue to strengthen our

parish and bless our community. In this way, Advent truly embodies Archbishop Temple's words, existing not for ourselves alone but for the sake of the world God loves.

Faithfully,
Alan+

SUNDAY SERVICE MINISTRIES

Lector (Reader of Lessons) – reads 1st lesson, leads Psalm, reads 2nd lesson from the Lectern. The readings are emailed to you one week before you are scheduled to read.

Intercessor (Reader of Prayers of the People) – reads the Prayers of the People from the Lectern. The prayers are emailed to you one week before you are scheduled to read.

Ushers – arrive 15 minutes before service; greet attendees; hand out Sunday bulletin; keep count of those attending; take gifts to Priest at the altar; guide people during communion; after the service remove bulletins left in the pews.

Acolyte – arrive 15 minutes before service, light candles, serve as Crucifer, assist at altar and serve as a chalice.

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 10:00 AM, there will be a training session for all those who are currently participating and those folks who would like to participate.

We currently have a loyal group of parishioners who have been serving in these roles for a long time and often serve in these roles several times each month. It is our hope that more parishioners will join the Sunday Service Ministries so that each person only has to serve one time per month.

The schedule for Sunday Service Ministries is sent to participants on a monthly basis. If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find a substitute and notify the church office. If you know ahead of time that you will not be available to serve, please notify the church office so you will not be scheduled on that date.

Please contact the church office (609-884-3065) or adventsecretary@comcast.net if you would like to participate or have any questions. Thank you.

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT YARD SALE

Mark your calendar! Saturday, October 11, is the date for our fabulous church yard sale. It will be held in our Parish Hall starting at 10:00 AM and concluding at 2:00 PM. Beginning Monday, October 6 we will be open daily from 9:00 AM till 1:00 PM to accept all donations—old, vintage, antique, new! Help will be available if needed to get donations to the church. Please, no clothing, bedding or electronics. While this event is sponsored by the ECM, with help from the ECW, it's going to take lots of effort and coordination to make this yard sale successful and everyone is encouraged and welcome to participate. Please be in touch with Richard Hudson, 856-304-7129 to talk about what you can do. Your help will be gratefully appreciated!

CHARITABLE GIVING THROUGH AN IRA

Did you know that you can make a charitable contribution directly to Church of the Advent from your IRA, and the contribution will not count toward your income for tax purposes? The American Taxpayer Relief Act allows an individual who is eligible to make an IRA withdrawal, to have all or part of a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) sent directly to a charity—this is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). By doing so, the QCD is not included in taxable income. Many people today take the standard deduction so charitable contributions, that do not cause the standard deduction to be exceeded, have no tax benefit but, because they do not increase income, they might minimize Medicare premiums. Plus, our church will receive your entire contribution without taxes being withheld. Making a QCD is not a complicated financial transaction. If you have not taken your RMD this year, you might want to discuss this with your financial advisor.

- Joy Wadleigh

ECW NOTES

ECW met on the third Thursday of September to plan our fall/winter season. Activities coming up include helping at the ECM Yard Sale on October 11 from 10:00AM to 2:00 PM. There will be sorting during the week before the sale, so if you can't help at the sale, there will be things that need doing in the Parish Hall during the week. Richard Hudson is the guy to see if you have questions.

ECW will be doing receptions after the Classical Cape May concerts once a month from October through April. If you would like to help and/or donate baked goods, please sign up on the list on our bulletin board in the Parish Hall. The concerts are free and wonderful, so don't miss them. There is also a sign-up list for helpers for the reception after Lessons and Carols.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is our Christmas Bazaar which is on December 6 from 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Towards that, we have started a Crafts Group in the Parish Hall to make things to sell at the Handmade Table at the Bazaar. The group meets on Mondays from 4:00 -6:00 PM. No experience is necessary. Please bring scissors. If you do crafts, knit or crochet we'd love to have your donations.

Also, on December 6 we host the MAC Christmas House Tour. This involves providing hot drinks and cookies and a rest stop for those on the tour. The church is also open for the tour. We need volunteers to help do this. Please consider pitching in.

We thank you for your help.

-Carol Obligado

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the home of Fred and Carol Obligado. The Aviator and the Showman by Laurie Green Shapiro is the book for discussion. New members are always welcome. Please join us.

Below is a list of the books to be discussed for the 2025-2026 year.

November 10, 2025	Table for Two	Amor Towles
January 12, 2026	Bound for the Promised Land	Kate Clifford Larson
February 9, 2026	Deacon King Cong	James McBride
March 9, 2026	Inventions of Wings	Sue Kidd Monk
June 8, 2026	Slaves and the Family	Edward Ball

For more information please call Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675.

-Lynda Cogswell

October Birthday Celebrations

October Anniversary Celebrations

2	Amy DePietro	2	David & Kristen Craig
2	Melissa Maahs	4	Jason & Leigh Ann Downie
4	Julie Shaub	5	Bob & Trisha Andrzejczak
5	Robert Horn	7	Joel Rutenberg & Gini Tate
7	Brenda Williams Grubisic	19	George & Brenda Williams Grubisic
11	Zeke Craig	29	Christopher & Mimi Wood
13	Amanda Pierce		
16	Gail Markley		
26	Kathryn Brown		
26	Robert Bullington		
29	Jordon Brownstein		

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

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT: STEWARDSHIP 2025

“Tell Out My Soul” for Love of God and Neighbor

The theme for this year’s annual giving is “Tell Out My Soul”, a phrase from a beautiful hymn inspired by the Song of Mary in the Gospel of Luke that encourages believers to reflect on God’s love, grace and power, and to express their praise and gratitude.

Our church is filled with generous, loving, and creative people who find new ways to seek and serve Christ in all people. It is a place of reflection away from the angst and dread in the world around us. It is a place to center oneself in Jesus, to pray, to renew spiritually, to give to others, to refresh our compassion, and to forgive and be forgiven. We are a community of God’s people.



Each of us has a unique story to tell and unique talents which enrich our church community. We all have a personal ministry for our faith which means that we try to follow the teachings of Jesus as we seek meaning in our lives and as we support others within the walls of this church and outside those walls.

Despite its relatively small size, Church of the Advent provides a myriad of services to parishioners and to the local community. The church also supports many charities. Please see the list of church ministries and missions below.

Stewardship is part of our personal ministry. Please share with us and our neighbors the Good News using your creativity and abundance. At Church of the Advent, each hour spent volunteering, and each dollar that you donate is transformed into ministries and missions and brings personal spiritual meaning to the dismissal prayer on Sundays to “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord”.

Please prayerfully consider what you can contribute to and share with our community of faith.

ADVENT’S MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS

Worship:

Regular services include the Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite II at 8 and 10:30 am, Morning Prayer Wednesdays at 9:30 am, and a Rite I Holy Eucharist Thursdays at 12 noon. Advent has also hosted an ecumenical service bringing together local churches at Thanksgiving, a Lessons and Carols service for Christmas, and periodic children’s services. Services such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals are also performed regularly.

Pastoral Care:

Fr. Alan Leonard, Deacon Charlene Snyder, and several trained Eucharistic Ministers provide services to homebound individuals. Fr. Alan also serves as a chaplain at the Coast Guard base and as chaplain to the Cape May Fire Department

Education:

We have Sunday School for children during the 10:30 service throughout the academic year and Vacation Bible School in the summer. We also have multiple offerings for adults including a Monday night Bible Study by Zoom at 7:30 pm with Fr. Alan, special programs such as Women's Bible Study with Deacon Charlene, and a tutorial about The Book of Common Prayer by Fr. Alan. Some parishioners have participated in a 4 year study program entitled Education for Ministry administered by the School of Theology at the University of the South.

Community Events:

ECW sponsors a Spring Market and a Christmas Bazaar. ECM hosts pancake breakfasts and a yard sale. ECW and ECM have provided refreshments for Cape May Christmas Candlelight House Tours sponsored by MAC. Advent also hosts multiple music events in the sanctuary during the year including performances associated with the Cape May Music Festival and Classical Cape May. Our church has also sponsored a local authors night, and an art show with works by local artists.

Outreach/Charity Initiatives:

Advent supports many charity and service programs including the St. Barnabas Cares Food Pantry, Cape May Community Food Closet, Coalition Against Rape and Abuse, Caring For Kids, Family Promise for homeless families, Flying Kites to support girls in school in Kenya, Volunteers in Medicine, disaster relief through the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, and the Mustard Seed project which supports Syrian refugees in Jordan. Acme Food Cards are distributed twice a year to residents of the Housing Authority in Cape May. The Sid Hicks Fund provides support for children's dance, gymnastics, and other activities. Outreach donations have allowed LCMR students to take college tours of historically black colleges. To honor Juneteenth, Advent sponsored a pilgrimage to NJ sites related to slavery and the Episcopal Church. Other initiatives include collections for Toys for Tots and the Seaman's Institute which provides toiletries to seamen while in port.

PLEDGING Q & A

Does all the money go in gratitude for God's Grace?

Yes! We take seriously that we are Christ's Body here in Cape May. Jesus promised that when we serve the vulnerable and care for one another we are actually caring for Jesus. Everything we do, we do to serve God's people. Every time the choir sings, or the Sunday school students learn a new Bible story, or our Rector and Pastoral Care Team visit a parishioner, or the Altar Guild buys silver polish for the communion vessels, we know that we are serving the Holy Spirit who is among us. So, we do promise, every cent you give is for God's Grace.

Doesn't the Church get funding from outside sources, like the Diocese or charitable foundations?

No, the financial base of The Episcopal Church is the voluntary contributions of its members. The ministry of our parish is funded almost entirely by our members' pledges and contributions. Without the generosity of our members and visitors who support us, we could not provide public worship, provide pastoral care, support outreach initiatives or care for our buildings. In fact, Advent gives a pledge to the Diocese of New Jersey to support the work of the Bishop and to assist mission and less fortunate parishes throughout the Diocese. The Diocese of New Jersey in turn supports the National Episcopal Church in its world-wide ministries and missions.

Your pledge supports both the Advent Community as well as other communities that need help. We live simply, share what we have and give thanks every day for the people who continue to generously support us.

When do you need my pledge card back? Does it come in the mail?

You can pledge online (www.capemayadvent.org), e-mail your pledge to the Church Secretary (adventsecretary@comcast.net), or return your pledge card to the Church Office or put it in the offering plate. The sooner we receive your pledge commitment, the sooner we can plan our budget for the coming year.

So, if I send in my pledge, do you need the payment today?

No! Your pledge lets us know what you plan to give so we can plan our ministry for the coming year. You can fulfill your pledge on whatever timetable works best for you. You can choose to pay today. We are not looking for your entire pledge today, however, just your commitment for the year.

Do you really need help from all members?

Yes, we do! Some of us are fortunate to be comfortable financially. Some of us barely get by. And most of us are somewhere in between. Our goal is a pledge from every member, because we who pledge have come to know great joy in giving our resources to support this parish and God's creative work! Each gift represents the faithfulness of a member who shares our belief that we are called to be generous and invited to share. We need every pledge to continue to do the work God has given us to do.

I like to give money in the offering plate, instead of pledging. Isn't that the same thing?

First of all thank you! Offering plate donations make up a moderate portion of our annual budget, and we are grateful for that. Pledging helps us plan wisely, however. The Vestry meets at the end of the year to determine what our expenses and income will be for the next year. Your pledges represent the plans that our members have for helping us in the coming year. We provide weekly envelopes if you would like so that you can place your offering in the plate each week.

Can I pay electronically?

Absolutely! Our website offers the ability to make pledges and payments on a secure platform. Visit www.capemayadvent.org. You can also scan the QR Code in the Bulletin.

What is the outlook for our finances in 2025?

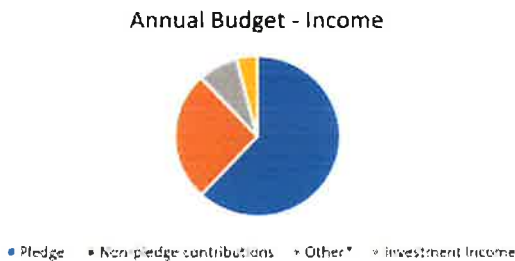
Advent must count on a guaranteed income stream from pledges each year to meet our Church Family expenses. Virtually all our expenses are fixed, including salaries and benefits, building maintenance, repairs, utilities, our pledge to the Diocese of NJ, office expenses, and interest on our line of credit with Sturdy Bank. Less than 1 percent of our expenses are variable covering things like coffee hour and other parish functions.

Most of us volunteer time and resources toward our Advent ministries -- outreach, pastoral care, altar guild, worship, music, finance and administration, fellowship, stewardship, Christian education, evangelism, scholarships, property, and security. Without this volunteer support, Advent would not exist. We are also blessed that many of us support the ECW and ECM in their various fund-raising efforts. However, that fund-raising provides only 4 percent of the income needed to maintain our Church.

The majority (62 percent) of our income comes from pledges to the Church. The remainder comes mainly from non-pledged contributions (26 percent), with a small amount from use of our facilities by outside groups and fund-raisers (8 percent), and investment income (4 percent). Our Advent Church Family counts on pledges to pay our bills. Other financial contributions are very welcome, but it is difficult for our Vestry to count on these to pay for our staff and maintain our beautiful Sanctuary and Parish Hall.

In recent years, our fixed expenses have exceeded our income by as much as \$20,000 annually. The COVID pandemic certainly did not help. However, COVID is now behind us. Some of our beloved parishioners have passed away or have moved to be closer to their adult children. We are very pleased to have newer members who have recently relocated to Cape May, and younger families with children who have returned to attend our services and Sunday School. Advent is alive and well and poised to be an ever-increasing presence to do God’s work in Cape May.

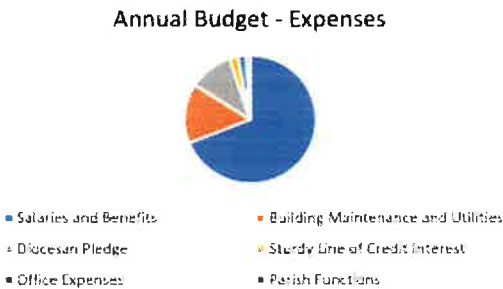
2025 BUDGETED INCOME AND EXPENSES



Annual Budget - Income

Pledge	62%	165,000
Non-pledge contributions	26%	69,000
Other*	8%	21,300
Investment Income	4%	10,400
	100%	265,700

*ECM/ECW Fundraisers, Use of Facilities, etc.



Annual Budget - Expenses

Salaries and Benefits	69%	205,760
Building Maintenance and Utilities	15%	45,350
Diocesan Pledge	11%	31,500
Sturdy Line of Credit Interest	2%	6,300
Office Expenses	2%	7,400
Parish Functions	1%	1,500
	100%	297,810

INCOME:	265,700
EXPENSES:	297,810
DEFICIT:	(32,110)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OCTOBER 2025						
5 Pentecost 17 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com Livestream at 10:30 Classical Cape May Concert-4:00 PM-Reception after	6 ECW Crafts-4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	7	1 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	2 Holy Eucharist- Noon	3	4
12 Pentecost 18 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com Livestream at 10:30	13 ECW Crafts-4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	14 Men's Breakfast- 8:00 AM-Parish Hall Advent Book Club- 7:00 PM-	15 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	16 ECW Meeting-10:30 AM-Parish Hall Holy Eucharist- Noon	17	18
19 Pentecost 15 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com Livestream at 10:30 Vestry Mtg-Noon	20 Outreach Com. Mtg-3:00 PM-Parish Hall ECW Crafts-4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	21	22 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	23 Holy Eucharist- Noon	24	25 Sunday Service Training – 10:00 AM
26 Pentecost 20 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com Livestream at 10:30	27 ECW Crafts-4:00 PM-Parish Hall Bible Study-7:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	28	29 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	30 Holy Eucharist- Noon	31	AA Meetings: Sun-4:00 PM Tues-7:30 PM Wed-7:30 AM Thurs-7:30 PM