



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Dear Friends,

The New Year is a time to celebrate the past year and look towards the next. This is a good practice for us both individually and as a church community, so let us consider what we did last year at Advent and what our plans are for 2025.

In 2024, we started a visioning process to consider where God is calling Church of the Advent to be in the future. I appreciate everyone's participation thus far. This process will continue in the New Year, beginning with a vestry retreat in February led by the Rev. Caroline Carson, our diocesan canon for Congregational Development.

We welcomed Charlene Snyder into our community as an intern in the past year and she will soon be ordained a deacon. She helped establish a pastoral care team to regularly visit our shut-ins and people in the hospitals and make sure they receive communion regularly. The pastoral care team and Charlene are a big help to me in responding to the pastoral needs of our congregation. I'm happy that Bishop Sally has asked Charlene to continue at Advent in 2025.

Our Sunday school continues to grow and thrive. It was a joy to have so many children participate in both the pageant and in the ministries of reader, intercessor, acolyte, usher, and chalice bearer for the Advent 4 service. We trained more children as acolytes recently and had a full altar on Christmas Eve, too! I hope to see our youth taking on more roles in church during the New Year.

Fellowship is a big part of community. We had some church dinners last year and enjoyed getting together for fun. There are plans to continue those in 2025. Also, the Episcopal Church Men ran several Saturday breakfasts for our community. Yes, those breakfasts raised some money for the church but more importantly, they gave us an opportunity to invite people to get to know us. Hospitality is a form of evangelism. Hosting two Candlelight Tour events for MAC in December was also evangelism through hospitality and we will work with MAC about doing those again this year.

In 2024, we welcomed the Classical Cape May music series into our lovely acoustical space, another opportunity to bring people to our church. That free music series will be back this year with afternoon concerts on the second Sundays of January, February, March, and April. The receptions afterwards that our Episcopal Church Women host let us get to know people who might never otherwise visit Church of the Advent.

2024 of course included many other events, including two ECW-hosted markets that drew crowds, adult education classes, and plenty of worship services. New for 2025, we are starting a Saturday "Coffee and Conversation" group — a causal gathering of people to talk about whatever is on our minds. I hope you will be able to join us for the first one on January 25 at 1:30pm.

I am looking forward to all that 2025 brings as we continue to minister to each other and to the community of Cape May. Prayers for a very blessed New Year for you and your family.

Faithfully yours,

Alan+

Fr. Alan celebrated his 28th anniversary as a priest on December 15, 2024.

pictured: Fr. Alan, his wife Brenda, and Charlene Snyder, our deacon intern.



CHURCH OF THE ADVENT ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. A copy of the Ballot is included in this issue of The Anchor. Voting will take place on January 19, 2025.

COFFEE, COOKIES AND CONVERSATION

Please join us for Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM in the Parish Hall. This get-together will give us an opportunity to enjoy some of the cookies generously donated by congregation members to the two Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts Candlelight Tours in which we participated. The first, on December 7, 2024, we welcomed more than 650 visitors to our church and parish hall, and the second, on December 21, 2024, about 550 visitors. We provided a warm place to relax, cookies, hot beverages, and Advent hospitality. Continuing that spirit of community, please join us on the 25th.

-Joy Wadleigh

COME, LISTEN AND PRAY!

Do you realize that you are being prayed for every Wednesday morning?

Your Evangelism Committee weekly prays the Anglican Rosary at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Office of Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Chapel. You are invited to join us for all or part of this prayer experience.

Maybe you are not able to attend but have a prayer request? Know that Fr. Alan (609-884-3065) or Sharon Werth, (914-980-1761), will gladly honor your requests for prayer(s). Our weekly prayer offerings have at their core the intercessions listed in each Sunday's worship bulletin, but they are not limited to these alone. Requests can be for good weather or safe travel, thanksgivings, or celebrations—in addition to urgent concerns, such as illnesses or a crisis of some kind for which you wish prayer support. This Church of the Advent prayer ministry is offered for individual, family, or parish concerns in general. Our payers extend locally, regionally, nationally, or even globally in geographic scope.

We thank you in advance for taking part in Advent's weekly prayer experience, either as a participant, a requester, or someone who joins us from distance.

In faith we pray, Sharon Werth.

THANK YOU!

A very large thank you to all who have donated items to our Seamen's Church Institute and to those who took an ornament (or more) for our Caring for Kids collection. Response was generous for both of these annual holiday programs and we are most appreciative for your contributions. Your participation was exceptional this year and the Outreach Committee is very grateful.

-Glenda Unzelmann for the Outreach Committee

CHRISTMAS CHEER TO LOCAL FAMILIES

This Christmas we gave the residents of the Cape May Housing Authority apartments Acme food cards valued at \$75 each to help with their Christmas dinners. Thanks to Alison Cioffi Brown who wrote and filled the envelopes with a Christmas message from Fr. Alan and the food cards. We thank the parish members who give to Outreach so generously so we can make holidays special and important for others. Blessings to all and we will post some of the thank you cards we receive.

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the home of Corbin and Lynda Cogswell. Summoned to Glory by Richard Striner will be discussed. All are welcome. For more information call Lynda Cogswell (609-884-6675).

AUTHOR'S NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, February 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM. ECW is sponsoring Author's Night in our Parish Hall. Four local authors will be available to introduce us to their work. More information will be available later in January.

OUTREACH NEWS

Dear Father Leonard,

I am happy to announce that our diocesan Global Goals Task Force has awarded the following grants in response to Church of the Advent's two Global Goals Grant applications:

\$750.00 to the Collateral Repair Project

\$750.00 to Flying Kites

As in the past, awarded grant monies will be sent directly to the Collateral Repair Project and Flying Kites. The Task Force thanks your congregation for its continued support of those in need beyond our borders and sends you our prayers for a Blessed Christmas season and New Year.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Helen M Orlando, Deacon
Diocese of New Jersey's Global Goal Task Force

January Birthday Celebrations

January Anniversary Celebrations

2	Nancy Abrams Loper		
18	Joel Rutenberg		
20	Grete Greenacre		
21	Michael Torpey		
22	Johanna Keltie		
26	Marrie Cassidy		
28	Carol Obligado		

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

Episcopal Church of the Advent/St. John's Chapel
PO Box 261, Cape May, New Jersey 08204

ANNUAL MEETING
January 19, 2025

BALLOT

SENIOR WARDEN – ONE YEAR TERM (vote for one)

Noel Smith Wong _____

JUNIOR WARDEN – ONE YEAR TERM (vote for one)

Richard Hudson _____

VESTRY – Three year terms (vote for three)

Donna Brownstein _____

Tom Crane _____

Anna DeForest _____

DELEGATES TO ATLANTIC CONVOCATION – ONE YEAR TERM (vote for four delegates & 2 alternates)

Diane DePietro _____

Carol Obligado _____

Peter Van Syckle _____

Sharon Werth _____

DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION – ONE YEAR TERM (vote for three)

Joanne Price _____

Greg Schell _____

Peter Van Syckle _____

ALTERNATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION – ONE YEAR TERM (vote for two)

Please note: nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. However, those so nominated must give their consent to being nominated either verbally, if present, or in writing, if absent.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Christmas 2 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	6 No Bible Study -	7	1 Office Closed Advent Walkers- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	2 Holy Eucharist- Noon	2	2
12 Epiphany 1 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	13 Bible Study -6:30- 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 Book Club -7:00- Cogswell's Home	15 Office Closed Advent Walkers- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer- 9:30 AM	16 Holy Eucharist- Noon	17	18
19 Epiphany 2 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM- Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Annual Mtg-9:00 AM	20 Bible Study -6:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	21	22 Office Closed	23 Holy Eucharist- Noon	24	25 Coffee, Cookies, & Conversation 1:30 to 3:00PM -Parish Get-together
26 Epiphany 3 Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 AM- Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	27 Bible Study -6:30- 8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	28	29 Office Closed	30 Holy Eucharist- Noon	31	AA Meetings: Sun-4:00 PM Tues-7:30 PM Wed-7:30 AM Thur-7:30 PM

January 2025

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT