



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Volume 46 Number 11 December 2025

Dear Friends,

I recently attended the 2025 Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey in Toms River, joined by Deacon Charlene Snyder, Trisha Andrzejczak, Joann Price, and Joel Rutenberg. It was a full and meaningful gathering, and I want to share some of the important highlights with you.

One of the most significant announcements was a **\$1 million gift** to the **Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem** to support medical care for children in Israel, Palestine, and Gaza. This extraordinary act of generosity reflects our diocese's commitment to compassion and healing in regions deeply affected by conflict.

We were also delighted to celebrate the election of our own **Alice Barnes-Vasser** to the **Cathedral Chapter**. We are proud of her service to the wider church. Three congregations were officially admitted as parish churches of the diocese:

- **St. Peter's, Barnegat Light**
- **St. Mark and All Saints, Galloway**
- **St. Peter's Igbo, Hamilton**

We welcome them and rejoice in their growth and ministry.

Convention delegates also approved two important resolutions:

- The establishment of a **Reparations Fund for Historic Black Churches**, acknowledging the need for restorative justice within our diocesan history.
- A resolution supporting a **just and lasting peace in Gaza**, calling the church to continued prayer and advocacy for peace.

The diocese also reported on feedback from recent listening sessions, which identified several areas of need and opportunity. These included increased support for Spanish-speaking congregations, the creation of a designated priest to provide pastoral care in the diocese and consideration of calling a **Suffragan or Assisting Bishop** to support Bishop French in the workload of diocesan leadership.

Finally, there was a strong emphasis on the urgent need to strengthen and support our **small and vulnerable congregations**, ensuring that every parish can thrive in its mission and ministry.

Thank you for your prayers and your ongoing commitment to the life of our church and diocese. It is a blessing to serve alongside you.

Faithfully,

Alan+

DEACON'S CORNER

Happy New Year!! The First Sunday in Advent begins a new liturgical year. We begin again our journey through the Older and Newer Testament, and that it will allow us to see our wonderful God in new and renewed ways, acting in our history as His people and his loving action in our lives today!

As we begin this journey through this liturgical year, I hope for each of us, that we listen and hear the story as children do. If you have ever read a book to a child, you know that they approach hearing a story with anticipation and excitement to learn what will happen! Sometimes they hear new stories with delight and sometimes they hear old stories that they know by heart. In time they know the story so well that they love retelling it or reading it to someone else.

May your journey through this New Year bring you that childhood delight and anticipation of things to come and may you become so excited about what you hear that you too will love retelling it.

May God bless you and Happy New Year,
Deacon Charlene

2026 GIVING ENVELOPES

If you would like weekly giving envelopes for your 2026 donations and did not check that box on your pledge card, please contact the church office to receive a box of envelopes (adventsecretary@comcast.net or 609-884-3065).

JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!

We invite all children who would like to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant, which will take place at the 10:30 AM service on **Sunday, December 21**. Children interested in singing or taking part in the skit should begin attending **Sunday school** so they can learn the songs, become familiar with the story, and take part in rehearsals.

All ages are welcome, and no prior experience is needed. We look forward to seeing new and returning faces as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas story together.

STEWARDSHIP

Most of us pedal pretty hard to avoid going in the direction of Jesus' Beatitudes. It seems what the world needs is enough of us to risk believing and putting the Beatitudes into PRACTICE. I can hear Jesus saying "Get your hands dirty to build a human society for human beings." Christianity is not passive, but active, energetic, alive, going beyond despair.

Before He teaches, He heals; as He heals, He teaches. Stewardship bids us to go, now, and do the same! Go now, and do the same as stewards of the many blessings and gifts we have been given.

Will we be the hand of Jesus, welcoming and connecting with newcomers, Greg Schell, the Homebound, etc. etc. etc.?

-Sharon Werth

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

I said a few weeks ago when speaking at the 8:00 AM service about stewardship that, "This church lifts me up. It gives me strength. It is my 'Home Base' when it comes to my faith and spiritual needs." Our Rector, our Deacon, fellow parishioners, as individuals and as a unified body, bring together within the four walls of this church, a combined presence of caring, compassion, hope, and the strength of faith that has helped me in difficult times, as I am sure it has for many of you as well as in the good times.

What we have today was built upon the prayers, beliefs, will, and financial support of previous generations to build and sustain this house of worship for all the people.

I believe it is our responsibility to continue those efforts and traditions to support that effort, as best as we are able, to ensure Advent's sustainability for generations to come.

-Larry Morier

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Our homebound parishioners remember us even when we cannot see them. Letting you know who they are is the first step. The second step is you finding their address and contact information in the updated Church Directory. The third begs the question, will you pray for, visit, write or call them? ALL in efforts to keep their memory, their story ALIVE within our Advent church family.

Lorraine Brooks

Donafaye Burke

Herb and Arlene Lehman

Sue McIntyre

Ruth Hand

Johanna Keltie

Mike and Marty Torpey

Bob Mitchell

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The trees are up in the back of the church and hung with tags from **Caring for Kids** of Cape May. If you can, please take a tag with suggested Wish List items for children in our area who might otherwise wake up to nothing under their trees on Christmas morning. Please return wrapped gift items to the church by December 14 with the tag attached. Thanks for your help to make Christmas brighter for our local kids!

Thanks to your **pledge donations earmarked for Outreach**, we can once again help out our neighbors in the Cape May Housing Authority. This season we will provide 85 families with Acme food cards to purchase nutritious foods for the holidays. This is especially important this year as grocery prices continue to rise, food banks are seeing increasing requests for assistance, and some local programs are losing funding.

-Pam Kelly

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Education Committee recently met to review current and upcoming programs across all ages. Sunday school continues to be a vibrant space for children, even as attendance challenges remain. We are excited to share our Christmas story with the congregation on Sunday, December 21st at the 10:30 AM service.

Our Confirmation Class, now meeting both in person and via Zoom, has 10 participants, including both youth and adults, reflecting the continued interest in faith formation across generations.

Adult programs bring a mix of study and reflection. The Monday night Adult Bible Study is exploring 1 Corinthians. The Women's Bible Study on Wednesdays will pause until January before resuming to continue learning and growing with the women of the Old Testament. Seasonal studies are planned as well: a four-week Advent series begins November 23 with Deacon Charlene teaching about the Lord's Prayer, and a six-week Lenten study on the Nicene Creed will follow in the spring. The committee looks forward to continuing to support the faith and growth of the congregation across all ages.

-Trisha Andrzejczak

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to donate toward Christmas flowers please complete this form and send it with your monetary donation to Church of the Advent, PO Box 261, Cape May, NJ 08204. Donations must be received by December 22, 2025. Thank you.

Christmas Flowers

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

Enclosed is a check made payable to Church of the Advent, PO Box 261, Cape May, NJ 08204 – Please indicate Christmas Flowers on the memo line. Thank you.

\$_____.

Your Name(s):

December Birthday Celebrations**December Anniversary Celebrations**

5	Josie Ginder	1	Gary & Amy Reed
8	Anthony Canesso	11	Josh & Amanda Pierce
9	Liam McKeown	13	Herbert & Arlene Lehman
12	Martyn Greenacre	14	Michael & Marty Torpey
18	Kona Wong	28	Calvin & Martha Stafford
21	Michael Kirk		
22	Pam Kelly		
29	Olivia Barron		

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

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sunday, December 14 – Lessons and Carols at 4:00 PM,
followed by a Reception in the Parish Hall**

Christmas Eve: Wednesday, December 24 –The Holy Eucharist at 7:00 PM

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25–The Holy Eucharist at 10:30 AM only

Christmas Hymn Sing-Along: Friday, December 26 at 4:00 PM

**Christmas 1: Sunday, December 28 – The Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM only –
followed by a Festive Coffee Hour**



ECW Christmas Bazaar – Dec. 6 from 10:00 to 2:30

COME TO THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!!!!!!!

BAKED GOODS: Do all your Christmas baking with our scrumptious homemade cookies, cakes, pies and other wonderful desserts.

CRAFTS, HAND MADES AND PLANTS: The craft group as well as people at home have worked hard to produce a great variety of gifts and decorations.

CHRISTMAS PASTS: Purchase gently used ornaments and decorations for a new look for your home.

ATTIC TREASURES/COLLECTIBLES: Here's a place to browse and shop for gifts as well as things for your home.

GREENS: Fresh wreathes and arrangements with the smell of Christmas. Mmmm!

JEWELRY: The Jewelry table is known for its hidden treasures. Come and look.

RAFFLE BASKETS: Take a chance on one of the unique baskets. You may be a winner.

SOUP-TO-GO: Solve your "what shall I have for dinner" problem in these busy times. Get here early to get delicious soups-to-go made by the best chefs in the area.

We'll see you on Saturday, December 6!

Thanks,

ECW

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Bible Study -7:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	2	3 Office Closed Advent Walkers -8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer -9:30 AM Confirmation Class-7:00 PM-Parish Hall	4	5	6 Christmas Bazaar 10:00 to 2:30-Parish Hall MAC House Tour -5:30 – 8:30 PM
7 Advent 2 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	8 Bible Study -7:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	9 Men's Breakfast -8:00 AM-Parish Hall	10 Office Closed Advent Walkers -8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer -9:30 AM Confirmation Class-7:00 PM-Parish Hall	11 Holy Eucharist -Noon	12	13
14 Advent 3 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com Livestream at 10:30 Vestry Mtg – Noon Lessons & Carols -4:00 PM	15 Bible Study -7:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	16	17 Office Closed Advent Walkers -8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer -9:30 AM Confirmation Class-7:00 PM-Parish Hall	18 Holy Eucharist -Noon	19	20 MAC House Tour -5:30 – 8:30 PM
21 Advent 4 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Christmas Pageant -10:30 AM	22 Bible Study -7:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	23	24 Office Closed Advent Walkers -8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer -9:30 AM Christmas Eve Service -7:00 PM	25 Christmas Day Service – 10:30 AM	26 Christmas Hymn Sing-Along – 4:00 PM – Reception follows in Parish Hall	27
28 Holy Innocents Holy Eucharist – 9:00 AM service only Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	29 Bible Study -7:30-8:00 PM Zoom link: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5312528003 Mtg ID: 531 252 800	30	31 Office Closed Advent Walkers -8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer -9:30 AM			