



Episcopal Church of the Advent
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Dear Friends,

Stewardship is about caring for the gifts God has entrusted to us—our church, our faith, our talents, and our resources—and putting them to work for God's ministry in the world. Church of the Advent is blessed with a rich legacy of buildings, endowments, and ministries that we have inherited from those who came before us. It is our calling to be good stewards of these gifts: continuing the good work of the past, responding to today's needs, and ensuring that Advent remains strong for future generations.

Stewardship also extends to our personal gifts and talents. Each of us has something to offer—whether through worship leadership, service, or hospitality. Right now, we are especially in need of acolytes, ushers, and greeters for Sunday services. Your time and talent can make a real difference in the life of our parish.

Of course, stewardship includes our financial giving as well. Unlike some churches, Advent receives no support from the diocese; our ministries are sustained almost entirely by your generosity. Fundraisers and building-use donations help, but the vast majority of our budget comes from you, our members. In addition to regular giving, many parishioners choose to include Advent in their wills, leaving a legacy that strengthens our endowment and supports the church for generations to come.

As we look toward the future, I invite you to join us for our **Stewardship Dinner on Friday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m.** The meal has been generously donated, and the Episcopal Church Women will provide desserts. This evening will be a time to share fellowship, celebrate our parish family, and talk honestly about where we stand financially and how we can move forward together with strength and faith.

Please prayerfully consider how you can give of your *time, talent, and treasure* to support Advent's ministry. Together, we can continue the work of generations of Advent members and ensure that our church remains a beacon of faith, service, and welcome in our community.

Faithfully yours,
Alan+

"Tell Out My Soul" for Love of God and Neighbor

Dear Friends,

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 accompanying this letter.

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.

Stewardship Committee

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT MISSIONS, MINISTRIES, AND ACTIVITIES

Worship:

Regular services include the Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite II at 8 and 10:30 a.m., 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 p.m. 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 four-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.

-Joel Rutenberg, Stewardship Committee

DEACON'S CORNER

As I am writing this morning, there is a crispness in the morning air that whispers that fall is on its way! Summer will push back this afternoon but the push and pull of the seasons will continue for a little while longer.

This made me think of the push and pull of our life cycle as members of our community here at Church of the Advent! The rhythm of summer has still been busy but more laid back! Vacations have come and gone, faces change from week to week as we gather, visitors join us, and there seems to be so much joy for them and for us as our life together is renewed.

We look back with joy at the wonderful summer, as we begin to welcome the adventures of our life together moving forward!

Our God is always inviting us to walk with him in the adventure of the new day that has been given to us. I don't know what the new season will bring to us, but I do know that our God will be walking with us and as God speaks in Psalm 81, "I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

Let us walk hand in hand into the next season of life for us at Church of the Advent!

Faithfully,
Deacon Charlene

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT YARD SALE
MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Saturday, October 11, we are having a yard sale!

As the summer ends and winter near, and you begin your fall cleaning in earnest, please save your treasures for our church yard sale being held Saturday, October 11 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the Parish Hall. We are looking forward to many shoppers as this is MAC's Victorian weekend and lots of visitors will be in town.

We hope to have a very large yard sale with lots and lots of everything. . .old, vintage and antique. **Please no clothing, bedding or electronics.** Items may be brought to the Parish Hall Sunday, October 5 through Thursday, October 16 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Help will be available if needed to get donations to the church.

While this event is sponsored by the ECM and ECW, it is going to take lots of effort and coordination to make this yard sale successful and everyone is encouraged and welcome to participate. Please contact Richard Hudson (856-304-7129) if you are able to help, or leave a message in the church office (advebtsecretary@comcast.net or 609-884-3065).

SAVE THE DATE, DONATE YOUR STUFF!

- Joy Wadleigh



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
A Week of Faith, Fellowship, and Fun

This summer marked a joyful milestone—our 10th year of Vacation Bible School at the shore! Gathering at the Cape May Point State Park, children from our parish and the wider community came together with incredible energy and excitement for a week filled with Bible-centered learning, laughter, and new friendships.

Each evening began with an uplifting opening assembly, complete with song, prayer and a short presentation to introduce the daily theme. From there, children enjoyed hands on activities, storytelling, crafts, games, and plenty of outdoor fun, all guided by parishioners dedicated and trained to nurture children of all ages.

The week concluded with one of the most meaningful moments of all: the children leading Sunday's 10:30 am worship service. They read the lessons, shared an interactive role-play sermon, helped serve in key parts of the liturgy, and even participated in streaming the service for the wider congregation. Their joy and confidence lit up the sanctuary and reminded us all of the vibrancy of God's love at work in young hearts.

Vacation Bible School continues to be one of the shining highlights of our summer ministry. We are deeply grateful to the many volunteers who gave their time and talents to make this year such a success—and we rejoice in seeing the seeds of faith planted and growing in our children.

ADVENT BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00 PM at the home of Lynda and Corbin Cogswell. We will discuss books we have read independently and make a list of those we all will read and discuss during the year. All are welcome to join us. For more information call Lynda at 609-884-6675.

ECW NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

We will begin craft meetings on Monday, September 8 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. 6 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

DATE: PUT DECEMBER 6 ON YOUR CALENDAR TO HELP.

September Birthday Celebrations

7	Jason Brown
9	Jane Kotz
12	Lana Thompson
13	Ashley Brownstein
14	Mia Wood
15	Brenda Leonard
19	Donna Brownstein
21	Rhonda Jackson
21	William Keltie, Jr.
23	Jean Horn
28	Kelly DePietro
30	Fred Thomas

September Anniversary Celebrations

5	Ed & Barbara Cattaneo
15	William & Susan DeHart
16	Jack & Kelly Currier
21	Dwight Coleman & Karann Murphy
22	William & Collette Keltie, Jr.
25	Anthony & Lynn Canesso
27	Richard Hudson & Joy Wadleigh

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	4 Holy Eucharist-Noon	5	6
7 Pentecost 13 Holy Eucharist -8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	8 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	9 Men's Breakfast-8:00 AM -Parish Hall Advent Book Club-7:00 PM -Cogswell home	10 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer-9:30 AM	11 Holy Eucharist-Noon	12 Stewardship Dinner – 6:00 PM -Parish Hall	13
14 Pentecost 14 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com Livestream at 10:30	15 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	16	17 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer-9:30 AM	18 ECW Meeting-10:30 AM -Parish Hall Holy Eucharist-Noon	19	20
21 Pentecost 15 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30 Sunday School-10:30 -Parish Hall Vestry-Noon	22 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	23	24 Office Closed Advent Walkers-8 AM-Promenade Morning Prayer-9:30 AM	25 Holy Eucharist-Noon	26	27
28 Pentecost 16 Holy Eucharist – 8:00 & 10:30 AM Youtube.com livestream at 10:30	29 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	30				AA Meetings: Sun-4:00 PM Tues-7:30 PM Wed-7:30 AM Thurs-7:30 PM