

THE ADVENT

*The Monthly Newsletter of,
The Church of the Advent, Southern Pines
us July 2024 us*

(NEW) I will be away: I will be away from **Sunday afternoon (after Worship) through Tuesday night**. I will be back in the office Wednesday morning, June 26. Also, my family and I will be away from Tuesday, July 9 through Monday, July 22 (two weeks), on a family vacation. In the event of an emergency, you may contact me at 910-585-4305, or at, Fr.Michael.Advent@Gmail.com.

(Worth Repeating/Updated) Our Wonderful Growing Church Family/Thank You God, And Thank You – Yes, You!!!: I am blessed by our church family! There is a genuine Christian love, and presence of Christ Jesus among us. God be praised! I am so very thankful to God, and to all of you. I see people reaching out to other people, lifting one another up in the Name of the Lord, and reaching out to those outside our church family who are in need. Well done dear friends! Each of you, yes, every one of you, are a blessing to me for which I give thanks to God daily, and I am honored to serve our Lord as your Priest/Rector. God has placed a genuine love in my heart for each one of you, and it seems He has placed a genuine concern in your hearts for one another. If I can ever be of help, please let me know (910-585-4305) or Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com. Following my Master, Lord, and God, I am among you as one who serves. Thank you, my dear church family! I ask for your prayers, that I may serve our Lord, His Church, and each of you to His honor and glory.

(UPDATED) Special Upcoming Holy Days: Every Sunday is a celebration and participation in the death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord and Savior; i.e., every Sunday is a, “*Little Easter,*” if you will. In addition, we will be celebrating the following special Feast Days in the coming month, or so.

• **Sunday, June 30:** Beth El Sunday (*Hebrew for, “God’s House”*); The First Celebration of the Anniversary of God’s provision to us, of our church building and property. To God be the glory! My thanks to Almighty God; to Kathy Virtue and her family (who owned the property, waiting on the church family chosen by God to come along and purchase the building/property); to our Bishop, The Right Reverend Julian M. Dobbs, and for his trust in me, God’s unworthy servant, in licensing me to serve as his Rector in this new church plant; and to all of you for making this celebration possible. Together we are making a difference for the Kingdom! In all things in our life as a church family, to God be the glory! AMEN!!!

(REMINDER) Our Weekly Schedule:

- Sunday, 11:00 a.m. The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
- Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
- Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Bible Study (The Book of Revelation)

(COMING SOON) A Second Sunday Service: We will begin offering a second Worship Service on Sundays, in addition to our 11:00 a.m. Service, at 9:00 a.m. Several of you have informed me that you are looking forward to an earlier and more traditional Service, and others will continue to worship at the 11 a.m. Service. There is a sadness about offering two Services on the Lord's Day. We all enjoy seeing one another. We will do our best to provide several opportunities for the whole church family to gather together.

(IMPORTANT UPDATE) Groceries For Those in Need: My thanks to everyone who donated grocery items for the families presently living

at The Family Promise House. I am asking that we provide families there, and others in need (e.g., families who contact me or with whom I am ministering, Meals on Wheels, and more) with the following items to be delivered in July (please see below). You may bring these items to the church anytime between now and Sunday, July 21. Thank you!

- **Cans of vegetables (green beans, carrots, or corn)**
- **Cans of fruit**
- **Peanut butter and jelly**
- **Soup (chicken noodle or ramen noodle soups only)**
- **Mac-n-Cheese**
- **Spaghetti and red sauce**
- **Rice**
- **Mayonnaise (with canned tuna or chicken)**
- **Beef stew or chili with beans**
- **Instant potatoes**

(Thank You!!!) Family Promise Work Day: On Saturday, June 8 our church family served at the Family Promise House, Southern Pines. It was a "deep clean." My sincere thanks to everyone who was able to participate.

(NEW) When you take ill: I was recently blessed to visit with two members of our church family who are unable to attend Worship at present. When you are hospitalized, or ill needing to be at home for any extended period of time, please let me know, or have someone in your family contact me. One of the greatest honours I have as your priest, and as a spiritual father in our church family, is to visit you in these times, and, especially, to pray with you, share the Good News of Jesus, anoint you with God's oil of healing, pronounce absolution, and most of all, to share the Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood with you. It is my honour. I can visit for a short time, or, if desired, a longer time, depending on how you feel. Each of you are in my heart and in my daily prayers. Please let me know how I may serve you.

(REPEAT) Spring Supper Clubs: The Spring Supper Clubs have started. Summer Supper Club sign-up is coming soon! Hope everyone is enjoying fellowship together!

(REMINDER) Women's Coffee and Fellowship: The women of our church family are invited to share in fellowship over coffee at 9 am every other Friday at Red's Corner (weather permitting). If you are interested in knowing more or receiving an invitation, please let Ann Hardin, our Rector's Warden, know and she will add you to the list.

(IMPORTANT REMINDER) Friar Tuck's Fellowship and Theology on Tap @ The Southern Pines Growler (160 W. New York Avenue, Southern Pines): Fr. Michael is inviting the men of the church family to join him for fellowship and a beer, soda, etc. This is a time for men to enjoy some Christian fellowship and to discuss what it means to be Christian men in today's Church. Our second get together will be 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 27. Please invite someone to join us.

(IMPORTANT NOTE/TWO SERVICES) "You'll take the high road and I'll take the low road, and I'll be in [heaven] afore you"

☺: Anglican Worship is, in every generation, an expression of ancient Christian Worship, east and west. However, we offer different approaches/emphasis to the received Worship of the ancient Church. Some take the, "*High Road*." That is they employ the vestments of the ancient Christian, or latter western, medieval Church, incense (the offering of which - by all people to God - is prophesied and commanded in the Bible) and seen whenever heavenly worship is revealed in Scripture), bells (marking special moments, thus, drawing our attention into heavenly Worship), traditional language (e.g.,: "*Thee*," and "*Thou*") which is both the vernacular and yet simultaneously special in addressing God, and lastly, ancient chant (which comes from ancient Judaism, and encouraged by St. Augustine of Hippo who says, "*He who sings, prays twice*." Others take the "Low Road": That is they employ a

simpler form of the same Worship, as received from the ancient Church. Thus, vestments are simpler (typically those of 17th Century Anglicanism), and chanting, bells, incense, etc., are not typically employed. However, this “Lower Service,” is still offered with great solemnity and genuine reverence, as we enter into the Presence of God, the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, and God's Story of Salvation. In mid-August, or shortly thereafter, we will begin offering these two approaches to the one Worship of the ancient Church, which emerges from the Holy Scriptures.

(NEW) NEEDS IN OUR CHURCH: I will soon be sending out a list of needs in our church family; e.g., **1)** we are in need of a Child Care Attendant (someone from outside our church family; this is a paid position...recommendations?), **2)** Re-spacing our pews, allowing more space for people to kneel for parts of Worship if they wish, **3)** Donations toward kneeling pads to aid persons who wish to kneel. Thank you!

*Together we are making a difference for the Kingdom of God!
Honored to serve the Lord, and all of you, His beloved,
Fr. Michael+*