

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
171st Annual Parish Meeting
January 27, 2019



MISSION STATEMENT

To show Christ's light in us through worship and prayer,
play and work, sharing and giving, that all may know Him.

VISION STATEMENT

That Christ's light be seen in us.

**The Episcopal Church of the Advent
171st Annual Parish Meeting
January 27, 2019**

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

OPENING HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION OF THE VESTRY CANDIDATES

ELECTION

SENIOR WARDEN ADDRESS

FINANCIAL REPORT

FINAL REMARKS BY THE RECTOR

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

The Episcopal Church of the Advent 171st Annual Parish Meeting

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Pastoral Care

This week the Women's Bible Study began a study on the Letter to the Hebrews. The study will focus on themes related to community. This morning as we gathered for the first time this year, I invited the group to reflect on and identify the communities to which they belong. Connection and community: these are needs of every human soul. We were not made to be alone; we were made to exist alongside of, with, and for each other. We were made to know and to be known. We were made to care and to be cared for by others. That is who we are – and this core value continues to be demonstrated in the countless hours of care offered by so many who are part of the pastoral care teams.

I thank God for the opportunity to continue serving in a parish that recognizes the need for and benefit of pastoral care. I am grateful to be a part of a parish that continues to be active in offering care to one another and in so doing demonstrates the love of God in real ways. What a privilege and joy to see the many ways the light of Christ is shared through the ministry of those involved in pastoral care.

Our pastoral care mission statement states, "As followers of our Lord Christ...we...are called to extend Christ's healing care to one another in a nurturing family by providing support and encouragement in the face of life's constant changes." At the Advent, I believe that we are doing just that. The following 2018 statistics from the Guild of St. Francis and St. Clare, I believe, demonstrate a parish family actively at work in extending Christ's healing care:

Chaired by Patsy Copeland, **the Pastoral Visitors** made 53 visits and 167 phone calls to parishioners in need in 2018. The twelve-person Pastoral Visitor team continues to minister following a two-person weekly team approach to pastoral calls.

Chaired by Barbara Adams, **the Short Term Care Ministry** addressed the immediate needs of parishioners facing challenge in 2018. Throughout the year, a total of 71 contacts were made, of which 40 involved the provision of homemade meals including soups, casseroles, and desserts.

Chaired for the majority of the year by Suzanne Dantin, **the Young Families Ministry** provided care and support to young families in the parish. Through this ministry, 140 cards were mailed which included birthday cards to children 11 and under.

Chaired by Doris Mathews, **the Long-Term Care Ministry** continued its focus in 2018 on serving the homebound and those with restricted mobility. Throughout the year, this ministry made a total of 226 visits, 97 of which involved the provision of food. This is an extraordinary effort given that the number of parishioners on the current service list is only 21. Long-Term Care is supported by a team of 25 dedicated parishioners.

Chaired by Donna Traywick and Stephanie Hall, **the Bereavement Ministry** addressed the many needs of families in the parish facing death this past year. In 2018, seven parishioner deaths occurred. In addition, 55 parishioner family members or friends died in 2018. Bereavement volunteers provided a total of eight service-receptions at the Advent. The Bereavement Ministry is made possible through the efforts of 24 monthly coordinators and a team of over 80 food providers.

Chaired by Anna Gray Phillips, **the Card Ministry** mailed out 534 cards this year, averaging almost 45 card-mailings per month. Of these, approximately 21 Advent members on the Long Term Care list received monthly postcards, a birthday card, and/or a greeting card mailed at Easter and Christmas. In addition, cards were sent at times of bereavement, illness, surgery, as well as at times of celebration and thanksgiving. Thanks to the talents and generosity of the Advent Artists, the cards mailed out throughout the year are reproductions of the paintings and drawings crafted by Advent members.

Chaired by Martha Schwartz, **the Flower Delivery Ministry**, shared 314 arrangements of flowers over the course of the year. These deliveries were made for 97 celebratory occasions and 211 non-celebratory occasions. In addition, six arrangements were placed in the Youth Center on the weeks the Advent hosted SPIHN participants.

Chaired by Kari Warren, **the Food and Freezer Ministry** chopped, stirred, baked, boiled, bagged and froze literally hundreds of casseroles, soups, and cookies and kept the freezer well stocked to ensure there was always a meal available whenever a need came along.

For the full year 2018, the Guild of St. Frances and St. Clare initiated and administered a total of 1,581 contacts with parishioners during significant times of transition in their lives.

In addition to the Guild of St. Francis and St. Clare, the pastoral care effort at the Advent was also supported in 2018 by other vital parish ministries. The Daughters of the King continue to be dedicated in their ministry of the confidential prayer list. In addition, prayer blankets, which have been carefully crafted by members of the group, are shared with others locally - and literally throughout the world and have become tangible reminders of prayers. Cathy McCabe provides leadership and support to the Ecumenical Blood Drive program. Special thanks this year to all our pastoral care volunteers and especially to David Bowdish who served as Vestry Liaison for Pastoral Care and chair of the Guild of St. Francis and St. Clare.

The pastoral care work of St. Francis and St. Clare exists alongside the care that clergy is providing on an on-going basis, and therefore extends the reach of care considerably in the parish. In the spirit of St. Paul: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ," (1Corinthians 12:12). At the Advent, laity and clergy work together - as one - in extending care in community.

As I look forward to the future in 2019, I am genuinely excited over what we will all be doing together to show the light of Christ to everyone requiring pastoral care at the Advent. God is working his purpose out in this place!

All that we are and all that we do together we offer to the glory of God. In gratitude and thanksgiving for the pastoral care ministry at the Advent, I am

In Christ,

Paula+

Associate Rector for Pastoral Care

The Advent Foundation

Thank you for making memorials to those remembered in 2018. Thank you for honoring their families with your donations and for helping our Advent Foundation grow. Please know that a memorial gift to the Advent Foundation is a fitting, meaningful, and sincere way to convey your sympathy to a family.

Mr. Richard Lamar Bagnal	Mr. James Ross Edwards	Mrs. Elizabeth Wallace McWalter
Mr. William Donald Bain	Mrs. Josephine Fenstermacher	Mr. James Warren Mullen
Mr. Ralph Millard Braswell, Jr.	Mrs. Elizabeth Montgomery Oates	Dr. John William Nelson
Mrs. Anne Haskell Lindsey Montague	Gage	The Reverend W.H.K. Pendleton
(Nancy) Browne	Mr. Robert Carroll Goodpasture	Mr. Edward Patterson Perrin
The Rev. Withers Waller Caldwell III	Mr. Cameron Pierce Haar	Mrs. Mary Lee Hammond Phillips
Mr. Ben Montgomery Cart	Mr. Charles Robert Heffner	Mr. Edgar Lee Pittman, Jr.
Mr. George "Pat" Edward Case, Jr.	Mr. Michael Eugene (Gene) Henline	Mrs. Caroline Ragsdale Reutter
Mr. George Edward Case III	Mrs. Max Bernard Hollis	Mr. William Reddrick Russell
Mrs. Jane Whitaker Clark	Mrs. Mary Augusta Elmgren Jessel	Mr. Watt Elias Smith II
Mrs. Lois Audrey Daum	Mrs. Rose Montgomery Johnston	Mrs. Elizabeth Cates Wall
Mr. Harold Lester Dixon	Mrs. Ann Hultin Kiesau	Mr. John Thompson Wardlaw
Mrs. Loraine Williams Draper	The Reverend Giles Floyd Lewis	Mr. David Tutherly Watters

Our Advent Foundation was created by and for the Advent in 1983 to honor our history, to sustain the present, and to help guarantee our future. Our Foundation has provided our parish with funds for outreach, maintenance, and pastoral care that have made a huge impact in the operation of the Episcopal Church of the Advent. As we look back and as we push forward to "Show Christ's Light in Us" we use all of the resources that we have – our magnificent buildings, our wonderful people, and our Advent Foundation. Our Foundation and its growth are a vital part of our ministry together – and all in our parish can play a part in its growth. Please remember the Advent Foundation in your will, in your retirement planning, with your IRA, and with your life insurance.

Our special thanks to Anne Louise Greer who led our board as President this past year. Todd Turner succeeds Anne Louise as President for 2019.

Many thanks again for the wonderful opportunity to serve God in his Church in this wonderful way. Please call me any time to discuss any questions that you may have about growing our Advent Foundation.

Kit Jennings – 864-504-3689 – kjennings@churchofadvent.org

Christian Formation

Adult Formation

You probably know that the word for *discipline* comes from the same root word as *disciple*. Discipline, whether defined as a routine or as a consequence of falling short of expectations, should be fashioned to teach us.

I read an article about discipleship recently in which the author wrote, “If I were ruler of the universe, I might lose the word ‘disciple’ for a while...I’d replace it for a season with the word ‘student’ or ‘learner.’”

For me, *Formation* takes on a broader meaning than *learner*. Some elements of being formed are perhaps more organic than didactic. For example, we are formed by our encounters with one others, by friendships, by experiencing various expressions of worship, and so forth. Being formed goes beyond learning in a classroom.

I like to think that the varied Christian Formation opportunities at the Advent include elements of learning and forming. Here are some highlights from 2018 in the area of Christian Formation.

Adult Sunday School Offerings

On an average Sunday morning there were between 70 and 80 adults participating in a variety of formation opportunities and classes. Below is a description of the offerings in 2018.

The Seekers

We launched a new Sunday School class called The Seekers. There are many exciting things about this class – not the least of which is that it grew out of the enthusiasm and commitment of a group of parishioners who saw an opportunity to engage another segment of the congregation. The focus from the start was that this would be a class for folks wanting to be taught didactically.

Many thanks to Dr. Anne Rodrick who graciously committed herself to teach the class for the entire program year. The class has been focusing on the people, places, and events in the history of the Church of England which the Episcopal Church is in full communion with and from which derives much of its history, identity, theology, and forms of worship.

The Gleaners

The focus in the Gleaners Sunday School Class is directed at Bible study using the Sunday Lectionary readings. Music, Art, and guest speakers, are a feature of this welcoming and fellowship-oriented group. Dr. Roland Doepner and Agnes Martin have devoted themselves to teaching this class and several members coordinate schedules and food. Thanks to all who have made the Gleaners such a success.

Parents in Community

Thank you to Ashley Reid who has done a great job facilitating this class which, among other things, has studied segments of The Alpha Course, a DVD curriculum that teaches the basic tenants of Christianity and other topics related to parenting and building faith in the home.

Participation varies and we are hoping to develop a model of self-sustainability going forward. Those who can commit to the ongoing leadership of this class can find a place to exercise their gifts of administration and communication by getting involved. The class continued its annual outreach project of collecting coats, gloves, and hats for the children of Mary H. Wright Elementary School through the Warm Fuzzy Tree project.

Welcome to Sunday

This class met to discuss a variety of topics related to worship, discipleship, prayer, and other aspects of the Episcopal/Anglican tradition. Usually consisting of a smaller number of participants allowed for thoughtful discussion and the sharing of experiences.

Weekday Christian Formation Offerings

Wednesday Evening Family Dinner and Programs focused this year on the various commissions of the Advent, each one taking a turn to present a program relating to its work. There were also opportunities for fellowship and fun. On most of the Wednesdays, there were programs for children simultaneously offered during the adult programs.

Men’s and Women’s Bible Studies

With the departure of Dave Rodrick for seminary last August, the 7am Thursday Morning Men’s Bible Study saw the return of our rector, Ned Morris, as leader. Many thanks to Dave for his leadership since January 2017. This group of 20-30 men shared insights and learnings as they studied the Gospel According to Mark. On the third Thursday, breakfast is served – always a popular feature!

The Women's Bible Study looks forward to the teaching of Paula Griffin (Associate Rector for Pastoral Care) who is taking over following Debbie Apoldo's departure to become vicar of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Spartanburg. This group will continue to meet on Thursdays at 9am.

Book and Brown Bag

This class continued to meet on Tuesdays at 12:15pm to read and discuss a variety of Christian, and a few secular books, since July 2011. Attendance continues to be strong and the discussions continue to be lively and interesting. Books read in 2018 include:

The Way of a Pilgrim and The Pilgrim Continues His Way – written anonymously

The Liturgy Explained by James Farwell (this was followed by three articles on worship and liturgy)

Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved by Kate Bowler

The Four Loves by C. S. Lewis

The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade by Thomas Lynch

The group began reading *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* by James Martin, SJ, in November and will continue through March.

We offered ***Adult Confirmation classes*** last spring in anticipation of Bishop Charles Duvall's visit in May. This year we presented six adults for Confirmation and Reception.

Parents and godparents of ***Baptismal Candidates*** received preparation and formation so as to gain a better understanding of their role in raising their children in the Christian faith. Three children and one adult were baptized.

Submitted by: The Rev. Deborah Apoldo, former Associate Rector for Christian Formation with additional updates by The Rev. Ned Morris, Rector

Youth and College Ministries

It has been a great joy and pleasure to serve as the Director of Youth and College Ministries. The success of the programs and activities are because of the continued support of the numerous volunteers, parents, staff and the amazing youth who participate and help to plan our youth programming.

The beginning of 2018 saw the youth pilgrims continue their efforts in raising money for the 2018 pilgrimages to Juneau, Alaska and Moab, Utah. During the students' Spring Break we planned a Youth Week with several opportunities for local adventures. Sunday morning formation included XCentric and Confirmation.

During the course of the year we presented two series. Beginning in January, Sunday morning Xcentric focused on the baptismal covenant as found in the BCP (*Book of Common Prayer*). This series addressed the baptismal covenant questions and our responses. The second series, "Decision Point," was presented in Fall 2018. It addressed several questions relating to the Christian life, the journey of faith and our commitment as young people in a faith community. The goal of this series is to help our youth understand and apply key Christian principles and beliefs to their lives on a daily basis. Along with a variety of teachers we presented a Sunday morning program which hosted an average of 40 youth each Sunday.

The youth Confirmation class continued to meet on Sunday mornings this fall with 12 youth who are moving toward confirmation in December 2019. There were 21 youth in the 2018 confirmation class confirmed December 16, 2018 by Bishop Waldo. The confirmands are blessed to hear from a variety of voices across the parish in their classes. Topics of study include Church History through the Reformation, worship, sacramental theology, biblical literacy and who we are as Episcopalians. Students continue with their mentored relationships, community service projects, a day retreat in the spring, and a Fall gathering in October and fellowship with Church of the Advent family.

Our Sunday evening program, Sunday Night ConneXion, met all year with a variety of activities available for our youth to participate in on a weekly basis. We alternate meeting on and off campus. This year we have provided supper on a monthly basis, as an act of service, to the guests at the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville. ConneXion primarily serves as a time of fellowship and relationship building in the context of a variety of fun activities. There are always great moments of fun and relationship building.

We offer several opportunities for growth and fellowship throughout the year for our youth including: High School, 9th Grade and Middle School prayer breakfasts, Baccalaureate Sunday and Brunch, Scout Sunday, Rise Against Hunger, Youth Sunday, Basketball Sunday and Banquet, High School/Middle School Winter Ski Retreat or day trips, basketball league, Spring Break youth activities, Sunday Night "Walking Dead" 11th and 12th Grade Discussion Group, youth band, acolytes, Wacky Wednesday summer program, school campus lunchtime visits,

local ski trips (2), day hikes (5), gym and weight training at Anytime Fitness and the YMCA, Venus Pie 11th and 12th Grade Group. In addition to these programmed activities, there is one-on-one time with students as well as visits to events and games, pastoral care, and youth & parent counseling.

The 2018 youth pilgrimage departures to Juneau, Alaska and Moab, Utah took place on June 8 for Alaska and June 22 for Utah. The pilgrims and their parents worked hard to raise money for these pilgrimages which had a record number of 27 youth signed up to participate. The pilgrims made a presentation in August at a Wednesday night covered dish supper.

Please continue to support our 2020 youth pilgrims as they work to raise money for their pilgrimage to Nova Scotia, Canada.

There are plans to continue expanding the youth program by including more opportunities for youth retreats, mission experiences, and community service opportunities.

The main thrust of the youth ministry at the Church of the Advent will continue to be Christ-centered through building relationships with one another and being a welcoming and engaging community of youth. It is a great pleasure for me to work, worship and serve at a place where the staff and the parish work together to build God's Kingdom.

Our college ministry continues to grow. Currently, we have two regularly-scheduled activities for college students: Canterbury Club, a weekly meeting at Wofford, and Advent College and Young Adult Group who meet on the first and fourth Thursday nights of the month at Hub City Tap House for *Board Games, Brew and a Side of Theology*. Additional activities include scheduled day trips to area campuses, local and beyond, to meet with our college students for lunch and other activities.

May the Lord continue to bless us and keep us throughout this coming year as we continue to serve God and our young people.

In the Peace of Christ,
David A. Dixon

Children and Young Families

It is with great enthusiasm that I began my new role as the Director of Children and Young Families at the beginning of this year. I am able to pick up right where Suzanne Dantin left off as she had worked so diligently and was very dedicated to the children and young families. I look forward to a year of fantastic events and activities that will facilitate increased involvement and growth within our church.

In 2018, Sunday School provided an active learning environment for the children of our church. Our dedicated teachers are great at what they do and are committed to seeing our youngest parishioners grow in the Christian faith. The Hearts Alive curriculum is used in all classes and follows along with the lectionary each week. Our Sunday school consists of four age groups: (1) 4K and 5K; (2) 1st and 2nd grades; (3) 3rd and 4th grades and (4) 5th grade. The classes meet at 10:15am in classrooms located in Adventure Kingdom. Each class has two teachers who rotate teaching each week along with two substitute teachers. Average attendance was around 30 each week.

Kanuga Parish weekend offered a beautiful, peaceful setting for young families to spend time together. The children enjoyed a Saturday morning filled with pillowcase painting, minute-to-win-it games and relay races. Saturday night, the children enjoyed a movie and popcorn together. Free time gave children time to play, run and explore with one another.

Vacation Bible School was held in July. Many thanks to our co-chairs, Liza Lounsberry and Janet Davis, as well as the many other volunteers who made the week so special! We learned stories from the Old Testament, learned fun new Bible songs, played games in the gym, and enjoyed making crafts. In addition, our fourth and fifth graders spent the week of VBS in the community learning about serving others. They visited with residents of Summit Hills, toured the urban farm at Hub City and helped harvest food with Ruth's Gleaning, a local non-profit that seeks to provide healthy nutrition to needy families.

We held two Young Families events this year. (Two others were planned and had to be cancelled due to weather and illness). The first, held in April, allowed parents to have a night out at the home of Maren and Ian Catolico while their children were cared for in the church nursery. In the fall we held our Young Families Fall Festival that was enjoyed by over 40 people.

There are many other ways we have loved and served our children this year, including the following:

ACC Chapel Choir	Basketball	Blessing of the Backpacks and
Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts	Sunday Morning Children's Chapel	Blessing of the Animals
Worship Bags for Church Services	Birthday Cards	Christmas Pageant
Kid's Crew and Nursery on	Vacation Bible School	Nursery staff and volunteers
Wednesday Nights	Food Delivery for new births	Take-Out Church

Again, I want to thank Suzanne for her dedication and leadership. This report reflects her hard work and love for our children and our church.

I look forward to working with you all in 2019!

Allison Little

Director of Children and Young Family Ministries

Parish Life Commission

If you attended or participated in any of the following in 2018, you were blessed by the ministry of the Parish Life Commission:

- * ECW ANNUAL MEETING * KANUGA * PARISH PICNIC * MID-SUMMER BRUNCH
- * POT LUCK KICK-OFF * OYSTER ROAST * BECCA STEVENS EVENT * BAZAAR

In addition to those Parish-wide events, you may have also enjoyed:

- * *Wednesday night dinners* * *EpiscoPals* * *Fellowship Group* * *SORTA Young Baby Boomers*
- * *20s, 30s, 40s CONNECT* * *Fruit of the Spirit* * *Labors of Love* * *Serendipity* * *Lunch Bunch*
- * *Bishop's Reception*

To highlight some of the successes of this ministry in 2018, we had 163 members attend the Kanuga Parish Weekend, we raised \$22,314 at the Oyster Roast and over \$37,000 at the Bazaar*. Seventy-six adult volunteers AND seven children served a total of 600 hours cooking for the Bazaar's Country Store. That doesn't include the volunteers that made cookies, casseroles, soups and other prepared food items! Over 300 parishioners enjoyed the Parish Picnic and over 100 gathered for the Mid-summer Brunch.

In addition to these opportunities for fellowship, growth and service, Parish Life oversees the ministry of hospitality. This ministry provides volunteer greeters to welcome visitors to our church every Sunday. In 2018, those greeters welcomed 46 visitors to the 7:45/8:00am services, 455 to the 9:00/10:30 services, and 233 at 11:15. Twenty new members joined the Advent in 2018 through Transfer or Confirmation.

If you're wondering how all this gets accomplished, please thank the members of the Parish Life Commission led by the Chair, Rogers Settle. They are: Barbara Adams, Ruthie Bailey, Ann and Quentin Broom, Arthur Cleveland, Bea Smith, Betsy Jabbour, Bill Coker, Bob Page, Brenda Lytle, Elisabeth Hayes, Ian Catolico, Jennifer Bauer, Lynn Sherlock, Sally Forrest, and Witney Fisher.

Other key Parish Life volunteers in 2018 include: Kanuga Co-chairs, Tim and Witney Fisher, and Stewart and Ann Mullins Johnson; ECW President, Paige Oberg; Oyster Roast Chairs, Elisabeth Hayes and Katie Jordan; Silent Auction Chair, Faith Pope; Bazaar Co-chairs, Kitsy Babb and Krista Stone; Country Store Co-chairs, Deborah McAbee and Lynn Sherlock; and EpiscoPals Coordinator, Carolyn Roberts.

It's been a blessing and a joy to work with the Commission, these key volunteers, and countless others who open their homes to circles and fellowship groups, who serve on committees and who show up regularly to show Christ's light. I look forward to working with Elisabeth Hayes who assumed the role of Director of Membership and Parish Life on January 2, 2019. I know you will welcome and support her as you always have me.

In love and gratitude,

Laura Bauknight

Director of Membership and Parish Life, 2018

**Final Numbers not available at time of printing*

Music

For over 15 years, I have been privileged to serve as the organist/choirmaster of the Episcopal Church of the Advent. The year 2018 gave me well over 15 reasons to be proud. Just before one enters the church's narthex, there is a sign that reads "Go out into the world and preach the Gospel." The music department aims to do that by offering a wide variety of vocal and instrumental opportunities to its parishioners and providing concerts and special services to the community at large. Ironically, the music program did not travel outside of Spartanburg like it did in 2016 and 2017, but there is hope for a Church of the Advent music trip, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

Some good news in 2018 was that the number of adult choir members had grown. The St. Cecilia Choir (9am adult) gained three members and the Advent Schola (11:15am adult) gained one member. Lindsey Brakhage and Zoe Kushubar have continued as paid section leaders (soprano and alto, respectively) for the Advent Schola. Bill Bungarz, following eight years of service has stepped down as our bass section leader. God provided Zach Potter, a senior vocal performance major at Limestone College as Bill's successor. I am currently without a tenor section leader. Kelly Vaneman continues as a very dedicated and talented Angel Choir director, and Sally Frick, the church's Angel Choir director for many years in the past asked me this past summer if she could direct the Junior Choir. With absolutely no hesitation I said yes, and Sally, with her years of experience working with children has been an absolute blessing! The Occasional Choir continues to serve those who can't necessarily commit to a choir on a regular basis. The Advent Toners (mentioned earlier on) has a strong core group of committed bell ringers (which has grown and gotten younger in average age) who play in church once a month. Some recent donations to the music program have made it possible for me to purchase more handbells. David Graham heads up our carilloneurs guild and coaches people on how to play the bells in the Cleveland Memorial Bell Tower. Nat McMaster, a sophomore at Wofford College has joined our roster.

Our children's ensembles are thriving! There are 6 children in the Cherub Choir (4 year olds), 10 in the Angel Choir (gr. K-1), and 11 in the Junior Choir (gr. 2-5) The youth choir consists of two eighth graders who frequently sing with the St. Cecilia Choir. The annual Christmas Pageant, "Light of the World" had large numbers of participants. Lindsey Brakhage is in her second year as the music teacher for the Advent Children's Center and has helped me immensely with the Cherub Choir. Gabriel's Instruments, our instrumental ensemble is up to two string players and one alto saxophonist.

In 2018, we offered concerts and special services almost every month. In January, we featured astronomer and organist Matthew Whitehouse for an evening of "galactic" organ music, and in February we hosted the "Charlestons," a male a cappella ensemble from Charleston. The first two events of 2018 also included dinner (and in February, a few drinks!). Easter was early, so there was no March program per se. In April, there was a concert in the youth center to raise money for the youth program's annual pilgrimage and in May, there was an evensong, followed by heavy hors d'oeuvres for the Feast of the Ascension. The very active 2018-19 concert series began with the following events: a concert of Johann Sebastian Bach's instrumental music, given by the South Carolina Bach Society on October 20, the annual service of remembrance and reflection (featuring the Faure Requiem) on November 4, the inaugural concert of the Upstate Brass Project on November 18, and excerpts from J. S. Bach's Cantata No. 140, "Sleepers Wake," on December 2 (i.e. Advent I). Last but not least, this year's "Word and Music" noonday Lenten service featured three ensembles: the Philharmonic Flutes (and more!) on February 21, clarinetists Chip and Karen Hill on March 7, and the Vista Ensemble from Columbia, SC on March 21 (for J.S. Bach's 333rd birthday!).

I cannot thank all the participants in the music program enough for their loyalty, hard work, and commitment. I am equally grateful to all parishioners of this church for their continued encouragement and support! Here's to a great 2019!

Sincerely,
Brennan Szafron, organist and choirmaster

Outreach and Missions

The following grants were awarded totaling \$136,430:

Adult Learning Center	\$6,500
Advent Children's Center	\$4,570
Cameron & Roberto Vivanco	\$3,000
Laura & Jorge Estevez	\$3,000
Dave Rodrick	\$2,500
Children's Advocacy Center	\$5,000
Citizen Scholar	\$938
Healthy Smiles	\$2,500
Hope Center for Children	\$1,500
Jump Start	\$11,300
Mary H. Wright	\$18,000
Mental Health America of Spartanburg County	\$3,000
Miracle Hill	\$1,500
Northside Initiative	\$20,000
Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now)	\$3,452
Safe Homes/Rape Crisis	\$3,000
Shepherd's Center	\$170
Soup Kitchen	\$3,000
Spartanburg Shares	\$5,000
SPIHN (Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network)	\$3,500
St Luke's Free Medical Clinic	\$20,000
TOTAL Ministries	\$15,000

Highlights from the year include:

- Implemented revised grant process in conjunction with ECW for more streamlined application and allocation process
- Provided "Advent" basket for SPIHN fundraiser
- Hosted Rise Against Hunger, packing 10,000 meals during Christian Formation (since beginning participation, the Advent has packed over 91,000 meals)
- Raised \$11,877 with Silent Auction and \$10,438 with Oyster Roast
- Hosted SPIHN in March, October
- Cumberland Mission Trip
- Assisted with ongoing canned food drive at church
- Sponsored school supply drive in July/August for Mary H. Wright
- Outreach Sunday in August with reception for all of our grant recipients
- Mary H. Wright ongoing initiative: Valentine's Day parties, Dr. Seuss Day, Earth Day event, 5th grade special lunch, May end-of-the-year parties, field day, trip to Washington, DC, immigration day, special work with Leadership Group, assisted with transportation for District choir performance, production of school musical, Halloween parties, Polar Express Day, Operation Magi, Faculty Christmas Party, Grandparent's breakfast, Fall Festival, Halloween Dash 5K Race, 3rd grade Colonial Day, and ongoing tutoring, reading buddy, and mentoring

Clint Settle, Erin Strickland, and Molly Cashman
Outreach Commission Leadership Team

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT OUTREACH TO COMMUNITY 2018

Includes allocations from the Advent Foundation, Oyster Roast Fundraiser, and
Episcopal Church Women Bazaar

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
Adult Learning Center	\$ 6,500
Advent Children's Center	\$ 4,570
Angels Charge Ministry	\$ 1,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 1,500
Birth Matters	\$ 750
Boys & Girls Club	\$ 500
Cameron and Roberto Vivanco	\$ 4,650
Cancer Association of Spartanburg and Cherokee	\$ 1,000
Children's Advocacy Center	\$ 6,750
Christmas in Action	\$ 500
Citizens Scholar	\$ 938
Dave Rodrick	\$ 2,500
Girl Scouts	\$ 400
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 500
Healthy Smiles of Spartanburg	\$ 4,000
Hope Center	\$ 2,900
Hope Remains Youth Ranch	\$ 1,000
Jump Start	\$ 11,300
Laura & Jorge Estevez	\$ 4,650
Mary H. Wright	\$ 18,000
Mental Health America	\$ 3,000
Miracle Hill Ministries	\$ 1,500
Missy Turner Memorial Fund (SRHS)	\$ 3,000
Mobile Meals Service	\$ 500
Northside Initiative	\$ 20,000
Palmetto Council Boy Scouts of America	\$ 400
Rise Against Hunger	\$ 3,452
SAFE Homes Rape Crisis	\$ 5,000
SC Test Prep	\$ 2,500
Spartanburg Art Museum - COLORS	\$ 1,500
Spartanburg Shares	\$ 5,000
SPIHN (Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network)	\$ 4,500
Spartanburg Soup Kitchen	\$ 4,000
St. Luke's Medical Clinic	\$ 20,000
The Shepherd's Center	\$ 170
TOTAL Ministries	\$ 15,000
TOTAL FUNDING TO OUTREACH BY ADVENT 2018	\$ 163,430

Advent Children's Center

The Advent Children's Center had a very successful school year. This success was due, not only to the hard work and dedication of the staff and parents, but also the continued support of the Episcopal Church of the Advent.

The ACC provided 40 weeks of safe, educational and loving care to the parish and community. We enrolled 85 children in the spring and 96 children in the fall. There were 21 staff members.

The ACC continued the partnership with Trinity United Methodist Church Afterschool Program. The ACC staff transports six children to Trinity UMC each day. This partnership is provided for families in need of an extended period of care. The ACC also held a summer camp in May and June for approximately fifty families.

The ACC Commission met three times this year. Martha Schwartz served as the vestry representative to the commission. The commission members were Allison Little, Kent Brannon, Jenny Moore, Nealie Floyd, and Alix Refshauge.

The ACC held the fourth annual ACC Walk-a-thon in November 2018. All of the children participated as well as many parents and grandparents. The total amount raised was \$1500. Besides being a fundraiser, the children learned about pre-run activities, hydration and post-run nutrition. It was fun for all!

The children performed a Christmas Music program for the December 1 Wednesday night dinner. The ACC families enjoyed the fellowship and opportunity to be part of the Advent activities. The children also performed a Christmas program for their families and the parish on Monday, December 10.

The families of the ACC lovingly provided for the children at the Hope Center of the Upstate. The parents provided items to stock the clothes closet at the shelter. Many children that come to the shelter leave their homes with no clothing or possessions. The donations allow them to have new clothing, underwear, shoes and a jacket!

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will start in February 2019. Planning for that school year is underway. Inquiries about the program and enrollment will start in January with tours available through August. We are thankful for the opportunity to provide a safe and loving educational program to the parish and the community.

Kathie Borowski
Director

Advent Children's Center Staff Years-of-Service

We recognize and thank the following staff members for their years of service and commitment to the Episcopal Church of the Advent and the Advent Children's Center. We express our sincere appreciation for their dedication and for the care they provide to the young children and their families in our church and in our community. Thank you!

25+ Years of Service

Mary Pat Walker and Dee Johnson

20+ Years of Service

Sarah Parker

15+ Years of Service

Anne Charles, Kathy Hopkins, and Jean Palmer

10+ Years of Service

Amanda Hopkins, Linda Long, and Kristi Zimdahl

5+ Years of Service

Jomary Prus, Brenda Rivera, Melissa Slater, Jennifer Weaver, and Lindsey Brakhage

Advent Archives Committee

As it now enters its fifth year of existence, this Committee continues to preserve and protect the history of the Church of the Advent. The collection and cataloging of various documents, photos, and artifacts remain a primary focus. However, the exploration of some of the narrower aspects of our history has provided a unique opportunity to gain a far deeper understanding of not only who we were, but who we are today.

The much anticipated re-landscaping project was completed in 2018 and the resulting change in the overall appearance of our church grounds has been remarkable. While sad to see the necessary removal of the old majestic oaks that had graced the front of the church for many years, the change has improved the vista of our historic buildings and restored the aesthetic beauty of our remarkable grounds.

In April, an historical marker was erected in front of the church commemorating the role that the Episcopal Church of the Advent has played in our community. Such signs are just another way to preserve our heritage while at the same time educate all those who appreciate knowing more about the rich history behind our founding.

Work continues on researching all available records in order that an accurate survey of our church grave yard can be secured. Additional work has taken place on restoring and preserving the monuments, markers, and headstones with more sessions planned in the future. Some can be done by volunteers while others will require professional expertise.

Thanks to an anonymous donation, funds were provided for the Advent Archives Committee to establish a gallery on the first floor of Satterlee Hall that will display photographs, artifacts, and documents detailing our history and offering to all who visit an opportunity to share in our heritage. This space is not intended to be a museum. Rather, it will be a constantly evolving display that will capture different aspects of our history to both reflect upon and to celebrate. The Archives Gallery will be open to the public during normal church office business hours and at certain announced times during Sunday worship hours. A special commemoration and public opening will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2019.

Never ceasing is the curating of our church history as we follow prescribed protocol to preserve the material we have been fortunate to accumulate. The items and records are now better organized and are stored in the vault. There is still a great need to collect more items to fill in for lapses in our overall collection. Pictures with individuals identified are always a welcome addition as are old documents or programs that offer a glimpse of what was happening years ago. New sessions are being scheduled to collect both audio and video recordings of the memories of church life as offered by some of our more senior parishioners.

The Archives Committee looks forward to a meaningful and productive year ahead as the years past are preserved.

Advent Staff Years-of-Service Recognition

We recognize with immense gratitude the following staff members for their years of service and commitment to the Episcopal Church of the Advent. We express our sincere appreciation for their dedication and for the special contributions they make to our church. Thank you!

30+ Years of Service

Gail Owens

20+ Years of Service

Kathie Borowski and Wallace Williams

10+ Years of Service

Jessica Owens and Brennan Szafron

5+ Years of Service

Laura Bauknight, Ned Morris, and Kit Jennings

Communications

Our website provider, ACS Technologies, and I completed improvements for our mobile-responsive site during the first quarter of 2018. The screen display now resizes according to the device you are using - computer, tablet, or smartphone.

We gained 46 Facebook followers in the past year and our Likes at the end of 2018 totaled 463. Instagram, the photo and video sharing platform, continues to have more views per post. During the same period, 60 people followed our account. We now have a total of 424 parishioners, community members, and churches that follow our content.

I assisted with the Realm ministry tool rollout during the summer. Unfortunately, the transition on the financial side proved to be very difficult and many critical features we had in the old system were not available in the new system. After much thought and prayer, a decision was made to revert to the former “My Advent” platform and Church Life app as of January 1, 2019. If you need assistance with this change, please contact our Parish Administrator, Joanne Wood.

Thanks to the following volunteers who shared photos of our church activities and events: Becky Bagwell, Laura Bauknight, Debbie Bowdish, Arthur Cleveland, David Dixon, Suzanne Dantin, Troop 1 Boy Scout leaders, Troop 1664 Girl Scout leaders, Joy Oates, Julie Schwartz, and Cathy Terrell.

I continue to serve as an ad-hoc member of the Stewardship Commission in preparation for the annual campaign. Thanks again to Kit Jennings for sharing his input on publicity discussions. I am grateful to Kim Barnhill, an Advent parishioner and graphic designer at adidas, for designing this year’s Stewardship Campaign logo as well as the flyer used for our “Kanuga Rocks” parish retreat.

I am thankful for the volunteers who assisted me throughout the year: the printing volunteers (Doris Mathews and Roy Ellis), the Thursday-afternoon receptionists that did manual bulletin assembly until we converted to the new format (Carole Davis and Linda Ellis), and the Parish Paper mailing team (Pat Frédéric, Kay Foster, Wilson Lanford, and Betty Snow). I’d like to express my gratitude to Roy Ellis who is retiring from his bulletin-printing duties after 13 years but will be available for special projects.

Becky Pittman
Director of Communications

OUR MISSION IMPERATIVES

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: GROWING IN UNDERSTANDING

As followers of our Lord Christ, who is Teacher and Guide, we the people of the Advent are called to grow in our understanding of the gifts and demands of the Gospel as we deepen our faith and strengthen our commitment to Jesus Christ as the Lord of all that we are and all that we have.

Programs and Ministries: Advent & Lenten Programs, Adult Confirmation Preparation, Adult Class Leaders (Gleaners, Parents in Community, Seekers, and Welcome to Sunday!) Book & Bible Studies, Basketball, Boy Scout Troop/Cub Scouts/Webelos/Girl Scout Troop/Juniors/Brownies/Daisies, Children’s Sunday School, Nursery Volunteers, Vacation Bible School Volunteers, Young Families Ministry and Youth & College Leaders (Advent College Group, Christian Formation, Confirmation Preparation, Journey Group, Mission Experience, Prayer Breakfasts, Sunday Night ConneXion, and XCentric)

LITURGY: PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL

As followers of our Lord Christ, who is High Priest and Celebrant, we, the people of the Advent, are called to proclaim the Gospel as our primary reason for being through our worship, our preaching and our personal witness in the world.

Programs and Ministries: Acolytes, Advent Schola, Advent Toners, Altar Guild, Angel/Cherub/Junior Choirs, Carilloneurs, Chalice Bearers, Eucharistic Visitors, Evening Worship Leaders, Evensong Choir, Gabriel’s Instruments, Lectors/Intercessors, Morning Prayer Officiants, Occasional Choir, St. Cecilia Choir, Summit Hills Musicians and Servers, Ushers, Vestment Caretakers, Youth Band, and Youth Choir

OUTREACH: GIVING OURSELVES AWAY

As followers of our Lord Christ, who is Prophet and Servant, we the people of the Advent are called to give ourselves away in servanthood in response to the needs of others beyond the walls of this parish.

Programs and Ministries: Adult Education (Adult Learning Center & Shepherd's Center), Helping with Homelessness (Miracle Hill & SPIHN), Medical Ministry (Mental Health of Spartanburg County, Spartanburg Shares & St. Luke's Medical Clinic), Children's Education and Welfare (Advent Children's Center, Children's Advocacy Center, Citizen Scholars, Healthy Smiles, Hope Center for Children, Mary H. Wright Elementary School & Northside Initiative), Mission Experiences (Ecuador & Tennessee), Outreach Commission, Prison Ministry (Jump Start), and serving and providing food to the hungry (Food Basket Ministry, Rise Against Hunger, Spartanburg Soup Kitchen, St. Matthew's Food Pantry & TOTAL Ministries)

PASTORAL CARE: EXTENDING CHRIST'S HEALING CARE

As followers of our Lord Christ, who is Pastor and Comforter, we, the people of the Advent are called to extend Christ's healing care to one another in a nurturing family by providing support and encouragement in the face of life's constant changes.

Programs and Ministries: Altar Flower Delivery, Bereavement Support, Cancer Support Group, Card Ministry, Daughters of the King (DOK), Ecumenical Blood Drive, Food and Freezer Ministry, Guild of St. Francis & St. Clare, Lay Pastoral Care, Prayer Team, and Long and Short Term Care Ministries

PARISH LIFE: FOSTERING CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

As followers of our Lord Christ, who is Friend and Companion, we the people of the Advent, are called to share with one another the joys and responsibilities of Christian fellowship through hospitality, celebration, learning, creative expression, play and service.

Programs and Ministries: Bazaar, Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Circles (Serendipity, Lunch Bunch, Fruit of the Spirit, and Labors of Love), EpiscoPals, Fellowship Groups (20s, 30s & 40s CONNECT, Sorta Young/Baby Boomers, Fellowship Group I) Oyster Roast, Parish Picnic, Photographers, Wednesday Dinners, and Welcome Committee

PARISH MANAGEMENT: SUPPORTING THE ADVENT'S MINISTRIES

As followers of our Lord Christ, who is Leader and Worker, we the staff and people of the Advent, are called to use our gifts, engage our minds and concentrate our labor on the tasks that enable people throughout the parish to perform ministries of Liturgy, Pastoral care, Parish life, Outreach and Christian formation.

Programs and Ministries: Advent Gardeners, Archives Committee, Bus Drivers, Volunteer Receptionists, Parish Management Commission, and Vestry

STEWARDSHIP: GIVING IN FAITH

As followers of our Lord Christ, who is Provider and Giver of all that is good, we, the people of the Advent, are called to give freely of ourselves and our treasure, to enable the people throughout the parish to perform all such good works as our Lord has called us to do, so that we can build up the body of the Church and nourish our souls.

Programs and Ministries: Advent Foundation, St. Helena's Commission (Buildings and Grounds), and Stewardship Commission

**The Episcopal Church of the Advent
Statement of Cash Receipts and Expenditures**

REVENUES:	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Pledges/Collections	\$ 1,570,955	\$ 1,692,571	\$ 1,656,832	\$ 1,730,461	\$ 1,755,839
Advent Foundation	322,186	291,625	327,683	346,068	344,782
Other	<u>28,737</u>	<u>30,498</u>	<u>42,911</u>	<u>40,914</u>	<u>25,407</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	1,921,877	2,014,694	2,027,426	2,117,443	2,126,028
EXPENDITURES:					
Episcopal Pledge	239,543	258,169	238,000	240,000	243,655
Outreach	120,650	108,135	132,911	110,615	109,203
Salaries/Benefits	1,119,978	1,169,056	1,122,545	1,154,027	1,197,528
Property	303,645	277,663	354,550	395,199	397,879
Administration	76,048	78,444	96,271	86,149	103,140
Christian Formation	14,733	13,372	12,671	11,924	12,090
Youth/EYC	18,425	15,322	16,343	19,764	15,007
Parish Life	12,773	13,354	12,580	9,555	12,387
Music	15,196	16,268	13,820	15,187	12,950
Worship/Spiritual Life	3,980	1,925	1,947	2,576	2,187
Stewardship	1,454	2,175	1,540	2,620	1,112
Pastoral Care	1,243	3,451	1,630	1,951	1,497
Advent Children's Center	<u>52,429</u>	<u>44,405</u>	<u>46,932</u>	<u>44,510</u>	<u>34,146</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,980,097	2,001,739	2,051,740	2,094,077	2,142,780
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	\$ <u>(58,220)</u>	\$ <u>12,955</u>	\$ <u>(24,314)</u>	\$ <u>23,366</u>	\$ <u>(16,752)</u>

**The Advent Foundation
Allocation to the Church**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
St. Luke's Fund - Outreach	\$ 85,662	\$ 91,053	\$ 96,383	\$ 94,591	\$ 93,461
St. Helena's Fnd - Property	89,420	94,882	100,406	98,487	97,251
Manning Fund	9,543	10,097	10,648	10,440	10,290
St. Cecilia's Fund - Music	3,760	3,985	4,211	4,137	4,078
St. Fiacre	7,484	8,632	9,651	9,904	10,138
Clay Turner Fund	28,451	32,531	36,201	36,806	36,692
Missioner Fund	10,000	10,000	-	-	
Father Caldwell Fund	70,000	71,797	54,932	52,974	52,147
Administrative Support	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>7,500</u>
TOTAL	\$ <u>311,820</u>	\$ <u>330,477</u>	\$ <u>319,932</u>	\$ <u>314,839</u>	\$ <u>311,557</u>
% of Church Budget	15.75%	16.51%	15.59%	15.03%	14.54%