

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

172nd Annual Parish Meeting

January 26, 2020



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
172nd Annual Parish Meeting
January 26, 2020**

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

OPENING HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION OF THE VESTRY CANDIDATES

ELECTION

ANGEL AND JUNIOR CHOIRS: “SIMPLE GIFTS”

SENIOR WARDEN ADDRESS

FINANCIAL REPORT

FINAL REMARKS BY THE RECTOR

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

The Episcopal Church of the Advent 172nd Annual Parish Meeting

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Associate Rector for Pastoral Care

More than Numbers

Each year as I prepare the report for the annual meeting, I marvel at the numbers included in this report. Once again, I can share with you that close to 1500 visits, contact, calls, and/or cards have been made over the course of the year by parishioners who allow Christ's light to shine through them through their acts of ministry, care, celebration, and compassion.

The numbers are impressive. They provide only a small piece of "raw measurable data" to document a ministry that ultimately is not about numbers – but is about relationships, about stories – about people. Some stories are an amazing transformation of moving from dark to light perhaps through the journey of grief and loss. Others stories are stories of long journeys with many a twist and turn. Pastoral care is about listening to people and their stories and remembering and acknowledging significant events in the lives of each other.

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 2019 statistics from the Guild of St. Francis and St. Clare, I believe, demonstrate a parish family actively at work at extending Christ's healing care:

Chaired by Patsy Copeland, **the Pastoral Visitors** made 81 visits and 150 phone calls to parishioners in need in 2019. 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 challenges in 2019. Throughout the year, a total of 28 contacts were made, of which 22 involved the provision of homemade meals including soups, casseroles, and desserts.

Chaired by Allison Little, **the Young Families Ministry** provided care and support to young families in the parish. Through this ministry, 148 cards were mailed which included birthday cards to children 12 and under. In addition, 12 visits were made which included visits to welcome new babies and children, as well as to take meals to support our families with young children.

Chaired by Doris Mathews, **the Long-Term Care Ministry** continued its focus in 2019 on serving the homebound and those with restricted mobility. Throughout the year, this ministry made a total of 155 visits, 70 of which involved the provision of food. This extraordinary ministry is made possible by the support of a team of 25 dedicated volunteers who sign up to make one or more visit per month.

Chaired by Stephanie Hall **the Bereavement Ministry** addressed the many needs of families in the parish facing death this past year. In 2019, 19 parishioner deaths occurred. In addition, 41 parishioner family members or friends died in 2019. Bereavement volunteers provided a total of 14 receptions at the Advent made possible through the generosity and help of countless members who assist by bringing food, helping to set up, serve, and clean up. In addition, 24 monthly coordinators, support this ministry effort to ensure parishioners are supported during times of grief and loss.

Chaired by Connie Caldwell, **the Card Ministry** mailed out 535 cards this year, averaging over 40 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. Monthly cards are also sent to our seminarians, offering a reminder of prayerful support. 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 Artist, throughout the year many of the cards mailed out are reproductions of the paintings and drawings crafted by Advent members.

Chaired by Martha Schwartz, **the Flower Delivery Ministry**, shared 346 arrangements of flowers over the course of the year. These deliveries were made for 129 celebratory occasions and 206 non-celebratory occasions. In addition, 11 arrangements were placed in the Youth Center on the weeks The Advent hosted SPIHN participants. Also, through the ministry of the Flower Delivery teams, a bit of joy was brought to staff members of The Advent who received a flower arrangement on their birthdays.

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 2019, the Guild of St. Frances and St. Clare initiated and administered a total of 1,490 contacts with parishioners during significant times of transition, challenge – and also celebration 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 2019 by other vital parish ministries. The Daughters of the King, led by Judy McCravy, has maintained regular prayer over a private list of names, grounding our parish in prayer and the belief that all that we are and all that we do is by the grace of God and God alone. Our “little prayer team” divides the names of those on our non-parishioner prayer list and holds them in prayer. 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 our statistician and to Melissa Johnson who served as Vestry Liaison for Pastoral Care.

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 2020, 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+

Communications

Our social media engagement experienced significant expansion twice this year. The first time was in February with the addition of a Children and Young Families Facebook group and Instagram account. Both accounts were managed by our new program director, Allison Little. She took over the VBS (Vacation Bible School) Instagram account that had been created in 2018 and managed by youth assistants Kate Brown and Libby Stevens. This ministry closed out the 2019 year with 96 members on Facebook, 95 on the Young Families Instagram account, and 114 on VBS Instagram.

There is no doubt that the statistics were boosted in the second half of the year with the addition of our two youth ministers, Caroline Stinson and Zac Blankenship. The church’s Facebook page broke the 500-member milestone! We gained 61 Facebook followers and our Likes totaled 524 at the end of the year. Caroline and Zac created new Facebook and Instagram accounts for the Advent Episcopal Youth Community. The Advent EYC accounts have 52 followers on Facebook and 198 on Instagram.

Instagram, the photo and video sharing platform, continues to have more views per post. The church’s account now has a total of 485 parishioners, community members, and churches that follow our content.

We are grateful to Jeanelle Smith, executive assistant to the rector, for her keen eye and gift for creating wonderful flyers and brochures.

A big thank you to Laura Fritz for managing social media publicity for the Oyster Roast and to Caroline and Zac for manning video cameras during our JOY Stewardship Campaign. Elisabeth Hayes served as liaison to Kay Buzby. Kay produced campaign videos and captured wonderful memories at Fr. Ned’s anniversary party. Kim Barnhill designed the JOY campaign graphics.

Thank you to the following program leaders and parishioners who shared photos of our many church activities and events: Becky Bagwell, Laura Bauknight, Sandy Battocchio, Zac Blankenship, Kathie Borowski, David Dixon, Susan Fretwell, Melissa Johnson, Allison Little, Marianna MacIntyre, Caroline Stinson, Troop 1 Scout leaders, Troop 1664 Girl Scout leaders, Joy Oates, Julie Schwartz, Lindsey Scoggins, Cathy Terrell, Brennan Szafron, Judy Waddell, Steve Wyman, and Kristi Zimdahl. Special thanks to Liza Wood who has taken photos at parish-wide events. Please contact Elisabeth Hayes if you would like to serve as a volunteer photographer.

I am thankful for the volunteers who assisted me during the year: the printing volunteers (Doris Mathews and Roy Ellis), the Parish Paper mailing team (Pat Frédéric, Kay Foster, Wilson Lanford, and Betty Snow), and the front desk receptionists who provide help on an as-needed basis.

Becky Pittman, Director of Communications

Christian Formation ***Adult Formation***

Adult Formation, in the Anglican tradition, is among the ways that we engage scripture, tradition, and reason to help us mature as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. The Episcopal Church of the Advent offers a variety of Sunday and weekday classes and Bible studies, including Confirmation and Baptism preparation. Below is a snapshot of this year's offerings.

Adult Sunday School Classes

The Seekers

The Seekers met January-May and September-December in the Parish Community and Life Center (PCLC), Dining Room A. The class is taught by people from within our own parish and from outside the Advent, and classes are designed to help us understand the history and context of our church and our faith. This past year Anne Rodrick continued to teach the History of the Church of England and in the late Fall a variety of class members presented on topics ranging from History of several local churches to stories of St. Nicholas. There are refreshments every week, and a fellowship brunch is enjoyed at the beginning and end of each year.

The Gleaners

The Gleaners met year-round in the Library Conference Room of Satterlee Hall. The class is directed at Bible study using the Sunday Lectionary readings. Sacred music and art are additional features enjoyed by this welcoming and fellowship-oriented group. This year the class lost their faithful leader of 6 years, Dr. Roland Doepner. Agnes Martin and other members continue to provide leadership to the class week with the assistance of Anne Bomar who distributes the weekly readings.

Parents in Community

Parents in Community met January-May and September-December in Dining Room C. The class is designed to meet the needs of parents of children of all ages. To that end, no homework or preparation is needed, and each week stands alone. Topics for the past year included Cabe Loring presenting on Screen time, Fr. Ned teaching on "Faith, Hope, and Love" as well as Parent Power Podcasts. A kick-off brunch at the beginning of the year attracted over 45 people.

Weekday Christian Formation Offerings

Men's and Women's Bible Studies

7am Thursday Morning **Men's Bible Study** is led by our rector, Ned Morris. This group of 20-30 men shared insights and learnings as they studied the Disciples and the book of Revelation. On the third Thursday, breakfast is served –always a popular feature!

9am Thursday morning **Women's Bible Study** is led by Associate Rector for Pastoral Care, Paula Griffin. This year the group studied a variety of topics including a study of Hebrews, Joy with Margaret Feinberg, The New Testament with NT Wright and Michael Byrd. Special Lenten series with Margaret Feinberg and Advent series with Amy-Jill Levine were also offered.

Book and Brown Bag

This class continued to meet on Tuesdays at 12:15pm to read and discuss a variety of Christian and secular books, since July 2011. Attendance continues to be strong with lively and entertaining discussions.

Books read in 2019 include:

Jesus, A Pilgrimage by James Martin, SJ
Between Heaven and Mirth by James Martin, SJ
Inspired by the late Rachel Held Evans
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard

We offered ***Adult Confirmation classes, also known as Welcome to Sunday!***, last spring in anticipation of Bishop Charles Duvall's visit in May. This year we presented five 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. Seventeen children and one adult were baptized.

With thanksgiving,
Laura C. Bauknight, Ministries Support Coordinator

Youth Ministries

January - July

David Dixon served as Director of Youth and College Ministries for 5.5 years and then accepted a call to serve in Florida in May 2019. Listed below are highlights of the youth ministry during the first semester:

- * A dozen Sunday night youth group members and parents prepared and served meals for the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville with assistance from Gail Owens and Jessica Owens.
- * An average of eight college and young career adults participated in the Board Games group, and 13 high school students met at David Dixon's house to play games on Sunday evenings.
- * Eight senior high students attended the Venus Pie Journey gatherings.
- * Eleven students attended the Advent Parish Weekend at Kanuga
- * Twenty seniors were recognized on Baccalaureate Sunday.
- * Nova Scotia youth pilgrimage fundraisers include the Annual Meeting chili sales, two Sunday morning breakfasts, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Silent Auction, (12 youth and parents cooked and cleaned up), and Blueberry Grunt sales at the Parish Picnic. The pilgrimage also benefited from per-unit monetary awards that resulted from Ecumenical Blood Drive donations in February, May, and November.

Will Gregg and youth helped with VBS recreation and assisted teachers in classrooms. In late July, Fr. Ned Morris had a lot of fun accompanying 10 members of the youth group on their Wacky Wednesdays trip to Carowinds.

Submitted by Becky Pittman
Director of Communications

August - December

What an exciting new year for the Episcopal Youth Community at the Advent! We have two new Youth Directors, Caroline Stinson and Zac Blankenship. Since the arrival of our new youth ministers there have been several exciting things we would like to share.

Our youth have a growing presence on social media that we invite all of you to be a part of. There are weekly updates and photos of our students and youth ministers that we would love for you all to see. Our Facebook account is under Advent EYC and our Instagram handle is adventeyc.

The school year kicked off with a back-to-school party for our Middle School students at Fernwood pool and another for our High School students at Mark & Keenan Mullen's home. We held a lock-in for our Middle School girls and a diocesan lock-in that were in the fall and both extremely successful.

The Middle School EYC Community meet every Sunday from 4-6 pm in the Youth Center, and the High School EYC Community meet twice a month at parishioners' homes. Chick-fil-a Prayer Breakfast is still occurring weekly with a total average per week of sixty students attending. Although Prayer Breakfast is continuing as normal, there is an exciting change we would like to share. Due to the high volume of students attending we are now having Prayer Breakfast three days a week: Tuesday-High School, Wednesday-6th Grade, Thursday-7th & 8th Grade.

The Youth Acolyte Ministry has returned to the Advent this year as well. We have fifty-six acolytes that make up eight acolyte teams. The Acolyte Ministry is made up of students from fifth through twelfth grade and we are extremely thankful for each of them.

Our YMCA Basketball league has six teams this year. One 10-11 age boys team, two 14-15 age boys teams, two 16-18 age boys teams, and one 13-18 age girls team.

On December 15, 2019 there were twelve youth confirmands that were confirmed by Bishop Waldo. Currently in our 10th grade confirmation class we have thirteen students. We held a Confirmation Retreat in November for our current class, and the theme of the retreat was the Baptismal Covenant.

We ask for your prayers during this exciting time for our Youth. The four core values of our Episcopal Youth Community are Growth, Community, Love, and Discipleship. It takes a village to help convey this message, and we couldn't do it without the amazing family at the Church of the Advent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Zac Blankenship & Caroline Stinson, Youth Ministers

Children and Young Families

I am very excited to be entering my second year as the Director of Children and Young Families. I am excited to serve our children and young families, and I look forward to a great year of fantastic events and activities that will facilitate increased involvement and growth within our church.

Sunday School continues to be 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 three age groups: (1) 4K and 5K; (2) 1st and 2nd grades; (3) 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The classes meet at 9:10am in three classrooms located in Adventure Kingdom. Each class has two teachers who rotate teaching each week along with two substitute teachers as well. Average attendance varies each week fluctuating between 12-30 children among the three classes.

Vacation Bible School was held at the end of July and was a fantastic success thanks to the help of a multitude of parishioners who volunteered their time and talents every day. This year we learned stories from the New Testament, made fantastic crafts, played exciting games, and learned many new songs with assistance from Mr. Brennan Szafron, our organist-choirmaster. The children worked all week to raise money for the Society of St. Andrew who created the free Abundance Orchard curriculum we used this year and last. Working together, the children raised over \$450 which was outstanding and close to double what was raised the previous year.

We had two young family events in 2019. First, we visited Sky Top Orchard in October and had a fantastic time picking apples, eating donuts, and spending time in fun and fellowship with each other. At the end of December, we had a Sunday afternoon bowling outing to Paradise Lanes for some fun and friendly competition. The day was enjoyed by children and adults alike! Currently, we have three events for children and young families on the horizon and look forward to seeing increased attendance at each.

In February 2019, the children decorated an Alleluia banner which was then buried in the Undercroft after our Pancake Supper and Talent Show on Shrove Tuesday. We will be continuing this tradition this year as we have the children working on the Alleluia banner to make it beautiful and special for its appearance on Easter morning.

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

- * Advent Children's Center Chapel
- * Cherub, Angel, and Junior Choirs
- * Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts
- * Worship Bags for Church Services
- * Kid's Crew and Nursery on Wednesday Nights
- * Basketball
- * Sunday Morning Children's Chapel
- * Birthday Cards
- * Food delivery for new births
- * Blessing of the Backpacks and Blessing of the Animals
- * Christmas Pageant
- * Nursery staff and volunteers

I look forward to serving our church again in 2020 and am very excited to see what God has planned for the children and families of the Advent!

Allison Little
Director of Children and Young Families

Membership and Parish Life

If you attended or participated in any of the following in 2019, you were blessed by the ministry of the Parish Life Commission:

*ECW ANNUAL MEETING *KANUGA *PARISH-WIDE PICNIC *MID-SUMMER BRUNCH
*MINISTRIES FAIR *OYSTER ROAST *ECW 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 2019, we had 164 members attend the Kanuga Parish Weekend, we raised \$28,327 at the Oyster Roast and over \$28,000 at the Bazaar*. Sixty adult volunteers AND 21 children served countless 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 150 participated in the return of the Ministries Fair, more than 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 2019, those greeters welcomed 114 visitors to the 7:45/8:00 services, 829 to the 9:00/10:30 services and 193 at 11:15. Fourteen new members joined the Advent in 2019 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, Ann and Quentin Broom, Ian Catolico, Arthur Cleveland, Bill Coker, Sally Forrest, Betsy Jabbour, Mary Carmen Jordan, Brenda Lytle, Bob Page, Brooke Rowell, Bill Schwartz, Lynn Sherlock, and Bea Smith.

Other key Parish Life volunteers in 2019 include: Kanuga Co-chairs, Witney and Tim Fisher and Brooke and King Mueller; ECW President, Teah Pye; Oyster Roast Co-chairs, Maggie Delaney and Katie Jordan; Silent Auction Co-chairs, Faith Pope and Davis Barnes; Bazaar Co-chairs, Kitsy Babb and Krista Stone; Country Store Co-chairs, Deborah McAbee and Lynn Sherlock; EpiscoPals Coordinator, Carolyn Roberts; and Fruit of the Spirit Co-chairs, Nicole Brown and Erin Strickland.

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.

Blessings,
Elisabeth Hayes
Director of Membership and Parish Life, 2019

**Final Numbers not available at time of printing*

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

Ned Morris, Jessica Owens, and Brennan Szafron

5+ Years of Service

Laura Bauknight, Kit Jennings, Becky Pittman, and Michele Seagraves

Outreach and Missions

The following grants were awarded totaling \$127,060.

Combined with ECW Allocations, a total of \$145,310 was awarded in 2019.

Adult Learning Center	\$6,500
Advent Children's Center	\$4,660
Advent Missions	\$5,000
Children's Advocacy Center	\$4,000
Free Wheelchair Mission	\$400
Healthy Smiles	\$1,500
Hope Center for Children	\$3,000
Jump Start	\$8,000
Mary H. Wright Elementary School	\$18,000
Mental Health America of Spartanburg County	\$2,000
Northside Initiative	\$20,000
One Collective / Youth World (Education = Hope, Cameron and Roberto Vivanco's mission)	\$3,000
One Collective / Youth World (Laura and Jorge Estevez's mission)	\$3,000
SAFE Homes-Rape Crisis Coalition	\$3,000
Spartanburg Shares	\$5,000
St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic	\$20,000
TOTAL Ministries	\$15,000
Tyger River Chapel Foundation	\$5,000

Highlights from the year include:

Silent Auction raised \$14,999.93 – over \$3500 increase from last year

Oyster Roast raised \$13,327.28 – over \$2500 increase from last year

Hosted SPIHN four times in January, March, June and September involving over 30 volunteers each time

Organized and implemented, with Parish Life, a successful Ministries Fair in September

Cumberland Mission Trip

Assisted with ongoing canned food drive at church

Sponsored school supply drive in July/August for Mary H. Wright

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 Atlanta with Leadership group, immigration day, special work with Leadership Group, transportation assistance 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, reinvigorated the reading buddy program – Read Wright!™, and ongoing tutoring and mentoring

Assisted Mary H. Wright Chairs, Joy Oates and Julie Schwartz, in the creation of the MHW Committee

Raised money and packed over 60 Overflow Bags of Food in support of TOTAL Ministries Canned Food Drive

Assault on Mt. Mitchell driver fundraiser that raised \$3,300 allowing Outreach to award \$1650 to Habitat for Humanity and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Upstate

Approved an additional grant of \$800 to Free Wheel Chair Mission as part of their October matching grant program

Voted to financially support four Parishioners to travel to Ecuador for a Vision Team Trip

In appreciation of your support to Outreach,

Laura C. Bauknight, Ministries Support Coordinator

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT DISBURSEMENTS 2019

Episcopal Church Women and Outreach Commission

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
Adult Learning Center	\$ 6,500
Advent Children's Center	\$ 4,660
Advent Missions	\$ 5,000
Angels Charge Ministry	\$ 2,000
Birth Matters	\$ 1,000
Boys & Girls Club of the Upstate	\$ 1,000
Children's Advocacy Center	\$ 6,000
Free Wheelchair Mission	\$ 400
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 750
Healthy Smiles of Spartanburg	\$ 3,000
Hope Center for Children	\$ 5,000
Hope Remains Youth Ranch	\$ 2,000
Jump Start	\$ 8,000
Mary H. Wright Elementary School	\$ 18,000
Mental Health America of Spartanburg County	\$ 2,000
Northside Initiative	\$ 20,000
One Collective / Youth World (Education = Hope, Cameron and Roberto Vivanco's mission)	\$ 3,750
One Collective / Youth World (Laura and Jorge Estevez's mission)	\$ 3,750
Partners for Active Living	\$ 1,000
SAFE Homes Rape Crisis	\$ 4,500
SC Test Prep	\$ 1,000
Spartanburg Alliance for the Mentally Ill	\$ 1,000
Spartanburg Shares	\$ 5,000
St. Luke's Medical Clinic	\$ 20,000
TOTAL Ministries	\$ 15,000
Tyger River Chapel Foundation	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$ 145,310

Music

There is a sign at the Church of the Advent that reads “Go out into the world and preach the Gospel.” This church’s music department offers many vocal and instrumental opportunities for its parishioners. We continue to provide concerts for the community at large. Visitors frequently remark that they find this to be a beautiful church.

The major news of 2019 was the change from a three-service schedule to a two-service schedule. This happened on Sunday, May 19. The St. Cecilia Choir (9am adult) and the Advent Schola (11:15am adult) choirs have become one adult choir which leads worship at the 10:15am service. Thank you to all parishioners who sang in the Occasional Choir.

Another change has been the introduction of music at the 8am service. That happened on September 29, which was also the day that members of the music program were commissioned for 2019-20. Lindsey Brakhage and Zoe Kushubar have continued as paid section leaders (soprano and alto, respectively) for the newly combined adult choir. Zach Potter also continues as the bass section leader. We experienced a net gain of three choir members. The Advent Toners has a strong core group of committed bell ringers (which has grown and become younger in average age) who play in church once a month. For the first time ever, we have two teenage members! Some recent donations to the music program have made it possible 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 as have Zach Potter and Sabrina Nelson.

Kelly Vaneman continues as our Angel Choir director, and Sally Frick continues as our Junior Choir director. I am indebted to both of them for their talent, hard work, and dedication. They do this on a volunteer basis and accomplish wonderful things with our young people. There are seven children in the Cherub Choir (4-year olds), nine in the Angel Choir (grades K-1), and 10 in the Junior Choir (grades 2-5). The annual Christmas pageant for 2019 was slightly different. It was aptly titled “The Best Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant Ever” and proved to be very popular. Lindsey Brakhage continues as the music teacher for the Advent Children’s Center and has helped me immensely with the Cherub Choir.

The Youth Choir consists of two ninth graders and one eighth grader. Gabriel’s Instruments had one alto sax and two string players before May. This fall, it is down to one trombonist but is still active. The Youth Band was not active. We appreciate David Dixon’s leadership of the Youth Band in prior years.

In 2019, we offered a variety of concerts and special services:

- * In January, we hosted the “swan song” concert of “Cello Times Two” which also included dinner and in February we had two events very close to each other. There was a concert at the Chapman Center on February 7 featuring songs of local singer/songwriter and Advent member, Randy Foster, in which our adult choir members participated. We also welcomed noted church music composer Robert J. Powell on February 10. Several hymns and pieces of service music composed by Bob Powell appear in *The Hymnal 1982*. We were very privileged to have a living legend at the Church of the Advent. The March program was an evensong for the Eve of the Annunciation.
- * In July, there was an Independence Day service in the Parish and Community Life Center with music provided by a brass ensemble from the “MasterWorks” classical music festival at Converse College. Carolyn Roberts coordinated the music for the service.
- * I took a work-study vacation at the end of August and the beginning of September, partially to study in more detail the organ music of J.S. Bach. The fall of 2019 began with a recital of Johann Sebastian Bach’s organ music on September 29. I offered it in memory of Dr. Roland W. Doepner, long time co-teacher of the Gleaners Sunday School class. On October 20, I visited the Gleaners Sunday School class and talked about my work-study vacation, sharing interviews with Episcopal Church musician colleagues. The annual service of remembrance and reflection was on November 3. On November 24, the South Carolina Bach Society presented J. S. Bach’s Cantata No. 140, “Sleepers Wake,” and other pre-Advent works. Last, but not least, this year’s “Word and Music” noonday Lenten service featured two organists: Michael Ging (from Houston, TX) on March 20 and Dr. Charles Tompkins (from Furman University) on April 3.

I am so grateful to all participants in the music program for their loyalty, hard work, and commitment. I am equally grateful to all parishioners of this church for their continued encouragement and support. On a personal note, it’s great to be able to say that the 2010s are the first decade that I have spent employed at one single church, and I am so proud that it is the Church of the Advent in Spartanburg, SC!

Sincerely,
Brennan Szafron, organist and choirmaster

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 forty weeks of safe, educational and loving care to the parish and community. We enrolled ninety-three children in the fall. There were twenty-one 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 four times this year. Jim Little served as the Vestry representative to the commission. The commission members were Niki Bagwell, Molly Cashman, Maren Catolico, Andrea Figueroa, Autumn Harrell, Stephanie Lambley, Kristen Strehlow, Juliet Wright, Kent Brannon, Jenny Moore, Nealie Floyd, and Alix Refshauge.

The ACC held the fifth annual ACC Walk-a-thon in November 2019. All of the children participated as well as many parents and grandparents. The total amount raised was \$1400. Besides being a fundraiser, the children learned about pre-run activities, hydration, and post-run nutrition. It was fun for all.

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 2020 -2021 school year will start in February 2020. 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
Advent Children's Center 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

20+ Years of Service

Sarah Parker and Kathy Hopkins

15+ Years of Service

Jean Palmer

10+ Years of Service

Linda Long, Jane Scoggin, and Kristi Zimdahl

5+ Years of Service

Nancy Blank, Lindsey Brakhage, Kristie Nielsen, Jomary Prus
Brenda Rivera, Melissa Slater, and Jennifer Weaver

The Advent Foundation

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Your Advent Foundation Board was created almost forty years ago with a simple but significant goal in mind: to provide an additional means by which this parish may flourish in its fellowship and its missions beyond any single budget year.

According to our bylaws, our primary purposes may be summarized as follows:

- First, to receive, hold, manage and invest gifts of property in trust for the use and benefit of this Church;
- Second, to utilize reasonable and prudent methods of investment and reinvestment to assure the best preservation of, and income from, those gifts;
- Third, to distribute periodically for charitable, religious or educational purposes investment income from those gifts; and
- Fourth, to distribute periodically for capital improvements or replacements investment income or designated principal.

With those purposes in mind, your board, appointed by your vestry, took its first tentative steps this past fiscal year to benchmark its core functions against similarly situated Episcopal Parishes through our association with CEEP, the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes. Through this process we have begun to learn and will learn much more how we, as a Foundation Board, can deliver more effectively on our responsibilities to think and act for the long term.

As Ned has no doubt described for you already the challenging trends we face with our ongoing stewardship efforts, our Church relies increasingly upon this Foundation to bridge the gap between what outreach we want versus what outreach we can afford. The foundation wants to be there to fill that gap.

The annual Foundation Report, copies of which are on your tables, includes additional information beyond past years' reports which focused exclusively on the extent of your generosity, whereas this year's report takes what we hope is an instructive look at trends in returns, expenses and allocations which we believe deserve deeper analysis and action in the coming months.

Toward that end, and with the support of our growing network of Episcopal resources, your board will be focusing particular attention over the next twelve months on three things: first, its investment management; second, its expense structure; and third, its approach to informing parishioners and growing the universe of investment gifts to your foundation. We as a group are determined to ensure that, no matter market fluctuations, your annual stewardship efforts can continue to be supplemented by this Foundation to ensure that the Advent will be a light of Christ in this community and in the world for generations to come.

Very truly yours,

Mac Davis – President
Warwick Spencer – Vice President
Matthew Myers – Treasurer
Jennifer Evins – Secretary
Mary Stewart Loring – Director

Ned Morris – Rector
Melissa Johnson – Senior Warden
Bruce Schwartz – Parish Treasurer
Joanne Wood - Parish Administrator
Kit Jennings – Executive Director

Memorial Gifts to the Advent Foundation in 2019

Mr. Augustus Theodore Allen IV
Mr. Robert Watson Allen
Mrs. Frances Coleman Blackman
Mr. Erving Weeks Boggs
Mrs. Clarke Smart Brannon
Mr. Amir Brewer-Samuel
Mr. Walter Miller Brice III
Mrs. Margaret Ledbetter Cothran
Mr. Frederick Bailey Dent, Sr.
Dr. Roland Windham Doepner, Jr.

Dr. John Feagin, Jr.
Mrs. Jane E. Craddock Flandry
Mrs. Verdier Pinckney Fritz
Mrs. Irene Cook Goldstein
Mr. Julian Thomas Hollis
Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Irwin
Ms. Rubie Elaine Jeter
Dr. Kyle Frank Kiesau
Mrs. Bennie Stone Larj
Mrs. Diane McElhenney Lee

Mr. Frederick (Fred) Robbins Rogers
Mr. John Lawrence Rudolph
Mrs. Frances Y. Burdell Satterfield
Mrs. Grace Walker Jackson Smith
Mr. George Eliot Stone
Mrs. Anne Murray Wallace
Mrs. Mary (Putsy) W. S. Wardlaw
Mrs. Frankie Jo Taylor Watson
Mr. Robert Wilburn Wise
Mr. James Clower Wright

Archives Committee

As it now enters its sixth year of existence, this Committee continues to preserve and protect the history of the Church of the Advent. The collection and cataloguing 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.

After a meticulous search of church records and a visual inspection of all markers and grave stones, much progress has been made to locate possible grave sites of those our records indicate have been buried but whose graves remain unmarked. We are now ready to request a professional survey of our church graveyard. The last professional survey of our graveyard occurred in 1946. Once we are able to conduct a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) inspection of the areas where our unmarked graves are likely located, an updated survey could then be commissioned. Additional work continues 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.

In September, an updated review of the extensive re-landscaping of church grounds completed in 2017 indicated the need to remove several more trees that have proved problematic in terms of the damage they could cause to both buildings and people. Once removed, replacement trees will be added that will enhance our overall landscape. New plantings will be placed in areas in which they should flourish. Also, necessary pruning has been suggested for several areas that would be considered a part of ongoing maintenance. A formal presentation was made to the Vestry in December which was approved. Work is scheduled to be completed during January 2020.

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. A special commemoration and public opening was held on Sunday, February 3, 2019. 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 is open to the public during normal church office business hours and at certain announced times during Sunday worship hours.

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. A recommendation to the Vestry to restore all of the historic wooden doors leading into the church as well as into Pendleton Hall has been made and is being included in an ongoing comprehensive study of the entire Church campus.

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

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 Classes, Adult Class Leaders (Gleaners, Parents in Community, Seekers, and Welcome to Sunday!), Book & Bible Studies, Basketball, Children's Sunday School, Nursery Volunteers, Troop 1 Scouts (BSA Scouts and Cub Scouts), Girl Scouts (Juniors, Brownies, and Daisies), Vacation Bible School Volunteers, Young Families Ministry, Youth Leaders (Middle School and High School Christian Formation, Confirmation Preparation, Middle School and High School Episcopal Youth Community, Youth Mission Experiences, Pilgrimages, and Prayer Breakfasts)

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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, Adult Choirs (formerly Advent Schola and St. Cecilia Choir), Advent Toners, Altar Guild, Angel/Cherub/Junior Choirs, Carilloneurs, Chalice Bearers, Eucharistic Visitors, Evensong Choir, Gabriel's Instruments, Lectors/Intercessors, Morning Prayer Officiants, Summit Hills Musicians and Servers, Ushers, Vestment Caretakers, 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.

Supported Programs and Ministries: Active Living (Free Wheelchair Mission and Partners for Active Living), Adult Education (Adult Learning Center), Building/Housing Ministry (Habitat for Humanity), Children's Education and Welfare (Advent Children's Center, Birth Matters, Boys and Girls Club, Children's Advocacy Center, Citizen Scholars, Healthy Smiles, Hope Center for Children, Hope Remains Youth Ranch, and Northside Initiative), Emergency Shelter and Support (SAFE Homes), Food Collection and Delivery (Ruth's Gleanings, St. Matthew's Food Pantry, and TOTAL Ministries), Helping with Homelessness (SPIHN), Medical Ministry (Spartanburg Shares & St. Luke's Medical Clinic), Mental Health (Mental Health America of Spartanburg County and Spartanburg Alliance for the Mentally Ill), Ministry with Children and Students (Mary H. Wright and SC Test Prep), Mission Experiences (Cumberland and Ecuador), Outreach Commission, and Prison Ministry (Angel Charge Ministry, Jump Start, and Tyger River Chapel Foundation)

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, Card Ministry, Daughters of the King (DOK), Ecumenical Blood Drive, Food and Freezer Ministry, Guild of St. Francis & St. Clare, Lay Pastoral Care, Pink Sunday, 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: Bishop's Visitation, Circles (Serendipity, Lunch Bunch, Fruit of the Spirit, and Labors of Love), Episcopal Church Women (ECW), ECW Holiday Bazaar, EpiscoPals, Fellowship Groups (20s, 30s & 40s CONNECT, Baby Boomers/Sorta Young, Fellowship Group I), Greeters/Hospitality, Kanuga Parish-Wide Weekend, Ministries Fair, Oyster Roast, Parish Picnic, Photographers, and Wednesday Night Dinners

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, Front Desk Receptionists, Parish Management Commission, Safety Committee, 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, Annual Stewardship Campaign, Legacy Society, St. Helena's Commission (Buildings and Grounds), and Stewardship Commission

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

REVENUES:	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Pledges/Collections	\$ 1,692,571	\$ 1,656,832	\$ 1,730,461	\$ 1,755,839	\$ 1,792,423
Advent Foundation	291,625	327,683	346,068	344,782	301,385
Other	30,498	42,911	40,914	24,684	19,307
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>2,014,694</u>	<u>2,027,426</u>	<u>2,117,443</u>	<u>2,125,305</u>	<u>2,113,114</u>
EXPENDITURES:					
Episcopal Pledge	258,169	238,000	240,000	243,655	297,682
Outreach	108,135	132,911	110,615	104,227	108,729
Salaries/Benefits	1,169,056	1,122,545	1,154,027	1,197,528	1,168,906
Property	277,663	354,550	395,199	397,879	394,354
Administration	78,444	96,271	86,149	102,840	104,525
Christian Formation	13,372	12,671	11,924	12,090	13,032
Youth/EYC	15,322	16,343	19,764	15,007	15,398
Parish Life	13,354	12,580	9,555	8,593	14,643
Music	16,268	13,820	15,187	12,228	12,628
Worship/Spiritual Life	1,925	1,947	2,576	2,187	6,087
Stewardship	2,175	1,540	2,620	1,112	2,155
Pastoral Care	3,451	1,630	1,951	1,497	1,373
Advent Children's Center	44,405	46,932	44,510	34,146	29,195
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>2,001,739</u>	<u>2,051,740</u>	<u>2,094,077</u>	<u>2,132,988</u>	<u>2,168,707</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u>\$ 12,955</u>	<u>\$ (24,314)</u>	<u>\$ 23,366</u>	<u>\$ (7,683)</u>	<u>\$ (55,593)</u>

**The Advent Foundation
Allocation to the Church**

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
St. Luke's Fund - Outreach	\$ 91,053	\$ 96,383	\$ 94,591	\$ 93,461	\$ 97,989
St. Helena's Fnd - Property	94,882	100,406	98,487	97,251	100,216
Manning Fund	10,097	10,648	10,440	10,290	10,438
St. Cecilia's Fund - Music	3,985	4,211	4,137	4,078	2,349
St. Fiacre	8,632	9,651	9,904	10,138	10,756
Clay Turner Fund	32,531	36,201	36,806	36,692	37,388
Missioner Fund	10,000	-	-		
Father Caldwell Fund	71,797	54,932	52,974	52,147	52,956
Administrative Support	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
TOTAL	<u>\$ 330,477</u>	<u>\$ 319,932</u>	<u>\$ 314,839</u>	<u>\$ 311,557</u>	<u>\$ 319,591</u>
% of Church Budget	16.51%	15.59%	15.03%	14.61%	14.74%