



DEC 2017 | monthly newsletter
JAN 2018 | churchofadvent.org

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- DEC. 4 | BISHOP'S VISITATION: RECTOR'S FORUM, 11:15AM CONFIRMATION SERVICE AND RECEPTION**
- DEC. 6, 13 | WED. DINNER & ADVENT SERIES**
- DEC. 7, 14, 21 | DINNER'S READY MEAL PICKUP**
- DEC. 17 | PAGEANT (2 SERVICES)**
- DEC. 24 | HOLY EUCHARIST, 8AM**
- DEC. 24 | FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST: 4:30, 7:30 & 11PM WITH HALF-HOUR PRELUDE BEFORE EACH SERVICE**
- DEC. 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 10:30AM**
- DEC. 31 | TWO SERVICES, 8 & 10:30AM**
- JAN. 7 | THREE SERVICE SCHEDULE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES**
- JAN. 17, 24, 31 | WED. DINNER & PROGRAM**
- JAN. 21 | ANNUAL MEETING, 10AM; YOUTH PILGRIMAGE CHILI SALES**
- FEB. 4 | SCOUT SUNDAY**

The Ritual Life

One of the gifts of our liturgical tradition as Episcopalians is our practice of rituals. The roles rituals play in our approach to God can vary widely and we may miss their importance.

Ceremony and ritual can add depth and meaning to our experience of worship. Can is the pivotal word here. Whether we realize it or not, ritual is central to our lives, especially to our spiritual lives. In our corporate worship and in our faith in Jesus, ritual helps us to remember important things about ourselves and about God.

Saying certain prayers repeatedly, such as the Lord's Prayer and the Collect for Purity help us to learn truths about the God, who, at times, can seem beyond our scope of even slight understanding.

Sometimes we hear negative uses of the word ritual. Just as the word ceremony is used on occasion to refer to something devoid of sincerity or as something meaningless (as in "mere ceremony"), ritual is occasionally used the same way.

When I was in college, I thought the Episcopal Church had done a poor job of helping me to be "brought up in the Christian faith and life" and "to grow into the full stature of Christ" (see the Book of Common Prayer, page 302) as the service of Holy Baptism describes the responsibilities of parents and godparents, and by extension the entire congregation.

As I grew older and became more engaged with my faith and by increasing my participation in worship in the Episcopal Church throughout my 20s, I began to appreciate the ways that ritual had formed my faith in Christ and my understanding of myself.

December and January will offer some very powerful and enriching opportunities to worship God and grow in faith. I pray that you will seek to engage in the life we share with each other in worship. I truly believe that as you increase your involvement and attentiveness in our practice of ritual, you will find yourself being blessed and your faith and understanding of God increased exponentially.

Have a blessed and holy Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. God bless you.
Ned+

Fruit of the Spirit - Advent Evening Women's Circle, December 4, 7pm

Come enjoy supper at the new Mezcal restaurant downtown, 143 W. Main Street. If you can come early, join us at Bond Street Wines (next door to Mezcal) at 6pm. RSVP for supper to Nicole Brown (jnbrown4@charter.net), as we will need reservations.

Coming in January - YOGA NIGHT, with many thanks to Ashley Moody. Stay tuned for date and time!



The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will have a breakfast meeting at 8:45am on Sunday, December 10, in the PCLC, Dining Room C.

Fellowship Group /January 21/ 6:30pm at the home of Cathy Minch - 270 Montgomery Drive. Please bring an appetizer to share and beverage of your choice. Let Cathy know if you're coming: minchcm64@gmail.com or 864-583-5323.

Register Now for Our Parish-Wide Kanuga Weekend!
Deadline Extended to December 15



Serendipity Circle and *Lunch Bunch* will have their annual Christmas lunch on Monday, December 11, at 11:45am in Dining Rooms A and B of the Parish and Community Life Center (PCLC). Come enjoy fellowship and a delicious holiday meal prepared by our very own, Gail Owens. Please let Anne Bomar know if you can come - bomar.anne@gmail.com.

EPISCOPALS /December 13/11:45am in Dining Rooms A and B of the PCLC. Our guest will be the Rev. Mia McDowell of St. Matthews and Epiphany churches speaking on "Advent at Advent." If you are an Advent member or guest aged 45+, we hope you will come! Please reserve your dinner by noon on Monday, December 11, by calling Gail Owens at 864-583-2438 or emailing gowens@churchofadvent.org.



Serendipity Circle will meet **Monday, January 8**, at 10 am in Dining Room A of the PCLC, hosted by Carolyn Roberts and Carolyn Alexander. No need to RSVP. Both "Carolyns" look forward to welcoming old and new members

Lunch Bunch will meet **Monday, January 8**, at 11:45am in Dining Rooms A and B of the PCLC. Please let Anne Bomar know if you are able to attend - bomar.anne@gmail.com.

EPISCOPALS / January 10 / 11:45am in Dining Rooms A and B of the PCLC. Our guests will be two resident Advent bankers, Bill Coker and Matthew Myers, speaking about "Money Matters." If you are an Advent member or guest aged 45+, we hope you will come! Please reserve your dinner by noon on Monday, January 8, by calling Gail Owens at 864-583-2438 or emailing gowens@churchofadvent.org.



Dinner's Ready Homemade Meals To-Go

Pre-orders are required and may be placed by calling 864-504-3684. The cost is \$9 per meal. Each meal serves one adult or two small children.

Pickup time in the PCLC Lobby is 5:15 to 6:15pm. If you have questions, please contact Leigh O'Shields at 864-706-1350 or Dodie Cubitt at 864-542-4706.

Thursday, December 7: This menu will be prepared by Chef Bill Schwartz and Friends: California Chicken Boneless Breast, Brown Rice, Zucchini & Squash Casserole, Parmesan Garlic Bread and Key Lime Pie slice. The deadline to order is 5pm on Monday, December 4.

Thursday, December 14: Prepared by Chef Kari Warren & Friends: Parmesan-Crusted Chicken, Mac-n-Cheese, Green Beans, Cheddar Cheese Biscuit and Homemade Blonde Brownie. The deadline to order is 5pm on Monday, December 11.

Bonus Meal! Thursday, December 21: Prepared by Chefs Billy Cribb and Craig Williams & Friends: Braised Beef Short Ribs over Creamy Polenta w/Demi Glaze, Country Collards & Torn Bread and Mini Chocolate Pecan Pies. The deadline to order is 5pm on Monday, December 18.

SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS ON DECEMBER 10

Come to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church on Dupre Drive next to Spartanburg High School on Sunday, December 10, at 5 pm for a service of Advent Lessons and Carols. This service will be a combination of scripture readings, hymns and choir anthems offered by lectors, singers and instrumentalists from the Piedmont Convocation of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina (i.e. Episcopal churches in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties). Where we are the "Church of the Advent," I warmly invite you all to join our adult choirs along with fellow Episcopalians from other churches across the convocation as we celebrate the potential second coming of Christ. The Advent Toners will also play on this program!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT "LIGHT OF THE WORLD" BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

If you have a good thing going, why not repeat it? This is why this year's Christmas Pageant, offered on December 17, is the same as last year. For the 10:30am service that day, come see and hear the story of Jesus' birth told through story and songs from many nations. Where Jesus' birth is celebrated far and wide, this means that Jesus truly is the "Light of the World."

MUSIC ON CHRISTMAS EVE

The last time that December 24 fell on a Sunday was 2006 (ah yes, leap years!). This year, we're experiencing the same situation. So, what do we do when that happens? We'll have a fourth Sunday of Advent service at 8 a.m. with a little bit of music thrown in, maybe a hymn, maybe an offertory anthem??? Come to church that morning to find out! As for the evening, the 4:30pm service will feature the children's choirs and the 7:30 and 11 pm services will feature the adult choirs. The "Philharmonic Flutes" and trumpeter Ken Frick will make their triumphant return at the 4:30 service!

"SEEK HIM THAT MADE THE PLEIADES AND ORION" – ASTRONOMICAL ORGAN MUSIC FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY!

On Monday, January 29, at 7 pm, organist Matthew Whitehouse who's the director of the South Carolina State Observatory and the organist/choirmaster of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Lexington, SC will present a recital of music inspired by astronomical events, namely the Great Eclipse of 2017! There will be a dinner preceding this recital in the Parish Life Center dining rooms at 6 pm. Anyone interested in coming to the dinner should let Gail Owens know by 12 noon on Thursday, January 25, either by calling 864-583-2468 or emailing gowens@churchofadvent.org.

NO OCCASIONAL CHOIR IN DECEMBER, BUT WE WILL SING ON JANUARY 28!

Enjoy December "off," but come sing in the Occasional Choir, the Advent's "Sunday only" choir on Sunday, January 28, for the 9 am service. Come to the chapel downstairs in Pendleton Hall (note the new location!) and learn a simple anthem for the day! Ages 10 to 110 are welcome to join this fun, relaxed, easygoing group!

WE NEED MORE ADULT SINGERS!

For the New Year, why not make it a resolution to sing in a Church of the Advent Adult Choir? To sing at 9 am, come join the St. Cecilia Choir which meets on Tuesdays between 6:30 and 7:45pm or to sing at 11:15, come join the Advent Schola which meets on Wednesdays between 6:30 and 7:45pm. Both choirs meet in Pendleton Hall and are full of fun, loving, and dedicated parishioners and non-parishioners.



4 DEC. 2017-JAN.2018 CALENDAR

MORNING PRAYER is said Monday-Friday at 8:15am in Olney Chapel when the church office is open.

PLEASE MONITOR OUR WEEKLY PUBLICATIONS FOR UPDATES TO THIS CALENDAR.

Recurring Weekly Activities

Please check with your ministry leader regarding holiday schedules.

Mon., Day Off - The Rev. Paula Griffin
Mon., Thurs., 1:30pm - Al-Anon
Monday, 5:30pm AA
Tuesday morning - Staff Prayer/Meeting
Tuesday, 7am HS Prayer Breakfast
Tues., Friday, 9:30am Watercolor Class
Tuesday, 12:15pm Book & Brown Bag
Tues., 3pm Co-Dependents Anonymous
Tuesday, 4:30pm Meditation Group
Tuesday, 6:30pm Troop One Meeting
Tuesday, 6:30pm St. Cecilia Choir
Wednesday, 7am 9th Grade Prayer B'fast
Wednesday, 9:30am Archives Committee
Wednesday, 5:15pm Angel, Junior Choirs
Wednesday, 5:30pm Evening Worship
Wednesday, 6:30pm Advent Schola
Wednesday, 8pm AA and Al-Anon
Thurs., 7am Middle School Prayer B'fast
Thursday, 9am Women's Bible Study (resumes in January)
Thursday, 12:30pm Cherub Choir
Thursday, 6pm Advent Tones
Friday, Day Off - The Rev. Ned Morris and The Rev. Debbie Apoldo
Sunday, 4:15pm Youth Choir
Sunday, 5pm Gabriel's Instruments
Sunday, 6pm Sunday Night ConneXion
Sunday, 9pm HS Discussion Group

1st Sunday of Advent, December 3 Bishop's Visitation

7:45am Holy Eucharist I
9:00am Holy Eucharist II
10:10am Gleaners Class
10:10am Rector's Forum with Bishop Waldo
10:10am Adventure Kingdom
11:15am Holy Eucharist II/Youth and Adult Confirmation
12:45pm Reception for Bishop Waldo and Confirmands
2:30pm Brownies (Tigers; 3rd Grade) Mtg.
3pm Brownies (2nd Grade)
3pm Girl Scouts
Monday, 4 December
9:15am ECW Board

Tuesday, 5 December

2pm Listening Hearts Group
5:30pm Holy Eucharist/Healing

Wednesday, 6 December

5:45pm Wed. Dinner & Advent Series
6:15pm Nursery/6:30pm Kids Crew
6:30pm Youth UNplugged
7pm 11th & 12th Grade Journey Group
7:30pm Advent Lessons & Carols rehearsal

Thursday, 7 December

7:00am Men's Bible Study and Fellowship
12:15pm Holy Eucharist/Healing
5:15-6:15pm Dinner's Ready Meal Pickup
7:30pm Board Games & Theology

Saturday, 9 December

9am Archives Committee Interviews
2nd Sunday of Advent, December 10
7:45am Holy Eucharist I
8:45am The Brotherhood of St. Andrew
9:00am Holy Eucharist II
10:10am Sunday School for all ages
11:15am Holy Eucharist I
5pm "Darkness to Light" Advent Carol Service (St. Christopher's Episcopal Church)
6pm Youth ConneXion Christmas Party

Monday, 11 December

11:45am Phebe Crosland Lunch Bunch and Serendipity Circle

Tuesday, 12 December

5:30pm Holy Eucharist & Healing

Wednesday, 13 December

11:45am EpiscoPals
5:45pm Wed. Dinner & Advent Children's Center program
6:15pm Nursery/6:30pm Kids Crew
6:30pm Adult Choirs

Thursday, 14 December

7:00am Men's Bible Study and Fellowship
10:00am Summit Hills Holy Eucharist
12:15pm Holy Eucharist/Healing
5:15-6:15pm Dinner's Ready Meal Pickup

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17

Two-Service Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist I (*note the change*)
9:15am Gleaners Class
10:30am Holy Eucharist II/Christmas Pageant (*note the change*)
11:45am Pageant Cast Reception

Monday, 18 December

11:15am ACC Parents Christmas Program

Tuesday, 19 December

8am Operation Magi Gift Distribution
5:30pm Holy Eucharist & Healing

Wednesday, 20 December

11:30am Staff Christmas Party
6:30pm Youth UNplugged
7pm 11th & 12th Grade Journey Group

Thursday, 21 December

6:45am Men's Bible Study Breakfast
8am Polar Express Day at Mary H. Wright Elementary School
12:15pm Holy Eucharist/Healing
5:15-6:15pm Dinner's Ready Meal Pickup

Friday, 22 December

Office Closes at 1pm

Sunday, 24 December - Christmas Eve

8am Holy Eucharist I (*note the change*)
Vigil of the Nativity

A Half-Hour Prelude will precede each service

4pm Nursery available for 1st service
4:30pm Holy Eucharist Rite II
7:30pm Holy Eucharist Rite I (Incense)
11pm Holy Eucharist Rite II (Incense)

Monday, 25 December - Christmas Day

Office Closed

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS

CHRIST

10:30am Christmas Day Service/HE Rite II

Tuesday, 26 December - Office Closed

SAINT STEPHEN

5:30pm Holy Eucharist/Healing

Thursday, 28 December

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

7am Men's Bible Study & Fellowship
12:15pm Holy Eucharist/Healing
7:30pm Board Games & Theology

Friday, 29 December

Office Closes at 1pm

Sunday, December 31

The First Sunday After Christmas Day

Two-Service Sunday

8am Holy Eucharist I
10:30am Holy Eucharist II

Monday, 1 January - Office Closed

Tuesday, 2 January

2pm Listening Hearts Group
5:30pm Holy Eucharist/Healing

Wednesday, 3 January

Thursday, 5 January

7am Men's Bible Study & Fellowship
12:15pm Holy Eucharist/Healing

1st Sunday after Epiphany, 7 January

7:45am Holy Eucharist I
9am Holy Eucharist II
10:10am Sunday School for all ages
11:15am Holy Eucharist I

Monday, 8 January

9:15am ECW Board
10am Serendipity Circle
12pm Phebe Crosland Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, 9 January

11:45am Cancer Assoc. Luncheon
5:30pm Holy Eucharist & Healing

What would you give for a time of peace each week during this busy season?

The Rev. Deborah Apoldo, Associate Rector for Christian Formation

For a year or so now a small and faithful group of folks have gathered each Wednesday evening to pray, hear and discuss Scripture, spend a little time in reflection, and generally enjoy each other's company in the context of worship. Sometimes there have been a dozen or more people present. Other times there are just a handful of folks. The number of people participating doesn't matter. What matters is the time of peaceful, thoughtful consideration of God's message in and through Scripture and prayers.

Any and all are, of course, invited to this special gathering all the time. But I want to highlight the Wednesday evening prayer and worship experience especially during this season of Advent.

What would you give to have just a bit of peace and quiet and prayer during this so very busy time of year? Perhaps you'll carve out just 45 minutes each week from 5:30-6:15pm and join us in the Olney Chapel as we embark of an Advent journey that looks so very different from what is swirling around us "out there".

Sunday Mornings in December and January**The Rector's Forum*****Bishop Waldo Speaks***

December 3

Bishop Andrew Waldo will be our featured guest at the Rector's Forum. We will welcome the bishop for Confirmation during the 11:15am service, but before that, he will share some of what he hopes for and is working toward in the diocese. This is the one time a year when we have the chance to interact with the bishop in an informal conversation.

Christmas traditions; funny, touching, or otherwise noteworthy

December 10

We'll gather in the Parish and Community Life Center to share stories of our own experiences of Christmas. Yes, we all have them – traditions that began because someone in the family thought it was important to . . . or funny to . . . or no one really remembers why we do . . . With a little prompting we'll pass the microphone and tell the stories of our Christmas memories. No doubt, some will be moving, others will be inspiring, and still others will be just a little bit quirky. Hot chocolate and donuts will be served.

December 17 – ***No Rector's Forum due to the amended worship service schedule. Today is pageant day!***

Coming to the Rector's Forum in January***The Religious Foundations of the English Revolution***

January 7, 14 and 28

Continuing our journey through the Reformation and its aftermath in the Church of England, Dr. Anne Rodrick will focus on the ongoing disputes and challenges among Christian factions in England.

Parish Annual Meeting

January 21 at 10am. We will meet in the Parish and Community Life Center Gym.

Parents in Community Class

Taking a break in December to participate in the other parish-wide events during the Sunday School hour.

Brainstorming for the Winter and Spring

January 7

We'll get out the "white board" and identify needs and hopes for the winter and spring sessions coming up. Be thinking about what will make your Sunday morning Christian formation experience meaningful.

The Gleaners

Come see the new classroom in Satterlee Hall. The Gleaners are now meeting in the Library Conference Room. The format is the same, but the location is brighter and more accessible to everyone. Each week you'll experience thoughtful teaching on the lectionary texts, music and singing and a segment of exploration of artwork related to the readings for the day – not to mention great fellowship and breakfast on the first Sunday of the month.

Wednesday Evenings in Advent

Dinner, Learning and Sharing for all ages

Dinner from 5:45-6:30pm.

Program from 6:30-7:15pm. Nursery available at 6:15pm.

Dinner Cost: \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 4-12. Children under age 3 are free; \$25 max per family.

Gleaners at Night

December 6

Members of the Sunday morning Gleaners class will teach on Advent themes and Scripture. There will be singing and a look at art related to the season.

The Advent Children's Center Gift for the Season

December 13

The children from the Advent Children's Center will sing and delight with a special holiday program.

Coming on Wednesday Evenings in January**Living, Giving, and Receiving Compassion**

January 17, 24, and 31

Dinner from 5:45-6:30pm

Program from 6:30-7:15pm. Nursery available at 6:15pm.

Separate Children's Program following a family dinner

Mark your calendar especially for Wednesday, January 24, when we will welcome author and pastor Ron Greer who will speak from his newly published book *The Path of Compassion: Living with Heart, Soul and Mind*.

Youth Pilgrimage News

Please support our upcoming fundraisers for the 2018 Pilgrims:

January 21 - Annual Meeting Chili Sales

February 13 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Talent Show

Let me say thank you to all of you who have so graciously supported the efforts of our pilgrims and their parents in raising the funds for the 2018 Pilgrimages to Juneau, Alaska and Salt Lake City, Utah. This year, because we have a large amount of pilgrims going, we have organized two separate pilgrimages. What exactly is a pilgrimage and what do we do when we are on one? A pilgrimage is a journey of discovery, a discovery of faith, hope and new spiritual insights that the pilgrim may not have experienced before. As our pilgrims depart in June 2018 from the Advent, we will leave with an anticipation of encountering God on our journey. Through a commitment to the word of God and a living passionate Savior, we will seek the heart of God for ourselves and each other.

As part of our pilgrimage, we will be introduced to an insider's view of the culture and be given an opportunity to serve our new "neighbors" by doing the tasks most necessary to aid the local community.

In planning the pilgrimage, we intentionally seek opportunities for transformational experiences or moments where we can encounter God's presence. As the author of the universe, God is present and active in unfolding the divine story to all of us. Through cultural experiences, unique locations, engaging storytelling, the discovery of history, and worship opportunities, God meets us face to face. This is the wonder that causes our hearts to awaken to both our Creator and His creation.

Please continue to support the efforts of our pilgrims in raising the needed funds to make these pilgrimages a reality. Without the help and support of our local parish and faith community we would never be able to offer our youth these life changing journeys.

Mary H. Wright Elementary School Ministry

From Do-si-dos to horseback rides, lots of learning and fun times were had by the third graders at MHW as they celebrated Colonial Day on Friday, November 17. They experienced some activities that colonial children would have done in their everyday lives. And learned many interesting things. For example, writing with quills and ink is fun but slow and messy. And playing marbles can be quite competitive! It takes many, many dips to make even a small candle so no leaving the lights on. Dancing the reel is very different than dances today-no touching! Making butter takes work but tastes mighty good on cornbread. And the two everybody really agreed on- a computer is lots better than a horn board, but riding a horse beats riding a school bus any day! Thanks to Outreach for their financial support, and many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who made it happen!

Polar Express will take place on Thursday, December 21. It is a half day and the last day of school before the Christmas break. The children wear their pajamas to school, and the main hall is decorated like the Polar Express. Contact Joy Oates (joyoates@aol.com) or Julie Schwartz (julieschwartz@charter.net) to learn more. Thank you for sharing God's light and love with these children!

Save the date for the next SPIHN (Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network) Week: March 4-11, 2018.



Oyster Roast



Oyster Roast



Bazaar



Bazaar



Bazaar



Troop 1's "Piggly Fest"

December 2017 Flowers

First Sunday in December - December 3**Altar Memorial**

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of Dr. Francis N. Belmont by his family

in loving memory of Mr. John Wainwright Chappell, Mr. Lewis Heyward Fort and Mr. and Mrs. Billy Joe Mayo and in thanksgiving for the life of Miss Amy Elizabeth Bauknight by the Bauknight family

Baptismal Font

The flowers that adorn the baptismal font are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of Steve A. Reynolds and Gladys M. Strout by their family

Second Sunday in December - December 10**Altar Memorial**

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of Caroline Ragsdale Reutter, Dicksie Cribb and Rob Chapman by George Crow

Third Sunday in December - December 17**Altar Memorial**

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of Elizabeth and Theodore Gage and Watt Smith II by their family

Fourth Sunday in December, December 24

The flowers that adorn the altar and the baptismal font are given to the glory of God by families honoring their loved ones with Christmas Memorials.

Fifth Sunday in December - December 31**Altar Memorials**

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of William and Grace Rothemich and Austin and Jeanette Sykes by their family

in thanksgiving to God for the blessings He gave to us through the life of William Sidney Bagwell, Jr.

January 2018 Flowers

First Sunday in January - January 7**Altar Memorials**

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of Frank and Rosie Cunningham by Mr. and Mrs. Reed L. Cunningham,

Mr. Frank H. Cunningham IV, Mr. Charles C. Cunningham and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Thruston

Second Sunday in January - January 14**Altar Memorial**

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of Louise and Jim Hodge from their children

Third Sunday in January - January 21**Altar Memorial**

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of Dick and Kathryn Nesbitt Galloway by June and Glen Boggs

Fourth Sunday in January - January 28**Altar Memorial**

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of Timothy Scott Llewelyn, M.D. by his family

in loving memory of Jean Price Blackford, John William Drake IV, Roger Steven Refshauge and other loved ones by their family

Baptismal Font

The flowers that adorn the baptismal font are given to the glory of God and

in loving memory of Andrew Garrison Goldstein by his family

Wednesday, 10 January

11:45am EpiscoPals

Thursday, 11 January

7am Men's Bible Study & Fellowship

10am Summit Hills Holy Eucharist

12:15pm Holy Eucharist/Healing

2nd Sunday after Epiphany, 14 January

7:45am Holy Eucharist I

9am Holy Eucharist II

10:10am Sunday School for all ages

11:15am Holy Eucharist II

Monday, 15 January-Office Closed

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tuesday, 16 January

5:30pm Holy Eucharist & Healing

Wednesday, 17 January

5:45pm Wed. Dinner/January series

6:15pm Nursery/6:30pm Kids Crew

6:30pm Youth UNplugged

7pm 11th & 12th Grade Journey Group

Thursday, 18 January

6:45am Men's Bible Study Breakfast

12:15pm Holy Eucharist/Healing

3rd Sunday after Epiphany, 21 January

7:45am Holy Eucharist I

9am Holy Eucharist II

10am Annual Meeting and Pilgrimage**Chili Sales/Adventure Kingdom**

11:15am Holy Eucharist Rite I

6:30pm Fellowship Group

Tuesday, 23 January

5:30pm Holy Eucharist & Healing

6pm Outreach Comm. Grants Allocation Meeting

Wednesday, 24 January

5:45pm Wed. Dinner/January series

6:15pm Nursery/6:30pm Kids Crew

Thursday, 25 January

7am Men's Bible Study

12:15pm Holy Eucharist/Healing

7:30pm Board Games & Theology

Saturday, 27 January

8am-4:30pm Troop 1 Merit Badge College

4th Sunday after Epiphany, 28 January

7:45am Holy Eucharist I

9am Holy Eucharist II

10:10am Sunday School for all ages

11:15am Holy Eucharist II

Monday, 29 January

6-8:30pm "Seek Him that made the Pleiades and Orion" dinner and concert

Tuesday, 30 January

5:30pm Holy Eucharist & Healing

Reminder: The Parish Paper**Submission Deadline for the Feb.****issue will be Thursday, Jan. 18.****News from the Advent Children's Center**

The ACC is a busy place! The children are practicing the many holiday songs and finger plays for their concerts.

The FOURS will perform at the Wednesday Night Family Dinner on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 6:30pm in the Parish and Community Life Center (PCLC). The THREES' and FOURS' concert for their families is on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 11:15am in the church. All are welcome to come and enjoy the program!

The Christmas parties for the classes will be on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 and the last day of school will be on Thursday, December 21, 2017. The children will dress in their pajamas, have a special snack and read the Polar Express! School will resume on Monday, January 8, 2018.

The children, parents and the ACC staff would like to wish the families of The Episcopal Church of the Advent a very Merry Christmas and thank them for their continued support!

Advent's Pledge Campaign Update As Of November 20, 2017 Help Us Reach Our \$1,800,000 Goal!

PLEDGE AMOUNT: \$1,446,881

AVG. PLEDGE AMOUNT: \$4,438

PLEDGES RECEIVED: 326

POTENTIAL PLEDGES: 585

Many thanks to those of you who have already pledged! For those of you who have not yet pledged, please submit your pledge as soon as possible so that we can complete our planning for programs and services contemplated for 2018. You may mail your pledge card to the Church or go online at www.churchofadvent.org and click the green "Pledge Form" box in the lower left corner of the landing page.

Our Advent Foundation – Real Advantages

One of the real advantages of Our Advent Foundation is that you get to have a hand in the mission work of the Church of the Advent for many generations to come. When you leave something to the church in your trust or will, your gift will never be used up, but will provide money for our community and parish throughout coming generations.

Your gift, then can live on beyond you, and your generosity of spirit will be remembered by all who benefit from your gifts. So leave something to the Church of the Advent when you depart this earth. The blessing will be ours and yours! Think about it. It makes a difference.

The Advent Foundation
Kit Jennings

kjennings@churchofadvent.org

Christmas Memorials bulletin deadline is Monday, Dec. 18

Christmas flower donations may be made in memory, honor or thanksgiving of loved ones. Return your form with your donation to the church office or place it the offering plate enclosed in an envelope. Forms have been placed in Satterlee Hall, Pendleton Hall and the pews. The deadline for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin is Monday, December 18, at 4pm. We regret that memorials may not be made over the phone.

Holiday Office Schedule

Friday, Dec. 22 - closed at 1pm

Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26 - closed

Friday, Dec. 29 - closed at 1pm

Monday, Jan. 1 - closed

Monday, Jan. 15 - closed for MLK Day



Christmas Pageant: Light of the World
December 17, 10:30am

We need lots of animals, angels and shepherds to make our pageant a special time of worship and celebration. Parents, please let Suzanne Dantin know if your child wants to participate: sdantin@churchofadvent.org or 864-237-0570. Costume support is available.

We will have a post-Pageant celebration in the Parish and Community Life Center (PCLC) with doughnuts and hot chocolate. Please plan to join us for this fun and exciting time!

Wednesdays in Advent

Please make plans to join us for the following Wednesdays in Advent. Dinner will be served at 5:45pm in the PCLC Dining Rooms followed by the following programs for children.

Wednesday, December 6: *Children's Activity - Special Visit in the Church from St. Nicholas*

Wednesday, December 13: *Children's Activity - Special Performance by Children of the Advent Children's Center*

Adventure Kingdom and Nursery

The last day of Adventure Kingdom Sunday school for 2017 will be on December 10. We will resume on January 7. Have a wonderful holiday!

Wednesday Evenings in January

Please plan to join us for dinner at 5:45pm in the PCLC and adult and children programming the following Wednesdays in January: January 17, 24 and 31. Children, ages 4K through 5th grade, will meet in the gym for games, a brief lesson, fun and fellowship!

Youth Happenings

Bishop's Visitation and Confirmation Sunday: Bishop Waldo will be with us on December 3. Youth and Adult Confirmands and their families will join him for the 12:45pm reception that will follow the 11:15am service.

Sunday Night Youth ConneXion Group Christmas Party! 6pm on December 10. Stay tuned for the location.

Prayer Breakfasts: December 12-14 will be the last week of Prayer Breakfasts for 2017. We'll resume on January 9-11, 2018.

The 2018 Pilgrimage Chili Sale will take place after the Annual Meeting on January 21. The Youth will offer White Chicken Chili and Black Bean Turkey Chili. The cost will be \$9.



BIRTHDAYS

(Ages 1-11)



DECEMBER

- 3 - Philip Allen
- 3 - Anna Hammitt
- 5 - Noelle Marchand
- 8 - Merrill Loring
- 10 - Cecilia Battocchio
- 10 - Eric Battocchio, Trey Francis
- 14 - Emily Hammitt
- 22 - Alaina Carter
- 26 - Eleanor Bass, Hal Bass
- 29 - Evans Taylor
- 29 - Mae Taylor
- 29 - Knowlton Lee
- 31 - Worth Montgomery

JANUARY

- 9 - Herschell Montgomery
- 11 - Caroline Moody
- 11 - Olivia Moody
- 17 - Perrin Little
- 19 - Dexter Stevens
- 21 - Jefferson Rousey
- 22 - Mallory Moore
- 23 - Isabel Pittman
- 25 - Audrey Soto

All youth group meetings and events are open to all youth 6th-12th grade throughout the community. Friends are not only welcome but encouraged to participate.

Please contact David Dixon at ddixon@churchofadvent.org or 864-541-1861 for more information.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*as of November 28, 2017*)

WE ARE ASKED TO REMEMBER THESE PARISHIONERS: Gus Allen, Richard Bagnol, Gloria Bock, Mac Cates, Judith Chase, Jane Clark, Ted Conwell, Dale Dixon, Roland Doepner, Roy Ellis, Sue Fisher, Aly Goodwin, T. Griffin, Bob Heim, Richard Hollis, Taft Hunt, Betty Irwin, Julian Josey, Steve Leamy, Diane Lee, Giles Lewis, Jesse Martin, Glenn McGee, Kathleen McGee, Anne McIntyre, Iris Milhous, Cynthia Moseley, Dinny Moses, Marion Nichols, Francie Satterfield, Prudy Scott, Molly McCuen Sherard, Grace Smith, Rich Snow, Libby Steinberg, Susan Taylor, Florence Twitty, John Wardlaw, Ginger Watson and Reecie Wilkes

AND FOR THESE PERSONS: Beth Abrams, Jack Bacot, Jake Blackwell, Bill Bobo and family, Cody Bowman, Jim Burchfield, Jim Carlisle, Susan Clementson, Jamie Cobb, Chase Comer, Aiden Rito Cope, Rita Creedon, Lois Daum, Lester Dixon, Devin Edwards, Mary Satterlee Egglezos, Emma Jacqueline Finke, Sally Foster, Jack Graham, Peggy Graham, Jack Gregg, Mariann Griffin, Cathy Grooms, Larry Head, Rick Holm, Joan Horvath, Allison Hoy, Ann Huckaby, Ken Huckaby, Barbara Humphries, Dick Humphries, Tot Hurteau, Mary Kinard, Bud Lail, Donghee Lee, Fritz Lloyd, Jack Anthony Maglione, Jan Martin, Ben Marshall, Taylor Martin, Serena McCann, Tony Messel, Louis and Mary Anne Miller, Jodi Molnar, Phyllis Morrow, Julia Oates, Emily Oostdyk, Dale Oostdyk, Tony Owens, Joe Peek, Ginger Phillips, Jack Pikiewicz, Randy Romberger, Madison Simpson, Jim Smith, Carolyn Smyth, Grayson Spring, Wesley Stoddard, Pamela Tatham, David Watters, Holly Westcott, Justin Daniel Wyatt and Vicki Zdanowski

FOR THESE PERSONS SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Halcott R. Carter (Navy), Christopher Guyne (Air Force), Michael R. Hall (Air Force), Alex Holland (Army), Tripp Lynn (Navy), Michael McCraw (Navy), Friedan McLean (Air Force), Brian Parker (Navy), Wayne Pennington (Army), Joshua Scybert (Army), John Watters (Navy) and Russell Westenhaber (Army Special Forces)

FOR THESE EXPECTANT COUPLES: Sam and Elizabeth Bass, Josh and Marianna Graham, Kaitlin and John Bomar and Perrin Dent and Jim Patterson

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Neva Anderson, Rogers Sanders Harris, Ken Honeycutt, Leonard Still, Max Barnard Hollis, Nancy Browne, John Joseph Lux and Lounelle C. Morris

And for the people on the confidential Prayer List of the Daughters of the King

For all updates to the Parish Paper Prayer List, please contact The Rev. Paula Griffin at 864-504-3686 or email pgriffin@churchofadvent.org.

Ecumenical Blood Drive Thank You!



We would like to thank everyone who participated in our November 5 ecumenical blood drive. The Advent and six other churches donated 206 units, of which the Advent's contribution was 27 units. During the 2017 calendar year, the Advent and the participating churches collected 568 units. We are grateful for your participation! Please encourage your friends to join this life-saving ministry.

Our next blood drive is scheduled for Sunday, February 12, 2017. Please mark your calendars and reserve your spot on the bloodmobile when the sign-up sheet comes your way.



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12 PARISH MANAGEMENT | VESTRY DEC. 2017-JAN. 2018

Commission/Team Meetings

Foundation Board
5pm December 4
Liturgy Commission
3pm Dec. 5, Jan. 2
Outreach Commission
12:15pm Dec. 13, Jan. 10
Parish Life Commission
5:30pm Dec. 11, Jan. 8
St. Francis & St. Clare
1:15pm Dec. 13, Jan. 10
Altar Guild Board
4:45pm Dec. 6, Jan. 10
Parish Management
5:30pm Dec. 18, Jan. TBD
Adult Formation Commission
5:30pm Dec. 18, Jan. 29
Vestry
6:15pm Jan. 3, Jan. TBD

2017 DONATIONS INFORMATION

All donations to the church must be delivered to the church or postmarked by December 31, 2017 in order to receive credit for the year 2017.

ANNUAL MEETING

January 21, 2018
10am in the Parish and Community Life Center Gym

2017 VESTRY MEMBERS

SENIOR WARDEN

CHARLES KING (2018) | cking@otodevelopment.com

JUNIOR WARDEN

MARTHA SCHWARTZ (2019) | mwschwartz@charter.net

SENIOR WARDEN-ELECT

MELISSA JOHNSON (2020) | mdjohnson0101@gmail.com

VESTRY

RUTHIE BAILEY (2018) | ruthieoates@gmail.com
GRAHAM HALL (2018) | hallgraham99@gmail.com
CATHY MCCABE (2018) | cmccabe@cityofspartanburg.org
BOB PAGE (2018) | rwp@charter.net
ERIN STRICKLAND (2018) | emrstrickland@yahoo.com
MILLER BRICE (2019) | millerbrice@charter.net
DAVID BOWDISH (2019) | davidbowdish@bellsouth.net
WITNEY FISHER (2019) | witneyfisher@gmail.com
NANCY GAGE (2020) | nsgage@bellsouth.net
BRENDA LYTLE (2020) | bsevans38@gmail.com
TRAVIS MOORE (2020) | travis@upstatelawsc.com
JOHN PRICE (2020) | jprice@sales.mccroryconstruction.com

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Analysis of Revenues & Expenses

October 2017

	YTD Actual	Last Year Actual
YTD Total Pledge Contribution	\$1,272,596	\$1,245,320
YTD Total Revenues	\$1,482,215	\$1,483,340
YTD Expenses	\$1,532,415	\$1,547,280