

# THE ANCHOR

## Newsletter



**Episcopal Church of the Advent**

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Dear Friends,

Happy 2022! Did you party in the new year on December 31st? People celebrate New Year's Eve because we anticipate great things. The new year represents a new chance — a clean slate to start over. But as we are entering another year with high COVID rates, we may be feeling a bit more pessimistic about 2022 than we might normally be.

But wait! As Christians, we are called to a life of faith and hope. Faith is the belief that God's promises in scripture are true. Those promises say that God's will shall eventually be accomplished on earth. Those promises say that God's love will overcome evil and restore the world to the perfection of creation. In practice, faith believes that God is in control and bad things are redeemed for good.

Hope is a feeling of trust in God that good things will happen in our lives. Despite ongoing issues with COVID last summer, we had a great Vacation Bible School. Despite fears of budget issues, our hopes of a good increase in overall giving came true. The return of coffee hour and men's breakfast means our hope of enjoying more fellowship activities at Advent also came to fruition.

I have hope for a good 2022 at Advent, with a move towards more normal church activities and more opportunities for fellowship events. I have hope that we will continue to make progress preventing coronavirus infections and develop better treatments for people who become infected. I'm encouraged by reading the news - progress continues to be made in treatments and vaccination rates are slowly rising. No, I'm not being a Pollyanna. It is through my trust in God that I have hope for next year.

Our world needs a beacon of hope. As Christians, we are called to be that beacon of hope to the world. We need to trust in God and the power of love to conquer evil. How do we do that? We begin with our words: let's speak of positive things rather than negative ones. We continue in our actions, which tell the world that we are not frightened of the future. Certainly we need to be safe in what we do; God wants us to do all we can to avoid becoming sick ourselves and spreading illness. But knowing the Lord of life should help us look at the bright side of life and bring that brightness to the world through our words and actions.

With faith and hope, I know Advent will be blessed by God in 2022.

Faithfully yours,  
Alan+

## **GIFT PLANNING AS PART OF YOUR ESTATE PLANNING**

### **We are Stewards of God's Bounty**

During our lives we try to plan for many things, such as purchasing a home, educating children, and retirement. Gift planning reflects stewardship. Planned gifts are made from property you have stewarded over a lifetime. It represents a legacy passed from one generation to the next. Often, a planned gift is the largest single gift someone can make.

As Episcopalians we all have our own personal reasons for wanting to make a planned gift to support the mission and ministry of the church. Most planned gifts are fulfilled at death. Someone who makes a planned gift to the church has elevated the church to the same importance as family. It is both scriptural and in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer.

In September 2021 the Vestry took significant steps by developing and adopting two documents that provide the framework for and formalize planned giving in our parish: 1) a **Gift Acceptance Policy**, and 2) an **Endowment Policy**. The creation of both of these policies were highly recommended by the Diocese of NJ and the Episcopal Church Foundation as the basis of a Planned Giving program at our Church.

The Gift Acceptance Policy outlines the acceptability of asset type, timing, and disposition of all gifts to the Church, and the steps for maintaining discipline in gift acceptance and administration.

The Endowment Policy outlines the formal creation of an Endowment Fund and the terms and conditions on which it is managed to support the mission and ministry of the Church of the Advent. The policy outlines the responsibilities of the Vestry and the creation and composition of a Planned Giving and Endowment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee ("Endowment Subcommittee").

The Endowment Policy outlines the spending policy, management and investment of the Endowment Fund (currently comprised of approximately \$132,500), selection and evaluation of investment managers and consultants, reporting and review, governing laws as well as other specifications.

Copies of both policies can be obtained from the Church Office and will soon be available on the Church website.

Although most people simply choose to make a bequest in their will, the Episcopal Church Foundation provides excellent information and tools on the different ways you can plan to give to the Church, including immediate, deferred or life income gifts. *Immediate Gifts* include gifts of cash, appreciated securities, real estate, personal property, retirement assets, and gifts of life insurance. *Deferred Gifts* include wills and bequests. *Life Income Gifts* include a pooled income fund, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, and gifts of real estate with life estate reserved. Don't get overwhelmed with all the options. The Episcopal Church Foundation

describes all of these approaches in their website on giving ([www.episcopalgifts.org](http://www.episcopalgifts.org)). Or, just call 800-697-2858 to request information and assistance. It is very important that you seek advice from a trusted attorney and/or financial advisor so you use the best option for your unique situation.

As part of the Aging in Modern Society Adult Forums on Aging underway at Advent, we have invited Rev. Megan Thomas with St. Luke's Parish in Ewing, NJ to conduct a forum in our Parish Hall on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 6:30 PM on "Aging and Economics, Financial Planning, and Planned Giving." In addition to her responsibilities as a Parish Rector, Reverend Thomas is an experience Estate Attorney and has supported the Diocese in conducting related educational sessions.

Soon planned Giving brochures will be available in the back of the worship area that will provide tips on writing your will and outline greater detail on planned giving approaches. Also, please feel free to contact one of us on the Endowment Subcommittee to help direct you to resources you may need. Keep in mind that we are lay people and are not qualified to give you financial and legal advice.

Planned giving is one expression of the wise use of the personal resources God has entrusted to us. Church of the Advent will be blessed to have any of your thoughts recognized within your estate planning documents.

Yours in Christ,

The Endowment Subcommittee

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## **ADVENT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MATTERS . . .**

All COTA Christian Education programs—Adult Bible Study; Adult Forum; EfM; Cape May Church Youth United Program; and Children's Sunday School—continue into the new year on schedules posted in *The Anchor* Newsletter and weekly church bulletin. The Children's Sunday school-in-a-box continues with a new quarterly curriculum iteration for January-March 2022. It will be available for pickup in the parish hall the first week in January. This homebound curriculum—which follows the RCL with activities for children pre-K to 6th Grade—is a continuation of precaution due to the ongoing pandemic. EfM continues to meet online January 5, 2022, skips January 12, and resumes on every Wednesday thereafter until June 1, 2022. The Adult Forum series, "Aging in the Faith," meets January 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall, with a presentation on *Financial Planning and Planned Giving*. A forum presentation on *Spirituality and Aging* is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 13, at 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study online resumes January 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. The next Cape May

Church Youth United meeting is Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at The First Presbyterian Church Cape May. It will be a game night with pizza for supper. The next parish Education Committee meeting is scheduled for January 30, at 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend. For more information contact Fr. Alan or Sam Wilson.

### **OUTREACH NEWS**

We were able to give 86 families a help with food for Christmas with two \$25.00 Acme gift cards. Those folks are very appreciative and thank our congregation for their generous outpouring of love for those local families who benefit from this. We will do this again in the spring at Easter.

Thanks to the generosity of the Advent family we have completed a very successful collection for The Seamen's Institute this holiday season. This hands on project has been a great expression of our Christian love and support for those in difficult circumstances. The Outreach Committee is most grateful for your compassionate participation.

The Outreach Committee would like to thank each person who took a Caring for Kids gift tag this year. We answered many requests for Christmas gifts from this organization and we are grateful for your participation and support.

The next Outreach Committee meeting will be January 19, 2022, at 3:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

### **A REFLECTION ON TIME**

*"So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart." Ps 90: 12.*

I never thought I would arrive at a time when *Psalm 90* would have such poignant import to my life, more importantly to my view of life. For decades, I was too busy going to school, working, and chasing after the three careers that came my way (only one was planned). Yet, here I am, 75, a transplanted southerner, 2-1/2 blocks away from the Atlantic Ocean at the South Jersey Shore. I suspect it might be the arrival of a new year that brings all this to mind.

As I ponder the turn of the seasons and the new year, I sense my perspective also is influenced by my taking up regular attendance in the latter part of 2021, at the Thursday Noon Eucharist (usually in St. John's Chapel) and Wednesday a.m. Morning Prayer (held in the Ladies' Chapel). The former, follows the lectionary of a rich liturgical guide to the church year, focusing on the calendar of appointed Episcopal "saints." [Some will remember that our parish submitted a resolution to elevate Dorothy Day to this calendar. It was approved by our Diocese and awaits approval of the General Convention.] These lives we reflect on prompt me to examine my own for lessons I may well need. The latter follows the *BCP* order for the Daily Office, using a lectionary of the rotating leader's choosing for each week. Both are small, even intimate worship experiences with parishioners sharing in common, ordered worship. Both prompt shared reflections on the proper lessons in lieu of a more formal homily. Both mark time in the regular ordering of the Christian Week that begins with Sunday worship.

I share all of this because I am so grateful that our parish offers such opportunities to worship in the marking of time, not in a way the Greeks would term, “chronos,” i.e., measured, scientific, or historical time, but as “kairos,” time that means a propitious moment for something to occur, as in the “fullness” of time. This concept of time, engendered in our parish’s weekly worship schedule, helps me to experience what time must be like in the Kingdom of God. It also helps me understand the notion that God’s Kingdom—heralded by John the Baptist and proclaimed by Jesus himself—has propitiously come among us; yet, it is not fully arrived.

What we do here, in our parish, in the multiple opportunities for our worship, as the Psalmist says, brings awareness of “our days that we may gain a wise heart.” This wisdom, I suspect grows from the opportunity to come together in God’s time—*kairos*. We, thereby share in the sparkle of God’s Kingdom gradually becoming aware that it is not being 75-years-old that matters; it is the “endless” time we spend with each other in the presence of God, even as we mark the seasons rolling by with *chronos*.

—Sam Wilson

### **COUNTERS NEEDED**

We need to reestablish the Counting Teams to process the money after the 10:30 AM services. We need 12 people to establish 3 teams of 4 members. Each team counts for a month 4 times per year. The counting is simple, requiring no previous experience, and takes about 45 minutes after the late service. The schedule is flexible to allow for missing weeks for travel or any other commitment. Please call the office to volunteer for this important service.

### **USHERS NEEDED**

We need folks to serve as ushers at both the 8:00 and 10:30 Sunday services. Ushers work in teams of two and with enough teams you would be scheduled once per month. ***All current and potential ushers need to attend a training session on Sunday, January 16, 2022, at 9:00 AM (between the services).*** Please consider participating in this important ministry. For additional information please contact the church office – 609-884-3065.

### **ADVENT BOOK CLUB**

The Advent Book Club will meet on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 7:00 PM at the home of Lorraine Shaw. American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins will be discussed. Anyone interested in joining this group, please call Lorraine at 609-884-4545 or Lynda Cogswell at 609-884-6675. All are welcome.

## CHURCH OF THE ADVENT ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2022 at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. This meeting will also be available on Zoom. Details for connecting via Zoom will be available prior to the meeting. A copy of the Ballot is included in this issue of The Anchor. Voting will take place on January 23, 2022.

### *January Birthday Celebrations*

### *January Anniversary Celebrations*

2	Nancy Abrams Loper		
8	Patricia Bourgeau		
8	Anamaria Pastiu		
17	Pilo Pastiu		
18	Joel Rutenberg		
21	Michael Torpey		
22	Johanna Keltie		
26	Marrie Cassidy		
28	Carol Obligado		

## WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sunday: The Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**

**The 10:30 service is also livestreamed on YouTube**

**Wednesday: Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.**

**Thursday: The Holy Eucharist at 12:00 Noon**