

Church of the Advent



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FROM THE DESK OF FR. ALAN

Dear Friends,

Easter changed everything. We're so accustomed to it being an annual celebration that it's pretty easy to forget that. But imagine for a moment what life was like for the disciples. They had followed this great teacher and miracle worker. They gave up jobs, families, and their daily lives to be part of his inner circle and be witnesses to his amazing power. And then he is arrested and executed. Where does that leave them? I imagine they were terrified and uncertain of the future. Three days later, Jesus is raised from the dead. Again, this totally changed life for the disciples. They went from being followers of the great teacher to being leaders of the new Christian church.

Easter also changed the world. Not only did Jesus's death and resurrection bring forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe in him, it changed the course of history. Two thousand years later, we are still experiencing Christ's impact on the world and proclaiming his message of love for all. Today, people continue to find new life in Jesus Christ and witness to how faith transforms their life. From death, God brings new life to the world.

New life equals change. Change is renewal, and it's powerful! But we are human and we don't always think we like change. Change can feel painful; we liked the comfortable way things were. (Surely the disciples liked the life they had traveling with Jesus!) And like the twelve, we may feel change is like death. But Christ brought new life through death, and through change we also experience new life.

New life means growing more mature in our faith. New life means changes as a congregation as we grow in relationship. I've recently established two new committees at Advent to help us grow. One is an Education Committee which will help our educational program flourish for all ages. The second committee is an Evangelism Committee which will help us be more focused in our Christian witness. Expect to hear more about these committees and their work in upcoming months—and please talk with me if you'd like to be part of one of them!

Easter changed everything — and it still does. This Easter season, let us embrace that change so that it can continue to lead Advent to new life in Jesus Christ.

Faithfully yours,
Alan+

ASCENSION DAY SERVICE

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68 CE. According to the New Testament, Jesus met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the 40th day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven. Ascension Day marks the end of the Easter season and occurs ten days before Pentecost.

We will celebrate The Solemnity of the Ascension with The Holy Eucharist on Thursday, May 30 at 12:00 Noon. Following the service we will meet in the Parish Hall for a salad bar luncheon. Please join us.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Outreach Committee has applications available for scholarships for children to participate in activities that provide enrichment activities such as music lessons, sports camps, art, dance, and tutoring. Please call Marrie Cassidy (610 715-6529) or see Kathe in the office for an application.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Each year, through the UFO (United Thank Offering), we as individuals are invited to embrace a discipline of gratitude. The UTO encourages us to notice the good things that happen each day and to thank God for these blessings. By our giving to the UTO, the Episcopal Church is able to award grants for specific causes. The recipients of these grants work to improve the quality of life for many individuals, both in the United States and abroad. Here are some examples of how these grants have thus far been used:

- Taylor Devine Episcopal Diocese of Arizona was awarded a grant to continue work in its intergenerational church to improve its community. The emphasis is on vocational programs that will serve the “Borderland” area. Through prayer, work and study the plan is to improve the community.
- A grant was awarded the Diocese of Nebraska to develop a place for prayer and hospitality for those seeking a deeper life in Christ, especially the young adults.

- In North Carolina, a grant is being used for young adults to serve their community by working with various nonprofits.

As you note these awarded grants, I encourage you to reflect on the blessings that you have received. Turn your gratitude toward helping others. Please give generously in those envelopes that are found in the pews during the month of May.

Karann Murphy, UTO Representative

CAPE MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

The annual Cape May Music Festival will hold four concerts at Church of the Advent during May and June. Parish members may attend these concerts for half price.

Tuesday, May 28 - 8:00 pm

NEW YORK CHAMBER ENSEMBLE "Chamber Jazz" with Ted Rosenthal & Eddie Barbash

Thursday, May 30 - 8:00 pm

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHAMBER PLAYERS "Viennese Blends"

Sunday, June 2 - 7:00 pm

NEW YORK CHAMBER ENSEMBLE "Best of Baroque"

Thursday, June 13 - 8:00 pm

NEW YORK CHAMBER ENSEMBLE "Back to Basics: Mendelssohn & Mozart"

Notes from the ECM

The next breakfast meeting of the ECM will be Tuesday, May 7. The breakfast and meeting begin at 8:30 AM, with coffee ready by 8:00 AM. The cost is \$5.00 and all men of the parish are invited.

Notes from the ECW

The next ECW meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16 at 10:30 AM in the Parish Hall.

ECW RUMMAGE SALE



Spring is here and it is time to clean out closets, attics and basements. The ECW rummage sale will be held on Friday, May 3, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Saturday, May 4, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Donations of clean, used clothing, household goods, books and linens can be dropped off in the Parish Hall April 28 to May 2. ***Please, no office electronics such as computers, printers, etc., no VCRs or typewriters or encyclopedias.*** We can always use additional hands to assist with sorting the treasures, so if you would like to help come to the Parish Hall Monday, April 29 through Thursday, May 2 at 9:00 AM.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Plans are underway for Vacation Bible School at Church of the Advent. The dates are July 30 to August 3, 2018 and it will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. If you would like to be a part of the VBS adventure this year, please contact the church office at 884-3065 or adventsecretary@comcast.net. Many small tasks go into creating a successful event, so please do not hesitate to share your talents and interests! We begin our serious planning this month.

THE NEXT VESTRY MEETING IS SUNDAY, MAY 19 AT NOON

ANNUAL CAPE MAY CHOIR WEEK

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and Church of the Advent, the program's focus is on learning to use the gift of our voices and enjoy the art of singing. It is open to all youth ages 10 and up, whatever their faith home. The camp begins on Sunday, July 15 and ends on Thursday, July 19 with an Evensong service, to which the community is invited.

For day students the camp will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 5:00 PM. The fee for the week is \$50 (scholarships are available). Students or parents who are interested should contact Church of the Advent, 609-884-3065.

2019 CHURCH DINNERS

Enclosed in this issue of The Anchor is a refrigerator card with the 2019 Dinner Schedule. The first dinner is Saturday, May 25, featuring Chicken Salad and Fried Oysters. The remaining dinners are scheduled for the fourth Saturday of each month, through October. All dinners will offer coffee, tea and homemade desserts and will feature a vegetarian entrée. Patrons may bring their own beer or wine. Service and take out will start at 4:30 PM and end at 7:00 PM.

The cost of the dinners is \$15.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under the age of 12. Adult tickets are \$13.00 if purchased in advance. We also have a 10 meal seasonal ticket for \$120.00. You may use the season ticket any time during the year for single meals or for your entire party.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Sunday School Scholarship awards are available and we will consider all graduating seniors who plan to go on to further their education. This includes college and trade schools. We also have some funds available for those who are currently in college and hoping to continue. Send an email describing your current status, and your educational plans, including the school which you hope to attend, to Mrs. Bourgeau at bourgeau3@msn.com. The deadline to submit these emails is July 20, 2019.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

Thanks to all who filled bags with food for the St. Barnabas Food Pantry. All will be delivered and very appreciated. We wrap this up the end of April.

Our annual Easter project providing Acme food cards to low income families was very much appreciated. We delivered \$50 in food cards to 87 people/families with a letter from Fr. Alan inviting them to join us in our Easter celebration. We received very touching "Thank You" cards from many of the recipients.

Marrie Cassidy