

Church of the Advent

Celebrating 150 Years

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THE SEARCH FOR OUR NEW RECTOR

Now that Fr. Mitchell has officially retired, we are embarking on the search for the 15th Rector at Church of the Advent. For the next four months, we will have Supply (substitute) Priests, followed by an Interim who will be with us until we call a new rector. For those who have served on search committees in the past the process is a bit different in 2018. The internet obviously makes communication faster and easier and it also provides wide exposure for both those who seek a priest and those priests who seek a church.

The process of seeking a rector for Advent has already begun. Bishop Stokes met with the Vestry in late November to outline the schedule for the months ahead in terms of assessment and readiness. He noted several negatives which could impact our efforts; aging population, aging clergy, aging churches. He also stressed our positives, location, financial stability, and the profile of a caring, socially involved congregation.

He advised that a readiness assessment, to be directed by Canon Brian Jemmott and Canon Phyllis Jones, will be undertaken to study the physical/spiritual and emotional health of the parish. Brian and Phyllis have met with the Vestry to introduce this process.

Following the Annual Meeting and elections on 21 January 2018, the Vestry will meet to form a Discernment Committee. Bishop Stokes recommends six to eight people, including one Vestry member. Those numbers could vary slightly. The Vestry decides who shall serve on the Discernment Committee.

The Committee, once formed, must engage in an antiracism training session with the Vestry before beginning their work. The Discernment Committee will represent both 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM service attendees, younger and older congregants, and be members who are willing to dedicate adequate time and effort to the project.

Additionally, the Vestry must tell the Discernment Committee what traits it seeks in the new Rector. The Interim does not become involved in the search, and the consultant does not get involved in the interview process. The Discernment Committee guides the process until they make recommendations to the Vestry.

Advent will be assigned a transition consultant to counsel and advise throughout the process. Ideally, the Interim will serve 12 to 18 months. The Discernment Committee may possibly identify 15 applicants, those they will whittle down to half, then Skype with those. The Committee may make visits to prospects, and those visits are to be strictly confidential. Applicants may also visit us here.

There are several websites available for the process which list openings. Our own website can also have a dedicated page informing of our search.

Once the Discernment Committee has defined five finalists they will inform the Bishop of their selection. He will make calls on those named and eliminate, if necessary, any he deems unsatisfactory (for Advent) before recommending to the Vestry.

Once the Vestry has voted, the Senior Warden will call the Bishop with the results. The Bishop desires a strong support by vote. A split vote is problematic. If there is no consensus the Discernment Committee must return to the drawing board and keep on task. If the Committee sees someone they want, they need to act. The numbers do not favor those searching; 450 retired, 250 ordained, 129 active priests, 79 full time, 144 congregations. The task ahead is very important, but we have counsel and tools available to support the process.

- Glenda Unzelmann
Senior Warden



Lent: Ash Wednesday and Stations

This year Ash Wednesday fall on February 14. As is our custom we will gather for worship and the imposition of ashes at Noon and 6:00 PM.

On each of the Tuesdays of Lent we will also gather at 6:00 PM for the Stations of the Cross. This ancient practice reminds us of our need and the gifts of the Passion. Feel free to join for all or any number of times.

Notes from the ECM

The next breakfast meeting of the ECM will be Tuesday, February 6. The meeting begins 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, February 15 at 10:15 AM in the Parish Hall.

Outreach News: Lenten Change Jar Project



At the end of each day many of us have loose change taking up space in our pockets or in our purses. It tends to be a nuisance and we throw it in a drawer or stuff it in an old sock. Everyone has a place for unused change.

For the past few years Advent's Outreach committee has worked to use this change and make it grow in a way that will help make a change in someone's life. It has been a great success so we are going to repeat it this year. During Lent many of us either give up something or take on something new. This Lent you can do both when you take part in our Lenten Change Jar Project.

The idea is to take on two pieces of Gospel. In Matthew 25 Jesus reminds us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick. The passages are even summarized on our church sign. The other is also from Matthew 25. In the parable of the talents the faithful servants invest the wealth entrusted to them and gain much. We will take this small amount of wealth and invest it by caring for those in need. The banks aren't paying much on investments but there is a great gain to be made.

Who will we serve? Parish support has been successful, directly addressing the plight of refugee families whose lives have been disrupted by war and violence. One primary area of support has been the Syrian-Jordanian border where a tent city of hundreds of thousands of people— a high proportion are families with children— are trapped having fled the Syrian Civil War. The funds Advent raises through this project help procure basic necessities: food; clothing; toiletries; and teaching-learning materials for school age children.

How to participate: Jars with blessed mustard seeds of faith and hope placed inside will be available for parishioners who choose to participate by donating their pocket change over the Lenten season and Easter week. The jars will be available at the Shrove Tuesday Dinner and in the back of the church on Ash Wednesday. Ingathering is planned for the Second Sunday in Easter.

For more information speak to a member of the Outreach Committee or contact Sam Wilson at 434-392-8123 or samwilsonjr46@gmail.com

ISLAND BOOK CLUB

The Advent Book Club has been renamed Island Book Club. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 PM at the home of Lynda and Corbin Cogswell.



SINGLES AND DOUBLES

If you missed out on the January fun, here is the good news. There will be another opportunity on **Saturday, February 24, 2018, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.** (There will be no snow date. If there is a blizzard it will be cancelled.) Our February **Singles and Doubles** will be hosted by Mattie and John Francis.

They will provide the main course and when you RSVP you will be asked to bring an appetizer, salad, vegetable or dessert. There will be a **\$5.00** donation at the door to defray the cost of beverages and paper products. RSVP and let **Mattie and John** know what you would like to bring by emailing planettalk@mindspring.com or calling 884-2687. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. **The deadline to sign up is Monday, February 19, 2018.**

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

The Annual Meeting, held on January 21, resulted in the election of the Wardens, and four Vestry members.

Following is your Vestry for 2018:

Fred Obligado – Senior Warden	Martha Francis
Calvin Stafford – Junior Warden	Frank Garcia
Elwood Armstrong	Rhonda Jackson
Kevin Casey	Deborah Lukens
David Craig	Jane Carol Wilson
Leigh Ann Downie	

Copies of the Annual Report are available on the table at the back of the church.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES-FEBRUARY 13

It is an old tradition. We serve pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, the night before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The idea was to clean out all of the unused shortening before the season began. Now it is more an occasion for fun and to mark the season.

This year the big event will be on Tuesday, February 13 from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. So mark your calendars and bring your appetites. See you on the 13th.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to dedicate altar flowers in memory of someone or in celebration of someone or something, the following dates are still available:

April 15, April 29, May 20, May 27, June 10, 17, 24, July 1, 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19, September 9, 23, 30, November 11, 18, December 2, and 23.

Flowers are \$50 per week and they are yours to take home after the 10:30 service on Sunday. Please call the church office at 609-884-3065 to sign up.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

SOUP SALE

On Sunday, February 4, the ECW will sell several kinds of homemade soups after both services. The price is \$6.00/quart and \$3.00/pint, with proceeds going to local food pantries. If you would like to donate soup, please bring it to the Parish Hall on Saturday, February 3, at 1:00 PM.



THE NEXT VESTRY MEETING IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AT NOON IN THE UPPER ROOM