

# Church of the Advent

*Celebrating 150 Years*

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## An Immodest Thought

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I remember a restaurant in Paris, *L'Archestrate*. Its founder, Chef Alain Senderens, died this past summer. The place was famous for what it did not serve— food, at least in quantity. If you wanted to be fed, this was not the place to go. The food was very good and often unusual; but the amount on a plate was tiny. Chef Senderens and the restaurant were champions of the so-called *nouvelle cuisine*. If you wanted a big steak you should have gone to Kansas City, not *L'Archestrate*.

The fascination with tiny amounts of food was, in part, pretension, trying to see just how unusual a chef could be. It was also, and this was in the 1970s and 1980s, about embarrassment. Remember the phrase “small is beautiful” or “less is more”? There were some politicians for whom these were the catch phrases. And, yes sometimes both are true. Sometimes the sentiment is a reflection of the fact that we might have too much or consume too much. We are rightly embarrassed by too full a plate. Modesty can be a virtuous impulse.

There are many without or without enough. We should be aware of our own relative abundance. Years ago I worked in an election polling station in Manhattan. The district was one of the poorest in the city. I walked a volunteer. He was dressed to the nines in a handmade blazer with shoes that cost enough to have fed most of the local voters for a month. Someone had the good sense to call the boss for his political party and have him reassigned. In the face of poverty a bit of modesty may be in order.

Of course, sometimes modesty is just an excuse. We see the need in the world around us but elect to limit what we do. We are afraid of being seen to be too generous. Or, modesty can be an excuse for not sharing, caring or doing. I understand modesty. There are times and places, however, where we ought to celebrate abundance, to take joy in what we have. There are times to prepare a full plate and dress in our finest. Sometimes less is just less and more is just more.

I am thinking of this community of which we are a part. We need to remember and give thanks for our gifts. They are the gifts with which we have been endowed by those who went before. We have this wonderful space in which to offer thanks to God. We have the traditions of our ancestors. We are blessed in so many ways. It is by friends and neighbors who care for us. It is in our capacity to care for one another and for strangers. Above all it is by the abundance of God's love. Here is abundance worth celebrating. Here is an abundance worth sharing. It is without limit.

This abundance is at the foundation of who we are and what we do, how we understand ourselves. Our perspective, the way we respond to God, is from a place of richness. In the world around us we may notice that our physical resources are great or limited. But within and from this community there is always abundance.

If you wish, enjoy the *nouvelle cuisine* and small plates of food. Be discrete and modest. It makes sense to watch our consumption of things, particularly in defense of the environment. But I would propose that there is one place for a suspicion of modesty, one place where abundance is to be claimed and celebrated. This place is the faith community of which we are all a part and in our relationship with the one who creates and sustains us all. The immodest proposal is to claim and celebrate all of this.

--John+

## **ATLANTIC CONVOCATION YOUTH PROGRAM**

A program for the youth of our convocation! For everyone from Waretown all the way down to Cape May. We will meet once a month with youth from all over the convocation mostly on Sunday evenings. Meetings will be in Galloway, Ocean City and Villas. Programs will range from anti-hunger work, to drum circles, to painting your own icon. Youth mark your calendars. Adults think about volunteering to drive the youth of our parish.

October 21 (Saturday) - Holy Trinity, Ocean City - RISE AGAINST HUNGER

November 19 - St. Barnabas, Villas - Paint your own icon

December 17 - St. Mark and All Saints, Galloway - Movie Night

January 21- Holy Trinity, Ocean City - Food packing event

February 11- St. Barnabas, Villas - Drum circle

March 18 - St. Mark and All Saints, Galloway - Movie night

April 15 - Holy Trinity, Ocean City - Food packing event

May 20 - St. Barnabas, Villas - Drum circle and year-end celebration

## ***BISHOP'S VISITATION***



Mark your calendars. Bishop Stokes will be with us at the 10:30 liturgy on October 29. He will be offering confirmation, reception and the renewal of vows for those who are so moved. Just as important his presence will be a reminder that we are a part of a much larger enterprise, the Diocese of New Jersey, The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. Our bishop is a leader and manages the affairs of the diocese; but the bishop is also a tangible connection to the wider church around the country and the world and a connection to the church through the ages.

## **STEWARDSHIP - Journey to Generosity**

During the month of October you all will be receiving reminders to be generous in the support of the work of faith. The theme this year is a Journey to Generosity. This is a personal journey for each of us. It is also a journey which we make as a community. A commitment of resources, a pledge, is one way we say that this community and the work which it does is important to us. As we prepare to enter 2018 and a time of transition, it is all the more important to draw together as a community and support each other.



This year the pledge card will be different and larger. In part this will be so that we don't lose them in the stack of mail we receive. The card is also designed to have a bit more information, including information from last year to make your work easier and on the back charts to help in your decision.

## **FAMILY PROMISE NEEDS**

We will host Family Promise on Monday, October 30, and Tuesday, October 31 at the Cape May Methodist Church. We need volunteers to help with dinner at 5:00 PM, social time with the family from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, and overnight (the family is picked up at 7:00 AM). Choose one of the above and meet a great family who appreciates our help. Please sign up on the white board in the Narthex. Call Marrie Cassidy 610-715-6529 for more information.

We are looking for Family Promise coordinators. The job requires organizing and staffing to make sure every family has a positive experience during our hosting time. Marrie Cassidy is willing to train and work with anyone interested. Our October host time is a great time to see this in action. We need two coordinators so that our host time is always covered. Please call Marrie Cassidy or Fr. John.

### *Notes from the ECM*

The October breakfast meeting of the ECM will be Tuesday, October 3. 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 Episcopal Church Women will hold their next meeting on Thursday, October 16 at 10:30 AM in the Parish Hall. We will work on the Fall Rummage Sale preparation. Remember, all women of the church are members of ECW and all are invited to participate. The ECW fall activities calendar is available in the back of the church.

Meetings to work on crafts for the Christmas Bazaar will be held on Monday evenings, October 9 and 23, at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

## **ECM DINNER**

The last dinner for this season will be October 28. The menu will be Shepherd's Pie, sides, coffee, tea and homemade desserts. There will also be a vegetarian entrée. Table service begins at 4:30 PM and continues until 7:00 PM. Take-out meals are also available. The cost is \$13.00 at the door (\$6.00 for children). If you purchase your tickets in advance, the price is \$11.00 (\$6.00 for children).

## **ADVENT BOOK CLUB**



The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 PM at the home of Glenda and Werner Unzelmann. The book for discussion is Glow Kids by Nicholas Kardaras.

## **FALL RUMMAGE SALE**

The ECW will hold its fall rummage sale Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21. As you do your fall reorganizing and/or cleaning, please remember us and bring your donations of clean, used clothing, household goods, books and linens to the Parish Hall from Sunday, October 15 through Wednesday, October 18.



Sorting begins on October 16 and the sales are Friday, October 20 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and Saturday, October 21 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We need folks to help with the sorting and setting up as well as help on the sale days. Please contact Carol Obligado at 898- 9699.

## **ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

This is an opportunity for adults who are interested in confirmation, reception (like confirmation if you were confirmed in another part of the church), to renew your vows or just ask questions. We will meet in the Upper Room of the Parish Hall at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, October 11, 18 and 25.

**VESTRY MEETING OCTOBER 15 AT NOON IN THE UPPER ROOM**

## **Fall Luncheon, Game and Card Party**

The ECW will hold its annual Fall Luncheon Game and Card Party on Tuesday, October 10, at the Aleathea's, (Inn of Cape may) 7 Ocean Street in Cape May. Doors will open at 10:00 AM and the luncheon will be served at noon.

The menu is a choice of Crab Cake or Chicken Parmigiana, and include salad, vegetable, rolls, beverage and dessert, at a cost of \$25.00 per person. *Please take your own cards or games.* For additional information, please contact Marty Torpey (884-0784) or Carol Obligado (898-9699).

## **SCHOOL BOOK BAG PROGRAM**

Teachers and staff of R.M. Teitelman and Lower Cape May Regional, with several corporate sponsors, have teamed up to offer nutritious meals and snacks for children over the weekends and extended breaks. Students pick up their bag on the day before a weekend or break. The program serves 23 students. Items needed include soap, box food, peanut butter, canned food, drawstring bags, tooth paste, granola bars, cereal bars, cheese crackers, peanut butter crackers. A donation of gift cards to Shoprite, Acme or other local food stores so the staff members can purchase food for the program. We will collect these items and give them to the program.

