

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Chronicle

Building a Strong Christian Family

Letter from the Rector—The Rev. David Thomas



Dear Friends:

April is an exciting month, whereas March is fickle and undependable, April always brings showers and spring fever. I realize that here in Pennsylvania it occurs much earlier in the year, but growing up in the north, April was when the red breasted robin was first sighted. It was always a rush to spot the little red breasted fellows and then to look for crocuses- a sure sign that winter was over. April is when all the "snow birds" return from the deep south and the church family is once again complete. This year there is much to look forward to during the month. Palm Sunday and Holy Week kick off the activities followed by a glorious celebration of our Lord's resurrection. Just to add to the joy of our Easter celebration we will have our annual brunch for everyone beginning at 8:30 and concluding at 11. Hey, it would be great if some of you who have never done it before, would offer to help for an hour during the brunch.

Often, after Easter there appears to be a "let down", but not this year. Bishop Lee will be with us the next Sunday for confirmation and a tasty reception will follow. The following Sunday we will hold the second part of our Annual meeting and hear from vestry members and elect new ones. After that it is May and then Senior Sunday - it just rolls on and on.

As one begins to identify with the more mature of a population one realizes how fast time really does go by. As a young person I felt like there was always plenty of time to get something done. Now, I realize that none of us knows how much time we really have and it is prudent to get about the business of living now and not to waste another day. Part of living is preparing for the unknown. Easter is an answer to that haunting question. God raised Jesus from the dead so that all who trust in Him will know that they will also be raised from the dead and will share eternity with Jesus and the Father.

Do you really question if there is a supreme power that set our existence and our earth into orbit? The changes of the seasons, the evolution of the earth and those who dwell upon it and the continual cycle of birth and death ought to be enough to bring one to faith. Easter cries out that God loves each of us and He demonstrated that love by giving us a living savor. Don't worry if you don't have an Easter bonnet - better to put on an Easter smile that you are saved and loved and then show it off to the world by attending church and giving your neighbor an Easter hug. Now is the time to begin to live with the Lord - hope to see a lot of you this month.

Alleluia, we are saved and this is the time to shout it from the roof tops!

With love and faithfulness,

The Rev. Canon David Thomas

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Advent Easter Egg Hunt

Don't miss the Annual Easter Egg Hunt held **Easter Sunday** (4/12) directly after the 9:00 am service. Meet with your children (ages toddler to 5th grade) in front of the Memorial Garden. If you are willing to help or would like to donate eggs or decorations for the event, please contact Rachel Frey at freyrg@comcast.net or Michelle Griffith at shellyg1207@verizon.net or sign-up in the foyer.

Easter Sunday ~ Light Breakfast & Fellowship

Easter is just around the corner! Don't forget to join in our Annual Easter Breakfast, April 12th, from 8:15 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. We would appreciate fruit trays, pastries, quiches, breakfast casseroles, etc. If you are willing to help in setting up before, or cleaning up after, please contact Tom & Christy Anderson at (610) 444-4677 or candersen112@comcast.net. Sign-up sheets for those who plan on attending the Breakfast will be posted in the foyer.

Confirmation Sunday & Bishop's Reception

The Bishop's Reception is scheduled for April 19th immediately following the 10:00 service. We would appreciate tea sandwiches, fruit trays, pastries, etc. If you are willing to help in setting up before, or cleaning up after, please contact Ed Hauser at (610) 594-6367, Ed.Hauser@sungardhe.com or sign-up on the designated sheet posted in the foyer.

Children's Schedule for Palm Sunday & Easter

Palm Sunday~

It is our tradition at Advent to have a children's Procession of the Palms at the 9 a.m. service. While childcare for babies and toddlers through age 3 will be available in the nursery, all other children will receive their palms in the Reception area. Parents will go into church and children will process as a group during the hymn. After processing around the church, the older children will rejoin their families as the 4-6 year olds will be shepherded out to Children's Chapel while the Passion is read. The younger children will rejoin their families at the 'Peace'. There is no Sunday School, but a few volunteers are needed to process with the children, sort them out at the end, and a couple pairs of hands to help with the Children's Chapel activity. Call Kathy Prible at the church office (610-444-4624) to volunteer or for questions.

Easter~

There will be no Children's Chapel or Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Child care will be provided in the Nursery for babies through age 3 during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. All other children will worship with their families. Remember there are pink worship bulletins in the narthex for the younger children.

Flowering The Cross Tradition

A tradition at Advent is to have a cross placed outside the front door of the church. This large cross is covered with wire and it is the tradition that young and old bring a flower(s) to put into the wire so that we have a large cross of flowers by the end of the day. When weather is fair, we then place the cross of flowers by our sign at the sign of the road. Please help continue this tradition and bring a flower to place in the wire covering the cross.

The Tour de Advent

Hello Golfers! The cold and rainy winter is passing and the daffodils are already popping up...turns one's thoughts to golf. The Tour de Advent is planning a great season and we hope you will join us. The schedule is under development and we plan to continue with our format of play on Thursday afternoons every 2 weeks starting in late April and concluding with an event in early September. More details later as the planning progresses. For those desiring more play, we may insert some extras into the regular season as well as a season extension after the banquet in September. If you would like to join the group or for more information, please contact Tom Mills at 610-444-3703 or by email: Walnuthill..tomsandy@verizon.net

Adult Spirituality News

As this article goes to press, I wonder; how is your Lenten experience so far? Have you participated in the Lenten dinners? Have you been doing your devotionals? Have you taken a spiritual walk on Saturday morning? Have you zipped around the labyrinth? Yes, No, Maybe, or I've been meaning to do so. It is not too late! When you really stop and think what this season is all about, I can't imagine not giving our Father a few moments of our time.

A time honored tradition at Advent is the Lenten dinners! We share a meal, one of our own stands before us and gives testimony to his or her spiritual journey with God, and then we share the love of the Eucharist. The list of speakers this year include the following: D.J. Carlino, spoke of his spiritual journey with life's struggles and how God guided him to appreciate his family, friends, and experiences through the youth group; Fr. Ray Nelson, will speak about his spiritual journey through service on March 11, 2009; Deb Schmittle will speak about her spiritual journey through mind, body, and spirit on March 18, 2009; Lousia Diffey, Ryann Diehl, Jamie Moran, and Christine Mercner will speak of their spiritual journey entering college on March 26, 2009 and last, but not least, Barbara Thornton will speak about her spiritual journey through the art of icons on April 1, 2009. All of our speakers have a special story to tell, and it is our hope, they will inspire you to take a look at your path.

We have added a Labyrinth walk to the Lenten dinners. The Labyrinth is set up in the St. Nicholas room. You may enter the room from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. A Labyrinth walk is your time with God, it is quiet, peaceful, and will center your thoughts. Pretty awesome considering it can take 5min. Or an hour, it's your call.

Speaking of walking, we are still meeting in the church parking lot at 8:30 a.m. we have a quick devotional, and prayer, and then we walk, jog, or run. This will take place every Saturday morning during lent. (If you have attended the various breakfast events this year, you know you have the time, and you know you left feeling pretty good!). How incredible to walk each weekend and experience the dead of winter turn into the life of a new spring!

However you choose to celebrate this Lenten season, I hope you will find love all around you. Find the light that warms and guides you. And know at every moment of our being we are believers!

Spring Ideas!

Spring is coming: Part One- the preparation!

Shake off the old and dreary garb of winter! It's time to look forward and prepare for the re-birth of spring!

Mark your calendar for April 4th, the first Saturday in April, to join with your friends at Advent for the Spring Grounds Cleanup Day. Start at 9 AM, finish by Noon and feel great! Enjoy the fresh air, light exercise and fellowship as we gently clean flower beds, rake those remaining leaves, pick up windfall and generally prepare the grounds for a glorious spring. Bring work gloves and a rake. Questions? Contact Al Rundle at Al.Rundle@comcast.net or 610-869-7959.

New Books in the Library!

Several new books have been added to the church library collection. Stop by and borrow a book. Simply sign the book out and return within three weeks so others may enjoy as well.

- [A Wing and a Prayer: A Message of Faith and Hope](#) by Katharine Jefferts Schori
- [Paul Today: Challenging Reading of Acts and the Epistles](#) by Stephen W. Need
- [The Gospels Today: Challenging Readings of John, Mark, Luke & Matthew](#) by Stephen W. Need
- [Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of Religious Revolutionary](#) by Marcus J. Borg



“Mama J Says.....”

~Jan Schroeder, Director of Youth Ministry

Lent is coming to an end. Has it been a fruitful time for you? It might be odd to think of Lent as a “fruitful” time, especially when we talk about giving something up. But all the time we spend talking about the season in youth group, all the prayers we say and things we do are designed to bring us closer to God. Lent is meant as a time of turning back to God; of changing or removing those things that block us in relationship with God. During the 40 day journey we’ve been on, our theme has been “Love God; love people; the rest is trivial”. It really is that simple! So stop and reflect right now . . . where are you on this Lenten path? As we approach Holy Week and Easter, what else can you do to draw closer to God? Maybe you have made promises to others, to yourself or to God that you need to work harder on. Or maybe someone has hurt you and you haven’t really forgiven them yet. Or perhaps you spend a lot of time watching TV, playing video games, chatting online or texting and there’s never time to go to youth group or take time out to pray. Who can you love more? How can you love God more? In the time that’s left before Easter Sunday try making a few simple changes.

- Say grace before meals. If you already say grace, try a new one.
- At nightly dinner ask your family members to each share where they found God in their day.
- All of us have to practice more environmentally friendly ways. Adopt a plan for you or your family that helps better care for God’s creation.
- For just one day before Easter, eat more simply. Take the money that you would have spent and donate it to a community food pantry.
- Incorporate personal prayer in to your routine. Log on to d365.org or pray-as-you-go.org for a quick meaningful meditation

God is all around us all the time working on us. It is we who are often too busy to stop and listen. The time to stop is now! Everything that keeps us from God, well, it’s just trivial!

Youth Calendar



God Squad April Calendar

- April** **5 – Palm Sunday** - No YG evening meeting (Spring break)
 9 – Maundy Thursday - 7:30pm service at church
 12 – Easter Sunday – 10am assist with Easter egg Hunt for children thru gr. 5
 No YG evening meeting
 19 – Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm
 26 - Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm

Youth Events

Good Friday Stations of the Cross – 4pm New this year, an afternoon Stations of the Cross will be offered for children led by our senior high youth. This time will be a hand on worship experience to bring new understanding of the Passion to our youngest parishioners. **All ages of children, young and old, are invited to attend.**

Sugar & Spice Dinners

Don’t forget to sign up for the **Sugar and Spice Dinners**. What are they? Monthly dinners that include a few families in a children friendly atmosphere that enjoy a meal together. The host will provide the entrée and beverages. Everyone else provides a side, salad or dessert. It’s a wonderful way to meet new as well as long standing parishioners.



Classical Concert for Coatesville Arson Victims to be held at Church of the Advent

A Community Concert of Classical Music will be held to benefit the victims of arson in Coatesville on Sunday, April 5th at 5 p.m. at the Church of the Advent. The Community Concert will be led by Advent's own Emmy Award winning pianist and composer, Wilson Somers, and will feature selections from John Rutter's "Mass of the Children", J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto #4 in G and two 'first performance' sections from Somers' Requiem 9/11.

Featured local artists include former mayor of Kennett Square, Leon Spencer (bass soloist), Karen Banos (violin), and Theresa Pierce (soprano soloist). They will be joined by the combined choirs from the Tatnall School in Wilmington, DE and Advent's Choir.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy classical music for a great cause. The concert is free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations are needed, but a free will offering is suggested. Proceeds will benefit the victims of the arson in Coatesville. For more information, visit www.church-of-the-advent.org



Casserole Committee

The Casserole Committee is looking for new members to join this vital and rewarding ministry! We prepare and deliver meals to parishioners at a time of need. When someone is recovering from surgery, has lost a family member, has a new baby, or has ongoing need for assistance in the kitchen, we try to help out by providing meals to the family. The average committee member makes 3 to 4 meals a year. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Linda Mercner at 610-793-0855 or lmercner@comcast.net, or Lisa Rayne at 610-255-0873 or Rayne@kennett.net, or sign-up on the sheet located in the Parish Hall.

Community Outreach Update

The Outreach Committee was busy in February. We made the Kennett Paper with our **Fill The Bus** held on February 21st. The paper came and took a picture in front of the Truck provided by the Kennett Area Community Service Food Cupboard truck. Parishioners donated generously and we were able to provide paper products, baby formula, dried milk and many other necessary items.

On February 28th the Outreach Committee held a **book sale**. All the proceeds will go to the Fire Victims in Coatesville. I want to extend a special Thank You to Jack and Esther Cavanaugh who worked many afternoons to sort and catalog the books. This was a fun event with book buyers coming from as far away as northern New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. This was due to the fact the we timed this sale to coordinate with the Unionville book sale and several others in the region.

The warm generosity of Church of The Advent shows that we truly understand that it is more Blessed to Give than it is to receive.

April 2009 Calendar			(this calendar was compiled on 3/6/09 and is subject to change)
Note: PCOC is the Pastoral Care & Office Center			
Wed	4/1	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - At. Ann
			E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		6:00 p.m.	Lenten Potluck Supper - Parish Hall
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	4/2	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting - PCOC Conference Room
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
Fri	4/3		CHRONICLE DEADLINE
Sat	4/4	8:00 a.m.	Spring Cleanup Day
		3-5:30 p.m.	Concert Dress Rehearsal - Sanctuary
Sun	4/5	Palm Sunday	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite
		4:00 p.m.	Classical Concert
		5:00 p.m.	Concert Reception - St. Nicholas
			NO Youth Group
Tues	4/7	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	4/8	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
			E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Tenebrae Service
Thur	4/9	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
		7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
		9 p.m. - 8 a.m.	Vigil - until 8 am.
Fri	4/10	Good Friday	OFFICE CLOSED
		Noon	Good Friday Service
		4:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross - St. Nicholas, Sanctuary & Youth Room
Sat	4/11	Holy Saturday	
		10:30 a.m. - noon	Choir Rehearsal - Church
		4:00 p.m.	Lighting of the Paschal Candle & Baptism(s)
Sun	4/12	Easter Sunday	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
			NO Youth Group
Mon	4/13	7:00 p.m.	Outreach - PCOC
Tues	4/14	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
		12-2:30 p.m.	E.F.M. Book Group - St. Ann
		6:30 p.m.	Membership Meeting - St. Nicholas
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	4/15	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir

Thurs	4/16	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Fri	4/17		Chronicle Mailing Date
Sat	4/18	10- 11:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
Sun	4/19	2 Easter	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		10:00 a.m.	CONFIRMATION
			Reception, following the service, in the parish hall
			NO 11 a.m. service
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group
Tues	4/21	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	4/22	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	4/23	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
Fri	4/24	9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Bib Making for Brian's House - PCOC
Sat	4/25	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Safe Church Training - Parish Hall
		6:00 p.m.	Salt Shaker Dinners - Off Site
Sun	4/26	3 Easter	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Annual Meeting & Vestry Elections-Parish Hall
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon	4/27	5:30 p.m.	Vestry - PCOC
Tues	4/28	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	4/29	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	4/30	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting

Parish Register

Deaths

Stephen Wylile
3/3/2009

Baptisms

Erin Marie Hamburg
2/21/2009



What is a Tenebrae Service?

A Tenebrae Service is an old English service of lessons, commentary on the lessons and the extinguishing of lights. This is a lay led service and each year, those who attend comment that they wish more people would come as it is such a moving service. Familiar hymns are sung between the readings and in the end the church is dark and it is a time to think for a moment without distraction. The entire service takes not quite an hour—the scripture readings are related to the Passion of Our Lord. We hope you consider joining us on Wednesday, April 8th.

Rector

The Rev. Canon David P. Thomas

Assistant Rector

The Rev. Raymond Nelson

Deacon

The Rev. Nancy Hauser

Parish Administrator

Jim Power

Music Director

Wilson G. Somers

Christian Education Director

Kathy Prible

Youth Ministry Director

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Holy Week Schedule:

April 5: **Palm Sunday**— 8 a.m., 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

April 8: **Holy Wednesday**— 10:30 a.m. Eucharist in Chapel and 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae in Church

April 9: **Maunday Thursday**— 7:30 p.m. Eucharist and Foot Washing (voluntary Vigil follows)

April 10: **Good Friday**— 12 noon Good Friday Liturgy (fifteen minute segments)
4 p.m. Stations of the Cross

April 11: **Holy Saturday**— 4 p.m. Lighting of Paschal Candle and Baptism

April 12: **EASTER**— 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. Eucharist (Brunch served 8:30 a.m. –11 a.m.)
Egg Hunt at 10 a.m.

April 19: 2nd Sunday of Easter— 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Eucharist & Confirmation. Bishop's Reception
Follows.

April 26: 3rd Sunday of Easter— 8 a.m., 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Eucharist—Annual Meeting in Parish
Hall at 10 a.m.