

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

# Chronicle

## Building a Strong Christian Family

### Letter from the Rector—The Rev. David Thomas



Dear Friends:

Will you be my Valentine? Cutesy cards with arrows, cupid and hearts are the rage this month. I realize that I am becoming a bit of a curmudgeon as I relate to another Hallmark holiday, but I remember the pain of fourth grade. I was quite smitten with a classmate and when I didn't receive a Valentine card from her, I was devastated. This person, who had captured my heart, was a girl who sat two rows to my left and one row forward. I have no idea what her name was or is, but I sure wanted a card from her. My mother, who was a teacher, gave me wise advice in third grade. That was the first time I remember having a Valentine's party in school. She said: "David, you will give a card to everyone in your class or you won't give anyone a card." (In those days, parents spoke with authority and stood behind their message). So often, even an oversight or innocent omission can cause another person unnecessary hurt.

Granted, my example was not life diminishing, but over the course of a lifetime if one is oblivious to other people's feelings, a lot of hurt can occur. Do you know anyone who continually does not return a phone call? How about a friend or relative who never acknowledges a gift? I am aware that thank-you notes are old fashioned, but they shouldn't be.

The Christian faith is all about love and kindness. It is about God loving each of us so much that he promises eternal life through his Son, Jesus. In 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, we have the great "love" passage. However, we must remember that we can not return the same kind of love to God that He showers upon us. What we can do is live LOVEABLE lives. Yes, the true witness to Christ is a person who is loveable. A loveable person is thoughtful of others, kind and considerate. Who doesn't respond positively to a loveable person?

Oh, ok, go ahead and send a loved one a Valentine card (I probably will also), but even more important is to work on being more loveable so that Christ will shine through you onto others. Have a happy Valentine's Day and keep warm this month.

Sincerely,

The Rev. David Thomas



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## Family Fun Night

Mark your calendars for Friday, February 6th for another evening of food, flicks and fun for families with young children up through 6th grade. If you missed the one in October, be sure to sign up for this one! Watch for more information in bulletin inserts and posters. Want to help? Call Kathy Prible at (610) 444-4624

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## “I Resolve that...”

~Kathy Prible

Ok, it's February 2009. We are six weeks removed from Christmas, and some of us still have trouble repacking the commercial reminders of Christ's presence in the world. For me, it is the final acknowledgement that I have to implement those New Year's resolutions so solemnly listed a month ago. The party's over and it's time to get busy.

My annual list always has a resolution to grow spiritually, whether it's discovering new ways to pray, pursuing new Bible or book studies, making my limited worship time more meaningful, or simply making it easier for me to do any of the above.

To build a habit—I'll choose chocolate as my example—all it takes is a very little bit each day to increase the desire, and develop a habit. If we start out with one chocolate chip a day, by the end of the week we'd be craving a Kiss (or a Hug!). Scarfing down Hershey Bars is but a week away, reaching for a bag of Bliss by month's end. If we put God in the place of the chocolate, just think what a daily visit would do for our relationship! Prayer is one way to visit God daily. I like it because of the variety of ways to use it. Why is it so easy to develop a chocolate habit, and so hard to visit Him on a regular basis? (Refer to paragraph 2 about 'making it easier')

I have found that when I have easy access to something, it's easier for me to build a discipline. Think of a candy bowl full 24/7. Most of us will continue to do something that is easy, convenient or enjoyable. Depending on what is going on in our lives, we each gravitate toward whatever fits our lifestyle. I spent a long time thinking regular Sunday worship was the key, but gradually discovered that something was missing (like having chocolate only on Sundays!) I always thought that daily prayer was reserved for the ordained, the scholars and the retired. I was convinced the Daily Office was meant to look intimidating to deter people like me from getting in over our heads.

As I was raising my children, I realized that I needed to be more intentional in developing my personal relationship with God if I was to teach them to do the same. Over time, I discovered a variety of ways to visit God on a daily basis, which I can change up to maintain interest, excitement, or meaning. I have been blessed to have friends and colleagues who share resources. After all, maybe I'd like a Godiva truffle instead of a Hershey's Kiss once in awhile, or white instead of dark chocolate!

I would like to share this collection of websites with you that my friend Wendy Barrie collected. Some of you will recognize a couple of these sites that I have already shared with you. Visit them and see if there is something new you can try that will enhance your daily visit with God. You will even find some to explore with your children. If we believe what Forrest Gump says: "Life is like a box of chocolates...", then we know we'll probably find something we'll like in the box. Or as one of my little friends once said, "you never know what you might like until you try it."

Blessings on the journey,

Kathy Prible



## Enhancing your journey~

### **Centering Prayer**

<http://www.contemplativeprayer.net/chapelPray.html>

Follow a 20-minute centering prayer exercise from St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado. The Lord's Prayer ends the 20-minute silence.

### **D365**

<http://www.d365.org>

A series of daily guided reflections with music. A quiet space for contemplation and prayer. It is written out of the office of Passport Inc. which is a student ministry organization sponsored by the Episcopal Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

### **Daily Office**

<http://www.missionstclare.com>

This site has the Daily Office in both English and Spanish. The Daily Office is a series of prayer services, including scripture, for morning, noon, and evening that are read by individuals privately as daily devotions and corporately as a liturgy in church.

### **Explore Faith**

<http://www.explorefaith.com>

An excellent site with numerous resources for prayer, faith, and spirituality. Answers to all kinds of faith questions for both adults and children.

### **Gratefulness**

<http://www.gratefulness.org>

A site dedicated to supporting a life of gratitude. Visitors can send e-cards and sign up to receive a word for the day

### **Labyrinth**

<http://www.labyrinth.org.uk>

An online prayer exercise using a virtual labyrinth that includes music, meditations, art, media and symbolic activities at intervals along the way.

### **Pray-As-You-Go**

<http://www.pray-as-you-go.org>

This site offers daily prayer podcasts to download to your iPod or audio player. It provides 10-minute guided meditations based on the Daily Office. You can subscribe to the RSS feed and the meditations will be automatically downloaded to your iPod or other mp3 player. Produced by Jesuit Media Initiatives.

### **Sacred Space**

<http://www.sacredspace.ie>

Daily prayer reflections in a variety of languages. These 10-minute guided meditations are produced by the Irish Jesuits. and include scripture, prayers and reflections.

## Instructional Eucharist

On February 1st and February 8th we have an Instructive Eucharist at the 9 a.m. service. The first Sunday the instruction takes us through the offertory and the second Sunday the instruction begins with the Great Thanksgiving through the closing hymn. This is a time for old timers to renew their understanding and for newcomers to begin to make a little sense out of the liturgy for which the Episcopal Church is so well known.

## Spaghetti Dinner : February 7th at 5:30 p.m.

New this year-Sauce contest! Spaghetti & Penne provided. Bring your own sauce or enjoy our house recipe. Come & enjoy some fellowship. If you can help set-up, clean-up or cook, sign up on the sheet in the foyer or contact Doug Keller at 610 444-8822 or Mark Girardot at 610 388-9136.

## Project Outreach: Fill The Bus

Project Outreach is moving forward. Our Fill The Bus was a great help to the Kennett Food Bank so we are doing another one February 21<sup>st</sup>. Watch for updates in the church bulletin for items that the Food Bank needs. We are also doing a book sale on the same date as Unionville High School does their book sale February 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: February 24th at 6 p.m.

Mark your calendar to come, enjoy and relax for an evening to start the Lenten season. Pancakes, sausage and applesauce will be served. Bring any old palms you have and we will burn them for ashes. If you can help set-up, clean-up or cook, sign up on the sheet in the foyer or contact Doug Kaucic at 610 869-7521 or [dsckyk@verizon.net](mailto:dsckyk@verizon.net) or Jim Palic at 610 793-3173 or [palic@onlc.com](mailto:palic@onlc.com).

## Ash Wednesday Services: February 25th

**Our service schedule is as follows: 6:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

It is the expectation that all good Episcopalians attend a service on Ash Wednesday. In the old unfashionable days it was known as a Day of Holy Obligation. Today, we are no longer obliged to do anything—so TRY TO GET TO CHURCH and GET YOUR ASHES.

## Lenten Dinner Schedule

The Lenten Dinners are Potluck. Please bring a dish to share. The Church will provide coffee, ice tea, water and the paper products. Mark your calendar and come share a meal and fellowship with your Church family!

March 4th	6:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
March 11th	6:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
March 18th	6:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
March 25th	6:00 p.m.	Parish Hall
April 1st	6:00 p.m.	Parish Hall



## Building a Strong Christian Family

### Welcome Fr. Ray

We are happy to share the good news that The Rev. Ray Nelson has accepted the part time position as the Assistant to the Rector at Advent. Fr. Ray and his wife Mimi, own a home in Landenberg and are here to stay. He has spent his adult life as a priest and as a headmaster of private schools, some Episcopal and others secular. Fr. Ray has been ordained since 1967 and brings a wealth of experience to us. Mimi is an artist and Fr. Ray is almost a scratch golfer - please give them a warm Advent welcome and introduce yourself to them - more than once!!! We believe it is God's will that the Nelsons and Advent found each other.

### Friday Movie Night Snacks — Volunteers Needed !

A great big **THANK YOU** to the following parishioners who provided a snack for the kids at the Chester County Youth Center last year: The Morton's, Schubert's, Cornelius', Rundle's, Frey's, Griffith's, Bennett's, Pember's, Thaeder's, Thorngate's, Bell's and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School class Halloween candy collections.

We are continuing this outreach project and are in need of families, couples, individuals or groups such as the Youth Group, Sunday School classes or scout troops to choose one Friday of one month to provide a snack to supplement popcorn for 30-40 teenagers. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Outreach bulletin board in the parish hall. Call or email Celia Kaucic at 610-869-7521 or [ogremom@verizon.net](mailto:ogremom@verizon.net), if you have further questions. Thank you for supporting the Outreach Committee.

### Confirmation Classes

If you have never been confirmed in the Episcopal Church or have never been received into the Church (that means you have already been confirmed in another church and are merely moving over to a new pew), come join a class next month (March) at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Nicholas Room (at the end of the hall). Everyone is welcome—even if you want to “brush up” on what we believe and are all about. There is NO obligation to join the church just because you attend these sessions with Fr. Dave.

### Courtyard Bricks

The engraved bricks currently found surrounding the Episcopal shield in the courtyard were given as a thank you to the many families who wished to be recognized for their contribution made to the capital campaign.

These bricks are once again being made available to Advent parishioners. They may be given not only in memoriam to a loved one or in thanksgiving of a special event (wedding/birth/baptism/confirmation) but also to show your continued support of Advent's enduring place in our community.

Once your order has been placed, and the brick engraved, each brick will be permanently installed in the outdoor terraced area located just outside of Parish Hall. Bricks may be engraved up to 3 lines with 15 characters in each line (including spaces). Cost is \$100 per brick.

Please contact Ellen Hollinger at 610-444-7454 or [emhollin@comcast.net](mailto:emhollin@comcast.net) for more information or details.

February 2009 Calendar			(this calendar was compiled on 1/12/09 and is subject to change)
Note: PCOC is the Pastoral Care & Office Center			
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2/1</b>	<b>4 Epiphany</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group
Tues	2/3	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	2/4	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9:00 a.m.	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thur	2/5	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
Fri	2/6	<b>CHRONICLE DEADLINE</b>	
		4-11 p.m.	Family Fun Night - Parish Hall
		TBA	Youth Depart for Ski Trip
Sat	2/6	10-11:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
		3:00-9:00 p.m.	Spaghetti Dinner - Parish Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2/7</b>	<b>5 Epiphany</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			Youth return from ski trip
Mon	2/9	7:00 p.m.	Outreach - PCOC
Tues	2/10	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	2/11	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	2/12	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Sat	2/14	10-11:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2/15</b>	<b>6 Epiphany</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			NO Youth Group
Mon	2/16	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>President's Day</b>

Tues	2/17	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
Wed	2/18	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	2/19	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Fri	2/20	<b>Chronicle Mailing Date</b>	
		9:00 p.m.	Youth Lock-In - Parish Hall & Chapel
Sat	2/21		Youth Lock-In Parish Hall & Chapel
		7 a.m. - 5 p.m.	<b>Fill the Bus</b> - parking lot
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2/22</b>	<b>Last Epiphany</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
			FORUM: Karen Conlin - Mt. Kilimanjaro
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon	2/23	5:30 p.m.	Vestry - PCOC
Tues	2/24	6:00 p.m.	<b>Pancake Supper</b> - Parish Hall
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	2/25	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	
		6:30 a.m.	<b>Distribution of Ashes</b>
		9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	<b>Distribution of Ashes</b>
		7:30 p.m.	<b>Distribution of Ashes</b>
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	2/26	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
Sat	2/27	TBA	Outreach Book Sale - Parish Hall
		6:00 p.m.	<b>Salt Shaker Dinners</b> - off site

## Parish Register

### Births:

#### **Regan & Morgan Bieberbach**

Twin granddaughters of Len & Diane Bieberbach, and daughters of Chris & Linda Bieberbach

### Deaths:

#### **Janet Strauss**

**12/31/2008**



**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**

Jan Berry Schroeder

**Office Manager**

Kathy Gebhart

**Parish Secretary**

Ann Daemer

**Sexton**

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## The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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**Website: [www.church-of-the-advent.com](http://www.church-of-the-advent.com)**

## Did you know...???

### Feasts and Holy Days: Cornelius the Centurion: February 4th

All that we know of Cornelius is contained in the Book of Acts (chapters 10 and 11). A centurion was a Roman army officer, theoretically in charge of a hundred men. Several centurions are mentioned in the New Testament (Matt 8:5 = Luke 7:2; Matt 27:54 = Luke 23:47; Acts 10:1; 22:25; 23:17,23; 22:23; 27:1), and they are consistently portrayed favorably.

Cornelius is called a God-fearer--that is to say, he was a Gentile who worshipped the One God. The Jews traditionally recognized that such Gentiles had a place in the Family of God, and they are mentioned along with the priests (House of Aaron), the Levites (House of Levi), and the Jews or Israelites (House of Israel) in Ps 115:9-13, Ps 118:2-4, and Ps 135:19-20.

Cornelius, then, was a Roman centurion, and a God-fearing man. One day, as he was praying, an angel appeared to him and told him to send a messenger to Joppa and ask Peter to come and preach to him. Peter, meanwhile, was given a vision that disposed him to go with the messenger. When Peter had preached to Cornelius and his family and friends, the Holy Spirit fell on them. Cornelius was the first Gentile converted to Christianity, along with his household, and Luke, recording this event, clearly regards it as an event of the utmost importance in the history of the early Church, the beginning of the Church's decision to admit Gentiles to full and equal fellowship with Jewish Christians.

*by James Kiefer*