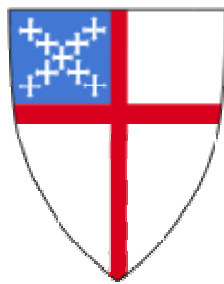


The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Chronicle



Letter from the Rector—The Rev. David Thomas

Dear Friends,

Whenever I hear "Pomp and Circumstance" played at graduations I always tear up and become emotional. Perhaps it is because some of my best years were in high school and I hated to leave those surroundings. I know that for many people high school is something you would just as soon forget, but for me it was a great time. It was after high school that I began a slide that took me into some dark places and it took many years and difficult work to rise up to the level that I could once again see and feel the sunshine. June is graduation month and many of our young members will be graduating from secondary school. They will scatter to all ends of the earth and will begin another phase of their lives. As I think about it we all experience many graduations.

We graduate from high school and then from either college or the military and then we begin our first full time job. We graduate from single hood to married life and then to parenting. We ultimately graduate from middle age adulthood into the "golden years" of maturity. Depending on which phase you find yourself you may think this is the most difficult but I kind of imagine we need to live them all before deciding. Each is specific and unique unto itself. For some of us who are moving into evening of our lives, it is interesting that we often remember more about the past than the present. It is not uncommon to find oneself sharing medical issues with friends and comparing treatments and operations. As so many have said, the golden years is often more about patching than anything else.

Yet, how blessed we are. We all have more than we need and we have been born into a free land where we, all too often, take our freedoms for granted. Stop for a moment and think about what phase of life you presently find yourself. Give thanks for your life and enjoy each day.

My prayer for our young people is that in the next few years they will remember, regardless of the circumstances they find themselves in, that God is always aware of them and loving them. He won't straighten the curves in life's road nor level the valleys or hills but He will empower them and assist them in making that road less difficult to travel. Just think, if a young person opens his or her heart to God at a young age, when they reach the mature "golden years" they will have shared the journey of life with a close friend who has never stopped loving them. What a wonderful way to approach the final phase of life.

Faithfully,

The Rev. David Thomas

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ADVENT GOES GREEN!

E-Chronicle Trial Period Coming to an End!

Over the past several months, parishioners (with internet access) have been receiving both the paper version and the electronic version of the Chronicle. We have received such an enormous amount of support in favor of the e-chronicle, that, beginning September, **ALL** parishioners who have been receiving both the paper version and the electronic version of the chronicle will begin receiving **ONLY** the electronic version. If you prefer the paper version and want to continue receiving it in September, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AND TELL THEM YOU WANT THE PAPER VERSION. The number for the church office is: 610-444-4624. Thanks again for helping Advent think green!

MINISTRY FAIR!

A Huge THANK YOU goes out from each of our Commissions and to everyone who was able to attend the Ministry Fair on May 4th! What a great way to share your gifts of time and talent!

Summer Ministry—Assistance Needed

Short-Term Assistance Needed!

Over the past many weeks, we've been successfully recording Advent's Sunday Sermons, which are posted to our website and burned to cds for our library and for delivery to sick/shut-ins. We are in need of volunteers with a laptop computer to aid in this ministry over the summer months. Minimal training and supplies will be provided. Please contact Helen Bilinski (610-347-0401) or bilinski2@aol.com if you are able to help.

How Important is Christian Education at Advent?

Does each Sunday School class have a full complement of teachers ? What does this say to the kids about us?.....about THEM? What happens in the Fall depends on the committment of our Advent family to pass on the faith? It is up to us to take a stand in their lives as teachers, mentors, and role models. Ask not, "Will our children have faith (they already do), but will our faith have children." (Quote from John Westerhoff). If you would like to find a place to fit in, call or e-mail Kathy Prible (610-444-4624 or KLPrible@yahoo.com)



Confirmation—May 11, 2008

What a wonderful turnout we had for Confirmation! If you missed the service, but would like to hear Bishop Borsch's sermon, please visit our website at www.church-of-the-advent.com. Click on the worship page.

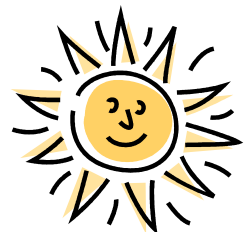
Pictured are our 8th & 9th grade confirmands (listed alphabetically): Raymond Bilinski, Kaitlyn Broomall, Casey Brown, Andrew Carlino, Nathan and James Chapman, Zachary Chew, Miller Cornelius, Will Garrett, Evan Gatter, Rebecca Gray, Duncan Keller, Tyler Kump, Brian Mangan, Ryan McCabe, RJ Moores, Matthew Olsen, Coleman Petrillo, Kirsten Reisinger, Hunter Scales, Kate Steller, Andrew Stookey and Julie Wushensky.

Special recognition and heartfelt thanks goes to Helen Bilinski and Rick Ullrich for teaching confirmation this year. It could not have been done without their willing and faithful service to their call. Blessings to both them and our newly confirmed God Squad members!

The following adults and older teens were not in the above picture but were confirmed at the same time. They are: Robert Hennes, Reegan Zehr, Robin Newman, Robert Newman, Larry Bosley, Irene Bosley, Margaret Nichols, Jason Schlitzer and Melissa Carter. Also, Robert Dionne and Margaret Hennes were received from another apostolic communion.

Children's Summer Chapel

Children ages 4 through first grade are invited to join us in the St. Jude room for Summer Chapel from 10 - 10:30 on Sunday mornings. Volunteers will show a video on Bible stories and Christian values and shepherd the kids upstairs to join families for the Holy Eucharist. The Summer Chapel begins May 25th and runs through the end of July.



Trial of Bishop Charles Bennison

As you may know, the Episcopal Church's trial of Bishop Charles Bennison will begin on June 9. It is important to understand just what the charges against him are, what the procedures will be, and what the potential outcome could be. It is also important to know the ways we can support one another during this time.

The charges, which date back to the 1970's when Bishop Bennison was rector of St. Mark's Church in Upland, CA., were outlined in a presentment (the church's equivalent of an indictment). It was that presentment that led to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's inhibition of the Bishop last November 4.

The two counts of the presentment center on accusations that Bishop Bennison did not respond properly after learning sometime in 1973 that his brother, John, who worked as a lay youth minister in parish, initiated frequent sexual contact with a 14-year old female member of the youth group. John Bennison was married at the time. In the first count, the Bishop is accused of not taking the proper steps after he learned of the misconduct and, according to the presentment, basically covering up his brother's actions and reacting "passively and self-protectively." The second count accuses Bishop Bennison of continuing to fail in his duties until the fall of 2006. His brother John was ordained during this time and the Bishop is accused of not preventing that ordination and not responding appropriately as word of his brother's misconduct became more widely known.

The trial will be held at the Philadelphia Marriott, 12th and Market Sts., beginning June 9. It could last four days or more and will be open to the public. The space is said to be a typical courtroom size, seating perhaps 50, including all court personnel and press. A nine-judge panel consisting of five bishops, two priests and two laypersons chaired by the Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith, Bishop of Connecticut, will hear the evidence.

Within 30 days after the trial is finished a verdict will be announced, a verdict which requires a 2/3rd vote of the members of the court. If fewer than 2/3rds find that an offense has been committed, the presentment is dismissed, the inhibition will end and he will be able to resume his full Episcopal duties. If, on the other hand, Bishop Bennison is found to have committed an offense, sentencing is decided in about thirty days. He may appeal the conviction and the sentence. The appeal process could last several months before the Court of Review of a Trial of a Bishop, a nine-bishop body, hears the appeal and either upholds or overturns the original court's verdict.

This is a sad and difficult chapter in the life of this Diocese. It is absolutely vital that justice be served, even though the pursuit thereof is likely to awaken anxiety, anger and fear, especially among those who have first-hand experience of abuse. In the Episcopal Church, no congregation stands alone: we are related to our sisters and brothers through-out the Diocese and, indeed, the world-wide Anglican Communion. Our unity as a diocese is symbolized in the office of the bishop. I call upon each of you to join Nancy, Tony and me in your daily prayers: for the victims of abuse and their families; for our church – the Bishop and his wife Joan, Diocesan Leaders, and our own congregation; for those who shall pass judgment in this trial; for ourselves.



Advent encourages Education for Ministry participation

Education for Ministry is a program sponsored by Sewanee, The University of the South. It is the core course taught in Sewanee's School of Theology.

EFM is designed to educate participants in the faith and to help people discern their ministry in the world. Some participants earn credits toward seminary. Others use the course to define their ministry as laity in the world.

The program is sent to students from Sewanee to study at home. Participants then meet with a trained mentor once a week. The weekly meeting is two and a half hours in duration and is structured to include: a period of worship, a time for review and discussion of lessons and a segment for theological reflection.

Theological reflection is a technique for examining important issues in our lives and in the world through the lenses of our experience, our church, biblical tradition, and our culture. The reflection concludes with a discussion regarding our own personal positions on the topic discussed and our collective insights about it. Finally, and most significantly, we talk about what implications we have gleaned for our individual ministries from the reflection.

EFM is a four year course covering Old Testament, New Testament, church tradition and theological insights. Students only need to sign up for one year at a time. The fee is \$340 a year. EFM at Advent meets on Wednesday mornings throughout the year (except in the summer). It is an extremely rewarding study and group experience; however, it does require commitment, monetarily and time wise. Those who have taken it are genuinely enthusiastic about it. I will have an introductory session for those who are interested during the latter part of May.

The maximum number of members recommended for a group is 12. If you are interested in joining EFM next fall, please contact me at (610) 388-1303.

Peggy Newton

June Calendar (subject to change)			
Note: PCOC is the Pastoral Care & Office Center			
Sun	6/1	3 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	Iced Tea & Fellowship
Wed	6/4	9:30 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Nicholas Room
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
Sun	6/8	4 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	Iced Tea & Fellowship
Mon	6/9	7:30 a.m.	Stewardship Commission-PCOC Con. Rm.
Wed	6/11	10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
Thurs	6/12	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
		5:00 P.M.	E.F.M. Graduation
		7:00 p.m.	Kennett H.S. Baccalaureate
Fri	6/13	2-7:30 p.m.	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sun	6/15	5 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	Iced Tea & Fellowship
Tue	6/17	9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Staff Planning Day
Wed	6/18	10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting - St. Ann
Thurs	6/19	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
Sun	6/22	6 Pentecost	
		Youth Mission Trip to Logan, WV	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	Iced Tea & Fellowship
Wed	6/25	10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
Thurs	6/26	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
Fri	6/27	Youth return from Mission Trip to Logan, WV	
Sun	6/29	7 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	Iced Tea & Fellowship
		11:30 a.m.	Vestry Meeting - PCOC Conference Room
July Calendar (subject to change)			
Thurs	7/3	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
Fri	7/4	OFFICE CLOSED for July 4th holiday	
Sun	7/6	8 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	Iced Tea & Fellowship
Wed	7/9	10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
Sun	7/13	9 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	Iced Tea & Fellowship
Mon	7/14	7:30 a.m.	Stewardship Commission-PCOC Con. Rm.
Wed	7/16	10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting - St. Ann
Thurs	7/17	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
Sun	7/20	10 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	Iced Tea & Fellowship
Wed	7/23	10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
Thurs	7/24	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
Sun	7/27	11 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	Iced Tea & Fellowship
Wed	7/30	10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel

Announcements for June/July

LOST & FOUND: If you are missing: glasses, gloves, sunglasses, leather jacket, leather coat, purple Columbia fleece, baseball hats, purse, toys and/or other miscellaneous items, please check the coat rack in the reception area. These items will be donated to the rummage sale if they are not picked up.

If you have borrowed books from the library and are waiting to return them, now is the time! Please check around...we are missing a number of books.

From the Parish Register:

Births

Logan William Rundle Son of Dan & Sherry Grieco Rundle, Grandson of Al & Ealise Rundle and Bill & Katherine Turner

Weddings

5/3/08 Cortney Walker & Alex Rohr, III

Deaths

4/29/08 Richard Stewart



Memorial Garden

Phyllis Wenner would like to thank all who helped with spring clean-up, planting the final phase, and mulching of the Memorial Garden: Alice Bucher, Ann & Renee Daemer, Tala Graham, Jill Gray, Lyle Mall, Ealise Rundle, Meg & John Rush, Deb Schmittle, Linda Steller, Alice & Bill Steltzer, Rick Ullrich, Brian Walls, and John Wenner.

Thank you, also, to Dan Reisinger & family for cleaning the garden benches.

What a great team effort!



Advent's New Copier (by Jim Power, Parish Administrator)

Growth in the number of Advent parishioners and parish sponsored programs resulted in replacing the old photocopier with a new copier with enhanced capabilities. This new copier enables parish staff and commission members to produce documents for distribution more efficiently.

The new copier maintenance agreement is not a fixed amount like the former agreement, but instead, the parish is charged a usage fee for each copy made and for enhanced functionality like color printing. In an effort to effectively manage and allocate expenses, "billing codes" were established for copier use and are posted over the copier. There is a code for each commission, administrative offices and a code for "Personal Use" of the copier. If you require assistance, please ask one of the parish staff for help.

To avoid confusion, "Personal Use" is defined as copies that are not associated with "official parish business" or as part of an "official parish program" overseen by a vestry commission. If you use the copier for "Personal Use", please print your name, date, number and type of copies (B/W or Color) on clipboard located next to the copier. At month-end, when internal charges to commissions and administration are allocated by the office manager, you will be contacted with information on the cost of your copies.

Thanks so much for helping the parish staff responsibly manage expenses and other resources entrusted to us so we can forward God's work in our church and the community.

Summer Nursery Hours

Childcare in the nursery will continue to be provided for children aged 6 months through 3 years of age. Our babysitter will be there for the **10:00 service** throughout the summer.

Ice Tea Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to make ice tea for June through September. Please sign up for a Sunday (or two or three!) to make tea. Sign up in the narthex. Thank you!

A Pledge of Faith~

The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank all those who made pledges in 2007 for 2008. We are pleased to announce that we had approximately 70% of our current membership complete pledge cards and commitments for a total of \$719,035. This represents an 8% increase over the prior year. Thank you for your gifts and support of our ministry. As you know, our strategic planning process has outlined many goals for Advent moving forward and it is through these gifts that we are able to minister to our congregation and the community at large. Thank you.

God Squad Updates

Senior Recognition Sunday. . . The Advent high school graduates of 2008 were recognized for their achievement during church on May 4 and were presented with a bible from the church. Pictures of our graduates along with a biography and future plans will remain posted for the summer on the youth bulletin board in Parish Hall.

June 22-27 Logan, West Virginia Mission Trip is almost here! Twenty teen have said "yes" to serving God through their presence by performing home repairs and running a vacation bible school. Please hold them and their co-leaders in your prayers as we plan and prepare for our trip. And pray for all those spending time this summer being God's helping hands to people in need.

Special Request!

Special Request: sponsors for next year's confirmation class are needed! We need adult community members willing to support an 8th grade student as he or she prepare for confirmation starting this fall. As a sponsor you are asked to get to know your student through informal meetings over coffee or tea. An information meeting will be held in September that gives you questions to ask your student; along with ideas for meeting. Meeting every 4-6 weeks is suggested, and often times this can be done before or after church. *Over the summer months please prayerfully consider becoming a sponsor. Is God calling you to this special and meaningful service?*

Sponsor a young confirmand? Is God calling you to this special and meaningful service?

Mission Trip Request

Our great youth will be leaving in June for another Mission Trip. Jan Schroeder has spent a great deal of time preparing for this week of work, fun and growing together spiritually - parents please support the mission trip by being on time with your teen to leave and to be present when they return. God speed to all of you on this wonderful adventure.

The Rev. Tony Vanucci

Beginning in June, The Rev. Tony Vanucci will be with us on Sundays as well as Wednesday and Thursdays. Please welcome him the first Sunday of June and we are sure that you will find him a real gift from God.

God doesn't leave you during the summer - you might want to consider if you want to leave Him - worship all summer will be at 8 and 10 - see you there.

“Mama Says...” a column for **Just for Youth** by the Director of Youth Ministry, Jan Schroeder, known to the God Squad as “Mama J”.

Mama says . . . read **1 John 3:18**...“let us love not by word or speech, but in truth and action.” May – it is the busiest time of year for students. The school year is coming to an end; the summer is yet to begin. End of the year projects are due; last minute quizzes and tests get squeezed in; final exams still loom; and the calendar is packed with too many year-end events like banquets, picnics, last games of the season and prom.

There is graduation at school and confirmation at church. Endings and beginnings; emotions run high and everything seems uncertain as you move from one grade to the next, from confirmation to graduation. What *is* certain is that many of you want to make a difference in the world by making it a better place. 1 John 3:18 tells us to “love not by word or speech but in truth and action”. Simply put – our actions speak louder than our words.

So as you gear up for summer and make plans for fall, it’s a perfect time to take stock of this past school year. Examine your choices and actions. Recall what you are proud of having done. Reflect on where you can improve. Start right here, right now, knowing that God loves you just as you are. Sure, none of us are perfect. We may have hurt someone unintentionally, but what keeps us faithful is the awareness of our actions and our unwavering intent to help. So move forward this summer. Forgive and forget. Let your actions reflect the real you. Make things better and help your own family or a neighbor. Offer to visit a church member who is sick. Open the door for someone at the mall. You can serve anytime – anywhere and be the smile that someone needs! Our choices are what define us. Make your actions speak louder than words. “They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love.” Word!



*1 John 3:18:
“Love not by word or
speech but in truth and
action.”*

Parishioner Profile (aka “the pink form”)

If your family has not completed and returned the Parishioner Profile, please do so as soon as possible. In an effort to update our database and to get you connected to Advent, we’d greatly appreciate all families completing the form. You can see the ushers for a form or download one from our website at www.church-of-the-advent.com. Completed forms can be placed in the collection plate. If you have turned in a form and you indicated an interest in sharing your talents with the church, you will be contacted in the coming weeks by the appropriate vestry member about getting involved. Thank you in advance for sharing your spiritual gifts.

Rector

The Rev. Canon David P. Thomas

Acting Assistant to the Rector

The Rev. Anthony Vanucci

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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Did you know...???

Holy Day Celebration: St. Barnabas—June 11th

Joseph, a Levite, born in Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (son of encouragement), sold a field he owned, brought the money, and turned it over to the apostles." (Acts 4:36f). This is the first mention we have of Barnabas.

His new name fits what we know of his actions. When Saul (or Paul) came to Jerusalem after his conversion, most of the Christians there wanted nothing to do with him. They had known him as a persecutor and an enemy of the Church. But Barnabas was willing to give him a second chance. He looked him up, spoke with him, and brought him to see the other Christians, vouching for him. Later, Paul and Barnabas went on a missionary journey together, taking Mark with them. Part way, Mark turned back and went home. When Paul and Barnabas were about to set out on another such journey, Barnabas proposed to take Mark along, and Paul was against it, saying that Mark had shown himself undependable. Barnabas wanted to give Mark a second chance, and so he and Mark went off on one journey, while Paul took Silas and went on another. Apparently Mark responded well to the trust given him by the "son of encouragement," since we find that Paul later speaks of him as a valuable assistant (2 Tim 4:11; see also Col 4:10 and Phil 24).

~ James Kiefer