

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

# Chronicle

Building a Strong Christian Family

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



Dear Friends:

Ok, what are you planning on giving up for Lent? I suppose some of you will want to give up eating meat on Fridays. The idea of giving up something is so that you can replace it with an activity that will draw you closer to God. My experience in giving up meat on Fridays was that it was replaced with a lovely salmon, flavored with a pinch of dill and just a hint of lemon. As I would graze upon this type of sacrifice, I somehow, was miles and miles away from the nail pitted cross of Golgotha. Now, if one was to give up lunch and used that time to read something of value (see our suggested readings in another section of this epistle) that would be giving up something that produced a positive outcome.

There is nothing wrong with giving up something if it produces spiritual growth. Another approach is to “take on” something. Perhaps giving someone you know a ride during Lent to a shopping mall or a doctor’s appointment. Perhaps it is sending a note to someone you have been meaning to communicate with for a long time but just haven’t gotten to it. Perhaps it is making a commitment to worship each week during Lent. One might even explore finding a ministry that would interest one and would also become a benefit to others.

Here’s a novel idea – how about five minutes of prayer a day as a Lenten discipline? In the back of the church are Day by Day booklets containing short meditations for each day – you might try reading a two minute meditation each day – you could even combine it with your daily prayer.

Whatever your discipline is for Lent – DO SOMETHING. Don’t become so ingrained and apathetic with your faith that you are not willing to grow and to be uplifted. Just as we all continue to learn something new about life each day, we also need to be open to daily lessons from the Holy Spirit. To be closed is really to be closed to God.

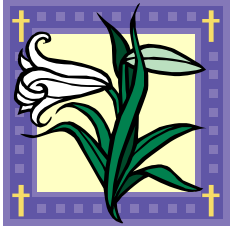
Take on – give up – it’s your choice - just be sure it is not a meaningless ritual but an effort to grow more familiar with the living Lord..

Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon David Thomas

### Inside this issue:

Easter Flowers	2
Lenten Season Notes	
Children’s Program	
Recorded Sermons	
Adult Spirituality	3
Outreach Thank You	
Daylight Savings Time	
“Mama Says...”	4
God Squad Calendar	
Music Notes	5
Community Outreach	
Communications	
Calendar	6-7
Parish Register	7
Did You Know?	8



## Easter Flower Offering Envelopes

Help us decorate the church, in celebration of Christ's resurrection, by using the flower offering envelope enclosed in this Chronicle, and making a donation in someone's memory or in thanksgiving. You may also pick up an offering envelope in the narthex, or use the Easter flower offering envelope in your box of envelopes if you use offering envelopes).

## Lenten Season Notes~

- By the time you receive this edition of the Chronicle, Lent will have begun. If you missed Ash Wednesday, or the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday—don't give up faith, there are plenty of other opportunities to assist your journey to the cross and then to the Garden with the empty tomb. Each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., we have a pot luck dinner with a program. There is also a program for children. We conclude each evening with a short informal Eucharist for the entire family. This year we have a particularly exciting line up; we have two high school seniors, and three adults who will be sharing their spiritual journeys! You won't want to miss them as well as getting to know more of our church family.
- Each Sunday in Lent, Fr. Ray will be teaching a course on Romans for Adults during the forum time at 10 a.m. All are welcome.
- Each Sunday in Lent, Fr. Dave will be conducting an adult and late teen CONFIRMATION CLASS. While everyone is invited to attend these classes, they are intended for those who have not yet been confirmed in the Episcopal Church, or have been confirmed in another church. There is no pressure about joining the church. This class is purely informational and serves as the instruction if you desire to be received or confirmed. Time/Location: 10 a.m. in the St. Nick's Room.
- Our Spiritual Walks during the Lenten Season—Need a little time for yourself? Would you like a little meditation moment? Each Saturday morning during Lent you have an open invitation to join a group of walkers at 8:30 a.m. in the Church's parking lot. We will have a quick devotion and prayer, and then we will walk, jog or run. There is no set path, rules or time limits. Just some time to share with God. Generally, folks walk around the cemetery, or walk thru downtown Kennett. Walks take place on March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and will end April 4th. Wear warm clothes, comfy shoes and bring your water bottle!

## Children's Lenten Program

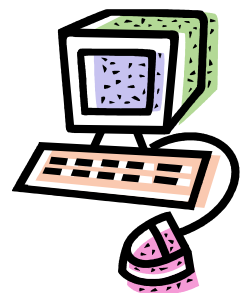
All Advent families are invited and encouraged to come to the Wednesday evening Lenten Potluck Dinners. Families will share food and fellowship, after which the children (up through 5th grade) will participate in special Lenten activities, while older children and youth join with adults in the parish hall for short program. A brief, informal Eucharist follows. Babysitting will be provided, on request, for infants up through 3 years old. Please RSVP to the office so we will know how many babies to plan for. If you are new or have any questions, please call Kathy Prible at 610-444-4624.

## Missed Sunday's Service?

Visit [www.church-of-the-advent.com](http://www.church-of-the-advent.com) to listen to our sermons! Click on "Worship Services" and then "Recorded Sermons". Files can be downloaded to your computer or mp3 player for added convenience!

**Don't have a computer?** Please stop by the church library and borrow sermon recordings on CD! CD players are also available to borrow.

**Are you sick/shut in?** Advent can distribute these CDs on an on-going basis to anyone wishing to receive them. No need to return the CDs—they are yours to keep! Contact the church office (610-444-4624) to let them know you are interested.



## News from Adult Spirituality

***Psalm 149:4 "For the Lord delights in His people; He crowns the humble with salvation."***

Please join us each Wednesday night during the Lenten Season for fellowship and spiritual nourishment. Pot Luck dinners begin at 6 p.m. Please bring main dishes, salads, vegetables and desserts. The church will provide coffee, tea and water. We have a wonderful group of speakers this year, please mark your calendars and join fellow parishioners as they share their spiritual journey with us.

- **March 4th:** D.J. Carlino, Senior at Unionville High School. Topic: Journey with God as he faced life challenges
- **March 11th:** Father Ray Nelson, Assistant Priest at Advent. Topic: Journey with God in service
- **March 18th:** Deb Schmittle, Interior decorator and fitness instructor at the Y.M.C.A. Topic: Spiritual Journey through mind, body and soul.
- **March 25th:** Louisa Diffey, Senior at Unionville High School. Topic: Preparing her spiritual walk as she prepares for college life.
- **April 1st:** Barbara Thorton, long time member of Advent. Topic: Following her spiritual journey as the church has grown through her art of making icons.

As you listen to these stories, we hope you will hear how God has lead these folks, and will encourage you to enlighten your own spiritual journey. The labyrinth will be available before and after the dinners. We will have someone there to help you with your walk and give you information if you need assistance.

—————→ **Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!** ←————

### **Souper Bowl of Caring-**

**THANK YOU!** Our community of faith helped the youth raise **\$648.49** for the Kennett Food Cupboard along with 434 non-perishable food items. This is an increase of over \$100.00 and eight times the amount of food! This couldn't have been done without the help of Cathy Spreen and the Outreach Committee. *Are you ready? We're doing it again next year!*

### **Jazz Vespers-**

Warm and hearty thanks to all who came out to our last Jazz Vespers. It was attended by 200+ people who heard music of Duke Ellington and Clifford Brown. Special thanks to the musical contributions of Ed "the Lion" Kirkpatrick, Tenor Saxophone; Leon Spencer the "scat-cat" jazz vocalist and the articulate choral conducting of Nick Ronaghan. The freewill offering raised **\$1,048.00** for the Kennett Food Cupboard. Thanks also to our clergy, Fr. Dave and Fr. Ray, for their leadership in the liturgy, Doug Keller for technical assistance, and George Lewis for helping with the collection.

### **Valentine's Day Candy Bags-**

Candy donations were **DOUBLE** what the Outreach Committee expected! Advent was able to provide **61** Valentine's Day Candy Bags to the Chester County Youth Center.



## **Don't Forget Daylight Savings Time!**

**Turn your clocks ahead on March 7th as Day Light Savings begins 2 a.m. on Sunday!**

## “Mama J Says.....”

~Jan Schroeder, Director of Youth Ministry

**IF** we as Christians were passionate and deeply committed to loving, giving, protecting, encouraging, removing barriers, doing good and caring for each other as God’s family how different would our world be? **IF** you could spend one day with God, what would you do? **IF** your family life and school days were filled with peace instead of stress or strife how would your days be different? **What if?**

This was the theme for our annual winter blast trip. Twenty youth and four co-leaders headed to the hills of the Poconos, rented a cabin and spent a weekend skiing and exploring this topic. We acknowledged ways we fall apart from God and one another and the pain this causes others and ourselves. We took stock of our blessings and became aware of our many gifts and talents. We renewed our baptismal vows and accepted responsibility for our spiritual journeys committing ourselves to God, each other, our families and our Advent community. We shared an agape meal and partook in a love feast of hot chocolate and spiced cracker bread around an outdoor fire pit. And, of course, we spent a day skiing.

Our challenge was to keep Christ centered in the midst of our fun in preparation for doing this in our daily lives. We encourage all of you to try this. As we approach the season of Lent, “what if” you posted inspirational bible verses and quotes in places you look throughout the day: your bathroom mirror, your closet door, the front of a notebook, inside a locker, or on your family car steering wheel? God is in and around us all of the time. We discovered we just have to stop and listen. “What if” you tried it? “What if” you invited your family to join you? And “what if” others followed your lead and tried it themselves. We might just create that world we were describing where people of faith were passionate and deeply committed, where we spent our days aware of God with us and our lives were more peaceful and less filled with strife. What if? What IF indeed!

## Godsquad Lenten Calendar

- March**    1 – No YG *due to weekend activities; have a Family Night at home!!*  
               8 – Youth Group  
               15 – Youth Group  
               22 – Youth Group  
               29 – Youth Group
- April**     5 – Palm Sunday starts Holy Week; check your email for details!  
               12-Easter Sunday, No YG

*All meetings will be held at the church from 6 until 8pm. Lenten plans are underway and will be emailed to all youth. If you do not receive these emails and want to, call the church office and make sure we have your address!*

**Parents help your youth connect with Advent during Lent.** Even if your teens aren't regular youth group attendees - encourage them to give the Lenten programs a try. Our programs succeed because of parental support and encouragement. To make sure we have their email address to receive youth updates or for special concerns or needs call Jan Schroeder at the church office. We want all Advent teens to feel included!



## Music Notes...

~Wilson Somers, Music Director

- Our **Chancel Choir** has been invited to sing at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Michael's Lutheran Church! The concert will be held on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 4 p.m., in St. Michael's Church on Doe Run Rd. and Rt. 82 in Unionville. This program will also support the Kennett Food Cupboard. St. Michael's purchased their first church from the Advent community and felt especially called to include our choir in their celebration!
- Please put April 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. on your calendars for the next special concert of classical music featuring the combined choirs of Advent and the Tatnall School. Music featured will include selections by Bach, John Rutter, and Wilson Somers.

## Community Outreach—We Need Your Support!

The Chester County Youth Center, the on-going parish project, began in celebration of Advent's 125th Anniversary. Let's keep it going!

Paper gift bags (5"x7" or 8" x 10") for birthdays, holidays and "student of the week" are appreciated by youth ages 12 to 18 at the center. Bag donations are needed as well as items to fill these bags. Items needed:

- Toiletries (lotions, toothbrushes, cologne)
- Puzzles (crossword and sudoku)
- Socks/hats
- Hair accessories for girls
- Small books/journals
- Playing cards
- Chapstick
- A candy treat
- Some type of spiritual or inspirational quote or small card

\*\*\*\*PLEASE NO SHARP OBJECTS OR GUM\*\*\*\*

If you have any other suggestions, please do not hesitate to let us know. Items can be placed in the box labeled "CCYC Gift Bags" in the hallway near the food collections. Volunteers are always welcome! If you have any questions, call Suzanne Pusey (610.444.0752) or Debbie O'Brien (610.444.1381). Thank you for your generosity!



## Help Improve Advent's Communications!

We are always interested in hearing ideas about how we can better communicate with ALL of Advent's parishioners! Please contact chairperson, Helen Bilinski at 610.347.0401 or bilinski2@aol.com with any ideas/comments/concerns!

**March 2009 Calendar**  
(this calendar was compiled on 2/6/09 and is subject to change)

**Note: PCOC is the Pastoral Care & Office Center**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/1</b>	<b>1 Lent</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
			<b>Adult Forum - Barbara Thornton</b>
			Adult Confirmation Class - St. Nicholas
			Course on <i>Romans</i> by Fr. Ray - St. Ann
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			NO Youth Group
Tues	3/3	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	3/4	9:00 a.m.	<b>Bible Study - PCOC Conference Room</b>
		9:00 a.m.	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	<b>Eucharist - PCOC Conference Room</b>
		6:00 p.m.	<b>Lenten Potluck Supper - Parish Hall</b>
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thur	3/5	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
Fri	3/6	<b>CHRONICLE DEADLINE</b>	
Sat	3/7	<b>TURN CLOCKS AHEAD when you go to bed</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/8</b>	<b>2 Lent</b>	<b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
			Adult Confirmation Class - St. Nicholas
			Course on <i>Romans</i> by Fr. Ray - Parish Hall
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon	3/9	7:00 p.m.	Outreach - PCOC
Tues	3/10	12-2:30 p.m.	E.F.M. Book Group - St. Ann
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	3/11	9:00 a.m.	<b>Bible Study - PCOC Conference Room</b>
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	<b>Eucharist - PCOC Conference Room</b>
		11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
		6:00 p.m.	<b>Lenten Potluck Supper - Parish Hall</b>
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	3/12	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Sat	3/14	10- 11:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/15</b>	<b>3 Lent</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
			Adult Confirmation Class - St. Nicholas
			Newcomer Coffee - St. Ann & St. Timothy
			Course on <i>Romans</i> by Fr. Ray - Parish Hall
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group

Tues	3/17	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
		6:30 p.m.	Membership Meeting - St. Nicholas
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	3/18	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		6:00 p.m.	<b>Lenten Potluck Supper - Parish Hall</b>
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	3/19	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Fri	3/20	<b>Chronicle Mailing Date</b>	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/22</b>	<b>4 Lent</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
			Adult Confirmation Class - St. Nicholas
			Course on <i>Romans</i> by Fr. Ray - Parish Hall
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon	3/23	5:30 p.m.	Vestry - PCOC
Tues	3/24	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	3/25	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		6:00 p.m.	<b>Lenten Potluck Supper - Parish Hall</b>
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	3/26	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
Sat	3/28		<b>Salt Shaker Dinners - Off Site</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3/29</b>	<b>5 Lent</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
			Adult Confirmation Class - St. Nicholas
			Course on <i>Romans</i> by Fr. Ray - Parish Hall
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group
Tues	3/31	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir

## Parish Register

### Baptisms:

George Jeffrey Jankov	1/10/09
Olivia Anne Schneider	1/24/09
Rhonda Mastronardo-Schneider	1/24/09
Amanda Mastronardo	1/24/09
Ashley Mastronardo	1/24/09
Rosemarie Mastronardo	1/24/09



**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**

Brian Walls

**Website Editor:** Mary Doscher

mdoscher1@msn.com

**Chronicle Editor:** Dawn Deivert



## The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Church: 401 N. Union Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Offices: 201 Crestline Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Phone: 610.444.4624 Fax: 610.444.1842

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

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage

**PAID**

Kennett Square, PA  
Permit No. 18

## Did you know...???

### Feasts and Holy Days: Saint Joseph - March 19th

All that we know of Joseph we learn from the first two chapters of Matthew and Luke. Otherwise, he is mentioned only in passing in Luke 3:23; John 1:45; John 6:42 as the supposed father of Jesus. (Mark does not mention him at all.)

In the face of circumstances where a man of lesser character might have reacted very differently, Joseph graciously assumed the role of Jesus' father. He is well remembered in Christian tradition for the love he showed to the boy Jesus, and for his tender affection and care for Mary, during the twelve years and more that he was their protector. Joseph was a pious Jew, a descendant of David, and a carpenter by trade. (The Gospels use the Greek word TEKTON, which means "builder," as in "architect." It has been suggested that he may have been a mason or a metalworker, or a building contractor.

Because of the silence of the Gospels, and because Jesus entrusted Mary to the care of John, it is generally believed that Joseph died a natural death after the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve (Luke 2:41-51), but before the Baptism of Jesus when He was thirty. Joseph's influence during those early years must have been tremendous. When Jesus spoke of God as being like a loving Father, He was using a word that he had first learned as a child to apply to Joseph. Joseph stands as a testimony to the value of simple everyday human things, and especially that human thing called "fatherhood."

~By James Kiefer