

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Chronicle

Building a Strong Christian Family

Letter from the Rector—The Rev. David Thomas



Dear Friends:

This is a great month, for me! You guessed it, it is my birth month. I have always thought that May was two sided. On one side spring is now fully mature and beautiful. The flowers are blooming, the grass is green, and the days are warm. Such a sweet fragrance is produced! Winter is definitely over.

On the other side there is the last of the mulch to spread, the lawn needs mowing regularly, the outdoor furniture needs to be cleaned and put out, and the deck can always use another coat of water repellent. By this time I'm sick of the spring clean up but there always seems to be tasks to complete in May.

Certainly at Advent this is a busy month. We start out with the infamous Derby party at the Bentley's. If you haven't attended one of these events you are really missing a good time, so I am told. I have had weddings the second of May each year since the race party started. It is my understanding that many of the senior members are avid betters and that there is never any mint julep left. (I am told that this julep thing is a drink – as I said, I have never been able to attend.) Next, is the Senior Sunday when our high school graduates are recognized as well as those who have served faithfully at the altar. Some time during the month we have a reception for those wonderful folks who answer the phone at the office. That is always a fun luncheon. Don't forget the Outreach Committee's Rummage Sale—which by the way can always use volunteers and generous donations of clothes/household items/books. Spare items not used by us anymore are quite valuable to a lot of the people in this area who are struggling during these economic times. After that, let's not forget Mother's Day – give her a real treat and ask her to come to church with you. That would be novel! Near the end of May is the closing of Sunday school (normally we close the Sunday before Memorial Day). However, this year some parishioners have requested that Sunday school continue four more weeks until the public schools are closed. If enough parents sign up their children and also offer to teach, we may do this – as soon as a decision is made you will be notified. They also asked for the three services to be continued until mid June – all of that will be decided before you receive this edition of the Chronicle.).

May is a time of transition when we make plans for summer or we can almost taste the plans that have already been made. For the young, the end of school is close to a reality and to parents that means the darlings are home- enough said.

With all this activity, it is my prayer that you include regular worship as a normal part of your weekly routine. Life does get busy and it is easy to pass up church, particularly when it is so nice to be outdoors, but let's remember who gives us each day and who makes life so exciting and full of grace and love.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon David Thomas

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Confirmation Sunday & Bishop's Reception



Confirmation 2009

We were honored to have The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, Jr. make an official visitation to Advent on April 19th. He celebrated and preached at the 8 and 10 AM services, as well as confirmed and received members from another apostolic church. After a wonderful reception, organized by Ed Hauser, the Bishop met with the vestry for over an hour. The main topic of conversation was how could our deacon, Nancy, become ordained to the priesthood. Bishop Lee is in charge of ordinations, but he also has to have the approval of the Commission on Ministry and then the Standing Committee. He will do his best to represent Nancy before these groups. Those adults and older teens who received the sacrament of confirmation were: Benjamin Andersen, Meredith Leigh Biedrzycki, Adam Birmingham, Eric Borman, Constance Copeland, George Jankov, Ronald Jones, James Lucas and Fiver Soraruf. David and Kristin Hamburg were received from another apostolic congregation. Those in eighth grade who studied for an entire Sunday School year and who received the sacrament of confirmation were: Paul Andersen, Ryan Bosse, Scott Broomall, Brandon Chew, Alec Hoeschel, Taylor Jones, Kyleigh LaFave, Jen Liegeot, Sierra Raynes, Zoe Reindl, Kirsten Smith, and Jenny Waibel.

If you missed the service, but would like to hear Bishop Lee's sermon, please visit our website at www.church-of-the-advent.com, and click on the worship page.



Community Outreach

Rummage Sale & Movie Night Snacks



Outreach is planning the Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 9th. In this economy, furniture, bedding, clothing, small electronics and household goods are especially needed. We are blessed by our ability to give and the kindness of heart to do so. We can always use help, so please call Victoria Robinson at 610.388.7443. Help sorting, working the sale, or cleaning up afterwards are all great ways to be involved. People to transport the leftovers in pickup trucks are especially needed.

Provide a movie night snack for the youth residing at the Chester County Youth Center. We are currently in need of snack providers for one Friday of the months of June, July, September, October, November and December. Anyone can be a snack provider—individuals, couples, families, friends or even Sunday School classes.

Microwave popcorn is already provided by the staff, but they can use other goodies. You decide...popcorn toppings, baked goods (homemade or store-bought), candy, hard or soft pretzels, nachos & cheese, dips & chips, etc. What do you like to munch on when you are watching a show? You may even donate a G-rated movie to go with the snack.

If you are interested, please call or email Celia Kaucic at 610-869-7521 or ogremom@verzion.net or sign-up down in the Parish Hall under "Outreach". Thank you for your support with our Outreach Project.

Children's Summer Chapel Program

A Summer Chapel Program is offered for children ages four through first grade, on Sunday mornings beginning June 21, from 10-10:30 a.m., and will continue through July, and August.

This program is run by volunteers who will show a brief video and shepherd the children upstairs to join their families during the Peace. Volunteers should arrive by 9:45 to set up video and greet children. At 10:30 children join their families during The Peace. Movies consist of Bible stories and Christian values.

Can you make a commitment to volunteers for *just one Sunday morning* this summer? Call the church office to sign up, or to have Kathy Prible answer your questions. The church office's number is 610-444-4624.

Senior Recognition Day—May 10th

May 10th is Senior Recognition Sunday at Advent, when we recognize the achievements of our graduating High School Seniors during our 9:00 a.m. service. Graduation is such a momentous yet tender time for graduates and their families, and we are always honored to celebrate with them. The biographies of our 20 seniors will be published in the bulletin for the service. They will also be posted on the Youth bulletin board in the parish hall along with a photo. We hope 100% of our seniors will submit bios and photos this year—even if they cannot attend the service on May 10th! If you missed the April 24th deadline for submitting your information please contact Jan Schroeder in the church office (610-444-4624). We will accept all submissions for the bulletin until May 4. We will post them in the Parish Hall if we receive them after that date. Give your parish a chance to share in your accomplishments and to pray for you as you begin the next chapter in your life's journey by turning in those bios and pictures today!



“Mama J Says.....”

This is a column especially for youth by the Director of Youth Ministry, Jan Schroeder, known to the God Squad as “Mama J”.

Trivial—that’s the word we used during our Lenten study to keep us focused on God and not on the things that take us away from God (like our busy schedules, texting, Facebook, watching TV...you get the picture!) As in “love God, love others, everything else is trivial”. 1 John 3:18 says “let us love not by word or speech, but in truth and action”. Keep these words in mind during the busy month of May! School ends and summer begins. Last minute projects are due; final exams loom; job applications need turning in and the calendar is packed with too many year-end events like banquets, picnics, prom and graduation. Endings and beginnings; emotions run high and everything seems uncertain as you move from one grade to the next while good friends move on to college. In the bigger picture, as important as all of this is, it’s trivial. So take a deep breath and find a place of quiet. 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. When we get caught up in the trivia of our lives, we lose sight of what’s really important. The start of summer is 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. No one is perfect. So move forward this summer. Forgive and forget. Let your actions reflect that real you. If you’re bogged down by the trivial, get rid of it! Consider going on one of the local mission trips this summer. Volunteer at an animal shelter or youth center. Call the church office and see who might need a visitor or some extra help with their yard. We all get caught in the trivial—it’s a hazard of our lives. But the good news is that we can choose to love God and others first. Our choices are what define us. “Love...in truth and action” because everything else? Well, it’s really just trivial!

God Squad Late Spring Calendar

- May 3 — Youth Group 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- May 10 — Senior Recognition Sunday 9:00 a.m. service
Senior Forum and reception follows
- May 10 — Mother’s Day; NO YG MEETING
- May 17 — Youth Group 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- May 24 — Memorial Day Weekend; NO YG MEETING
- May 31 — End of year YG event—**THE AMAZING RACE!!!** (see emails for details)



Summer Worship, Sunday School Schedule, & Advent Bus

We will continue to have three services through the month of May. Sunday School for pre-schoolers through third grade will be extended for four (4) weeks, for those who had previously registered for it. Classes on these four dates: May 24, May 31, June 7, June 14 will be held from 10-10:30 a.m. If there is a demand, we will also have a class for older children.

Starting June 7th, we begin our summer worship schedule of two services at 8 and 10 a.m. Babysitting will be provided, throughout the summer, at the 10 a.m. service.

ALSO, the Advent bus will be picking up passengers for the 10 a.m. service when the summer schedule goes into effect on June 7.

The Children’s Summer Chapel program will begin on June 21, from 10-10:30 a.m., and runs through the end of August.

Deja Vous?

Do you remember how startled Jesus' closest friends were the night He knelt down with towel in hand, and washed each of their feet? A job none of them wanted to take on, much less watch Jesus attempt. Do you remember the explanation Jesus gave to them – and us – about His actions? John 13:13-15 recounts, "You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you."

Jesus is straightforward with his words and actions in this scripture. This foot washing lesson is the very definition of teaching: to instruct by precept, example or experience. He used all three just to cover the various learning styles of the group. The Bible is also pretty specific about the passing on of the faith: it's everyone's responsibility, no age barriers. Deuteronomy spells out God's command to teach our children His ways. We're told to use ritual, instruction and memorization to make sure that children understand God's principles. These same children are also required to, at some point, do the same thing!!! This teaching thing is multigenerational; a fact that can be witnessed on any Sunday morning at Advent, where you will find parents, grandparents, and committed adults, teaching and ministering to our children.

Is this not our church? Are we not the church? All of us? The children of Church of the Advent have a need for adults of every age to guide them about God's Word, guide their Faith and nurture their spirituality. Remember Moses was teaching right up until he turned the Israelites over to Joshua, knowing his days were measured. Even Moses changed up his teaching technique! After 3 sermons, he changed his form and broke into song, reminding God's people of their history and hope. When he finished his singing lesson, according to Deuteronomy 32:46-47, he said, "Take to heart all the words I have given you today. Pass them on as a command to your children so they will obey every word of this law. These instructions are not merely words – they are your life!" This from an old guy!

Recognizing that God is the giver of many different gifts, we are asking you to prayerfully consider God's call to you. We have many opportunities to 'test the water'. OK, no flood or parting of the sea, but we function as teams, that work together providing support and encouragement for each other. Our curriculum carefully presents effective learning experiences for both children and teachers. Support through supplemental resources and training help new and experienced teachers feel comfortable in the classroom.

Are you willing to do what Moses did? Beat us to the punch and join a teaching team next year. Talk to Kathy Prible about what's involved. This is too important to beg. Kathy can be reached at the church office, 610-444-4624.

Kentucky Derby Party and Cookout

Once again, Greg & Caroline Bentley are hosting the Kentucky Derby Party and Cookout at Snow Hill Farm on Saturday, May 2nd from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Derby Picnic includes all you can eat Appetizers, Bratwurst, Burgers, Bake Beans, Potato Salad, Vegetable Dishes, Pies, Mint Juleps, Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, Water, & Coffee. View the running of the 135th Derby on two large flat screen TVs. (\$14.00 Per Adult, \$7.00 For Those under 21).

Prizes will be awarded for: Best Ladies Hat, Best Men's Shirt, Best Baked Beans, Best Potato Salad, & Best Pie. There will be betting on the race...both pari-mutuel and drawing names from a hat. (All betting is optional)

Transportation will be provided to those who need it. Registration Ends Weds. 4-29-09 RSVP to Fred Shriner, 610-388-3896 Fshriner@GolfForMe.com

Proceeds go to the Advent Church Fellowship Program. Due to the perishable nature of food, fee is non-refundable after registration. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Parish Hall.



May 2009 Calendar

(this calendar was compiled on 4/20/09 and is subject to change)

Note: PCOC is the Pastoral Care & Office Center			
Fri	5/1		CHRONICLE DEADLINE
		9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Bib Making - PCOC Conference Room
Sat	5/2		Kentucky Derby Party - Off site (if rain - parish hall)
Sun	5/3	3 Easter	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
			Coffee Hour
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II & Essex Baptism
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group - PH, sanctuary, St. Jude, Yth. Room
Wed	5/6	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9:00 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		Noon	Volunteer Receptionist Luncheon - Parish Hall
		7:30 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thur	5/7	All Day	Rummage Sale Set-up
		9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
Fri	5/8	All Day	Rummage Sale Set-up
		7:30 - 9:00 p.m.	Vestry Retreat - St. Nicholas
Sat	5/9	8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Vestry Retreat - St. Nicholas
		7 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Rummage Sale - Parish Hall
		10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
Sun	5/10	4 Easter	Mother's Day
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II & Sr. Recognition
		10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
			Coffee Hour
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
Mon	5/11	7:00 p.m.	Outreach Commission Meeting - PCOC
Tues	5/12	12-2:30 p.m.	E.F.M. Book Group - St. Ann
Wed	5/13	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	5/14	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Fri	5/15		Chronicle Mailing Date

Sun	5/17	5 Easter	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon	5/18	5:30 p.m.	Vestry - PCOC
Tues	5/19	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
		6:30 p.m.	Membership Commission Meeting - St. Nicholas
Wed	5/20	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	5/21	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Sun	5/24	6 Easter	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Iced Tea Outside
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			NO Youth Group
Mon	5/25	Memorial Day	OFFICE CLOSED
Wed	5/27	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	5/28	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
Sun	5/31	Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II & Curry Baptism
		10:00 a.m.	Iced Tea Outside
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group - last one until Fall

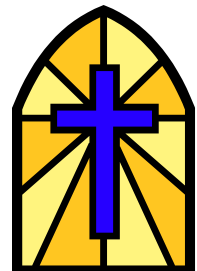
Parish Register

BIRTHS~

Riley Katherine Thomas - 4/1/09 Granddaughter of Fr. Dave & Sue Thomas,
Daughter of Ryan & Sarah Thomas Stephenson

DEATHS~

Stephen Wylie March 3, 2009
Cortney Schafer April 7, 2009



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



The Episcopal Church
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Baa...Special Lenten Supper Visitor



In case you missed our last
Lenten supper, we had a
visitor from a local farm.

This beautiful little lamb was
just one day old.

Thank you to Farmer Martha
Pisano for sharing her little
lamb!