

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Chronicle

Building a Strong Christian Family

Letter from the Rector—The Rev. David Thomas



Dear Friends:

I really enjoy eating at a diner. It is not that the food is that great or that the coffee is as good as Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts, I enjoy sitting at a counter and talking with people I don't really know. What I have noticed is that a common theme prevails: "ain't it awful". All it has done lately is rain, ain't it awful. It is so dry everything is burning up, ain't it awful. Those darn politicians all they care about is getting reelected, ain't it awful. Have you noticed how much food has gone up in cost, ain't it awful. On and on a conversation will take place where one person attempts to up the ante on how bad everything has become. In the days of our youth, things were better and our present modern system is awful.

True, the economy is at a low, but hopefully by the time you read this, measures will have been taken to make long term corrections. The weather we always have and it does little good to complain. I have to confess that I find myself reflecting on the glories of the past. Then I stop and think, and if I honestly reflect upon the past, it is not all peaches and cream. It was nice to have the friendly doctor stop at the house when a family member was sick, however the contents of the black bag didn't always contain the tools to make a correct diagnosis. Today we live longer because medicine has progressed from the good old days. Our houses are tighter and thus warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. There are more types of food available and how could we have lived without television, computers, Blackberries and iPods?

As each of you gather around a table for Thanksgiving this year, I pray that you will take a moment and thank God for all the blessings you have. Certainly life isn't perfect and there are many concerns, of various natures, on our minds. Many of us have dealt with different illnesses or have had loved ones who have been ill, and we can be thankful for the healing or the progress made in restoring them to health. Yes, some of us have lost loved ones and will feel the grief and loss in our hearts - as we gather together. However, let us give thanks that we trust in a loving God that promises us eternal life and that He will give care and protection to our lost loved ones.

There is much to be thankful for in the midst of life's challenges. Let me suggest that as you gather at table, and as a form of a grace, have each person name one thing they are thankful for and end with AMEN. We are so blessed and we need to take a moment to thank the giver of all that we are and have. I suggested trying this type of grace a few years ago - why not give it try!

Ain't it awful? No, it ain't awful, we are truly blessed. Praise God, thank Him and acknowledge Him as the giver of life, now and for eternity.

Sincerely,

David Thomas

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Kennett Food Cupboard Collection



The Outreach Commission recently received a request from the Kennett Food Cupboard for a special collection – their supply was low. Perhaps the Outreach Commission (and perhaps you as well) haven't been thinking much about people who are poor enough to need the free supplementary food provided by the Food Cupboard, or to think about reasons for the apparent decrease in donations. Another eye-opener was a recent news item from Philadelphia about Phil abundance planning to cease delivering milk for 18 after-school and daycare programs for 1,045 children, for budgetary reasons. In that case, an anonymous rescue donation of \$225,000 restored the program and will last at least two years.

Announcements have been made in our Advent services about increasing our food collection, and we hope you will continue to bring food at this new, increased level. Our new food collection cabinets are located in the church foyer (accessed from the ramp entrance upstairs), and are labeled for food collection. **Please be generous in your donations of non-perishable foods – lists are available.**

Additionally, **we are reviving special monthly collections of specific foods such as cooking oil, rice, dried beans, tuna, dry cereal, and Spam.** In November, please bring in the various non-perishable foods you were already going to donate, AND small bottles of cooking oil. This collection of cooking oil will be divided among the three groups who receive our food: Kennett Food Cupboard, Mission Santa Maria in Avondale, and Doris Haley's food pantry. Small bottles are preferred because fewer families can be served by donations of large bottles.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

"What are prayer shawls? And why has knitting them become so popular?" Thus begins the description of a new book called [The Prayer Shawl Companion](#) that features a collection of 38 beautiful and different prayer shawl patterns for all levels of knitters. **Barbara Thornton**, a member of our own Prayer Shawl Ministry, contributed a shawl that was selected for inclusion in this new publication. Prayer Shawls are lovingly knit in prayer for anyone and for nearly any occasion from baptism to remembrance to healing. A general rule of thumb is, if someone needs to be wrapped in prayer, a prayer shawl is an appropriate way to offer comfort.



Advent's Prayer Shawl Ministry was founded almost 4 years ago. Since that time, over 300 shawls have been knit and offered to anyone in need. The blessing of this ministry is the stories that weave their way in to our awareness. Like a blue and purple prayer shawl that was given to a newly widowed friend of Advent who later shared that her husband's favorite color was blue, and hers was purple. Then there was the parishioner who came to the church office seeking a prayer shawl for a baby when none was available. Four hours later in the afternoon, a knitter dropped by to leave a blue shawl for a baby not knowing that one had just been requested. For the members of the ministry, this is watching God in action as each shawl finds its way on to the shoulders of the right person in need. *Anyone is invited to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry which meets on the third Wednesday and Saturday mornings of each month. New knitters are welcome to attend and receive instruction as well as packaged shawl kits.*

To obtain a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

THANK YOU for your Financial Commitment

Thank you all for your continuing financial commitment to Church of the Advent, especially to the majority of you who have been excellent in maintaining your pledge commitment. We know how easy it can be to overlook your pledge during the summer vacation months; but unfortunately, the church's expenses continue on. We are behind on the collection of pledges and are encouraging everyone to now try and catch up your pledge payments. The third quarter pledge statements will be available for pick up soon with a summary of your giving; or you may call Kathy Gebhart at the church office with any questions concerning your pledge. Thank you again.

Fellowship Chairs or Co-Chairs Needed!

Fellowship is still looking for Chairs or Co-Chairs for the following events:

- Coffee Hour
- Salt Shaker Dinners (chairs)
- Chili Dinner (Kitchen & Dining Room Co-Chairs)
- Spaghetti Dinner (Dining Room Co-Chair)
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Kitchen & Dining Room Co-Chairs)
- Lenten Suppers (Chair, And both Co-Chairs)
- Easter Brunch (Kitchen and Dining Room Co-Chairs)
- Easter Egg Hunt (One Co-Chair)
- Bishop's Reception (Kitchen & Dining Room Co-Chairs)

Please contact Steve Griffith at thebugman4u@verizon.net or 610-869-3858 to sign-up or with any questions. It's a great way to meet people and have a great time.



Sugar & Spice Shaker Dinners



Looking for a way to help build a strong Christian family...

Check out our Sugar & Spice Shaker Dinners!

These monthly dinners include a few families that enjoy a meal together. It's a wonderful way to meet new as well as long-standing parishioners. Don't miss out on the fun! Sign up in the Parish Hall for the next dinner to be tentatively held on November 15, 2008. Or you could contact Michelle Vetterlein at 610-255-3944 or MVetterlein@rohmmaas.com to sign up to be a host or attend a dinner. You may attend one or all.

To Order Your New Name Badge:

- Pick up an order form in the narthex.
- Fill out the information.
- Enclose your payment, (cash or check made out to the Church of the Advent),
- Put order form and payment in the envelope provided.
- Place in the offering plate, give to an usher, drop off at the office, or mail to the office.

Any questions please contact: Diane Bieberbach, 610-347-1719, dbieberbach@verizon.net

If you are a pacemaker wearer, order a pin backing.

Your order will be processed within 2 weeks.

The West Virginia God Pod Report

What happens when you pack 18 teens, 3 co-leaders, 21 small luggage bags, 21 sleeping bags and pillows on two vans? Throw in some snack food and head them down Rt. 1 towards a country road in West Virginia, and you have a “whoop whoop” time on this year’s summer Mission Trip!

On September 21, the Advent Youth Group presented a morning forum on their Mission trip to Logan, West Virginia. This “God Pod” of mission trippers was: Jamie and Julie Moran, Katy Rose Schroeder, Regan Zehr, Christine Mercner, Daly Simpson, Ryann Diehl, Ali Smith, DJ Carlino, Alex and Duncan Keller, Andrew and Jack Hollinger, Eron Eboda, Jared LaFave, Ben Anderson, Kaithlynn Hennes, Megan, Lyle Mall, Jill LaFave and Jan Schroeder.

Logan, and the surrounding area, is another world from here. Statistics are one thing, but seeing it is almost indescribable. The God Pod entered the town the hard way, creeping up one way roads over a mountain that did not accommodate the size of vans. Houses were perched precariously so that one wrong turn meant landing on a house below. And just when we thought we were lost, true to the song, we were found by the Youthworks staff that spotted us coming off the mountain! The lodging was an old abandoned school that had been purchased by a church for \$5.00. To quote a veteran trip member, “If we thought last year’s accommodations were bad, they looked like the Hilton compared to this”. But this is what happens on these trips: *your vision changes. What you see is not what you get-you get so much more!* True, the school had grates over the windows, due to the neighborhood, and a small concrete lot that held only seven cars, but it was a safe haven for local youth, especially when filled with other teens.

We worked in teams with youth from Georgia, Maryland and Avon Grove and did home repairs, ran a kids camp and worked in a soup kitchen. Some of us walked through town offering prayer in local businesses; others sorted food into boxes for people in need; we painted homes and spent time with lonely homeowners; broke through barriers to related to hardened children and teens; met a homeless man named Chainsaw who walked right into our hearts and stays with us still; worked together to stay away from the spiritual warfare around us; spent time in devotions at night; and all of us had fun while growing in our faith and relationship with each other and with our Lord.

If you didn’t make it to the forum, look for the pictures on the website. Or ask anyone on the trip to tell you about it. Special thanks to our co-leaders for saying “yes” ; to Doug and Patsy Keller and their teams who cleaned up the vans on our return; to all the parents who encouraged their teens to be a part of a special time and helped in numerous ways; and to our church for making it possible. As the God Squad says, “it was a good thing; it was a God thing!”

Parish Register

Baptisms:

Logan William Rundle	9/14/08
Peyton Elizabeth Grieco	9/14/08



Deaths:

Didi Grant	9/13/08
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Photo Directory Update Time!

New Advent Members!!!

Come have your/family's picture taken and be included in Advent's Pictorial Directory!!

Where? St. Ann's Room (upstairs)

When? Sunday, November 16 and 23: 8:45- 9:00 and 10:15- 11:00

Questions? Contact Helen Bilinski at 610-347-0401 or bilinski2@aol.com

Volunteers Needed to Record Sunday Sermons

Communication Commission needs volunteers to record Sunday sermons! We need your help!!! If you have a few spare moments before and after the Sunday service you regularly attend, please consider signing up for the Recording Sermons committee. Everything you need is in the Sacristy. Computer training is incredibly easy!

Great Community Service hours for High School students!!!

Please contact Helen Bilinski at 610-347-0401 or bilinski2@aol.com.

e-Invites and e-Chronicle Update

Several e-invitations and 3 issues of the e-chronicle (September, October and November) have been emailed to just about all of our parishioners.

If you HAVE NOT received any of these emails within the past several weeks, please contact Helen Bilinski at bilinski2@aol.com or 610-347-0401.

Chances are we don't have your correct email address. Please help us keep our database up to date!!!



Advent Calendars

Advent Calendars will be here in a few weeks, just in time for the First Advent on November 30th. We will have a selection of calendars, cards, devotionals, and candles for sale November 16, 23, and 30. Don't forget your family and friends near and far, children and adults of all ages, who you want to share Advent greetings. Everything is \$1 or \$2.

Advent Intergenerational Activities

Advent Intergenerational Activities Celebrate this special season of Advent with your parish family. Activities will begin November 30 and culminate December 21 with a wassail party as our church home is decorated. If you would like to help with any of the Advent activities, please contact either Kathy Prible or Deacon Nancy Hauser at the church office: 610-444-4624.

November Calendar (subject to change)			
Note: PCOC is the Pastoral Care & Office Center			
Sat	11/1	All Saints Day 8:30 a.m.	Turn clocks back before bed Men's Breakfast - Parish Hall
Sun	11/2	25 Pentecost All Saints Sunday 8:00 a.m.	Daylight Savings Time Ends Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour hosted by Outreach
			Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6:00 p.m.	Stewardship Dinner - Parish Hall
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group
Mon	11/3	9:30 a.m.	Angel Tree Steering Committee - PCOC
		7:00 p.m.	Stewardship - PCOC
Tues	11/4	ELECTION DAY 1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	11/5	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
Thurs	11/6	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
Fri	11/7	CHRONICLE DEADLINE	
Sat	11/8	8:00 a.m. - Noon	Fall Clean-Up Day
Sun	11/9	26 Pentecost 8:00 a.m.	Consecration Sunday Holy Eucharist - Rite I
			NO 9 a.m. service
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			NO Sunday School
			NO 11 am. Service
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group - Youth Room
Mon	11/10	7:00 p.m.	Outreach - PCOC
Tues	11/11	VETERAN'S DAY 1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	11/12	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9:00 a.m.	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		11:00 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	11/13	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
Sat	11/15	10-11:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
		5:00-7:00 pm.	Newcomer Event - Parish Hall

Sun	11/16	27 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		8:15, 10:15 & 11 a.m.	Directory Photos - St. Ann
		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 - Youth Room
Mon	11/17	9:30 a.m.	Angel Tree Steering Committee - PCOC
		7:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting - PCOC
Tues	11/18	9-11:45 a.m.	Quiet Morning
		1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	11/19	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	11/20	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
Sun	11/23	Last Pentecost Christ the King	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		8:15, 10:15 & 11 a.m.	Directory Photos - St. Ann
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	FORUM - Adult Spirituality
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group - Youth Room
Mon	11/24	9:30 a.m.	Angel Tree Steering Committee - PCOC
		6:30 p.m.	Membership Commission - PCOC
Tues	11/25	1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	11/26	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	11/27	THANKSGIVING	OFFICE CLOSED
Fri	11/28		OFFICE CLOSED
Sun	11/30	1 Advent	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Intergenerational Event - Parish Hall
			Coffee Hour - Parish Hall
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			No Youth Group - Family Time

Rector

The Rev. Canon David P. Thomas

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

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Did you know...???

Holy Day Celebration: All Saint's Day—November 1st

The Feast of All Saints is a holy day of the Church honoring all saints, known and unknown. While we have knowledge of many saints, and we honor them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never given much honor to begin with. Christians have been honoring their saints and martyrs since at least the second century AD. Initially the calendars of saints and martyrs varied from location to location, and many times local churches honored local saints. However, gradually feast days became more universal. The first reference to a general feast celebrating all saints occurs in St Ephrem the Syrian (d. AD 373).

In Mexico: The Day of the Dead~

November 1, All Saints Day, and November 2, All Souls Day are marked throughout Mexico as "Day of the Dead" by a plethora of intriguing customs that vary widely according to the ethnic roots of each region. Common to all, however, are colorful adornments and lively reunions at family burial plots, the preparation of special foods, offerings laid out for the departed on commemorative altars and religious rites that are likely to include noisy fireworks. In setting up the altar, a designated area of the home is cleared of its normal furnishings. The arrangement often consists of a table and several overturned wooden crates placed in tiers and covered with clean linens. Family members purchase candles, candy, flowers, and the deceased favorite beverage to use on an altar in honor of deceased relatives. These altars often include photographs of the departed.