

## The mystery of Icons explored

On Tuesday, Nov. 13, 9-2, in the St. Nicholas Room, Bishop William Jones will lead a Quiet Day, an exploration into the mystery of Icons with a thank you to Rowen Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.

There is no charge. Call (610) 444-4624 to register. Lunch provided (\$10)

Following two meditations, there will be periods of silence to be used for reading, writing, prayer or meditation in the parish hall, sanctuary or chapel. There will also be a labyrinth available to walk inside the church.

### Parish Registry

#### Deaths

Norman Dyck  
8/14/07

#### Baptisms

Lucien Pickett  
9/23/07

Isabelle Mullin  
9/30/07

James Hudak  
9/30/07

Cole Nardoizzi  
9/30/07

Carolyn Walker  
10/20/07

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

Dear Friends:

I received a plaque from someone that has a picture of a dog on it with the inscription under that says: "LORD, MAKE ME THE PERSON MY DOG THINKS I AM." It hit me between the eyes. You see, my dog Max, if he was a student in school, would be classified as a "very special student". He doesn't catch on too quickly to anything. It took us almost a year to house train him. He is a loveable golden retriever who only wants to be petted and fed. He has the ability to get behind you or between you or under your feet at all times. Often, I trip over him and when I do I am often irritated. Max can't help it if he only wants to be close to me at ALL times and it is my fault for being in such a rush that I don't see him - yet it is maddening at times. Does Max hold a grudge against me because I may holler out his name in frustration as I attempt to keep a glass upright and reach for something to break my fall at the same time? No, he comes right back to lap me as I attempt to get my artificial knees to bend in a manner that will get me upright.

We live in a bountiful land with all of us having way more than we need. This year as we gather around a table to give thanks, may we take a moment to give thanks for those we love and who love us. It is easy to center in on material things to be thankful for - but it is equally important to thank God for His love and for the love of others in our lives. It would be a very lonely and sterile life if it were not for friendships and love.

Let us pray to God, seeking His grace that we might open our hearts in love to others in a similar manner as a pet loves his master - unconditional, constantly forgiving and for ever.

Prayerfully, we will also give thanks to the God who loves us more than we can imagine.

*A Happy Thanksgiving to all,*

The Rev. David Thomas

## "Chili'n" at Advent

The Fellowship Committee invites YOU, YOUR FAMILY, and YOUR FRIENDS, to celebrate the first day of ADVENT December 2, 5:00, with a bowl of CHILI! Yep, its Church of the Advent's annual chili dinner. Mark your calendars NOW!!! After Wilson's inspiring concert we will meet in the parish hall and break "corn bread" together.

We need all you Emeril Lagasse, Wolfgang Puck, Rachel Ray, and Martha Stewarts to rev-up your ovens and start cooking! We need all kinds of CHILI; hot and spicy, mild, meat, no meat, beans, no beans. We will need corn bread, salads, and desserts.

Please, Please, Please sign-up on the forms provided in the Parish Hall, or call John and Jennifer Scales 610-444-3680, or email [jsscales@cs.com](mailto:jsscales@cs.com)

We could really benefit from an adequate count! As always, we could use helping hands with set-up, and clean-up. If you have any ideas to make this dinner extra special, let us know!

Looking forward to "CHILIN" with YOU, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR FRIENDS!

## Outreach project boosts Youth Center works

"Boost to the Future" is Advent's church wide Outreach project in recognition of our 125 years of community service to Chester County. This project will work with the Chester County Youth Center in Pocopson, a detention center for troubled youths. Volunteers are needed to help with a wide range of projects. No special skills are needed - just a willingness to try and an interest in doing something to help some "good kids" at the Chester County Youth Center who have either made a "bad decision" or found themselves in a "bad situation". There will be one Chester County Youth Center staff person for every 4-6 students in the classroom. If you are interested in looking into one of these project - no commitment needed - please contact one of the project leaders.

### Science Experiments Classes

Project Leader - Dave Gilbert 610-793-4626 or [dfgilbert@comcast.net](mailto:dfgilbert@comcast.net)

One of the programs at the Chester County Youth Center is the presentation of Science Experiments classes. This is based on a program already being utilized with the After-The-Bell program at the Kennett Middle School. Each subject is very well organized with materials in a "Teaching Kit" provided by the Agilent Technologies Company, who have been involved in this type of activity for many years. Teaching volunteers do not need a scientific background.

### Library Project

Project Leader: Annette Bowers 610-444-4496 or [wanda\\_bowers@msn.com](mailto:wanda_bowers@msn.com) The Library at the Youth Center has lots of books and reading materials but needs organization. Our goal with this project is to get the books they currently have at the center cataloged and provide them a mechanism for signing books in and out. Volunteers are needed to collect books, raise funds for purchasing books or find computers for organizing the collection.

### Gardening Classes

Leaders: Troy and Frank Patterson 610-793-3091 or [Troyopat@verizon.net](mailto:Troyopat@verizon.net) The initial goal for this project is to teach kids simple gardening skills starting with a vegetable/flower garden, but long-range plans include indoor gardening, composting and landscaping. Volunteers are needed to help dig and prepare the garden, assist with teaching and maintaining the garden.

### Pottery Classes

Project Leader - Wes Bowers 610-444-4496 or [wanda\\_bowers@msn.com](mailto:wanda_bowers@msn.com)

The goal for this project is to teach pottery skills. The program will focus on hand building - rolling out a slab of clay and cutting it into tiles. Even those with no experience can be successful on the first try. Volunteers are needed to assist with teaching and firing the kiln.

### Gift Baskets

Leaders: Deb O'Brien 610-444-1381 or [DebbieObrien17@verizon.net](mailto:DebbieObrien17@verizon.net)

Celia Kaucic 610-869-7521 or [ogremom@verizon.net](mailto:ogremom@verizon.net)

At holidays and on special occasions (birthdays), the kids in the Youth Center are often forgotten. Volunteers are needed to help coordinate gift projects, collect assorted gifts and items for the baskets, assemble the baskets and deliver.

*This is a great Outreach opportunity for existing groups or committees at Advent. Interested?*

# What Does God Want Advent To Be? He Has Spoken, and We Have Listened

*"Our God is able to do above and beyond what we are able to ask or imagine, according to God's power at work within God's church." Ephesians 3:20-21*

It has been said that great things happen when people have a vision, and that God excites us to accomplish great things through visions. Over the past 10 months, God has been working through each of us to help us know and understand what His purpose is for Advent, and it seems God has big plans for us!

The Long Range Planning Commission prayed, listened and responded. It held eight "listening events" that yielded almost 500 responses that concur that Advent's purpose is to be an active, caring church that reaches out to make Christ's presence visible in our immediate church family and in the community at large. The entire Vision and Long Range Plan is posted at [www.church-of-the-advent.com](http://www.church-of-the-advent.com) The top five goals are:

***#1: Be loving and Christ-centered in our worship, prayer, fellowship, and service.***

Our purpose is to celebrate God in everything we do - from our worship on Sunday morning to how we lead our everyday lives. With this in mind, we will develop themes and programs to help us center our daily life on Christ, not just on Sundays, but Monday through Saturday as well. We will also focus on our Episcopal traditions to help make everyone comfortable with our worship services.

***#2: Reach out, care for and support with compassion our immediate church family and those in our extended community.***

Our job as Christians is to share with others God's love and our faith by reaching out to each other and the community, and inviting people "into the fold". We develop opportunities to reach out both within our church family and to the community. We will learn to better "minister" to our own family members in times of crisis or loneliness. We will seek to expand our community outreach and funding for these programs.

***#3: Commit to God's work and strengthen spiritual growth by active involvement as families and individuals***

At Advent being a Christian is a verb! Our "work" as Christians is to use our God given talents, our gifts to benefit others. A Spiritual Gifts assessment will help you match your talents and interests with the right opportunities to fulfill our/your personal ministries. Young families and individuals easily will be able to "plug in" to service projects. But be prepared to volunteer. If you say "no" to one thing, we'll try something else. If you say "no" today, we'll ask again next week or next year. Feeling needed and wanted is important at Advent.

***#4: Accept all by seeing God in others, welcome and mentor their sense of belonging to our Advent family***

Being a Christian is not a solitary act. God wants us to belong to a Christian family that feeds and supports us. We want to get to know each other *really well* so we can celebrate with each other in the good times and help each other during life's challenges. We will continue to expand our membership and fellowship programs to be welcoming to all and help people feel a part of our church community.

***#5: Nurture and prepare our children, youth, adults and seniors to share and model our Christian values***

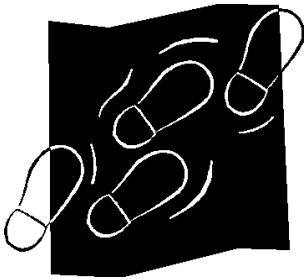
This is where we walk the walk and talk the talk and set Christ's example in our everyday life. But some of us are still seeking to accept Jesus while others are ready to allow Him to transform our lives and to reach out to help others. We will develop programs to help us all grow and mature in our own Christian faith at our own pace. Our goal is to make Christ relevant to our daily living and to make the church a building-block for strong families.

**Next Steps: Join a Purpose Team**

We need your help. We are developing "Purpose Teams" to put these long range goals into a real life plan with real programs and time tables. And we are asking for support in terms of talents, time and treasures. The difference between where we are and where we want to be is what we do with our target objectives and action plans. Let us all embrace our Godly vision, and then watch God work miracles to help us achieve great things at Advent.



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS



**FOOTSTEP PRAYERS** are printed each week in the bulletin. These are written by teens attending "Footsteps", a spiritual formation time designed for high school students and open to all. Each week we reflect on the gospel lesson for the day and use a current event from the week to look for God's meaning in our every day lives. In response to what is shared, we write a prayer that is then printed in the bulletin the following Sunday. This isn't Sunday school. It's a *God* thing. Give it a try. You'll find it's a *good* thing!

**SIT-IN MOVIES?** Kind of like a drive-in movie but without the car! We have a DVD projector that allows us to show movies on a big screen. So when you see one scheduled, bring a sleeping bag or blanket and camp out on the floor to watch the featured flick. Bring a friend; meet new ones; just come, sit in!



## Help feed the world!

### Service Project asks for donations of quarters to bring a "kid" to a kid

As children of God we are called to serve others and as we approach Thanksgiving, it seemed like the right time to begin our God Squad service work. "Kids to Kids" is a program of Heifer International whose mission is to work with communities around the world to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth.

Since 1944 this group has helped more than 7 million families in more than 125 countries by providing farm animals that help families become self-reliant for food and income and to pass on animals and training to others in their community. Kids to Kids bring health, hope and happiness to children and their families through the gift of a kid goat.

Every Sunday beginning in November look for the "peace pipe" at the base of the center railing as you go up for Eucharist. This acrylic tower holds \$120.00 worth of quarters, enough for one goat. Drop your quarters in and let's see how long it takes us to fill the peace pipe! Quarters are all it takes to bring a kid to a kid. Join us, won't you? Spread the word!

### Baroque Musicfest set for Dec. 2, 3 p.m.

The combined choirs of Advent and the Tatnall Concert Choir will perform major works by Bach and Vivaldi under the direction of Wilson Somers and Leon Spencer. The first work to be performed "Magnificat" by J.S. Bach is the 'gold-standard' of Bach's choral/orchestral music. It is a most challenging work to perform. This will be sung by a smaller ensemble made of the Tatnall Singers and Advent Choral Scholars.

The second work, "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi is a favorite of the Advent choir. They will combine with the larger Tatnall Concert Choir for this performance. The program will be 1 hour/15 mins. The Chili Dinner will follow at 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

## Youth Group Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER

4 - Youth Group

Straight Talk about Death: Coping with the loss of someone you know

6 - No School—God Squad/Lunch Bunch

11 - Youth Worship Service 6:00 pm

18 - Youth Group/Jr. & Sr. High

Sit-In Movie - Amazing Grace

25 - THANKSGIVING weekend No Meeting;

*Be thankful for all that you have!*

30 - (Friday) - 12/1 (Saturday) God Squad Lock-In

Prepare Ye! Check email for details!

### DECEMBER

2 - Attend the Church chili supper with your friends and family; *No meeting*

9 - Youth Worship Service 6:00 pm

15 - (Saturday) Angel Tree Party. Sign up to help!

16 - God Squad meets for Christmas shopping or caroling (tba)

23 - Christmas weekend; no meeting

30 - New Year's weekend; no meeting

*Winterblast  
is coming*

*January 25-27.*

*Sign up information  
available in church.  
Check bulletin and  
emails for details.*

**HELPING  
HANDS**



Get involved, live your faith!

All ages invited to partner with each other for Outreach opportunities

### Partner with another Advent volunteer:

Science project with kids; call Dave Gilbert (610) 793-4626

Deliver clothing/household goods to Mission Santa Maria; call George Lewis (610) 388-1281

Organize the Library at Chester County Youth Center; call Annette Bowers (610) 444-4496

Start a garden; call Frank and Troy Patterson (610) 793-3091

Plan a party, make gift bags, bake; call Celia Kaucic (610) 869-7521

Teach pottery; call Wes Bowers (610) 444-4496

Sew bibs; call Marion Morton (610) 436-5070

Help coordinate the Angel Tree; call Linda Steller (610) 793-1855

Mentor young women; call Marion Morton (610) 436-5070

### Participate in a new volunteer activity:

Make up "ditty bags" for the Seaman's Institute; call Daria Payne (610) 444-1086

Help coordinate Silent Auction for Epis. Relief/Develop.; call Joan Wylie (610) 347-6629

### Help find:

Computer for the CCYC Library; call Annette Bowers (610) 444-4496

Books for the CCYC Library; call Daria Payne (610) 444-1086

## November 2007 Calendar (subject to change)

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

Thurs	11/1	8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Drop off items for Rummage Sale
		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
Fri	11/2	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Drop off items for Rummage Sale
		9 a.m. - Noon	Christ in Culture - St. Ann Room
Sat	11/3	7 a.m. - 1 p.m.	<b>Rummage Sale</b> - Parish Hall
			<b>Turn clocks back when you go to bed</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11/4</b>	<b>23 Pentecost</b>	<b>All Saints Sunday</b>
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	<i>Probing the Parables Program - St. Nicholas Room</i>
			<b>Forum: Mission Trip</b>
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group - Straight Talk About Death
Mon	11/5	7:00 p.m.	Outreach Commission - PCOC
Tues	11/6	<b>Election Day</b>	God Squad Lunch Bunch
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
Wed	11/7	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann Room
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy Room
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	11/8	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
Fri	11/9	9 a.m. - Noon	Christ in Culture - St. Ann Room
Sat	11/10	5-8 p.m.	<b>Newcomer Meet, Greet &amp; Eat</b> - Parish Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11/11</b>	<b>24 Pentecost</b>	<b>Veteran's Sunday</b>
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	<b>FORUM: Science &amp; Religion</b> - Parish Hall
			Bible 101 - St. Nicholas Room
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Worship Service
Tues	11/13	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
		9:00-2:00 p.m.	Quiet Day—St. Nicholas
Wed	11/14	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann Room
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy Room
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	11/15	7:30 a. m.	Executive Committee - PCOC

		11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
Fri	11/16	9 a.m. - Noon	Christ in Culture - St. Ann Room
Sat	11/17	10:00-11:30 a.m.	Shawl Ministry - St. Ann Room
			<b>Salt Shaker Dinners</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11/18</b>	<b>25 Pentecost</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Newcomer Coffee - St. Ann's
			<b>Forum: Pastoral Care - Finding God in Visits</b>
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		12:30 p.m.	Long Range Planning - PCOC
		6:00 p.m.	Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group - <b>Amazing Grace movie</b>
Mon	11/19	7:00 p.m.	Membership Commission Meeting - St. Nicholas Room
Tues	11/20	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
Wed	11/21	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann Room
			<b>NO E.F.M.</b>
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Joyful Noise & Friends Rehearsal
Thur	11/22	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
			<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Fri	11/23		<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
		9 a.m. - Noon	Christ in Culture - St. Ann Room
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11/25</b>	<b>Last Pentecost</b>	<b>Christ the King</b>
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II & 1st Communion
		10:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			<b>NO YOUTH GROUP</b>
Mon	11/26	7:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting - PCOC
Tues	11/27	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
Wed	11/28	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann Room
		9 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy Room
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Fri	11/30	9 a.m. - Noon	Christ in Culture - St. Ann Room
		8:30 p.m.	Sr. High "God Squad" Youth Group <b>LOCK IN</b>

## FINANCE CORNER – by Bob Smith, Accounting Warden/Treasurer

**Annual pledge collections - update** - the total pledged for 2007 was \$673,000, but amounts received were about \$411,000 as of August 31<sup>st</sup>. Ideally, a good place would have been \$450,000 by that time. Therefore, we are about \$39,000 behind in collections. Please help Advent meet its expenses by keeping your pledge up to date. Your third quarter statement is a good way to check your status. You may also contact Kathy Gebhart in the business office (610-444-4624).

**Renovation Project Pledges and Funding** - the three-year collection period for the 2004 renovation project ended in August 2007. Of all pledges made totaling \$1,135,090, we collected \$1,086,484, leaving a *shortfall of \$48,606*. We are grateful for all pledges made and collected, and hopeful that remaining uncollected pledges will be received. If you believe you may not have fulfilled your pledge, or would like to check the status, please contact Kathy Gebhart.

The original costs of the project exceeded the pledge total by about \$350,000. While the costs have long since been paid, Advent was required to borrow on a mortgage loan to cover the difference. The shortage of collections adds to this amount, for a current mortgage balance in excess of \$400,000.

Advent currently pays interest from our operating budget, but the loan principal repayments must eventually be paid. In order to reduce the pressure this puts on our finances and stewardship efforts, additional contributions will be needed to reduce the mortgage loan. Please give this matter your prayerful consideration as we collectively try to settle our mortgage debt.

### Long Range Planning members

Keep these names/numbers handy if you have time to help with Advent's long range plans outlined on page 3.

Bill Gillan	610-444-4726 gilanwj21@comcast.net
Bryan Bente	610-255-4310 bbente@comcast.net
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Bud Lundgaard	610-444-3641 BudLundgaard@aol.com
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Doug Kaucic	610-869-7521 dskcyk@verizon.net
Diane Bieberbach	610-347-1719 dbieberbach@comcast.net
Jan Schroeder	610-793-2266 Jbschrades@aol.com or
John/Jennifer Scales	610-444-3680 jsscales@cs.com
Suzi Shriner	610-388-3896 <a href="mailto:susan@gardenmediagroup.com">susan@gardenmediagroup.com</a>

### Rector's Notes:

It is difficult to imagine what it is like to be a young person or a teenager today. Between drugs, alcohol, gangs, bullies, and those who are mentally ill and plan to or threaten to kill one or more persons - it seems overwhelming.

Through it all - there ought to be one solid institution where love and acceptance is the norm and the expectation. That institution is the family. Advent is a church family. So many of our families live miles and miles away from their extended families - but here at Advent we are a church family.

**This Advent** we are going to offer, at 10 a.m., one big class for ALL ages. Yes, we need the little ones from two year olds to two hundred - we need the seniors to offer wisdom to the youngsters and all the ages in-between. Fr. Dave and Deacon Nancy will be teaching and helping with family events each Sunday during Advent. The first session is Dec.2. Please make a real effort to make your attendance at these sessions an integral part of your Advent discipline.

- Rector  
The Rev. Canon David P. Thomas
- Deacon  
The Rev. Nancy Hauser
- 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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**Website: [www.church-of-the-](http://www.church-of-the-)**

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## Salt Shakers have returned! Sign up NOW!

**MEET NEW PEOPLE AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS** at Advent's Salt Shaker dinners. If you are thinking about joining Advent, have just recently joined, or if you are an established member... **THIS IS FOR YOU!**

Here's how it works: Four or five couples and singles join together to share **FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP** on a weekend night at various "host houses" in the area. After everyone has signed up, the names are mixed up then assigned to a volunteer host house. You never know where you will end up and who you will connect with, but the fun and fellowship are always memorable!

One couple or single is the "Host" who provides the main course and beverages at their home. The other guests bring salad/bread, vegetable, appetizer, or dessert depending on what they are assigned. The Host contacts everyone before the dinner to make assignments, set a time and give directions.

Please join us as we renew old acquaintances and make new friends. If you have any questions, please contact Suzi and Fred Shriner at **610-388-3896** or **Fshriner@novausainc.com**

