

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Chronicle

Building a Strong Christian

Letter from the Rector—The Rev. David Thomas

Dear Friends:

What happened to summer? It seems like only yesterday that we attended graduations and finalized plans for vacation. By the time you read this, school will be back in session and routines will be established. I love October. To me, it is a transitional time of the year when there are still some very warm days but the nights give us a preview of winter to come. What is frustrating is the need for an outer garment in the morning, the need to shed it by ten and then look for it again around five. I never remember where I took it off.

For those who are addicted to football this time of year is heaven. Speaking of heaven, I want to address the parents in our church family. Unless you are very secure about your faith and are disciplined to take the time to teach your children (that of course is the ideal) then the only way they are going to develop a foundation in the Christian faith is by regular attendance at Sunday School. If you bring your child to SS one Sunday a month - that does almost more damage than never bringing them. Why? They won't know what is going on and will be uneasy and won't like it and will complain that it is boring or stupid or some such remark and they will make it even more difficult for you to get them to attend. Even more important, they will miss out on the basic material and will not have a solid grounding from which to make their teen and adult decisions.

Now eighth grade parents. Please understand that your child is in confirmation class. We require regular and consistent attendance. This is the last chance they have to really understand their faith and the Episcopal Church and they need to be present in order to make an informed decision. Yes, each child will be asked near the end of the class (around March) if they wish to be confirmed. When one enters into a sacrament they should do so by their own free will. Hence some people choose not to be confirmed after completing the class - if they decide to be confirmed later that is fine. For older teens, who just started attending Advent, you may attend the adult class that I teach during Lent and during the regular Sunday School period.

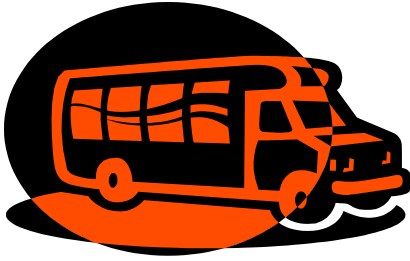
So put on your light jacket and get up each Sunday morning and let's have consistent attendance at church and in Christian Ed. What a wonderful way to say thank you to the great volunteers who have taken the time to teach and facilitate your child's Christian education. It is a gift your children will appreciate when they are older.

Inside this issue:

Bus Drivers Needed	2
Special Music	2
Stewardship Program	3
Thank You	3
October Calendar	4-5
Blessing of the Animals	6
Youth Ministry	7

~The Rev. David Thomas

Advent Van Drivers Needed



Volunteers are needed to drive parishioners to and from the church on Sundays, and to help transport elderly and other people in the community around town using the Advent van. If you have a good driving record and would like to help others, please contact Kathy Gebhart in the Parish Office and submit your name and number.

Driver Training will occur on Sunday, November 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. — between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

WHY SING?

By Wilson Somers—Music Director/Organist

It has been my privilege to work with young people (as well as adults) for over 30 years to prepare voices to sing in churches and schools as well as Cathedrals in Europe. It is my firm belief as a music educator that the opportunity to sing should be given to every child in the world through the sixth grade. AND not as an option— Why is this so important? Can't we just turn on our iPods and call it a day? The answer is an emphatic NO!

First, the voice is the first instrument. It has been around since the Garden and when you read the scriptures singing is a very 'big deal' up in Heaven. My experience has taught me that there is nothing that can replace it. For singing builds up, it edifies the individual. It has turned the shyest of kids I know into strong confident communicators. I have seen this, I live this.

Second, singing in a group is fellowship. At the middle school/high school level, this is about learning people skills, developing relationships, learning to get along. Relating to one another in a choir is unique and a wonderful gift back to the community.

Third, singing in the choir connects the individual to something larger than self. It is a corporate experience when all voices rise in one accord to praise the Almighty. Even if you are not blessed with a so-called 'vocal talent', it doesn't mean that God won't hear our voice. Remember He is the One who made you. And He doesn't make junk!

Special Music Programs at Advent this year

- **Sunday, October 26th at 4pm:** Jazz Vespers an evensong featuring the music of Duke Ellington. Special guest, Ed Kirkpatrick, tenor saxophone with the Wilson Somers Trio. Advent Youth Choir with Tatnall Treble Choir, Kimberley Doucette, co-director. Freewill Offering to benefit Kennett Food Cupboard.
- **Sunday, December 6th at 3pm:** A Concert of Sacred Music featuring combined choirs of Advent and the Tatnall School. Works by Bach, Somers and Joseph A. Martin. Nick Ronaghan and Wilson Somers, conducting. Freewill Offering to benefit Doris Haley's Homeless ministry in Kennett.
- **Sunday, January 24, 2009 at 4pm:** Jazz Vespers, an evensong honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. performed by Wilson Somers, Composer/Pianist; Leon Spencer, Bass-Baritone and special guest. Freewill Offering to support Kennett Food Cupboard.
- **Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 5pm:** A Concert of Sacred Music with combined Advent and Tatnall Choirs. Music of Lloyd Webber, Somers and Rutter. Freewill Offering to support Advent outreach youth prison project.

2008/2009 Stewardship Development Program

“Living Faithfully...Giving Joyfully”

The Church of the Advent’s Stewardship campaign kicks off on October 19, 2008 with a formal presentation at the 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. The Stewardship Commission will be presenting the “New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program”—a program that teaches us a whole new way of looking at Stewardship, by making a compelling connection between giving and our Christian faith. It focuses on our need to give back to God what is rightfully His, instead of the Church’s need to receive. Stewardship therefore can be summed up as follows:

“Everything we do after we say we believe...”

- It is about our relationship with God
- Our internal expression of our faith and belief rather than our outward demonstration/display of our religious piety
- It is our thankful response to God for his unconditional love and salvation through the 3 tenets that guide Stewardship—Time...Talent...Treasure.

Based on the above, it is clear that we are not doing justice to Stewardship when we only think in terms of money in relation to Stewardship. The affirming goal of Christian Stewardship “is the faithful management of all that God gives us, so that God can use our gifts to transform us spiritually and to reach out to others with Christ transforming love”. In fact, Jesus summed up our spiritual connection between money and God this way “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:34). Be it known today and henceforth that our spiritual growth and our relationship with God through the faithful management of all the God gives us.

The new consecration Sunday Stewardship Program also helps us know and understand stewardship as a year-round event and therefore should be practiced as such...more to follow on year-round stewardship development program (SDP). The timeline for our 2008/2009 stewardship campaign is as follows:

- October 19th— presentation of “New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program”
- October 26th— presentation of “Grow One Chart”, Adult Forum and request for celebration luncheon reservations
- November 2nd— Youth Group skit
- November 9th— Consecration Sunday, Guest Preacher and Celebration Luncheon.

***Much more details to follow on each Sunday’s presentation and celebration as they become available.

THANK YOU

Steve & Michelle Griffith would like to thank everyone who volunteered and participated in this year’s Sunday School Registration and **Welcome Back Picnic**. It was a huge success. Please remember to thank the sponsors who so generously contributed.



Once again, a HUGE Thank You is due to the “**Lay Weeders**” Committee members and other willing helpers for faithfully caring for Advent’s Memorial Garden these past months



October Calendar (subject to change)			
Note: PCOC is the Pastoral Care & Office Center			
Wed	10/1	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9:00 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	10/2	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
Fri	10/3	November Chronicle Deadline	
Sat	10/4	8:00 a.m. - Noon	Fall Clean-up Day
		4:00 -11:00 p.m.	Family Fun Night - Parish Hall
Sun	10/5	21 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	<i>Forum: Adult Spirituality - How does your family worship, love & serve seven days a week? (Fr. Dave) - Parish Hall</i>
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II (Handbell Choir Service)
		5:00 p.m.	Blessing of the Animals - Parking Lot
		6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Youth Group - Youth Room
Mon	10/6	7:00 a.m.	Stewardship Commission - PCOC
Tues	10/7	1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	10/8	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9:00 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Sun	10/12	22 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	<i>Forum: Christian Family Breakfast - Parish Hall</i>
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6:00 -7:30 p.m.	Youth Group - Youth Room
Mon	10/13	Columbus Day	
		7:00 p.m.	Outreach Meeting - PCOC
Tues	10/14	9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.	Quiet Day - St. Nicholas, St. Ann, Sanctuary
		1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	10/15	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9:00 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	10/16	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
Sat	10/18	7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Rummage Sale - Parish Hall
		10-11:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann

Sun	10/19	23 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Forum: Outreach - Parish Hall
			Newcomer Coffee - St. Nicholas
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6:00 -7:30 p.m.	Youth Group - Youth Room
Mon	10/20	9:30 a.m.	Angel Tree Steering Committee - PCOC
		6:30 p.m.	Membership Commission - PCOC
Tues	10/21	1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	10/22	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9:00 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	10/23	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
Fri	10/24	6:00 -10:00 p.m.	Fellowship Halloween - Off site
Sun	10/26	24 Pentecost	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	Forum: Stewardship - Parish Hall
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			No Youth Group - Family Time
		4:00 p.m.	Jazz Vespers #1 (Advent & Tatnall Choirs)
Mon	10/27	7:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting - PCOC
Tues	10/28	1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		6:30-7:30 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wed	10/29	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		9:00 a.m. - Noon	E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
		7:30-8:45 p.m.	Chancel (Adult) Choir
Thurs	10/30	8:00 AM	Depart for Sr. Parishioners trip to National Cathedral (return ~ 4 p.m.)
Fri	10/31	Halloween	

Chester County Youth Center

Remember our 125th Anniversary Project! Let's keep up the great donations!

- Birthday Bags for Girls & Boys are needed
 - Halloween Goodie Bags are needed by the end of October *Easy to do...inexpensive & so appreciated by the youth at the center.
- Call Suzanne Pusey at 610-444-0752 or email her SUZPU@yahoo.com for details.

Blessing of the Animals



Bring your pets for a special outdoor service on Sunday, October 5th,
at 5:00 pm on the celebration of St. Francis Day

Friendly and well behaved animals will be welcomed. For those who become nervous, aggressive or can't attend, bring a photo or memento to represent them. Donations to the SPCA wish list (below) will graciously be accepted.

Chester County SPCA Wish List

Advent's tradition is to collect items for the Chester County SPCA as part of our Pet Blessing Service. The following list will give you ideas of new and gently used things you can bring. And of course monetary donations of any size are always welcome! You can honor St. Francis by helping our animal friends in need. Do not bring pet food since dietary changes are hard on animals. If you wish to provide food please make a monetary donation to enable the shelter to buy what they use.

1. Towels and washcloths
2. Sheets and blankets
3. KDR brand kitten formula
4. Washable dog and cat toys
5. Stainless steel dog and cat bowls
6. Dog biscuits
7. Cat treats
8. Heating pads
9. Dog and cat brushes and combs
10. non-clumping kitty litter
11. Pooper scoopers
12. Newspaper

Youth Ministry

In Ecclesiastes we are reminded that there is a season and time for everything. With fall here the God Squad is meeting regularly again! This name was first several years ago and has stuck. It reflects the sense of fun, fellowship and service that is at the center of all we do. It also serves to inspire us. Calling ourselves the "God Squad" gives us a sense of purpose and urgency. It can refer not only to the group as a whole, but also to smaller "pods" of youth that join together to go on mission trips or do service projects or retreats together. God Squad or God Pod, we are bound together in fellowship with one another, in our relationship to God and what God is calling us to do.

New for this year Junior and Senior High will meet from 6:00pm – 7:30 pm on Sunday nights but as separate groups. Grab dinner at home and then head over to church for fellowship. We will have a gathering time together, snacks, and then break out with grades 7 & 8 meeting in St. Jude's Room; and grades 9-12 meeting in the Youth Room. We hope this makes it easier for families to have one drop off and pick up time instead of juggling between two different meetings. Our plans include rock wall climbing; special Harvest programs; labyrinth walks; our annual Angel Tree party and the always crowded Winterblast! Have you been to Youth Group lately? Come give it a try and join us. The God Squad is back! What can we say? It's a good thing. It's a God thing!

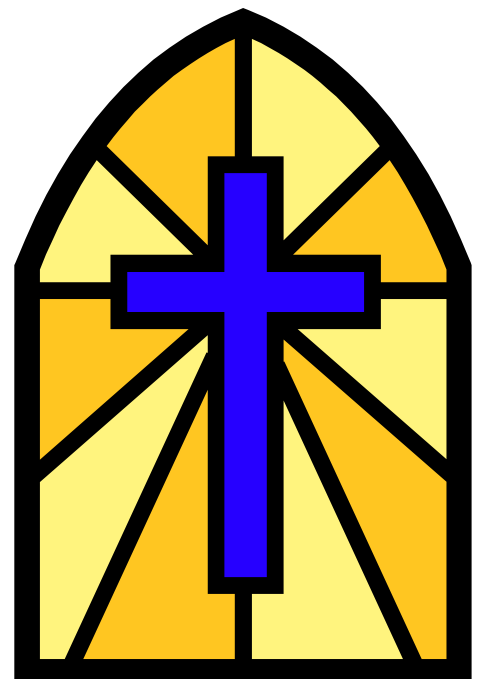
Youth Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- 4 - Fall Clean-Up Day for the Church
- 5 – 5pm Blessing of the Animals
6-7:30 pm Youth Group Meeting
- 12 – 6-7:30 pm Youth Group Meeting
- 19 – 6-7:30 pm Youth Group Meeting

Parish Register

Don Reynolds	6/7/2008
Arden Quinn Bucher	8/30/2008



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

Youth Ministry Director

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Did you know...???

Holy Day Celebration: St. Luke the Evangelist—October 18th

Almost all that we know about Luke comes from the New Testament. He was a physician (Col 4:14), a companion of Paul on some of his missionary journeys (Acts 16:10ff; 20:5ff; 27-28). Material found in his Gospel and not elsewhere includes much of the account of Our Lord's birth and infancy and boyhood, some of the most moving parables, such as that of the Good Samaritan and that of the Prodigal Son, and three of the sayings of Christ on the Cross: "Father, forgive them," "Thou shalt be with me in Paradise," and "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

In Luke's account of the Gospel, we find an emphasis on the human love of Christ, on His compassion for sinners and for suffering and unhappy persons, for outcasts such as the Samaritans, tax collectors, lepers, shepherds (not a respected profession), and for the poor. The role of women in Christ's ministry is more emphasized in Luke than in the other Gospel writings.

Luke makes many casual references throughout his writings (especially in Acts) to local customs and practices, often with demonstrable and noteworthy precision. To mention just one example, he refers to two centurions by name (Acts 13 & 18). His preserving it shows either that (1) he wrote fairly close to the events he described, or (2) he was describing persons and events on which he had good information, or (3) he was an expert historical novelist, with an ear for the authentic-sounding detail.

Luke is commonly thought to be the only non-Jewish New Testament writer. His writings place the life of Christ and the development of the early Church in the larger context of the Roman Empire and society.

~James Kiefer