

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

# Chronicle



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

Dear Friends,

### SECOND CHANCE FAITH

I can remember when I was youngster we played a lot of games. In those days there were no television or computer games and, unless there was extreme inclement weather, we generally played outdoors. Whether the game was marbles or kick the can or cowboy and Indians a cry could often be heard: "Give me one more chance." One more chance and I know I can win some marbles, one more chance and I'll catch you, one more chance and I'll be the king of the hill, on and on it would go. If you didn't win you asked for one more chance. Guess what? No one ever got a second chance.

I am glad that we all were so rigid and strict about no second chances. I know that sounds like a hard individual who has little empathy or compassion but the reality that many times in our adult there are no second chances. I was in court this summer with a friend who made some serious and foolish decisions and although he did not actually participate in the crime he was a part of it and he has gone to jail. How he would love a second chance! Have you ever said something that you wish you had never said? How you wish for your tongue to be cut off or at least for a second chance.

Thank goodness God didn't grow up with me. If he had, perhaps he wouldn't be so willing to give all of us, who ask, a second chance. The Good News about God, as known through Jesus Christ, is that he is a giver of forgiveness over and over again.

Many people believe that summer vacation from school is also a vacation from worship. With nice weather there are many tempting things to do as a family outside on a Sunday morning. It certainly is important to do things as a family. However, God does not stop loving you or forgiving you whether it is hot or cold out, July or January.

Ok, so you took the summer off. The wonderful thing is that you can return without apology or embarrassment. It is not a matter between you and the clergy or the other members of the congregation. It is a matter between you and God and He is a God of the Second Chance. He will forgive you and restore you in His redeeming grace.

So get out of bed and let's see your shinning face on Sundays. Summer is unfortunately growing to an end and another school year and church year (program speaking) is about to begin.

Faithfully,

David Thomas, Rector

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## Church of the Advent & the American Red Cross need your help!

We would like to recruit some parishioners to volunteer as a “Blood Drive Team” to help do sign-ups after services and phone calls for upcoming blood drives held at Advent. If we can get a group of 4 or 5 to commit to 2 or 3 hours of their time, twice a year, we would be set and not have to impact the daily operations of the church. We could also focus on phone calls in the evening- which eliminates most of the answering machines as well. If interested, please call Kathy Gebhart at the church office.

### OUTREACH

Thanks to all those who contributed clothes and money to buy shoes for the children whose parents are in prison. We now have 3 very happy girls. Here are some remarks from their thank you notes:

- *“My shoes are beautiful. Thank you.”*
- *“Thank you for all the pretty clothes”.*
- *“For the shoes and clothes I thank you. I look so pretty.”*

Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of these children.

## Building & Grounds Maintenance Sleuths

To those parishioners who see and report maintenance issues to the Parish Office, a **heart-felt thanks!** Recently, a couple of parishioners informed us of some cracks in the supports for the church pews. Upon investigation, we discovered that 21 pews had cracks and structural damage from changes in temperature and humidity over the past 50+years. The point is, without parishioners who are willing to take a moment or two from their day to inform us of issues like this, the church pews may have incurred more costly structural damage over time and may have resulted in a parishioner injury from collapse. So, thanks again for your input into preserving your church’s buildings and grounds.

## Communications Commission Forum

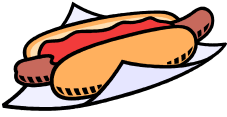
Please stop by the Communication Commission’s Forum in Parish Hall on September 18th following the 9am service. We’ll be discussing the recent changes to our website and some new online links. Find out how the Chronicle has entered the 21st century with our new parish-wide email system. We’ll also be talking about other new communication ideas such as our online church photo directory and recorded Sunday Sermons for sick and shut-ins. Committee members will be on hand to answer your questions.



## “Thank You” From an Advent Family

Debbie O’Brien & Family would like to thank everyone for their support when Molly, their daughter, was in a VERY bad car accident. The family feels so very blessed to be part of Advent’s compassionate and supportive community. Thank you so much, and please continue to keep Abby Miller’s family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

## Advent's 4th Annual



# Welcome Back Picnic



Join us for food, fellowship & Sunday School registration  
**Sunday, September 7th**

At Church of the Advent following the 10am service (note time change)

Burgers, hot dogs & beverages provided  
Bring a salad, side or dessert to share & lawn chairs.

Bring the kids! The moon bounce will be waiting for them!

*This year's Welcome Back Picnic has been partially sponsored by local businesses*

If you can help set-up, clean-up or cook, sign up on the sheet at the church or contact Steve Griffith at 610-869-3858 or [thebugman4u@verizon.net](mailto:thebugman4u@verizon.net)

## GODSQUAD UPDATES

**New Year...new theme...**In keeping with this year's church theme of building strong Christian families our activities for youth will center on the theme of "You Are Loved". All year long in different ways we will explore how much we are loved by God and our families, and how both prepare us to in turn reach out in love to others. Check out the programs for September listed below and make a pledge to yourself to be part of all that happens. *To promote family time youth do not meet one Sunday each month.*

**Goodbye...hello!** We bid Godspeed to all our graduated seniors who were leaving for college this fall at the summer celebration party, and we say hello to our new 7th graders who are new members to the God-squad this year! Be up-to-date on all events by making sure we have your correct email address. Send a blank email to [adventyouthdirector@yahoo.com](mailto:adventyouthdirector@yahoo.com) with your name and "correct address" in the subject line today!

**A West Virginia "hoot-hoot"** goes to the 21 mission trip team members from Advent who traveled 9+hours to Logan, West Virginia in July. They performed housing repairs, ran a children's summer camp and worked in a soup kitchen while serving in Logan and growing in their faith. Don't know what a "hoot-hoot" is?! Come to the Youth Forum on September 21 to learn what it means and more as the teens share their journey and stories!

**Thank you...**to the Scale's family for hosting a summer celebration party on August 10th. Southern BBQ, games, and an inflatable water slide all contributed to a "hope-summer-never-ends" fun time. Thanks to all who helped and attended this magical event.

## GODSQUAD SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

- 6th Service Project; time TBA via email
- 7th 5:00 p.m. Welcome Back Ice Cream Social
- 14th 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. YG meeting at church
- 21st 10:00 a.m. Youth Forum on Mission Trip
- 28th 5:30 p.m. –7:30 p.m. YG meeting at church
- 28th No meeting; family night

## E-Chronicle Makes its Debut!

Church of the Advent has contracted with a web based newsletter provider called Constant Contact. We've done so in order to reach parishioners via email on a more timely basis. We chose to use Constant Contact because of the ease of use, great reputation and recommendations of several other local churches who have used their products as well. We hope that you'll enjoy reading emails from the Church of the Advent!



## Adult Spirituality Commission

*Psalm 147: Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor him with praise!*

Greetings from the adult Spirituality Commission! We hope you have all had a relaxing and joyful summer. September is nearing, and that means our schedules and commitments are changing. Our commission would ask you to prayerfully consider marking your calendars, and making our events part of your commitments this year.

- Sept. 17th: **Prayer Shawl Knitting**. 11:00 a.m. after the Wednesday service in the St. Anne's room
- Sept. 20th: **Prayer Shawl Knitting**. 10:00 a.m. in the St. Anne's room. NO SKILL NEEDED to join the Prayer Shawl Knitting Groups! We will get you started, give it a try! Any questions? Call the office 610-444-4624
- Sept. 27th: **Women's Breakfast**. The Gentlemen of Advent will be the chefs, servers and clean-up crew.
- Oct. 5th: Father Dave will be leading our **Forum** on the Family. How does your family worship, love and serve seven days a week?
- Oct. 12th: **Family Breakfast**. Join us in the Parish Hall to meet our families. We will have an energetic activity planned. Come share your wisdom for raising a family of love.
- Oct. 15th: **Prayer Shawl Knitting**. 11:00 a.m. in the St. Anne's room
- Oct. 18th: **Prayer Shawl Knitting**. 10:00 a.m. in the St. Anne's room
- Nov. 1st: **Men's Breakfast**. The Ladies of Advent will be the chefs, servers and clean-up crew.
- Nov. 12th: **Prayer Shawl Knitting**. 11:00 a.m. in the St. Anne's room
- Nov. 15th: **Prayer Shawl Knitting**. 10:00 a.m. in the St. Anne's room
- Nov. 23rd: **Forum**—"Advent Season"—How to Prepare
- Dec. 16th: **Quiet Day**: Morning—9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Evening—7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Jan. 23-24: **Adult Retreat**: National Cathedral in Washington DC. We need 24 adults.
- Jan. 30-31: **Couples Retreat**: "Unlocking the Marriage Bag". More information to follow. Father Dave will be the leader of this retreat. Sign-up sheets can be found on the Adult Spirituality bulletin board in the parish hall.



## Children & Family Activities Set to Start

### Sunday School:

Here at Advent, we have Sunday school classes for everyone beginning at age 3, between 10 and 11:00 a.m. Be sure to **register** all children and youth, including babies in the nursery, on **Sunday, Sept. 7th** at the Welcome Back Picnic. Your whole family can be registered on one sheet. Complete information is crucial to providing teachers and materials for all classes. Filing a complete registration form also helps us update your family information in our data base. It is preferable to have everyone registered before **classes begin on Sept. 14th**.

### Children's Chapel:

Children from age 4 through first grade are invited to attend Children's Chapel downstairs in St. Jude room from 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. This isn't babysitting or playtime (so no toys), but a child-friendly version of the worship service upstairs. Children may attend beginning on their fourth birthday, no matter when it is. We are proud of our 'graduated' second graders who have joined corporate worship upstairs. Please give them a wink and a welcome! We also have a Children's Chapel choir that sings twice a year, with songs taught and practiced in chapel. Participation in the performance is optional, but the songs are part of our weekly worship. **Children's Chapel begins on Sept. 14th**.

### Nursery:

Babies up through 3 years old are welcome in our nursery, downstairs next to the kitchen. Our beloved babysitter, Irma, provides a loving and caring environment for our tiniest lambs. Pagers are provided for your peace of mind. Make sure to sign in with your own first and last name—not "Mom", "Dad" or "Grandmom"; and your child's name. The nursery is open during the 9 and 11:00 a.m. services, and the Sunday School Hour in between. Three year olds who use the nursery during the 9:00 a.m. service may be taken out for our Angels Sunday School class after the service, while parents enjoy spiritual growth opportunities and fellowship. Any babies brought up for communion at the 9:00 a.m. service can be returned to the nursery if parents want to enjoy a class or fellowship during the Sunday School Hours.

### Family Fun Night

Building a strong Christian family begins from the ground up. Our first-ever Family Fun Night will be Saturday, October 4th. This event is geared to families with children from pre-school through 6th grade: Mom, Dad, big sister, little brother. Join us Saturday night for some fellowship and fun. Be sure to register your family at the Welcome Back Picnic. We will need some help that night, so let us know if you can do that.

### Coming Soon for 5th & 6th Graders!

Beginning in October, we will launch an "all new" Youth Group for 5th & 6th graders. Look for information at the Welcome Back Picnic.

## Children & Family Activities Continued...

### Intergenerational Activities Planned for Advent Season:

This fall, we will be planning activities for Advent Season 2008. If you would like to be on the planning team call the office to let Kathy Prible or Deacon Nancy Hauser know. Remember...this is "Intergenerational", it spans all ages, including yours!

### First Communion Classes Beginning Soon!

Our annual First Communion classes will be held Sept. 22 & 23. The Monday session runs 4:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m. , and Tuesday runs 4:30 p.m. –5:00 p.m. also. Father Dave instructs this class for any baptized children ready to receive or already receiving Communion. The Tuesday class is always followed by a bread-making session with Mrs. Prible, where the children make the communion bread to be used on their First Communion Sunday, Sept. 28th. Parents are required to accompany children to classes each day and the bread-making session on Tuesday. Children are required to attend both sessions. This is the only time of year the class is offered. Registration is required and may be done by calling the church office.

### Dessert Fundraiser

A simply delicious kind of fundraiser! Buy your dessert at the Welcome Back Picnic and support research at the Nemours Hospital and the Caring Bridge site used by patient's families to keep in touch with friends, family and spiritual communities. If you would like to make a simple dessert to sell, just sign up on the Fellowship list. Desserts must be easy to "grab-and-go". They can be individually wrapped or easily cut apart. Think rice krispie treats, brownies, bagged cookies, cake squares that can be easily served.

## Name Badge Initiative~Off to a GREAT Start!

The Membership Commission is in the process of ordering **NEW MAGNETIC NAME BADGES** for all 1,303 people in our parish. By acknowledging newcomers, new members and longstanding parishioners, we are building our church family on a personal level and achieving our goal of "Growing a Strong Christian Family". The simple gesture of faithfully wearing your name badge will assist our clergy, vestry, greeters, ushers, teachers and each other.

- The Magnetic Badges are 1" x 3", blue with lettering and are \$5 each, payable when ordering. Checks can be made out to The Church of the Advent, memo: NAME BADGE. A receipt will be given to confirm your order.
- Pin backs are available, if preferred.
- Badges for children are optional.
- Sundays in August up to the Welcome Back Sunday, Sept. 7th, there will be a table set up to assist you in ordering and checking the name for each individual badge.
- The order will be placed after Sept. 7th with delivery mid-September.

*Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came...You wanna be where you can see, our troubles are all the same. You wanna be where everybody knows your name!*

*(Theme from "Cheers")*

## September Events Calendar

<b>September Calendar (subject to change)</b>			
<b>Note: PCOC is the Pastoral Care &amp; Office Center</b>			
Mon	9/1	Labor Day	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
Thurs	9/4	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Jenner's Pond
Fri	9/5		<b>October Chronicle Deadline</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9/7</b>	<b>17 Pentecost</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		11:00 a.m.	<b>Welcome Back Picnic &amp; Sunday School Registration</b>
		6-8 p.m.	<b>Youth Group Registration &amp; Ice Cream Social</b>
Mon	9/8	7:30 a.m.	Stewardship Commission - PCOC
		7:00 p.m.	Outreach Commission - PCOC
Tues	9/9	1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		6:00 p.m.	Executive Committee - PCOC
Wed	9/10	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9/14</b>	<b>18 Pentecost</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II & Baptisms
		10:00 a.m.	<b>Forum: Communications</b>
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group - Youth Room
Tues	9/16	1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
Wed	9/17	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
Thurs	9/18	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Kendal
Sat	9/20	10-11:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry - St. Ann
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9/21</b>	<b>19 Pentecost</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		10:00 a.m.	<b>Forum: Youth Mission Trip</b>
			<b>Newcomer Coffee - St. Nicholas</b>
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
		6-8 p.m.	Youth Group - Youth Room
Mon	9/22	4:30-5 p.m.	1st Communion Class - Sanctuary
		7:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting - PCOC
Tues	9/23	1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting
		4:30-5:30 p.m.	1st Communion Class - Sanctuary & PH
Wed	9/24	9:00 a.m.	Bible Study - St. Ann
			E.F.M. - St. Timothy
		10:30 a.m.	Eucharist - Chapel
Thurs	9/25	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist at Crosslands
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9/28</b>	<b>20 Pentecost</b>	
		8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite I
		9:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II & <b>1st Communion</b>
		10:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
		11:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist - Rite II
			No Youth Group - Family Time
Mon	9/29	6:30 p.m.	Membership Commission - St. Nicholas
Tues	9/30	1:30 p.m.	Staff Meeting

**Rector**

The Rev. Canon David P. Thomas

**Acting Assistant to the Rector**

The Rev. Dick Kirk

**Deacon**

The Rev. Nancy Hauser

**Music Director**

Wilson G. Somers

**Director of Christian Education**

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**Director of Youth Ministries**

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## Did you know...???

### Holy Day Celebration: Feast of the Holy Cross—Sept. 14th

During the reign of Constantine, first Roman Emperor to profess the Christian faith, his mother Helena went to Israel and there undertook to find the places especially significant to Christians. (She was helped in this by the fact that in their destructions around 135, the Romans had built pagan shrines over many of these sites.) Having located, close together, what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (at locations that modern archaeologists think may be correct), she then had built over them the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which was dedicated on 14 September 335. It has become a day for recognizing the Cross (in a festal atmosphere that would be inappropriate on Good Friday) as a symbol of triumph, as a sign of Christ's victory over death, and a reminder of His promise, "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

The Christian custom of tracing the sign of the cross on persons and things as a sign of blessing is very old. Some think that it goes back to the very origins of Christianity and earlier. In Ezekiel 9, we read that Ezekiel had a vision of the throne-room of God, in which an angel was sent to go through Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of the faithful few who mourned for the sins of the city. Afterwards, other angels were sent through the city to destroy all those who had not the mark. We find similar visionary material in Revelation 7:2-4; 9:4; 14:1, where the mark on the forehead again protects the faithful few in the day of wrath, and it is said to be the name of the Lamb and of His Father. Now, the Hebrew word used for "mark" in Ezekiel is TAU, which is the also the name of the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet (the ancestor of the Greek letter TAU and our letter T), and it refers to a mark like an X or a +, two short lines crossing at right angles.