

Epiphany Star

December 2011

Sisters and Brothers,

Happy New Year! The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the life of the Church, and a time of anticipation and preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It is perhaps the most counter-cultural season in the Church year, and that gives us an opportunity to draw distinctions between our life in Christ and the materialistic society in which we live.

Last year during Advent our book group read *Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Guide to Putting Love and Joy Back Into the Season*. The book is filled with suggestions for making the season of Advent (keep in mind that the Christmas season *begins* at sunset on December 24) less about buying, shopping, getting, and panicking, and more about sharing, hoping, waiting and living. If you didn't read the book with us, I invite you to take a look at it. If you don't have access to the book, or prefer a very quick message, I recommend an organization called Advent Conspiracy. You can find them online at <http://www.adventconspiracy.org>. Their specific mission is clean water for people in developing countries, a goal worth supporting. But the message is applicable even if you choose to support other missions. A series of short, thought-provoking videos is the key to their message. I'd encourage you to watch them with your family as you make giving decisions in the coming weeks.

Another source of information regarding Advent, and keeping the season true to its purpose, is Occupy Advent (<http://occupyadvent.blogspot.com>). While the organizers of the movement are exclusively using social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, the message translates well into life away from technology. The creator of the movement, which takes its name from other recent "Occupy..." movements, is The Rev. David Hansen, a Lutheran pastor. Here's how he describes the purpose of Occupy Advent:

"The best statement of the purpose that I've come up with yet is 'to help churches and Christians use social media tools to talk about the meaning & mystery of Advent.' ...what I would like to see is Christians using the power of social media to change the conversation of the "holiday season" – away from the shallow commercialism and toward the power of waiting and watching."

¹ <http://blog.ourchurch.com/2011/11/11/what-is-occupy-advent/>

So, why all these suggestions? Because we Christians are, in fact, different from the culture around us in our reason for celebrating both the season of Advent and the season of Christmas, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany. We realize that Christmas isn't simply a time for Santa Claus, gifts, and food. It isn't simply a time to gather with family and friends. It is, above all else, a time to remember the coming of God into the world in human form. And Advent is the season in which we prepare ourselves, both physically and spiritually, to fully receive this miraculous gift when it happens. In this season of anticipation and hope, in this time when we wait with joyful expectation for the Nativity of our Lord, I invite you to take a step back, to let that hope and anticipation wash over you. I invite you to prepare yourself for the coming of the Lord in whatever way allows you to shift your focus from the madness around us to the cornerstone of our Christian faith.

Slow down. Breathe. Anticipate. Hope. Pray. Prepare your hearts and your minds to receive the gift of Hope for the world, Jesus, the Christ.

*Advent blessings,
Mother Linda*

Hanging of the Greens

The “hanging of the live greens” is scheduled for Sunday, December 18th after the 11:00 am service. If you can stay to help with this it would be very much appreciated. Many hands make light work and we need your hands! Check with Gene Burns to see how you can be of help.

Habitat House

Thanks to all who were willing to help with the Habitat lunch that was scheduled for November 19th. It has been rescheduled for Jan. 7th. Sorry for the inconvenience and the dollar donations will be used at that time. THANKS!!! Jill Dineen

United Thank Offering (UTO)

Thank you all that was able to give to the Fall Ingathering of the UTO. With your contributions we were able to donate \$650.00 to this mission. Your support is very much appreciated. Thanks again, Helen Frenette UTO Coordinator.

Bishop’s Ball (for middle and high school youth)

December 9 – 11th

Camp Walter Johnson, Denton, NC

Sunday, November 27, Second Annual Chili-Cookoff!

The Second Annual Advent Festival and Chili Cook-off was a hit! The “Golden Ladle” was awarded for the second year straight to Vicky Petty! Congratulations Vicky!!! (Sorry Rocky)

Soles4Souls Shoe Drive

Soles4Souls Shoe Drive was a success. We had many shoes to deliver when we attended the Bishops Ball. Your gift of gently used footwear was important to children and adults around the world. Footwear can help eliminate the spreading of disease through the foot as well as help children obtain an education - as many schools have footwear requirements to attend. To learn more about this program visit <http://www.soles4souls.org>

Youth & Adult Caroling

Meet at Epiphany on Monday, December 19, 6:00 pm

Epiphany’s Childrens Pageant

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24, music begins at 10:30pm following with our service at 11:00 pm.

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25, we will have our 8:30 and 11am service

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, January 1, 11:00 am service only.

Friday, January 6, 6:00 pm

Our youth will lead the “Festival of Lights” our annual meeting will follow the service.

Spinach Squares (Requested recipe from Brianna’s shower)

2 (10oz.) pkg. frozen spinach (drained), 1 cup Jiffy (Bisquick) mix, ½ cup parmesan cheese, 1 cup cheddar cheese, ½ tsp. seasoned salt, 4 eggs, ¼ cup oil, ½ cup onion, 1 garlic clove (minced), 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, ½ tsp. salt, ½ tsp. oregano. Grease pan, mix ingredients together, bake in 13x9 pan 20 – 25 min. at 350 degrees.

Memorials

(An anonymous donation of a Pall was given for cremation services at Epiphany.)

In loving memory of Grace Atkins

By

Larry & Bunny Littleton

Pat Johnston

Mary & Jimmy Ivie

Toni Flanagan Burchell

Lector & Layreaders Schedules:

Jan. 1: Gene Burns

Jan. 8: Wayne Seymour

Ben Tucker* & Rob Martin

Jan. 15: Susan Stone

Mack & M.J. McKinney

Jan. 22: Mike Redman

Mike Redman & Charlotte Maness*

Jan. 29: Ginny Sharrow

Ginny Sharrow & Babby Dinnen*

Acolytes:

Dec. 4: Team 2

Dec. 11: Team 1

Dec. 18: Team 2

Dec. 24: Teams 1 & 2

Dec. 25: Team 1

Cooperative Christian Ministry

(CCM)

Thanksgiving is a time to remember how blessed we are and to share with others.

We would like to thank you for the items you donated to the CCM Thanksgiving Food Drive. This is appreciated and needed at this time of year.

Mother Linda and Steve express heartfelt thanks for all the kindness and prayers you offered at the time of her knee surgery. You are a great blessing to their family.

Punch on the Lawn

We have enjoyed the fellowship following the 11 o'clock service. Being together as a church family warms the soul. To continue in the "punch on the lawn" tradition a calendar will be posted outside the kitchen. Please sign up for one or two Sundays during our church year. Think about the slot or slots you take and keep that spot every year. If you have plans out of town on the Sunday chosen, have your refreshments at the church, someone will be glad to put the goodies out for you. Just let someone know and by the way we will miss you. Phone calls will be made in January to fill those Sundays not taken.

Altar Flowers for December 2011

4 Jo Sherwood
11 OPEN
18 Tina Kallam
25 Ezra Roberson

Note: The amount for altar flowers is \$59.50 if purchased through the church.

If you would like to memorialize or honor someone consider providing the Aumbry candle, which hangs over the altar. Call or email Betty in the church office 623-9410 if you are interested.

Please remember in prayer: Dolly Hopkins, Peggy Andres, Betsy Scales, Becky Reamey, Charlotte Tulloch, Allison, Victoria, Betty Weiss, Charlotte Maynor, Jennie, Melvin Garner, Ridley Smith, Ann & Bobby Shelton, Jim Garner, Zane, Penny Horsley, Joanne, Anne, Cora. All the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad (especially your servants Ed Wilson, Lloyd Payne, Eddie Sullivan, Charlie Fosbroke, Michael Sumner, Frank Caparulo, Jr., Rob Bunnell) *(Names will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks, if they need to remain longer please call Betty in the office 623-9410 or email her to let her know.)*

Also remember our homebound:

Charlotte Tulloch (home)

Prayer Chain

For Prayer Chain information or to put someone on the prayer chain, call Zane Mizell at 623-6631 or the church office: 623-9410 Thank you!

Altar Guild for December:

Pug Webster & Mike Redman

Next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Monday,

December 12, 7 pm

Meals on Wheels:

Epiphany is scheduled for Dec. 26 & 27
(No delivery either day)

Each Sunday

Coffee & snacks are being served in Moncure Hall following the 11 am service. Please join us!

Upcoming events:

December 19: Youth & Adults Caroling 6pm

December 21: Children's Pageant 7pm

December 24: Service at 11:00 pm with music beginning at 10:30p.

Christmas Day: services 8:30 & 11:00 am

January 1: Lessons & Carols 11am only

January 6: Youth leads Epiphany service 6pm
Annual meeting following service.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Michelle Dallas:	Dec. 1
Francis Reid:	Dec. 2
Vicki Longhofer	Dec. 3
Ruth Sherwood:	Dec. 3
Kameron Nash	Dec. 5
Kennedy Horsley	Dec. 6
Gil & Kim Southern	Dec. 7
Victor Cresenzo:	Dec. 7
Michael Cresenzo:	Dec. 7
Bob Vaughn:	Dec. 10
Keith Dallas:	Dec. 14
Michael Minichello:	Dec. 15
Dwayne & Ginger Salmons:	Dec. 15
Vicki L. & Richard Copeland	Dec. 17
Tina Kallam	Dec. 22
Jill & Babby Dineen	Dec. 23
Riley Seymour	Dec. 23
Betsy Sharrow:	Dec. 23
Isabelle Salmons:	Dec. 23
Ernie & Lavonne Hunter	Dec. 25
Jeff Margensey:	Dec. 27
Bryant Lemons:	Dec. 29
Jeanne Purdy:	Dec. 30
Ron & Jeanne Purdy:	Dec. 31
Ellen Garrett:	Dec. 31

If you don't see your name listed for the birthday / anniversary month or listed incorrectly, please call Betty in the church office (623-9410) so we can correct our information.

The first and third Fridays of each month, meet at the Lord's Pantry on Bridge St., to unload a food truck. This is one easy way to help in your community. We meet at 4pm. Please help out!

The non-designated offering on the first Sunday of each month is given to the Rector's Discretionary Fund to help those in need in our community.

Epiphany is a sponsor of CCM. Please remember to bring non-perishable items to place in the red wagon for our food bank. Thank you for your contributions.

The Episcopal Church Men meet the first Friday in each month at Whistle Jacket, 11:30am.

****The church office will not be open the week following Christmas Day. We will be in and out but not working our regular schedule. Please call Linda's cell 601-1212 if an emergency or leave a message on the church phone 623-9410. ****