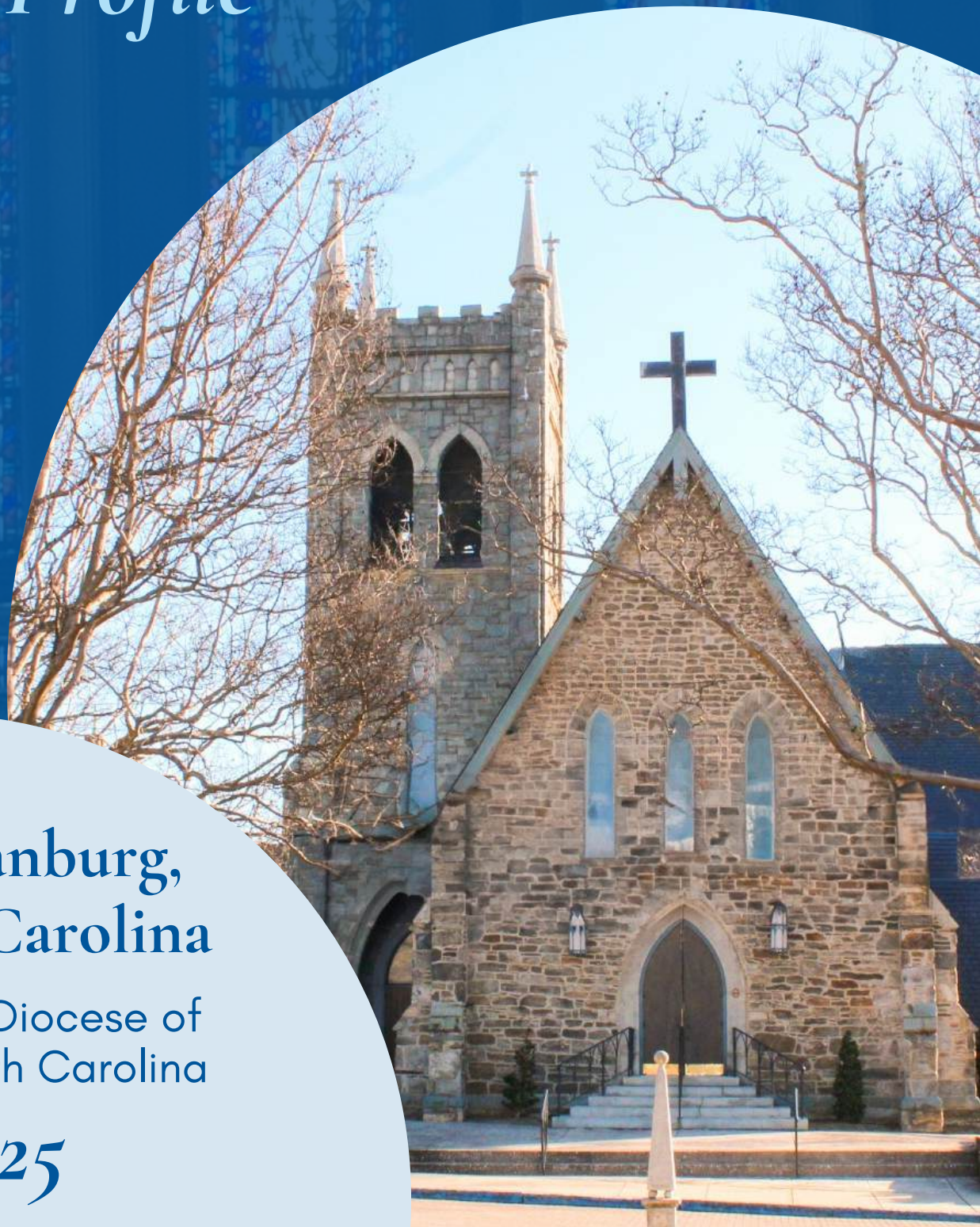


THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Parish Profile



Spartanburg,
South Carolina

Episcopal Diocese of
Upper South Carolina

2025



Welcome to The Episcopal Church of The Advent

Thank you for your interest in The Episcopal Church of the Advent in Spartanburg, South Carolina. This profile shares the story of our community—our historic roots, strong leadership, and the momentum carrying us toward a vibrant future.

With enthusiasm, joy, and optimism, our parish is growing. A recent Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey of 291 parishioners highlighted positive change, increased involvement, and greater financial support. United in love and guided by the Holy Spirit, we embrace opportunities to:

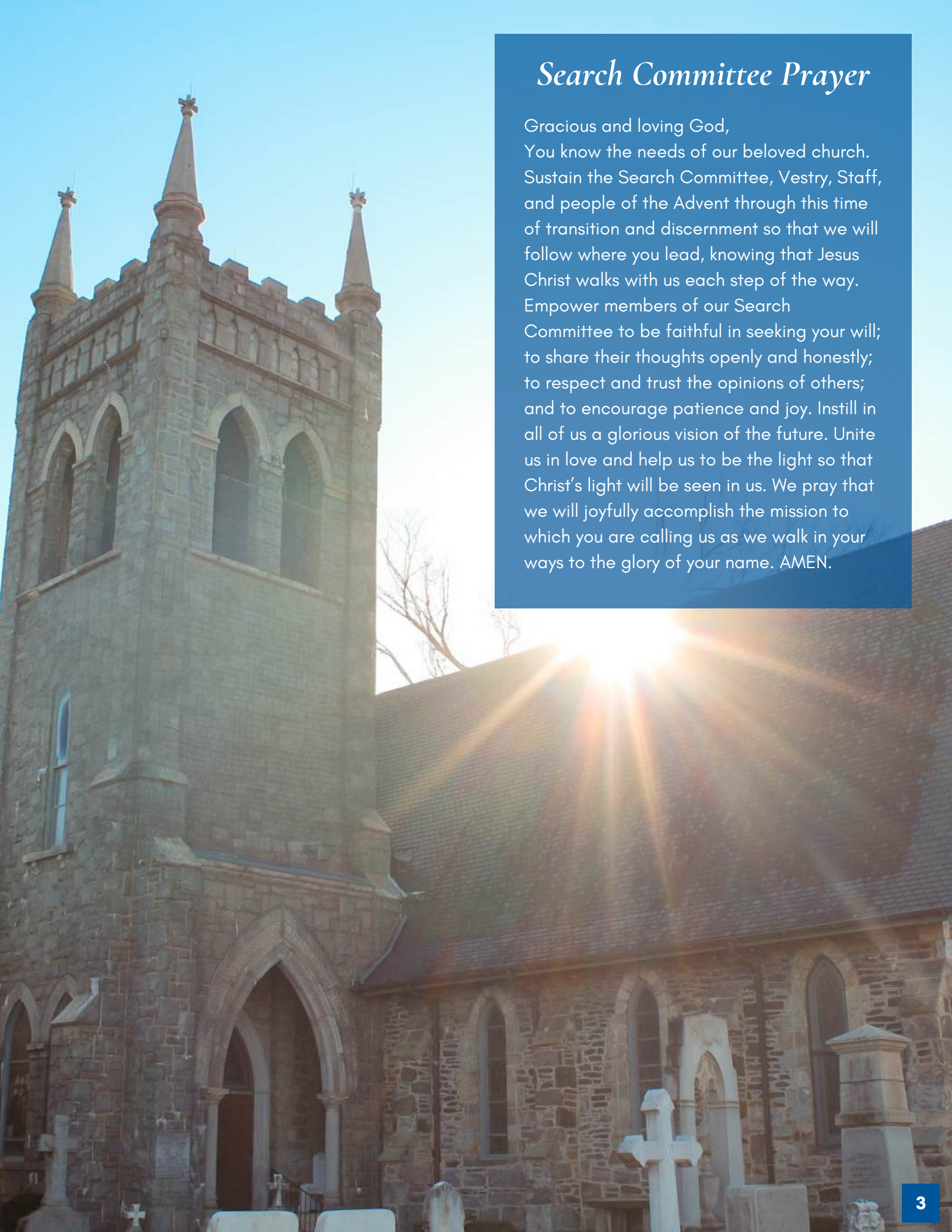
- Strengthen youth leadership
- Reach new families and young people
- Expand outreach programs
- Foster spiritual generosity

Who We Seek

We prayerfully seek a Spirit-filled rector—an active listener, a strong communicator, and a community builder with an action-driven leadership style.

We eagerly anticipate welcoming our next rector with hope and gratitude. As you discern your calling, please know that we are praying for you and your family, just as we ask for your prayers for us.

Faithfully,
Melissa Johnson, Search Committee Chair
Boyce M. Lawton III, PhD, Senior Warden



Search Committee Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
You know the needs of our beloved church. Sustain the Search Committee, Vestry, Staff, and people of the Advent through this time of transition and discernment so that we will follow where you lead, knowing that Jesus Christ walks with us each step of the way. Empower members of our Search Committee to be faithful in seeking your will; to share their thoughts openly and honestly; to respect and trust the opinions of others; and to encourage patience and joy. Instill in all of us a glorious vision of the future. Unite us in love and help us to be the light so that Christ's light will be seen in us. We pray that we will joyfully accomplish the mission to which you are calling us as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name. AMEN.



○ HOLY + HOLY + HOLY ○



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The Advent at a Glance

175th Anniversary in 2024

229 Average Sunday Attendance in 2024

11 Baptisms in 2024

21 Confirmations in 2024

5 New Transfers in 2024

7 Weddings in 2024

9 Funerals in 2024

261 Pledging Units for 2025

80 Students at Advent Children's Center

\$33,750 in Outreach Disbursements - ECW Bazaar & Oyster Roast

\$188,105 Total Advent Outreach Support

for

22 local partners and **2** mission families

\$13,000,000+ Advent Foundation Net Assets

\$1,800,000+ pledged for 2025 Operating Budget

2025 Balanced Budget



Our Story

The Episcopal Church of the Advent: 176 Years of Faith & Service

Consecrated in 1864, the Episcopal Church of the Advent has grown into one of the most influential parishes in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. While not the oldest or largest church in the diocese, The Advent consistently leads in giving and outreach support.

Our rich history includes many noteworthy points of interest:

- Soon after The Advent's consecration, the parish's first rector, the Reverend John DeWitt McCollough, designed 20 churches and significantly spread the Episcopal Church throughout the Upstate. Today, two thriving Episcopal churches in Spartanburg and two missions owe their genesis to the Advent.
- Early in the twentieth century, our rector, the Reverend W. H. K. Pendleton, was instrumental in the founding of Kanuga Conference Center in Western North Carolina.
- The Advent is home to Troop 1. Chartered in 1914, it was the first Boy Scout troop established in South Carolina.
- We proudly claim our share of distinguished parishioners including military heroes, state governors, US Congressmen, Cabinet members, and industrialists and business leaders.
- Two of our former rectors, the Reverends Theodore D. Bratton and Charles F. Duvall, were elected bishops.

A Legacy of Outreach

The church's story is much more than the story of our members. Outreach has always been central to The Advent's mission. Early efforts supported textile mill communities and soldiers stationed nearby during World War I and II. Over the years, our mission work has extended from coastal South Carolina to Haiti, Ecuador, and Camp Gravatt. Closer to home, Advent parishioners helped establish:

- St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic
- Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network
- Faith Initiative to End Childhood Poverty
- Spartanburg Shares
- Citizens Scholars
- Adult Learning Center

We respond to compelling needs in our community with generous financial support and energy. For over twenty years, we have maintained an active partnership with Mary H. Wright Elementary School (a high poverty school, located two miles from our campus), where dozens of parishioners assist teachers, students, and families.

Visionary Leadership & Growth

In the mid-1990s, a comprehensive strategic planning effort known as Project Epiphany restructured parish leadership, organizing the Vestry into commissions focused on Liturgy, Christian Formation, Parish Life, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Parish Management, and Stewardship. This initiative paved the way for the Cornerstone Campaign, which funded construction of the Parish and Community Life Center (PCLC)—home to Christian education facilities, a pre-school, a gymnasium, and multi-purpose dining and meeting spaces.

Today, two priests serve our parish with a staff of 14 program, support, and maintenance professionals. During the school year, the Advent Children's Center employs an additional 20 people who serve 80 preschool students.

Financial Strength & The Advent Foundation

In the early 1980s, Advent lay leaders established The Advent Foundation, consolidating memorial gifts into a fund supporting outreach, campus needs, and a now-closed lay pension plan. Today, after 41 years, the Foundation's endowment exceeds \$13 million, contributing over \$500,000 in 2025 to the church and community. Additionally, with \$1.8 million in pledged giving, The Advent enters 2025 with a balanced operating annual budget and a firm financial foundation.

A Bright Future

For more than 175 years, the Episcopal Church of the Advent has played a vital role in the spiritual life of our community and beyond. Guided by our Parish Mission Statement—

"To show Christ's light in us through worship and prayer, play and work, sharing and giving, that all may know Him."

—we look forward to an exciting future under our next rector, spreading Christ's light throughout Spartanburg and the world.



"I like that our church is big enough to have a lot to offer in terms of services, programs, events and volunteer opportunities, yet small enough to have a tight community feel."
- Molly Cashman



Our Commissions: Our Life in Ministry



Liturgy & Music



Parish Life



Pastoral Care



*Christian
Formation*



Outreach



*Parish
Management*



Stewardship

How We Worship

Spirit-filled worship is at the heart of The Advent experience. We gather every Sunday for two services of Holy Eucharist, following the standard lectionary and drawing from the Book of Common Prayer (1979), The Hymnal 1982, and Wonder, Love, and Praise:

- 8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite I (spoken, no music)
- 10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist, Rite II (our largest service, livestreamed, with choir-led music, and children's chapel with an age-appropriate message and music)

Worship continues throughout the week:

- Morning Prayer: Monday through Friday at 8:15 AM in Olney Chapel
- Holy Eucharist & Healing Service: Wednesdays at 5:30 PM in Olney Chapel

Throughout the liturgical year, we celebrate:

- Christmas: Three services on Christmas Eve, one on Christmas Day
- Lent & Holy Week: Midweek midday services in Lent and daily services during Holy Week
- Baccalaureate Service: Featuring a graduating high school senior as guest speaker
- Scout Sunday: Led by an Eagle Scout guest speaker
- Spartanburg Community Thanksgiving Service: Interfaith service for area churches

Our services are enriched by a dedicated community, including:

- Altar Guild (80+ members)
- Vestry greeters, Ushers, Lectors, and Intercessors
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes
- Livestreaming team and Children's Chapel volunteers

Together, we create a welcoming space for prayer, reflection, and inspiration.

Ascribe to the
Lord the glory due
his Name; worship
the Lord in the
beauty of holiness.
(Psalm 29:2)



Liturgy & Music

We believe that music is a powerful tool of worship, education, and inspiration—an essential avenue to shine Christ’s light into the world. Our active and growing music ministry spans generations and talents, and is led by a full-time Organist/Choirmaster.

- The **St. Cecilia Schola**, our adult choir, sings at all Sunday 10:15 AM services and at special liturgies throughout the year. Led by a quartet of paid section leaders, the repertoire ranges from *acapella* Renaissance anthems to spirituals and gospel choruses.
- Other adults choose to perform with the **Advent Bell Choir**, which enjoys a real camaraderie and regularly provides music for Sunday services.
- Our children’s music program includes both the **Angel Choir** (4K-1st grade) and the **Junior Choir** (2nd-5th grade). Choristers not only sing monthly at Sunday services but also learn about the Episcopal liturgy and hymnody, how to read music, and good choral practices. Rehearsals are joyful and energetic.
- The **Carillonneurs Guild** provides bell pealing after Sunday services and at special occasions throughout the year from our carillon in the Cleveland Memorial Tower.
- Volunteers provide music for **Children’s Chapel** each week, leading the children in songs that enhance the weekly Gospel lesson.

In addition, liturgies are regularly enriched with a variety of instrumentalists and are always accompanied by our mighty Flentrop Organ. Special music events are held throughout the year, especially during our annual **Word and Music** Lenten series. Spartanburg has deep music roots, and we are fortunate to be able to draw on the rich talents of parishioners and townsfolk alike.

“I love the liturgy, my Sunday school class (Sowers) and being able to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor. Serving Eucharist to people who cannot get out is humbling and feeds my soul every time.”

– Laura Bauknight

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. (Psalm 100:1)



Parish Life

The Church of the Advent is more than a place of worship—it is a vibrant, intergenerational community where faith, fellowship, and service intersect. Whether gathered in joyous celebration or quiet reflection, we cultivate meaningful connections for every stage of life.

Our annual **Parish Weekend at Kanuga** brings over 160 members together for worship, fellowship, and fun in the beauty of the North Carolina mountains. **Wednesday Night Dinners** foster togetherness, offering engaging programs from guest speakers and study series to bingo nights. These evenings provide a space where all ages come together in faith and friendship. Our springtime **Parish Picnic** is another intergenerational event that brings the parish together for fellowship, food, and fun. Another favorite event is the **Oyster Roast**, a community favorite which provides additional support for our outreach ministries.

A cherished Spartanburg tradition since 1948, our Episcopal Church Women's **Holiday Bazaar** draws parish members together in preparation of jams, jellies, canned goods, casseroles, baked goods, artwork, love gifts, lunch and the Advent's famous award-winning artichoke relish—all in support of outreach. More than 100 volunteers dedicate countless hours preparing for this signature event that unites our congregation and city.

Fellowship groups gather in parishioners' home throughout the year to enjoy each other's company and foster relationships. **Young at Heart** provides connection for those ages 60+, while **20s, 30s, 40s, 50s CONNECT** is for adults ages 20-59. Our **EpiscoPals** lunch gatherings feature programs such as **Mary H. Wright Elementary School** Christmas performance and learning about community organizations and happenings.

For those who love creativity, the **Advent Crafters** and **Art Ladies** share their talents and camaraderie. Our Women's Circles, **Serendipity** and **Fruit of the Spirit**, provide faith-based fellowship and service opportunities.

Hospitality defines Advent events, whether in homes, at special events, or at church.

At The Advent, faith is more than a Sunday service—it's an ever-growing, ever-welcoming community.



We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.
(Romans 12:5)



Pastoral Care

The following 2024 statistics from the **Guild of St. Francis and St. Clare** demonstrate a parish family actively at work caring for each other.

- The **Pastoral Visitors** minister as two-person weekly teams.
- The **Short-Term Care Ministry** teams provide for the immediate needs of parishioners facing challenges with homemade meals including soups, casseroles, and desserts.

When you have done this to the least of these, you have done unto me.
(Matthew 25:40)

- The **Long-Term Care Ministry** strives to serve the homebound and those with restricted mobility or other chronic and long-term needs.
- The **Bereavement Ministry** meets the various needs of families in the parish experiencing the death of a loved one. The Bereavement Ministry is led by 24 monthly coordinators and a team of over 80 food providers.
- The **Card Ministry** ensures that Advent parishioners on our Long-Term Care list receive monthly postcards, a birthday card, and a greeting card mailed at Easter and Christmas. In addition, cards are sent at times of bereavement, illness, and surgery, as well as moments of celebration and thanksgiving. Thanks to the talents and generosity of the Advent Artists, cards mailed at Easter and Christmas feature reproductions of the paintings and drawings crafted by Advent members.
- The **Flower Delivery Ministry** shares arrangements of flowers over the year.
- The **Food and Freezer Ministry** ensures the freezer remains well stocked to keep meals available whenever a need came along.

In 2024, the Guild of St. Francis and St. Clare initiated and administered over 1425 contacts with parishioners during significant times of transition, challenge and celebration. This includes approximately 500 flower deliveries, 450 cards, and 500 contacts made by pastoral visitors, bereavements teams, and short- and long-term care volunteers.

Christian Formation

2024 Adult Activities

- 4 Adult Sunday School Classes: Gleaners, Seekers, Sowers, The Village
- Book Study Group
- 2 Bible Study classes for men and women
- Wednesday Night Dinner Programs

2024 Youth Activities

- A successful Pilgrimage to Costa Rica and many fundraisers
- 5th Grade Bridge Retreat at Camp Gravatt
- Bible Study Groups for middle and high school students
- Baccalaureate celebration for high school seniors
- Weekly prayer breakfasts for middle and high school students
- Acolyte duties supported by 64 youth with 7 weekly participants
- 10 children and youth basketball teams including 93 children, 22 coaches, and 1 championship
- Confirmation Retreat and Confirmation Sunday
- Fun Summer Activities
- Ski Retreats for middle and high school students



"I love having the ability to easily connect with God at the Advent and doing so with a group of people that are special to me. I love Wednesday night suppers and youth group activities, especially weekly prayer breakfasts and ski trips."

- Sam Strickland, age 14



Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)



Our **Children and Families Ministries** are growing at The Advent serving children and families thanks to a devoted group of leaders and volunteers in some of the following ways:

- Weekly **Sunday School** offering for 3K-5th grade (average 20 children and four volunteers each week; 20 rotating Sunday School teachers)
- **Advent Children's Center (ACC)** serving 80 students ages 6 months-4 years with 20 teachers and 5 substitutes during the school year
- A week of summer **Vacation Bible School** for ages 3K-4th grade, while 5th and 6th graders participate in community outreach projects (average 85 children and 40 volunteers)
- Robust youth basketball program (90 children and 24 coaches)
- Advent wreath making
- Christmas caroling at senior living facilities
- Activities to include children in our Kanuga weekend
- Lenten program devoted to children
- Monthly family gatherings to encourage fellowship
- Weekly **Children's Chapel**: a time during the Sunday Sermon that helps meet the needs of children on their level while parents remain in church (five active leaders and two active musicians)
- Wednesday evening programs: a time after dinner for learning and fellowship (average attendance 25 children)
- Bibles presented to all children in 1st grade
- Halloween Trunk or Treat (average 150 in attendance, a great outreach opportunity that includes many families from our ACC program)
- Children's choir meets weekly and performs during Sunday Services throughout the year. Eleven Angel Choir and seven Junior Choir members
- **Christmas Pageant** performed each December the week before Christmas. An average of 50 children participate.

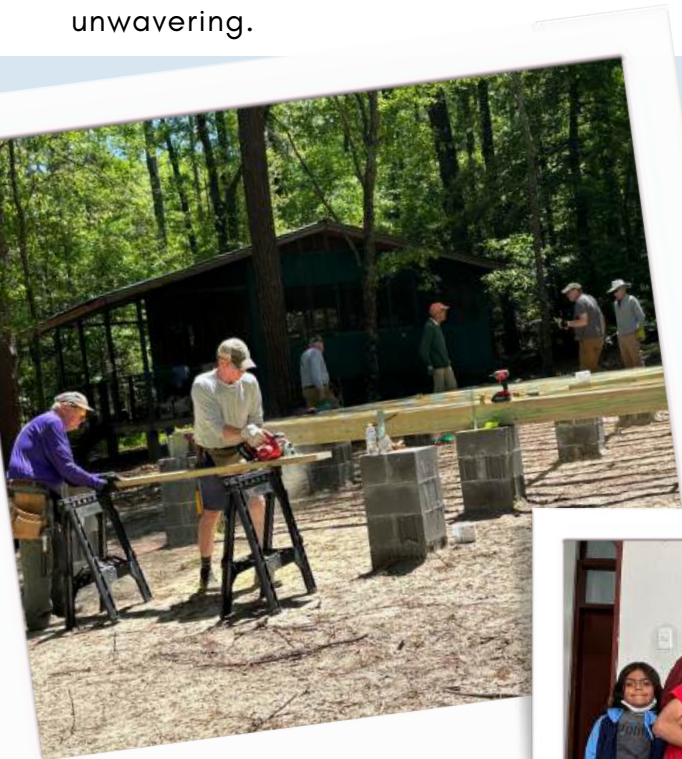


Outreach

The Church of the Advent embodies its mission **“That Christ’s light be seen in us”** through meaningful outreach. We don’t just support our community: we actively transform lives. Our church and its members helped establish enduring community outreach programs including **The Adult Learning Center; St. Luke’s Free Medical Center; Spartanburg Shares**, a non-profit which lends free, durable medical equipment; **The Faith Initiative to End Childhood Poverty**; and **SPIHN**, Spartanburg Interfaith Hospitality Network, providing shelter and support to homeless children and their families.

In 2024, we contributed \$188,105 to local causes and missionary families. Each month, our congregation collects items to help local entities such as Converse University’s **Valkyrie Supply Closet**, **TOTAL Ministries**, **Mobile Meals’** Christmas bags, and those impacted by Hurricane Helene. Whether constructing cabins at **Camp Gravatt** or packing 10,000 meals for **Rise Against Hunger** to the undernourished in third world countries, our commitment is unwavering.

Be imitators of God,
and live in love, as
Christ loved us and
gave himself up for us,
a fragrant offering
and sacrifice to God.
(Ephesians 5:1-2)



Living Christ's Light in Our Community

Our largest and most active outreach program is our relationship with **Mary H. Wright Elementary School**, a Title 1 school ranked among the poorest in South Carolina. The needs are great, and we respond with steadfast dedication. Over 80% of our parishioners actively support the school. Annual support includes a clothes closet which provides coats and shoes; our **Back-to-School Supply Drive**; and **Operation Magi** which provides Christmas gifts to over 50 children.

Beyond essentials, we enrich student experiences. Parishioners organize and underwrite events such as **Halloween** and **Valentine parties**, a **Fall Festival**, **Reindeer Games** (complete with snow), **Dr. Seuss Day**, **Cocoa with Cops**, **Earth Day**, and the **Graduation Luncheon**. Teachers receive appreciation lunches and other recognition throughout the year.

A signature initiative is our assistance with the school's **annual show-stopping theatrical production** providing snacks, being cheerleaders, creating costumes, and constructing sets. We also engage an **Artist in Residence** who teaches students collage art.

Through a generous donation from an Advent member and in collaboration with the school district, we transformed a vacant lot into a thriving **community garden**. In our outdoor classroom, students gain hands-on experience growing vegetables and flowers. Several Troop 1 Scouts have completed Eagle Scout projects at the garden, and VBS classes have contributed by constructing additional raised beds.

Beginning in 2024, eighteen Spartanburg Day School students meet at 7:00 AM every other Wednesday to eat breakfast and socialize with our students.

At Mary H. Wright, we do more than give: we build lasting relationships. Hugs, fist bumps, and smiles exchanged between Advent members and students embody our mission to reflect Christ's light in the world.



Parish Management

Supporting the Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Treasurer, the Parish Management Commission (PM) oversees church operations and is responsible for the financial and property needs of The Advent.

PM meets monthly and key duties include:

- Reviewing Treasurer's report to assess YTD financial status
- Providing feedback on the Treasurer's report ahead of Vestry review and approval
- Assessing campus needs, maintenance, and improvements
- Working with the Chair of St. Helena's Committee which provides discretionary funding from the Advent Foundation for maintenance, repairs, renovations, and proper upkeep of buildings and grounds
- Managing contractual and insurance arrangements for the church
- Ensuring professional periodic audit is performed for financial transparency
- Forming an annual budget-based on stewardship results, in compliance with church bylaws-to achieve parish objectives and reflect The Advent's church mission

Along with the Senior and Junior Wardens and church Treasurer, the Chair of PM serves on the Executive Committee to support the Rector in management of the church's operational matters.

All things come from you, Lord, and of your own have we given you. (I Chronicles 29:14)



Stewardship

The Advent is blessed with a generous and faithful congregation which has fostered strong financial momentum in recent years. In 2024, we provided cost-of-living and living wage raises to all staff and fully funded every department's requested budget.

For the second consecutive year, we are operating with a balanced budget, with 2025 pledges exceeding \$1.8 million. To ensure stability, we budget only 95% of pledged funds. We currently have a cumulative surplus of approximately \$350,000.

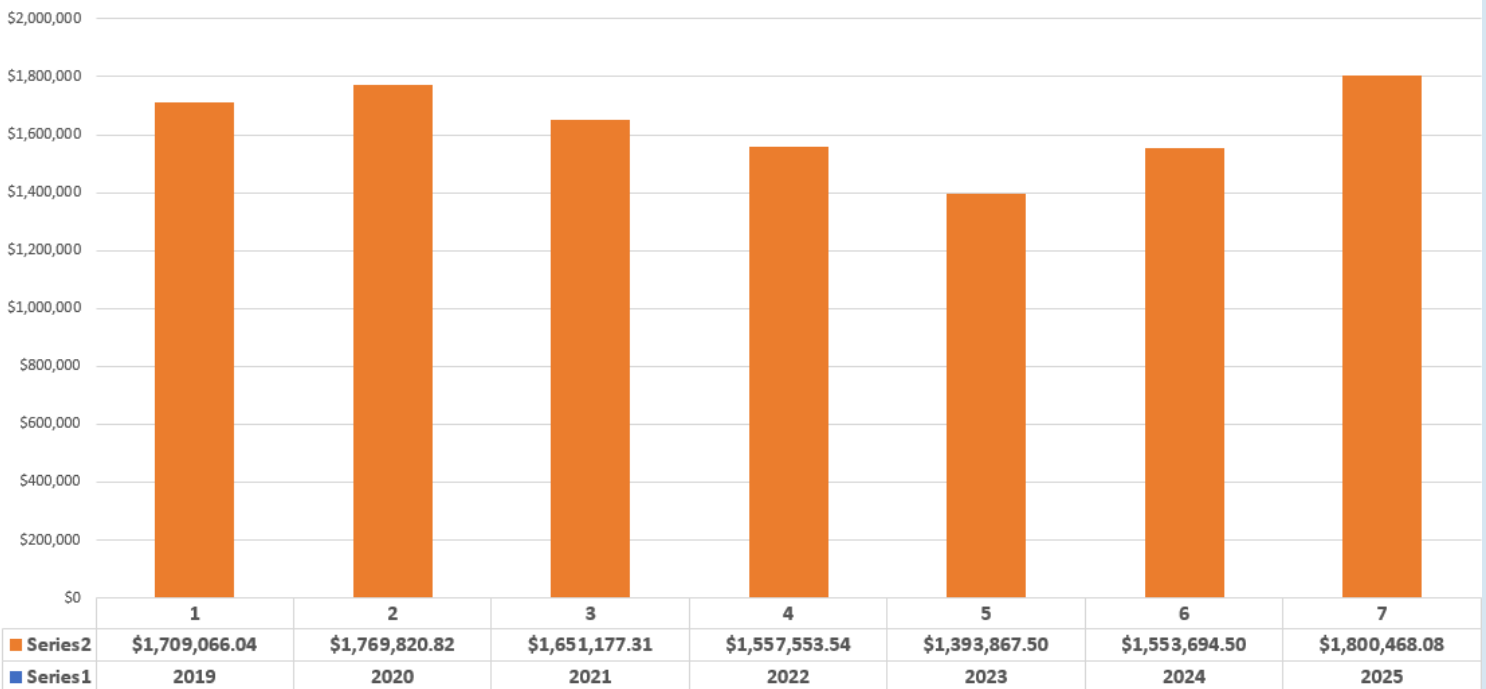
The Advent is debt-free and currently contributes 100% of our Diocesan pledge. To streamline operations and conserve resources, we now outsource accounting and payroll. In September 2024, The Advent Foundation fund balance exceeded \$13 million. Looking ahead, the Vestry's 2025 goal is to establish a capital reserve for maintenance, replacements, and repairs.

Parishioners are encouraged to:

- Pledge their financial commitment
- Give generously of time, talent, and treasure
- Join The 1848 Society (formerly the Advent Legacy Society) through estate planning
- Support the Advent Foundation through bequests, memorials, and tributes that sustain our ministries, outreach, and historic campus

Through faithful stewardship, we continue to build a strong and sustainable financial future for The Advent.

Yearly Pledge Comparison





"What I love most about the Advent is how everyone is so friendly and kind. Whenever I go to church I am always greeted by a friendly smile or a warm hello."

"I love how we always have church dinner and how we can eat delicious food and play fun games in the gym."

- Eliza (13) and Louise (10) Fritz



Our Team

Clergy

The Rev. Christiana O. Walton
Priest in Charge

The Rev. Paula R. Griffin
Associate Rector for Pastoral Care

Music

Lee Cobb
Organist/Choirmaster

Program

Laura Estevez
Interim Director of Youth Ministries

Elisabeth Hayes
Director of Membership, Parish Life & Outreach

Tricia Liollo
Director of Children & Family Ministries

Administration

Jennifer Schroeder
Administrative Assistant to the Rector

Melissa Slater
Director of The Advent Children's Center

Jeanelle Smith
Director of Strategic Marketing & Communications

Joanne Wood
Parish Administrator

Operations

Brandon Johnson
Director of Buildings & Grounds

Gail Owens
Director of Food Services

Jessica Owens
Food Services Assistant

Craig Samuel
Sexton

Michele Seagraves
Sexton

Vestry & Lay Leadership

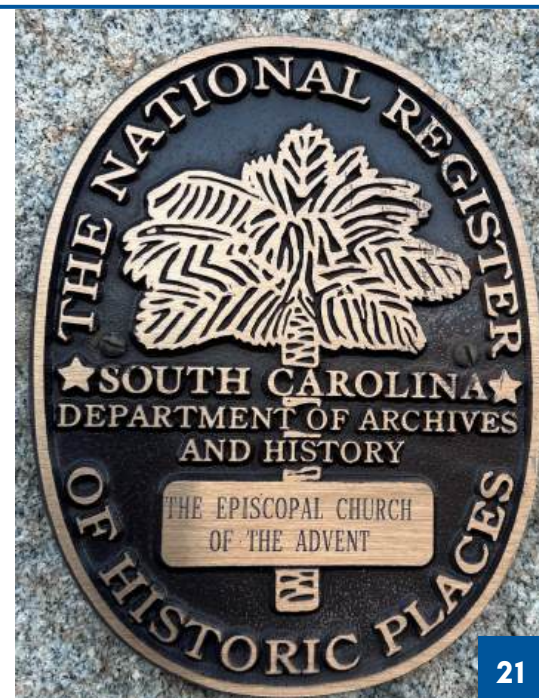
Boyce Lawton
Senior Warden
Lori McMillan
Senior Warden-elect
Craig Williams
Junior Warden

Elisabeth Ann Johnson
Youth Representative
Roy Bennett
Treasurer
Anna Gray Phillips
Clerk of Vestry

Class of 2026
Sarah Gunn
Amanda Mathis
Roy Smith
Chris Strickland

Class of 2027
Jeff Cashman
Rick Dent
Laura Fritz
Rogers Settle

Class of 2028
Ziggy Clayton
Ginger Davis
Judy McCravy
Megan Rudolph





"What means the most to us is the sense of a shared spiritual community from baptism to burial."
- Susu and George Johnson



The Advent Foundation

The fair market value of the Advent Foundation's holdings for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, was \$13,165,897, reflecting an increase of over 19 percent in one year. While some of this increase can be attributed to overall market performance, the Foundation continues to benefit greatly from the generosity of parishioners and friends in the form of bequests, memorials and tribute gifts. There were 195 such gifts received in 2024. Since 2021, the Foundation's holdings have been managed by the investment firm of Brown Brothers Harriman & Co.

The Advent Foundation's yearly disbursements to the Church of the Advent's annual operating budgets are critical to the church's operational and financial well-being. These distributions from various funds managed by the Foundation are calculated based upon the fair market value of the Foundation trust assets for the three immediately preceding fiscal years. Those disbursements totaled \$415,701 for the Church's 2024 budget. Considering the Foundation's recognized gains, the 2025 allocation to the Church budget will total \$521,439.

The portfolio's recent improvement enabled the Foundation to provide critical support to important 2024 Church initiatives, over and above its normal disbursements. The Foundation Board approved a \$17,500 disbursement to cover some of the professional costs associated with the Vestry's retirement of the Lay Pension Fund. This change relieved the Church from a sizeable annual operating expense, while enabling participating pensioners an opportunity to self-manage their portfolios.

The St. Helena's Fund, established by the Vestry in 1992, is solely devoted to the maintenance of The Advent's physical plant and properties. Additional restricted funds are designated to support outreach, music, and pastoral care, to name a few.



Vestry Appointed Directors

Lilly Kohler, *President* (2025)

Lynne Blackman, *Vice President* (2026)

Adair Watters, *Secretary* (2029)

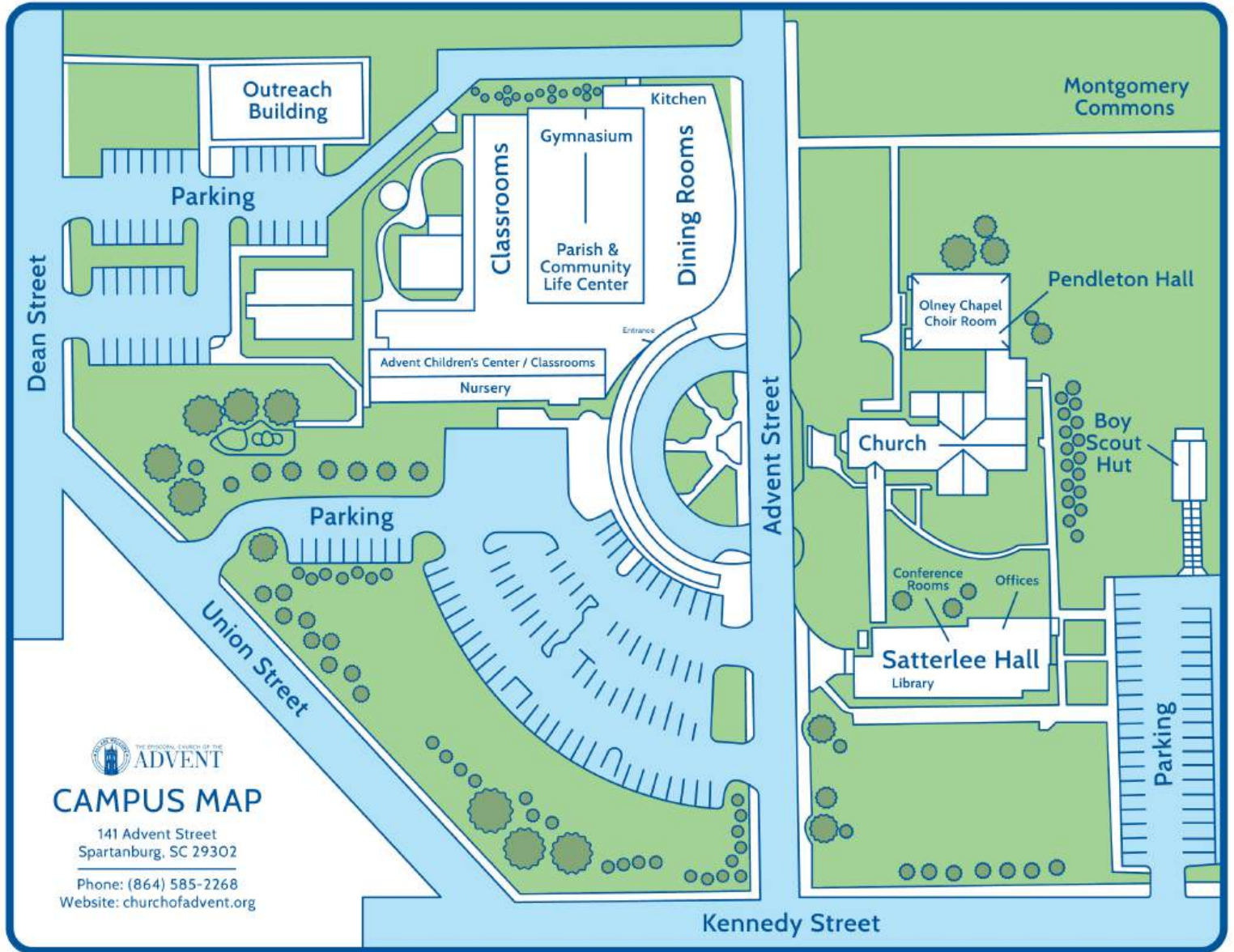
William Coker, *Treasurer* (2027)

Laurence Fritz, *Director* (2025)

"Having joined the Advent over 15 years ago, I have found it to be a place where I can serve, that welcomed me without hesitation. There's plenty of opportunity to participate in God's work here, and I believe the people of the Advent are focused on the common work God has for us to do, not on their own priorities."

- Clint Settle

Our Campus



Our Location

Discover Spartanburg: A Thriving Community for Ministry

Steeped in history dating back to the Revolutionary War, Spartanburg was incorporated in 1831 and later earned the nickname “Hub City” as railroads radiated from its center. Once a textile manufacturing powerhouse, Spartanburg has evolved into a dynamic, international community at the crossroads of Interstates 85 and 26. Today, it stands as a regional economic leader with a revitalized downtown, abundant outdoor amenities, and a flourishing arts and culture scene, and is recognized as one of the nation’s fastest-growing metro areas.

Spartanburg is proud to be a “College Town,” home to seven colleges and universities, including Wofford College, Converse University, and USC-Upstate. These institutions enrich the city’s cultural landscape, which features year-round festivals such as Music on Main, ArtWalk, the International Festival, and Dickens of a Christmas. The Chapman Cultural Center anchors the city’s arts community, offering performance spaces, galleries, and studios.

Exciting developments continue in Spartanburg. By mid-2025, downtown will welcome Fifth Third Park, a 3,500-seat baseball stadium for the Spartanburgers, a Texas Rangers affiliate. A state-of-the-art planetarium is also under construction beside the Spartanburg County Library Headquarters. Meanwhile, Morgan Square serves as the heart of downtown, a lively gathering place surrounded by local restaurants, boutique shops, galleries, and breweries.

With over 200 miles of walking and biking trails, easy access to beaches and mountain vistas, and a strong sense of community, Spartanburg is a picture-perfect place to call home.



[OneSpartanburg, Inc.](#)
[Upcountry South Carolina](#)

Are you called to The Advent?

In this profile, we have sought to capture the heart of our church based on our strengths, vision, and hopes for the future, a future shaped by the needs and voices of the congregation. We seek a rector to build upon our foundation, inspire growth in Jesus Christ, and lead us courageously in our parish priorities. This requires a **Spirit-filled leader** with **strong listening and communication skills**, who is also a **community builder** with **action-based leadership**.



ARE YOU CALLED TO:

- **Model Christ's love?**

We seek a rector who can reach new people and integrate them into church life, as well as volunteers, using both innovative and time-honored approaches to deepen relationships within and beyond our parish.

- **Engage families with children and youth?**

With a dynamic 176-year history, the Advent has an aging demographic. Our next rector should honor our traditions while drawing in younger generations. A search is underway for a Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries to support this effort.

- **Inspire financial generosity?**

We need a rector who addresses stewardship in a way that resonates and encourages generosity of treasure, as well as time and talent.

- **Expand our outreach to those in need?**

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to serve. Our next rector should strengthen and expand our impact, fostering greater parishioner involvement in meaningful outreach to those whose needs are far greater than our own.

- **Make church more accessible?**

We seek a leader who will help us adapt our offerings to meet the realities of busy schedules while maintaining deep spiritual engagement.

Is God calling you to lead us into this next chapter?

*If you feel called to join us on our
journey, to apply...*

...please email your cover letter, resume,
OTM portfolio, and links to
two sermons/services (video preferred) to:

*The Venerable Janey Wilson
Office of Transition Ministry
Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina
jwilson@edusc.org*



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
ADVENT

141 ADVENT STREET

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29303

www.churchofadvent.org





● HOLY + HOLY + HOLY ●

