



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

THE PARISH PAPER

THAT CHRIST'S LIGHT BE SEEN IN US.

JUNE/JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

▶ FROM THE RECTOR

Dearly Beloved,

Summer is upon us, and I hope that it is a season of rest and renewal for all of us, and we transition from the "Program Year" into a different sort of rhythm of the life and ministry of the Church. I have heard the verb "summering" here at The Advent, and I have learned that it is a force to be reckoned with. But on the heels of the glorious Celebration of New Ministry service, I'm still too excited, inspired (and perhaps naïve) to be content with the "See you after Labor Day" approach to summer ministry. Yes, the rhythm and pace will change, as it does with every new season, and that is a good thing. May we relish in the holy, sanctified slower pace of summer!

During the Story Stick portion of the worship service, you will see and hear, that it is now "Green Time." In the world of the children's ministry curriculum known as Godly Play, "Green Time" is a time of growing in our faith. We sink our roots deeper into the soil and allow the summer sun and rain of worship and Christian formation to water and feed us during this season of growth. The limbs of the Body of Christ don't atrophy over the summer... they grow!

One way that we will grow in our faith this season is through a Summer Sermon Series entitled "The Stories that Shape Us" (see page 8 for more details).

Paula and I will be inviting us all to dive into these foundational stories of scripture that have shaped generation upon generation of people in the Jewish and Christian traditions. The book of Genesis has some of the greatest stories not only in the Bible, but in all of human history, and they still have the power to shape and mold us today. I can't wait to get started!

I will be watering my own spiritual garden June 14-20, when I go up to Nashotah House (seminary in Wisconsin) for the James Lloyd Breck Conference on Monasticism and the Church. The topic will be "The Monastic Mountain in the Parish: Investigations in the Theology of Martin Thornton." This will be my last class before I begin my doctoral thesis/project, which will be on monastic spirituality in the parish setting.

There is so much to look forward to this summer - at The Advent and beyond. My prayer is that we allow ourselves to slow down and dig in, but not grind to a halt. This is the season after Pentecost - the season of *growth* in the Holy Spirit. I'm delighted to have been called to this place at this time to grow alongside you!

Yours in the Spirit,



← link to our
CALENDAR

<https://churchofadvent.org/calendar/>



2026 COUNTRY STORE COOK DATES



**Mark your calendars!
June & July**

Country Store Cooking!

It's our **80th year** of the ECW Bazaar, and we'd love for you to be part of it! Mark your calendars and come join us in the PCLC kitchen as we follow Gail and Jessica's lead and have fun along the way.

All experience levels are welcome! Men, women, and children (age 12+ with a parent) can take part. You don't have to stay the whole time. Even 30 minutes makes a big difference!

**Upcoming Dates
(9 AM - 12 PM)**

- June 3** - Strawberry products
- June 4** - Million Dollar Squash
- June 10** - Mint Jelly
- June 24** - Blueberry Products
- June 30** - Peach Products
- July 15** - Vidalia Onion Relish
- July 16** - Chow Chow




Our **80th ECW Bazaar** is coming up this year! As always, it will be held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving, so please mark your calendars for **November 19, 2026**.

If you would like to be involved—especially with cooking for The Country Store or helping with prepared food—please reach out to **Julie Schwartz** (504-8776) or **Elisabeth Hayes** (ehayes@churchofadvent.org).

If you are cleaning out items in your home, as you sort through, consider donating to the **Serendipity booth!** We welcome contributions of holiday décor (all holidays), along with jewelry and accessories. You can drop off your donations in Satterlee Hall at the bottom of the stairs near the reception desk—just look for the boxes labeled "Serendipity." We truly appreciate your generosity!

**KANUGA
2027
save the date**

**April
16-18**

**LEMONADE
on the
LAWN**

Sundays after the **10:15 AM** service

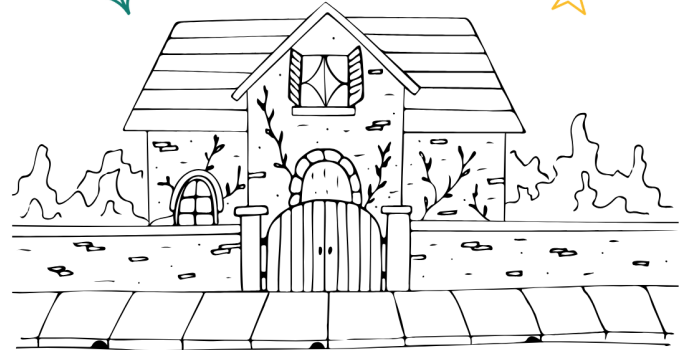
OUTREACH

The Advent is hosting *A Way Home* families
 Mark your Calendars: **June 21-28.**

We need your help! [Sign up link here.](#)

Take a moment to look through the open spots for A Way Home next month—help is needed with trailer pickup, setup, providing and serving supper, overnight hosting, and Sunday breakdown, with extra hands **especially needed** throughout the day on Saturday.

Sign up today and join us in offering meaningful hospitality and care to these families on their way from crisis to stability



FOOD

DONATIONS NEEDED



PANTRY WISH LIST:

- RICE
- PASTA
- BOXED HEALTHY CEREALS
- CANNED PROTEIN (TUNA, CHICKEN, ETC.)
- LENTILS
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CANNED SOUP
- CANNED OR DRY BEANS



ST. LUKE'S
 FREE MEDICAL CLINIC

CHANGING LIVES SINCE 1992

This summer, we are collecting needed items for St. Luke's. We invite you to support this effort by purchasing a few items from these lists and placing them in the collection baskets at the reception desk in Satterlee Hall or in the lobby of the Parish & Community Life Center.

HYGIENE

DONATIONS NEEDED



PERSONAL CARE ITEM WISH LIST:

- FEMINE HYGIENE ITEMS (POISE PADS MOST NEEDED)
- BODY WASH
- SHAMPOO
- CONDITIONER
- DEODORANT
- TOOTHBRUSH
- TOOTHPASTE
- RAZORS
- DENTURE ADHESIVE
- MOISTURIZING CREAM/LOTION

St. Luke's Free Medical Clinic changes the lives of underserved Spartanburg County neighbors who lack access to healthcare by providing quality and compassionate healthcare.

AMERICA



As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, we are invited to reflect not only on a nation founded in 1776, but on the communities that have shaped its life ever since. Founded in 1848, the Episcopal Church of the Advent stands within that unfolding story, rooted in a steadfast faith and growing alongside a young nation through seasons of challenge and change. As we give thanks for the past, we look ahead with hope, trusting that the same faith that sustained those before us will guide us into the years to come.



We have had such a wonderful time celebrating you this month! Your 40 years of ministry in the kitchen at The Advent have reached far beyond those walls, touching countless lives in meaningful and lasting ways. Through your wisdom, patience, and love of cooking, you have taught and inspired so many of us, sharing not only recipes but also a spirit of generosity and joy. You have created a place where people feel welcome, valued, and cared for.

Your steady presence and faithful service have shaped this community in ways that will continue for years to come. We are deeply grateful for you and for the many ways you have given of yourself. Thank you for your dedication, your kindness, and the love you have shared with all of us!

APRIL “BY THE NUMBERS”

April Average Attendance

Sunday	319 Total <i>(59 at 8 AM, 260 at 10:15 AM)</i>	6% decrease vs. April 2025
Wednesday	26	225% increase over April 2025

April Giving Report

	April	YTD Total (as of 4/30/2026)
Pledge Payments & Offerings	\$103,790	\$951,305
Budgeted Monthly Amount	\$170,332	\$952,707

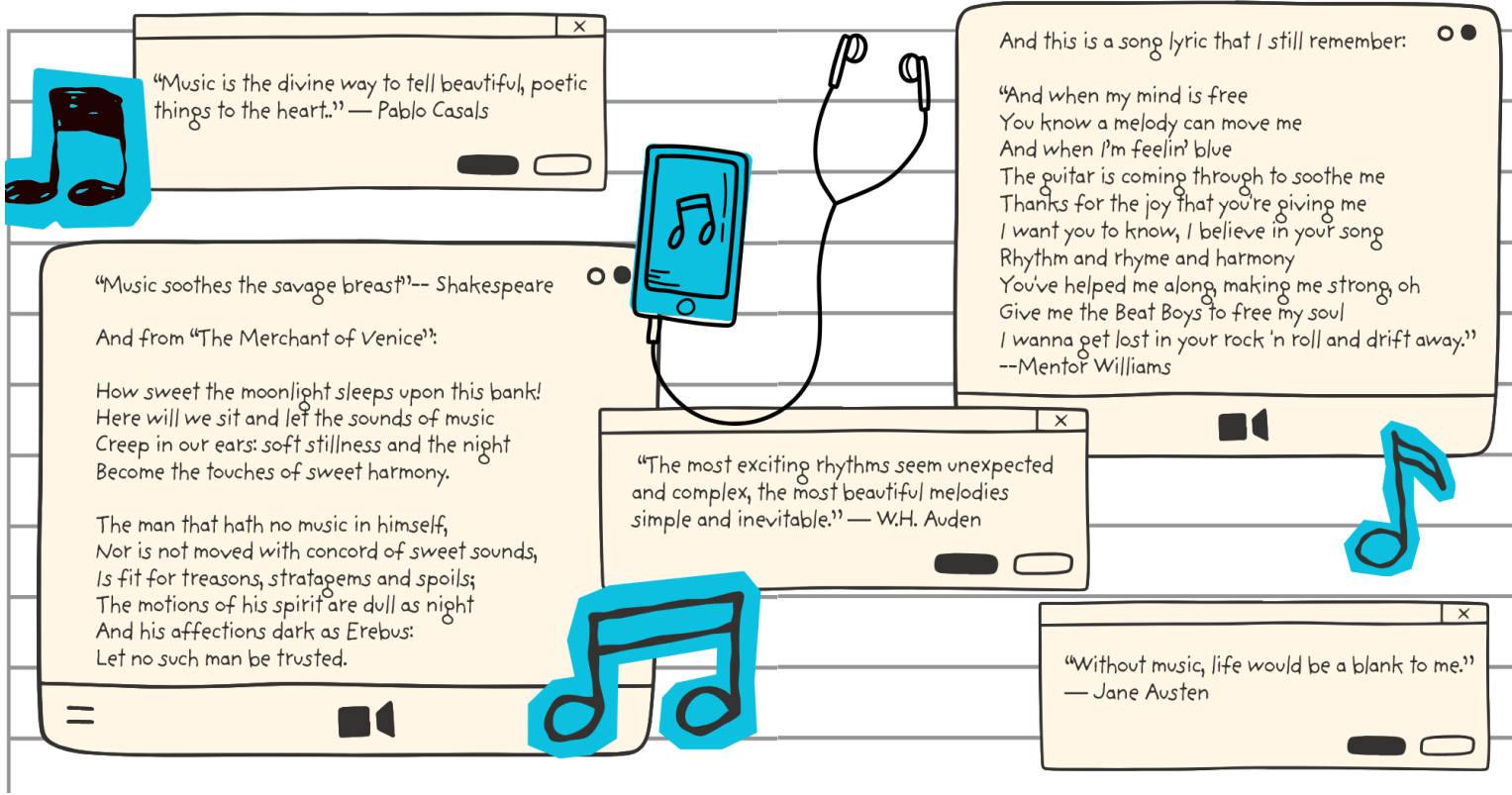
2026 Pledge Update

- Thus far, 268 of 450 Advent households have pledged, totaling 60%.
- If you have not already done so, please consider pledging for 2026 by filling out a pledge card in the narthex, by visiting <https://churchofadvent.org/pledge-form/> or by scanning this QR code.
- Thank you to all who have pledged!



Our yearly budget is based on anticipated pledges and offerings, aiming for financial equilibrium with neither profit nor loss. Your generosity makes this possible.

Musical Quotations to get you through the Summer



THE ADVENT FOUNDATION

From Mustard Seed to Shelter: Growing a Legacy of Faith

Priest, professor, and prolific author Henri Nouwen addressed a wide range of topics in his teachings and books—from psychology, service, and social justice to the modern longing for meaning and the role of money in the “theology of the heart.”

In discussing the spirituality of giving, Nouwen drew on Jesus’ parable of the mustard seed, “which at the time of its sowing is the smallest of all the seeds on earth. Yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade” (Matthew 6:34 NJB). Nouwen continued:

Even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what we could ever ask or imagine—the creation of a community of love in this world, and beyond this world, because wherever love grows, it is stronger than death. So, when we give ourselves to planting and nurturing love here on earth, our efforts will reach beyond our own chronological existence . . . we are helping God build the kingdom.

From its establishment in 1983, the Advent Foundation has been a proverbial mustard seed: rooted in faith and intended for sure and steady growth, with the goal of ensuring the Church of the Advent’s ability to shelter all its birds for generations to come.



▶ CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Looking Ahead

Another amazing program year has come to an end and we are already looking forward to August. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this past year a success. Mark your calendars for some exciting times ahead and plan to be a part of it! We welcome everyone in our parish to be a part of the Children and Families Ministry.

Blessings,

Tricia Liollo

Director of Children and Family Ministries

tliollo@churchofadvent.org

Dates to watch out for:

- August 2: Backpack Blessings
- August 17: Sunday School kicks off
- August 19 - 21: Godly Play Training

Godly Play Training

August 19 - 21

THIS WILL BE OUR NEW CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHAPEL CURRICULUM.

CHECK OUT GODLY PLAY AT

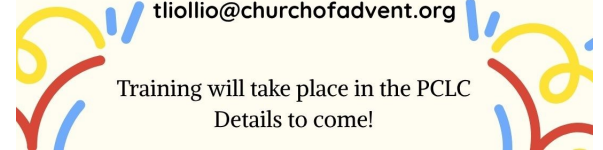
[WWW.GODLYPLAYFOUNDATION.ORG](http://www.godlyplayfoundation.org)

Mark your calendar and plan to join us

Reach out to tricia liollo with questions:

tliollo@churchofadvent.org

Training will take place in the PCLC
Details to come!



CHILDREN & FAMILIES



news

The Children & Families weekly news will now be included in the parish-wide weekly emails. At the top of the email, you'll find a button that takes you directly to all the specific updates you're looking for.

JUNE

GRADY POPE
VIRGINIA MATHIS
OLIVE HAYES
JOEY SEAY

Happy Birthday!

JULY

EZEKIEL PARKER
REESE JOHNSON
JAMES CASHMAN
KATHARINE HOLLAND
ROBERT CLELLAND
THOMAS LOUNSBERRY
JULIA PATTERSON
SAYLES TABER



Wednesday Waypoints

Summer Youth Events

Proverbs 3:6 — In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

JUNE 3		Sugar & Spice Lunch + Pelican's – 12:00 PM Meet at church, walk together, then bus to Pelican's.
JUNE 10		Spartanburgers Baseball Game
JUNE 15-18		VBS
JULY 1		Movie Afternoon / Open Gym Ice Cream + Pizza
JULY 8		Bloc Haven MIDDLE SCHOOL ONLY
JULY 15		Lake Day / Possible Lake Bowen Gathering
JULY 22		Carowinds
JULY 29		Croft State Park
AUGUST 5		Topgolf HIGH SCHOOL ONLY

Sign Up for Summer Youth Events

Join us for a summer filled with fun, faith, and fellowship. Our summer program verse is Proverbs 3:6: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." We look forward to growing together and seeing where God leads us in the weeks ahead. Sign-ups will be available here:

[SIGN UP](#)



Like the Children & Families email news, EYC weekly updates will now be included in the parish-wide weekly emails. A button at the top will take you directly to see what the youth are up to!

June

- Olivia Battocchio
- Nic Battocchio
- Ellie Fisher
- Virginia Schoonover
- George Cashman
- Jennings Cannon
- David Fisher

Happy Birthday!

July

- Ella Hayes
- William Montgomery
- Caroline Gaskins
- Andrew Hutchinson
- MacLean Fulmer
- Gibbes Montgomery
- Emily Brewington

Sunday School

The Gleaners Class gathers at **9 AM** in the Library Conference Room in Satterlee Hall. Led by members of the group, each session centers on discussion of the scripture readings appointed for that day's services. These readings are available in the weekly bulletin or online at www.lectionarypage.net. All are welcome, and participation through questions and conversation is encouraged. If you'd like to learn more, feel free to join us for a visit. While the other adult Sunday school classes are not meeting during the summer, you are warmly invited to drop in to the Gleaners Class at any time—whether for a single visit or throughout the summer weeks.

Mid-week

Book and Brown Bag meets in the Satterlee Hall, Library Conference Room Tuesdays 12:15 - 1:15 PM. They are continuing with their study of the Gospel of John through until mid-June then taking a summer break and commencing with a new book after Labor Day. Anyone is welcome to join in at any time. John study sessions are stand alone so come when you can.

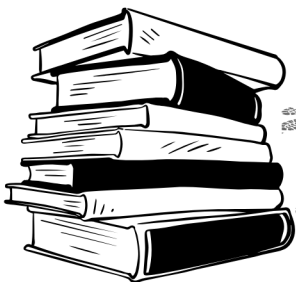
Lectionary Lunch & Learn meets on Wednesdays from 12-1 PM in the Library Conference Room in Satterlee Hall. Fr. Richard leads this engaging time of reflection and discussion, offering a deeper look into the scriptures and prayers appointed for each Sunday. Participants are invited to bring their own bag lunch and enjoy this midweek opportunity for learning and fellowship.

The **Men's Bible Study** group gathers on Thursdays, serving breakfast at 6:45 AM, followed by Bible study at 7:00 AM. They meet in Dining Room C of the PCLC. For more information, contact Chip McLeod at chip_mcleod@ml.com.

The **Women's Bible Study** group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 AM in Satterlee Hall, Conference Room 2, and is led by Mary Peters. The group is continuing its study of the Gospel of John using *John for Everyone* by N. T. Wright.

The Stories That Shape Us

A Summer Sermon Series
from Genesis



**Come &
step into
the story.**

Summer Sermon Series: "The Stories That Shape Us"

This summer, we explore Genesis through the Year A (Track 1) readings for the season after Pentecost. These stories of creation, calling, covenant, and conflict are not just the beginnings of faith but continue to shape who we are.

From God speaking light into darkness, to Abraham stepping into the unknown, Genesis reflects our own questions.

- ⇒ **Who are we?**
- ⇒ **Where is God leading us?**
- ⇒ **What does faithfulness look like in uncertain times?**

These are stories of real people, marked by both struggle and promise, through whom God is at work. In them, we discover a God who remains present and active, still shaping our lives today. Come and step into the story. Listen for how these ancient stories speak into your own.

Advent 2026 Mission Trip to Camp Gravatt

On Sunday, March 22, at the 10:15 AM service, Fr. Richard Proctor and the congregation commissioned a group of men from the church who departed shortly thereafter for Camp Gravatt. Gravatt is an Episcopal summer youth camp and year-round conference center near Aiken, SC. The center and camp are on about 150 acres of land owned by the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, of which the Advent is a member and supporter. The purpose of this trip was to renovate and enlarge an outdoor chapel in the woodlands of the camp.

Chip McLeod, a Merrill Lynch investment advisor and active member of the Advent, led the group of 24 men, including three new congregation participants and two who have moved out of town and no longer attend the Advent. They thoroughly enjoyed the group for years when they were members of our church and wanted to participate due to the unique camaraderie and success of our previous mission trips, whether to South Dakota, New York City, Sewanee, or now Gravatt.

Each year, suggested projects from the hosting organization are shared and discussed in the fall and then finalized over the winter as to what is proposed to be built, the design, required building supplies, and manpower. The mission team is fortunate to have about three or four men who are very experienced in design and construction project work, which is very helpful to most of the group who have very limited knowledge or experience but a strong will to learn and be successful. This was the case this year with the need to understand post setting and wooden bench construction.

The Advent team arrived at Gravatt Sunday mid-afternoon. We scouted the site, discussed how the chapel would be refurbished and expanded, and determined each person's initial responsibilities. Gravatt staff had already completed the demolition and removal of rotted benches. Some of the team began to dig the first holes where new bench support posts would be placed.

Starting Monday morning, and over the rest of the trip, construction proceeded steadily. Whenever someone finished a task, they pitched in seamlessly wherever needed. All the meals for the week were provided in the conference center's main dining room and were delicious before, during, and after each long workday. One evening, the group drove into Aiken, SC, for a delicious and fun restaurant feast!

Before breakfast and after dinner, the group gathered for Morning Prayer or Compline led by members of our group. We spent the evenings conversing around a fire pit before heading off to bed by 9:00 or 10:00 PM.

Several years ago on a Gravatt trip, the group split into two teams of about 10 each and built two new camp cabins, which increased the number of boys and girls attending Camp Gravatt at any one time. This increased the need to expand the chapel so that seating would increase from about 165 to about 245 campers, and the chapel also needed a total refurbishment; thus, the genesis of this year's project to renew and expand the chapel's seating area. Additionally, we built a new altar, lectern, serving table, and entrance sign for the chapel, which Gravatt had christened "The Chapel of the Holy Spirit." We look forward to Bishop Richards' rededication and consecration of the chapel in the near future. The project was a big success and much appreciated by the Gravatt leadership!

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our mission team! The trips are usually Sunday noon to Friday mid-afternoon during a week in early spring. The fee to cover participant meals and room and board for five nights is about \$250 per participant for the week. As the volunteer group ages, retirement from active participation becomes a consideration, so we are always seeking new volunteers who are open to learning new skills with a mighty fun, supportive group. If you have any questions about the week at Gravatt, don't hesitate to contact Chip McLeod (chip_mcleod@ml.com), me (rickbdent@gmail.com), or any of the team.

Rick Dent





SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in loving memory of Joyce Long Schoepf by her family

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in thanksgiving to God for the blessings He gave to us through the lives of Aileen Lawton Belmont and Francis Nicholas Belmont

SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in thanksgiving for the life of Missy Rowland Turner by Carole and Mac Davis
- in loving memory of John Graves Schoepf by his family
- in loving memory of Bill Ferguson by his family

SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in memory of J. Michael Kohler, Jr. by his family



SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in loving memory of Weldon Craig Twitty, Florence Lerch Twitty and Florence Carter Learch Twitty

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in thankfulness for the ministry of the Reverend Paula Griffin by a fan

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in loving memory of John Turnbull, Florence Ferebee Pope and Carolyn Stripling Jolly by Keysie and Joe Maddox

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in loving memory of Margaret Toth by Jerry, Michael, Eric, Glenn and Mark
- in memory of Janice Webre Dantin by Jeremy, Suzanne, RJ, Harrison, Andrew and Ansley Dantin

Each Sunday, flowers or seasonal greenery adorn our altar to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our parish community, given in honor, celebration, or memory of loved ones. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please contact **Martha Blackman** at marthablackman@aol.com for availability and details.

The Parish Prayer List

as of May 18, 2026

We are asked to remember:

Our parishioners in need of prayer:

Barbara Adams, Kathy Allen, Beverly Barrs, Katherine Bauer, David Bowdish, Meredith Boyce, Cecil Brown, Margi Cates, Jeanne Clark, Marianne Clark, Shelby Clark, Terry Clark, Jerry Cogan, Ted Conwell, John Dargan, Carole Davis, Jane Davis, John Davis, Lillian Delaney, Phillip Edge, Roy Ellis, Randy Foster, Susan Foster, Andre Frederic, Dotty Frick, Gary Frost, Elizabeth Graham, T. Griffin, Cathy Hall, Ed Hall, Carolyn Hare, Mary Hayes, Linda Hays, Don Hinton, Nancy Hinton, Al Hipp, Danny Mayes, Jesse Martin, Jim McCullough, Linda McGee, Phil McGee, Carlton Morrow, Dinny Moses, Herb Neely, Julie Oates, Mary Peters, Birdie Reutter, Ernie Stringer, Cathy Terrell, Jerry Toth, Charlie Tulloh, Malinda Tulloh, Robin Walker, Reecie Wilkes, Logan Williams, Grantham Wood, Bobbi Wright

Others who have asked for our prayers:

Wayne Anderson, Claudio Autenzio, Hani Baramki, Troy Beavers, Amanda Bevis, John Blanton, Hugh Brantley, Johnsie Canny, Joann Carlisle, Nancy Carlisle, Michael Cato and family, Lynn Cazallis, Leslie Coe, Elijah Cole, Steve Crane, Michael Curry, Inge Eubanks, Ashley F., Beth Foster, Jeanie Frick, Gigi and Diamond, Jewell, Jonathon, Emmy & Treasure, Peggy Graham, Mary Haddad, Anita Hammerbeck, Lincoln Hardin, Justine Hawkins, Nylah Hill, Gary Horvath, Jeff Humphries, Fletcher Kendall, Roxanne King, Erick Kumar, Donghee Lee, Loraine, Zaylen Lyles, Edna McAbee, Thomas McConnell, Jane McKinze, Steve Mitchell, Patti Moran, Sharon Parker, Bob Perrin, Susan Perrin, Mary Ellen Porter, Emory Price, Libby Leland Puckette, Doris Robinson, Kacie Sims, Chloe Smith, Nancy Smith, Mackenzie Steck, Olivia Steck, Andrew Stine, Shelby Taylor, Sterling Taylor, Barbara Manning Bear Wallace, Winnie Walsh, David Ward, Gina Williams, Martha Pacolette Whitener, Justin Daniel Wyatt

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Patrick Abrams (Army), Michael Brooks Bock (Army), James Boyd, (USMCR), Anna-Kate Campbell (Navy), Halcott R. Carter (Navy), Christian Dunn (Army), Christian J. Eitel (Navy), Jack Gaskins (Army), Will Gaskins (Navy), Austin Groce (Army), Cameron Hall (USMC), Alex Holland (Army), Jason Kopp (Navy), Charles Lewis (Air Force), Lndon Dudley McMahill (Army), Morgan Milanowicz (Army), Travis Moore (Army National Guard), Maddox Peek (Army), Matthew Smith (Army), Bascombe Traywick (USMC), John Watters (Navy)

Those expecting the arrival of a child:

Cosley and Christopher Graham; Emma and Adam Whitehill; Lesesne and Natalie Phillips; Caleb and Daniella Jennings; Sally and Casey McRorie

For updates or additions to the Advent Prayer List, please contact the Rev'd Paula Griffin at pgriffin@churchofadvent.org or 864-542-6650 | 864-504-3696.

Holy Baptism

May 24, 2026

William Beckman Conner
Jacqueline Angela "Angie" Ellstrom

In Memoriam

Edward Borg
July 10, 1939 ~ May 25, 2026



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
ADVENT

141 Advent St | Spartanburg, SC | 29302

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Easy Ways to Give

01

**Give
Online**



02

**Make a
Pledge**



03

**The Advent
Foundation**



04

Mail a Check

141 Advent St
Spartanburg, SC 29302

2026 Vestry Members

Senior Warden	Lori Thomas
Junior Warden	Craig Williams
Junior Warden-elect	Reagan Holland
Youth Representative	Merrill Loring

Class of 2027

Jeff Cashman
Rick Dent
Laura Fritz
Rogers Settle

Class of 2028

Ziggy Clayton
Ginger Davis
Judy McCravy
Megan Rudolph

Class of 2029

Jim Hunt
John Langford
Liza Lounsberry
Anne Rodrick



The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Visit www.churchofadvent.org/gifts-and-pledges and click on the Online Giving Link.
Contact Joanne Wood, Parish Administrator if you have any questions: 504-3691

