

The Evangel

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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December 2016



From the Rector

I once heard a man who had spent a life in politics and fighting various causes, some times on the right side sometimes on the wrong side, who was lamenting the decline in radical politics. He said he did not mourn for himself he had had his battles and causes, but mourned for young people who would not have the opportunity to dream dreams and fight their battles. They had closed to them a realm of hope and a time to dreams of a better world.

You may or may not agree with this man's of view of radical politics, but I do think we can agree with his understanding of what happens to a people that lose hope and ability to dream.

Advent, with emphasis on the last things, as often seen time of darkness and fear, but that is because of the guilt we feel whenever we think on our lives and reflected on judgment. There is another way to look at Advent as a time of looking forward to the coming of Christ and his kingdom. That is something we should not fear, but look forward to with the utmost hope.

Fear and guilt are a natural response to not only the shortcomings of our own lives, but also to all the shortcomings, pain, and injustice of the world.

Hope and expectations are the appropriate response to God's promise and faith in saving work of Christ.

There often seems to be a disconnect between what is happening in Church during Advent and what is happening in the world. We are in purple, reflecting on the last things, while the world is singing carols, putting up decorations, buying gifts, and throwing parties.

Perhaps this disconnect is an allusion or a misunderstanding. If we truly understand the promises of Christ, including the promise of forgiveness and healing, we would be more excited than any four year old as they write their letter to Santa and dream of what will appear under the tree on Christmas Morning.

Whatever may happen in the political world, we as Christians will always spend some of our lives in the realm of hope and dreams of (not a better but a) perfect world. The Kingdom of our Lord: a time we call Advent.

Yours in Christ,
Peter

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PLEASE NOTE:

The deadline for the newsletter items is the 15th of each month.

From the Senior Warden



Thank you all for working so hard at this year's Holiday Fair. The turnout seemed to be a bit slower than normal, probably due to the hurricane recovery efforts, so we were pleasantly surprised to have raised close to \$6,000 for the Central Brevard Sharing Center.

At our November meeting, the Vestry addressed two areas impacted by Hurricane Matthew: our signs and our Chapel. We have an estimate for replacing the sign at the corner of SR 3 and Porcher Road and have kicked off a small team to come up with a design that will draw in visitors and hopefully new members. We are beginning the process to get estimates for repairing the Chapel and will be putting together a small team to head up the Chapel Repair Fundraising Campaign. If you have ideas for fundraisers, please send them to a Vestry member.

December 11 will be quite busy, as we will be voting for next year's Vestry members, presenting the check to Dave Brubaker of the Central Brevard Sharing Center, and collecting Toys. (And for those of us that forget to turn in our Pledges and Time & Talent Sheets on Dec 5 – we will do that too.)

Thank you for giving so faithfully in your time, talent and treasure.

Yours in Christ,

Pam



Join us for a Special Sunday on December 11, 2016

We will be joined by Dave Brubaker from the Sharing Center. We will give him the check for the money we raised at the Holiday Fair. Between services he will speak on the work of the Sharing Center.

Also between the services we will have our Annual Meeting when we will elect three new members of the Vestry.

This Sunday will also be our **“Toy Sunday”**
Please bring a new unwrapped toy that can be given to a child in need.

The History and Meaning of Advent



What is Advent?

The word 'Advent' is from the Latin '*Adventus*,' which means 'coming.' Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year (in the Western churches), and encompasses the span of time from the fourth Sunday before Christmas, until the Nativity of Our Lord is celebrated. The first Sunday of Advent is the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (which is November 30th), and so it will always fall somewhere between November 27th at the earliest and December 3rd at the latest. The liturgical color for this season is purple (Usually a deep purple as opposed to the lighter, red-violet shade of purple associated with Lent).

Like Lent, Advent is a preparatory season. It has significance because it is a season of looking forward and waiting for something greater; both for the annual celebration of the event of Christ's birth, and for the time when Christ will come again.

As noted in the New Catholic Encyclopedia, during Advent, the faithful are asked:

- *to prepare themselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world as the incarnate God of love,*
- *thus to make their souls fitting abodes for the Redeemer coming in Holy Communion and through grace, and*
- *thereby to make themselves ready for His final coming as judge, at death and at the end of the world.*

Origin and History of Advent

The exact time when the season of Advent came to be celebrated is not precisely known. Of course, it was not in practice before the celebration of the Nativity and Christmastide began; the earliest evidence shows that the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord was established within the later part of the 4th century. There are homilies from the 5th century that discuss preparation in a general sense, but do not indicate an official liturgical season. A Synod held in 590 established that Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from November 11th until the Nativity would be offered according to the Lenten rite. This and other traditions, such as fasting, show that the period of time now established as the Advent season was more penitential (similar to Lent) than the liturgical season as we know it today.

A collection of homilies from Pope St. Gregory the Great (whose papacy was from 590-604) included a sermon for the second Sunday of Advent, and by 650 Spain was celebrating the Sundays (five at the time) of Advent. So it seems the liturgical season was established around the latter part of the 6th century and first half of the 7th century. For the next couple of centuries, Advent was celebrated for five Sundays; Pope Gregory VII, who was pope from 1073-85, reduced the number to four Sundays.

Advent Today

The themes and traditions of the Advent season have evolved throughout the history of the liturgical season. As mentioned, the early Advent season was mainly penitential, close to the theme of the Lenten season. Today a penitential theme still exists, but it is not as intense as in 7th century. Also, it is blended with the theme of prayerful, spiritual preparation for the second and final coming of the Lord, as well as the joyful preparation for the annual festive remembrance of the Incarnation and Christ's birth.



From the Aquinas and More Web Sight

The Use of the Creche for the House and Church



- Advent I** The creche appears with its basic scenery with crib, straw but no animals (a blue votive candle can be put in front of the crib).
- Advent II** The animals are added, using the manger as a trough (again, a blue votive can be used).
- Advent III** St. Mary and St. Joseph with the faithful steer enter, but have not yet arrived at the manger.
- Advent IV** St. Mary and St. Joseph are at the manger scene looking at the empty crib awaiting his gracious presence.
- Christmas Eve** The angel is placed above the creche and the Babe is put into the manger. All other animals and characters are placed around the creche. The magi are placed somewhere but not close to the creche.
- Christmas I and II** The magi get closer to the crib (they are in route). The star can now replace the angel.
- Epiphany** The magi now surround the crib behind the Holy Family. Some other animals or characters are removed to make room the camel(s).

The creche may be dismantled at the Baptism of Our Lord or can be taken down on the Presentation of our Lord (Feb. 2).

Father Gene

32nd HOLIDAY FAIR November 5, 2016



December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BDG: Bible Discussion Group CFP: Christian Formation Program HE: Holy Eucharist and Sermon	PCE: Parish Choral Eucharist HS: Healing Service MP/EP: Morning/Evening Prayer					
				1 <i>Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon 1637</i>	2 <i>Channing Moore Williams, Missionary 1910</i>	3 <i>Francis Xavier, Missionary 1552</i> 8:30am Men's Breakfast at the Cosy Corner
4 Advent II (B) 8:00 am HE Rite I (I) 9:15 am Safe Guarding God's Children Part I 10:30 am HE Rite II (D)	5 <i>Clement of Alexandria, Priest c210</i> 6:30pm Cub Committee 7:00pm NMIHO	6 <i>Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.342</i> 6:30pm BSA	7 <i>Ambrose, Bishop of Milan 397</i> 10:00 Prayer Group Meeting 10:30 am HE & HS 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Holy Communion 7:30pm Choir	8 <i>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 6:30pm Scouts Scout Committee Cub Scouts	9	10
11 Advent III (B) Toy Sunday 8:00 am HE Rite II (D) 9:15 am Annual Meeting 10:30 am PCE, Rite I (I)	12 5:45pm Cub Den Meeting	13 <i>Lucy, Martyr in Sicily, 304</i> 6:30pm BSA 7:00pm Holy Communion 7:30pm Vestry	14 <i>John of the Cross, 1591</i> 10:00 Prayer Group Meeting 10:30 am HE & HS 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Holy Communion 7:30pm Choir	15 6:30 pm Cubs Den Mtg. (EB)	16 <i>Ember Day</i>	17 <i>Ember Day</i>
18 Advent IV (B) 8:00 am HE Rite I (II) 9:15 am Safeguarding God's Children Part II 10:30 am PCE Rite II (B)	19 6:30pm Pack Meeting	20 6:30 pm BSA	21 <i>Thomas</i> 10:00 Prayer Group Meeting 10:30 am HE & HS 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Holy Communion 7:30pm Choir	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 6:00pm Family Service 10:30pm Carols and Music 11:00pm Christmas
25 Christmas 9:30 am HE Rite II (A)	26 <i>Stephen, Martyr</i>	27 <i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 6:30pm BSA	28 <i>Holy Innocents</i> 10:00 Prayer Group Meeting 10:30 am HE & HS	29 <i>Thomas Becket</i>	30	31

Star Crazy Holiday Fair Quilt



This year's Holiday Fair quilt was a great success! We want to thank everyone who worked on the quilt, provided financial and moral support, helped sell tickets and sat at tables at off campus sites. We would not have been able to raise the money for the Sharing Center without the joint effort.

This year we sold tickets at several new sites. With the support of Dave Brubaker of the Sharing Center we contacted several churches in our community that also support the Sharing Center. We asked if they would be willing to allow us to come and display the quilt and sell tickets. Four churches invited us to visit. We also set up tables at the North Merritt Island Home Owners Picnic and the Lighthouse Christian Church semi-annual Flea Market. These venues allowed us to reach many new people to offer them tickets, tell them about the Holiday Fair and St. Luke's.



We are pleased to report that Geri Bonavito's niece, Joyce Geisling of Buffalo, NY, won the quilt. Geri had said that she had sold tickets to everyone in her family that would stand still long enough so she was understandably delighted!

St. Luke's Quilters are taking a break until after Pioneer Day but we are already exploring designs for next year's quilt. We will keep you posted. Thanks again for your support, *Geri, Paula and Joan*



Worship Schedule

Sundays:

Holy Eucharist	8:00 a.m.
Christian Formation Program	9:15 a.m.
Choral Eucharist (Nursery)	10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:

Holy Eucharist & Healing Service	10:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist & Healing Service	7:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	7:30 p.m.

(On Sundays beginning at 10:15 a.m. nursery for children under six years old is provided in the last room of Perrine Hall by parish volunteers)

In the 1870's the LaRoche, Porcher, and Sams families settled in Courtenay, named after a mayor of Charleston. Episcopalians from the Charleston/John's Island Area of South Carolina met in homes for worship. In 1886, the diocese of Florida established St. Luke's Mission and in 1888, the first church building was constructed on land given by Mr. Edward Porcher, with funds provided by Mrs. Lucy A. Boardman of Connecticut. This building remained the church building until a new one was dedicated on January 25, 1978, and the old building was designated the chapel. St. Luke's congregation uses the new building for most worship services and the chapel for small weddings and funerals.

St. Luke's Parish offers a full program of worship and Christian Education on Sunday mornings. We also have a mid-week program of Eucharist and Healing Service Study. In addition, dedicated adult leaders staff our Youth Group for grades 6th-12th.

St. Luke's Parish was one of the founders of the Central Brevard Sharing Center, which seeks to meet the needs of those people who cannot find help through regular service agencies. Since 1886, St. Luke's Church has sought to offer the love and worship of God through Jesus Christ by serving their neighbors and strives to make a positive contribution to the spiritual growth of Merritt Island and Central Brevard County.

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