



The Episcopal Church of the Advent
February 4, 2025 Newsletter
The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple



A message from Father Mark

On Sunday, we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ. In our Gospel reading, we read about Simeon and Anna, who were present when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus at the Temple.

Tradition says that Simeon was super old. One line of tradition has him as one of the translators of the Hebrew scriptures into Greek. That translation began around the middle of the third century before Christ. Depending on how you calculate, these parts of our tradition say Simeon was between 270 and 360 years old.

Whether Simeon was that old or not, we know that Simeon's life was full of expectation, anticipation, and waiting. Simeon waited and wondered. "Is this the day? Is this the day I will see salvation? Is this the day I will experience the fulfillment of God's promise?"

Like Simeon, we're waiting, too. We're waiting for things like wholeness, something to be healed, forgiveness and reconciliation, something to come alive, a sense of fulfillment and completion.

Question of the Week: What would change your life and how you relate to yourself and others? What would let you walk away fulfilled, without regret or second guessing yourself, satisfied and confident that you have faithfully and fully lived your life? And how long are you willing to wait for it?

Thank you and peace,
Mark+

An Ode to Bunny



Maryann Dartnell (L), Bunny Lawton (R)

Tom Rea, former Advent parishioner, authored the following tribute to Bunny Lawton, a beloved member of the Advent community and friend to many, and granted permission for us to share it in the newsletter.

*Stepping outside I paused a moment,
Stunned first by the freshness of nature
And then by the color of the sky as I saw,
A beautiful shade of blue, not baby blue but almost,
A blue that I've come to know as "Bunny Blue".*

*One morning in church, while settling in a pew,
An elderly woman elbowed herself into our world
Saying "Excuse me" with twinkling eyes and a smiling face.
She elbowed her way in and with age and such grace,
Introducing herself as "Bunny" and we became friends in that place.*

*After church she hobbled down the steps and pointed her cane to the sky
Saying "That's my favorite color, that blue painted up high and so clear."
"It only comes around this time of year", fall it was,
and "Oh we must have lunch one day soon, both you and your dear."
It never did happen, because...because...*

*I looked at the sky and thought blue was just blue
But Bunny saw things from an artist's point of view.
My lens was quite clouded and not nearly as sharp
Until that cane came swinging in such a broad arc
And Bunny said "See? God's painting for you!"*

*Now Bunny is long gone yet I see her blue sky
With orange splattered clouds floating slowly on by,
The childlike artist's brush smearing colors so free.
I can't help but wonder whose work could this be?
And God replied softly, "Just Bunny and me!"*

Pastoral Care Questionnaire Reminder

A small group of volunteer Advent members is exploring how we can effectively expand and sustain the parish's efforts to provide Pastoral Care to its members and families.

We want to base any plan on what the congregation sees as important in our tending to each other in times of need. To do this, we ask every member to send the group a short email about what you think we should try to provide through Pastoral Care.

Please respond because we are not going to move forward without knowing what is seen as important. Name those activities or practices that you think should be part of Pastoral Care. Feel free to add any other comments that you want to your email.

Please do this as soon as possible. Send your email to Penny Lyle at penny5128@comcast.com.

Penny will make a complete list of all the comments and no comment will be associated with anyone's name. The group will then use this input to move forward with developing a plan that will be presented to the Vestry.

In addition to Penny, the other members of the current group are Elizabeth Branch, Norinne Hurst, Anna Marett, Beth Pridgen, Tim Pridgen, Betsy Quillin, and Paul Roman. Father Mark and Jim Ross are also attending meetings to provide consultation.

If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Tim Pridgen (7206@bellsouth.net) and he will fill you in about the meeting times.

**Rota for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 9, 10:30 A.M.**

Altar Guild – Abbott-McCauley Watts-Yost

Flower Guild – Elizabeth Branch

LEM/PoP –Tim Pridgen

1st Reading – Fran Hilsman

2nd Reading – Beth Pridgen

Vestry of the Day – Vic Jackson-Lewis

Organ Tech - Richard Simpson

**Readings for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 9, 10:30 A.M.**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

The Psalm: 138

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Parish Prayer List

Parish: Carol Blow, Bob Cupples, Flossie Dodge, Jeanne Dufort, Sally Green, Kate Jackson, Shandon Land, Kathy and Brian Lehman, MaryAnn Lisle, Anna Marett, Dutton Morehouse, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Livy Scholly, Betty Thomas, and Ellen Warren.

Friends and Family: Eugene Broadbridge, Jane Brooks, Daphne Carter, Lynn Cupples, Lillian and Turner Eby, Mary Ann Edelman, Joseph Gagliano, Annita Hunt, Grainger Hunt, Johanna Dufort Hunt, Julie Hancock Jones, Jan Kozel, Nancy Labak, RB Lewis, Meg Limmer, Tracy Limmer, Jerry Maddox, Ross Mason, Dustin Pullen, Dennis Reeder,

Carla Sherrill, Robin Thomas, Parker Westphal, Jay Whitecombe, and Carl & Joanna Yost.

Community and Beyond: Iliana Arias, Bishop Michael Curry, Beth Tamplin Jones, Bill Kurtz, Sherry MacMahon.

February Birthdays

4 Emily Buck, Bonnie Dale; **7** Sally Green; **8** Harrison Buck; **9** Kelly Kozel; **11** Doug Adkins; **12** Debbie Permar; **14** Dan Jubelt; **16** Janet Mason; **19** Nancy Bush; **21** Grace Yost Kovar, Francis Ramfos; **23** Woody Burriss; **25** Paige Banaszak; **26** Cale Cronic; **28** Kathy Lehman

February Anniversaries

17 Dianne & Patrick Yost; **21** Annie Hunt & Woody Burriss

Week at a glance

Date	Time	Location	Event
Monday, February 3, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Tuesday, February 4, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open discussion)
Wednesday, February 5, 2025	9:00 AM	CH	Morning Prayer, Rite I
Thursday, February 6, 2025	12:00 PM	PH	AA - Off the Rails Group (open Book study)
Thursday, February 6, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed discussion)
Thursday, February 6, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	Al-Anon (open meeting)
Friday, February 7, 2025	7:00 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (closed Book study)
Sunday, February 9, 2025	8:00 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
Sunday, February 9, 2025	9:15 AM	PH	Sunday School - Lectionary Study
Sunday, February 9, 2025	10:30 AM	CH	Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
Sunday, February 9, 2025	7:30 PM	PH	AA - Madison Group (open meeting)

PH - Parish House CH - Church

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

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Office hours by appointment.

The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright - Bishop of Atlanta.

Reverend Mark Stewart Johnson - Interim Priest-in-Charge.

Devon Dartnell - Senior Warden

Vic Jackson - Junior Warden.

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