



## The Episcopal Church of the Advent

July 16, 2025 Newsletter

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost



### **Being a Good Neighbor: The teaching of Luke 10:25-37**

This past Sunday, The Reverend David Powell caught everyone’s attention when he held up a beautiful three-sided crystal prism, a gift from years past that revealed a cross, a chalice, or a ciborium depending upon how you looked at it. “How you look is what you see,” he said, setting the stage for a heartfelt reflection on the Parable of the Good Samaritan. This timeless story invites us to see our neighbors through the lens of love and compassion, no matter who they are.

In the parable, a lawyer asks Jesus, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus points to the heart of the Law: love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. When the lawyer presses, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responds with a story that challenges us all.

A man, traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, is attacked by robbers, beaten, and left for dead. A priest and a Levite—respected religious figures—pass by without helping. The Levite, from the tribe of Levi and tasked with temple duties like worship and teaching, might have avoided the man due to concerns about ritual purity or personal safety. Yet, a Samaritan—a man despised by Jews for his ethnic and religious differences—stops.

Moved by pity, he bandages the man's wounds, takes him to an inn, and pays for his care, promising to cover any extra costs.

Jesus asks, "Which of these was a neighbor?" The lawyer answers, "The one who showed mercy." Jesus' charge is clear: "Go and do likewise." This parable redefines "neighbor" as anyone in need, even those we're tempted to overlook or avoid. It's a call to live our faith through acts of kindness, not just words or status.

Father Powell's prism reminds us that perspective matters. Are we the victim, hesitant to accept help from an unexpected source? Are we the Samaritan, called to show compassion to someone different from us? Or are we the passersby, held back by fear or excuses? The Samaritan's mercy shows us that love crosses all boundaries—religious, cultural, or personal.

As Episcopalians, our Baptismal Covenant calls us to seek and serve Christ in all people. The parable invites reflection on how we treat those in need, especially those society marginalizes. We are challenged to embody Christ's love through service and generosity, while rethinking the definition of who our "neighbor" truly is.

***Question of the week: How can we be Good Samaritans in our church and community? Maybe it's offering a kind word, volunteering within the congregation or community, or reaching out to someone who needs help, through circumstances not of their making. Let's look at the world with eyes of love and act with hearts full of mercy.***

**Yours in Christ, Kim**

#### **Death of John Pope Elliott**

Please pray for John Pope Elliott, a baptized member of the Church of the Advent, and brother of Lyn Hunt. John died in Atlanta on July 8th after a long illness.

#### **First Wednesday Get-Together**

**Ricardo and Janel Ureña • 1041 Parsonage Road**

**Wednesday, August 6 • 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Come meet amazing Advent parishioners. Make new friends and learn fun things about the people sitting in the pews next to you. Try your hand at corn hole or Blocks, enjoy a bonfire, drinks, food, and conversation. Plus, y'all can feed bananas and fruit to our cows. Just ask your fellow parishioners what fun that can be! There's plenty of parking at the farm, and we look forward to seeing everyone.

#### **Update on Livy Scholly from Elizabeth Branch**

Thank you all for signing up for Bring a Meal to Livy. I received a text from Ruth Bracewell last night that Livy went back to her parents' house. The air conditioning in the cabin stopped working, and the temperature got up to 86 degrees. I'm not sure what her plans are, but I'll keep everyone posted if I hear anything from Ruth. In light of these developments, we are pausing meal deliveries until we hear more about how we can help Livy. Thank you! Elizabeth

#### **News from the Vestry**

**Supply priest update** – The Reverend David Powell (Gainesville) will lead the 10:30 Morning Prayer service on July 20, and Tim Pridgen will lead Morning Prayer at the 8:00 service. Father Harold Lockett will return on July 27th, officiating both services.

**Priest recruitment** – We have now received **THREE** applications for the position of Rector for the Church of the Advent. We have had virtual interviews with two candidates and will interview the third virtually this Friday.

In-person tours and interviews are being scheduled for this month. After all on-site interviews are completed, the Vestry will select the primary candidate, make the offer, and if the candidate accepts, then there is a short process culminating in the Bishop's approval. Announcement of the new Advent Priest-In-Charge will happen then. We hope this whole process will not take more than a few weeks. We will need help from the parish in planning a welcoming celebration for our new priest!

**Parish House renovation** – the architect has started with the last (we hope) revision to conceptual drawings. **We will share these drawings with the parish when they are ready.** After Vestry approval, construction drawings will be produced, then construction starts. Construction will take 6-9 months. Accommodations will be made to allow use of the Parish House during construction. The major elements of the project:

1. Replace parish house roof.
2. Create two new handicapped restrooms on first floor from existing restrooms, chapel and storage area.
3. Create new storage for tables and chairs from remainder of chapel.
4. Create new expanded back-of-building porches and stairs with roof.
5. Replace and enlarge existing handicapped ramp.
6. New restroom second floor which opens out into the hallway.
7. Renovate or modify kitchen to improve usability and functionality, including replacing flooring.
8. Improve handicapped parking and access.
9. Improve landscaping (plan to be developed).

#### **Father Dann Brown**

Father Dann is doing well and in recovery at "The Oaks", a rehabilitation facility on 490 Kathwood Drive in Athens (706-355-7400). He will be there approximately two weeks. He is receiving visitors. Please keep Dann in your prayers!

#### **Rota for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 20, 2025**

LEM: 8:00 A.M. N/A / 10:30 A.M. Marrett

Altar Guild: Jackson-Lewis-Hawkins-Pike-Hilsman

Flower Guild: Crown

1st Reading: M Dartnell

2nd Reading: D Dartnell

Vestry of the Day: D Dartnell

Organ Tech: K Jackson

#### **Readings for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 20, 2025**

[Link to Readings](#)

First Reading: Amos 8:1-12

The Psalm: Psalm 52

Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-28

The Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

#### **Parish Prayer List**

Dann Brown, Flossie Dodge, Jeanne Dufort, Kate Jackson, Kathy Lehman, Brian Lehman, Jennie Newton, Annette Piazza, Lynne Roach, Dick Schmidt, Livy Scholly, Betty Thomas, Charles Hunt Brown, Lynn Cupples, Bob Cupples, Mary Ann Edelman, John Elliott, Anita Hunt, Julie Hancock Jones, Jan Kozel, Jerry Maddoz, Dennis Reeder, Iliana Arias, Beth Tamplin Jones, Bill Kurtz

**July Birthdays:** 17 Sarah Harrell Klein, 21 Dianne Yost, 22 Eliza Hilliard, Anna Marrett, 27 Flossie Dodge  
**Anniversaries:** 12 Kate and O.J. Booker, 14 Flossie and David Dodge

**Recurring weekly calendar**

Rite I Eucharist: Sunday, 8:00 AM  
Sunday school (adult): Sunday, 9:15 AM  
Rite II Eucharist: Sunday, 10:30 AM  
Morning Prayer service: Wednesday, 9:00 AM  
Off the Rails AA group: M, Tu, Th @ noon  
Madison AA group: Th, Su @7:30 PM, F @ 7:00 PM

**The Episcopal Church of the Advent**

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