

Finding More Purpose in Advent

Grace to you friends. As we enter into the season of Advent, we all have different customs to help us prepare for the incarnation of our savior. Making Advent wreaths is a wonderful example. This year, I invite you to consider the ideas below taken from *Family Traditions for the season of Advent, What We Do in Advent: An Anglican Kids' Activity Book*, by The Rev. Anne E. Kitch.

Saying Grace Together

If your family doesn't have a tradition of saying grace, now is a great time to start. Pick one meal a day and try to say grace at that meal for each day during Advent. You can read a grace from The Book of Common Prayer (look at page 835), use your own words to thank God for your food, or go around the table and each say one thing that you are grateful for that day. Also make time to remember those in need and the lonely ones during this most hopeful season.

Praying Together

Make time once a week to pray together as a family. Express your joys and your concerns, and ask God for guidance and blessing. If you haven't taught your children the Lord's Prayer, the season of Advent is a wonderful time to learn. One of my favorite prayers in the prayer book is said in our house when our boys go to bed. It begins "Keep watch, dear Lord..." (look on page 134 in The Book of Common Prayer).

Reading Scripture Together

Advent is a time to grow closer to God, to pay more attention to God by simplifying our lives and reminding ourselves of God's great love and mercy towards us. What better way to grow closer to God than reading the Bible? Start small if it seems daunting. The Book of Common Prayer has some appropriate passages that you can say together every night. The Song of Mary (page 119) or the Third Song of Isaiah (page 87) are especially appropriate in Advent. If you do have a tradition of reading the Bible together, consider praying the Daily Devotionals are on page 137, or the Daily Office like Katie and I do.

Proclaim the Gospel in Word and Deed

As a family, find a project that will shine the light of Christ to the world. Here are some suggestions of how to love your neighbor as yourself:

- Count how many pairs of shoes or coats you have and see if you might have an extra pair you could donate to someone in need. Add some socks and underwear for good measure!
- Consider caroling with your parish family for our shut ins.
- Consider getting an envelope for shopping for someone at CARE Lodge. The envelopes for parents and adults who have had a really tough year are always the last to be taken.
- Give up eating out once a week and donate the money to the Episcopal Relief & Development Fund.
- Volunteer at an animal shelter. Collect blankets and donate them to a shelter.
- Care for God's creation by taking a lead on how St. Paul's can help with our carbon footprint or start a compost for a garden next spring.
- Invite a lonely classmate to eat with you at the lunch table at school.
- When you are filling out your Christmas cards, send one or more to:
 - A resident of a local nursing home, residential care facility or a patient in a hospital.
 - A Recovering American Soldier, c/o Walter Reed, National Military Medical Center.

The Good Deeds Jar

Put a jar on the kitchen counter next to a bowl of dried black-eyed peas. During Advent, any family member who performs a good deed, such as folding someone else's laundry or making their bed, moves a pea into the jar. On Christmas Day, the peas are replaced with candy canes or some other favorite family candy item. Add a few more pieces of candy for good measure! During Christmas everyone is invited to talk about one of the nice things they did for someone else. The tradition reminds us that while you never have control over whether someone else does something nice for you, but you always have control over whether you do something kind for someone else.

Let me know if you try any of these. I am excited to hear your stories.

Quinton

Annual Council • Jan 31 to Feb. 2, 2025

Mark your calendars!

Mississippi Coliseum, Biloxi, MS

More info with registration and hotel accommodations will be coming soon!

AdventWord
DECEMBER 1-25 **2024**

1 HUMILITY	14 PROCLAIM
2 ABOUND	15 REJOICE
3 REDEMPTION	16 GENTLENESS
4 SPROUT	17 TRUST
5 EARNESTLY	18 GATHER
6 FAITHFULNESS	19 HOME
7 SAFETY	20 LOVE
8 SPLENDOR	21 MERCY
9 REFINE	22 LIFTED
10 JOY	23 SHINE
11 PREPARE	24 COME
12 RIGHTEOUSNESS	25 FRUIT
13 SALVATION	

adventword.org

AdventWord is a resource created by Forward Movement that invites us to adopt a creative, daily prayer practice during the busy, holy season of Advent. AdventWord helps us find small moments of reflection to stay connected to our personal faith, to others, and to God. Here are a few ideas of how you can use AdventWord:

- Read and pray over the daily emailed meditation during Advent (sign up at *AdventWord.org*).
- Connect and discuss the day's word with other disciples on our social media pages
- Share your own personal meditation to inspire others—whether visual or written
- Haikus and poems
- Paintings or drawings
- Photographs
- Personal reflections and more are all encouraged

ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MUSIC SERIES

CAPITAL BRASS
DEC 12 @ NOON

ST. PAUL'S
Christmas Pageant

SUNDAY,
DEC. 22
4:30 PM

Mark your calendars for the St. Paul's Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 22, at 4:30 p.m. The pageant is open to children and youth of all ages. Join us for dinner in the Parish Hall after the Pageant. Keep an eye out for more information about rehearsals, roles and costumes!

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2024 • 5:30 p.m.

Festival Choral Eucharist

Vestry Nominations Open

Nominations are open to elect three new members of the Vestry to serve three-year terms. Forms for nominations are available at the entrances to Nave and on the bulletin board in the hallway and will be accepted until January 20, 2025.

A potential vestry member must be a confirmed communicant, at least 21 years of age, must be canonically resident and actually residing in the parish (letter of membership on file); must be entitled to suffrage at annual meeting at which elected; cannot have served on the Vestry in previous three years (though such person is immediately eligible to stand for nomination as Warden); and shall not serve more than six consecutive years in that or a combination of vestry member/warden offices unless said individual has served a portion of a former term (i.e. filled an unexpired term).

Prior to the Annual Parish Meeting, potential Vestry members will meet with the Rector; consent to the parish's Vestry Covenant; and commit to attend the Annual Vestry retreat, which is scheduled for February 15, 2025.

Please Get Your Pledge Cards In

As we get closer to the end of the year, the Vestry is preparing the 2025 budget, so please get your Pledge Cards in. Thank you to all who have already sent them in!

Also, to finish out those 2024 contributions, all payments must be received by noon, Tuesday, December 31 to receive credit for 2024.



Save your live Christmas tree and greenery for "Burning of the Greens" January 5, 2025, at 5p.m. This is a joint celebration of Epiphany at the Church of the Mediator.

Christmas Shopping for
Care Lodge
 Help us end abuse.

PICK UP AN ENVELOPE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE
 AND BRING UNWRAPPED GIFTS TO THE CHURCH BY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Let's Go Caroling!

This year we're expanding the tradition of EYC caroling to include all members of the Episcopal Community of Meridian! Join us at Church of the Mediator at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 18, for cookies and hot cocoa before we set out to sing Christmas Carols for our homebound members. You may ride in the Mediator's bus or carpool in personal vehicles.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
5:15 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

MEET AT THE CHURCH OF THE MEDIATOR
 AND JOIN THE EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY OF MERIDIAN FOR COOKIES, COCOA, & CAROLING!

Episcopal Church of the MEDIATOR | St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Poinsettias for Altar Remembrances

It is a tradition at St. Paul's to place poinsettias on the altar in memory or honor of loved ones at Christmas. Flower forms are available in the Sunday bulletin, or you may call the Parish office 601.693.2502 to make your dedication. Any excess funds will be used to assist in beautifying the altar and our worship during the year. Dedications must be received by Monday, December 16, to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Dates to Note

Dec. 12 • Noon • Capital Brass for St. Paul's Music Series

Dec. 17 • 5:15 p.m. • Vestry Meeting

Jan. 5, 2025 • 5 p.m. • Burning of the Greens at Church of the Mediator

Jan. 26, 2025 • 9:30 a.m. • Annual Meeting

Jan. 3 to Feb 2, 2025 • Diocesan Annual Council - Biloxi Coliseum, Biloxi, MS

The Parish Office will close for the Christmas holiday at noon Tuesday, December 24 and reopen Monday, December 30.

The Parish Office will close for the New Year's holiday at noon Tuesday, December 31, and reopen Thursday, January 2, 2025.

We Remember in our Prayers

For our Parish family: Amy Cady, Caroline McGinnis Gibson, Chip Harwell, Bev Pringle, Don Pringle, DJ Wells, Eve Morrison, Hardy Smith, Jerry Wayton, Jim Miller, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Dunn, Patrick Leach, Patsy Moran, Peggy Carrico, Suzie Pool, Tee and Wanda Blount.

In our senior living communities: Lora Jones, Mary Weems, Susan Hamilton and Will Sorey.

Extended family and friends: Alisha Crowell, Amanda Lockley, Ashley Heblon-Lee, Betty Harris, Betty Perry, Bill Selman, Brooke, Catherine Crews, Charlotte Chaney, Christy Covert, Christopher Alexander, Claire Griffith, Clancy, Cory Gaylord, Davey Simmons, David, Diane Dunn, Diane Grace, Donna Polizzi, Emily Rush, Evie Warden, Francois DuPlessis, Frances Leach, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Fredrica Harris-Thompsett, Gail Richardson, George Farr, Gloria Addison, Hays Monsour, Jacob Neely, Jada Dooley, James, Jan, Jeana Bennett, Jennifer Abraham, Jim McGinnis, Jim Thompson, Jo Nell Brown, Joe Roberts, Ken Fisher, Kevin Williams, Kylie Temple, Lanier McCullough, Larry Houchins, Leland Tew, Leigh Ziller, Lee Wayne Neely, Lou Dubose, Mark McCoayto, Martha Mazingo, Mason, Matt White, Megan Thomas, Michelle Nelson, Mike Covert, Milton Leach, Mize, Neil Sanford, Noah White, Norman, Pat Carver, Paul Parker, Phyllis Campbell, Ralph Abraham, Randy Moore, Regina Waddle, Rick, Rita Pegues, Ronnie Miller, Sandy Carrier, Scott Richardson, Shirley Hunter Croft, Steve Waddle, Stormy, Susan Nichols, Taylor Wright, Tammy, The Thorne Family, Thomas Little, Tom Blackledge, Tom Schram, Travis Sadler, Trent Hartzog, Virginia Dearman, Walker Mims, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott and Zack Martin.

We pray for those who have died especially Thomas Little, father of Judge Little; and Mike Reich.

We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces, for all who serve overseas and their families, especially Andrew Behm, Shum Benson, Cody Blackwell, Connor Covert, Graham Ford, Luke Graham, Zack Hendericks and DJ Robinson.

We pray for our Bishop Dorothy, for our Rector Austin and his family and our Curate Katie.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec. 1Bob Covert, Henry Hiatt, Lee Graham Keeton	Dec. 12Ann Revere Davis, Reid Perry
Dec. 2John Breaux, Anne Swindoll	Dec. 13Bob & Polly Covert
Dec. 3Michael Hasselle	Dec. 17Chandler Hogan
Dec. 4Bonnie Allen, Sandra Carrier	Dec. 21David Batchelor III, Tiffany Benson Kelly, Carlyle Breaux, Ralph & Martha Young
Dec. 5Stephen Wilson	Dec. 22Geoff McIntyre
Dec. 6Annie Martin	Dec. 24Harriet Simmons
Dec. 7Jack Crowe, Paige Watson	Dec. 27Dottye Graham, Laura Holladay
Dec. 8Sharon Davis, John Michael McDonald, Dawn McCormick	Dec. 28Anne Warren Swindoll
	Dec. 29Hemi Gaddie
	Dec. 30Melissa Calcote

Services

	DEC. 1	DEC. 8	DEC. 15	DEC. 22
VESTRY COUNTERS	John Rea Marty McIntyre	Gloria Chancellor Edie Simmons	Gloria Chancellor Edie Simmons	Gloria Chancellor Eddie Simmons
8 A.M.				
CHALICE	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert
READER	John Carrier	Polly Covert	John Carrier	Polly Covert
USHER	John Carrier	Bob Covert	John Carrier	Bob Covert
10:30 A.M.				
READER 1	Jerome Kittrell	Marty McIntyre	Patrick Leach	Mallory Davis
READER 2	Wayne Wuestefeld	Tiffany McGehee	Lynn Waddle	Geoff McIntyre
PRAYERS	Stacey Harwell	Robbie Rea	Candy Ward	Kay Reich
USHERS	Gary Jones Wayne Wuestefeld	Lisa Howell Stacey Harwell	Judge Little Catherine Little	Edie Simmons Will Simmons
ACOLYTES	Rowan Hanschke Payton Hanschke Lakeland Hanschke	Wyatt Bond Sellers Breaux Hamp Little	Ann Revere Davis William Davis Simmons Davis	Lucy Simmons Maggie Martin Lakeland Hanschke
ALTAR GUILD	BJ Ray Edie Simmons	BJ Ray Edie Simmons	Candy Ward Melissa Calcote	Candy Ward Melissa Calcote
CHALICE	Joe Benson	Gary Jones	Gloria Chancellor	Stephen Wilson