

ADVENTure Notes

Quarterly publication for members & friends of Advent Lutheran Church

Lenten Reflection

by Pastor Ward

To borrow from a title of book that came out a good number of years ago, I, with a bit of tongue in cheek, confess that "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Seminary." One of most important truism I gained in seminary was to respect the authority of those in charge of the sacristy. This was not a difficult task for me, because I am not sure that I had ever been in a sacristy prior to going to seminary. Honestly, I do not think this need for respect had much to do with some repressed fear that those who cared for all things sacristy would, if angered, switch out the wine and replace it with Kool-Aid. But, after having served in two congregations, I have taken no chances.

Getting more to the point, I realize that watching and listening to those sacristy veterans has enriched me in many ways as a young pastor; most importantly I have learned how powerful the church calendar can be. I have grown to understand the church calendar and the many practices connected to each season as having little to do with rules and regulations and far more with providing new meaning for my own Christian journey.

This brings me to the Lenten season. To use a baseball analogy, Lent is a changeup in that it follows a pattern all its own, very different than any other season. And like a changeup, even for the most seasoned batters (and Christians), Lent interrupts our normal swing and can easily get us off balance.

Being off balance is scary thing, but it is the only way that we will see with new vision, with new vision in the right direction. But, is not this what the Gospel is all about? Is not this, in many ways, what the Gospel does to us? I am convinced that the Gospel of Jesus Christ gets us off balance - but it is also what uprights us - but not the same as we were before. We are now heading in a new direction.

We often talk about the word *metanoia* - repentance - as changing the mind as if it were only a matter of some intellectual adjustments. But, *metanoia* entails far more the mind; at it is core, it is the complete changing of direction. Walt Wangerin, who has written for the *Lutheran*, talks about *metanoia* as more of issue of being off balance. When a person is off balance that person is indeed vulnerable, but in order to physically make a turn, it is necessary to be off balance. And, if there is any hope of repentance, of turning in a new direction, of having a new vision, we, as Christians, must be willing to be off balance.

Baptism. It's what gets you off balance. It is in the waters of baptism that we are not only pointed in the right direction, but we are united to the right direction, Jesus Christ, the body of Christ - the Christian community. We are given a new identity in Jesus Christ. United to the destiny of the Beloved, Jesus Christ.

In baptism, we are also given a cross on our foreheads to remind us. The mark of the cross is on our forehead to recall and to remind us of our new identity in Jesus Christ. To remind us that we are the beloved of God, the beloved community.

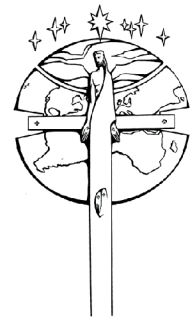
Worship also gets us off balance, doesn't it? Worship turns our heads and focuses our eyes in the right direction, Jesus.

It is the practices of discipleship, which come with each new season, that continue to form us in how to walk in the right direction and in how to see - the practices keep pulling our heads around and showing us what to look for and at. The practices of discipleship are how we see new vision, preparing us to see Resurrection, as well as the many resurrections that are happening all around us.

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2009

1st Quarter



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Dear friends and members of Advent:

What does *This Place*, this building that houses Advent Lutheran Church mean to you? Russ McKittrick was thinking of that as he sat in the sanctuary one Sunday. These words came to him and he shared them with Council last week:

**This place is where all are welcome.
This place is where strangers become friends.
This place is where we become family through holy baptism.
This place is where we watch our children grow.
This place is where we hear God's word.
This place is where we sing praises.
This place is where we receive the body and blood of Christ.
This place is where we come for healing.
This place is where we are forgiven.
This place is where we witness the promise of holy matrimony.
This place is where we remember and say farewell to love ones.
This place is where we come to laugh and cry.
This place is God's house.**

Of course, we are not defined by a building but by our love for God and one another. It is this building, though, that allows us to live out our mission of loving God and serving neighbor. We worship; we study; we house the homeless and feed the hungry; we provide a safe place for young people to meet; we are a gathering space for UNCC students; we nurture young children through our preschool and so much more.



Our place needs care, though, and three issues arose at about the same time:

1. Our heat/ AC systems in the oldest section (the admin wing) conked out a few weeks ago and we discovered the entire system for that wing needs to be replaced.
2. Part of the problem comes from standing water under the building that has resulted in rust and corrosion of the units.

The property board has received quotes to replace the system and install drainage. Fortunately, we have a Building Maintenance fund that will cover nearly all the expense we anticipate for these projects.

3. That brings us to THE ROOF. You may have noticed the widening stain on the sanctuary ceiling, the discolored tile in the narthex or the bucket collecting rain in the parlor? These are indications of roofs that have far outlived their warranties. There are 2 areas that need to be replaced: the Sanctuary / Narthex and the administration wing (including campus ministry and the classrooms.) The admin wing we will try to do ourselves but, for the sanctuary, we need professionals.

Since we do not have enough money our Building Maintenance Fund to make these needed repairs, Council unanimously voted to come to the congregation with an appeal for \$55,000. This will allow us to complete all 3 of these projects and partially replenish our fund for emergency maintenance.

NOTE: On April 19 we will call for the congregation to affirm, by vote, our plans to raise and spend these funds.

God's Peace to us in This Place.

Pam Isacks

Election of Officers at Congregational Meeting on May 17

The nominating committee has met and begun the process of nominating individuals for the following positions:

VP/ President Elect

Lay Minister to Nurture & Fellowship

Secretary

Lay Minister to Social Ministry

*Treasurer***

Lay Minister to Stewardship of Life

Lay Minister to Christian Education

In addition to the list of candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee, any voting member of the congregation may submit to the committee additional names for inclusion on the list. Those names must be submitted in writing by May 7. Dick Kuklantz is the chairperson of the nominating committee.

Holy Week Offerings

Holy Week begins with Palm Passion Sunday as we journey through the holiest days of the church year, the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry. We invite you to share this journey with us.

Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

April 5, 8:30am and 11:00am

Advent's Holy Week worship musical, *Once Upon A Tree*, ends Sunday's services as the physician Luke recounts the contrast between the joyful crowds greeting Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the threatening temple priests looking for the opportunity to discredit him.

Maundy Thursday Christian Seder Meal

April 9, 6:00-7:15pm

Join us in Orinson Hall for a full ritual meal which unites both Jewish and Christian heritages. Commemorating the events of the Exodus, where God delivered the Israelites from captivity, the Christian Seder Meal also recreates the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples. Reservations must be made in advance. Both children and adults are welcome.

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 9, 7:30pm

Following the Christian Seder Meal, a service of Holy Communion continues in the Sanctuary where we celebrate first communion. The continuation of the worship musical, *Once Upon A Tree*, reminds us of Jesus' command to his disciples to "*Do This and Remember Me.*"

Good Friday Tenebrae Worship

April 10, 8:00pm

Chancel Choir and Grace Alive! present the Passion story of *Once Upon A Tree* where Luke remembers Gethsemane, Christ's humiliating trial and crucifixion.

Holy Saturday Service

April 11, 7:00pm

Chris White, through songs, prayers and scripture, leads a service that interprets the time between Christ's crucifixion and resurrection.

Easter Sunday Offerings

Easter Sunday Worship

April 12, 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am

Services include joyful liturgical settings, with *Holy Communion*, Advent Ringers, Chancel Choir and *Grace Alive!*. The worship musical, *Once Upon A Tree*, concludes at the beginning of the 9:30am and 11:00 am services.

- 8:00am Blended Traditional Worship led musically by Advent Ringers and organ.
- 9:30am Blended Traditional Worship led musically by the Chancel Choir and *Grace Alive!*
- 11:00am Blended Contemporary Worship led musically by *Grace Alive!* and the Chancel Choir.

Easter Breakfast

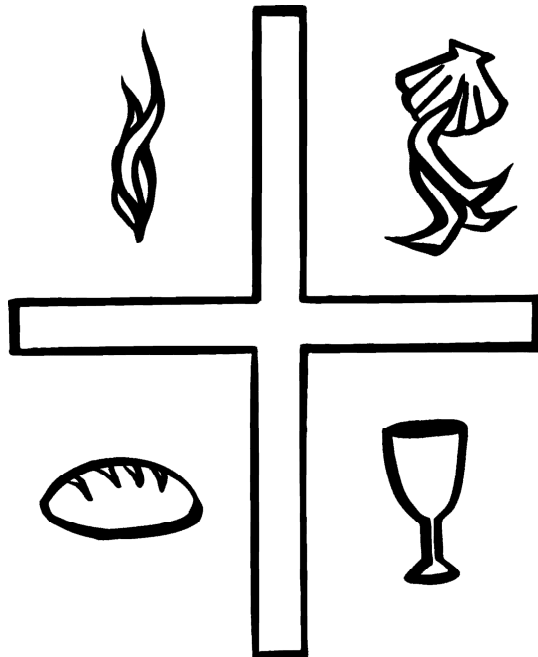
April 12, 9:00am - 11:00am

The youth of Advent host an Easter breakfast for the community of Advent, friends and visitors on Easter morning. All are invited to join in anytime between 9:00am and 11:00am. The freewill offering this year go toward our Youth Mission Trip and National Youth Gathering this summer.

Easter Egg Hunt

April 12, 9:30am

An Easter Egg Hunt is held on Advent's playground for children through 4 years and in the Education Wing for children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade.



Minister of the Month of February

by Ron Pittman

It is an honor to present the Minister of the Month for February, 2009, Brenda Reid. When I called Brenda to let her know that she had been chosen as Minister of the Month, she reacted with shock. Those of us who know Brenda are not surprised. Brenda is one of the many "selfless servants" we have serving each and every one of us at Advent and we are better for having her in our midst.

Brenda was born and raised in Englewood, N.J. and like a lot of Lutherans, came from another faith. Brenda began her faith journey in the Baptist Church, where she accepted Christ at the age of 12. In college Brenda attended the Methodist Church, most of the time.

Brenda married a "wonderful man", Gene and they share the lives of 3 wonderful sons, Eugene, Terrence, and Michael, one daughter-in-law, Dolores and one grandson, Trevor. Brenda states that all three sons have been raised in the Lutheran Church, since her mother-in-law, Roberta Mack made sure they were bap-

tized in the Lutheran Faith. Brenda and her family have been worshipping in the Lutheran Faith for 30 years.

For the last 15 years, in Reston, VA and Charlotte, NC, Brenda has participated in Chancel Choir, Worship Board, Pastoral/Mutual Ministry, Altar Guild, Finance Board, Witness Board and as Financial Secretary when needed.

Brenda is currently retired after having been a Travel Agent, Banker and having worked in Social Service as a Youth. Brenda is passionate about Family and visits her sons as often as she can. Brenda considers herself a "Train-ista", traveling the rails as often as she can.

Advent has been her church home for the last 5.5 years and she and her family have loved the "faith, warmth and love of this congregation." "We are truly ONE Family!"

Brenda feels the most important issue for her at this time, is the support our congregation can give Pastor Ward as we discern the

course of action we should take in these times of transition, through our faith and finances. Brenda believes that through "faith, we can accomplish all we desire." "Let us continue to give at least 100%."

It is a distinct honor and privilege to present Brenda Reid as Minister of the Month, February, 2009. We at Advent are truly blessed to have her spirit and faith in our midst.

Minister of the Month for March

by Ron Pittman

It is an honor and a privilege to present our Minister of the Month for March, 2009, Tim O'Rourke. Tim is one of those among us who we consider a "humble, quiet servant". We wish to honor Tim's service to Advent and the Community as a whole.

Tim hails from Toledo, Ohio and as a young boy, attended Vocational HS and majored in Industrial Electronics. After graduation, Tim served as an apprentice for Tool and Die making. His background in Electronics led to early work on "robotics" in the automotive industry. In 1980, Tim and his wife Pat moved from Toledo, Ohio to Charlotte and began working with a small Robotics group upon arriving. In 1981, the Head Engineer for that Robotics group passed away with Leukemia and he left work there to begin work at Philip Morris, which was under construction.

As the family began to grow, Tim realized that the "12 hours a day, 7 days a week" he was working, left no time for his wife and children. Tim began working at that point with a small Aerospace contractor until the company left Charlotte for New York. Tim was bound and determined NOT to move back "up north" for any reason and began a career with Carolinas HealthCare System, where Tim is in his 6th year. Tim began his career with Carolinas HealthCare in Plant Operations and is now working as a Project Manager for the Architecture Group.

Tim grew up attending Glenwood Lutheran Church in Toledo

and is a "life-long" Lutheran. The O'Rourke family began attending Advent on a regular basis in 1987 and officially joined in 1996 after taking Pastor Dick's New Member Class.

Tim and Pat met at a ski lodge in Michigan and have been married almost 37 years. Tim and Pat have 2 children, Ryan, who is 25 and living near Washington D.C., and has one daughter, Emma who will turn 3 soon. Erin will be 22 on February 28th, and is a Pharmacy major at the University of Georgia.

At Advent, Tim has served the community quietly and humbly having worked with Habitat for Humanity. Tim has worked with the Youth Group on camping trips and has assisted with Confirmation Class in the last year. Tim will serve as a Mentor during the 2009 Lenten season.

Tim has also provided assistance and support for Room-In-The Inn, since its inception at Advent. Tim has served as "sleep-over host" since beginning his support of this ministry and we at Advent are blessed to have such a humble and quiet servant in our midst. Tim has also served as a Scout Leader with the Boy Scouts for 18 years. It is easy to see that Tim lives our motto: "Love God, Serve Neighbor".

Tim is also an amateur radio operator and he builds most of his own radios and test equipment. Tim is also a life-long member of the NHRA. Tim's hobbies and interests also include shooting M1 Garrands.

Tim feels that the most pressing need at Advent is in "seeing more involvement from some of the younger families in the events and ministries at Advent". Tim believes that "getting involved" enriches the family and the community it serves.

Tim feels that the most pressing need in the "community" is Affordable Housing. "The reason we have a high population of the homeless in Charlotte is directly related to the high cost of modest housing in the Charlotte area."

It is easy to see that Tim O'Rourke is passionate about community involvement and in serving our neighbors and our own Advent Church community. We are pleased to honor Tim as one of those "unsung quiet heroes" among us. When he was told about being honored as Minister of the Month, Tim responded that "there are many more who are deserving of this honor". We are so blessed to count this "humble servant" as one of our own.

Please take the time to extend warm thanks and appreciation to Tim, who serves Advent and the community with honor and dedication.

Minister of the Month of April

by Ron Pittman

We at Advent are honored to announce Mary Carriker as Minister of the Month for April, 2009.

Mary was born in Newton, NC, into a Lutheran minister's family. As a result, Mary moved around a lot, but always remained in NC. Mary has been a life-long Lutheran, spanning many generations and has been a fixture at Advent since 2004.

At Advent, Mary has been involved with Youth, Sunday School, Altar Guild, Children's Church, Card Ministry, CROP Walk, Offering Counter, Power Point Creator for the Praise Service in Orinson Hall and has recently attended Via de Cristo.

Mary is married to Phillip Carriker who also attends Advent. Mary and Phillip have 2 children, Salem, a junior at North Mecklenburg High School and Adam, who is a freshman at North Mecklenburg High School. Both Salem

and Adam are involved with and enjoy the Youth Group at Advent.

Mary is employed as an Accountant with Duke Energy in Charlotte. Mary, Phillip, Salem and Adam live in Huntersville at this time. Mary says that she stays busy raising her children and enjoys traveling, cooking, sports, music, crafts and reading in her spare time.

Mary feels that the most pressing need at Advent at this time is **"for our church family to pull together and continually ask for God's guidance while we are searching for our next senior pastor."**

Mary feels that the most pressing need in the community is **"for Advent to continue our many Outreach ministries, especially during this economic downturn, because our community needs to look to God also as God will comfort us and supply our needs."**

We at Advent, thank Mary for her service and dedication to Advent. Please take the time to say hello and to thank Mary for being one of the "selfless servants" at Advent, who enriches us with her presence and makes our worship experience brighter.

The preschool has been really busy over the past few months. Currently we have fifty eight children enrolled that are from the church and surrounding community. In September the preschool added a five day a week program that has been very successful. The children are busy with lots of creative activities and social time with friends as they build their preschool foundation for Kindergarten. At Adventure Preschool we are very proud of our staff and all we have to offer children and their families. We are a smaller program that really promotes family and getting to know each other. This is our seventh year open and we are so fortunate to have really great support from families and the church. Over the holidays we hosted covered dish meals for the children and families and the kids were able to perform some great things they had been working very hard on.

At the preschool we always look for ways to help support the church and the community and let the children know about this and how important it is. This year the preschool was able to provide pillow treats for the Room in the Inn program here as well as collect a barrel full of food for Second Harvest Food Bank. This is something the children are all very proud of and the staff as well. The preschool was also able to provide a meal for the Wednesday night Lent meals which turned out wonderful. The preschool is also very excited to be providing the dumpster that is now on the church campus. For years the church has had several trash cans in the parking lot that from time to time were overflowing with trash so with help from the church property board the preschool was able to secure the financing for our church campus. This has really helped the efforts to clean up the cam-

pus of Advent Lutheran Church. Thanks to the preschool and property boards for making this happen.

In May the preschool will graduate our four year old class and wish them all the best as they make the transition to "big" school. This is a very big step in a child and families life. The preschool staff is confident that the children are all prepared to make the journey with the foundation they have received at Adventure Preschool. The cap and gown ceremony will be held in the church sanctuary on May 21st with a reception to follow. Keep all our children and staff in your thoughts and prayers as we finish out this school year and look forward to new families that will join our preschool in September.

Grace and peace to all of God's children!

I once asked a group of sixth grade theologians to illustrate what God is like. One by one, I invited each youth to share what he or she drew and why. The first sixth grader drew a sun because Jesus gives light to the world. One youth drew a wrapped gift because a day with God is like a present and because God always has good things in store for us. Another drew a monkey because God likes to laugh.

The last youth to share was a kid named Ben. Because Ben struggled with Asperger's Syndrome, he didn't often speak with the rest of the group; however, whenever he did, his comments usually kept me on my toes. This exercise was no exception. I saw that Ben had drawn a humongous toe with a curly hair sprouting from the knuckle. Wondering what Ben had been thinking, I asked him if he would share what he drew and why. Ben told the group that all he could draw was God's toe because God was way too big to fit on his paper.

It's amazing to me the truths about God, life and faith that our youth can capture and express. From a group of eleven year olds, I was reminded that Jesus is the light of the world. I was reminded of God's goodness, and of his sense of humor and his sly wit.

When God led me to partner in ministry with you all at Advent, I discovered again just how BIG and how faithful God really is. Because of the many changes that have happened in the last year, I was unsure of what I would find here. Yet, when I arrived, I saw that even in the midst of many changes, God has truly been at work in and through this community.

As part of my ministry here, I have the privilege of leading and supporting our youth. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that Advent already had FIVE MileStone Ministries that had been meeting every month since August! You may have heard the name "MileStone Ministry" in the past nine months, and if you have, you may be wondering what MileStone Ministry is.

First, MileStone Ministry is NOT a youth group. A youth group is simply a group of young people who gather to spend time with one another. However, MileStone Ministry is a group of young people DOING ministry together. At Advent, these MileStone Ministries meet at least every month for fellowship, service and learning. They are organized by age groups, facilitated by MileStone coordinators, and supported by parents and other faithful adults. They are centered on important MileStone celebrations in the lives of our children. Just as a runner counts and celebrates the mile markers in a race, so do we, as congregation, count and celebrate important MileStones in the faith journeys of our children and youth.

At Advent, we celebrate the ministry of the Little Lambs, who include children from birth to age four, as well as their parents. The MileStone celebration for the Little Lambs is the first day of Sunday school.

We also celebrate the ministry of Kids for Christ with kindergarteners through second graders. These are truly kids after God's own heart. They meet monthly, and celebrate two very special MileStones; "Blessing of Backpacks" celebrated as they begin elementary school and "First Communion".

The next ministry that we recognize is the Mustard Seeds. Through this ministry, we watch as the faith of these third through fifth graders grows and sprouts into something much bigger than a simple mustard seed. The Mustard Seeds celebrate the MileStone of Holy Scripture by inviting parents to give their third grade children Bibles.

Our last two ministries are Route 67, which includes our youth in the sixth and seventh grades, and 812 Youth which includes youth from eighth grade through twelfth grade. Route 67 prepares each youth for the journey of Confirmation. 812 Youth celebrates the MileStones of Confirmation and Graduation. These MileStone Ministries also participate in service projects, lock-ins, Bible studies, and they are even forming a youth praise band!

Hopefully you can see that the MileStone Ministries at Advent are evidence of God's faithfulness. In a time when Advent had felt the absence of the Director of Youth and Family Ministry, the Director of Lay Pastors and Ministry Resources, and the Senior Pastor, God, through the careful prayer and planning of the staff and through the hands and feet of parents, has raised up MileStone Ministries to nurture and support our youth.

Like the sixth graders I mentioned earlier, we too, have a church full of young theologians who are drawing, modeling, discovering, and growing closer to God through MileStone Ministries, through Sunday school, and through the support and prayer of our congregation.

Our church knows that God is much bigger than a simple piece of paper. He is bigger than the box we put Him in. God is much bigger than the changes going on around us. I've said it before, and I'll say it again, "here at Advent, God is up to something good!"

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is a unique period in the life of Advent Lutheran Church. Your Senior Pastor of 22 years resigned in November last year. This interim time has been an anxious and fearful time for many of you. For it has taken you in a direction of uncharted waters. This is called the wilderness time where you must rely on God's direction and not solely on your own personal desires. During this time the challenges are going to be many, but with God's wisdom and strength and the wisdom He has given you, you have and are moving ahead as a congregation with the process of calling a new Senior Pastor.

Here is commentary as to what has been accomplished.

- ◆ I have been working with you as the Intentional Interim Pastor, sharing with Pastor Ward, the ministry of the congregation.
- ◆ The Transitional Team is working with me in forming three (3) focus groups with over 120 in attendance over three individual Sundays. (40 in each group)
- ◆ Also—The leadership and youth have been in their own focus groups.
- ◆ After the last focus group meets on Sunday, April 19, the Transitional Team will meet with me to summarize the information from the congregation.
- ◆ A meeting of the whole congregation is scheduled for Sunday, May 17, when we will share the summary.

I personally have been impressed with the leadership of the congregation together with you the members who have faithfully carried on the ministry of Advent Lutheran Church during this interim time.

I've also been impressed with the staff: Pastor Ward, Ann-Marie, Annette, Sharon and Betsy who have supported me in my ministry. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. As we continue on our journey together, I ask for your prayers and patience as we seek God's will for Advent.

Peace,

Pastor John

Scrap Booking

by Sharon Thrower

Advent held an all night scrapbook night February 6th and 7th and it was a wonderful night for all. Orinson Hall was the right spot to set up tables for the girls to bring in all their supplies and crop the night away. Fifteen ladies from the church and community showed up for a night of fun and fellowship. They actually got a little work done on all those pictures they took during the holidays. One long time member of the congregation was working on her 18 year old daughter's book to present for graduation and was able to organize and put all her photos together. We even had a few beginners that were able to learn from some of the pros. It was a great night with food, door prizes and great conversations. Some were able to bring in their blow up mattresses so they didn't have to even go home. Now that is dedication. It was a wonderful time for all who participated and we are excited to announce our next scrapbook date of Friday, May 1st beginning at 5:00 in Orinson Hall. Look for more information to follow about that. If you are interested in receiving an email about the scrapbook fellowship you can contact Sharon Thrower at 704-549-1555 ext. 114.



Book Club

by Esther Abdel-Hameed

You are invited to join us for a discussion of the book, *The Shack*, on May 2 at 9:00am in the parlor.

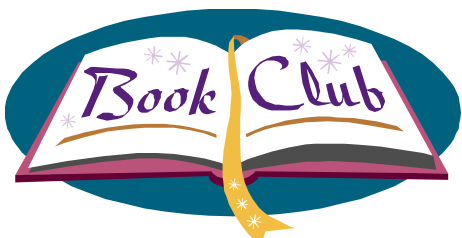
From the Publisher:

Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever.

We will have a light breakfast and a lively discussion.

We will be reading the following books in the coming months:

- May 2 *The Shack*, by William P. Young
- June 6 *The Zookeeper's Wife*, by Diane Ackerman
- July 11 *Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain



We try to read a wide variety of books, and hope that at least one will entice you to join us.

Please contact Rosemary Glatzel at rghlatzel@carolina.rr.com

Bible Study

Come, hear the word! We are introducing a new Bible study at Advent called "Come, hear the word." We will meet from 7:15 to 8:30pm every Thursday night in the Sanctuary beginning on April 16th. There will be no membership, no attendance record, no materials, (except

your own Bible if you wish to bring it), no commentary or lesson, no break, no snack and no cost. This time together is simply an hour and a quarter of listening to the Bible being read out loud.

All adults and children who can sit still for an hour and a quarter are welcome to come

as often or as infrequently as they would like. All attendees are invited and encouraged to follow along or take notes, color or doodle if you like. Arrive late or leave early if you have to!



Affirmation Sunday

Affirmation of Baptism may be celebrated at many times in the life of baptized Christians. It is especially appropriate as part of a process of formation in faith at the beginning or renewal of one's participation in a community of faith.

On Sunday, April 26, we will celebrate the Affirmation of many families who will be joining or rejoining the Ad-

vent community.

At that time, the faithful of Advent will publicly profess their faith and commit to continue in the covenant God made with them at their baptisms as well.

Please join us for the Affirmation of Baptism celebration at the 8:30 or 11:00 services that morning. A reception will be held between services so that you may welcome

these disciples into the Advent community.

Continued message from Pr. Ward from the front page

Let us risk being a community off balance as we walk behind our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us continue to live as a community off balance, a community that is willing to vulnerable, is willing confess that we, at times, have been heading in the wrong direction, a community that sees the importance of a changeup. So what, if we are off balance

with the world around us; for it is in these times that we may stand out in all of our oddity, so that we might point the world in the right direction, the direction of Jesus Christ.

Learning never stops, especially for the Christian community. Thank you for the Lenten season and for all that we have learned together. By

the way, the next time you are over near the sacristy, I encourage you to come in and see what happens next.

In Our Prayers

Our Advent Family: Linda Simon, Joanna Rice, Amanda Johnson, Paul Johnson, Don Veit, John Olsen, Dwight Hartsell, Carol DiRe, Mary Christ, Dick Kuklantz, Diane Large, Kelly Schrader, Carol Wisner, Bill Bolen, Jack Swiger, Chris Rasmussen, Darryl May, Hanni Braun, Bob Bogutsky, Calvin Roberson, Bridget Cheyney, Ronda Riddell, Dan Hill, Carol Hance, Mabel Porter, Shannon Roberson, Earl Zerbach, Connie Martin and Will Lackey

Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones These Past Three Months:

The Blish Family	The Grubb Family
The Priser Family	The Reid Family
The Williams Family	The Williamson Family
The Tyson Family	The Watson Family
The Tate Family	The Hahn Family
The Hance Family	The Ross Family

With Thanks

I have never known a congregation to reach out to its members when they are in need to the extent that Advent has for me. Your Christian love shown through a constant flow of cards, phone calls, and even a meal have simply overwhelmed me. You are a very special congregation and you have a very special Pastor in Pastor Ward. He was there for me throughout the surgery and I am most grateful for his support.

Pastor Glenn Rudisill

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At a time when our family needed support, you were all there. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and sympathy which will always be remembered with deep appreciation.

Gene and Brenda Reid
The Family of Roberta Mack

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Love God, Serve Neighbor



Dates to Remember

- ◆ April 5-12 Holy Week (please see pages 4-5 for details)
- ◆ April 19 Congregation Vote on Capital Appeal
- ◆ April 19 Focus Group
- ◆ April 26 Affirmation Sunday
- ◆ May 17 Congregation Meeting & Elections of Officers
- ◆ May 17 Focus Study Summary Potluck
- ◆ May 30 Evening of Honor
- ◆ May 31 Confirmation & Pentecost
- ◆ June 6 Blood Drive
- ◆ June 6 Bachalorette Celebration & Service