



THE SIGNPOST WEEKLY

November 29, 2015

First Sunday of **Advent**

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Visit us at: <http://www.saintcs.org>

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Calendar

Sunday, November 29

- Sunday School Classes 10 am
- Eucharist Service, 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- Bible Study, 9 a.m.

Monday, November 30

- Monday morning Yoga at 9 am.

Tuesday, December 1

- Al-Anon, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study at 9:30 am
- Yoga with Miriam at 6:30

Thursday, December 3

- Thursday Evening Eucharist and Bible Study

Saturday, December 5

- Rhythms of Grace, 2 pm
- Family Service, 4 pm
- Rockingham Choral Society Concert

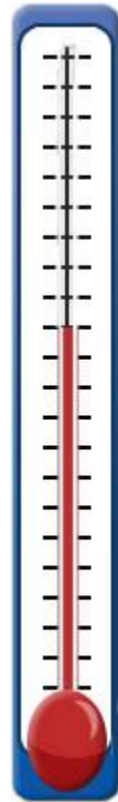
Advent Season

Advent has been a part of the church since the last half of the 6th century. It comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning "coming." Today is the first day of the **Advent** season and the beginning of the new church year—happy new year! Since so much about Christmas has become separated from its purpose of celebrating the birth of Jesus, Advent offers us a time of waiting and preparing. Once known as a penitential season like Lent, the color of Advent is purple though more and more the color blue is worn. In church we display an Advent wreath with four candles. The circle of the wreath and the evergreens that make it up both signify God's

endless
mercy and
undying love.
are



Number of pledges received to-date.

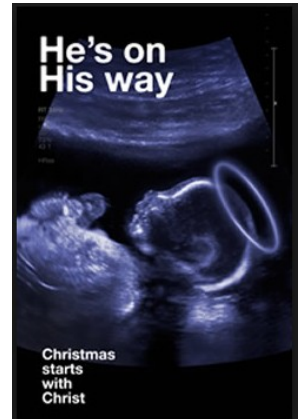


106

63

There
three

purple candles and one rose colored one. The rose candle is for the third week of Advent, it is set aside as a more celebratory week than the others. Each week an additional candle is lit. As the light grows brighter, we are reminded that the Light of the World will soon arrive. The white candle in the center is a relatively recent addition to the wreath and it signifies the Light of Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve.



In Thanksgiving

I want to thank all members who volunteer in one capacity or another. You are the back bone that keeps us operating. No matter what you do for this parish, I thank you from my heart. *Miriam*

Thursday evenings, Advent Series

The theme for the Advent series is "Love Revealed." In the first session we will explore Isaiah 42:1-9. So do something special during this season of waiting for love to be revealed in the person of Jesus. We begin on Dec. 3 and we meet on Thursdays at 7 for Eucharist followed by our bible chat which starts around 7:30. If you don't have time to attend the Eucharist then simply join us for the study. *Miriam*

Stewardship Update

If you have not pledged for 2016 please do. Remember that if your circumstances change during the year you can always let us know, no questions asked. Our goal is 100 percent participation for the work we do in God's name in this part of His kingdom. This includes all our ministries—housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, pastoral care, worship and more.

*Overheard. First impression of the Episcopal Church.:
"Questions encouraged. Doubts expected. Is this really Church?"*

Some pledge is better than no pledge; the amount is not as important as the fact that you are participating. Heartfelt thanks to the 67 parishioners who have already shown their willingness to support the work God would have us do at St. Christopher's. *Miriam*

Taking Action Because We Are Christians!

To be a Christian means loving God and our neighbor. Jesus set an example by acting on this commandment through service to others. To be a Christian is to act on God's behalf. Family Promise provides you with an opportunity to do just that! Our week to have the families with us is December 13-20. It is a tough week, the week before Christmas but all the more reason to stop and do something for someone else. We need your help. Also during Christmas, we gather a giving tree filled with \$10 gift cards for our families from area retailers. If you can volunteer or if you wish to contribute to the giving tree, please speak to [Peggy Baker](#). Thank you. *Miriam*

St. Christopher's Sunday School Spin on an Advent Calendar

This is really cool! A [Random Act of Kindness paper chain](#), a fun way you can celebrate [Advent](#) with your family. The Sunday school teachers distributed Advent packets (one per Sunday school family), and inside are [slips of paper](#) containing many different 'random act of kindness.' Have your children select a random act to complete and leave the slip of green paper celebrating the random act with the person you choose for your good deed. There are enough random acts to do throughout [Advent](#) (25) and also corresponding green slips to leave to explain. Once the random act is completed, make a paper chain at home with the slips of paper to visually memorialize your kindness. We have included everything you need to complete this fun [Advent](#) Random Act of Kindness Activity. Any questions, please ask. [Danielle LeClair](#), Sunday School Coordinator



will

Many Hampstead families need help for the holidays Check out the tags on the beautiful "Giving Tree" in the foyer for gifts for our adopted family. Please take a look, then take as many cards as you can, purchase the item noted each tag, and bring in the tag(s) and the item(s) before the deadline of Sunday, December 20. Thank you! *Outreach Committee*



Prayers of the People

Pray for **Joan H. (Brownell) Bacall** who died this week, she is the mother of our member Emily Vinton; for Lori Parrillo's father, **James B. Eaton**, who passed away in late October; for **Diane Foley**, who is in hospice, and is the mother of Morgan LaMonica's boyfriend; **Quinton Collins**, Robin Flynn's father, diagnosed with cancer; **Bill Steinhoff** recovering from brain surgery; **April Bergeron** who has gone into premature labor, pray for a healthy baby boy; **Diane Kolbe**; **Ann Donovan**; **Carmen Acevedo**; **Jess**; **Kate**; **Joan and Ron Ruggiero**, and **Josephine Herbert**; 2 year old **Brayden**; **Matty**; **Ian**; **Joan Fettes**; for Christine's friend **Christine**; for **Cheryl**; for **Linda**, mother of Ruth Ann who has been diagnosed with cancer; for **Ryan**; for **Jacqueline**, for **Natalie Gallo**; for Jean Porter's grand-nephew **Tyler**; for Natalie's brother **Lorin**; for Mark and Ingrid's son **Eric** who with God's grace is in safe hands. **Serving in the Military**: Please pray for Del's cousins, **Daniel**, **Matthew** and **Sandra**, for **Paul**.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Skip and Lois Gilman; Marguerite Hopkins; Lynne, Jim, Erin, and Garrett Horigan; Leslie Hollinrake.

Attendance

Tuesday, 11/17, WBS, 4

Thursday, 11/19, 8

Saturday, 11/21, 10

Sunday, 11/22, 8:00 am, 29; 10:15 am, 61

THE BUTTON FACTORY OPEN STUDIOS

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Directions: www.buttonfactorystudios.com

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Our 29th Year!

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

DECEMBER 5 & 6

11-5 PM

FRIDAY PREVIEW 5-8 PM

(RESIDENT ARTISTS ONLY SHOWING)

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



NOVEMBER 29, 2015 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

ADVENT RESOURCES

Today the Episcopal Church celebrates the first Sunday of the season of Advent, which will continue for four Sundays, until Christmas Day. The word “advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming,” and during this season, the church enters a time of preparation and expectation for the coming of Christ “in power and glory” (Mark 13:26).

This year’s Advent campaign for The Episcopal Church website and social media will be based on daily themes highlighting cultural practices and traditions of the season. Each day, beginning 1 Advent (Nov. 29) through Christmas Day (Dec. 25), history and information, family-centered projects, music, recipes, prayers, and other resources that focus on the day’s particular theme will be offered on episcopalchurch.org and throughout our social media outlets. Take part here: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/adventreflections>

Additional Advent Resources:

Voices of Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love. Join young adults from around the church in prayer and reflection during the season: <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/yacm/>

Society of St. John the Evangelist #AdventWord2015: <http://ssje.org/adventword>

Episcopal Relief & Development Advent Toolkit: <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-groups/advent-toolkit>

d365.org Following the Star: <http://d365.org/>



Photo: Lawrence Lew