



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
PARISH PROFILE 2018**



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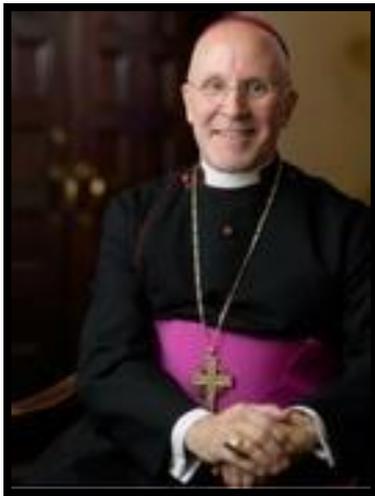
We are looking for a Pastor

To the Priest who would lead us

Are you a faithful follower of Jesus Christ? Do you have the desire to be a pastor to Christ's people? Are you looking for fulfillment in your own spiritual life by giving yourself to the spiritual life of a Christian community? Do you desire to grow more deeply in your relationship with Jesus and his people through the ministry of sacraments to all in need? Can you show us the way through Scripture, Tradition, and Reason, and can you preach and offer counsel to all? Would you be willing to serve as our part-time priest and are you willing to move to a beautiful region of the country to share a common life of faith and service with us?

If these questions fill your imagination with possibilities and excitement, then we invite you to read our profile and consider this discernment to be our priest.

Who We Are



We are the parishioners of the Church of the Advent in the Diocese of Southeast Florida. Advent is made up of 108 families and takes great pride in welcoming friends, visitors, and members. We like to think that being a faithful, welcoming community is our trademark attribute. We are a congregation that truly likes each other: we look forward to gathering for worship and other religious and social functions.

Bishop Peter Eaton

Our Mission

To be a community connected in Christ for all the moments that matter

Our Vision

- To be people in prayer who are empowered by the Holy Spirit to share our faith.
- To participate eagerly in meaningful ministry and mission within and outside the church.
- To carry out each ministry with commitment, joy, and enthusiasm, thus providing a contagious attraction for others.
- To be a sustainable congregation, increasingly realizing more of God's will and our potential in Jesus Christ by intentionally being intentionally intergenerational, imaginative in our classical expression of the Anglican tradition of worship and music, and expansive in ministries and mission.
- To be a church that welcomes people where they are, whoever they are, whether friends or strangers.
- To create and expand our opportunities for Christian fellowship and nurture in the Scriptures.
- To embody an exciting, joyful and gracious life of faith, filled with the presence of God that will open us to growth in membership, growth in giving and growth in personal and practical Christianity for all ages.

Our Core Values

As an Episcopal parish

- We embrace our Anglican tradition and style of our worship that draws us closer to God.
- We value the reading and study of the Scriptures in worship, in preaching, and in teaching.
- We rejoice in the sustenance of the Holy Spirit in our journey of faith.
- We celebrate the diversity of individual perspectives and gifts of each member.
- We care for each other in the name of Jesus Christ
- We enjoy being a family of faith that welcomes all who wish to join us.

Our History



The Church of the Advent began in 1986 with the commitment of 25 people to establish an Episcopal church in Palm City. We received a land grant from Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Stuart to do this. The first service was held on the First Sunday of Advent (November 30, 1986) in a private home, and work began immediately on a church building on the current property. Exactly one year later the building (now our parish hall) was dedicated and the first rector installed.

As the congregation outgrew the space, our current church and gazebo were built in 1999 and dedicated in March 2000. The original building was then converted into classrooms, nursery, and a parish hall with an extension added for a youth room.

Our Property

Our church is located in a quiet western suburb of Palm City on 2.5 acres. Our attractive campus is beautifully maintained and consists of an 18-year-old Spanish style church with a baby grand piano and organ. We have a large separate parish hall which consists of classrooms, a mini-auditorium, a conference room, office space, a media room, and lavatories.

The grounds also include a Memorial Garden with a columbarium, an attractive fully-roofed gazebo, a playground, and a fully lighted parking lot. We recently completed a \$300,000.00 capital campaign which funded the payoff of our mortgage, a new church roof, the painting of our buildings, new floors in the parish hall, the replacement of A/C units, a water plant replacement, and a full telephone update.



Palm City



Palm City is located in the heart of Florida's 21 miles of the Treasure Coast's beautiful beaches. Our temperature averages 74 degrees in the winter and 81 degrees in the summer. Adjacent to Palm City are the communities of Stuart, Port Saint Lucie, Jensen Beach, and Indiantown. We are just 45 minutes from Palm Beach International airport

and within 5 minutes of major highways I-95 and the Florida Turnpike. Our convenient location is near the St Lucie River, Lake Okeechobee and numerous beaches. There is abundant activity: fishing (fresh and salt water), ocean boating, golf, art galleries, museums, and cultural events. Extensive small boutique and major mall shopping are within 30 minutes. We are in the heart of Major League spring baseball season with a number of teams within easy driving distance.

Attractive housing is readily available in and around the Treasure Coast area. New homes sell for \$200,000 to \$400,000, rental properties are \$1500.00 to \$3000.00 per month. Our communities are located near major super markets for daily shopping. Restaurants are easily accessible and plentiful. Martin County is a growing community and is especially attractive as a retirement destination.

Our church is situated in the midst of new growth in western Martin County and southern Saint Lucie county. Our early start some 25 years ago was well in advance of the immediate area growth. We are well positioned now.

Attributes of the Priest we seek:

- A faithful disciple of Jesus Christ with a disciplined life of prayer.
- A spiritual leader who can inspire the enthusiasm of the congregation, and who can work collaboratively with us.
- A priest who is an effective preacher and an attentive pastor, who appreciates the richness of our classical Anglican tradition and whose preaching reaches both the regular worshipper as well as the seeker.
- A person who is flexible and able to meet the needs of the congregation as they may arise.
- A strategic partner who has the capacity to help us cast a vision and work with our lay leadership to help us realize our mission.
- A pastor who can not only guide us from the pulpit but also shepherd us through times of personal loss, sickness, and celebration.

Paid Staff

- Parish Administrator
- Bookkeeper
- Housekeeper
- Organist/ Choir Director

CAT Survey Results

Recently we took the *Congregational Assessment Tool*, and we learned that

- 45% of our members are satisfied with things in the church.
- We are a church in transition, struggling to channel our energy into a new direction, yet remain faithful to our Anglican tradition, which we understand to be centuries old, yet fresh every day.
- We view ourselves as a settled church, and yet we want to reach out in new ways.
- We trust the leadership of our church and feel they represent the membership.
- There is a very high spiritual vitality.
- The demographic data reveals 79% of our congregation are 65 years or older, 14% 55-64, 3% 45-54, 4% 35-44.
- In family households, 10% of the children are 0-24.

Like many congregations, we are happy with many aspects of our life, and yet we understand that there must be changes if we are to continue on a path to true sustainability.

Our weakness (as perceived by our congregation) is that we need to be more attractive to young families. We need to implement strategies to incorporate new members into the life of our church, and we need to give more support to people in our ministries.

Our strengths are our worship and social occasions, and that we are friendly and inclusionary in welcoming new people.

Our Worship



The worship at the Church of the Advent is rich and loving. We are blessed to have among our members a verger, a retired priest, plus a part-time organist and a choir director.

Our worship schedule includes weekly Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist with music and choir, a Saturday Family service with music once a month, a Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands on Wednesdays. We also have services for special liturgical celebrations throughout the year.

We offer Vacation Bible School every summer to encourage children of local families to attend.

Our yearly Blessing of the Animals is held on a Sunday afternoon in the gazebo, and we have even had a horse and a snake in attendance! We also offer weekly Sunday morning adult Bible study/discussion classes, fellowship/coffee hour after Sunday worship, seasonal supper/learning programs, and a Shrove Tuesday dinner.

Our church has 220 baptized members with an average 84 members in Sunday attendance. We are a seasonal church; a number of our members travel north for the summer, returning in the late fall.

Our plate/pledge offering is \$226,225 per year and we average \$40,000 per year in gifts.



Ministries



We support a vibrant ministry program, which includes a Christmas Angel Tree, a clothing drive for local schoolchildren, Vacation Bible School, LAHIA (Love and Hope In Action), which is a sandwich program for the homeless, BOGO (Buy One, Give One) which is a food bank donation, a nursing home visitation for compassionate and caring

conversations, a Thanksgiving food drive for local food banks, and our monthly seasonal Jazz in the Sanctuary.

A Kairos prison ministry team spends several days once a year to minister to the incarcerated men in the nearby prison, and we provide the ministry team with meals and snacks while they spend time with us.

We have active men and women Cursillo groups that meet for their Fourth Day and we have had an Ultreya.

Our Episcopal Church Women meet monthly for lunch to hear from non-profits in the area and have a Fashion Show Luncheon at the end of the year to raise money to donate to local non-profits.



Fellowship and Activities

- Coffee and fellowship each Sunday
- Trivia Challenge
- Easter Brunch
- Mother's Day Brunch – by the men of the parish
- Father's Day Brunch – by the women of the parish



***The human mind plans the way,
but the Lord directs the steps.***

Proverbs 16:9

