



*Episcopal Church of the Advent*  
*Parish Profile 2022*



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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 66 families (pre-Covid we had 120 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 whose members truly like each other. We look forward to gathering for worship and other religious and social functions.

*Bishop Peter Eaton*

We are joined with the Parishioners of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Port Salerno in our search for a shared Rector. While we serve different areas of Martin County, we share our desire to minister to the community, provide pastoral care to all God's people, and expand our vibrant presence in our community. You can find out more about us at [adventpalmcity.org](http://adventpalmcity.org) and at [stlukesfl.org](http://stlukesfl.org). We look forward to meeting you.

## 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 our congregations 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.
- A Rector who can grow our churches to the point a full-time rector will be needed.

## PAID STAFF

- Parish Administrator
- Bookkeeper (part-time)
- Housekeeper (church member is volunteering time to do housekeeping)
- Organist (part-time)



## 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 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 nurturing 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 age groups.

## OUR CORE VALUES

As an Episcopal parish:

- We embrace our Anglican tradition and style of 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 on 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 was founded in 1986 with the commitment of 25 people. We received a land grant from St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Stuart. Our first service was held on the First Sunday of Advent (November 30, 1986) in a private home, and construction began immediately on a church building on the current property. Exactly one year later the building (now our Administration Building) was dedicated and the first rector installed.

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

## OUR PROPERTY

Church of the Advent is located on a 2.5 acre plot in a quiet western suburb of Palm City. Our attractive campus is beautifully maintained and consists of an 18 year old Spanish mission style church building, a separate Administration Building, a fully roofed gazebo, a Memorial Garden with Columbarium, a fenced playground, and a fully lighted parking lot.



The Church Building is wired for sound and Wi-Fi, and houses a grand piano and an organ. There is a sacristy, priest's sacristy, and choir room.

The Administration Building includes the priest and administration offices, a large parish hall, a conference room, classrooms, a full kitchen, and lavatories. It is fully wired for internet and Wi-Fi.

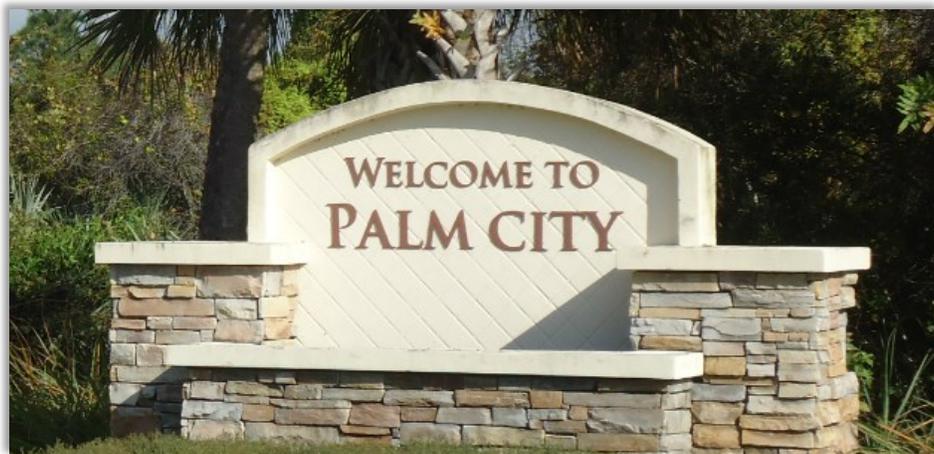
We recently completed a \$300,000 Capital Campaign, which funded the payoff of our mortgage, a new church roof, painting of the buildings, new flooring in the Administration Building, replacement of A/C units, a water plant replacement, and an overhaul of our phone system.

## OUR LOCATION

Palm City is located in the heart of Florida's Treasure Coast with 21 miles of beautiful ocean 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 are abundant activities: fishing (fresh and salt water), boating, golf, tennis, pickleball, art galleries, museums, and cultural events. Extensive small boutiques and major mall shopping are within a 30 minute drive. We are in the heart of Major League Baseball spring training grounds with a number of teams within an easy drive.

Attractive housing is readily available in and around the Treasure Coast area. New homes sell for \$300,000 to \$700,000, rental properties are \$1,500 to \$3,000 per month. Our communities are located near major super markets for daily shopping. Restaurants are easily accessible and plentiful. Palm City, Stuart, and Port St. Lucie are growing communities and are especially attractive as retirement destinations.

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 areas growth. Geographically, we are well positioned now to benefit from this growth.



## OUR CAT SURVEY RESULTS

Recently we completed the Congregational Assessment Tool, and we learned that:

- We are a strong, thriving congregation.
- 45% of our members are satisfied with the status quo at Advent.
- 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.
- 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 inclusive when welcoming new people.



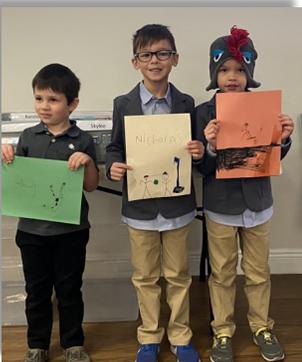
## OUR WORSHIP

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



Our worship schedule includes weekly Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist with music, which are also live-streamed. Pre-Covid, we had a Wednesday Healing service, a monthly Family Service, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers visited the homebound. We also have services for special liturgical celebrations throughout the year.

We have recently restarted our Sunday School Program every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Under the leadership of Katie, Belinda and Jennifer, our toddlers and children are being taught Bible lessons, catechism and Christian music in the admin building during the first half of our Sunday service.



Our yearly Blessing of the Animals is held on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon in the gazebo, which has attracted animals ranging in size from reptiles to horses.

We also offer weekly fellowship and coffee hour after Sunday worship, seasonal supper and learning programs, and Shrove Tuesday dinners.

As we come out of Covid, we are seeing a noticeable increase in attendance and we hope to add to our Pre-Covid numbers. Our church has 150 baptized members with an average Sunday attendance of 50 (pre-Covid we had 220 baptized members with an average Sunday attendance of 84). We are a seasonal church; a number of our members travel north for the summer, returning in the late fall.



Our plate/pledge offering was \$177,350 and \$35,000 in additional gifts in 2021. Pre-Covid offerings were \$226,225 per year and an average of \$40,000 in additional gifts.

## OUR MINISTRIES



We support a vibrant ministry program, which includes a Christmas Angel Tree for children of the 19th Circuit Guardian ad Litem program, school supply and clothing drives for students at Crystal Lake Elementary, providing sandwiches for the homeless through LAHIA (Love and Hope In Action), BOGO (Buy One, Give One) providing food to local food banks, Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives for local food banks, Food Packing for Haiti, and mission trips to Bondeau.

Pre-Covid, a Kairos prison ministry team spent several days once a year to minister to the incarcerated men in the nearby prison, and we provided the ministry team with meals and snacks while they were with us.



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



Our Episcopal Church Women meet monthly for lunch to hear from non-profits in the area, and they raise money to donate to local non-profits.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



In 2019, we began a partnership with a private Christian school that was looking for a home base. Church of the Advent opened her doors and gladly welcomed 15 young students. Since that time, My Village Home School and Learning Center has expanded to over 70 students in 2022. Our Administration Building will be fully occupied by students and teachers, with the exception of the offices. We have been blessed by this partnership and look forward to a long and healthy relationship.

On several occasions each year, our church building hosts piano and singing recitals performed by young pianists and singers ranging in age from 4 to 18 and their instructors. This program has been very well received by both families, their guests, as well as our parishioners.



## FELLOWSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

- Coffee and Fellowship Hour each Sunday
- Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt
- Mother's Day Brunch - by the men of the parish
- Father's Day Brunch - by the women of the parish
- 4th of July BBQ



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

Proverbs 16:9





### Parish Staff

Jill Knight, *Bookkeeper*

Melissa Lewis, *Parish Administrator - melissa@adventpalmcity.org*

Ann Quinn, *Organist (volunteer)*

Jim van Voorheis, *Piano*

### Vestry Members

Craig F. Bauzenberger Sr. (2025), Dorcas Boucher (2025),

Michael Higgins (2025), Lynn Johnson (2025),

Jim Lammie (2023), Elaine Lavallee (2023), Jessica Trossbach (2025)

### Officers

Craig F. Bauzenberger Sr., *Senior Warden*,

Jim Lammie, *Junior Warden*, Elaine Lavallee, *Clerk*,

and Nancy Junk, *Treasurer*

#### **CONTACT US:**

**Sr. Warden, Craig Bauzenberger: 856-220-2166 (cell) 772-597-0497 (home)**

**Office Phone: (772) 283-6221 | office@adventpalmcity.org | www.adventpalmcity.org**

**\* In Case of Emergency, please call your Senior Warden, Craig Bauzenberger,  
at 856-220-2166 or 772-597-0497 \***