

## GET YOUR BEST STOCKING-STUFFER EARLY THIS YEAR!

**“The Advent Calendar to Color”** is being sponsored as a Diocese-wide fundraising project through the office of our Bishop, David Rice. It’s a great way to help celebrate the month-long season of anticipation which precedes Christmas.

**An entirely novel concept**, “The Advent Calendar to Color” combines the current craze for coloring books containing complex and interesting images with a traditional Advent calendar. The idea is for adults and children together to color one page each day. Pages cover the five “candle Sundays” on specifically religious themes which are traditional in the Episcopal church, while images for weekdays and Saturdays cover a wide variety of seasonal, Christian, and ecumenical themes. Each page is packed with detail: there are Christmas trees, Santa Claus and Old St. Nick; winter fun going ice skating and building a snowman; gratitude for the beauty of nature and for wild animals; the abundance of field and garden. Bells give tongue, angels appear, and there are packages tied with ribbons. The idea is to foster dialogue between children and adults, provide “teachable moments”, counter “Xmas commercialism”, and provide a guide to the deeper meanings of the season. Coloring the pages is also just plain FUN.

**The Calendar is 32 pages long**, contains 30 large and 15 small images to color, and includes educational text and suggested follow-up activities. At thumbnail size, we reproduce a few of the Calendar pages here in addition to the cover, but the actual calendar measures a generous 9.5 X 14”. Spiral-bound across the top, it’s printed on high-quality paper designed to “take” colored pencil or non-permanent colored marking pen. The high-quality illustrations are by creator and publisher Deb Bennett, Ph.D., a longtime scientific, medical, and magazine illustrator.

**You can get The Advent Calendar to Color for \$19.95 per copy**, and we encourage you to consider getting one per child or grandchild. We also hope you’ll give them as “stocking-stuffer” gifts BEFORE Christmas – even to your non-churchgoing friends. As we know – there is more to Christmas than just Santa Claus!

**You can order The Advent Calendar to Color today.** Your copies will be mailed directly to any address you provide within the U.S.A., Puerto Rico, or any APO address.

**Please Email [office@equinestudies.org](mailto:office@equinestudies.org)** (the author/publisher’s address) and we will promptly send you the necessary order form which includes payment instructions. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY: only 500 copies will be printed and we expect to sell completely out. For those of you planning to attend Diocesan Convention in late October, there will be a booth sponsored by the Office of the Bishop – this would represent your last chance to obtain the Calendar.

**We will begin shipping Calendars about September 19<sup>th</sup>**, so if you request an order form now you will not have long to wait.

**A big thank-you to everyone in the Diocese** who has helped to make this Calendar a reality. If you look at a Calendar page and see someone you seem to recognize – that’s because more than two dozen parishioners and a dozen priests and deacons (including Bishop David) appear in the Calendar as “characters” helping to tell the wider story of hope, anticipation, and joy that the Christmas season represents. – **Deb Bennet**

