



Dear Advent Parishioners,

The Stewardship Committee approached me and asked me to give them an outline of my reasons for my religious background and why I personally give both time and money to Church of the Advent. There is no mystery in this as the answer is my upbringing was always to share our talents and wealth through the church in thanks for the teaching and fellowship we receive through the church. The following is a brief outline of that life to date.

I grew up in Bermuda and my family were members of the Anglican church, the UK sister church to the Episcopalian church. As children we were given an allowance for performing our chores, but expected to give a portion of this at St. Mark's church (our Bermuda church home) on Sundays as our offertory. Me and my siblings all went to Sunday School and as we grew older I became an Acolyte at church and then became a junior Sunday School teacher. A major part of our upbringing was the importance of religion in our life and to give back to others who had less than we had.

After graduating from school and going off to College I went through a phase where I did not go to church regularly, only going when I was at home on vacation and for major church services like Easter and Christmas. When I met Sue, my future wife, I found a partner who had been brought up similarly to me and for whom religion was an important part of her life. This brought me back to regular attendance and giving a weekly offering as in the past. After we were married in 1979 a good portion of our family life revolved around our church life and Sue and I became involved in running a youth group with our church in Bermuda and I spent my first term on a church Vestry. Life continued around this until 1988 when I was asked to move to the USA with my job. After much prayer Sue and I agreed and made the move to Delaware. Arriving in the USA with no family support we decided to immediately look for a church family to join and found one that fit our needs in North Wilmington at St. David's Episcopal Church.

Our life again revolved around our religious beliefs and I was soon teaching Sunday School and leading a youth group at St. David's. As in previous years, we expanded our circle of friends in Delaware and grew the family with our two son's Andy and Matt. As our finances grew we increased our giving to the church to reflect the importance it held in our life, and I took on a Vestry position at St. David's for a second time. St. Davids was very good to us and we thoroughly enjoyed our time there as members of the congregation and all it meant to our family's growth.

In 1995 I was asked to move to London to set up a Consortium Syndicate at Lloyds of London specializing in insuring nuclear and other energy risks. At the time this made sense for my career progression and Sue agreed to the move. We once again found ourselves in a country with no close family ties, although Sue's family were in the north of the UK and it gave an opportunity for meeting them and letting our son's see a new look on life. As before we sought out a church near where we decided to live in Reigate, Surrey and started building our life around a good solid religious attachment to a local church. St. John's was a good old parish church that had a history dating back several hundred years, and we were quickly welcomed into the congregation. Again we became very involved in the church events and gave our time and financial support to the church, as our involvement helped us set up a strong group of friends there. After five years (this was the time we agreed to be located in the UK) we returned to the USA and I took up a position with Willis, a global insurance and reinsurance brokerage firm. Part of the deal was I could choose where we wanted to live and then work out of the nearest Willis office. We had always liked the Kennett Square region and so that is where we chose to relocate, as we had many friends in the broader area from our past life in Wilmington. As you will guess, old habits die hard and we immediately looked for a church family to join and initially we went to St. Andrews and Matthews in Wilmington. However, living in Kennett Square we soon moved to Church of the Advent which has been our home since 2001.

Our sons grew up here and then went off to College and met their significant others and are now resident in Columbus and Pittsburgh. Up till my retirement in 2015 I was traveling most weeks but did find time to be a Sunday School teacher in the early 2000's at Advent. Unfortunately Sue became ill and between looking after her and work I had

to curtail my activities with Advent to simply being a congregant. We made many friends at Advent and the support that Advent provided to Sue as her illness progressed was truly appreciated. During this period we were able to provide ongoing financial commitment to the church as we have done throughout our married life.

In 2017 I put Sue into a nursing home as that was the only way she was going to get the care she needed. This gave me the time to provide my services to Advent as needed and in 2018 I was elected to the Vestry and am now on my second term. Life at Advent has been very enjoyable and Advent has given much to me and my family, and the opportunity to give back to the church in terms of talent and stewardship is the least I can do to repay all that I have received from Advent over the last twenty two years. The bible calls on us to do this wherever possible and I feel that it is wonderful that I have the health and the wealth to do so and I hope to continue for several more years.

Dave Scott

August 2022

