

# THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 18, Issue 03

*Sharing Christ's Love, We Are A Welcoming, Caring, Serving Community. Come and See.*

Summer 2016



**Advent Lutheran Church**  
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Arlington, VA 22202  
703-521-7010  
adventlc@hotmail.com  
www.adventlc.us

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bible Study 9:00 am  
Worship Service 10:00 am  
Exploring Faith 11:30 am

**Pastor**  
Rev. Anna Anderson

**Council President**  
Brian Thiel

**Office Administrator**  
Nancy Cox Jairrels

**Director of Music Ministry**  
Michael Lewallen

**Newsletter Copy Editor**  
Marianne Hetzer



## What's Inside

Birthdays Page 8  
Council Highlights Page 4  
Kids Pages Page 9  
What's Going On Page 8  
Worship News Page 2

# US VS. THEM

Fear, need  
for power can  
persuade us  
to embrace  
stereotypes



*I recently saw a movie called "Zootopia". Since it's animated and has anthropomorphic animals, it appears to be a kids movie, but its themes are no more for kiddies than those of the book Animal Farm are. At first the theme seems to be a heart-warming lesson that even a bunny from a carrot farming family can be on the police force and function with equal efficiency. The bunny in the film has to overcome the prejudices and discrimination from the larger animals on the force and deal with the politically correct inclusion of policy makers with their own agendas who want to use her as a poster child. She overcomes these obstacles and proves herself - a happy ending. But not the ending. It turns out that she is also subverted*

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Advent

Worship & Ministry News

## Summer social ministry kicks off

During the summer we have the opportunity to help our youngest neighbors and refugee families by partnering with community organizations:

- \* **Cereal Collection** - without school breakfasts, many kids in Arlington go hungry. The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) gives out cereal that we collect. Please bring kid friendly, low-sugar cereal to the welcome center in July.
- \* **School Supplies** - kids in living in Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing residences are given back-to-school supplies from what we collect at Advent. Bring supplies (list below) to the welcome center by August 21. You may also order supplies online at APAH's Amazon drive page: <https://amzn.com/w/133LNISVS540I>. Donations of cash should be made via checks to Advent (please notate APAH supply drive). Learn more about APAH at [www.apah.org](http://www.apah.org).
- \* **Resettle Refugee Family** - Advent is helping Lutheran Social Services resettle refugees by collecting household items from their list (to be announced) and going one Saturday morning (date to be determined) to help stock and tidy the warehouse shelves so that families can "shop" for their needs. More details will be available after the July orientation.

### School supply list

Backpacks  
Crayons  
Scissors, kids  
BIC pens, blue  
Spiral notebooks, 1-subject, college ruled  
Composition notebook  
Binders, 2" and 1"  
Folders, 2-pocket, various colors  
Erasers  
Glue sticks



## Advent's open doors a blessing for many groups

Heaven isn't a gated community. Nor is Advent. One of the ways we share our blessings is by opening our doors to community groups. Since they meet during the week and are good stewards of our building, most of us are unaware we provide this ministry. We have 12-step groups, mom's groups, and others. We've hosted a theater group and chaplain groups, and will be adding a home school group that will meet one morning a week this fall. If you see any people from these groups, please welcome them and tell them how glad we are that they use our space. When you see anyone using the labyrinth, likewise, let them know how welcome they are and invite them to come anytime. We often get "thank you" notes from those who use it, whatever faith journey they are on.





**A** Saturday morning retreat is planned for July 30 to plan for new directions for Advent's ministry. We will have a guest speaker to help us, the Rev. Connie Thomson, a mission developer the Synod brought from Illinois to develop River of Grace congregation in Prince William County. Please come and share your ideas or add to those of others and be part of the conversation. We begin at 9 am; breakfast will be served. All are welcome!

## Advent faces future with new status and new faces on council

As of last month, Advent is now incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We have new council members - Nancy Jairrels and Anna Jacobs - and new officers including Abe and Nancy (see the new directory). We thank outgoing leaders Gerry Fuller, Joy Duncan, and Colleen Z. Linares (who aren't going very far from active duty at Advent). Note that council meetings are open to anyone to attend and minutes and financial reports are also available for the asking.



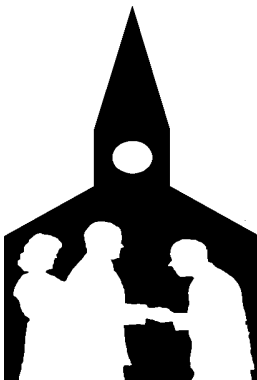
Nancy J.



Anna J.



Abe A.



### WORSHIP MINISTRY

## Share your talents in making our guests feel at home

A training/orientation/sharing meeting for all those in our Sunday hospitality ministries was held recently. If you would like to participate as an assisting minister, usher, greeter, communion assistant, altar guild, or acolyte, please let Pastor Anna know so that you can be included.

Welcome to all of you who answered the call to serve!

# Advent

News & Announcements

## Incorporation complete, council eyes future needs



Submitted by  
Council President  
Brian Thiel

Thank you to everyone for a successful Congregational meeting in June! The wonderful turn-out ensured we had a quorum and successful votes, including that to affirm the updates to our Constitution and Bylaws.

The Congregational meeting was followed the next evening by the first meeting of the newly incorporated Advent Lutheran Church, Inc. The meeting was a brief but essential meeting for the Council to approve resolutions necessary to meet the Commonwealth of Virginia's requirements, including adopting the Constitution and Bylaws of Advent under the outgoing trusteeship as Constitution and Bylaws of the Church corporation, electing Council members and officers for terms beginning July 1, adopting the budget for the calendar year beginning July 1, appointing Debbie Lewis as the corporation's Registered Agent, and authorizing the Council President to accept the gift deed of the church and related property from the trustees of the unincorporated church.

Following the first Advent Lutheran Church, Inc., meeting, the Council held its regular monthly meeting. In addition to affirming Abe Abraham as Council Secretary, Debbie Lewis as Council Treasurer, and David Falksen as Council Financial Secretary, and addressing administrative matters related to incorporation, the Council discussed a number of ways to better communicate with the congregation, updating job descriptions for Advent's paid employees, establishing July 30<sup>th</sup> for an Advent Fall Retreat, and options for support of *Day to Serve* projects related to refugee relief.

### Fund established for replacement of church organ

Our Rodgers Organ is integral to Advent's wonderful music component of worship. But it was installed in 1991, has outdated technology, and a remaining life expectancy of about six years. In addition, when repairs are necessary, parts are becoming more and more difficult to find. Its replacement cost is now estimated at around \$50,000.

Recently, the Council received a wonderful suggestion to establish a Fund for replacement of the organ, and voted to establish that fund and initially capitalize it with \$1,000 from Thrivent Choice Dollars. The Council looks forward to a dialogue with the congregation on how best to address this anticipated expenditure.

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Coming  
&  
Going

In June, we said "farewell" to Kathy, Jesse, Kelsey, Jill, Jeff, Stephanie, and Sarah. We received Shane, Laura, and Levi. We also welcomed Grace and the Ramsey family. The new church directory will have contact details for them.

## Jesus taught us a prayer that's inclusive of all

*(Continued from page 1)*

into believing a negative stereotype about predator animals and is co-opted into a plot to discriminate against them in public life, remove them as dangerous by nature, and engage in all the worst of stigmatizing behaviors rampant in our real human world. This film has no good guys, no bad guys; just very "human" animals, captive to sin, motivated by both noble desires and selfish needs to claim power at the expense of others, all present in both the idealistic bunny, the con man fox, the political officials both sheep and lion, and many others.



We have seen these same scenes from the movie play out in the real lives of our society these past few months in the political campaign rhetoric, in the civil rights and justice movement in the wake of Freddie Gray's death, in the Orlando shooting around sexual identity, and in the Turkish airport and previous terrorist attacks indicting a whole religion. As the movie implies, none of us is innocent of perpetuating stereotypes that lead to these things, and all of us are easily persuaded by fear to embrace the dark side of our natures, our sinful selves, when we feel threatened. That's why Jesus teaches us to pray whenever we pray:

***"Forgive US our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against US."***

*There is no us - them; only us. That's a hard understanding to hold even momentarily on occasion, and an impossible understanding to maintain permanently. We are captive to sin. That's why I pray for you and all of us for the peace that passes all understanding.*

*Love, Pastor Anna*

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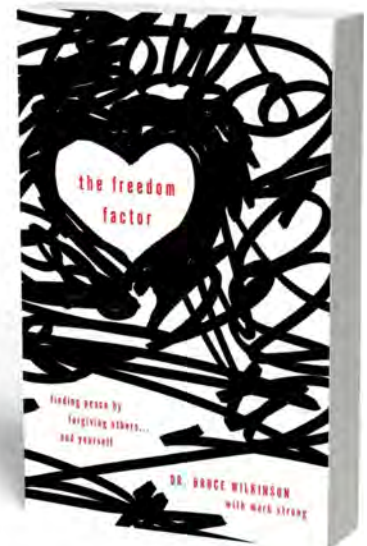
## Library Corner: What's on the shelf

### ***The Freedom Factor* by Dr. Bruce Wilkinson, with Mark E. Strong**

Subtitled his book "Finding peace by forgiving others . . . and yourself," Dr. Wilkinson dedicates it "to all those who seek the steps to freedom from wounds caused by others or by themselves. May you experience the joy and freedom that only forgiveness can give." He has "written this book as a conversation" between himself and the reader, sharing his heart and "the heart of our good and forgiving God."

You will find the book in the Life Guidance section of Advent's Library, which is located in the Fellowship Hall. (Dr. Wilkinson is a *New York Times* best-selling author of over sixty books.)

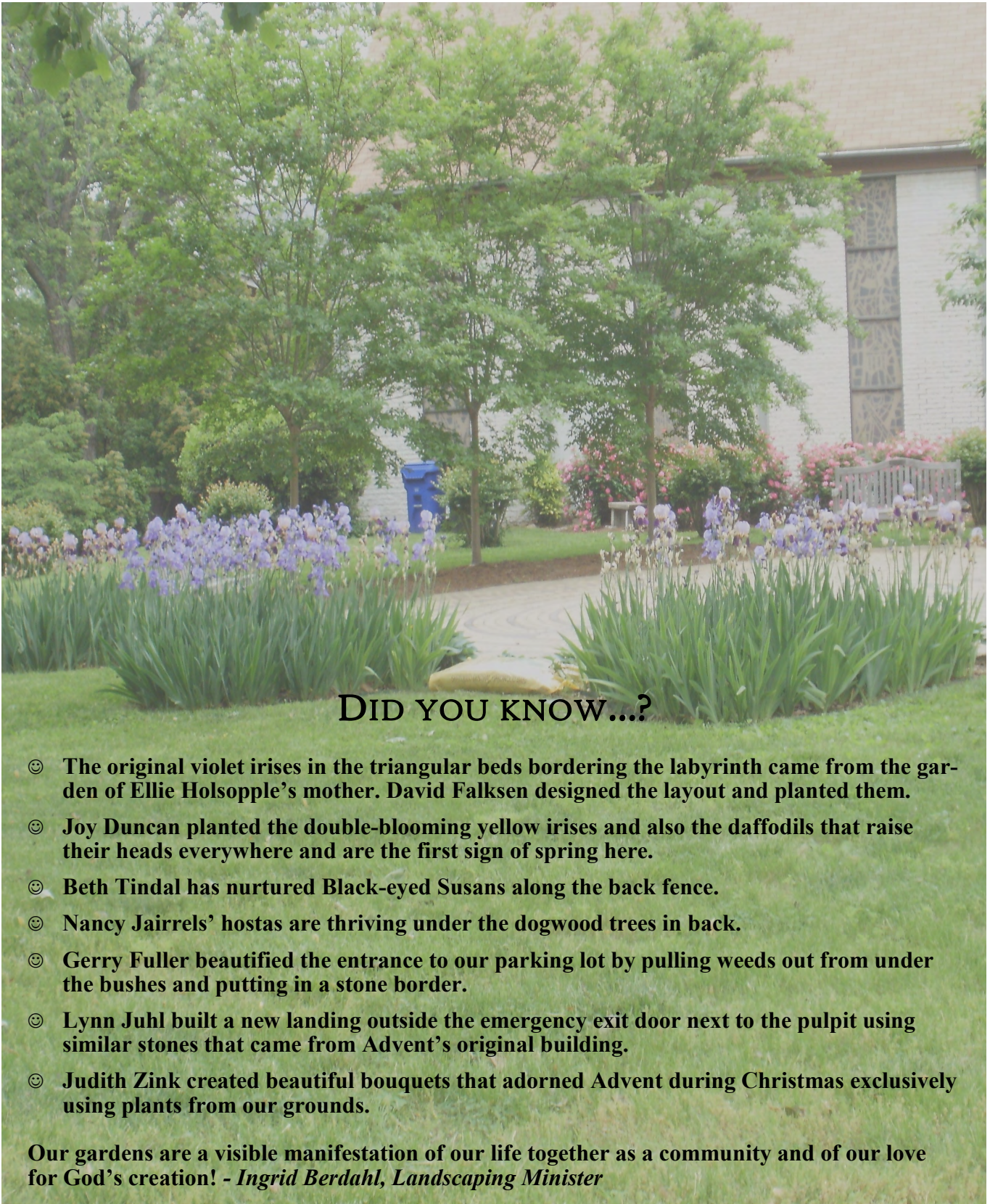
*- Ellie Holsopple*





# Advent

News & Announcements



## DID YOU KNOW...?

- ☺ The original violet irises in the triangular beds bordering the labyrinth came from the garden of Ellie Holsopple's mother. David Falksen designed the layout and planted them.
- ☺ Joy Duncan planted the double-blooming yellow irises and also the daffodils that raise their heads everywhere and are the first sign of spring here.
- ☺ Beth Tindal has nurtured Black-eyed Susans along the back fence.
- ☺ Nancy Jairrels' hostas are thriving under the dogwood trees in back.
- ☺ Gerry Fuller beautified the entrance to our parking lot by pulling weeds out from under the bushes and putting in a stone border.
- ☺ Lynn Juhl built a new landing outside the emergency exit door next to the pulpit using similar stones that came from Advent's original building.
- ☺ Judith Zink created beautiful bouquets that adorned Advent during Christmas exclusively using plants from our grounds.

**Our gardens are a visible manifestation of our life together as a community and of our love for God's creation! - Ingrid Berdahl, Landscaping Minister**

# Advent

News & Announcements

ANNUAL SYNOD ASSEMBLY: "FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS"

## Racial justice, inclusiveness, charting the future were themes of annual gathering

**T**he theme of the 2016 Synod Assembly was "For the Healing of the Nations," and it could not have been more relevant and timely given the serious crises many nations are experiencing. It is an opportune time for religious institutions to take a stand and do their part to address some of the issues the world is facing, especially here in the USA.

In keeping with the theme and also to foster inclusiveness, the opening Eucharist was delivered in English and Spanish. In addition, copies of the Lord's Prayer in 15 languages were available and attendees were encouraged to pray in their native tongue.

Attendees saw and heard inspiring videos and stories of what churches in the ELCA are doing to address the issues of racism and intolerance within the churches and communities at large. The successes portrayed were heart-warming and illustrated what honest talking, genuine listening, and an earnest effort to get to know the individuals we interact with on regular basis can achieve.

It is incumbent on each of us as Christians to do our part to bring about "The Healing of the Nations." - *Desiree Jessimy*



**F**irst, a thank you to Advent for allowing me the privilege of being one of your representatives at this year's Metro DC Synod Assembly. Going to "one more church meeting" might sound like drudgery, but it was inspiring! The dry administrative issues are largely resolved before the meeting starts. Most of our time is spent listening to inspirational speakers and learning about the work of the church.

One important theme this year was racial justice. Videos documented the work of two congregations in our Synod who successfully bridged the racial gap that too often divides local communities. Despite the discouraging news that seems to dominate current news broadcasts on race issues, several speakers inspired us to hope and action.

Another theme was synod and national efforts to chart the future for Lutherans: as we prepare for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, as we face changing demographics in our neighborhoods, and as we are challenged by global economic and social issues. One concrete result of these efforts is the Synod's "New Connections" campaign. I am sure you will be hearing more about this campaign when it is formally announced in the coming months.

At least for this delegate, Synod Assembly was a time for reflection and reassurance on how we Lutherans are working together to make a difference in the world.

- *Gerry Fuller*





# Advent

News & Announcements

## What's going on . . . @ Advent, in community

### Good News

Former Advent member Pauline Neff is finally home from the hospital in Denver after a long and difficult illness. Her husband Merlin thanks us for our prayers.

### Blast from the Past

In June we were blessed with a visit from the daughters of Pastor Everett Jensen, the Mission Developer pastor of Advent in 1951 (see the history book in the welcome center for his picture). They left Arlington as youngsters, but enjoyed the hospitality and welcome they received as their father's legacy.

### Special Music and a Party

We were blessed by the musical offerings of Brian's son, Todd, and his friend Fatma, who with Michael's able assistance gave an amazing performance June 19. And we thank Judith for the elegant birthday party which followed the service.

### New Assistant to Bishop



Rev. Leila Ortiz

We are excited to announce that the Rev. Leila Ortiz will be joining the staff of the Metro D.C. Synod as the next Assistant to the Bishop. Pastor Ortiz currently serves as the Associate Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, Md., and is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She will make a slow transition from Good Shepherd to the synod office over the next few weeks, and begin full-time at the synod office following the ELCA Church-wide Assembly in August. Pastor Ortiz will not only be a Voting Member of the Church-wide Assembly but also a guest preacher there! This transition comes with the departure of the Rev. Amy Sevimli, who has been serving faithfully as Assistant to the Bishop for the past eight years. Look for more information on Pastor Ortiz's new role in weeks to come.

### Fun, Fun, Fun

The Arlington County Fair, one of the largest free events on the East Coast, runs August 17-21 at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 2nd St. South. Visit [www.arlingtoncountyfair.us](http://www.arlingtoncountyfair.us) to learn about times and scheduled events.



### July

1st	Joy Duncan
2nd	Larry Tindal
6th	Anna Jacob
13th	Geraldine Zenteno
16th	Georges Toth
17th	David Church
25th	Archie Hall
26th	Noah Herrera
31st	Erin Cashin
	Geoffrey Falksen

### August

4th	Corey Alvarez
	Samantha Carey
	Greg Maly
9th	Marianne Hetzer
11th	Ingrid Berdahl
13th	Susan Maly
16th	Nesta Alleyne
17th	Janet Miller
18th	Susan Alvarez
21st	Susan Toth
26th	Jiitu Abraham
30th	Nancy Cox Jairrels
31st	Merlin Neff

### September

17th	Charles Russ
	Diana Nichols
20th	Ellie Holsopple
26th	James Ngusa
27th	Danielle Thomas



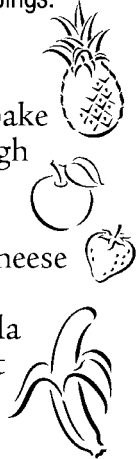
# SUMMER FRUIT PIZZA



Celebrate summer with this tasty dessert pizza, using your favorite summer fruits as the toppings.

### What you need:

- 1 tube slice-and-bake sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Round pizza pan
- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups sliced fruit
- Adult help



### What you do:

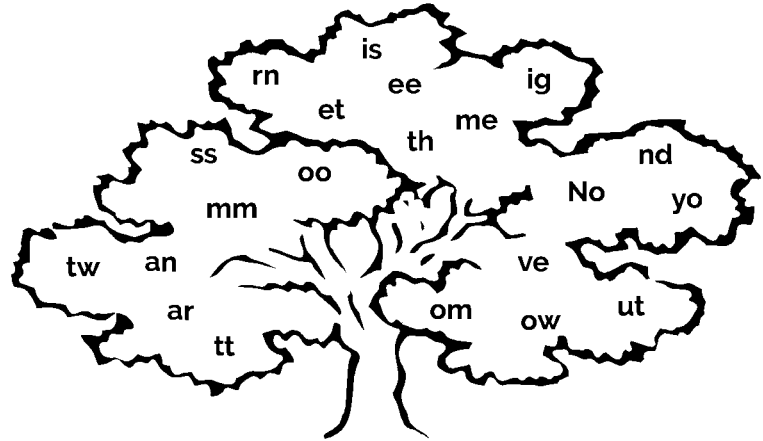
1. Cut the dough into slices 1/8-inch thick. Place slices on the pan, overlapping them slightly.
2. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 minutes. Let cool.
3. Combine softened cream cheese, sugar and vanilla, mixing well. Spread this "frosting" over the baked-cookie "crust."
4. Arrange fruit on top of the pizza.
5. Slice and enjoy!



# Signs of summer

Jesus told his disciples that fig trees indicate when summer is approaching.

*Directions: Complete the Bible verse below by placing the letter pairs from the tree into the correct blanks.*



“ \_\_\_ w lea \_\_\_ th \_\_\_ le \_\_\_ on  
 fr \_\_\_ the f \_\_\_ tr \_\_\_: As s \_\_\_ n  
 as its \_\_\_ igs g \_\_\_ te \_\_\_ er \_\_\_ d  
 its lea \_\_\_ s co \_\_\_ o \_\_\_, \_\_\_ u  
 kn \_\_\_ \_\_\_ at su \_\_\_ er is ne \_\_\_.”

Ma \_\_\_ hew 24:32, NIV

Answer: "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near."  
Matthew 24:32, NIV

# The Funny Side of Parenting

Bill Jenkins, on his deathbed, knew the end was near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter, and his two sons were with him. He asked for two witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes, and when all was ready he began to speak:

"My son, Bernie, I want you to take the Mayfair houses."

"My daughter, Sybil, you take the apartments over in the east end."

"My son, Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the City Centre."

"Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river."

The nurse and witnesses are blown away as they didn't realize his extensive holdings, and as Bill slipped away, the nurse said, "Mrs. Jenkins, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property."

The wife replied, "He had a paper route."

*- from BiblicalParenting.org*

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