

# Newsletter

Church of the Advent in Walnut Hills

May 2017



- **From the Desk of Rev. Stacy**

My daughter and I giggled and thrilled at the sight of Franklin playing in a fresh rain puddle. Most of his body was exposed to the elements. There was no embarrassment in his body. He has no idea of how beautiful he is, but he knows that to those who love him he is special and that's all that matters. This is a child who enjoys touching the things of this earth with his feet. My daughter is wise enough to let him do just that.

As I watched him enjoy the wetness, the mud, and the swirl of water I thought to myself – this is how God wants us to be in the world; present in the moment, unashamed, open and vulnerable to the important things in life, and to know that we are special and beautiful creations.

There's a freedom in a child-like way of being present. But something has to happen so that the freedom to be fully present can happen. There is a loving mother standing near-by watching Franklin play. She's far enough away that he may stumble and fall, but close enough to give aid and loving assurance. The observer may think that Franklin is so engrossed in the activity of being free that he won't notice when mom has moved out of sight. In actuality, Franklin is so fully present that he does notice when mom steps out of his line of vision or moves too far away.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 18, the disciples ask Jesus who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Jesus calls a child, places him in the midst of them and tells them that unless they change and become like children they won't be able to enter the kingdom of heaven. He challenges them to become humble like the child in their midst, and that whoever accepts such a child also accepts Jesus.

I believe that Jesus is saying something about who he is, what he is like, and what we should become as disciples. A child in Jesus day was not necessarily at the bottom rung of the societal ladder. Lepers, beggars, woman with no children, prostitutes, slaves...These were the people that were at the



bottom of the heap. But a child's place in society was vulnerable to circumstances they had no control over – being born out of wedlock, being orphaned, being a girl, living with unloving parents, or having impoverished parents.

Jesus' status as a teacher, prophet, and healer, was slipping as he continued to wend his way towards the cross. He was willing to be vulnerable like a child, following the will of 'Abba'. But he was also free to be fully present in creation and with us because he knew that his 'Abba' was nearby.

As the disciples worry about which of them is the greatest in the kingdom they are not being fully present to each other or to Christ and his teaching. They are present only to their inner thoughts and desires. They are imprisoned by the power authority status established by the world. Christ wants this reversed. We are to be vulnerable to which-ever way the Spirit blows us, even if it means being a pariah in society. We are to trust that 'Abba' is nearby, ever watchful, and ever-loving. Let's do our best to be fully present with a child-like faith so that we can be fully present to God and to all in God's creation.

Advent is a certified Green Space – We will be celebrating our environmental stewardship with a special Sunday Service on May 21 at 10 am.

### **Hunger Walk – Walk or Donate to Open Door.**

On Memorial Day Weekend, May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Freestore Foodbank is having their annual hunger walk.

*“The Freestore Foodbank is the largest emergency food and services provider to children and families in greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Southeast Indiana.”* Open Door gets the majority of it’s food from the Freestore Foodbank. It’s not free ---- We have to purchase what we give away. While Freestore is a non-profit organization, like Open Door, they have a staff to pay, lights to keep on, gas bills for transporting food donations, etc. Without Freestore Foodbank Open Door couldn’t afford all the food we distribute. Therefore we need your help during the Memorial Day Hunger Walk.

#### **HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

Open Door Ministries has a team. You can walk with us on May 29<sup>th</sup>, get some donors to sponsor you, or if you can’t walk, sponsor those of us who will be walking. *You should be able to find our team online at [cincinnatihungerwalk.org](http://cincinnatihungerwalk.org). (WALKING) Then click “Join a Team”, look for Open Door Ministries and click “join”. (DONATING) click “donate”, fill out information, then under “support your local agency” look for Open Door Ministries.*

We’re looking for 10 walkers and hope to raise at least \$500 for Open Door (hopefully more).

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**People’s Food Pantry** – Advent and Church of the Brethren will both be graced with a People’s Food Pantry made out of a recycled newspaper dispenser. The principle is similar to the little neighborhood book sharing places you see placed on people’s lawns. The Walnut Hills Faith Alliance is looking for volunteers from various congregations that will be “ambassadors”. These are the volunteers that communicate with the business people and organizations of Walnut Hills to let them know about the pantry, and to check the pantry not and then to make sure only non-perishable and date worthy items are in the pantry, and to make sure our neighbors in need know where the pantry’s are located.

### **Advent Gardeners – meet May 10, 6 pm**

Thanks to these folks that signed up to help with our gardens (current or potential); Mike, Karissa, Gerri, Lucy, Kate, and Rev. Stacy. Some new perennials and some mulch have been purchased. It be great to have a short meet up just to talk about what we have, what needs to be done, and whether we’re just doing maintenance or want to do more. Rev. Stacy would have loved to have a Saturday or Sunday where we can all get together, but between meetings and holidays already on the calendar nothing would happen until June.

So, the idea is we get together on Wednesday, May 10, at 6 pm just to go over the gardens, identify weeds from perennials, and what ever else needs to be talked about. Then gardeners can set their own gardening schedules.

THANKS IN ADVANCE!!!!

### **Walnut Hills Faith Alliance**

We’ve had our third meeting. I’m hoping that others from Advent will join this group or at least volunteer for some of the intermittent events that this group is planning. Here’s what we’ve been talking about so far:

- *Kids Day – see below*
- *People’s Pantry – see previous column*
- *Interfaith Worship that supports all those affected by the Sutton Street vehicular accident and shooting.*

You are invited to join us at the next meeting, Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 at the Metropolitan CME at 2815 Melrose St.

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### **KIDS DAY** - Children’s ministry is your thing?

Than join the Walnut Hills Faith Alliance as we plan a special day for children on June 22. Our first planning meeting is at Echo Church, 1301 East McMillan, May 31 at 6:30 pm.

ELECTRONIC GIVING AVAILABLE AT ADVENT: If you are new to Advent and are someone who prefers banking on-line, you might like our e-giving program. You can go to our website, <http://adventcincy.org>, head over to the “Donate to Advent or Open Door” and click the link at the bottom of the page. That will take you to NCS services and you can sign up for a continuing or a one time giving.

## Upcoming Events at a Glance

- **May 7, Sunday – Worship at 5 pm followed by a simple BBQ**
- **May 10, Wednesday, 6:30 pm – Advent Gardeners meet for a brief meeting.**
- **May 11, Thursday, 6:30 pm, Walnut Hills Neighborhood Organization meets at Bush Recreation Center on Yale St.**
- **May 12, Friday, Lakeside Presbyterian and Advent provide a special Community Dinner for the neighbors at 6 pm. Volunteers are asked to come at 5:30 pm and help will be needed afterwards to help with clean up.**
- **May 14, Sunday, Mother’s Day. Joe and Tracy renew their wedding vows. Rick and Michele will bring in samples of home baked wedding cake for coffee hour tasting.**
- **May 17, Wednesday, Walnut Hills Historical Society meets at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House at 6:30 pm**
- **May 17, Wednesday, Walnut Hills Faith Alliance meets at Metropolitan CME, 2815 Melrose at 6:30 pm.**
- **May 20, Saturday – 8-10 am Saturday food share; 10am – 2pm, Vestry retreat**
- **May 20, Saturday – Great American Clean up – Keeping Walnut Hills clean – meet at Bush Recreation Center at 9 am, ends at noon or sooner and refreshments provided afterwards.**
- **May 24, Habitat for Humanity meets at Advent at 6:30 pm. If this is something your interested in please attend.**
- **May 26, Friday, Music Jam at Advent at 7 pm**
- **May 28, Sunday, Artists Meetup at Advent at 6 pm**
- **May 29, Monday, 9 am, Hunger Walk for Open Door Ministries.**
- **May 31, Wednesday, 6:30 pm, planning for KIDS DAY at Echo Church, 1301 East McMillan.**

## Serving Schedule for May

Date	Acolyte/EM	Lay Reader/EM	Altar Guild	Usher	Snack	Lock-up
05/7 5 pm	Marx	Ed	Ginger & Shari	Tom	Advent	Tom
05/14	Lucy	Ron P	Carol & Sally	Marx	Lucy & Cathy	Ron
05/21	Johnetta	Paul L	Cathy & Beth	Ed	Rick and Amanda	Jim
05/28	Marx	Amanda	Lucy & Johnetta	Jim	Jocelyn & Ginger	Paul L



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## Mailing Address

### Staff at Advent

**Priest in Charge** – Rev. Stacy Salles

**Administrative Assistant** – Cathy Maret

**Open Doors** – JoAnn McIntosh

**Music Director** – Taylor Brown

**Organist** – Bradford Dale

**Senior Warden** – Tom Cunningham

**Junior Warden** – Ken Wright

**Treasurer** - Paul Keller

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