

Newsletter

Church of the Advent in Walnut Hills

August 2017



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

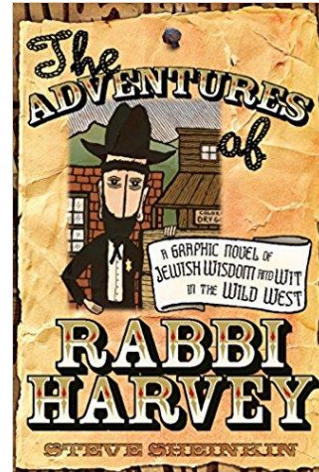
I have the coolest comic book written by Steve Sheinkin. The main hero is Rabbi Harvey who serves his congregation in the old west frontier town of Elk Spring, CO. He is wise, creative, and hilarious.

One story involves a man called Nathan who earns a living for his family by teaching in a one room school house in Utah. Payment for his services comes in the form of a money bag with one hundred silver dollars. Nathan goes to town trying to figure out how he is going to get this money to his family back in Elk Springs.

While in town, Nathan finds a merchant who is heading back to Colorado. Nathan asks the merchant if he will deliver the money to his family. The merchant asks, "What's in it for me?" Nathan says, "If you will only take this small bag of coins to my wife, YOU CAN GIVE HER AS MUCH OF THE MONEY AS YOU WANT." The merchant's payment would come out of the difference. The deal was struck and put into writing.

The merchant arrives at the home of Nathan and finds a family struggling to make ends meet. He shows Nathan's wife, Ruth, the bag of \$100 and she gets excited. The kids gleefully cry, "Finally we can eat something besides Matzah!" But the merchant throws Ruth one silver coin and tells her he gets to keep the rest. The merchant shows Ruth the contract and she begins to think she married an idiot.

Ruth, the merchant, the money and the contract were taken to wise Rabbi Harvey who instantly realizes the wisdom of Nathan's contract. Rabbi Harvey asks the merchant how much he wants from the \$100. The merchant says he wants \$99. Harvey reaches into the bag, pulls out one coin and gives it to the merchant. The rest he hands over to Ruth. Rabbi Harvey points out that the merchant agreed to pay AS MUCH AS HE WANTED. He wanted 99% so it was 99% he was obliged to give.



We reward ourselves for our troubles with lots of things, the big screen TV that can cost \$2000, a flight to France for \$1000, a pack of cigarettes for over \$5, a bottle of our favorite liquor anywhere from \$6 - \$32, a movie with pop and popcorn over \$20...

There's nothing wrong with splurging on ourselves. The question is, do we take the time to let a little of that splurge spill over to God? Mary of Bethany broke an expensive bottle of perfumed oil to anoint Jesus feet and Jesus defended her actions saying, 'there will always be the poor, but you won't always have me around.' Looking at Mary's attention to Jesus, she was giving God what she had purchased, or had been purchased for her to be used at her funeral. It was a purchase that every Jew would want for themselves. SHE GAVE JESUS WHAT SHE WANTED FOR HERSELF...a fantastic send-off. Her splurge spilled over to God.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the spirit of Mary of Bethany, help us to remember you when we work on our budgets. When we have more than enough, help us to give a little. When we have time, help us to volunteer. When we have talents, help us to share those talents. Lead us in wisdom and grace to know the best way to share from all that you have given us. Amen



STUDYING EXODUS (A Diocesan Project)

Beginning on Aug. 27, Advent will join the rest of the diocese as we study the book of Exodus. The purpose of the diocesan project is to help congregations break out of their insular nature. It's also about getting congregations to relate and engage with each other. The Episcopal Church is a community in transition, experiencing the need to exodus from what isn't working anymore to a new way of being while retaining what makes us who we are.

Charles and I will take turns preaching on the Exodus readings. Our Wednesday Bible Study has started studying Exodus, and the conversations have been fabulous! There will be Sunday coffee hours where a short film will be shown and followed by discussion (I've seen the first one and it's great!).

A Place for Advent to strut her stuff. Yes you should be proud. On September 16, 9am-4:30pm there will be an "Exodus" Convocation happening at Proctor Retreat Center. Advent has been invited to have two tables to "Show OFF" our Exodus behavior. We are a good example of a congregation that invites communities to share our facility and a congregation that goes outside our walls to engage in the community.

To be a part of the whole conversation on Sept. 16 please register at <http://diosohio.org/convocation/>

Walnut Hills Faith Alliance

Hygiene Items and Prayer for Douglass:

Douglass Elementary is asking for donations of hygiene items for boys and girls which will be kept in the nurses office and given out as needed. Pocket folders are also a need. You can bring those items to Advent and leave in Rev. Stacy's office for delivery.

Faith Alliance will also be praying for teachers and oncoming students on Aug 15, following the Faith Alliance meeting at 6:30 pm, Echo Church 1301 E McMillan. You are welcome to join them in prayer!

THE SMALL WAYS PEOPLE GIVE TO

ADVENT: Loa is a pretty new attender to Advent yet the value of the work she's done around Advent would have cost us money. Take a look at the community garden she started and taste some of the tomatoes that are coming showing up, gather up some basil and parsley. Loa also shared in the cost of getting a machine to mulch juniper bushes and then had the mulch transferred to Advent. Loa and Rev. Stacy spread mulch around four trees on Advent property that needed their roots protected (and it looks nice too.)

The Lefflers also saved us money by clearing out the growth along Advent's retaining wall, and getting the climbing ivy off the building.

Ed gives by opening up Advent everyday but Saturday. He makes sure Open Door's coffee pot is set up so folks can get some coffee. Ron is the one who makes sure Advent is all locked up snug and tight when everyone's gone home. When an alarm goes off, Ron is the first one called. That kind of means he's on call 24/7. (He also proof reads my articles).

Barb Haven and JoAnn Morse have been spending time in the Archive room getting things in historical order and in good archival condition. Professional archivists cost money so there is great value in what Barb and JoAnn offer us.

We now have three Eucharistic Visitors; Marx Billings, Johnetta Sargent, and Paul Keller. This isn't a cost value, but it sure helps Advent's clergy and builds community.

These are just a few of the ways of giving that are "valuable". If the vestry could figure out how to put that value in a budget we would begin to understand just how rich we are!

Giving to God: A conversation with Sharon Stollings

Those of you who don't live in the neighborhood or attend the 8am Sunday service may not know one of our regular attending members, Sharon. Our Sunday 8 am folks sure know her and they miss her when she's not there. Sharon often comes by and visits with Cathy and Ed in the office. She walks all over town. She was a great friend to Jim Higgins. He spoke highly of her all the time.

Unlike me, Sharon doesn't have as much to give financially, but she consistently gives her financial donation to Advent every single Sunday. If she knows she's not going to be at church on Sunday, she drops her offering by the office to make sure it gets in the Sunday collection. She also buys things for the People's Pantry outside of Advent. I wanted to have a conversation with her about why she gives the way she does. She was happy to speak with me and I'm thankful she gave me permission to share this with you. She simply stated that giving made her feel closer to God and she wanted to help others.

I really admire Sharon for her ability to see better than the world sees. The value of what she gives is not based on a dollar amount, but on the love she has for God and the consistency with which she shares that love with God. Sharon gives because she loves. There is no better gift than that.

Thanks, Sharon, for being an example to the rest of us. God Bless!

OPEN DOOR OPEN HOUSE – HELP US CELEBRATE- SEPT. 12



There's been a lot of pretty sweet changes at Open Door Ministries and we want to make sure the community of Walnut Hills and Cincinnati know about the work of the ministry that was started by Libby Higgins and continued by the Rev. Angelou Poupolo, Evie Foulkes, and now JoAnn McIntosh. We've been digging through historical archives so we can share the history of Open Door. We're planning on inviting everyone from the Mayor's office, to the Bishop's office, businesses in the local neighborhood, and anyone else we can think of. We're getting excited! We hope you are too.

The event will take place on Sept. 12 from 2-4pm. If you'd like to be a part of the celebration there are ways you can participate: welcome guests, give a tour of Advent's sanctuary, provide some light refreshments, or help decorate tables at Open Door. Please contact JoAnn McIntosh if you'd like to celebrate the continuation of Libby's blessing to Advent and Walnut Hills.

Jubilee Garden Block Party.

Stanton avenue between Taft and Oak Street

1-4 pm Saturday September, 9

Associated with AmpleHarvest.org and FoodWasteWeekend.org



This is a family friendly event encouraging neighbors to meet and greet and garden harvest. Free for all we sell to share our abundance of healthy foods, interactions, surplus and knowledge.

Games, contests, potato digging, recipe cook off, old time techniques for cures and hygiene, techniques for extending food shelf life through canning, fermenting and freezing, simple sewing circle.

We aspire to get resale shop bicycle donations, repair and give to the children, a bounce house for jumping out the extra energy and volunteers to assist with games and activities.

Please contact Loa Bennett 772-261-7581 or bennettbeinit@outlook.com

FAMILY FUN FEST- WALNUT HILLS FAITH ALLIANCE WORKING TOGETHER FOR GOD AND NEIGHBOR.

By JoAnn Morse.



Balloons, beads, balls! T-shirts, hats, hot dogs! Music, prizes, snow-cones! On the hot Saturday afternoon of July 22th, you would have found all of these and more at St. James Park in Walnut Hills. You would also have found over 50 kids and adults getting sticky, colorful and having fun. The Family Festival was hosted by the Walnut Hills Inter-Faith Alliance, which is the newest incarnation of church cooperation to benefit our neighbors. The churches include Morningstar Missionary Baptist, Christ Emmanuel Christian Fellowship, Church of the Brethren, Echo Church and The Church of the Advent. The Advent has a long history of both inter-faith work and community outreach, so membership in the Alliance feels both natural and welcome.

Rev. Stacy Salles and others at The Advent hosted a booth where kids could decorate T-shirts. Kids wrote their names, designed monsters, and said "I love you" to their parents. The T-shirts dried out on the grassy hill behind the booth, leading up to the music stand.

We hope that the event is truly titled "The first annual Family Festival". The Alliance is also planning events and support for the Frederick Douglass and newly-opening Spenser Schools this fall. Coming together across faith traditions to work for "good in the hood" requires balloons, T-shirts, snow-cones and a shared faith in the Gospel!



Rick got her to smile eventually!



Upcoming Events at a Glance

- Sunday, Aug. 7, Morning Prayer led by the Rev. Deacon Charles Graves IV at 8 am and 10 am
- Sunday, Aug 7, after the 10 am service the Rev. Deacon Charles Graves IV will invite conversation around the story of the Transfiguration.
- Thursday, Aug 10, 6:00 pm, Neighborhood Meeting at Bush Recreation Center. As the neighborhood changes it's important our collective voices are heard when it comes to affordable housing and food issues. If you live in Walnut Hills, please get involved!
- Saturday, Aug. 12, 11 am – 3 pm: Douglass Elementary School is having their “Back to School” party. Rev. Stacy, Teena, Mack, and Johnetta did this last year and had a blast. If you'd like to be a part of this please email Sheena at Dunnshe@copboe.k12.oh.us.
- Sunday, Aug. 13, The Rev. Jane Gerdson will officiate at the 8 am and 10 am service
- Tuesday, Aug 15, 6:30 pm, WH Faith Alliance Meeting at Echo Church, 1301 E McMillan. The group will gather outside Douglass Elementary School after the meeting to pray for teachers and students starting the new school year.
- Saturday, Aug. 19, Diocese offers vestry members and invitation to the Administrative Leadership Day at Proctor Retreat Center. Cost is \$15. Call Darren at 513-831-2052
- Sunday, 20 and 27, the Rev. Jason Leo will officiate at the 8 and 10 am services.
- Wednesday, Aug 23, Advent prepares and serves the Community Dinner for the neighborhood. Volunteers gather at 5:30 pm and dinner is served at 6:30 pm. We always enjoy doing this.
- Saturday, Sept. 9th (Times yet TBD), Stanton Garden Block Party. It will be lots of fun.
- Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2-4pm – OPEN DOOR MINISTRIES OPEN HOUSE. We hope you'll join us in celebrating the history and continued ministry of Open Door.
- **Stitchery Group** – Are you a needle crafter? Join us on Tuesdays at 10 am for conversation as our hands create beautiful items by hand.
- **Bible Study** – Every Wednesday at 10:30 am. It's a bible study that digs deep and different voices are welcome at the table to express their personal understanding of what's being read.

Serving Schedule for June

Date	Acolyte/EM	Lay Reader/EM	Altar Guild	Usher	Snack	Lock-up
8/6	Marx	Amanda	Ginger & Shari	Tom	Theresa	Tom
8/13	Lucy	Patty	Carol & Sally	Marx	Lucy & Cathy	Ron
8/20	Johnetta	Ron	Cathy & Beth	Patty	Rick & Amanda	Brad
8/27	Marx	Paul L	Lucy & Johnetta	Ed	Michael & Karissa	Jim
9/3	Lucy	Ed	Ginger & Shari	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 Lettler

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Pastoral Emergencies: 734-649-7726
Email address: churchoftheadvent@fuse.net
Website: Listen to our sermons at <http://www.adventcincy.org>