

Newsletter

Church of the Advent in Walnut Hills

January 2018



From the Desk of Rev. Deacon Charles Graves IV

- 2018 – It's the dawn of a new year on our global calendars, even though for us in the church, our New Year was a month ago at the beginning of Advent! During that month, we spent time in preparation for the birth of Christ in our world, and we rejoiced at the celebration of his arrival in the Christmas Season. Now that Christ, the Word made flesh, is born among us once again, we stood at the edge of another joyous and profound celebration. It was not New Years Day, it was the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. Epiphany is the day when we remember the visitation of the Magi (often known as the Three Kings or Wise Men) who traveled from the East, following the star to find Mary and Joseph with the young boy Jesus. Of course, these Wise Men famously bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor and serve this child who would be called King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- As we collectively turn the page to 2018, God reminds us again to consider how each of us is called to offer our own gifts to Christ in serving the Church and supporting one another. What skills and talents might God be growing in you & challenging you to share in 2018? How might God be nudging you in new directions, or moving you to nurture others to share in new ways?
- Maybe it's as an acolyte, or altar guild, or as a lay reader or usher or as a Vestry member. Maybe it's by bringing others to church with you, or by visiting someone who is sick or alone. Maybe it's something else entirely!
- At the end of January we will have our Annual Meeting of the whole congregation. This is our chance to take stock of our successes and challenges of the past year, and plot a course for the journeys on which God is guiding us for 2018. We will continue to examine where our Lord is leading our whole congregation in the new year, and how to continually offer our gifts to Christ in Walnut Hills and beyond. Join us, and discern with us together as we look to share the treasures of our lives with the newborn King.



Bulletin Board Extravaganza!

Our hallway is filled with bulletin boards and right now there are two which I would love for you to pay attention to.

Our historical board, features the ministry Advent provided to the "Mountain People" in the 50's. Thanks to Barb Haven and JoAnn for their continued research.

The other board across from that was put together by Patty Allen. It shows the churches she visited in England, helping us (Advent) connect to our sister congregations and what they are doing in their communities.

Deacon Charles will be working on another bulletin board to celebrate Black History month.

Take time to explore who we are in context of our history, our culture, and our sister church in other places.

NEWS FROM THE GREEN TEAM-Our Environmental Ministry.

With 2017 coming to a close, Church of the Advent's Green Team has been busy reflecting on a successful year. Led by Ken Wright and a few church members, the Green Team has completed and built out plans for multiple environmental projects for the church building.

Two of the main leading project ideas include plans for updating older windows and refurbishing wooden entry doors, which will minimize heat loss in the winter and cool air loss in the summer. Last year, a new furnace was installed which provided the church with significant energy (and money) savings with new, more efficient technology.

Church of the Advent recently received a very recognizable award for being energy efficient. Our church has recently been recognized as an **Energy Star certified building**. This program is run by the US Environmental Protection Agency and recognizes the most energy efficient buildings in the United States. The process includes submitting info on energy consumption, the size of the church and attaining verification from an engineer. There is a minimum score requirement of 75 to pass the certification. Advent proudly attained Energy Star certification as a house of worship with a score of 84, making our church building **one of three congregations** in Ohio (and the only one in Cincinnati) with that recognition! 2018 will bring more exciting plans and projects to Church of the Advent.

If you are interested in learning more about the Green Team at Church of the Advent, please reach out to Ken Wright.

Michael Handley.

KNEELING WITH GIANTS – BOOK DISCUSSION

We continue to have our discussion over the fascinating book that gives us a variety of ways of praying as put forth by people throughout history. Not only do we have a Facebook book group, but each Sunday we have a table reserved for discussion too. Join us even if you aren't reading the book. The Sunday conversations and comments on Facebook have been thought provoking!



Thank you

- Thanks to Teena, Mack, and David who helped carry our Christmas goods upstairs so we could decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.
- Thanks to Ginger, the Wrights, Billie, the Cunninghams, Rebecca, and others for helping decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.
- Thanks to Teena, Mack, and David for throwing a pre-Christmas party on the 23rd. The folks that came had fun.
- Thanks to Barb Haven, Johnetta Sargent, Paul Keller, and Lucy Leffler for their work on vestry. We appreciate you time and counsel over the years.
- Thanks to Paul Keller for purchasing the "Kneeling with Giants" books for us.

HAPPY 45 YEARS to OPEN DOOR MINISTRIES-Month of February

Open Door Ministries has been serving our neighborhood for a wonderful 45 years, providing food, financial stability, preventing homelessness, and more. We give thanks to Libby Higgins who began this good work 45 years ago.

During the month of February think about the person you send valentines to. This year, give a donation to Open Door in honor of that person.

We can help Open Door Ministries with this fundraiser by making sure fliers get sent out, stuffing envelopes, filling in certificates – Easy way to help out a fantastic ministry offered by Church of the Advent. **More information on how to help to come in the next few weeks.**

CHILI COOK OFF on Saint Patricks Day

In February we will be inviting all kinds of folks to have a chili cook-off to help raise money for Open Door Ministries. If you love your chili and want to put your best up against other chili chefs make sure you put March 17th on your calendar. Forget the green beer, come in to taste a variety of chili's.

WHAT DO EPISCOPALIANS BELIEVE? HOW DO YOU BECOME A MEMBER?

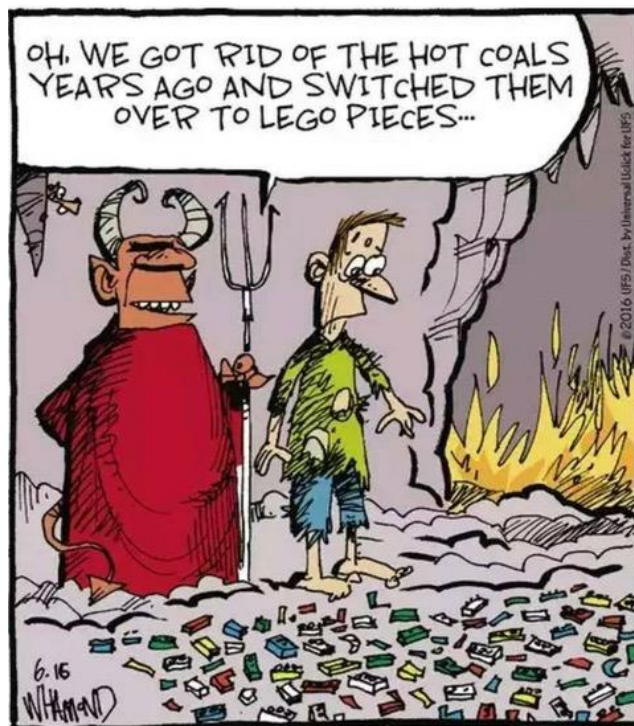
Episcopalians really are an interesting bunch of people with a unique perspective on scripture, the communion meal, and the role we play in the world. If you are puzzled about: why we do the things we do and why we believe the things we believe; want to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church: or you are an Episcopalian that wants a refresher on what makes us US- Join the Sunday program that Deacon Charles will be giving on Sundays during coffee hour, Feb 18-March 25.

ASH WEDNESDAY ON VALENTINES DAY? OH MY!

We kick of Lent this year on Ash Wednesday on Feb 14 at 7 pm. Before or after you take your loved one to a nice dinner out take a moment to visit God and challenge Rev. Stacy to make a connection between Ashes and Valentines.

Open Door Ministry

Cordially invites you to celebrate our 45th year of service!



LENTEN SERIES BEGIN WED, FEB 21- Theme; "Chocolate for Lent".

"Chocolate for Lent" is a fun movie that is perfect for a discussion for Lent. Between scripture and the movie there will be some fruitful discussion about abstinence and celebration; fasting and feasting. We always begin with a simple meal at 6:30 and program begins at 7 pm each Wednesday during Lent.

A donation of \$45 or more

All Proceeds go to Open Door Ministry

Donate in your loved one's name including spouse, parent, siblings, other family or friends and they will receive a Valentine's Day card in your name with a certificate from Open Door Ministry celebrating this wonderful anniversary.

This opportunity will last for the month of February

Open Door opened its doors on February 14, 1973!

Street address: 1017 Cross Lane Cincinnati, OH 45206

Mailing address: 2366 Kemper Lane Cincinnati, OH 45206

Phone number: 513-961-2259



E-giving-The electronic way of giving to Church of the Advent. We are living in a new era. Computers. Internet, and phone apps rule the world. Some folks don't even carry cash anymore or even write checks (I probably write 5 checks a year). We are making it easier to give through Advent's website, at <http://www.adventcincy.org>. Look for the e-giving page.

ANNUAL MEETING AND VESTRY NOMINATIONS- THIS IS THE TIME TO ENGAGE

JANUARY 28, 2018 – Please put that date on your calendar, not as a notice to stay away from Advent that day, but to ENGAGE in the life of the church. **This is a time to:**

Nominate and vote for leaders to serve on VESTRY and representatives to serve as DELEGATES to DIOCESAN CONVENTION.

Receive and vote on reports from various ministries in the church so you know what goes on behind the scenes- to learn what it is that makes your church tick – To, as someone said to me one time, gauge the pulse of the community.

The day of Sunday, January 28 will begin with worship at 9:30 am. From there we will move into the parish hall, grab a potluck plate, and begin to make decisions that accept the past and move us into the future.

WHAT DOES VESTRY DO?

Vestry is a church board that supports the priest and congregation in the life of the church: developing programming, enhancing worship, welcoming new people, taking care of the property and assets of the church, taking care of the people (one of our most important assets) in our Advent community, help the priest in the administration aspects of running a church, finding ways to promote and support lay leadership.

We meet once a month – Every third Tuesday, at 7 pm. We begin our meetings with scripture study and prayer. We hear reports about what's happening in our ministries and building. We implement plans for the future of Advent in the knowledge that this "place and space" is holy and meant to continue her service as a beacon in the community of Walnut Hills.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SERVE ON VESTRY?

- Thanks to Bishop Breidenthal for giving Advent permission to nominate any person who is actively participating in the life of Advent whether or not they are Episcopalian.

- It takes a heart of love for a worshipping community that is unique, diverse, and wants to explore other ways of being that will attract and support people seeking a safe place to explore and practice their faith.
- There will be a Vestry retreat in February on a Saturday from 10 am – 2pm (Date to be determined). A program to help the vestry understand the blessings and practicalities of serving will be presented.
- Vestry members will be required to participate in two 45 minute online programs regarding "Safeguarding God's Children" (church insurance and diocesan requirement) and "Safeguarding God's People". These can be done in small portions in the comfort of one's home.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET PLACED ON VESTRY

Sometimes we get names that are placed on a ballot and there is also the ability to nominate someone from the floor (on the day of the annual meeting). It is the congregation that votes for those who will serve on the vestry. Currently we have 4 seats open on Vestry and we will also be voting for a senior and junior warden.

WHAT DO I DO IF I'M THINKING ABOUT SERVING AS A VESTRY LEADER?

Prayer is always a must. Serving on a vestry is an important and unique ministry. Not everyone is called to this particular work (and that's fine). Talk to Rev. Stacy, Deacon Charles, or any of our vestry members to ask them questions about what it's like. If you've decided to run, give us your name. You can also be nominated during the annual meeting.

THANK YOU CONGREGATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

E-giving-The electronic way of giving to Church of the Advent. We are living in a new era. Computers, Internet, and phone apps rule the world. Some folks don't even carry cash anymore or even write checks (I probably write 5 checks a year). We are making it easier to give through Advent's website, at <http://www.adventcincy.org>. Look for the e-giving page.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- Jan. 15, Monday – Open Door and Advent Offices closed for Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 16, Tuesday – **Vestry** Meeting 7 pm
- Jan. 20, **Saturday Food Share** 8-10:30 am – Advent and Lakeside Presbyterian pass out food to neighbors
- Jan. 24, Wednesday – **Walnut Hills Faith Alliance**, 6:30 pm at Advent (Join this wonderful group of various church leaders from Walnut Hills as we work for the children and families of Walnut Hills)
- **Jan 28, Sunday – Worship at 9:30 am followed by Potluck and Annual Meeting.**
- Feb – The whole Valentine month will focus on Open Door's 45th Anniversary
- Feb 10, Saturday, 9am – 4:30pm – Christ Cathedral – **“Absalom Jones Symposium and Festal Eucharist”** (Lunch included) - <http://www.dsoconnections.org/2018/01/09/absalom-jones-symposium-and-festal-eucharist/> for more details
- Feb. 14, **Ash Wednesday service** at 7 pm – Join us for a unique experience!
- Feb. 21, **Lenten Study** beginning with simple meal at 6:30 pm
- Feb. 18, Sunday – first coffee hour discussion about what it means to be an Episcopalian.

Regularly Scheduled programs:

- **Stitchery** – Bring your fiber arts (or just yourself) and hang out with us knitters, tatters, and crocheters each Tuesday beginning at 10 am.
- **Morning Prayer** – Each Tuesday at 9 am
- **Bible Study** – Each Wednesday at 10:30 am
- **Choir Practice** – Each Thursday at 6:00 pm and Sunday at 9 am.

Serving Schedule for January-February

Date	Acolyte/EM	Lay Reader/EM	Altar Guild	Usher	Snack	Lock-up
1/14	Lucy	Paul L	Carol & Sally	Jim/Delores	Marx & Billie	Jim
1/21	Mack	Ed	Cathy & Beth	George	Carol & Barb	Paul L
1/28	Marx	Amanda	Lucy & Josh	Teena	Sally & George	Tom
2/4	Lucy	Jocelyn	Ginger & Sherri	Ron	Theresa	Ed
2/11	Mack	JoAnn (read only)	Carol & Sally	Ed	Rick & Amanda	Brad



2366 Kemper Ln.
Cincinnati, OH 45206

Mailing Address

Staff at Advent

Priest in Charge – Rev. Stacy Salles

Administrative Assistant – Cathy Maret

Open Doors – Evie Foulkes

Music Director – Taylor Brown

Organist – Bradford Dale

Senior Warden – Paul Letler

Junior Warden – Tom Cunningham

Treasurer - Paul Keller

Church Phone: 513-961-2100

Pastoral Emergencies: 734-649-7726

Email address: churchoftheadvent@fuse.net