

Newsletter

Church of the Advent in Walnut Hills

December 2017



HARP LESSONS AND ADVENT

From the Desk of Rev. Stacy Salles

I have a Celtic harp that I bought several years ago. I played around with my harp, but that was about it. When *Son's of Serendip* came to Advent last summer I showed my Celtic harp to Mason Morton, the harpist of the group. He made my little harp sing. I knew right then I needed to get with the program and find someone who could teach me how to play my harp. In November I started harp lessons with a wonderful young lady, Lilu.

While I have a lot of experience with music, 17 years of piano lessons and singing with many choirs, I knew learning the harp was going to be like starting all over again. I would have to learn how to hold my hands differently. I would have to learn a whole different fingering technique. I would have to learn to memorize what note each string represented and where it was. I would have to practice this so that both my hands could play together (not so easy). Just in two lessons I am finding that my brain and hands are engaging in the action more easily. I still have to stop and make corrections in the way I'm placing my hands on the strings, but it is becoming more natural. My heart is involved in the sense that I am loving the process and the sound. Eventually though, as I get physically and mindfully proficient at playing the harp, my heart and soul will become even more involved in making the strings of the harp sing. In essence I am preparing the way for my harp and my soul to sing a message of beauty. It's hard work and I have to work hard at it. It's all so wonderful!

The season of Advent is about Preparation. This is the time you will constantly hear the prophetic words, "Prepare the way of the Lord". I truly believe that a great way to prepare is to get our whole being involved in something that makes, at the least, our heart and mind sit up and take notice so that we are challenged with a new way of looking at our relationship with God. Is our fingering right (Am I



practicing my faith in the street)? Do I know what notes I'm playing (Do I know my Bible stories)? Can I play with both hands together (Can I pay attention to what others are saying to me while applying the Good News of Christ)?

- Read a book that challenges your faith or theology so that you can't help but have a conversation with it and others.
- Learn some yoga movements and combine it with prayer so your body is praying along with your heart and mind.
- Learn something you've never learned before and take time with it so that you have a way to step out of the busyness of this season and slow down, then give thanks to God for that moment of peace.

We have song of Good News that is bursting to be birthed into the world. How you decide to prepare for the release of that song needs to be something unique to you. May God Bless you as you prepare your body, mind, and spirit for the coming of the Lord and singing His song.

NOV 21, Winter Solstice Celebration – All musicians, singers, or folks that just want to listen are welcome to join *the Walnut Hills Faith Alliance* at **7 pm at Advent** for an informal event. We hope you'll join us.

THANKS TO:

- Ken and Theresa Wright for inviting some of our folks, who had no place to celebrate Thanksgiving to their home for dinner.
- Jocelyn Cunningham for arranging the highly successful wreath fundraiser and all those who ordered wreaths. Your purchase helps support Open Door Ministries.
- Mack Williams who is getting better and better at being an acolyte. You look good in your new uniform!
- Taylor Brown for her years of ministry as our Music Director. We will miss you!
- To the Stitchery Ladies (and one man) – I don't know how you've done it, but our group has grown bigger. God is good.
- To the people that have joined Charles and I on Wednesday Morning Prayer. Your presence in prayer with us fills our hearts with joy.
- Paul Keller who has purchased books for our new Advent Book Group, which will be handled through Facebook.
- JoAnn Morse and Barbara Haven for their wonderful work on our historical bulletin board "Advent on the Edge"
- Geoff Sutton and Deacon Charles for keeping me company by attending the Walnut Hills Faith Alliance, and to all of you who have participated in some way to the events of Faith Alliance. God is blessings our work.
- Thanks to all of you who made a financial commitment to God, through the stewardship of Advent. May God bless you in this spiritual aspect of your commitment to God, and in all other ways that you serve God through Advent and in the world.
- Thanks to Jocelyn Cunningham, Barbara Haven, Tom Cunningham, Rev. Charles, Rev. Stacy, and JoAnn McIntosh, for starting up the Open Door Advisory Board – Excitement for new life!
- Thanks to all of you who donated towards the beautiful flowers for All Saints Sunday. It was nice to have real flowers for a change. Blessings!

STITCHERY LADIES PRACTISING ADVENT

A few of our knitters are excited about being able to incorporate the practice of Advent into a hobby they love so much. Each year a group of knitters (this year includes a mother and son famous knitter team) create a scarf that holds a new pattern to knit each day of Advent. Another person writes a meditation to go along with the pattern, something to think about as we struggle with a pattern that forces us to slow our minds down to concentrate. Other people have tested the pattern ahead of it's release, forging the way in facing bumps in the road and solving them. This will be a great physical and mind stretching exercise in faith as we prepare, knit, tear out, knit again, and ask each other for help. At some point for each of us, the photos of the scarf will become incarnate into something we can hold in our hands, wear, or giveaway. We will be celebrating each time someone reaches a successful transition and final product. Most of all, you need to know that our hearts are already involved in the work of our hands and mind. Through our weekly readings we already connect the work of our hands, (Knitting, sewing, crocheting, knotting...) to our life with God our Creator and Savior. Our hearts are engaged in the work and because of our heartfelt love for the work we have the strength to struggle with each challenging pattern.

This is a great metaphor for all of us as we all knit our lives together with Christ our Savior, the Word who was involved in the creative patterns when God spoke his design into being.

JOIN THE ADVENT BOOK GROUP ON FACEBOOK –

Paul Keller was kind enough to pick up some books for all of us who are eager to get started on our, first ever, book club. We will be reading "Kneeling with Giants; Praying through History". We have quite a few folks at Advent that don't have the time to meet in a group, but want to have fruitful discussions around faith and spirituality. Check us out at- You will need to join Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AdventBookGroup/>

UNION OF BLACK EPISCOPALIANS TO MEET AT ADVENT IN DECEMBER!!!

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Dec. 3 – Sunday, 11:30 am – Meeting with Altar Guild and Ushers

Dec. 11 – Sunday, 11:30 am – Meeting with Acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 12- Adopt a Family gifts due in Rev. Stacy's office, or Dec. 13 at 2:30 at Douglass Elementary School

Dec. 13 or 14th – Union of Black Episcopalians to meet at Advent. Stay tuned for an update.

Dec. 14 – Neighborhood Meeting and Potluck at Bush Recreation Center, 6:30- Bring a dish to pass

Dec. 14 – Walnut Hills Faith Alliance meets 6:30 at Bethel Baptist Church.

Dec. 16 – Saturday Food Share with Lakeside Presbyterian

Dec. 17 – Sunday, 11:30 am – Lighting of the Sanctuary and a nice warm chili meal to follow.

Dec. 19 – Tuesday, 7 pm Vestry meeting

Dec. 21 – Winter Solstice Celebration – Gathering of musicians from Walnut Hills Faith Alliance and friends.

Dec. 23 – PRE-CHRISTMAS PARTY – hosted by David Clark, Teena and Mack Williams – 12-3pm at Advent.

Join us for games, good food, and fellowship.

Dec. 24 – Sunday morning worship, 8 am and 10 am

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve service at 4:30 pm

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day service at 10 am – very informal friendly gathering.

Recurring events.

- **Sunday Worship** – 8 am and 10 am
- **Stitchery Group** – Are you a needle crafter? Join us on Tuesdays at 10 am for conversation as our hands create beautiful items by hand.
- **Morning Prayer** – Every Wednesday at 9 am in the small chapel. Great way to start the day.
- **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.
- **Choir Rehearsal** on Friday nights at 6:30 and Sunday's at 9 am.

Serving Schedule for December

Date	Acolyte/EM	Lay Reader/EM	Altar Guild	Usher	Snack	Lock-up
12/3	Marx	JoAnn Morse (reading only)	Ginger, Shari	Tom	Teena, Mack, & Ron	Paul L
12/10		Jocelyn	Carol & Sally	Ron	Marx & Billie	Ed
12/17	Mack	Amanda	Cathy & Beth	George	Barb & Carol	Ken
12/24 Morn	Marx	Ron	Joshua & Rev. Stacy	Ed	Sally & George	Tom
12/31	?	Kate	Ginger, Shari	Jim	Bring Xmas Cookies	Ron



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The vision of Advent is to continue its work in being a place from which God's blessings flow out into the community in a variety of ways.

To equip and proclaim in word and action the reality and abundance of the Kingdom of God on earth- That is our mission!

Mailing Address

Staff at Advent

Priest in Charge – Rev. Stacy Sallee
Deacon – The Rev. Deacon Charles Graves IV
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 Lefler

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