



January/February Herald

Happy winter, everybody!

Included in this issue of the Herald are these articles too good to miss:

Rector Reflections:

Faith as Journey

Stewardship campaign results

Life Together!

Lent 2016

Tuesday evenings in Lent

A Lenten Quiet Morning

Community Tenebrae Service

Holy Days of Lent

A Church of the Advent Word Cloud

Long Term Prayer List

Birthdays

Faith as Journey

I was walking home one evening after my on-call shift at Lancaster General Hospital when I was met on the street corner by a couple of young men. Now, I don't know why they thought that anyone would stop to talk to them at 10:30 at night, but there they were, clipboards in hand, taking a survey. "If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven or hell?" they asked. I looked them over—they seemed safe enough, so I stopped to chat. "Heaven," I said. I think they were taken aback at my certainty. "Are you saved?" they asked. "Yes, I am," I said with confidence. "When were you saved?" they continued. I think they were trying to trip me up.

What followed was a conversation that I think they were, in equal parts, intrigued by and horrified by. I was not a Christian of their mold, and yet I was certain in my faith. How could it be that I was certain of my eternal salvation, but couldn't name the date and the place I was saved. Or felt that the Bible was the word of God, yet didn't feel it can be taken literally in all instances. What kind of a heretic were they dealing with? I didn't further shock them by telling them that I was an ordained clergy person.

One of the gifts of being an Episcopalian is that we are comfortable with the idea that faith is never a once and done kind of thing. While some may have had profound conversion experiences—and that does happen, most of us come to believe and trust in God over the course of many, smaller moments of insight and conversion. For many of us, conversion is more of a journey than a onetime event. Ideally, over the course of a lifetime our faith grows and matures. What we believe about God when we are 9 years old is much different than what we believe when we are 39 years old. As we mature, so should our faith mature.

During Lent this year you are invited to further explore, challenge and affirm the Christian faith of your adulthood. In sermons I will explore some facets of faithful living as a Christian. On Tuesday evenings, we will gather to break bread and chat about the main teachings of our faith from an adult point of view. Mary McCullough will once again offer a quiet morning—a perfect opportunity to spend time with God during this season of looking inward. Look for a list of Lenten activities in this issue of the Herald.

I hope that this year you will take advantage of the season of Lent to further grow your relationship with God.

Blessings,

Lynn+

2016 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Our goal, going into the 2016 Stewardship Campaign was to generate sufficient income to support the targeted budget numbers provided by the Vestry to meet current needs.

Although we were not able to meet the targeted budget number for 2016, we were successful in increasing our pledged income over last year by 7.8%, giving us a total income to date, for 2016, of \$177,100. This increase in income will help us support some of those activities which will affect our ability to be a place where people can have their spiritual lives enhanced, and hopefully, allow us to recommit to growing in our own relationship with God.

Breakdown of the numbers is as follows:

	2016	2015
Total pledges:	78	83
Total pledged amount	\$177,100	\$164,205
Percentage change	7.8 increase	3.2 increase
Average pledge amount	\$2,235	\$1,978
Number of pledges that increased	35	25
Pledges the same	26	35
Pledges decreased	11	7
New pledges	6	7
Building Improvement Fund (BIF) Pledges	\$3,450	\$6,684

Thank you for your continued support.

Stewardship Chair: Alan Kiel
 Committee Members: John Dippre
 Crystal Finn
 Aylis Wolf

Life Together

On December 13th, members of our church community delivered 50 boxes (2 per family) filled with the food we had been collecting through the months of November and December in anticipation of Christmas. Seven cars and many helpers transported the 50 boxes plus an additional 5 boxes of food to St. John's Lutheran Church to benefit 25 families who are clients of the Food Pantry.

Pictured here are Ellen Kavash (left) and Kathleen Rose Gilman (right).



A NEW YEAR AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

A Peek at Some Events at Church of the Advent

January



On Sunday, **January 3rd** we formally welcomed our new Music Director, **Gavin McIlhinney** to Church of the Advent. We are so glad to have him on board! (That's Gavin pictured on the left in the music office.)

Sunday, **January 10th** we baptized **Brooklyn Anne Bartley**, daughter of John and Lynn, into Christ's holy apostolic Church.

Sunday, **January 31**, Victoria Hoppes, Associate for Youth and Camping Ministries of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, will visit Advent to fill us in on opportunities for our parish youth. Youth and their parents will meet with Victoria during the Church School hour. And after the 10 am service, Victoria will speak to us about the City Camp program, a summer learning opportunity of our diocese.

Sunday, **January 31st** we will again take part in the new outreach program of our Deanery—**Sunday evening supper**. This meal takes place at St. Paul's in Elkins part and is meant to provide a meal for people who are cash strapped at the end of the month. This month, Advent will provide the clean-up crew. We'll leave Advent at 5 pm and be back by 7. Sign up on the sheet in the hallway if you can join us.

February

February is the month that Brian Disley continues collecting **warm socks, hats, mittens, coats, sweaters** and other items for seamen visiting our Philadelphia and New Jersey ports. Brian also collects calendars to distribute to the visitors. Due to a modest response, this collection will continue through the month of February. Look for the large paper bags in the narthex.



Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 5-7 are days that we will be doing some major cosmetic work in the narthex. We'll be painting, installing the rest of the new ceiling tiles and rearranging some of the furniture. Look in the Sunday bulletins for more details about how you can help, and for the sign-up sheet in the hall.



Lent arrives early this year, beginning on February 10th with Ash Wednesday. Services with imposition of ashes will be at noon and 7 pm. The later service will include music. The Eucharist will be celebrated at both services.

During the week of February 14 —20, candidates for the position of diocesan bishop will visit the diocese. You will have an opportunity to meet the candidates at one of the following gatherings with the candidates:

- Thursday, February 18th, Church of Good Samaritan, Paoli, 6pm - 10pm
- Friday, February 19th, Trinity, Ambler, 6pm - 10pm
- Saturday, February 20th, African Episcopal Church of St Thomas, 8am - 12 noon
- Saturday, February 20th, All Saints, Torresdale, 3pm - 7pm

Snow dates are scheduled for the following week, February 21- 27.

Reverend Mary McCullough will visit the parish to conduct a Lenten-themed quiet morning on Saturday, February 27th, from 9:00 to 12:30. A simple lunch will follow. Look for a sign-up sheet in the hallway outside Lynn's office.



JANUARY SOUP SALE

It's Soup Sale time! Every year on the last Sunday of January, we sell homemade soups after the church services. This year that date is the 31st. We need buyers and cooks. Please consider making some soup for this worthy cause. There is a sign-up in the narthex and containers are available.

KEEPING A HOLY LENT

In the early church, the weeks before Easter were used to prepare new Christians for their baptism into the faith at the Easter Vigil service. It was a time of solemn, joyful anticipation. Throughout the life of the Church, Lent has been understood as a time for all of us to renew our commitment to the vows we took at baptism.

Traditionally, Lent has been a time to engage in special learning and special worship, with the culmination of the renewal of our baptismal vows on Easter Eve. Our Easter Vigil will be on **Saturday, March 26th** beginning at 7:30.

This year, there will be several opportunities to deepen your understanding of and participation in our Christian faith. Here are a few to consider:

Keep the Holy Days of Lent by attending worship services on:

Ash Wednesday: February 10, noon and 7 pm (music at 7 pm only)

Maundy Thursday: March 24 at 7 pm

Good Friday: March 25, noon at Advent, 7:30 pm at Hatboro Baptist

Holy Saturday: March 26, Stations of the Cross for families at 10:00 am

Look for special Lenten devotional materials in the narthex to take home and use.

Attend the **Tuesday evening** Lenten gatherings, where we will share a simple meal and talk about some of the fundamentals of our faith using the lenses of both its 1st century origins and our 21st century understandings of the world around us. These will be held on five (5) Tuesdays, from 6 - 7:30 pm, beginning **February 16**.

Rides are available for those who don't drive. Please contact Bruce Nicholson (brucenich@hotmail.com or 215-659-4007) if you would like to take advantage of the transportation.

Blessings in the Struggles

Amid the challenges of everyday living
grace is revealed and we are blessed -
though we may not have eyes to see, or ears to hear
over and above conflicting emotions.

When faced with interruptions to expectations,
unwanted pathways can usher in
the dawn of resurrected life
in ways never imagined.

On Saturday, February 27, 2015,
from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.,
we will host a morning
of reflection and contemplation
as we ponder how God has blessed us
in and through our struggles.

The Rev. Mary McCullough will be facilitator.

Questions - mary@trinityambler.com



JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Don't forget to sign up for your name to be included on the cake. Birthdays are celebrated on the third Sunday of each month. If your birthday is missing from this list, please let us know so that you can be added and your special day celebrated! Let Karen know either by calling the office 215-675-5737 or emailing advent.hatboro@gmail.com.

1/2	Dorothy Dryburgh	2/3	Alexis Rose McConomy
1/2	George Wolf	2/5	Dorothy Jay
1/4	James Palmer	2/5	Chris Walton
1/12	Mac Freeman	2/8	Rob Brigham
1/14	Brandon Bartley	2/8	Carol Dippel
1/14	Christin Sawhney	2/12	Fred Luff
1/15	Bernadette Marass	2/14	Thomas Leahy, Jr.
1/16	Jacqueline Freeman	2/14	Ken Longman
1/20	Jean Blaha*	2/14	John Caughie
1/21	Janet Gilman	2/15	Lauren New
1/22	Nancy Meehl	2/16	Teri O'Shea
1/22	Patrick White	2/17	Madeline Miller
1/26	Adalynn Sinclair	2/18	Linda Nicholson
1/28	Nicholas Miller	2/22	John Dippre
1/29	Nathan Bowman	2/23	Kevin Irvine
1/31	Jenna Holmes	2/24	Paul Werner
		2/27	Alex Berman
		2/29	Arline Reinoehl

* to send Jean Blaha a card, here is her current address:

P.O. Box 607

Jackson Heights, NY 11372

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

Please hold these individuals in your prayers:

Becky Atkins - Christopher Gilman's request

Carol Bixler - Janet Gilman's request

Julie Boyd - Catherine Wehmeyer's request

Pat Buziak - Janet Gerhardt's request

Lexi Cable - Beverly Rowen's request

Carla Donato - Jeanne Bernosky's request

Mary Louise James - parishioner

Heather Janzen - Trish Troilo's request

Matthew Knoebel - Carolyn Smith's request

Jim Lamb - Steve & Janet Gilman's request

Norma Lane - parishioner

Natalie Leckerman - Lynn Sinclair's request

John Loomis - Trish Troilo's request

Grayce McBride - parishioner

Bruno Mercuri - Bruce Nicholson's request

Nancy Muncer - Jeanne Bernosky's sister

Carol Nicolais - parish member

Sergio Ortiz-Cataldi - Barbara Pitt's request

Ken Sanders - Barb Pitt's son-in-law

Barbara Ann Schulte - Ruth Lazor's request

Vera Shembel-Donna Bennett's request

Ray Shirk - Chris Kuhn's request

Deborah Stacey - parishioner

Noah Thome - Barbara Pitt's request

Cathy Tulaba - Joanne Mills' request

Carol Yorgey - Caitlyn Gilman's mother

Isabel Zimmerman - Louise Zimmerman's request

ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE

Stephen Stillman

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8 AM Eucharist 9 AM Church School 10 AM Lessons & Carols with Eucharist De-Greening of the Church	4 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	5	6 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	7	8	9
10 8 AM Eucharist 9 AM Church School 10 AM Baptism and Eucharist 10 AM Godly Play	11 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	12	13 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	14 7 PM Gardeners of the Crooked Billet	15	16
17 8 AM Eucharist 9 AM Church School 10 AM Eucharist 11:15 Birthday Party Vestry Mtg.	18 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	19	20 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	21	22	23 Event in Parish Hall
24 Rev Chris Ritter 8 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist 10 AM Godly Play	25 5:00 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall - Anniversary	26	27 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	28	29	30
31 Soup Sale 8 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist	◀◀◀◀◀ In the morning, Victoria Hoppes, from the Office of Family and Youth Ministries comes to talk with youth during regularly scheduled church school hour. In the evening, we are the clean-up crew for the monthly Deanery meal at St. Paul's, Elkins Park.					



FEBRUARY IS BLANKET MONTH *"Burr - it's cold outside!"* That's what we are saying right now with the chilly winter temperatures and the real threat of a snowstorm. We're fortunate in that we have warm homes to keep us comfortable, but there are some people who do not enjoy that comfort. Please help these people by donating money toward the purchase of blankets.

During the month of **February**, the Episcopal Church Women sponsor "Blanket Month." Through this ministry of Church World Service, blankets are provided for people in great need, both here and abroad. The cost of a blanket is \$5.00. Donation envelopes will be available in the church during the month of February. We hope you will participate in this worthwhile program by donating toward the purchase of these blankets.

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FEBRUARY IS BLANKET MONTH	1	2	3 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	4	5	6
7 8 AM Eucharist 9 AM Church School 10 AM Eucharist	8 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	9	10 12 noon Imposition of Ashes 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:30 Imposition of Ashes	11 7 PM Gardeners of the Crooked Billet	12	13
14 8 AM Eucharist 9 AM Church School 10 AM Eucharist 10 AM Godly Play	15 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	16 Evening Lenten program begins 6-7:30 PM	17 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	Bishop Candidates come to visit the Diocese—see meet- ing places and times on page 5 of this issue.		
21 8 AM Eucharist 9 AM Church School 10 AM Eucharist 11:15 Birthday Party Vestry Mtg	22 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	23 Evening Lenten program 6-7:30 PM	24 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	25	26	27 Quiet Morning with Mary McCullough 9:00 AM—12:30 with lunch
28 8 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist 10 AM Godly Play	29 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall					



The Episcopal Church Women will hold a bake sale in February. Please look for signs in the narthex for the exact date. Additionally, the ECW will be selling the Fisher Pot Pies in March.



THE ADVENT HERALD

The newsletter of the Church of the Advent

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT, HATBORO

12 Byberry Road
Hatboro, PA 19040

Worship

Sundays

8 o'clock Spoken Eucharist
10 o'clock Rite II Eucharist with music

Wednesday

Rite II spoken Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. followed by Bible Study

Christian Education

for adults and children: continues in January on Sunday mornings at 9 AM

Godly Play

For children ages 3 through 2nd grade and is conducted on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month
Godly Play meets downstairs in the Godly Play worship space.

Children are welcome at worship

Age-appropriate materials are supplied in the narthex.

Visitors are welcome at Church of the Advent

Holy Communion is open to all who seek a closer relationship to God.

Coffee and conversation

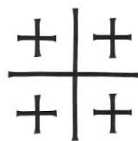
are available Sundays after both services for those able to stay and enjoy this fellowship.

Our building is handicapped accessible

with a ramp at Rorer Avenue entrance and a handicapped accessible rest room.

Mission Statement of the Congregation

We celebrate God's love in Christ. We live faithfully in the Episcopalian tradition of shared worship, fellowship, and service. We proclaim God's reconciling love in our community and the world.



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016