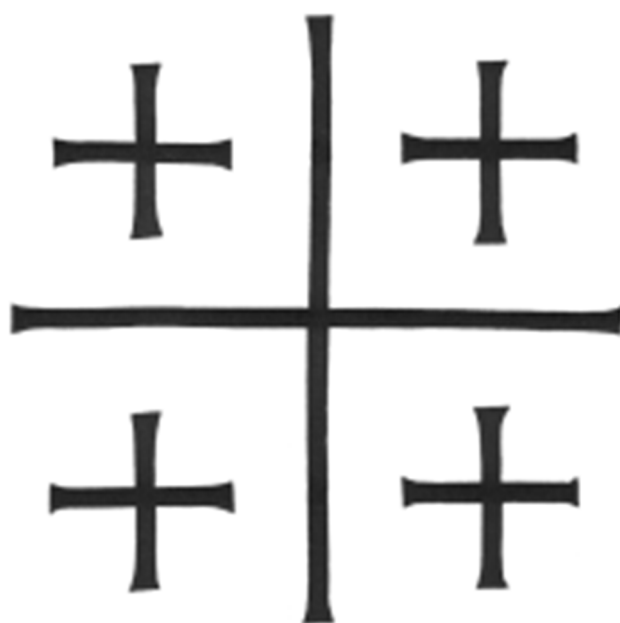


Church of the Advent

Hatboro, PA



2016 Annual Meeting

Sunday May 1st

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voices,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us!
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

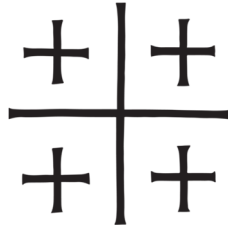
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
 With ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,

who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 eternal, Triune God, whom earth and heaven adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ever more.

Church of the Advent Annual Meeting Agenda May 1, 2016

1. Blessing Prayer—after all have collected their Brunch. *Please don't wait for the prayer to begin eating!*
2. Gathering song: *Now thank we all our God* (see facing page)
3. Voting for the 2016 Slate of Vestry/Diocesan Delegate Candidates:
For Vestry: Jeanne Bernosky, Janet Gilman, Jean Scherfcunningham, Lyn Werner
For Diocesan/Deanery Delegate: Ken Longman
4. Business of the day
 - a. Gratitude for retiring vestry members
 - b. Approval of 2015 minutes
 - c. Financial Report
5. Getting to know us activity: OUR QUESTIONS ARE
6. Planning for Follow-up
6. Final song: *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*



The Jerusalem Cross
Fear not for I am with you

The cross that we use in our publications is the artwork of Rudolph Koch (1878-1934), a German type designer who was a master of lettering, calligraphy, typography and illustration. Appearing in his book entitled *Christian Symbols*, the Jerusalem Cross is #107 of 158 plates reproduced. The artist's wish was for his art to be available for use by scholars, churches, designers, and artists.

I chose this cross as representative of the life of a Christian community: we are called to gather around Christ and, by the work of the Holy Spirit, to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. To me it is a powerful symbol of all that we are called to be as a Christian faith community. ---Lynn+

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES: MAY 3, 2015

- I. **Lynn Hade** opened the meeting at 10:34 a.m.
- II. **Introduction of New Vestry Members:** **Karl New** explained that per the by-laws of the church, floor nominations for Vestry or Diocesan/Deanery Representative on the day of the election are not permitted. The Nominating Committee put forth to the Vestry four candidates to fill the four open slots on the Vestry; and one person nominated to fill one slot as Diocesan Delegate/Deanery Representative. A motion was made by **Karl New** to elect all vestry candidates by acclamation. The motion was seconded by **Bruce Nicholson**. The motion passed. The vote was not unanimous, but did pass by a large majority. Elected to the Vestry were: **Sherry Eichert, Beverly Harvey, Barbara LaRue, and Rob Kavash**. A motion was made by **Karl New** to elect our Diocesan Delegate/Deanery Representative candidate by acclamation. The motion was seconded by **Donna Bennett**. The motion passed. The vote was not unanimous, but did pass by a large majority. Elected as Diocesan Delegate/Deanery Representative was **Joanne Mills**.
- III. **Expression of Gratitude for Retiring Vestry Members:** Lynn Hade thanked the Vestry members that have completed their terms: Sharon Dippre, Stan Klotzbach, Rob Kavash (who was re-elected) Barbara Johnson (Diocesan Delegate and Deanery Representative) and Karl New (finishing his term as Rector's Warden.) Karl commented that it was an honor to serve as the rector's warden and that he is amazed by what we can do as a group.
- IV. **Minutes of the 2014 Annual Parish Meeting:** There were no corrections to the minutes. A motion to file the minutes with secretarial privilege was made by **Linda Nicholson** and seconded by **Barbara Johnson**. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Financial Report:** Accounting Warden **Rob Kavash** began by noting that last year the annual meeting focused on the Building the Advent of Tomorrow campaign. The response was tremendous. We are in good financial shape. The BAT response enabled us to form the budget including provisions for a full term rector. Rob highlighted the written report. Gerry Lattuca asked about the dramatic increase in our total assets. Rob explained that the restricted cash funds increased significantly last year. The BAT campaign brought in \$15,000.
- VI. **Lyn Werner** was announced as the rector's warden for the next year.
- VII. **Lynn Hade** answered questions submitted at the meeting by those in attendance. She periodically answered some of these during the remaining portion of the meeting.
- VIII. **Lynn Hade** asked those in attendance to attach their copied information from the church register to a large church timeline. The large timeline included details about the church's history. Lynn explained that before the church makes decisions about its future, it is important to learn the details of its past.
- IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. with a closing hymn.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Stoddart, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Rector's Message

Looking Back, Looking Forward

Happy New Year! It seems odd to say that on the first of May, but it is at the annual meeting that we look at the year just past and begin to prepare for the coming year. This past year has been a year of organizing our common life and our 'stuff.' We have a new closet so that the narthex is less cluttered, and new paint and furnishings to brighten it up. Finishing the chapel windows by painting the interior and installing new latches is on our radar screen. Much needed exterior painting began last fall and will continue this spring and summer. But sprucing up our space has been only a part of the work of the past year.

Caring for the people of Advent has also been an area that has been the focus of time and energy.

- Caritas, our lay pastoral care ministry, has been meeting to discuss the pastoral needs of the parish and determine how to best use our resources to meet those needs.
- We continue to consider how to best meet the spiritual needs of our youngest members and this year began to plan a service that is more kid friendly for the 3rd Sunday of the month.
- Our vestry has been learning about trends in church attendance nationally and thinking about how to factor this information into planning for the life of Church of the Advent.

The coming year will hold more change.

- Our Outreach committee has undertaken a wonderful project in offering a summer day camp. Our hope is to provide an enjoyable experience of Christian community for our own kids at Advent, while inviting new friends to join us in the fun. Our time will be enhanced when we are joined by children from several other parishes in the diocese, including some children from Latino communities of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.
- As mentioned above, work on the chapel will continue.
- If there is sufficient support from the parish, I hope that in the fall we will be able to host occasional activities designed to meet the needs of those in the Hatboro area who count themselves among the "spiritual but not religious."

Speaking of Change

Change, change, change! "Change is the one constant in life," wrote one ancient philosopher. Part of being a church in the 21st century is to experience change. There may well be some changes that you don't like. In fact, there probably already are. But, maybe those very same changes are welcome changes to another person. Such is life in a community. Living together as unique humans is always a matter of give and take.

Part of my job as a leader is to, as best as I can, make sure the changes are intentional, made to address a specific need, and always well within the teachings and practices of the Episcopal Church. Because our own tradition is so broad, it may be that even practices that are 'normal' in other parishes will feel quite strange here. I pick and choose among those practices to select those that I feel will be most helpful to our life together as a parish. I hope that we can use the questions generated by the parish for this meeting to explain some of the changes that have, or have not, been made this past year.

Finally, this year **Chris Gilman** and **Linda McGuigan-Miller** finish their vestry terms. Please join me in thanking them for their years of service.

continued next page →

Average Sunday Attendance:

Part of looking back at the end of the year needs to include looking at numbers. While Rob Kavash has shared financial numbers, here are some other numbers that are also important to share.

Like most churches across the nation, our average Sunday attendance has consistently dropped over the past years. There are many, many reasons this is happening and understanding the trend is beyond the scope of this parish report.* At Advent, our ASA has dropped again, but not as drastically as it has in previous years.

Here are the statistics at Advent for the past 10 years.

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
ASA	134	143	128	121	115	122	117	106	95	84	78

In the coming year, the vestry and other leaders of the parish will continue to talk about how our changing average Sunday attendance can factor into decisions we make about where to put our time, money and hearts as the parish of Church of the Advent.

*Factors range from declining birth rates to church attendance no longer being a sign of a person's being a 'good' person.' And, many, many other reasons in between. For more information, see Lynn Hade for reading materials or to schedule a conversation to learn more.

Lynn+

Rector's Warden's Report

It seems that spring is really here this time. There is something about the longer hours of daylight and the green of new grass and leaves that energizes and excites me. Somehow work is easier. Challenges more manageable.

The Vestry started the work of 2015 with a Friday night and Saturday retreat at Trinity, Ambler. We ate together and got to know each other better. Then we began to study trends, statistics from studies of all mainline churches. We began to look at the challenges facing churches in the twenty-first century.

Back at Advent, we began to discuss and plan for the future. You have seen and heard many of the results of these discussions – painting and updating the Narthex – plans for increased use of the Chapel - a summer day camp.

Advent will continue to face challenges and changes as we move forward. Energy and excitement are contagious. The Vestry and the congregation will need to work together and catch some of the excitement that can come with doing a new thing. Together in faith, we can step into our future.

Submitted by Lyn Werner

ACCOUNTING WARDEN'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 12/31/2015

Overall 2015 was a year in which the Church of the Advent maintained its generally good financial health with total asset levels essentially unchanged from the prior year.

The period for the Transition, during which we were ably served by Lou as a part time interim rector, enabled us to build up our assets somewhat. Financially the Church of the Advent ended the Transition in 2014 and entered 2015 with Lynn as our new full time rector. As a result 2015 provided a clearer picture of what our financial outlook will be going forward. Our pledge income for the 2015 budget year was \$164,205 which was about \$9,200 less than what was ultimately pledged for 2014. By the end of 2015 an additional \$5,427 was received in pledges, which closed that shortfall with a total of \$169,632 in pledged giving. Combined with plate giving of \$9,076 and other revenue sources, the total operating income for 2015 was \$186,446 which was essentially the same as for 2014. Coupled with a small increase in expenditures, we realized a net operating loss of \$5,615 for 2015.

The operating loss is indicative of a trend of smaller but stabilizing levels of giving and ever increasing costs. Fortunately, due to the generosity of the parish members, this challenge was met by the Building the Advent of Tomorrow campaign which became fully implemented during the 2015 budget year. This fund enabled the Vestry to prepare and approve a budget that was balanced. Administratively the Building the Advent of Tomorrow funds are being held in reserve and will be transferred to the Operating account as needed to maintain the requisite levels for good cash flow to cover expenses. The Building the Advent of Tomorrow program is critical to our achieving a balanced budget with the level of spending that will help us in our transition into the next phase in the life and mission of the Church of the Advent.

We ended 2015 with total assets (excluding real estate) of \$412,619. This is a very slight decrease from December 2014 of \$987.

Operating Expense totaled \$192,061 divided as shown below. A new budget line item for Technology Infrastructure was initiated in 2015 and is under Office. This is for the purpose of maintaining and upgrading computers, phones, internet presence, etc. to improve our efficiency, communication capability, and visibility.

Payroll	\$123,835	64.5%
Buildings & Grounds	\$33,163	17.3%
Outreach	\$15,968	8.3%
Office	\$9,689	5.0%
Program	\$8,802	4.6%
Designated Expense	\$604	0.3%

Building Improvement Fund

For the year the assets in the Building Improvement Fund decreased by \$755. There were a number of small improvement projects but no major capital projects during 2015. The activity is outlined below:

Opening Balance	\$50,652
Pledges	\$5,886
Gifts / Memorials	\$4,865
Interest	\$81
Expenditures	(\$11,587)
Closing Balance	\$49,897

Restricted Cash

For the year our restricted accounts had a combined decrease of \$4,346 and both accounts ended the year with capital losses (unrealized). Restructuring of the CC Young Fund has enable us to benefit from a significantly greater annual distribution than was previously realized.

	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>CC Young</u>
Opening Balance	\$202,111	\$56,832
Capital Gains/Losses	(\$9,956)	(\$316)
Earnings	\$7,437	\$1,041
Distributions	-	(\$2,285)
Fees	(\$80)	(\$187)
Ending Balance	\$199,512	\$55,085

Cash Balance

We ended 2015 with total cash of \$158,022 and no outstanding liabilities. Our cash balances by account are shown below. Giving to the Building the Advent of Tomorrow Campaign accounts for \$21,724 of the funds in the Fellowship Accounts.

Checking Account-TD Bank	\$45,345
CD's-Hatboro Federal	<u>\$20,709</u>
Total Operating Funds	\$66,054
Fellowship Accounts-TD Bank	\$39,529
BIF Money Market-Hatboro Federal	\$48,938
BIF Checking-Hatboro Federal	<u>\$959</u>
Total BIF	\$49,897
ECW	\$1,394
Men of Advent	\$1,148
Total Cash	\$158,022

An internal audit for the year 2014 was not completed. We are planning to conduct internal audits for both 2014 and 2015 this year. *Submitted by Robert W. Kavash, Accounting Warden*

MINISTRY AREA REPORTS

Altar Guild The Altar Guild is a group of laypersons who set God's table for worship, not just for Sunday services but also for weekday services and special services and events like weddings, funerals and community worship services.

Current altar guild members are: **Jeanne Bernosky, Maryann Cannon, Sharon Dippre, Jackie Freeman, Janet Gilman, Nancy Gleich, Barbara Johnson, Henrietta Kiel, Kathy Lawson, Susan Magill, Bernadette Marass, Linda Rose, Lynn Sinclair, Aylis Wolf.** Altar linens are maintained by **Nancy Gleich, Henrietta Kiel, Kathy Lawson, and Jeanne Bernosky.**

A funeral urn pall was purchased to place over cremated remains during a funeral service. The funds used to purchase this were donated by Bobbi DeDeo in memory of her mother, Lorraine Geissler.

Tony Lawson continues to assist with metal work repairs when called on. I am grateful for Tony's skills and willingness to do repairs.

New members are always welcome! Orientation is provided! You can discuss joining this service with any current member or contact me at 215-322-0195 or jeannebernosky@gmail.com if interested in serving God and Advent in this way. *Submitted by Jeanne Bernosky*

Chapel Ministry As Janet Gilman wrote in the Outreach report, the chapel ministry is on the radar screen for further outreach to the community. The Outreach committee has dedicated some of their outreach monies to continue to rehabilitation of that space so that it is a more inviting space for those in our community who consider themselves 'spiritual but not religious' have a safe space to grow their relationship with God.

This year, we have worked to make the times when the chapel is open more apparent by the purchase of an 'open' flag. This allows our volunteers to open and close that chapel at times that work better with their own personal schedules. The new sign issues an invitation to visit the chapel, and it is in both English and Spanish, indicating a welcome to those who do not read English as their first language. In the coming year we hope to get the window latches fixed so that windows can be opened in the summer. We also hope to add comfortable seating, and reading materials that visitors might find interesting and helpful as they come to spend time in our beautiful space.

To support this ministry, we are seeking the following help:

Would you be willing to take a turn at opening or closing the chapel? If so, let Lynn Hade or Barbara Johnson know.

Are you good at painting? The interior of the chapel windows need to be carefully painted in order to complete the work begun in 2013 to preserve the windows.

Are you good at scavenging for good quality used furniture that is in good shape? Check in with Lynn to learn what is needed and exchange cell phone numbers with her so you can text a picture to check out what you have found before you purchase it.

Hospitality your thing? If we were to run a short course on Centering Prayer for the community, would you be willing to provide simple refreshments for folks to enjoy some fellowship afterwards?

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Church School The church school year began October 4th with a four-week series of lessons each focusing on a saint and the Christian quality they possessed. Children made Anglican prayer beads and began a mosaic welcome sign in Spanish.

In November, children collected personal items for the homeless in order to help Anthony Castagna with a personal outreach project, and on the first Sunday of Advent, children made Advent wreaths. Church school sang “Go Tell it on the Mountain” during the December 20th service.

Proceeds from the annual rummage sale (held April 23rd) as well as last year’s cookie sale, will go to outreach such as St. John’s Food Pantry or the garden club that supplies the pantry with produce.

Commencement will be held on Sunday, May 15th, during the 10AM service.

Submitted by Deb Stoddart

Godly Play is a worship experience for children ages 2.5-2nd grade. It is held on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month (September through 2nd Sunday in June) during the 10 o’clock Eucharist. The children experience a modified version of a church service through song, hands-on Bible stories, prayer and a “feast.” Everyone has the opportunity to work with different materials including crayons, scissors, clay, the desert box and 3 dimensional figures depicting the stories. We have between 4 -7 children experiencing Godly Play on Sunday mornings. It has been our pleasure to work with these children.

Submitted by Janet Gilman & Kathy Lawson

Adult Formation Here are some of the highlights of Adult Christian Formation activities for 2015-2016:

- In the fall, we examined the teachings of the gospels through NOOMA, a short series of films that explore our world through the perspective of Jesus. Narrated by Rob Bell, best-selling author and former pastor, we discussed our relationship with God and the faith He has in all of us.
- During Advent/Epiphany, we explored the familiar story of Christmas as told through the gospels, with art work by John August Swanson and commentary by leading Biblical scholars.
- During Lent, we offered Journey to Easter classes on five successive Sunday mornings and Tuesday evenings. We discussed topics that included our belief in God, the complex nature of Jesus, sin and salvation, the kingdom of heaven, and prayer, while enjoying a light soup luncheon.
- In the fall and spring, we engaged in Quiet Mornings, led by Reverend Mary McCullough, to contemplate the topics of “Nurturing God’s Presence” and “Blessings in the Struggles.” Participants enjoyed a light lunch together following each session.
- Each Wednesday, a Bible study follows the 10 am Eucharist.

Submitted by Sherry Eichert

Episcopal Church Women

During the past year, the ECW sponsored the following programs with profits of:

Soup Sale	\$320.00
Bake Sale	\$210.00
Pot Pie Sale	\$297.50

Financial support was given to the following:

Seamen's Church Institute	\$100.00
Sisters of St. Margaret	\$100.00
Episcopal Church Club's Scholarship Fund	\$100.00
Child Fund International	\$351.50
(for the support of our sponsored child, Mai'Lani Blue Coat – a Native American Child)	
Blanket Month (February)	\$645.00

Three cartons of baby items were sent to our friends at St. Timothy's Mission in Kentucky.

The Episcopal Church Women thank you for your generosity and support during the past year.

Submitted by Henrietta Kiel, President

Ways and Means Each year the Ways and Means committee sponsors two luncheons: the Chicken Salad Luncheon in May which made a profit of \$1,201.00 and the Soup Luncheon in November which made a profit of \$1,127.00. The money earned from the luncheons is used for projects not funded through the Operating Budget. Thanks to all who helped make these projects a success.

Submitted by Henrietta Kiel & Marion Miller

Fellowship *"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."* Matthew 10:40

Fellowship coordinates activities that enable us to welcome each other into the life of Church of the Advent. Our purpose is to encourage members of the congregation to come together to share interests and experiences by offering opportunities to help one another & celebrate together. To this end, we coordinate with a great deal of help from you: coffee hour, receptions, breakfasts and the decorating of the church at Easter & Christmas.

There were receptions for the Easter Vigil and the Bishop's visitation on April 10th to confirm two of our youth. The Parish Breakfasts continue to be successful with help from you. We have a lot of fun not only sharing the meal but in the time spent together with those who volunteer time to help prepare and complete these events.

Coffee Hour has continued using Fair Trade Shade Grown coffees. This has been purchased through Equal Exchange a purchasing cooperative which provides the best price. Many of you have also been purchasing this coffee for your own use. Several parishioners contribute snacks and help with the set up & clean up. We recognize with appreciation the extra time that **Marilyn Zembower, Jean & Dennis Cunningham** and **John & Kathy Caughie** contribute every month to make our coffee hours so nice.

We cannot do all of this without you, the members of the congregation, who have always been so giving of your time & talents to help pull these activities together. Special thanks to all those who

regularly just pitch in whenever they see a need ---we can't possible name all of you here, and to the ECW, who can always be counted on to help with receptions.

Planning all of these activities in a timely fashion is a challenge, and we would like to welcome anyone to join us in serving our community in this way. Please feel free to talk to either Marilyn Zembower or Janet Gilman if you want to help or have ideas for events to be held.

Submitted by Marilyn Zembower & Janet Gilman

Flowers Altar Flowers continue to cost the church \$70.00 per week requiring a minimum of two donors. We encourage all to participate in remembering loved ones as a memorial or thanksgivings. The flowers are distributed each week to those who are ill or for some other reason cannot attend church and are appreciated. Thanks to **Wayne & Lynn Sinclair, Tony & Kathy Lawson, Jean Scherfcunningham, & Rob & Ellen Kavash** for carrying our greetings from the congregation on a weekly basis.

Submitted by Nancy Gleich

Nursing Home Ministry For many years, a number of dedicated volunteers from Church of the Advent have conducted a worship service at Luther Acres Personal Care Center on the 4th Sunday of the month. For the dozens of residents who attend the service, this has been a wonderful gift and blessing as they journey their last months or recover from a temporary setback. Now as our own numbers at Church of the Advent decline, and our members age, it has become difficult to staff this ministry. Therefore, it is time for us to put that ministry on hiatus as we, as a parish, continue to discern what gifts we are in the best position to offer our local community. Please join me in thanking **Barbara Johnson, Judy Murphy, Gina Driver and Teri O'Shea** for most recently representing Church of the Advent in this important ministry. *Lynn+*

Outreach The Church of the Advent continues to support many Outreach opportunities. We have given money to many different organizations including MANNA, Habitat for Humanity, ECS, St. James School and Cradles to Crayons. We have contributed money as well as food to St. John's food pantry.

October saw us participate in the annual CROP walk. We increased the number of Christmas food baskets that we donated to St. John's food pantry. Twenty five baskets were provided in December 2015. We provided gift certificates and warm fuzzies for 18 senior citizens. We continue to share Aid for Friends meals.

The purpose of our Outreach Ministry is to connect with people outside our doors. Our mission is to provide hands on opportunities for Advent's parishioners to interact with our "neighbors" outside our doors. We also provide financial assistance to people & organizations serving those in need.

In working towards our mission we have kept the Chapel open 7 days a week. To help the community know that our chapel is open we have purchased a large flag saying "OPEN" that hangs outside the chapel during the hours that it is open.

This summer Outreach is working with the Diocese of Pennsylvania to provide a one week summer day camp. We are partnering with two North Philadelphia parishes, the diocesan camp staff and parish volunteers to present "Saints and Singers." We look forward to having children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grades joining us for a week of fun. Please consider having your children join us and invite your neighbors.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in Outreach. I especially want to thank **Ellen Kavash, Crystal Finn** and **Donna McConomy** for their continued support of our Outreach Ministry. Thank you to all of the people who deliver food to St. John's. Thank you also to all of you who have contributed the food for the pantry, for Aid for Friends and for the Christmas baskets.

Please join us in any of our projects. We welcome ideas and volunteers. *Submitted by Janet Gilman*

PASTORAL CARE

Caritas and Eucharistic Visitors Caritas is our pastoral care team comprised of those who have been trained as Caritas Ministers at the Church of the Advent. The purpose of the team is to participate in meeting the pastoral caregiving needs of the people of Advent.

This ministry involves maintaining periodic contact with parishioners in need, home and hospital visits when appropriate and intentional prayer for the needs and concerns of those to whom they minister. This team works closely with the Rector, so she can provide pastoral care in times of crisis, life transitions and periodically visit those who are unable to attend church due to health or mobility.

However, if you suffer a health crisis, life crisis or any circumstances that affects your life and faith, please be in touch with the Rector or the office.

We presently have eight people serving on this team: **Maryann Cannon, Rob Kavash, Alan Kiel, Henrietta Kiel, Mary Longman, Judy Murphy, Teri O'Shea** and **Marilyn Zembower**.

Intersecting with this ministry of caring in a very significant way is the ministry of Eucharistic Visitors. Because we are a people deeply rooted in the sacraments, we take seriously making them available to those who can no longer gather with our faith community on Sundays. **Barbara Johnson, Alan Kiel and Lyn Werner** faithfully take communion monthly to those committed to their care. **Judy Murphy and Ken Longman** have recently joined this team.

If you are a member of Advent and are unable to attend church, but would like to receive communion on a regular basis, please contact the Rector to let her know of your need. *Submitted by Alan Kiel*

PROPERTY

There has been a lot of activity around the church over the past year. Last summer, the exterior sign on Byberry Road – newly painted and refurbished – was hung and the chapel doors and sign posts were painted. Walking down the hallways from the parish hall to the church you will notice freshly painted walls, new ceiling tiles and a cozy and inviting narthex. You may also notice the absence of the pitter patter of little feet above you, as we contracted someone to help eliminate our squirrel problem. The old organ console near the chapel was removed and a spacious storage closet was built in its place. A safe was installed to secure our Sunday offerings. There are also a few projects that are currently underway including the repair of a step to the parish hall from the Byberry road entrance and replacing a window that is ground level below the library. There is also the ongoing maintenance of keeping our space well lighted and clean, both inside and out.

Submitted by Linda McGuigan-Miller

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Ministers of the Service & Volunteers It takes many to prepare and carry out the tasks and duties associated with worship. In order for a Sunday service to occur, the following are needed to assist with worship: Altar Guild, Acolytes, Readers and Prayer Leaders, Chalice Bearers and our Vergers. Many thanks to **Joanne Mills** who is coordinating the ROTA scheduling each month.

Music Program

In the wake of the departure of our former music director, the music program at Advent began its program year without a new organist and director at the helm. **Barbara Johnson** stepped in to lead our choir with a variety of supply organists sharing their talents with us while we looked for a new, permanent director of music. We are extremely grateful to Barbara for her willingness and her service.

Gavin McIlhinney joined us literally on Christmas Eve to play his first service as our new director of music. Our adult choir, under his direction, continues to sing each Sunday, rehearsing on Wednesday evenings. The choir includes **Barbara and Gail Johnson, Henrietta Kiel, Lauren and Heidi New, Teri O'Shea, Maureen Roberts, Chris Walton, and Lyn Werner**. New members are always welcome! See Gavin. Or just join us for rehearsals at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays September through May.

Bell Choir

The Bell Choir rang at Christmas and Easter. Special thanks to those who have participated in the hand bell choir this year: **Diane Bernosky, Gina Driver, Sharon Kress, Barbara Johnson, Lauren New and Teri O'Shea and Emily Kress**. We look forward to continuing to ring for special services throughout the year.
Submitted by Barbara Johnson

VESTRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Lyn Werner, *Rector's Warden*, Rob Kavash, *Accounting Warden*
Sherry Eichert, *Clerk of the Vestry*

John Caughie, Christopher Gilman, Janet Gilman,
Beverly Harvey, Henrietta Kiel, Barbara Walker La Rue,
Linda McGuigan-Miller, Deb Stoddart, Marilyn Zembower

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Lynn A. Hade, *Rector*
Karen Richter, *Parish Administrator*
Gavin McIlhinney, *Director of Music*

CLOSING SONG

Voices Found - #142 Bless now

A piano introduction for the song 'Bless now'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody in the treble staff starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff provides a simple accompaniment with quarter notes G2, B1, and C2.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. Above the staff are four chords: C, G, Bm, and Em. The melody consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5.

1 Bless now, O God the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way—
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. Above the staff are four chords: C, G, Bb, and Am. The melody consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5.

the path thru noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 whose hope burns through out the ter - rors whose love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for land of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. Above the staff are five chords: D, C, G, Am, and F. The melody consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5.

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom, while of - ten we are bound.
 But wait - ing not for pla - ces— you meet us all a - round.

A musical staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. Above the staff are five chords: C, G, Am, Dsus4-3, and G. A first ending bracket labeled '1. 2.' spans the last two measures. The melody consists of quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 To - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the Hatboro Federal Savings Bank
and its new president Linda Roehner
for their generous gift of snow removal
from our walkways this past winter.

THANKS TO THOSE MAKING TODAY POSSIBLE

To Dave and Cindy Cooper for providing child care workers to keep our kids safe and busy.

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To Henrietta Kiel who organized the casseroles.

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To all who provided the fruit salad and sweets.

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To all who helped set up and tear down the hall.
We couldn't do this without your help!

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To Karen Richter for producing this parish report.

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If I have forgotten anyone, my apologies are given and your forgiveness is requested.

Lynn +