

The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Nurtured by Worship

Fed by Fellowship

Strengthened for Service

January/February Herald

Happy winter, everybody!

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Reviewing a Year of Blessings

The work was often quietly done, without much fanfare, so it would be easy to miss the many accomplishments of the year that has just past. But they are too wonderful to just let them go un-noticed.

It can be risky to begin naming names – lest someone be forgotten, but wouldn't it be sad if we missed thanking people at all? So, I, with a little trepidation, have put together the following list of accomplishments of 2016, in thanksgiving for all the blessings we have been given. If my mind slipped and I forgot someone or something important, please be sure to let me know. Let no good deed go unnoticed!

Winter: We really spruced things up in the narthex and accompanying spaces. A troop of painters and all-around muscle contributed to the effort.

Thanks go to:

- **Aylis and George Wolf** for painting the handicapped bathroom in the hallway.
- **Connor Klotzbach, Deb Stoddart and Dave Walton** for cleaning the carpet.
- **Heidi, Lauren and Karl New, Linda McGuigan Miller, Martin Bowman and Anthony Castagna** with help in painting and installing new ceiling tile.
- **John Caughie, Bruce and Linda Nicholson, Deb Stoddart** for help with painting.
- **John Caughie and Tony Lawson** worked together to provide a larger, secure mailbox.

Spring: We began planning for the future in several significant ways. **Karl New, Alan and Hennie Kiel, Bruce Nicholson, Marilyn Zembower and Lyn Werner**, as former wardens, met to learn more about cultural and historical factors that affect church growth and decline and consider how that information can be helpful in planning for the future of Advent. As a result of their leadership, we have hired Rev. Bob Tate to consult with us about parish renewal.

Word cloud containing the following names: Deb, Maureen, Aylis, Alan, Karl, Heidi, Lauren, Bruce, Hennie, Jean, Dennis, Linda, DaveW, DaveC, Stan, Barbara, Betty, George, John, Carl, Chuck, Anthony, Lyn, Fred, Conner, Marilyn, Janet, Sue, Kathleen, Martin, Drew, Cindy, Eileen.

The maintenance of our exterior and grounds was assessed and areas that need to be addressed identified. The vestry considered and voted on funding exterior painting and some landscaping changes.

As usual, several key figures were involved in keeping us looking good: **Jean Scherfcunningham and Dennis Cunningham** for watering our new sod. **Karl, Lauren and Heidi New** deserve special kudos for their help in both the spring and the summer with outdoor property care. Others came in on spring clean up day and got us started for the season. In the fall, **Eileen Johnston, Dave Walton and Kathleen Caughie** helped the usual suspects clean up all the leaves that had fallen, and we even got many bulbs planted for our enjoyment in the spring.

- **John Caughie and Dennis Cunningham** installed posts for banners
- **Drew Dippre** kept our ivy bed weeded this summer, until new sod was installed.
- In the fall, **Chuck Jay and Sue Finney** built a new, safe and good-looking step outside the Byberry entrance to the Parish Hall.

Summer saw us offering our first-ever City Camp, which we called “Saints and Singers”. Attendance may have been low, but enthusiasm was high and the kids had a blast. The counselors provided by the diocese were great. Thanks go to all who were here daily to provided support: **Aylis Wolf, Janet Gilman and Deb Stoddart, and to Stan Klotzbach** for his last minute help with our downstairs lighting. Thanks also go to those parishioners who entertained the counselors for dinner: **Dennis Cunningham and Jean Scherfcunningham, Maureen Roberts, Dave and Cindy Cooper, Alan and Hennie Kiel**, and to those who supplied goodies for the end of session celebration.

We have discovered the hospitality talents of **Betty Cummings** and **Fred Abbonizio**, who helped enliven 2 social events last fall. We hear there is more to come...

Maureen Roberts is helping make our library more user friendly

Late summer saw us transition to a new model for Sunday morning music, as Gavin McIlhinney moved out of his role as music director and **Barbara Johnson** began working with me on worship planning. I am very pleased with our current arrangement, which utilizes our parish music talent while still connecting us to our Anglican heritage of organ music. **Carl Gedeik**, an accomplished organist, has agreed to play our organ about 2 Sundays per month, plus holidays, for the foreseeable future. Carl is retired from fulltime music involvement and doesn't want an every Sunday gig, so this is a perfect arrangement for him and for us. The frosting on the cake is that Carl is a pretty neat guy and he really likes us, too!



Ash Wednesday Services

March 1, 2017

12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

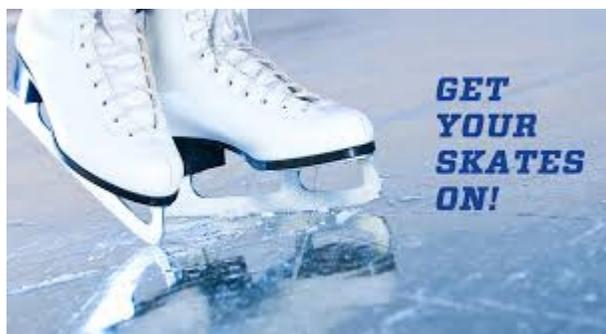
Join us as we begin the journey through the season of Lent with the imposition of ashes.



Life Together

Rev. Lynn celebrates Christmas with some of our younger members—Madison, Kathleen, Reid, and Nathan.

This is the Christingle ceremony that takes place at the end of the 7:00 service.



Montgomery Deanery Skating Event

Sunday, March 5th from 2:40-4:40 p.m.

Hatfield Ice Arena, 350 County Line Road, Chalfont, PA

Cost: \$7.00 admission & \$3.00 skate rental.

Our Advent kids will attend for free as long as you are signed up on the bulletin board outside of Lynn's office.

No charge if you are only going to watch!

Come out for an afternoon of ice skating and fellowship for your whole family.



SOUP SALE

It comes once a year at the end of January. Support the Episcopal Church Women by buying a quart of soup for \$6.00. The soup will be on sale January 29th. You are also welcome to make some soup of your own to go on sale. Containers are available in the parish hall. Any questions? Please talk to Henrietta Kiel.

Renewal at Advent

Over the past 18 months the leadership of Church of the Advent has begun to consider how best to move forward into the next years of her life. Beginning in the summer of 2015, the vestry began learning about the many challenges and opportunities for parishes our size. Last spring, I met with former senior wardens to include them in the conversation and seek their support in discovering how best to move into our future together. It was as a result of that meeting that the vestry decided to explore working with the Rev. Bob Tate as a parish consultant. Many of you learned of this decision, and met Bob at our fall 'welcome back' event.

I am pleased to announce that a small team has been identified and invited to work with Bob, and that they will begin meeting with him early next month. It will be the task of this team to prayerfully consider how best to move forward into a renewed future. As this team works together they will regularly update the vestry of their discoveries, insights and suggestions and together the vestry and I will keep the parish informed.

Please join me in welcoming Bruce Nicholson (chair), Maryann Cannon, Eileen Johnston, Karl New and Teri O'Shea to this new role of their own ministry at Church of the Advent. Please also keep the work of this team, and the individual members of the team in daily prayer as they undertake this important and exciting work.

— Lynn

SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE



WELL, DID YOU?

*Did you clean out your closet?
Did you find some warm, clean clothes?
Did you bring them in to church?
Before the collection close.*

*Or did you procrastinate?
With, I will do it next week,
Not thinking how the weather
Is getting more and more bleak.*

*For us to clothe the seamen
We can't wait 'til winter's gone,
We should be doing it now
That is how God's will is done.*

*Before this month is over
Let's show them that Advent cares,
Let's make that worthy effort
Let God see that Advent shares.*

—Brian Disley



**Thank you all for baking,
sorting and buying
Christmas cookie tins.
The Church School raised
\$569 for the purchase of
replacement benches for
the Memorial Garden.
Please consider returning
your tins to the box on the
stage for future sales.**

-Deb Stoddart

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

Stop by on a Wednesday morning, beginning **January 11**, and you may see a few new faces in the parish hall, as non-native English language learners join with their teacher from Welcoming the Stranger to learn computer skills. In partnership with this faith-based, non-profit organization, Advent is opening its doors to adult immigrant and refugee students, who want to learn English, develop computer skills, and prepare for U.S. Citizenship. Please welcome our guests with a smile and a friendly "hello." For more information about this very important ministry, please take a look at the literature in the narthex or go to the WTS website at welcomingthestranger.org. Sherry Eichert can also tell you about volunteer opportunities coming up this spring.



REMINDER:

While we are re-organizing our library, as quickly as we are able, we ask that you please not donate books at this time. We'll keep you apprised of our progress.

The Bishop's Bible Challenge

Join Bishop Gutierrez and other Episcopalians as we move through 2017 reading the Bible. Here is a chance to join a conversation with our bishop and other Episcopalians.

Each day there are suggested readings, but don't feel like you must stop if you miss a few days, or don't do all the readings.

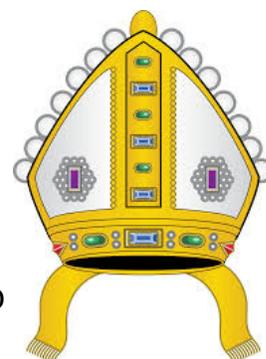
Find out more by visiting the Diocese of Pennsylvania website at:

www.diopa.org/bishops-bible-challenge/

and sign up to participate by visiting: <https://diopa.wufoo.com/forms/bishops-bible-challenge/>.

Join the Facebook discussion group at:

www.facebook.com/groups/745435452274341



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

LONG TERM PRAYER LIST

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. Is your birthday 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
- 1/2 George Wolf
- 1/4 James Palmer
- 1/12 Mac Freeman
- 1/14 Brandon Bartley
- 1/14 Christin Sawhney
- 1/15 Bernadette Marass
- 1/16 Jacqueline Freeman
- 1/20 Jean Blaha—(moved away)
- 1/21 Janet Gilman
- 1/22 Nancy Meehl
- 1/22 Patrick White
- 1/26 Adalynn Sinclair
- 1/28 Nicholas Miller
- 1/29 Nathan Bowman

Please hold these persons in your prayers:

- Gail Ballerstedt -Lynn Sinclair's request
- Julie Boyd - Catherine Wehmeyer's request
- Pat Buziak - Janet Gerhardt's request
- Lexi Cable - Beverly Rowen's request
- Adrienne Disley - Brian Disley's request
- Carla Donato - Jeanne Bernosky's request
- Heather Janzen - Trish Troilo's request
- Bob Juskelis - Maureen Roberts' request
- Janette Kauffman - Crystal Finn's request
- Matthew Knoebel - Carolyn Smith's request
- Jim Lamb - Steve & Janet Gilman's request
- Norma Lane - parishioner
- Natalie Leckerman - Lynn Sinclair's request
- Amanda Leigh - Caitlyn Gilman's request
- John Loomis - Trish Troilo's request
- Grayce McBride - parishioner
- Tom McDevitt - Trish Troilo's request
- Nancy & Bill Meehl - parishioners
- Bruno Mercuri - Bruce Nicholson's request
- Nancy Muncer - Jeanne Bernosky's sister
- Carol Nicolais - parish member
- Sergio Ortiz-Cataldi - Barbara Pitt's request
- Sabrina - Maureen Roberts' request
- Ken Sanders - Barb Pitt's son-in-law
- Christin Sawhney - parishioner
- Barbara Ann Schulte - Ruth Lazor's request
- Karen Shallcross - Jeanne Bernosky's request
- Vera Shembel - Donna Bennett's request
- Deborah Stacey - parishioner
- Noah Thome - Barbara Pitt's request
- Isabel Zimmerman - Louise Zimmerman's request

ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE

Stephen Stillman

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Name	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ	9 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	10	11 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	12	13	14
15 8 AM Eucharist 9 AM Church School 10 AM Eucharist 11:15 Birthday Party	16 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	17	18 9 AM Welcoming the Stranger 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	19 7:00 HDC	20	21
22 8 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist	23 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	24	25 9 AM Welcoming the Stranger 10 AM Eucharist & Bible Study 7:00 Mtg in Parish Hall 7:00 Choir	26	27	28
29 8 AM Eucharist 10 AM Eucharist SOUP SALE	30 7:30 PM 3rd Legacy AA in Parish Hall	31				

COMING IN FEBRUARY — Blanket Month. Look for the envelopes in the pews.



THE ADVENT HERALD

The monthly newsletter of the Church of the Advent
Delivered by e-mail

Church of the Advent, Hatboro

12 Byberry Road
Hatboro, PA 19040
215.675.5737

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

begins on October 4th

Godly Play

For children ages 3 through 2nd grade.
Conducted on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month
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

for all worship services. God's Table is open to all baptized
Christians who believe in the presence of Christ
in the bread and wine.

Coffee and conversation

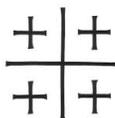
are available Sundays after both services
for those able to stay and enjoy this fellowship.

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 2017