

THE E-NNOUNCER

Church of the Advent, Nashville, Tennessee

Rector's Word

Resolutions and Law & Grace

In thinking about New Year's Resolutions, I tend to gravitate toward an internal, theological reflection (debate?) about the Apostle Paul's teaching on "law" and "grace." I tend to think of New Year's resolutions as placing us under a personal "law" requiring added determination in our lives in hopes that such determination and discipline will make us more likely to succeed. However, the opposite is more frequently the case, because there is no life-changing power in these resolutions.

In a similar way, Paul said that God used the "law" as a tutor to lead us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). And, no amount of striving to fulfill a rule, or a resolution, or even a commandment from Scripture, will ever enable us (on our own) to fulfill it in our lives. I like what David Zahl, Editor-in-Chief of the Mockingbird blog <www.mbird.com> and Director of Mockingbird Ministries, wrote about resolutions a couple of year's ago:

"Resolutions are a tricky business. All of us have things we could be doing better, right? Habits we know we should kick, ways we could improve ourselves, obvious steps to a happier, healthier life: more exercise, less TV, earlier bed-times, etc. Things which do in fact lead to a happier, healthier life.

(Continued on page 5)



December 2012 Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Men's News | 2 |
| Sunday school | |
| Epiphany Service | |
| Flower Chart | 3 |
| Coffee Minute | |
| Flash Pageant | |
| W/ Gratitude | |
| Room in the Inn | 4 |
| New Officers | 5 |
| Odds & Ends | 6 |
| Birthdays | 7 |
| Anniversaries | |
| Address Changes | |
| Care Notes | |
| Notes of Thanks | |



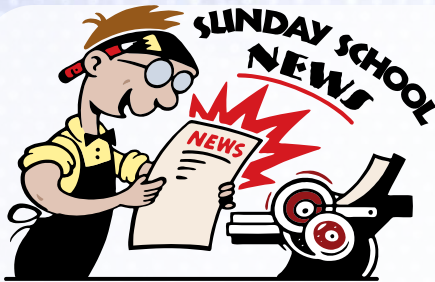
★ EXTRA! EXTRA! ★

Men's News

The men's club will meet **Saturday, January 7th at 8 a.m.** in the Parish Hall for their monthly breakfast meeting.

At their December meeting the Men's club elected new officers: Andy Milliken, President; Landy Norris, Vice-president, Gregg Conroy, Treasurer and Peter Calvert, Secretary.

The men will also gather on **Thursday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m.** for their monthly birthday celebration gathering. The location will be announced later.



All Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2012 at 9:15 a.m.

Children's Sunday school gather in the lower level of the parish hall. They welcome children from Kindergarten through eighth grades.

The study of the First Letter

of Paul to the Corinthians will continue in the library led by Larry Douglass & Tom Jurka.

On Sunday, January 8th, the Rev. Dr. Donna Scott will lead a special class on the King James Version of the Bible. We celebrate our favorite Bible from our English history of 400 years ago, As the old things pass away and we look forward to a year full of the new, Donna Scott will present an adult church school class talking about our most famous ver-

sion of the Bible, the KJV, and it's history and significance.

On Sunday, January 15th, we will continue our discussion in Classroom 4 with "More on the Bible."

On Sunday, January 22nd, we will have a class about "What really goes on at a Diocesan Convention."

On January, 29th, there will be one combined adult Sunday School class on I Corinthians.

Service Celebrating The Feast Of Epiphany

Please join us for a service celebrating the Feast of Epiphany at Church of the Advent on Sunday, January 8th at 4:00 pm. This Feast of Lights celebrates the light of Christ being brought into the world. Through readings of Scripture, wonderful music by Advent's choirs, and the

beauty of the "lights," the whole community can share the joy of this season.

Epiphany is a time for us to recall the birth of Christ as the Light of the World. Come and receive the light from the Christ candle as a symbol of Christ's Epiphany and pass it on.

Please bring your family and friends to this special service. Children love to see the Kings process down the aisle. And, please join us after the service for a wonderful reception.



The 2012 Flower Chart Is Up



The 2012 Flower Chart is now up in the Narthex. Write your name next to the Sunday you want to dedicate flowers and the reason for the dedication (in memory of...in thanksgiving for..., etc.).

Since there are occasions when a given Sunday has special meaning to more than one *Adventer*, it is ok for flowers to have more than one dedication per Sunday. A donation of \$35 to help defray costs is

payable the week of dedication (checks made out to Advent with "Altar Flowers" in the memo line).

The 2012 Coffee Minute Schedule



After the 8 & 10:30 a.m. services

Adventers meet in the Moss Room to share fellowship, coffee and a snack. If you would

like to provide a snack (donuts, cookies, cake, etc.) for a special occasion (baptism, birthday, anniversary, just for fun) or simply help out with hospitality, please notify the Vestry

member in charge of the Coffee Minute for that day. A listing of the Vestry Coffee Schedule with their contact information is available in the Moss Room, Media Center.

A Flash Pageant Hits Advent



The "impromptu" Christmas program presented by children

and youth was directed by Elizabeth Cañas. Along with her daughters Emily and Caroline, Elizabeth prepared the script and led rehearsals during the Sunday school hour during the month of December.



Please join the youth in thanking Elizabeth for making the retelling of the Christmas story so enjoyable.



The youth appreciate all the support shown by the members of Church of the Advent at the Stockholders' Dinner on December 4th.

There were about 50 guests who enjoyed the delicious food prepared by the youth, with the "assistance" of Tina Tsui and Pat Grace. The youth who attended last year's mission trip to North Carolina presented a program indicating they worked hard, learned a lot and are eager to

return next summer. The \$1000 in donations from the dinner and silent auction will be applied toward the 2012 mission trip.

Future fundraising projects will be provided to allow participation by as many of Church of the Advent's youth as possible.

Room In The Inn: A Ministry Of love

The Church of the Advent entertained 11 men as part of the Room In The Inn Ministry on December 3-4, 2011 at the St. Luke's Community Center. The volunteer turnout for the evening was impressive, with respect to both the serving and fellowship portion and the stay over until the next morning.

A tasty dinner was served to the guests including several pots of homemade chili, corn-bread, and soft drinks. After a restful night of sleep, the men were served breakfast and given bag lunches for the day, and a special Christmas gift of bags of candy to take with them as they faced the world again.

The turnout by the members of Advent was instrumental in the success which we achieved. When you think of the objective of the Room In The Inn Ministry several goals could come to mind, with the goal of feeding and housing the homeless being the first. But if you considered the real goal of the ministry, it is more than a bit of food, a mattress or a place to shower and shave. The goal is to love; with love



being manifest in the form of the food, shelter, and clothing. The material gifts given to the homeless men by us fade, and it is doubtful that many, if any, of our guests, remembered the chili I prepared, no matter how much pride I took in my recipe. What I would imagine that lingers in the memories of the men are the smiles, jokes, respect and simple dignity of being treated as a human being, with no judgment or condemnation for whatever mistakes they might have made.

This humanization is best demonstrated by the children who participate. In my experience, the men really warm to interaction with the children who attend. One might imagine during the course of daytime activities, most parents would shield their children from the man or woman on the street, as they keep a close grip on their children, and not without some justification. But in the context of the Room In The Inn Mission, the men have a chance

The Room in the Inn Ministry is asking for donations of twin size blankets. They have an immediate need for at least six.

to visit with families, and for a moment at least, have a chance to be taken into a family for fellowship. This is why participation from the average member of Advent is so important. You don't have to cook, you don't need to expend money, or even stay the night-although Sunday morning cleanup this month certainly went a whole lot better than most, thanks to the extra bodies that stayed overnight. While those acts of service are needed and certainly important, they pale in the most basic act and the most crucial: love.

Come join us this month on January 7, 2012. Bring your family, and treat these men as you would guests in your home. You may find them to be the most grateful guests you have ever encountered, and you may find yourself to be the most blessed host you could possibly imagine.

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

(Continued from page 1) Rector's Word

Zahl continues...

But everyone knows that New Year's resolutions, despite their attractiveness, seldom achieve what they promise. Maybe we lack the willpower to keep up new routines over the long haul, or maybe the resistance proves too great. Or maybe we drive ourselves hard enough to reach our goals, only to find the satisfaction doesn't last; it turns into self-righteousness or gets replaced with another, more difficult goal immediately. Whatever the case, like most attempts to "take control of our lives", New Year's resolutions tend not to work.



So this year, I thought I'd resolve not to make any more resolutions! Sadly, I've already failed... Hopefully you're doing better."

David's friend and my fellow Board Member at Rock the World, Drake Richey, has a great take on the whole phenomenon:

"This year, my resolution is to 'Do a little bit less than I did last year and maybe even do it a little less well.' I want to be content with not being the best. And I want to be content with not doing everything that I can. I want to supplant my natural Army-instinct of 'Be all that you can be' with what Jesus tells Paul, 'My grace is sufficient for you.' I think it's a good resolution (or anti-resolution) because it usually isn't me who slows myself down - that's where God comes in."

For 2012, Ephesians 2:8,9 strikes the right note - "For by grace you have been saved by faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works that no one should boast."

Happy New Year! In Christ, Tom H.

NEW OFFICERS

At Church of the Advent's 153rd Annual Parish Meeting Church of the Advent thanked outgoing Vestry members: Landy Norris, Paula Taylor, and

Christian Niemeyer and elected Bill Ballard, Agenia Clark, Joe Collins, Oliver McIntyre and Stuart Nicholson.

At their December Vestry meeting the new Vestry

elected as officers: Frank Field, Senior Warden; Phocian Sampson, Junior Warden; Gregg Conroy, Treasurer. Anoosh Howser will serve as clerk again this year.

▶▶ Odds & Ends ▶▶

- A sign up poster to usher at the

8:00 a.m. services through March is in the narthex. We need two volunteers each Sunday. Thank you for your gift of time.

- The Chapter of the Holy Spirit will **NOT** meet in January. They will resume in February.
- Mark your calendars!!! The Annual Advent Spring Retreat is scheduled for **March 23-25, 2012** at St. Mary's in Sewanee.
- Convenient, pre-addressed & dated 2012 offering envelopes are available in the Narthex. **Remember*, if you place cash in the envelope you must put your name on the envelope or we won't know it is from you.
- Statements for 2011 will be

mailed late January. The Bookkeeper asks everyone to check their statements for accuracy (don't wait until tax time); remember to turn in receipts; get a stock form from the church office if donating stock or proceeds from the sale of stock to Advent.

- Adult Handbells rehearsals resume on Tuesday, January 3rd at 7 p.m.
- Adult Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, January 4th at 7:07 p.m.
- For the month of December Advent donated 50 pounds of food to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Thanks Advent!
- Advent adopted **10 families and 10 seniors for a total of 53 people** who's Christmas was blessed by your generosity! Thanks Advent!
- Security Alarm Reminders: Check that the building is empty and all doors are

locked—don't assume either. The green "ready" light must be lit & all doors must be closed to set the alarm. You may ignore the orange "trouble" light.

- Prayer Time is held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All welcome.
- Holy Communion is available Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All Welcome.
- The first Sunday of every month is Nametag Sunday (but feel free to wear yours *every* Sunday).
- If you would like to include an article in the Announcer, please remember the deadline is the 3rd Monday.
- Send us your e-mail address to stay informed! Receive the monthly newsletter and pastoral updates via e-mail.



May God make your year a happy one!
 Not by shielding you from all sorrow and pain,
 But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;
 Not by making your path easy,
 But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
 Not by taking hardships from you,
 But by taking fear from your heart;
 Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
 But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
 Not by making your life always pleasant,
 But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
 and by making you anxious to be there to help.
 God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.
 — Author unknown

- 2 Samantha Baggett
- 2 Mai Kelton
- 5 Elissa Stobaugh
- 5 Marcia Tenison
- 6 Ethan Bannister
- 8 David Dixon
- 8 Wyatt Jackson
- 9 Rachel Goodman
- 10 William Howard
- 10 Samuel McIntyre
- 11 Kathy Watney
- 12 Patricia Grace
- 12 Sam Gregory
- 12 Zena Jackson
- 13 Paul Baggett
- 13 John Stokes
- 14 Jean Nicholson
- 15 Jean Jones
- 15 Patricia Wynn
- 17 Sara Hamill
- 18 Mike Senna
- 20 Pat Iannacone
- 20 George Shwab
- 22 Tom Hotchkiss
- 23 Ashley Dozier
- 23 Mari O'Neill
- 28 Maxine Kelly
- 29 Rosemary Kelley
- 30 George Kelley
- 30 Paula Taylor
- 31 Caroline Cañas
- 31 Duncan Hannah



15 George & Maxine Kelly
26 James & Deborah Atkinson



Bill & Sue Kurtz
2073 Roderick Circle
Franklin, TN 37064

Care Notes

- ♥ We mourn the loss of Bill Parsons who died November 10th. Our prayers of sympathy are extended to Andrea, his wife and his entire extended family.
- ♥ We mourn the loss of Ruth "Mickey" Griffith who died December 17th. Our prayers of sympathy are extended to Ruth's children and her extended family.

Note Of Thanks

To my many friends of Advent: Thank you for your outpouring of love and prayers during the difficult days following the death of "My Bill". It reminds me once again that the Church of the Advent is found in the hearts of the people who worship within the walls of the "little white church on the hill",

Lovingly,
Andrea Parsons



Vestry

Bill Ballard, Agenia Clark,
Joe Collins, Barbara Jones,
Bobbie Krieger, Oliver McIntyre,
Stuart Nicholson, Jerry Rice,
Flora Ukoli, Anne Williams

Men's Club

President-Andy Milliken
Vice-President-Landy Norris
Treasurer-Gregg Conroy
Secretary-Peter Calvert

ECW Leadership Council

Bishop's Guild-Vickie Markham
Fellowship-Delaniah Bringle
Outreach-Lynn Conroy
Parish Meals-Joan Vollmer
Prayer Ministry-Anoosh Howser
Treasurer-Betty Douglass

Staff

Bookkeeper-Lisa Gaines
Music Director-Waldemar Wensell
Office Administrator-Tina Cozby

Rector

The Rev. Thomas S. Hotchkiss

Lay Assistant for Youth & Young Adults Ministry

Lynne Walker

Officers

Senior Warden

Frank Field

Junior Warden

Phocian Sampson

Treasurer

Gregg Conroy