

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 14, Issue 04

Sharing Christ's Love, We Are A Welcoming, Caring, Serving Community. Come and See.

Summer 2012



Advent Lutheran Church
2222 S. Arlington Ridge Rd
Arlington, VA 22202
703-521-7010
adventlc@hotmail.com
www.adventlc.us

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bible Study 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am
(Sunday School returns in Fall)

Pastor
Rev. Anna Anderson

President
Debbie Lewis

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

Nursery Attendant
Roxie Jairrels

Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer

 **Find us on Facebook**
at www.facebook.com/adventarlington

What's Inside

Birthdays Page 07
Children's Page Page 10
Council Highlights Page 02

From the Pastor

Changes *in* Store?

Maybe.
Possibly.



Explaining idea behind re-structuring council

**Council will
evaluate if
new structure
works best
for our small
congregation**

June! Besides pools and picnics and year-end celebrations, we at Advent close a "year" and begin another. We had our Annual Meeting on June 10, and our newly elected leaders will take office on July 1, all in accordance with our Constitution. In this political year we hear a lot about the rules and regulations as laid out in our US Constitution, and at our meeting, we had references to our Congregational Constitution. Churches tend to try to operate by consensus rather than by harsh legalisms, because we

(Continued on page 5)

Highlights from the June meeting



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Ingrid Berdahl

The following elected/appointed leaders were installed on Sunday, June 17:

President	Debbie Lewis
Vice-President	Greg Maly
Secretary	Desiree Jessimy
Financial Secretary	Paul Hetzer
Treasurer	Ellie Holsopple
Deacons	Jeff Campbell, Gerry Fuller, Evie Lynn, John Matzner, Linda Vilardo
Finance Minister	Rensford Lovell
Property Minister	Georges Toth
Landscape Minister	Ingrid Berdahl
Nominating Committee	Marilyn Falksen and Nancy Jairrels
Trustees	David Falksen, Lynn Juhl, and Ingrid Berdahl

Ellie Holsopple, Desiree Jessimy, Paul Hetzer, Rensford Lovell, Georges Toth and Ingrid Berdahl were appointed by the Council to their positions.

A leadership retreat is slated for August 4th.

A three-person audit team needs to be appointed to audit Advent's records after the close of the fiscal year on June 30th. Receipts in May exceeded disbursements by \$554, leaving the General Fund with a balance of \$16,848 at the end of the month. The Council voted to direct donations from building users from the Building Use Fund to the Building Transformation Fund. Those donations will be used to help reduce the mortgage loan balance.

There will be no Vacation Bible School this year, but planning for VBS in the summer of 2013 will begin in January of 2013.

Planning is underway for a Fall Festival to be held at Advent on Saturday, October 21st. Planning is also underway for organizing and displaying Advent's library. Landscape Minister Ingrid Berdahl will make a proposal to the Council in July for landscaping in the rear of the church.

*Jesus, as we gather to worship you, help us value your gifts as signs
that direct us to you and the life you give. We bless you today!*

President's Retrospective

If I were to splice together a highlight film from Advent's past 12 months, it would include scenes like these:

- Leadership retreat in August held in our new building – still under construction! Brainstorming ideas included: new member/refresher course, small group events, discernment of assets/talents, leader development, improve/add content to newsletter and website; sponsor community events, more labyrinth walks, contemplative prayer, taizé worship, speaker series.
- Working collegially with next door neighbor to come to mutually beneficial solution for rainwater drainage along strip of land between properties.
- Moving back into our beautiful and functional new building in October and furnishing our narthex/lobby area in preparation for our dedication and 60th Anniversary celebration in November.
- Receiving positive feedback from a "secret visitor" from the ELCA who attended a service at Calvary to assess our hospitality.
- Sponsoring a representative to the ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2012.
- Welcoming building users including a theater group, yoga classes and 12-step groups.
- Introducing our new, improved website.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Congregation Council President for the past two years. I am excited by the possibilities that exist in our new space with fresh voices and varied perspectives.

- *Marianne Hetzer*



Leaders of the new council: From left, Debbie Lewis, president; Greg Maly, vice president; deacons Jeff Campbell, Gerry Fuller, Evie Lynn, John Matzner and Linda Vilardo.

God continues to bless Advent with outstanding leaders!

The council says "farewell" and gives lavish thanks for the service of Marianne Hetzer and Nancy Cox Jairrels as they leave their posts as president and vice president respectively. They have seen us through the transition into our new building and have cast the vision forward.

We welcome our new leaders Jeff Campbell, Gerry Fuller, John Matzner, and Linda Vilardo who join continuing member Evie Lynn on Council, and we celebrate Debbie Lewis and Greg Maly who are stepping into the president and vice president positions and commit to keeping them in our prayers. Leaders were installed on June 17 at worship.

Annual meeting activity revealed our interests

At our June 10 congregational meeting President Marianne Hetzer presented us with a list of ideas for ministry that were brainstormed at the August 2011 leadership retreat. Those present were asked to mark those that they considered important and to indicate those that they were interested in helping lead. That feedback indicates:

- * There is a strong interest in small group events with one person willing to help.
- * There is a strong interest in sponsoring community events and having special programs with three people willing to assist.
- * There is a strong interest in facilitating service activities with one person willing to assist.

Bountiful opportunities to serve

Sunday Forum

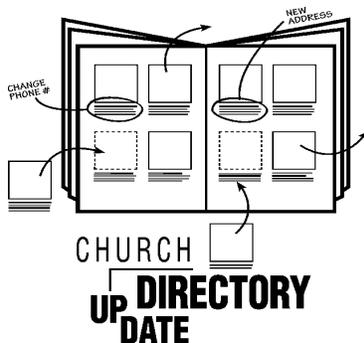
Sunday Forum exists to connect our faith with our daily lives. The hour-long program (11:30 – 12:30) is an opportunity to explore current events and compelling issues, often led by a guest speaker. We are looking for a person to coordinate the topics and guest speakers for this ministry. If you are called to this, please contact Pastor Anna.

Pray for One Another

The power of prayer is something that Jesus regularly commends to us as a gift of the Spirit. As a faith community, one of our commitments to each other is to hold each other in prayer. To facilitate that, the Assisting Ministers at Advent are trained to leave a time for those present at worship to lift up their prayer concerns. You are encouraged to add your voice to our prayers at that time. You are also encouraged to share concerns that you would like included in the prayers by email to the church or to the Assisting Minister before worship in writing when possible.

Leadership Retreat

Everyone who has ideas for ministry at Advent (people willing to propose ideas are called: LEADERS!) is invited to a Saturday morning meeting on August 4 from 9 am - 1 pm to propose, evaluate, and authorize action. Bible study and worship will bracket the discussion as we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



A new church directory is in development. PLEASE contact the church office with any new contact information that you have acquired in the past TWO years, even if you have already done so. Redundancy is a good thing. If your picture was not taken last August, please submit one.

Thank you to all who have worked faithfully for Advent



(Continued from page 1)

heed Christ's call for unity and harmony in our fellowship. So to avoid long drawn out procedures to amend the constitution when circumstances change, we adopt by-laws and continuing resolutions to fit an evolving situation.

At our meeting, we were addressing a change in the way the council organizes itself. In our constitution, an organization by committee structure is spelled out. When I arrived at Advent, the committees had disappeared and the council was functioning as a committee of the whole. This meant that council meetings went very long as everyone debated the details of snow removal contracts and picnic supplies and choosing Vacation Bible School curricula. Advent had embarked on a process called Mission Transformation, and in one of those training meetings, we were presented with an alternative method for small congregations where

From the Pastor *the council made the big overall decisions but smaller task groups did the research and worked out details, and brought to the full council a proposal for action with a fleshed out plan for implementing it. The council could then ask questions, which the team might have to address in the next meeting if it had insufficient information. Because of the different gifts of those on council, members could give their guidance to either the administrative mission or the program mission, whichever they felt called to. The idea is that either team might establish a task force of people on or off council who would take responsibility for action. They would then form their own teams for accomplishing the task, and the team would dissolve when its work was done. In the original concept, a council member was required to choose to work with either administration or program at the time of election. This quickly proved to be unnecessary and counterproductive and that formality was dropped in practice. The question the council was tasked with addressing this year is evaluation of the process by which the council's work gets done and how it will choose to "legalize" it.*

As always, all of you are invited to be a part of this discussion and discernment! We give thanks for all our leadership at Advent, our past presidents, and all who work on program and mission in un-elected and un-sung positions.

Love, Pastor Anna

Volunteers needed to verify financial records

The audit committee meets once in the fall (probably for 2-3 hours) to review Advent's financial records for the prior fiscal year. The committee reviews bank statements, invoices/vouchers, and counter's reports. The purpose of the audit is to verify that expenditures are properly authorized, receipts are accounted for and deposited, and that financial reports accurately reflect the church's financial situation. The committee then submits a written report to council (prior year's reports are available as an example). A financial background is nice, but not necessary. Attention to detail would be a plus. Contact Council President Debbie Lewis if this is a way that you can share your time and talent in the community.

The library is open!

Check out Advent's selection of offerings

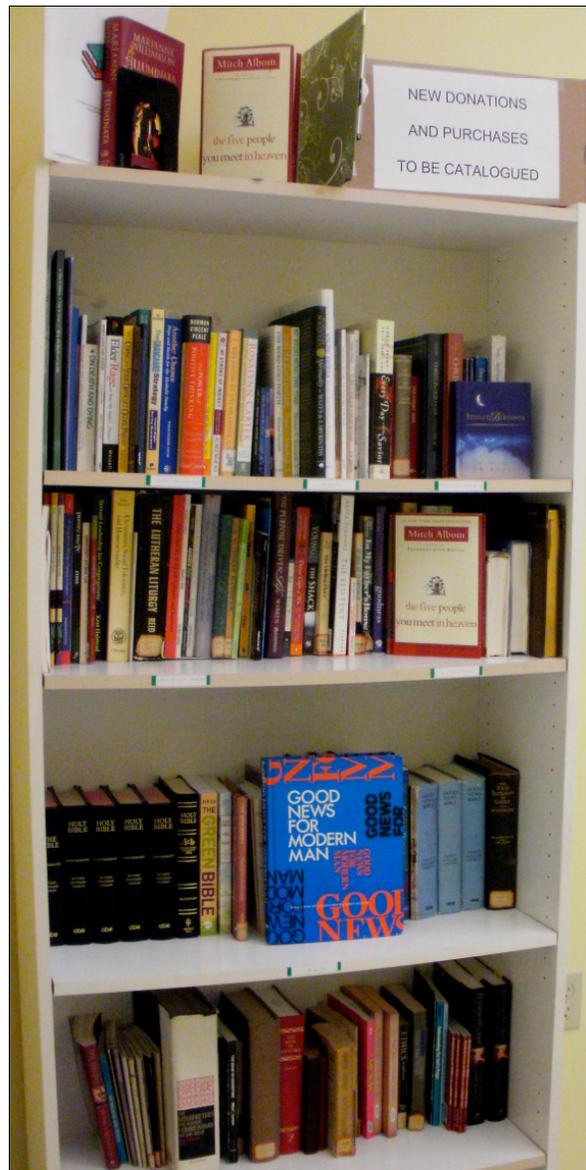
Summertime is often welcomed as the time for a little light reading, or it may be an opportunity to really dig into something, or relax with soothing music or an afternoon in the kitchen with kids. Whatever you are seeking this summer, chances are you can find the answer in our newly re-organized and refreshed community library! The collection is currently housed

(very snugly) in the tall bookcase in the classroom at the end of the hallway. Contents are divided into categories. Library guidelines

and a list of titles are in a folder on top of the bookshelf. Please sign the log on the clipboard when you borrow and return a book. If you have suggestions or questions, contact Ellie Holsopple at 703-578-3106, church@holsopple.com, or with a note in my mailbox in the hallway.



"Life Guidance" is one of several categories available to readers. Others include Leadership, Devotions, Music, and more.



Wet your whistle on these summer food drives



Summer has officially begun and the temperature has been climbing steadily, and that puts people on the street in danger. The outreach staff at Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN) takes to the streets daily delivering help and supplies to people in need. Their biggest need is bottled water to hand out on hot days. To help their efforts, Advent is accepting donations of water by the case



or bottle, or cash donations so that water can be purchased. Our own Carole's Corner leader, Carole Assante, has graciously offered to purchase water and deliver it the Shirlington facility. You may drop your cash donations for the summer-long drive in the large water bottle in the lobby.

In conjunction with the water drive is our Cereal Drive to benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Cereal is always the center's most needed item and customers prefer the "sugary" cereal, reports Carole.

Talk with Carole for more information on the needs of either organization and how you can personally donate your time, or about her experience working with the organizations and their clients.



July

1st	Joy Duncan
2nd	Larry Tindal
16th	Georges Toth
25th	Archie Hall
26th	Noah Herrera
31st	Geoffrey Falksen

August

4th	Corey Alvarez
9th	Marianne Hetzer
11th	Ingrid Berdahl
13th	Susan Maly
16th	Nesta Alleyne
18th	Susan Alvarez
20th	Evie Lynn
21st	Susan Toth
30th	Nancy Jairrels
31st	Merlin Neff

newsletter
DEADLINE

**August
16th**

Please email articles to the office by the deadline above.

Carole finds a new use for those soda pop tabs

The Ronald McDonald House of Northern Virginia (on the campus of INOVA Fairfax Hospital) would be thrilled to get pop tabs from canned sodas. The pop tabs go to a recycling center and the money they bring goes to the

**Carole's
Corner**



Ronald McDonald House to financially assist parents of hospitalized children.

For more information, visit their website at www.rmhc.greaterdc.org. There is a tub for pop tabs on the credenza in the Fellowship Hall.



Photo by SSG Chris Branagan, TUSAB Public Affairs

Playing with the professionals: Violist Sam Matzner, standing, performed with the U.S. Army Orchestra during their annual concert on April 15th.

Sam Matzner to perform with NSO summer music program

Congratulations to Sam Matzner who will perform with the NSO National Trustees' Summer Music Institute Orchestra this summer!

The orchestra will perform two FREE concerts in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall -- at 6 pm on July 15 and July 29, 2012. While parking at the Kennedy Center is \$20, it is accessible by free Metro shuttle from the GW/Foggy Bottom stop. There is also some street parking.

The summer music institute is an intensive program offering professional-level performance experience for talented young musicians.

On April 15, the U.S. Army Orchestra held its annual concert featuring the winner of the orchestra's Young Artist Competition. Open each year to high school musicians from the greater Washington, DC area, several honorable mentions from the competition were invited to join the orchestra in the final two pieces of the concert, including Sam (pictured above).

Worship music will follow theme of communion

In this year's lectionary cycle of Scripture readings, there is a series drawn from the sixth chapter of John's gospel. This series begins on July 29 with the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. The gospel texts on the next four Sundays expound upon the description of Jesus as the bread of life. There are many other references to bread and to communion in the other readings as well. Accordingly, many of the hymns and organ music selections during this period will have communion-related themes.

— *Michael Lewallen*

To tell the truth

To prepare for a sermon on honesty, a pastor asked church members to read Joshua 25. The next week, he asked, "How many of you read it?" Half the hands in the church went up.

"Great," the pastor said. "You're the ones I want to talk to...because Joshua has only 24 chapters."

— From *The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart*, Charles Swindoll



OCTOBER 21, 2012

An afternoon of fun for members and the community will include pumpkin carving, sack races, a Chili Cook-off, food, and time to socialize. We will also collect worn American flags for proper disposal by the Boy Scouts. If you would like to help plan this event, contact Evie Lynn or Nancy Jairrels.

Evenings in the Garden

During the summer months, we will spread out and enjoy the garden several evenings, starting at 6 pm. We will be weeding, trimming, mulching — and admiring the flowers. The dates are:

-  *Tuesday, July 10th*
-  *Tuesday, August 7th*
-  *Tuesday, September 11th*

Come out and join in!

Arlingtones Fall Concert of barbershop themes set

The Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus Fall Show is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, and Sunday September 16 at 2 pm at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre. The theme: “The Wearin’ o’ the Green (and the Blue and the Gray).” For more information, talk to Arlingtone member and Advent deacon Jeff Campbell or visit the website: www.thearlingtones.com

Thank You!

A recent note from one of our neighbors read:

Rev. Anderson –

Just a quick note of thanks for the Labyrinth at Advent. I live in the neighborhood and find it to be a wonderful meditative tool to have handy when I’m out for a walk. Thank you for making it available. Here’s a small gift to your church budget to say thanks!

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

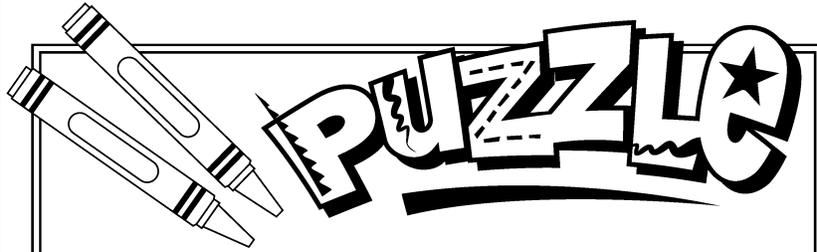
Play this game with a group of friends to remind you to follow Jesus.

What you need:

- Large space for running
- 3 jump ropes or 9 traffic cones

What you do:

1. Using jump ropes or traffic cones, form lines at both ends of the playing area. Also make a dividing line in the middle. Designate one side as "The Way" and the other as "The Truth." The center line is "The Life."
2. Choose one person to stand in the middle of the center line. He or she is the caller, yelling, "The way!" or "The truth!" or "The life!" The rest of the players also start on the middle line.
3. When a location is called, players run as fast as possible to the designated area. The last person to arrive switches places with the caller.
4. When "The Life" is called, players run to the center line and raise both hands. No one gets out.



KNOW THE WAY

Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (John 14:5, NIV).

Directions: To read Jesus' reply, shade in the letters that contain an asterisk (*) and write them in order on the blanks below.

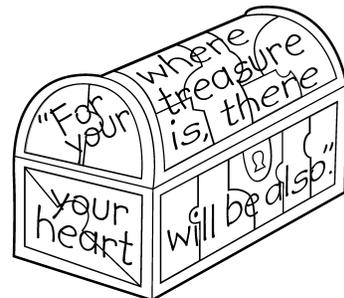
u n s w e r e i a m h w a
 y a n t l r u t c h l f i v e
 n o o n a e c s o x m e s
 f a z t h e r r o u c d g h
 p u m r x e s t j v g o h n

Jes ___ ans ___ d, " ___ the ___
 ___ d the ___ and the ___
 ___ to the
 ___ except th ___."

_____ 14:6, NIV

Answer: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, NIV)

Answer key to puzzle
on page 11 →





All are invited!

Saturday, August 4th, 2 pm

Fellowship Cookout Picnic and Pool Party

4280 Country Squire Lane, Fairfax, VA

(home of our new president, Debbie Lewis)

Debbie will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages.
Please bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, snack or dessert to share.
And swimsuits and towels if you'd like to swim.

Advent Lutheran Church
2222 S. Arlington Ridge Road
Arlington, VA 22202