



CHURCH
OF THE
ADVENT



ANNUAL
REPORT 2022

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR



Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you, and I pray this letter finds you well. As we close out another year, this annual report gives us an opportunity to reflect on some of the things God has done in our midst. Though we have faced many challenges and changes, through it all we have seen God's faithfulness and provision.

Our mission is to join people to God, to one another, and to Christ's work of renewal in Washington, DC, and through it, the world. This represents the three dimensions of growth in the Christian life: up (growing in our relationship with God), in (growing in our relationships with other Christians), and out (growing in our relationship with the world through loving our neighbors, works of justice and mercy, evangelism, and vocational faithfulness).

This report is filled with specific examples of what this has looked like over the past year. As I look back, I give thanks for our amazing staff, as well as the hard work and friendship of those who serve on our Parish Council. I celebrate both the joy of our first post-pandemic in-person Holy Week and the tears of our first Service of Lament, where I experienced some of the most powerful testimonies I have ever heard. I praise God for all the births, marriages, baptisms, and new friendships formed in our community. I marvel at all of the men and women who serve to make Sunday happen, to lead ministry teams and Core Groups, to disciple our children, to care for refugees, and to build relationships across lines of difference.

The generosity of our community continues to amaze me, which we see most clearly in the Home Campaign. We continue to seek a permanent space for worship and ministry that will serve as a training ground for spiritual formation, a base camp for neighborhood ministry, and a launch pad for emerging leaders and church planters. We hope to secure a building within the next few years through either a purchase or a long-term lease. At this point, our congregation's total commitment to the campaign is well over \$2,000,000, and as of the end of 2022 we had \$1.4 million in the bank. We have seen God's hand at work in the progress we have made towards this goal, and we trust that He will continue to guide us as we move forward.

I encourage each of you to take some time to reflect on the blessings of the past year and to give thanks to God for all that He has done. Thank you for your faithfulness and support throughout the past year. Serving you as the Rector of this church continues to be the greatest honor of my life. I look forward to what God has in store for us in the year to come.

In Christ,

Thomas Hinson
Rector, Church of the Advent



HOME

LOVING THE CITY
LONG TERM

Advent's vision and commitment to the city of Washington, DC, has not changed. We continue to recognize our need for a permanent space that is available to us throughout the week as a training ground for spiritual formation, a base camp for neighborhood ministry, and a launch pad for emerging leaders. A building is a visible presence that powerfully signals to the community that we are invested for the long-haul. Our hope is to secure a building within the next few years, through either a purchase or a long-term lease.

After "pushing pause" on our capital campaign when the pandemic hit, we officially launched our capital campaign this year! Many of our members, regular attenders, and friends and "alumni" of Advent filled out a commitment card and made a generous commitment to Advent's Home Campaign this spring, coming together to demonstrate our commitment as a church to our city of Washington, DC.

In April we announced that our congregation's total commitment to the Home Campaign was well over \$2,000,000, and we officially "launched" our two-year giving season, recognizing that, in spite of the interruption of COVID-19, our congregation had already been giving generously to the Home Campaign Fund. Over the summer, we hit the \$1 million mark in our bank account. This means that more than 50% of our commitments were received only a few months into our official two-year giving season! As of the end of 2022, our Home Campaign fund is near \$1.4 million.

We also announced this year that we are working with Avison Young (AY) in an effort to find our home. AY is a commercial real estate broker that has helped groups like Passion City Church, McLean Bible Church, Mosaic Christian, Shiloh Baptist, and many other churches with their challenging space needs. We have begun the process and are in the initial phase, establishing project goals. Over the course of this summer and fall, the Home Campaign Executive Leadership Team (ELT) toured a number of potential spaces.

In an ideal world, Advent's home will be in our target area (specifically: south of Takoma Park, east of the Maryland border, north of New York Avenue, and east of Rock Creek Park), be visible in the community, provide the opportunity to engage with passersby, and offer parking and reasonable access to public transportation.

This is an exciting journey for all of us. Please continue to pray for Advent's Home Campaign, as we are looking for a unique space in the city. Also, let us know if you have any leads, as this will be vital to our search. It is likely that our building will come from an internal lead. Email: home@adventdc.org. For more information, visit: www.homeforadvent.org

Home Campaign Executive Leadership Team: John Klinke, Evan Sparks, Jeannie Rose Barksdale, Deborah Tepley

Home Campaign Finance and Governance Team Lead: Ben Evans

UPDATE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL



This past year, the Parish Council continued to shepherd Advent through a season of relaunching while striving to grow in the church's mission to join people to God, to one another, and to Christ's work of renewal in Washington, DC, and the world. Below are several highlights from 2022.

- In January, we read *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership* by Gary McIntosh and Samuel Rima and listened to "The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill" podcast by Christianity Today. These challenging materials helped us reflect on the risks of different leadership styles and how to manage these risks for the sake of the church.
- At a weekend retreat in February, we strategically planned for the next several years at Advent, including ways to lean into our six values: gospel-centrality, Anglican spirituality, compassionate orthodoxy, diverse family, biblical justice, and missionary faithfulness. As part of this, we began discussing the possibility of starting a Center for the Common Good to live out the social vision of the church and love the city long term.
- In April, we finalized our first Safety Plan to ensure the well-being of our people during worship services.
- In April and May, we launched the 2022 Parish Survey to understand the current makeup, needs, hopes, and concerns of our church.
- In December, we nominated and affirmed Jim Barredo and Bill Coglianese to serve on the 2023 Parish Council and identified Drew Hauge to serve as the Treasurer. We bid farewell to Chris Seo, Matthew Downer, and Andrea Kelly (Treasurer).
- Throughout the year, thanks to the generosity of the Advent community, we administered the Refugee Relief Fund to support several Afghan families in the Washington, DC, area.

In the year ahead, we pray that God will continue to use our labors to accomplish his good purposes for Advent, for the flourishing of all.

Your Parish Council,

Jeannie Rose Barksdale, Angie De Groot, Matthew Downer, Benjamin Evans, Andrea Kelly, Chris Seo and Ellen Ward

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Offering (Unrestricted Gifts)

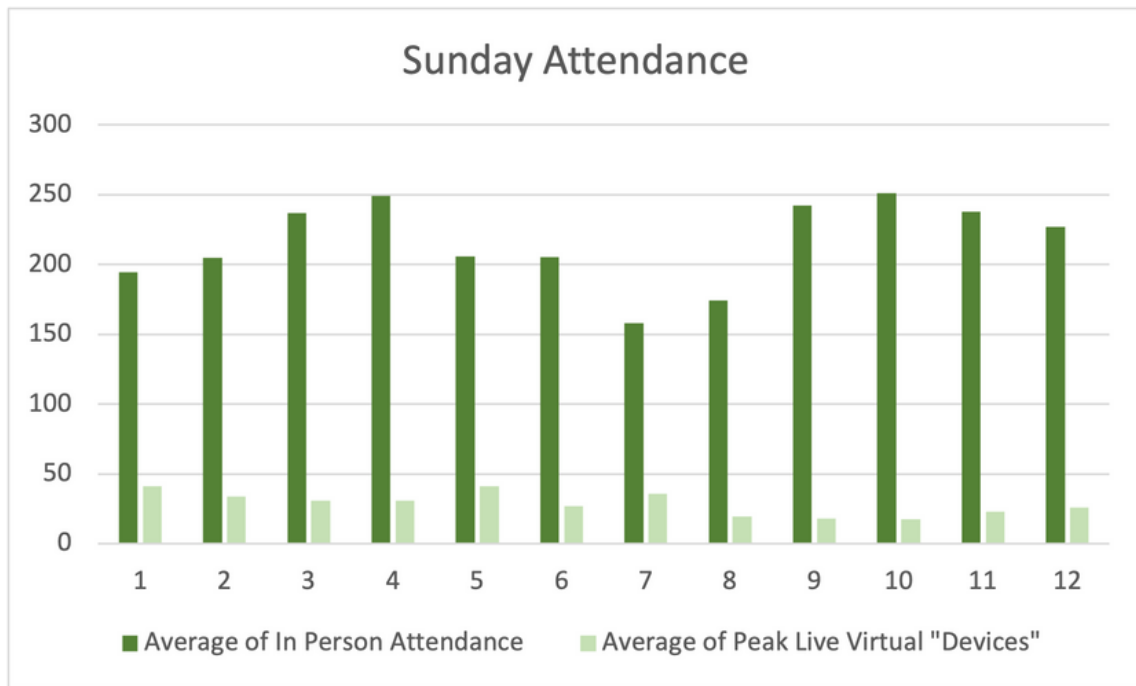


In 2022, we received \$1.17 million gifts for general offering alone. General offering gifts fund the operating budget that our members approve.

Restricted Gifts

In 2022, we received approximately \$780,000 in gifts for restricted funds including the Home Campaign Fund, Rector's Discretionary Fund, Curacy Fund, and Refugee Relief Fund. After the Home Campaign took a hiatus due to the pandemic, we formally relaunched the campaign in March of this year. We have been encouraged by the faithfulness of our congregation, who provided \$680,000 in Home Campaign gifts in 2022, bringing the balance of the fund to \$1.39 million as of December 31, 2022. In August 2021, Advent launched the Refugee Relief Fund in response to the crisis of the United States' withdrawal from and Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, to address immediate needs of people fleeing Afghanistan. In 2022, the Parish Council expanded the scope of the fund to address the needs of refugees fleeing Ukraine. Our congregation has given \$11,500 to the fund as of December 31, 2022, and we have and continue to use this fund to provide furniture, bedding, dishes, and other household items for refugees relocating in the DC area. We are grateful for the generosity of our congregation and thankful that God has provided us the means to serve DC's refugee community.

ATTENDANCE



We offered in-person worship throughout the duration of 2022, while providing the option for congregants to worship virtually. For each month of 2022, the chart above shows total average a) in-person Sunday attendance as well as b) peak number of online “devices” that viewed our service. For the entire year, in-person attendance remained strong, with an average of 29 devices* watching virtually, with the figure declining over time.

*We anticipate that the “devices” figure understates the total number of people reached during our services. Using common “multipliers” that other churches use to estimate number of people reached by online streaming, we anticipate that our average online reach per Sunday was between 46 and 96 people.





15
BABIES

400+
MEALS

Our Advent family continued to grow in 2022 as we welcomed 15 new babies and celebrated four weddings in the way that we do best – with great food and hospitality. Our congregation provided over 400 meals over several different care calendars. These care calendars were an incredible blessing to our congregation.

We were able to baptize almost twenty new people in our church family, including a teenager, an adult, and several babies.

We celebrated multiple events as a church family with food and festivities: our Home Campaign Commitment Sunday, Launch Sunday Potlucks, Dessert Cook-Offs, and more.

We look forward to new celebrations – more baptisms, confirmations, and more – in 2023.



14
CARE
CALENDARS

19
BAPTISMS

LOTS
OF
RECEPTIONS

STAFF CHANGES

If 2021 was a year of change and transition for our team, then 2022 was a year of stability. Several of our team members crossed their first anniversary this past year: Hilary Van Wagenen, our Operations Coordinator and Worship Assistant; Jeff Simpson, an Assistant Pastor in our pastoral residency program; Kiersten Anderson and Miriam Rudolph, our Family Ministry Co-Directors; and Susan Calhoun, our Event and Children's Ministries Coordinator.

In May, we officially said "goodbye" to Natalie Meise Pixley, who had been supporting our team administratively, and Colton Hinson, who had been serving as an intern.

In June, Sarah Crouch joined our team as our Executive Assistant.

Finally, in October, Bishop Steve Breedlove visited Advent and ordained Jeff Simpson to the priesthood.

Current clergy and staff:

Rector: Rev. Thomas Hinson

Executive Director: Deborah Tepley

Associate Pastor: Rev. Daniel Beilman

Assistant Pastor and Pastoral Resident: Rev. Jeff Simpson

Operations Coordinator and Worship Assistant: Hilary Van Wagenen

Family Ministries Co-Directors: Kiersten Anderson and Miriam Rudolph

Event and Children's Ministries Coordinator: Susan Calhoun

Executive Assistant: Sarah Crouch

Current non-stipendiary clergy:

Deacon: Rev. Lisa Schultz

Priest: Rev. Canon Dr. Jeff Bailey



Special Services and Events

Pastor Tommy started the year with a Home Campaign sermon series that explored our motivations for giving and priorities for investing in a future building. We then studied 2 Corinthians throughout the spring, learning about the paradox of God's power through our weakness. The story of Israel in Psalm 106 carried us through the summer in a series called "Music in the Wilderness." After revisiting Advent's core DNA, we finished out the fall by studying the doctrine of Scripture – its authority, clarity, sufficiency, and reliability.

Several times throughout the year, we hosted "Advent 101" for newcomers. Over coffee and doughnuts, our staff team shared the vision of our church and opportunities to get involved with those checking us out.

We celebrated Holy Week for the first time since the pandemic, holding all five services at Takoma Park SDA. These rich, meaningful times of worship could not have happened without a wonderful team of hard-working volunteers. 306 people joined us for Easter Sunday.

In May and July, we partnered with The Trinity Forum for the final two events of our Discovery and Doxology series exploring science and faith: "Faith in an Empirical World" and "Science, Faith, Trust, and Truth."

In June, we hosted our annual church-wide picnic at a neighborhood park in Brookland with lawn chairs, food, games and fellowship.

In July, we headed out of the city for the Family Campout at Rocky Gap State Park near Cumberland, MD. Weekend activities included sleeping in tents, making s'mores, swimming, kayaking, encountering wildlife, and, of course, eating together.

In August, we partnered with Takoma Park SDA for Community Fun Day. This event served those in the neighborhood with food, activities, back-to-school supplies and health education.

In October, we held our Parish Retreat at Greenridge Baptist Church where we enjoyed fellowship, Chick-fil-a, kickball and activities for kids. A return to an overnight weekend retreat is planned for next year.

We also held our first ever Service of Lament. We wept and prayed together as we listened to powerful stories from those in our midst who have wrestled deeply with God and yet seen his love and grace at work in their suffering.

In November, we partnered with All Saints Church in Chevy Chase for an Evensong Service. Dan Beilman assisted with conducting and several members from Advent sang in the choir.

In December, we held our Lessons and Carols service on a Sunday morning. We were blessed by the wonderful music that included a Ukrainian hymn and a children's choir led by Mary Wesley and Darlene Mauldin.



Core Groups

Core Groups continued to remain a central part of our community and discipleship, as we saw an increase in overall participation from last year. Groups covered a range of topics, neighborhoods, and demographics. Three new groups in the fall shared a similar theme of contemplative spiritual disciplines. The "Capitol Hill" group studied Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster, "Meditation for Growth" learned about the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and "Mid-Week Retreat" explored various practices of contemplative prayer.

Though Adult Sunday School was not new, this fall we began hosting it weekly for the first time ever. Pastor Tommy and Judd Birdsall taught a class on the grand biblical story from Genesis to Revelation using the book, The Drama of Scripture. This was a highly encouraging class, with an average weekly attendance of about 30 adults.

In our two Foundations classes, we explored the essentials of Christianity, the distinctives of being Anglican, and how to get involved at Advent. We had 26 participants join us in the spring and 12 in the fall. Many of these took the next step to formally join our church.

In total, we added 21 new members this year! We praise God for these men and women and we are excited to see how God uses them to build up our church.



12

**SPRING
GROUPS**

13

**FALL
GROUPS**

248

**TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS**



SUNDAY MINISTRIES

We have been thankful for the many lay leaders and volunteers that make our Sunday Service possible! Our Counting Team kept records of attendance and Sunday offering, and our Safety Team worked to keep our congregation safe on Sunday mornings. Our Altar Guild faithfully prepared the table each week, served in the processional, and re-launched our Bakers' Guild to prepare fresh bread for the Eucharist. Several new people joined our Production Team and ran our slideshow, and we have welcomed new musicians to our music team. Our Welcome Team greeted congregants before every service, helped with receptions and hospitality, and worked with staff to develop a plan to fold newcomers into the Advent family. On an average Sunday, 40 volunteers show up and serve and make our sacramental worship services possible.



Advent continues to be blessed by parishioners who faithfully and cheerfully serve one another. The word "liturgy" means "the work of the people." Through the many twists of regathering and relaunching ministries, volunteers have stepped forward time and again to give generously of their time to our church.



MEN'S MINISTRY

This past year, Advent's Men's Ministry was thrilled to resume its annual retreat in the spring. Over 40 men returned to Lloyd's Landing Farm in Trappe, Maryland, to camp out and spend time together. Jeff Bailey spoke to the group about broadening our metaphors about the meaning of Jesus so that we might serve as better witnesses to our coworkers, neighbors and each other. The retreat also featured a pig roast, outdoor activities, and of course kindling of friendships both old and new. Throughout the year, Advent also hosted a Men's Core Group, where men met together bi-weekly to pray and discuss their faith. Group attendees included both Advent regulars and many guests.

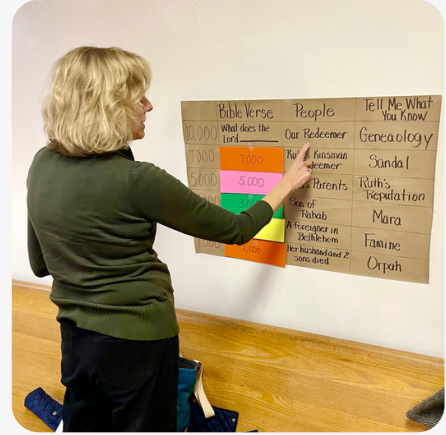


WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our Women's Ministry, led by KC Hauge, Lisa Schultz, Julianna Stohs, Sarah Doss Holby, Kate Gibbs, Ana-Maria Sinitean and Theresa Burke, chose the theme "New Creation" for the year 2022 and focused on building community through events focused on renewal and new life. We had a great day retreat in St. Leonard's Maryland where we focused on the spiritual discipline of silent meditation and solitude. Additionally, the Women's Ministry hosted a plant swap, a clothing swap, and per-service coffee hours. In 2023, Theresa Burke will be heading up the women's ministry, and we are excited to offer more events such as singles' socials, playdates for moms with small children, and a full weekend retreat to gather women in all life stages.



FAMILY MINISTRIES



Advent Family Ministries had a year of trying new things and resurrecting old practices as approximately 100 children and youth ages 6 months through 9th grade gathered weekly to worship, learn, grow, and fellowship. It is such an encouragement to see these children and youth build on existing – and foster new – friendships within the body of Christ. Despite the vagaries of the pandemic, over 65 volunteers faithfully kept this ministry running smoothly and with Spirit-filled joy.

We successfully implemented the Diocese of Christ Our Hope's new Child Protection Policy, and hosted 5 in-person training sessions, building on our existing culture of best practices to ensure we are above reproach as we interact with and shepherd the children in our care.

Our Middle School Youth enjoyed several gatherings to foster community, from game nights, to kickball, to a costume party. We continue to see friendships form and flourish, and to see the growth of our youth, many of whom were baptized as infants in our church family.

Speaking of baptisms, nearly twenty people were baptized this year, including an adult, a teenager, and an elementary student.

We gathered for several events to mark the seasons in the church calendar, including an inaugural Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Resurrection Garden making during Holy Week, and Advent Wreath Making. These are opportunities for families to mark time with the church calendar, and for us to build memories as a church family.

Trail Life

We are halfway into our second year hosting Trail Life Troop DC-1. We currently have 16 Trailmen in grades K-6 plus 14 participating dads. Trail Life is a Christ-centered, boy-focused nationwide character development organization that helps young men grow to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure. Under the leadership of Troopmaster Justin Johnson, we gather each Tuesday for fun activities, faith-building lessons, and regular opportunities to build deeper friendships among the boys in the church as so many of us are spread across different neighborhoods and schools. Once a month, our dads gather to build community and discipleship with Troop Chaplain Aaron Rudolph. Our Hit the Trail activities have included camping, biking, day hikes, snow tubing, museum visits, Wreaths Across America, and much more. Our Fox Patrol (grades K-1) also went to a half-week father-son camp at Camp Hemlock over the summer. We are excited that this year five of our Trailmen now come from outside the Advent community, joining us from churches like Church of the Resurrection, Restoration Arlington, Grace Meridian Hill, and more. As the only Trail Life troop in Washington, DC, our hope is that Troop DC-1 becomes a place of partnership across the body of Christ in DC. New Trailmen and adult volunteers are welcome to "walk worthy" with us at any time during the year, so please reach out to trailife@adventdc.org.



HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

Rev. Rob Krech, a visiting area priest, led a healing prayer “bootcamp” at Advent in the summer of 2021 and then continued to meet with and train healing prayer ministers at our church. This fall, we formally launched a healing prayer ministry. We have been scheduling individual appointments for healing prayer and holding monthly healing prayer gatherings, open to anyone desiring prayer. We look forward to holding a healing prayer eucharist at the end of January, and continuing to grow and expand this ministry.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

This year marks the launch of Advent’s Global Missions Committee! Our work this year has been to strategize how to connect the folks at Advent to God’s mission to the world, specifically, to the work being done through our partners in the Middle East, Central Asia, and soon our own Travis and Tiara Barnwell who will be launching in 2023 and heading to Southeast Asia. We are also exploring other partnerships in other corners of the world. In February, two of our members traveled to the Middle East to visit our partner there; in September we sent Pastor Dan to the New Wineskins conference, a triennial missions conference which gathers Anglicans from around the globe. This year’s conference was held in Asheville, NC, where 2,000 people gathered from over 60 nations. This coming year we hope to finalize our committee’s mission statement, expand our overseas partnerships, and host Advent’s first global missions weekend on February 11-12, 2023.

CENTER FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Over the last year, a small planning team led by Jeff Bailey has been praying and ideating about the possibility of starting a Center for the Common Good that would be a way of connecting Christians and non-Christians to the work of Christ in DC and beyond. The idea is still very nascent but we envision the Center having three core components; (1) a Public Theology Platform that would foster dialogue through events, podcasts, white papers, and discussions that would allow people to engage their faith in the public square, (2) a Social Action Incubator that would support collective action efforts of churches, government, and nonprofits that serve our neighbors who are on the margins, and (3) a Changemaker Fellows program that would support the leadership development of Christians who want to engage in social action. Over the next year, the planning team will be developing and going through a curriculum that enables us to delve more deeply into learning about various issue areas that impact our neighbors and community including housing, education, healthcare as well as hosting events that allow us to bring a theological vision to social issues many Christians are grappling with today.

Refugee Ministry

This year, the Refugee Ministry was able to meet many needs of four Afghan families. We began the year with a one-time home set-up for a family of seven. As the year progressed, our volunteers served in several capacities to help three other families that we continue to support: a family of nine in Silver Spring, a family of four in Riverdale, and a mother and toddler in Riverdale. Some notable successes have been helping two adults pass their driving exams (essential for commuting efficiently to work), covering several months of rent and utilities, and helping adults in two families secure jobs and get on the path to self-sustainment. In conjunction with the Advent Children's Ministry, we also collected winter outerwear to be distributed to newly arrived refugees through Lutheran Social Services. All of these successes would not be possible without the generous contributions to the Refugee Relief Fund and countless volunteer service hours. These Afghan families have become true friends and we look forward to continuing to support them and others with the Advent "long welcome" in 2023. The Refugee Ministry is led by Trent Martin and Juliet Armerding.



Antioch Ministry

This year the Antioch Ministry has continued to deepen our partnership with our host congregation, Takoma Park SDA through volunteer opportunities, worship services, and collaborating on the annual Takoma Park Community Fun Day. Highlights from the year include partnering on a Rebuild Day to do repairs and yard work for older neighbors in our community and helping put together 1,000 baskets of food for families in need over Thanksgiving. We also had members of Advent join the choir for TP's Easter service and had a blast at the annual Community Fun day in August. We're looking forward to more partnership opportunities in the new year and so grateful for the relationship we have with them.

