

THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

30 BRIMMER STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 29, 2012



THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

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The Rev'd Samuel Lee Wood	Associate Rector
The Rev'd Daphne B. Noyes	Deacon
The Rev'd Moses Buyondo	Deacon
The Rev'd Thomas E. Adams	Honorary Assistant
The Rev'd John R. Archer	Honorary Assistant
Sarah Connor	Co-Coordinator for Children's Ministry
Emily Litman	Co-Coordinator for Children's Ministry
Gretchen Keyes	Pastoral Assistant for Small Groups
Mark Dwyer	Organist & Choirmaster
Ross Wood	Associate Organist & Choirmaster
Edith J. Ho, D.Mus.	Organist & Choirmaster Emerita
James J. Wood	Parish Administrator
Sheila Callahan	Comptroller
Elaine Crandall	Bookkeeper
Moses Sekajja	Senior Sexton
The Rev'd Moses Buyondo	Resident Custodian & Assistant Sexton
Marc Michelini	Verger
Raymond B. Porter	Verger

VESTRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

Peter Madsen	Rector's Warden
David Taylor	People's Warden
Thatcher L. Gearhart	Treasurer
Mark Davidson	Clerk
Barbara Boles	Nathan Cleveland
Angela J. Corbet	Vance Hosford
Philip W. LeQuesne	Michael S. Murphy
Meg Nelson	Nan Ritenour
Kara Rodgers	Adam Rutledge

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The Treasurer's Report

1. BUDGETED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011

(UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT)

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Income			
Plate Collection	\$15,000	\$15,514	\$514
Pledge Payments	435,000	424,526	(10,474)
Endowment Income	787,190	787,190	0
Other Receipts	50,650	70,507	19,857
Total Income	\$1,287,840	\$1,297,737	\$9,897
Parochial Expenses			
Clergy Salary & Allowances	137,070	137,048	(22)
Clergy & Lay Pension & Benefits	157,406	161,339	3,933
Music	205,515	205,395	(120)
Office & Administration	146,270	143,892	(2,378)
Christian Education	44,248	41,045	(3,203)
Altar Guild	8,000	5,858	(2,142)
Other Parish Expenses	11,450	11,273	(177)
Property - noncapital	262,881	269,370	6,489
Total Parochial Expenses	\$972,840	\$975,220	\$2,380
Non-Parochial Expenses			
Diocesan Mandatory Assessment	84,865	84,865	0
Diocesan Mandatory Benefaction Assess.	56,576	56,576	0
Social Outreach - General	25,000	25,000	0
Community Dinner	0	0	0
Total Non-Parochial Expenses	\$166,441	\$166,441	\$0
Total Expenses	\$1,139,281	\$1,141,661	\$2,380
Income Over (Under) Expenses	\$148,559	\$156,076	\$7,517
Capital Expenses	150,000	150,000	0
Income Over (Under) Expenses after Capital	(\$1,441)	\$6,076	\$7,517

2. BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011

(UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT)

Assets	
Cash	\$ 212,667
Accounts Receivable	423,229
Prepaid Insurance & Expense	21,256
Total Operating Assets	\$657,152
Land & Other Fixed Assets	\$6,382,845
Unrestricted Endowment Funds	\$7,938,739
Restricted Endowment Funds	\$19,104,149
Total Assets	\$34,082,885
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$97,261
Prepaid Pledges	13,885
Copier Lease Liability	43,970
Total Liabilities	\$155,116
Fund Balances	
Special Purpose & Revolving funds	\$601,845
Memorial Gifts & Bequests	22,771
Unrestricted General Fund	26,158,744
Vestry Designated Restricted	1,725,866
Prior Year Ending Balance	6,435,204
Current Year Balance	(1,016,661)
Total Fund Balances	\$33,927,769
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	\$34,082,885

* Pending year end audit statement.

3. BUDGET FOR 2012

Income	
Plate Collection	\$15,000
Pledge Payments	405,000
Prior Yr/Non Pledge	20,000
Endowment Income	814,742
Other Receipts	82,600
Total Income	\$1,337,342
Parochial Expenses	
Clergy Salary & Allowances	143,156
Clergy & Lay Pension & Benefits	165,870
Music	219,275
Office & Administration	154,223
Christian Education	61,400
Altar Guild	8,000
Other Parish Expenses	10,650
Property	268,775
Total Parochial Expenses	\$1,031,349
Non-Parochial Expenses	
Diocesan Mandatory Assessment - "Operations"	81,619
Benefactions	
Diocesan Mandatory Assessment - "Benefactions"	54,413
Social Outreach	10,000
Community Dinner	10,000
Subtotal Benefactions	\$74,413
Total Non-Parochial Expenses	\$156,032
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,187,381
Net Budget Before Capital Expense	\$149,961
Total Capital Expense Budget	\$150,000
Total Operating & Capital Expense	\$1,337,381
Grand Total Net Budget	(\$39)



Altar Guild and Gifts & Memorials

At the Church of the Advent, in the year of Grace 2011, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated on 467 occasions; the Daily Offices were recited 636 times; eight persons received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism; five couples entered into Holy Matrimony; and Requiem Masses were offered for the repose of the souls of six faithful departed.

During this past year the recitation of Evening Prayer was resumed on Sundays at 5:30. Although not overwhelming, attendance at this Office has been gratifying.

The next "major undertaking" in the Sacristy will be the refurbishment of the Smoke Sacristy. This is the small room just to the side of the Chancel. At a 9:00 AM Mass last autumn a thurible charcoal inadvertently caused the smoke sensor to activate necessitating the summoning of the Fire Department and the temporary evacuation of the Church. Upon consultation with the BFD captain it was determined that certain improvements are required in this room in order to prevent a future such occurrence. Vance Hosford has drawn plans for this and submitted them to the Vestry for its consideration.

In terms of Gifts & Memorials, the most recent gift has been the purchase of a yellow magnolia which has been planted in front of the Parish House in recognition of Rogina Jeffries' efforts throughout the Parish Gardens.

Regarding vestment projects being undertaken by Watts & Co. in London:

- < The new black frontal for the High Altar arrived to be used for the Solemn Requiem Mass for All Souls' Day. It is quite handsome and matches the black Mass vestments very well.
- < The restoration of the Anniversary Vestments continues apace. It had been hoped that this set would have been completed in time for this past Yuletide. However, it appears Watts had given precedence to preparations for a certain nuptial event which took place at a small parish church in Westminster April last. Watts' representatives have tentatively offered an Easter 2012 completion for this project.

Lastly, I wish to thank all those who have helped out in the Sacristy this past year; among others Barbara Boles, Sally Bradshaw, Melissa Fox, Liz Hunter, Nanette Orme-Johnson, Anne Reiss, and Nola Sheffer. I also extend my deepest appreciation to the Clergy, Vestry, Sextons, Staff, and especially to the Acolyte and Flower Guilds.

Stephen Sampson,
Sacristan
Gifts & Memorials Chair





Christian Formation

At the Advent, Christian Formation is far, far more than just church school—it is a lifelong process that every Christian should be engaged in at every stage of development. To that end, we try to create opportunities for Christian formation that are challenging, gripping, and ultimately make us better disciples of Jesus.

In 2011 the adult formation program Entr’acte continued our series “Walking Through the Bible.” January found us in the book of Leviticus, and during the course of the year we covered much of the Old Testament, concluding with several Sundays with the prophets. This class, led by parish clergy, looks at the Bible not just with a critical and scholastic eye, but with the hope and expectation that we will engage with the God of the Bible and be changed by studying God’s revealed word in holy scripture.

Advent small groups continue to flourish, as well. After a night of “Cocktails and Community Groups” where inquirers were invited to bring their questions about small groups, new groups formed in Somerville and Salem this year. The Beacon Hill group met Monday nights and spent much of 2011 studying the “Essential 100” passages of Scripture.

Thanks to the efforts of Nathan Cleveland and Mark Davidson, among others, Theology on Tap had a stellar 2011. Theology on Tap continues to be well attended, both by Advent parishioners and friends from all over the city. Series this year included: “The Gospel for the Least of These,” “Keeping a Holy Lent,” “I Bet You’re a Heretic: Orthodoxy, Heresy, & the Theological Imagination,” “In the Beginning, E = mc²: Theology, Science, & Certainty (?),” and our summer series was “The Gospel According to Harry Potter.”

Finally, this year saw several young families and a new convert complete courses of preparation for baptism. Six teenagers and three adults completed confirmation classes and were presented to the Bishop for the Sacrament of Confirmation during a service at the Advent in May. Our Choirmaster, Mark Dwyer, led a wildly successful series of Evensong and Benediction Talks on “The Mass and its Music” last winter. Six newcomers attended our yearly Newcomers’ Class last fall. Several children were prepared for and made their first communions this year, and one parishioner, Eric Litman, engaged in a formal process of discernment for ordained ministry with the aid of several other members of the parish, and Eric was admitted as a Postulant for Holy Orders to the Priesthood in this diocese in December.

Father Wood



The Church School

Our Church School has continued to grow this past year as we’ve welcomed the addition of new children and their families!

The Church School includes Beulah Land (ages 0-3 and their caregivers), Godly Play 1 (ages 3-4), Godly Play 2 (ages 5-6), Godly Play 3 (ages 7-9), and a Scripture Studies class (ages 10 and up). A special thanks to our teachers that have worked so hard this past Fall term to make our Sunday morning Church School vibrant and fun—Darcy Montaldi in Beulah Land, Christopher and Hannah Piecuch and Jeannette Lee in Godly Play 1, Jane Causey and Denise LaPointe in Godly Play 2, Eric and Emily Litman in Godly Play 3, and Michael Gnozzio, Lisa Crawford, and Steven Hardy in Scripture Studies. Our Church School also benefits greatly from the enthusiasm and assistance of our

parent helpers. Thank you for giving your time and talents to help us make this the best Church School year yet!

Beginning in September 2011, the family ministry began "The Children's Sermon." Directly following the Gospel reading, willing preschool and elementary children are processed out of the service to the Frisby room. There they receive a children's bulletin from *The Sunday Papers* (<http://www.the-sunday-paper.com/>), an accessible sermon for children's ears, and either a church related craft project or Bible memory lesson. Toward the end of the fall and into the winter children began the process of memorizing the Nicene Creed. The children rejoin their families during the exchanging of the Peace to celebrate the Eucharist together. This gathering has served to preach the Gospel in a language most readily comprehended by the children, while also relieving adult Parishioners of disruptive noises that might prevent the Sermon from being heard.

We continue to provide childcare options for young children during our Sunday services. An infant nursery is available on the 4th floor for both the 9 AM and 11:15 AM services. Moseley Hall serves as the toddler space during the 9 AM service. A very special thanks goes out to our professional caregivers Eliza Williams, Karen Zahka, Deirdre Manning, Katherine Stresing, Clara Concklin, Sarah Goddard, Rachel Walker, and Rachel Stine who serves as both a caregiver and scheduler.

We hope that all families will continue to make Sunday a special family day and make attendance at Church School a priority. Please tell your friends about this great ministry!

Sarah Connor & Emily Litman
Co-Coordinator's for Children's Ministry



The Community Supper

With the close of 2011 we just about complete 30 years of the supper, which was begun in January, 1982! We have not missed a Tuesday in that time, despite the need to relocate temporarily during the renovation of Moseley Hall. It's been clear from our numbers that this ministry is still very much needed; we hit record numbers (at least, in recent memory) several times this fall, of 150 guests. Our expert servers are able to stretch the food to accommodate everyone, but it does seem miraculous sometimes! One of these big nights was that of the annual sweater giving, so clearly that is a popular tradition! Many thanks to those who donated to the sweater fund. A volunteer from the neighborhood added small toiletry gift bags for the ladies which were much appreciated; if you have unused sample-size items from business trips, we would be glad to get those to pass along. Another new feature this fall, begun by another volunteer from the neighborhood, is a lending library of paperback books, which has also proved very popular. Since most of our guests are men, mysteries, thrillers and non-fiction are the most popular, if anyone has books to recycle!

The regular supplies from the food bank have helped us to hold down costs even in the face of rising food prices. Any cost saving is good news, since our aging equipment occasionally gets to the end of its useful life. This fall, the dishwasher had to be replaced, since parts are no longer made for it, not surprising after 25 or so years! Happily, we were directed to a new model that fit the footprint of the old one, requiring minimum adjustments for installation, and our plumber-on-call, Tim Foley, found one for us at several thousand dollars off the list price. He was able to complete the switch with no disruption to either the supper or Sunday coffee hours.

During the academic years, we continue to have groups from Fisher and Suffolk on alternate Tuesdays, plus a number of new volunteers from the parish and neighborhood, for which we are thankful, as well as a small cadre from the British American School of Boston. While we are in the happy state of having an overabundance of volunteers much of the time, we can be short of help during

school vacations—*i.e.*, the holidays and the summer, when the number of guests tends to grow, so those can be good times to give us a try if you are interested in serving.

Barbara Boles
Coordinator



Advent Garden Guild



This is just a short report since we find ourselves in a bit of an interim time. We were saddened to have to accept Rogina Jeffrey's resignation as head of the Garden Guild and we are grateful to her for her years of service. Many of you will remember the beautiful pots last summer, designed by Rogina, that lasted well into the fall. The new, yellow magnolia in the handicap-ramp area is in thanks and tribute to Rogina, from the Church.

However, we are pleased to be able to announce that Ginnie Pierce has accepted the position as new head of the garden guild.

Last year was a quiet year compared to all the turmoil of the last few years. But it was nevertheless a very busy one. Our small team—besides Rogina and myself—was kept busy over the summer with the usual watering and weeding. Special thanks to Doris Peña-Cruz, Diane and Anne Britton, Suzi Briggs and Ginnie Pierce and last but not least Moses Buyondo. To cover for all the vacation absences, we owe special thanks to Rogina's friend, Susan Kearney.

The last linden tree was removed, so now nobody has to live in fear of another fallen tree, and the new magnolia was planted, in its place.

The beautiful Memorial Garden facing Brimmer Street, needs a lot of attention, weeding and pruning, during the entire gardening year. Memorial stones can be purchased, at any time. Please speak to Father Warren, if you are interested in more information about this special garden (within the larger garden).

Spring is never far away and should anybody be interested in helping out in the garden, please talk to any of us; we are always glad to welcome new volunteers.

Jacqueline Martindale



Family Ministry

In 2011, family ministry at the Advent continued to grow. The Advent Family Group met for First Friday Family Suppers in the winter, spring and fall, and Family Fun Fridays returned in the summer months. This year our discussions covered a number of topics, including integrating families in public worship, how families flourish, and how God uses families to renew our world. Our largest projects were the inaugural spring and fall Advent Family Seminars. In March, we hosted a day-long Spring Family Seminar called "At Home With God: Praying as a Family," led by Gavin Long, author of a new liturgical guide for the Christian home. In December, the first Fall Family Seminar

was a two-day event around a series of videos based on Dr. Tim Kimmel's book *Grace Based Parenting: Set Your Family Free*. Both seminars were well-attended and extremely informative. Fr. Warren led a packed Moseley Hall in a Passover Seder meal during Holy Week. Also, the first issues of a new internet newsletter for Advent families went out in the fall. Finally, a new Advent Youth Group for junior- and senior-high kids had its inaugural outing (candlepin bowling and pizza) in October.

Looking ahead: Dates for upcoming seminars will be announced soon, and Families at the Advent (FAMA) plans to host a pancake breakfast for all parishioners in Moseley Hall on February 11. First Fridays will continue to be Family Nights around the Advent, and the Advent Youth Group meets on the second Sunday of each month during the program year, so contact Fr. Wood at frwood@theadventboston.org to get involved.

Father Wood



The Flower Arranging Guild



In 2011 the parish Flower Arranging Guild provided floral arrangements in the church for approximately 41 Sunday and feast day Masses and for 3 weddings and 2 funerals, as well as the extensive decorations at Christmas and Easter. The floral decorations in the church for major feasts, especially the great feasts of the Incarnation and Resurrection, are widely admired, and many people are amazed to learn that it is all done by non-professional volunteers from within the congregation.

Guild membership has held steady at ten, with a few new members taking the places of others who have had to resign. Members typically come in one Saturday morning every four to six

weeks. We are always eager to welcome newcomers. No previous floral design experience is required; we provide "on-the-job" training for novice arrangers, who work in teams with experienced designers. In addition, it would be impossible to prepare the church for Christmas and Easter without the assistance of many parishioners from beyond the Flower Guild.

The flowers in the church are funded by donations from members and friends of the parish. The minimum donation for high altar arrangements is \$75; the money goes a long way because we are able to buy the flowers at wholesale prices. Blenda Jeffries continues to manage the scheduling, contacting recurring donors, working to fill vacancies, and making sure that the memorials are listed correctly. Another essential service is provided by Cassie Gurnon, Sam Manka, Ginnie Pierce, and Fr. Warren, who take turns going to the wholesale flower exchange to pick up the flowers every week.

After holding steady for several years, donations for Christmas 2011 dropped sharply, with significantly fewer donors and a 30% decrease in funds. It's impossible to know if this is an anomaly or a permanent reduction, but since most of the Christmas greens and plans must be ordered 3 to 5 weeks in advance, next year's decor will be a bit less lavish as a precaution.

Tom Sopko
Director



Hospitality & Evangelism

11:15 Coffee Hour

Thank you to all the wonderful hosts of the 11:15 Coffee Hour this past year. Without your generosity of spirit and delicious contributions, this special time of fellowship would not be possible. Your willingness to participate combined with Terry Jacobi's expertise in preparing our sumptuous feast each Sunday makes the 11:15 Coffee Hour a warm and welcoming environment for both parishioners and newcomers alike.

If you have not had the opportunity to experience co-hosting a coffee hour, you are missing out on a unique way to get better acquainted with your fellow parishioners. We welcome new co-hosts and would be delighted to have you join our team.

And a special thank you to all of you who simply just jump in on Sunday mornings to help when you see a need, even though you are not scheduled to co-host that day. Your efforts are duly noted and very much appreciated. Our legion of Advent Angels is definitely growing.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your friendship and cooperation throughout the year in making my duties as coordinator a pleasant experience.

Nan Ritenour
Coordinator for the 11:15 Coffee Hour



Keepers of All Souls Chapel

All Souls Chapel, the Advent's crypt chapel, and its columbarium are located directly under the High Altar and are accessed through the passage behind Moseley Hall or by the back stairs next to the sacristy. All Souls Chapel was one of the first mortuary chapels in a church in Massachusetts. The monthly requiem is said in the Chapel, which contains a columbarium of 170 niches for the cremated remains of deceased Advent parishioners. There are approximately 40 niches still available.

The recently designed and planted garden at the corner of Brimmer and Mt. Vernon Streets has been designated a memorial garden. The Vestry has approved rules, regulations and fees for interment of remains in the memorial garden as well as the columbarium. The garden was dedicated in the spring of 2009

The Keepers of All Souls Chapel usually meet biannually on or near the last Saturdays in October and April to schedule clean-up days (dusting, vacuuming cushions, etc.), plan long-range projects to preserve and enhance the chapel and to plan activities to increase the awareness of and use of the chapel. Among the projects we have accomplished over the years have been a new altar dossel, painting the ceiling vaults, enhancing the lighting, a hand-carved Remembrance Book display case, a gilded dove at the sanctuary lamp and a hand-carved credence shelf.

A large bronze plaque—in Latin—dedicating All Souls Chapel to the memory of Harold Ethelbert Addison in 1903—removed



years ago when the brick walls of the chapel were cleaned—was remounted on the rear wall of the chapel this year along with an English translation in elegant calligraphy by Joseph Chapman. Crenellated top and continuous bottom moldings were added this year to the three banks of oak columbarium niches in the chapel.

The Keepers met once this year on November 12, 2011. Copies of a pamphlet about the columbarium are usually on the tables at the back of the church and on top of the Remembrance Book display case in the chapel. The chapel is open on Sunday mornings during all the masses and by appointment. A Remembrance Book in a display case is open to the page listing the names of those remembered in the requiem each month.

Five new niche licenses were issued in 2011.

No new interments were made in 2011.

Questions and inquiries about the Keepers of All Souls Chapel may be directed to the chairman, Vance Hosford or co-chairperson, Carolyn Walden, the church office or the clergy. We are always seeking new members to the Keepers of All Souls Chapel.

Vance Hosford
Chairman



Missions & Outreach Team

Advent was again actively involved in mission to our city and our world in 2011. Having experienced the life-changing grace of God, we witness to that grace by serving others in the world around us, starting at home and working outward in concentric circles of influence as opportunities arise.

First, the Advent in mission to Boston: In addition to our weekly Tuesday Night Suppers for homeless and un-/under-employed persons in Boston, biweekly Advent Playgroups in Moseley Hall for local children, and the annual “Teddy Bear Mass” where donations benefit the Fragment Society, the Advent continues to focus our mission efforts on our city:

- < We sponsor Tim and Alice Colegrove and InnerCHANGE Boston, a ministry of presence among homeless youth and young adults aged 14-30 in Cambridge and Boston. Tim and Alice serve young homeless persons in myriad ways -- as advocates, counselors and street pastors, and most importantly as friends.
- < 2011 saw formation of a corps of volunteers to serve our parish family, especially parishioners somehow limited by age or physical condition. Michael Olivieri coordinates a stable of volunteers and is actively seeking tasks to assign them, whether it's giving rides, shopping for groceries, running errands or performing tasks around parishioners' homes.
- < Two 2011 mission projects focused on the Home for Little Wanderers, a non-profit child and family service agency that works to promote behavioral, emotional, social and educational development and physical well-being of families and children in at-risk circumstances. In December, we sponsored a coat drive for the Home's children, and recording artists Maeve performed a Christmas concert in the nave with all proceeds going to the Home.
- < One of our outreach goals is to “lower the walls” around the Advent and invite our neighbors into our life here. To that end, we hosted a concert by Washington, DC recording artist Wendell Kimbrough and Marblehead's Rachel Taylor in November.

- < Other projects included: Support for the Brookline Emergency Food Pantry, Healthcare for the Homeless, FriendshipWorks, the Back to School program of the Church of St. Augustine & St. Martin in the South End, and UniteBoston, a website that connects the Christian community in worship and mission in the Greater Boston Area.

Mission Beyond Boston:

- < In August, the Advent hosted “Sounds of Abolition,” an evening of music by Marika Whitaker, John Francis and John Carter Cash to benefit the New England Coalition Against Trafficking.
- < April 27, 2011, saw one of the deadliest rashes of tornadoes in the United States in almost a century. More than 200 people died in Alabama alone, and the Advent sent contributions to the relief efforts in both Alabama and Mississippi.
- < Other projects included: Providing Spanish language bibles to the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in New Hampshire; helping refurbish a cabin at the BCH Camp to serve as a “clergy house” in honor of retiring Bishop Bud Cederholm; sending funds to bring clean water to a village in Africa; and sponsoring a medical missionary to Burundi.
- < In May, around 20 parishioners joined "Team Advent" to participate in the annual 20-mile Walk for Hunger to raise funds for Project Bread.

Looking ahead: In 2012, the dream for the Advent in Mission is for us to be more involved in hands-on service opportunities, while continuing to financially support as many projects and organizations as we can. Team Advent will again suit up for the Walk for Hunger this spring. A project is planned with Rebuilding Together Boston in April, and the Mission & Outreach Team is always looking for other ways for us to serve. The Team meets several times a year to consider project proposals and shape the way the Church of the Advent serves our city and the world, so if you have an idea for a specific project, please contact Fr. Wood at frwood@theadventboston.org. Better yet—come join us to pray and dream about ways the Advent can best serve Beacon Hill, Boston and the world.

Father Wood



Music Department

During the calendar year 2011, the Advent Choir sang 70 choral services, consisting of approximately 40 different settings of the Ordinary of the Mass, 100 anthems and motets, and various canticles and Anglican and plainsong chants. 28 of the masses, anthems, motets and canticle settings were completely new to us. The repertoire ran the gamut from the Taverner: *Missa “Gloria tibi Trinitas”* through the masses of Certon, Tallis, Guerrero, Monteverdi, Leighton, Langlais and Mathias.

The Evensong services on the fourth Sundays of January, February and March were followed by light soup suppers and talks by Mark Dwyer on liturgical music. These new supper-lectures as well as the services that preceded them proved



extremely popular, much to the delight of all involved. Topics included the structure of choral Evensong, the music of the Mass, and Hymnody.

In particular, Holy Week is a moving observance at the Advent. The Dufay: *Missa "Se la face ay pale"* provided an appropriate backdrop for the Masses of Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday, while the *"Euge bone"* mass by Christopher Tye set a joyful tone for the Masses of the Great Vigil and Easter Day. Motets of Ammon, Kuhnau, Monteverdi, Sheppard and Victoria made commentary on Passiontide texts, while motets of Desprez and Lassus celebrated the glories of Easter.

An orchestral mass was sung on Ascension Thursday featuring the *Coronation Mass for soli, chorus, and orchestra, K 317* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. This observance with orchestra was made possible by a remarkable gift from a very generous parishioner. We are so grateful for that support of the music program, making possible a wonderful celebration of this feast.

The Advent Choir presented its Spring Choral Concert in May. Entitled *"The Vs"*, the program featured the beautiful: *Missa "O quam gloriosum"* of Victoria, and the wonderful *Mass in G Minor* of Ralph Vaughan Williams. The program was rounded out by motets of Viadana, Victoria and Vaughan Williams. A festive reception followed.

A particularly late date for Easter extended the choral season nearly to the end of June. At that time, the Feast of Corpus Christi marked the retirement of Ivan Hansen, devoted Choir Librarian of ten years. Ivan's contribution to the music department is simply unmeasurable, as are the weeks, months and years which he has given to the parish. His influence is still keenly felt by the choirs and the orderliness of our extensive choral library is due to his decade of exacting service and organizational skill. We were happy to welcome new librarian Elise Groves to succeed Ivan.

The summer months are relatively quiet at the Advent, but a high musical standard is maintained for the adornment of the Mass. The Vestry generously provided additional budget for choral music for ten summer Sundays. Therefore, our normal pattern of Solemn Masses continued unabated through much of the summer of 2011. Settings of the Ordinary by composers such as Batten, Bernardi, Gabrieli and Handl and as well as approximately 20 anthem settings were featured. We enjoyed a special treat when the Broken Consort sang for one September Sunday, offering a Medieval mass setting complemented with newly-composed movements by founder and Advent Choir member, Emily Lau.



The fall season began with the Solemn Mass and Procession for Michaelmas Day and a Solemn Evensong sung the previous Sunday evening for the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The Advent Choir offered music of Harris, Aquilera de Heredia, Holst and Wood for a large crowd of organists and choirmasters. The Rector installed the new Officers and Executive Committee members of the Guild at the end of the service. Prior to the service, Mark Dwyer played a half-hour prelude recital of music by César Franck.

In October, Mark Dwyer and Ross Wood presented a joint recital on the Advent Organ, installed in 1936, to celebrate her 75th Anniversary. An appreciative audience enjoyed the Widor *6th Symphony* and the *Trois Danses* of Alain followed by a champagne reception.

The Advent Choir was invited to sing a November Evensong service at St John's Church, West Hart-

ford, as part of their new music series: *"Music at the Red Door."* The choir traveled to Connecticut with the works of Harris and Howells.

For the All Souls' Day Requiem, the choir sang the beloved Requiem by Gabriel Fauré, accompanied by orchestra. It was the first performance by the Advent Choir of this work with orchestral accompaniment, thanks to a very generous gift in memory of G. Harris Collingwood, sometime Rector of the Church of the Advent.

Later in November, on the Feast of Christ the King, the choir offered the Mozart: *Missa Brevis in F for soli, chorus, and orchestra, K. 192* in memory of Frances Nielsen. It was the first of a number of such orchestral masses that her generous legacy will provide. Her gift has enabled a new piano for the choir room to replace the aging piano which was procured for the Advent in the late 1960s by then-Organist, Phillip Steinhaus.

As usual, the Advent Sunday Service of Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve's Midnight Mass and the New Year's Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols drew large crowds. The Midnight Mass included the beautiful *Missa "Osculetur me"* by Roland de Lassus and a 45-minute choral prelude by the choir and soloists. The repertoire for Advent and Christmas Lessons and Carols services was wide-ranging and included works and arrangements by Byrd, Byrt, Dove, Dufay, Handel, Lukaszewski, Mathias, Ord, Pearsall, Poulenc, Rheinberger, Sweelinck, Taverner, Weelkes and Willcocks. The Advent service was preceded by an organ recital by John Robinson, the newly-appointed Director of the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School.

Ross Wood, Associate Organist and Choirmaster, continues to provide variety and mastery in his preludes and postludes, to lead the congregation's robust hymn singing, and to conduct the choirs. His capable and sensitive accompaniments for both choirs are very much cherished.

The 19 members of the Parish Choir of the Church of the Advent presented approximately 60 anthems and motets at the Sunday Sung Mass, including a wealth of music from Gregorian chant through Palestrina, Croce, Tye, Handel, Stanford and Bainton. The Palestrina: *Missa Brevis* was offered at the Solemn Mass on the Second Sunday of Easter, as well as at the wedding of Jason Grant and Gretchen Fricke. Also during March, Evensong was sung featuring works by Ley, Byrd and Victoria. The choir was honored to sing music by Handl and Friedell at the May Diocesan Confirmation service held at the Advent. The Choir sang at approximately 35 masses. The Advent is blessed to have two choral ensembles that so faithfully present the glorious music of the Western Church in its proper liturgical context.

Organ music prepared for the liturgy ranged from early anonymous works through those of contemporary composers such as Daniel Pinkham. Six pre-Evensong organ recitals were presented during the course of the year. On the Friday evening before Palm Sunday, Grace Cathedral organist Jeffrey Smith presented a concert of improvisation, based on the poetry of George Herbert which was selected and read by the Rector as a meditation on the Passion. It was a para-liturgical experience and a marvelous way to prepare for Holy Week as poetry and music brought the Passion before our eyes and ears.

The Music Department cannot function smoothly without the help of our many volunteers and staff members. Librarian Elise Groves spends many hours weekly keeping the music library in good order. Joseph Chapman is invaluable as page turner/stop puller, re-



coding engineer, deputy organist, music engraver, liturgical and Latin consultant. Anne Reiss manages vestments, and is helpful with all sorts of music-related odd jobs. Terry Jacobi and “the Mosei” have been faithful doorkeepers, admitting and welcoming the choirs into the Parish House for rehearsals. We also wish to thank all those who have so generously contributed financial support towards the Advent’s music. We are most appreciative of your gifts and good will. Lastly, we wish to thank the Rector, Wardens and Vestry for their continuing support for the musical and liturgical life of the Church of the Advent.

Almighty God, who hast ordained that our hearts shall be kindled by music, and our minds thereby attuned to understand thy divine mysteries: Grant, we pray thee, that all who lead thy praises may know themselves to be thy ministers, and that the hearts of all who hear may be lifted up unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Mark Dwyer
Organist & Choirmaster



Parish Office



As I prepare my fifteenth annual report, I am astonished that the years have gone by so quickly since I first became part of this extraordinary place in the winter snows of 1997 (remember when winter used to have snow?) Many things have changed. I recall (but only dimly) the old, depressing space that was Moseley Hall. I remember the gray and dark office spaces; and the darkened exterior of the church buildings themselves. I also remember that it was by no means a foregone conclusion in 1997 that this Parish

would thrive, her very survival was not taken for granted. Those were parlous times indeed, and it is thanks to the dedicated efforts of lay and religious leadership that the Advent is a stable, healthy and vibrant parish today. It has been a privilege to have been a small part of that history.

Every year I take this opportunity to thank those who have assisted the Parish Office during the past twelve months. In the early years, there was a list of parishioners who came in every week and folded and collated the bulletins and announcements—God bless them! Now our workhorse Ricoh copier does all that for us. We still depend on the kindness of others—Julianne Turé helps out every Friday in ways large and small. Nanette Orme-Johnson takes care of mailing the bulletin and announcements to a number of parishioners who, because of reasons of health or distance, cannot be here every week. Ivan Hansen was a high octane proof reader until his retirement last June. Our sextons, Moses Sekajja and Moses Buyondo, continue to do their excellent work week in and week out. The “money ladies,” Sheila Callahan, our Comptroller, and Elaine Crandall, our Bookkeeper, keep our finances in order and under control with competence and good cheer. It would be impossible to produce the weekly bulletins without the cooperation and assistance of the Music Department. It has also been a happy experience to work with the lay leadership of the parish—the officers, of course, but especially with Vance Hosford, Chairman of the Property Committee, and with Jason Grant, the Chairman of the Annual Canvass. It is also a great personal and professional joy to work with our two fine clergy whose wisdom, coupled with a healthy dose of good humor, has seen us through problems large and small.

James J. Wood
Parish Administrator



Property Committee

Every year I start my report, it seems, by writing that it has been a very active year—2011 has certainly been just that.

I started last year's report by describing a Scope Study we commissioned from Shawmut Design & Construction of Boston to determine the best long-term replacement for the church's aging oil-fired heating system, originally coal-fired in the 1880s. At the end of 2011 we are still grappling with that issue. There is a growing consensus that the existing steam radiator system is still a fairly trouble-free system that fits the nature of our historic building: quiet and inconspicuous under the floor. And, it does not require a high-tech engineer to manage. This year we contracted with Homeyer Consulting Services of Tewksbury, MA to conduct an assessment of the condition of the existing radiators and piping system to determine their life expectancy. The results show that they are in good shape and with intermittent repairs will last well into the future.

The rising cost of heating oil is a major factor in our consideration of conversion of the system to natural gas-fired boilers. Converting to gas could save tens of thousands of dollars each year. The present church boiler is over 20 years old and a new boiler would be part of the new system. Conversion to natural gas will require lining the chimney and other building code compliance provisions. There are incentives from the gas company to minimize the cost of a new larger gas service from Mt. Vernon Street that gas-fired boilers would require. If we are able to proceed with engineering work this winter we could have a more efficient system in place by next winter.

Another potential component of an upgraded heating system could also be provisions for ventilation in the church—a welcome addition for all of us who serve and worship here in July and August! We are considering a design and this could be part of the heating work or added at a later time.

The major part of the Whitney Hale parish house was built in 1957 and has its own heating system, also with an oil-fired steam boiler and a separate oil tank. That boiler, also close to 20 years old, failed in July; several sections of the boiler jacket were corroded beyond repair. Tim Foley, long time Advent plumber and all-around system problem solver, installed a new boiler. The burner is less than 10 years old and was retrofitted to the new boiler.

As many Advent parishioners are aware, the church is built on wood pilings driven into land reclaimed with fill from the Charles River in the 1860s. A well below the garden in front of the church provides a continuous supply of water, which is injected into the ground below the church to keep these pilings wet. That water contains significant iron and does over time clog the pump, the depth sensor and the well walls themselves. When the well system failed last spring we contracted with Denis L. Maher Co., of Ayer, MA to flush the well walls and install a new pump and we are back in operation. We do have an abatement meter on City water service for back-up during such an emergency. Long-time parishioner Mark Gould has been our go-to man for the well system, but he and wife Diane have recently moved to South Carolina to be near their son Andrew and his family. We are in the process of determining who will now look after the well system.

The parish undertook a major cleaning and restoration of much of the exterior masonry of the church in 2005-2006. Given the cost and priorities of the work, that did not include every part of the garden side of the attached buildings, nor every area of roof that did not leak or appear damaged. Small leaks in the library and parish house roofs were repaired this year and 15 badly deteriorated windows (5 each on three floors) of the parish house were replaced with new insulated glass units.

One additional masonry task was undertaken late in 2011; subsequent to heavy rains this fall (including Hurricane Irene), considerable efflorescence appeared inside high on the east and west walls of the north transept. Shawmut and BCA (consultants on 2005-2006 exterior restoration) examined the area and concluded that shrunken pointing around the sandstone window surrounds was allowing wind-driven rain into the wall. They have also seen masonry saturation in other churches in New England over the last several years. John Marchetti, mason, has just finished re-pointing the areas and applying a masonry sealer to the north wall of the transept. He will also endeavor to clean the efflorescence from the interior of the wall so we can watch to see if the problem continues.

Late last year we were approached by the Park Street School—they have a main school building on Brimmer Street—with a proposal to lease classrooms on the third floor of the Whitney Hale parish house for weekday use for their Kindergarten and first grade classes, beginning in August 2011. The School provided needed renovations and worked with our church school staff to organize storage and procedures to change over for church school classes at the end of each week. Rector's Warden Peter Madsen worked with Park Street School on the agreement and the funds this project provides to the parish. The collaboration is working very smoothly and we are delighted to be working with the Park Street School.

Coincident with the work for the Park Street School, we undertook a complete upgrade of our aging fire alarm system; our system had components of two overlapping older systems, parts for one of which are no longer available. Mammoth Fire Alarms Inc. of Lowell, MA rebuilt the system and brought it up to fire code compliance last summer and it should be maintainable for years to come.

Another piece of essential equipment failed this fall: the 25-year-old Moseley Hall kitchen dishwasher, an essential piece of equipment for the Tuesday Night Supper. A new dishwasher—identical, but with updated controls—was installed in November.

The Advent owns two condominiums in the Beacon Hill area for housing our priests and their families. Our condo at 140 Mt. Vernon Street—one of nine at that address—is presently rented to a private party. The condo association undertook major masonry, roofing and roof deck work in 2011 resulting in an assessment over several months of \$47,000 to the Advent. That work is underway. The condo at 47 Hancock Street is the residence of Fr. Wood and his family. The street-front windows in that unit were badly deteriorated and were replaced with new double-glazed units in 2011. Rector's Warden Peter Madsen is the committee's much-appreciated condo liaison.

We have at this time a very competent and reliable small-job contractor in Jim Holden. He has undertaken many small tasks and also handled the parish house and condo window replacements. I anticipate keeping him busy in 2012!

After an incident in the smoke sacristy last fall which summoned the fire department during Sunday morning mass, plans are being considered to renovate the smoke sacristy—that very busy Sunday morning intersection—to increase fire safety, hardware storage, traffic flow and maybe even some aesthetic improvement(!).

Active members of the Property Committee are Blenda Jeffrey, Vance Hosford (chairman), Peter Madsen (Rector's Warden), David Taylor (People's Warden), Kara Rodgers and our Rector, Fr. Allan Warren. We lost several members of the committee this year and we would welcome new members, especially parishioners with building profession experience and knowledge or just interest in this amazing and complex old building. We meet at 5:15 PM on the third Thursday of each month (except August) just before the Vestry meetings in Moseley Hall. If you are interested in serving on the Property Committee, please contact me at 802-874-4961 or vhosford@sover.net or through the church office.

Vance Hosford
Chairman



Saint Elisabeth's Guild

Saint Elisabeth's Guild is inspired by the charitable example of our patron saint, Elisabeth of Hungary, an early follower of St. Francis of Assisi. She is famed for the "Miracle of the Roses," in which her basket of bread intended for the poor was transformed into an arm full of roses in mid-winter, symbolic of the Holy Spirit's transformative action in the world. Saint Elisabeth is the patroness of the destitute, the homeless, the sick and the dying, hospitals and healers, tertiary Franciscans and the widowed. Mrs. Isabella Stewart Gardner included St. Elisabeth of Hungary on the gospel side of the high altar's reredos. She is flanked by Saint Isabella of France who is yet another royal connected with St. Francis.

Our mission is to serve those in the church and the community, "who are in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity." Guild members bake and distribute nourishing bread and share in group devotions twice a month. We seek to follow Christ's Gospel teaching of serving "the least of these my brothers" in prayer and in practical ways. Guild outreach is based on each member's ability and includes: visiting the sick, comforting those who grieve, befriending the poor and unwanted and assisting the homeless in practical ways.

Our bread has been given to any number of Advent parishioners, served at the coffee hours and enjoyed by the Cathedral of Saint Paul's Common Cathedral Bible study group. We published a lovely prayer card featuring a photo of Saint Elisabeth from the Advent's North Transept stained glass window. It includes guild mission information that we hope to place onto the Advent's website. We have had two potluck suppers and met with the mission and outreach team regularly to discuss our goals. Our group and daily devotions include the names and intentions of Advent parishioners as well as those in our community in need of our love and compassion. We presented Bishop Shaw with a rose bush for the SSJE garden when he was last with us for confirmation in May of 2011. He was kind enough to give the guild his blessing. Bishop Shaw agreed that small acts of charity and compassion, however humble, deepen our ability to see Christ and serve Him in our neighbor and neighborhood. Ours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world. We invite you to grow in faith, by putting yours into practice by joining us to bake bread, serve and pray for those in need.

Peter Martin



Stewardship

The Canvass for 2011 resulted in financial pledges totalling a little over \$406,000. Although the amount pledged last year fell somewhat short of the record-breaking previous year, the total number of pledges remained steady: 222 pledges for 2011, a net decrease of only 2 from the 224 pledges for 2010. Overall this is a very strong showing, and I thank each and every one of you for your continued support of the Church of the Advent. Of course, the pledge total alone does not represent the totality of what we give. No dollar amount can ever be assigned to the vast outpourings of time and talent that, most of the time, go without acknowledgment but are nevertheless key components of good stewardship. Your support makes possible God's work in the world, via the ministries and programs of the Advent. Along with the other members of the Stewardship Committee (Vance Hosford, Carolyn Shadid Lewis, Jason Lewis, Philip LeQuesne, and Tyler VanderWeele) I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you have done.



Such were the achievements of the past year: let us now turn our attention to the work that lies before us. Having thanked those who have pledged, we issue an appeal to those who have not yet made a pledge. Please remember that the Parish receives no financial assistance from the National Church or the Diocese. The programs and ministries of the Parish are funded almost completely by the financial contributions of our members and the more we receive in pledge income the better we are equipped to serve the needs of our community. We understand that times are still difficult and that there are many competing demands for our money. Nevertheless we very much hope that all those who decide to make the Advent their parish home will become

members, contributing financially, as well as with their gifts of time and talent.

The 2012 Stewardship season is well under way and the results so far suggest that we will have yet another very successful Canvass. Let us continue this good work and let us heed the words of our Lord: *Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. (Matthew 10:8)*

Jason Grant
for the Stewardship Committee



The Advent World Wide Web Site

During 2011, we have been expanding the types of media offered on the Website, including sound clips and videos of the Choir, and augmenting the photo galleries with slideshows using Flickr®. We have also shared these offerings on the Advent's Facebook page and Twitter feed.

We are exploring, in conjunction with an upgrade to the Music Program's recording equipment (made possible by the Frances Nielsen bequest), the possibility of recording sermons for delivery on the Web as either podcasts or MP3 downloads.

Links:

Website: <http://theadventboston.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Church-of-the-Advent-Boston-MA/124120727260>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/adventboston>

Julianne Turé
Webmaster

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