

THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

30 BRIMMER STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 16, 2021



THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

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The Rev'd David Thompson	<i>Parochial Vicar</i>
The Rev'd Dr Jeffrey Allan Hanson	<i>Priest Associate</i>
The Rev'd Moses Buyondo	<i>Deacon</i>
The Rev'd Thomas E. Adams	<i>Honorary Assistant</i>
The Rev'd Dr Clarence E. Butler	<i>Honorary Assistant</i>
The Rev'd Dr Philip H. Pfatteicher	<i>Honorary Assistant</i>
Mark Dwyer	<i>Organist & Choirmaster</i>
Jeremy Bruns	<i>Associate Organist & Choirmaster</i>
Henry Clapp	<i>Music Administrator</i>
Meg Nelson	<i>Coordinator for Ministry to Children</i>
Raymond B. Porter	<i>Verger</i>
James Singletary	<i>Parish Administrator</i>
Joseph Brown	<i>Comptroller</i>
Rich Lyerla	<i>Property Manager</i>
The Rev'd Moses Buyondo	<i>Resident Custodian & Sexton</i>

VESTRY OF THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

C. Thomas Brown	<i>Senior Warden</i>
Paul Roberts	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Adam Rutledge	<i>Treasurer</i>
Frederick Ou	<i>Clerk</i>
Lynda Blair	John Boyd
Amanda Daley	Thatcher Gearhart
Dustin Henderson	David Lapin
Philip Le Quesne	Carolyn McDermott
Brent Nelson	Francesco Piscitelli

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From the Wardens

Dear Members and Friends of the Church of the Advent:

In this year unlike any other we might have imagined—especially for the first year of a new Rectorate—we start our report with a simple, but critical point. At the Advent, the most important thing has remained the most important thing. As the pandemic has ebbed and flowed, and as government and diocesan regulations have changed, often on short notice, with enormous effects on our ability to gather together, one thing has remained constant: every day of the year, Mass has been offered and the cycle of daily prayer observed. More than that, we have adapted our ability to gather for study and fellowship into a virtual environment. And our ministries of service, most importantly our Tuesday Night Dinner, have continued. In a year where all the forces of the world seemed directed at closing things down, we have remained open.

While he is not a man to claim credit, credit for all of this is due first and foremost to our Rector. In just a few weeks after moving here, he found himself faced with an unprecedented circumstance that required immediate and energetic adaptation. He did that without wavering or complaining, among a congregation he had only just begun to meet, and while living with an unexpectedly long separation from his wife and younger daughters. Now as we begin to come back to a more normal pace and style of worship, and of gathering together—“re-remembering the Parish,” as the Rector puts it—we would invite all of you who have not had a chance to get to know the Rector (and Fr Thompson, and their families too!) to spend some time doing that. And just as important, give them the chance to learn about you. This is part of the wider task we all have ahead of us of re-encountering not just our old friends, but the ones more newly among us as well. We are confident that the energetic and committed community of the Advent will reemerge, because it has never gone away. And because the most important thing will remain the most important thing: the centrality of the Eucharist to our common life. Christ feeds us day by day with His very self, to strengthen us for the task set before us.

After six years serving together as Wardens—with two Rectors, an Interim, and dozens of Vestry members—this is our last Annual Meeting in these offices. For both of us, the opportunity to serve the Advent during this critical period has been an enormous privilege and blessing. We thank all of you for your support, for your energies in service, and for your expressions of both hope and concern.

See you in Church!

Faithfully your brothers in Christ,

C. Thomas Brown & Paul J. Roberts
Churchwardens



The Treasurer's Report

1. BUDGETED/ACTUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020 (UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT*)

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Income			
Plate Collection	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 8,822.00	\$ (9,678.00)
Pledge Receipts	590,000.00	568,433.00	(21,567.00)
Endowment Income	1,004,360.00	1,004,360.00	-
Other Receipts	99,250.00	84,545.00	(14,705.00)
Total Income	1,712,110.00	1,666,160.00	(45,950.00)
Parochial Expenses			
Clergy Salary & Allowances	297,494.00	255,375.00	42,119.00
Clergy & Lay Pension & Benefits	250,613.00	234,005.00	16,608.00
Music	302,129.00	287,814.00	14,315.00
Office & Administration	163,645.00	167,991.00	(4,346.00)
Christian Education	84,308.00	34,756.00	49,552.00
Altar Guild	10,000.00	7,338.00	2,662.00
Other Parish Expense	11,000.00	7,286.00	3,714.00
Property Expenses	332,401.00	292,409.00	39,992.00
Total Parochial Expenses	1,451,590.00	1,286,974.00	164,616.00
Non-Parochial Expenses			
Diocesan Assessment Operations	103,559.00	103,559.00	-
Benefactions			-
Diocesan Assessment Benefactions	69,040.00	69,040.00	-
Mission and Outreach	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
Community Dinner	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
Subtotal Benefactions	89,040.00	89,040.00	-
Total Non-Parochial Expenses	192,599.00	192,599.00	-
Capital Expenses	65,000.00	186,587.00	(121,587.00)
Total Expenses	1,709,189.00	1,666,160.00	43,029.00
Net Operating Total	\$ 2,921.00	\$ -	\$ (2,921.00)

*Actual financial information is unaudited.

2. BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020
(UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT*)

Assets

Cash	\$	1,338,860.00
Account Receivable		180,601.00
Prepaid Expenses		6,650.00
Total Operating Assets		1,526,111.00
Land & Other Fixed Assets		9,999,892.00
Unrestricted Endowment Funds		10,648,014.00
Restricted Endowment Funds		28,664,070.00
Total Assets		\$ 50,838,087.00

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$	101,032.00
Prepaid Pledges & Income		256,526.00
Total Liabilities		357,558.00

Fund Balances

Unrestricted Fund Balance		
Prior Year Ending Balance		14,980,455.00
Unrestricted General Fund		6,861,754.00
Vestry Designated Restricted		3,660,141.00
Total Unrestricted Fund Balance		25,502,350.00
Restricted Fund Balance		
Total Temporary Restricted		1,943,735.00
Total Permanent Restricted		23,034,444.00
Total Restricted Fund Balance		24,978,179.00
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances		\$ 50,838,087.00

* Actual financial information is unaudited.

3. BUDGET FOR 2021

Income	
Plate Collection	\$ 10,000.00
Pledge Receipts	550,000.00
Endowment Income	1,029,468.00
Other Receipts	149,400.00
Total Income	1,738,868.00
Parochial Expenses	
Clergy Salary & Allowances	318,231.00
Clergy & Lay Pension & Benefits	213,203.00
Music	308,612.00
Office & Administration	145,183.00
Christian Education	68,500.00
Altar Guild	10,000.00
Other Parish Expense	13,000.00
Property Expenses	300,587.00
Total Parochial Expenses	1,377,316.00
Non-Parochial Expenses	
Diocesan Assessment Operations	114,639.00
Benefactions	
Diocesan Assessment Benefactions	76,426.00
Mission and Outreach	10,000.00
Community Dinner	10,000.00
Subtotal Benefactions	96,426.00
Total Non-Parochial Expenses	211,065.00
Capital Expenses	150,000.00
Total Expenses	1,738,381.00
Net Operating Total	\$ 487.00



Acolytes Guild

As we all know only too well, the pandemic severely disrupted the liturgical life of the parish. As we responded responsibly to the emphatic guidance and directives communicated by state, local, and Diocesan authorities regarding public worship, a great deal of credit and appreciation should be shown for Father Anderson's leadership, patience, and creativity working with the Diocesan COVID Advisory Committee and Bishop Gates to find thoughtful ways of devising workable customary protocols, which allowed very limited in-person worship to be available starting on July 5th. As part of our response, a small and devoted crew have been supporting the public worship of the parish throughout these months and will continue to do so into the new year. We hope that as we begin to emerge from pandemic restrictions, we will be able to restore more familiar liturgical practices and a fuller acolyte staff.

Participation in the Acolytes' Guild is open to pledging members of the parish who are able to commit to regular attendance at worship, are able to work well in a team with defined roles, and are comfortable being 'on stage', while understanding that as readers and servers we are expected to be anonymous. Feel free to approach one of the Acolyte Wardens if you are interested and want to learn more.

Respectfully submitted,
Julianne Turé (for Richard Corrieri and Paul Roberts)



Administration Committee

Strategic plans require periodic reassessment of objectives and the means for realizing them. Of course, add a raging pandemic to the picture and one has the perfect occasion for stepping back to see just where we stand on the implementation front. You may recall that the Vestry adopted our current plan in June 2019 and prioritized recommended actions based on those items that we deemed more doable, as well as those that could be called aspirational.

With respect to Administrative Function and HR Issues, Judy Bell and Julianne Turé once again proved most helpful, along with Vestry member Amanda Daley. Vestry priorities in this domain include establishing and documenting processes that all lay hiring should be expected to follow, referring to Diocesan manuals where appropriate. Other reforms include developing an organizational chart and placing the bookkeeping role under the direct supervision of the comptroller—a step that was rendered moot by the resignation of our bookkeeper and the shared assumption of that role's functions by the parish administrator and the comptroller.

Other employee changes were undertaken, specifically the replacement of the senior sexton position with a part-time property manager; decreased reliance on outside contractors for ordinary maintenance; and shifting of church-school responsibilities from the school director back to clergy. One fortuitous result of the bookkeeper's departure was implementation of electronic bill-pay processes. The last especially proved to be most helpful as we transitioned during the pandemic to remote work.

The most ambitious realized objective in 2020 was the completion of a lay employee handbook and its adoption by the Vestry in December. Even this document was affected by current events, as we grappled at the last minute with the need to flesh out our requirements for remote work, as well as securing confidentiality of data. We have Michael Oliveri to thank for working on these two topics, as well as drawing them to our attention in the first place. The Diocese also proved helpful in providing the basic template from which we developed our own unique document.

Regarding Community, Mission and Education, our recommended actions remain mostly in limbo, until such time as we can again do the kind of face-to-face work that most of these actions presuppose.

On Facilities, the McDermotts will be saying all that needs to be said in their own section of the Annual Report. Bottom line: we have given our sexton and the new property manager much more of the responsibility for functions that used to fall to outside plumbers and handymen. That's a good thing!

On Finance, we will continue to reinforce governance and controls around decision-making to ensure that all relevant parties are kept in the loop on major decisions. The comptroller also now has more authority to put together a plan of improvement opportunities—some already realized, as with respect to electronic payments—and work with the relevant stakeholders to approve and execute them.

The pandemic has also forced us to examine our use of Technology, Systems and Processes. Thanks to Jim Singletary, we have extended WiFi throughout the Parish House, and have begun reconsideration of our software and cloud-based applications. We should thank Mark Dwyer and his team for accelerating the uploading of music to the Internet, as well as taking our first steps toward the use of video for church services and music performances.

The need for social distancing, as well as state requirements limiting physical meetings, meant that the Administration Committee has not had an opportunity to meet in person for over a year. This unfortunate fact should not deter me from thanking everyone who continues to volunteer in these fields including, in addition to those already mentioned, Maggie Westberg, Michael Gnozzio, Brent Nelson and Rick Stone. As we all proceed through vaccinations, we look forward to gathering once again not only to attend to the business of the church, but also to worship Our Lord in his holy place, our beloved Church of the Advent.

David Lapin



The Archives

“Without archives many stories of real people would be lost, and along with those stories, vital clues that allow us to reflect and interpret our lives today.” — Sara Sheridan

Much of the tenor, tempo and rhythm of 2020 was inexorably altered in slow motion as the COVID-19 pandemic developed, grew and spread. As we all entered lock-down in March, our communal sense of isolation felt so very fraught and contrary to our gospel duty to love and serve God and one another. Even a visit to the grocery store for essentials felt risky, and we struggled to find a new normal of weekly Mass online and virtual meetings with friends, colleagues and others to keep some semblance of community. Of course, our deepest sympathies must be for those who have been infected and died, as well as their families and caregivers of all kinds.

Happily, as of this writing in December 2020, a number of efficacious vaccines have just been approved and begun use among our health care providers, front-line personnel and the elderly. Nonetheless, over the past month or so, infections have begun to spike in levels even exceeding those in the spring and, unfortunately, even more infections and mortality are likely. A second lockdown may be in the offing in the short term.

You may think that the above paragraphs are odd for the Archivist’s report and, indeed, they are. Your Archivist writes not only to report on the work within the Archives, but also to describe the environment within which it operates for the parish, both present and future.

“Eschew Obfuscation” — bumper sticker seen cruising the slopes of Beacon Hill

To put the current pandemic in context and bring some measure of clarity to our own day, Deacon Daphne was good enough to summarize some of how the 1918 influenza pandemic affected this parish and its people. This insert was a part of the weekly e-mail blast of announcements in mid-November and was well received. Additionally, our Archives contains materials on the HIV/AIDS pandemic of more recent memory, perhaps for later use.

Due to the pandemic, our two display cases are frozen in time. The case in the Hunnewell Room (library) contains archeological items excavated from the church lot in connection with the wells that we use to measure groundwater levels. The case in the lobby contains our winter exhibit on various volumes, including rather ancient Books of Common Prayer, a Book of Remembrance and a record of early Baptisms of the parish. Each is interesting and insightful in its own way and, indeed, the content was carefully considered. Nonetheless, the exhibits stand there with few observers and in effigy of this, our forlorn year. We long for more active engagement. Other activity involving the Archives before the discontinuation of in-person activities in March included: 1) sending two additional 19th century record books out for conservation; and 2) parishioner **Dr. Brian Sirman** gave a presentation entitled: **“Jesus Christ, Cornerstone: Faith, Worship, and Unity in Anglo-Catholic Architecture”** on which the Archives was consulted.

Late in 2020, we were pleased that parishioner Robb Scholten volunteered to help in the Archives and, together with your Archivist and Deacon Daphne, we look forward to the association and our common work. Robb expressed an interest in our inventory work and we appreciate his energy, drive, aplomb, attention to detail and doing things in his usual cheerful way. After the high of our 175th anniversary and all the year-long activities celebrating it in 2019, our isolation from each other feels particularly acute, especially at Easter and our forthcoming observance of Christmas. We in the Archives look forward to a return to normalcy and partner-ing with so many of you to help make the Advent the dynamic place it is.

David J. Russo
Parish Archivist



Children's Ministry

The Advent Church School certainly had a non-traditional start to the 2020-21 school year. Due to the restrictions set forth by our Bishop and the Diocese as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all church school and childcare functions ceased in March 2020. Together with the clergy, I explored the possibility of hosting virtual Christian education events for children and their families. The feedback that was received by those families which responded indicated that, while seeking to continue religious activities for their children, they were concerned that their children were experiencing too much computer time. To that end, we provided electronic copies of the Sunday Paper and the Sunday Paper, Jr. for families to use to engage their children in Christian education. In the late summer through early fall, the Advent was granted permission to begin to Christian education events. We had a small cadre of children and their families who participated in Godly Play lessons, with Diocesan safety and social distancing guidelines in place. We were all thankful to see each other once again and participate in lessons that provide children an opportunity to further explore their faith and gain deeper knowledge of religious language and spiritual experiences.

I would be remiss to not thank the dedicated church school teachers and volunteers that assisted in the Winter 2020 through the present date: John Ross Campbell, Maria Denslow, Betsy James, Carolyn Lewis, Darcy Montaldi, Lauren Mojarrab, Maggie Westberg and Nicholas Westberg. I am grateful to each of them for their enthusiasm, care and diligence in assisting to raise our youngest Advent parishioners in the Anglo-catholic and Christian Faith.

A special thanks is due for Cassie Gurnon, who despite the restrictions of the pandemic, worked tirelessly to assemble take-away Advent Wreath kits for the Parish. This allowed the church school to continue this important tradition and, through individual donations, allowed the Parish to continue to contribute to the Fragment Society, to which donations from the 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass are traditionally given.

At the time of Fr Anderson's arrival at the Advent, I expressed to him my desire to step back from the responsibilities of the Church School. When he arrived in February, I agreed to stay on through the end of the 2019-20 academic year. However, due to the pandemic and the uncertainty of the times, at his request, and the request of the Vestry, I agreed to stay on through the end of the 2020 calendar year. After six years in this role, I am ready to step back and feel confident in the fact that the programming for and ministry to the children and families of the Advent will fully return to the most capable hands of our priests. I have truly enjoyed my time as the Coordinator for Children's Ministry and give thanks to God for the immeasurable support of the Clergy and Vestry as well as the time, care, persistence and dedication of the volunteer teachers and caregivers who assist in carrying out this ministry.

In peace,

Meg Nelson

Coordinator for Ministry to Children



The Community Supper

As with nearly everything else in our world, this past year saw changes to the Community Supper. On March 18, we moved from a sit-down meal in the hall to take-out only. We began serving out of the door to the Parish Hall, but as the traffic was quite congested there, we moved to using the main doors to the sanctuary, which allows one path up the steps and another down, with a one-way flow. As cold weather hit, Jack Gurnon devised a plastic shield on a wooden frame to replace a shower curtain we had taped across the upper part of the doorway, to help reduce germ transmission. We see many old friends and also guests new to us; the numbers have been a bit fewer than previously, but steady at about 55 a week. The nature of takeout dictated some menu changes, meaning that we are spending a bit more weekly for fewer guests. (e.g. takeout containers and bags, hand fruit instead of salad, individual milk and juice cartons instead of lemonade)

We were very thankful to get notice out of the blue of a grant to us from RIZE Massachusetts, part of the resiliency fund. We got together the information needed in order to be part of the current round of funding, and are doubly grateful since Project Bread cut us from \$1000 to zero! However, PB also instituted a new funding mechanism for walk teams that register on their website to receive back a percentage of the total raised. Thanks to the Briggs-Kiernan family, we got back nearly \$3,000! Many thanks also to all who walked in their own neighborhoods and registered gifts on the Advent website.

I personally have been thankful for the small group that prepares and serves each week – we're a sort of COVID pod! The group consists of two parishioners, two neighbors, and one teacher from the Park Street School, and our regular dishwasher. In addition to food we prepare, we've

continued to get donations from two Starbucks, which the guests very much appreciate. The Dunkin Donut cards are going out as New Year and Valentine treats this year. The Things' charity continues to provide toiletries, including socks, hats, handwarmers, and masks. We anticipate we will continue as takeout at least into fall 2021, hoping sufficient general immunity will be achieved.

Barbara Boles
Community Supper Coordinator



Deacon's Report/Advent 175

The first two months of 2020 (so long ago) were filled with anticipation of many projects, both in progress and in the planning — or dreaming — stage. But this was not to be. The time before the initial shutdown in mid-March allowed only the slightest bit of sorting, organizing, and cataloging of historic material; the weekly "From the Advent Archives" was put on hold as were excursions to favorite haunts — libraries, archives and special collections, historical societies. Yet some work continued remotely at the home office (also known as the kitchen table), albeit sporadically and on a very limited scale. Here are some highlights of things done, and not done yet.

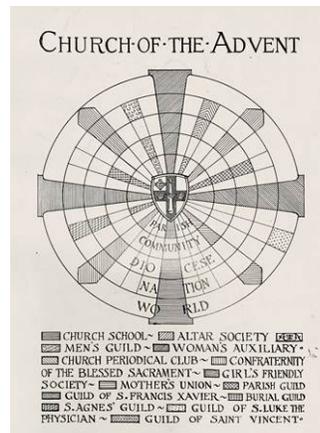
Publications and Presentations

1) "Manton Eastburn, Man of Sorrows" first offered in January 2020 as a presentation after Evensong and Benediction at the Church of the Advent was adapted for a talk at the February meeting of the Phillips Brooks Clericus, held at Trinity Church, Newton Center.

2) *The Green Bag: An Entertaining Journal of Law*, Spring 2020 — "History Lessons: Instructive Legal Episodes From Maine's Early Years — Episode 1: Becoming a Lawyer" by D. Brock Hornby. Judge Hornby drew on the profile of parishioner Macon Bolling Allen for his article and credited the Advent Archives. A version of his piece was also published in the Maine Sunday Telegram.

3) *The Historiographer*, Autumn 2020 (quarterly publication of National Episcopal Historians and Archivists, The Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, and the Episcopal Women's History Project) published the profile of parish historian Ann Maria Mitchell that originally appeared in "From the Advent Archives." (Sadly her name is mis-spelled in the headline and elsewhere but will be corrected in the online version.)

4) *The Anglican Digest* — Article on 1918 influenza, lightly revised, will run in Summer 2021 edition.



The mission and ministries of the Church of the Advent circa 1925, as depicted by Robert Turner Walker (1867-1931)

Other Projects

In February, the contents of fifteen boxes stored at the Diocesan Archives were reviewed and inventoried. Thanks to the energy and support of Diocesan Archivist Lynn Smith, the return of these materials — documents, record books, correspondence, artwork, photographs, scrapbooks — to the Advent was quickly approved by the board that supervises the Diocesan Archives. Arrangements for the transfer of this important material were in progress but have been put on hold pending re-opening of Diocesan and parish offices. The conservation of a small watercolor by Robert Turner Walker and two record books was completed and the items returned to the Archives. Additional volumes await.

Frozen in time

Advent 175: The “burial” or sealing of the commemorative time capsule will be scheduled for some time in 2021, Deo volente. The remaining Advent 175 commemorative merchandise will be offered when logistics permit. A number of projects have been curtailed or delayed:

5) The wooden canopy over the font was examined by a professional conservator, who identified and enumerated the repairs needed (including crafting replacements for missing pieces) and provided an estimate and timeline. The cleaning and polishing of the corona, or brass crown, would take place at the same time. This project is on hold.

6) The Anniversary Vestments, created in 1944 and restored several years ago, once again are in need of repair and restoration, albeit on a smaller scale than previously. A proposal for the creation of a frontal more in keeping with their motifs was under discussion and has been tabled for the time being.

Looking ahead

As activities start to resume, two possibilities for outside support can be considered.

a. First, via the National Archives: Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board Roving Archivist Program “connects stewards of historical records with a professional archivist to assist in setting priorities, drafting policies, and developing strategies and procedures for processing, preserving, and cataloging collections.”

b. Additionally, the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church offers grants “dedicated to preserving and disseminating information about the history of the Episcopal Church and its antecedents” in the amount of \$500 to \$2,000. Deadline is May 1, 2021 for grants to be awarded in February 2022.

As we await a return to whatever new normalcy emerges, this report closes with what is hoped to be a light entertainment — Advent Jeopardy. Those who have been following “From the Advent Archives” will know some of the answers; all will be revealed in the fullness of time.

1. His grandfather was 21 years old when he was killed in a duel.
2. These two ministers served at Old North (Christ Church) and the Church of the Advent — at different times.
3. His son and namesake is buried at Mount Auburn Cemetery.

4. This Advent parishioner was the first woman to be appointed to full professional rank in an Anglican seminary and is commemorated in the Church Calendar.
5. In fall 1914, he sailed for home in the United States aboard the Lusitania. Seven months later, he preached at the Advent's Lusitania Memorial Service.

Signing off with equal measures of gratitude, hope, and faith —

The Rev. Daphne B. Noyes, *Deacon*



Finance Committee

The Vestry charges the Finance Committee with two primary responsibilities: investments, and budgeting. I shall report on each in turn.

First, the Committee looks after the investments of the parish. Primarily, this means making decisions involving our various endowment funds and implementing those decisions, and monitoring and consulting with our various investment managers. With the vast majority of our endowment funds overseen (and in fact held in trust) by two professional investment managers — the Trustees of Donations, and Rice, Heard & Bigelow — most of the committee's work involves interacting with these two managers, and balancing our asset allocation now and again as appropriate to stay within our own guidelines. Both managers have performed well over time, though the Committee reviews both manager performance and the whole of our investment approach annually, at least. Secondly, the Committee is called upon to help the Vestry with major financial commitments that the parish might undertake, such as the purchase or disposition of real estate.

Second, the Committee in close coordination with the Treasurer, helps to draft a budget proposal for the Vestry's consideration every year; the Vestry then debates and amends it as it sees fit. The Committee operates under the standing goal, established nearly twenty years ago in co-ordination with the Vestry and adhered to since, that the Advent should operate with a balanced and sustainable budget both in any given year and also over time.

If there are any questions on particular subjects, I am always happy to have a discussion on them.

Faithfully submitted,

Thatcher Lane Gearhart, *Chairman*



Advent Flower Arranging Guild

The profound changes in our parish life during the coronavirus pandemic meant that the work of the Flower Guild was drastically reduced. In 2020 we provided floral arrangements in the church for 18 Sunday Masses and decorated only the high altar for Christmas. There were no flowers for Holy Week, weddings, or funerals.

The Guild lost three members over the course of the year, leaving us with only seven active designers. We hope to add some new members once life returns to normal.

Members and friends of the parish continue to provide generous donations to pay for the flowers. Jim Singletary manages the scheduling, contacting recurring donors, working to fill vacancies, and making sure that the memorials are listed correctly, and also keeps track of the finances. Another essential service is provided by Cassie Gurnon, Stephanie Brown Krein, and Peter Madsen who take turns going to the wholesale flower exchange in Chelsea to pick up the flowers.

Tom Sopko, *Director*



Hospitality & Evangelism

We lament that the pandemic has prevented the Parish from gathering for our usual conviviality and fellowship at Coffee Hour since last spring. We hope and pray that God may end this pestilence soon, and look forward to that joyous time when we are able to come together once again in person.

Barbara Boles, *9:00 AM Coffee Hour Coordinator*

The 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour Committee:

Frederick Ou (frederick.ou@gmail.com)

Roxy Hanson (roxenewu@yahoo.com)

Betsy James (ejames4@nc.rr.com)

Kyle Pilares (kpilares.uk@gmail.com)



Mission & Outreach

Rise Against Hunger. On Saturday, February 15, 2020, we hosted a meal-packing event here in Moseley Hall for all the churches in our Boston Harbor Deanery. Working with Rise Against Hunger, an international organization whose headquarters are here in the United States, we helped pack over 10,000 meals in less than two hours. There were over fifty volunteers from around the Deanery and with the guidance of the staff from Rise Against Hunger we packed the meals to be shipped to anywhere in the world where people are most vulnerable due to lack of nutritious food.

The work we do with Rise Against Hunger helps to build stronger relationships with other parishioners from around the Deanery and within our own parish. Uniting around a common goal and contributing our part in this corporal work of mercy increases morale, gives an outward sign to our life of service in the Church, and can give deeper meaning to our spiritual life.

Walk for Hunger. Although the official Walk for Hunger was cancelled due to COVID, many Advent parishioners held a “virtual” Walk on Sunday, May 3, 2020, walking in their own communities near and far. From as far away as Cape Cod and Marblehead, from Boston to Acton, we raised \$8K — a much needed boost to the Community Dinner program. It was a great day, with many of the participants happy to share photos and videos of their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. James (Rise Against Hunger)
Suzi Briggs (Walk for Hunger)



Music Department

As much as any other season at The Church of the Advent, the musical program for the calendar year of 2020 was thoroughly planned and arranged. Through the end of May, we anticipated four Choral Evensong services with suppers and talks, four services of Compline, seven weeknight choral services including the full observances of Holy Week, one full-length organ recital, four half-hour organ recitals, as well as an over-the-top Orchestral Mass for Pentecost in addition to our regular Sunday morning round of masses. All of those offerings had adequate rehearsal times scheduled. It is an understatement to say that those plans were to change drastically.

The Feast of the Epiphany was observed with a Procession & Solemn Mass, including a gala Twelfth Night reception. The choir sang the sweet *Missa “Dixit Maria”* by Hans Leo Hassler as

well as motets by Palestrina and Stopford. The following Sunday we bid farewell to Father Truman Welch, our Interim Rector who was a kind and avid supporter of our music program during the *interregnum* period. That night, Compline was sung, including Gregorian chant, and polyphony by Palestrina and Tallis with Peter Hallock's "*The Baptism of Christ.*"

On January 19th, The Advent Choir offered the *Missa "Osculetur me"* by Roland de Lassus, with a band of period wind instruments led by cornettist Nathaniel Cox. The gentle sonorities of the cornetto and sackbuts supported and contrasted with the voices of the Advent Choir in wonderful ways. Evensong was sung by the full choir, with settings of Aguilera de Heredia, Victoria, Weelkes and Wood. Heinrich Christensen from King's Chapel played a Prelude Organ Recital, and a light supper and talk followed.

On Friday evening, January 31st, Professor Arvid Gast played a full-length recital on the Advent Organ. Professor Gast is the titular organist of St Jakobikirche in Lübeck, and Director of the Church Music Institute at the Musikhochschule there. Professor Gast's exciting program included the Reger chorale fantasy "Halleluja, Gott zu loben." His brilliant execution was a truly a *Glanzleistung*.

Sunday February 2nd we observed Candlemas with the Blessing of Candles and a Procession. The *Missa "Ecce Ancilla Domini"* by Guillaume Dufay was sung. Particularly exciting was the arrival of our new rector, Father Douglas Anderson. After dark, Compline was offered, including polyphony by Blitheman, Hallock and Mundy.

Evensong was sung on February 16th, featuring anthems by Howells and Murray. Leighton's exciting "Magdalen College Service" was performed here for the first time. Barbara Bruns from Christ Church, Andover played a Prelude Organ Recital, and a light supper with talk followed.

Ash Wednesday and the first two Sundays of Lent proceeded as usual, including the Allegri: *Miserere*, the new Tallis: "*Suscipe quæso Domine*" and a sung Compline service. And then, the COVID lockdown unfolded very quickly as we became aware of its terrible potential. Everything was brought to a grinding halt and in-person worship was forbidden, and all musical events and rehearsals cancelled.

Our response had to be quick, and it had to be creative. At the beginning of the crisis, because so little was actually known about potential transmission of the virus, it was clear that any type of in-person singing was impossible on any number of social and biological levels. It would not be possible to gather any sort of choir to pre-record services. But, we had a high-quality reserve of two and a half years of choral recordings from which to draw, so there was a resource available. The clergy could record the spoken word. Therefore it would be possible, on a week to week basis, to carefully assemble a simulated Evensong and Solemn Mass which would sound current, and "exactly like the real thing." Newly-recorded lessons and Sermon were used, prayers were sung or spoken by the clergy. Archival and new material were carefully edited together, including congregational responses and a crowd noise track so that old and new material was indistinguishable.

Every week, four webcasts went out to the parish and wider world. They consisted of the full Sunday Solemn Mass with all music and Sermon; Monday and Friday brief meditations by the clergy including a psalm and motet by the choir; and Wednesday, a full service of Choral Evensong, produced just as the Sunday mass by combining archival and newly recorded material. This pattern was to continue from March through the month of June, including special broadcasts for Holy Week.

The first Sunday in July, we were allowed to open once again with many cautions and restrictions in place. We began with an organist with one soloist. Our webcast pattern was to change, in that a recording of the actual Sunday mass would be webcast, and the Monday meditation discontinued. Friday's meditation would be as before, and Wednesday's Evensong would continue to be a "simulation." This pattern was to carry on through September.

In mid-September, we were able to carefully introduce distanced quartet singing to both 9 and 11 o'clock masses. No rehearsals would be held, and warm-ups would take place only in large, well-ventilated areas. At 11 o'clock, a second quartet was added in the north balcony, allowing antiphonal singing to take place between chancel and balcony. The webcast pattern was adjusted so that Wednesday's Choral Evensong was now actually a "live" affair, recorded a week in advance by a distanced and masked octet standing spread out on the nave floor. In December, newly restrictive attendance policies required yet another adjustment. Singing at the 9 o'clock mass had to be suspended until after Christmas, and these same attendance policies allowed us to move all eight singers at 11 o'clock to the nave floor, where they could be further apart than either chancel or balcony seating allowed. A video recording session was held late in the month, to produce a "midnight Mass movie" which was released to the parish for Christmas. In order to offer seating under the very stringent 25-person attendance policy, several identical and simple in-person masses were held on Christmas Eve, with just one or two soloists at each mass.

During the pandemic, we have learned to be versatile. Over 140 webcasts of choral music and the spoken word went up on the internet during 2020. The resumption of at least a small amount of in-person liturgical music-making has been life-giving for both those who do it, and those who receive it. It has been a joy to explore mid-week Evensong repertoire. We have learned more about the technology of recording and have acquired more skill in production and editing! Above all, it is my personal hope that this experience will cultivate grateful hearts and creative minds in all of our post-pandemic lives. May our works be prospered.

Mark Dwyer,
Organist & Choirmaster



Parish Office

Adaptability was key for many organizational offices in 2020, and no less so for us at the Advent. As the pandemic raged in the spring, we felt the need (and were urged by the bishop) to

limit staff time on site, thus compelling us to find ways of expanding remote work. Keeping up with communication was relatively easy, we could check phones and email from home, but there was also the factor of accounts receivable and payable to consider. These matters were facilitated by a couple of innovations that were probably a bit overdue anyway. One was adopting a means for parishioners to make online contributions. While many Adventers have for quite some time relied on automatic payments set up with their banks, we were a little behind many other congregations in providing a means to make contributions using credit cards. By using this service, many parishioners were better able to keep with their contributions, particularly those who had been used to placing envelopes in the plate on a weekly basis. The other innovation we were able to adopt was moving our desktop-based church management software to a cloud-based version. But implementation required something else that had also been a bit overdue — an update of our computer operating systems. Fortunately, this technology upgrade had been budgeted, so there was no major financial impact. And as a result, we are better prepared for increased reliance on computer technology for parish operations going forward.

In late summer, we said good-bye to our part-time bookkeeper, Kelly Walsh, who took a full-time position near her home in Rhode Island. Rather than refill the position, the Vestry instead decided to split the bookkeeper's duties between the Comptroller, Joe Brown, and myself, using a cloud-based bill-paying platform to facilitate that transition. Other lay personnel changes included moving from a two-sexton arrangement to a combination of sexton and (very) part-time property manager. In September, we welcomed Rich Lyerla to fill the latter position. Rich has a lot of experience with residential management in the Beacon Hill area and has proved to be an excellent addition to our staff. (See the Administration Committee report for more).

At the beginning of the year, the parish had been deferring a much-needed office "facelift" while awaiting the arrival of Fr Anderson so that he could assess his office needs. Once he decided to move into the Whitney Hale Study (recently used as a conference room and Sunday morning nursery), we were able to move forward with painting, replacing the carpet with a new floor, and additional improvements (see Property Committee report for more).

Let me end by offering thanks to those parishioners who helped to make my job a little easier. Two that come to mind immediately are Jack Gurnon who helped with procuring building equipment and assisting with facility repairs prior to the hiring of the property manager, and Julianne Turé, whose boundless dedication to Advent includes serving as webmaster (and useful consultant on many IT matters) and helping in the office on a weekly basis, particularly with bulletin production.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Singletary, *Parish Administrator*



Property Committee

This year was a relatively quiet year in terms of Property Committee projects. The pandemic put some of our previously planned projects on hold, while others were scaled back due to uncertain financial situations, lack of availability of building materials, construction shutdowns, and required social distancing. Fortunately, we were able to complete the renovation to the Rectory early this year, just prior to the construction shut down.

In addition to the Rectory, the Property Committee continues to oversee the maintenance and repair work at the 49 Hancock Street, 140 Mount Vernon Street, and 43 South Russell Street properties. Hancock Street and Mount Vernon Street are both currently being rented. Minor repairs were done to 43 South Russell Street prior to Father Thompson and his family moving in.

Previously planned non-emergency projects such as the restoration of the parish house windows and the restoration of the main doors to the church were put on hold, but will be re-evaluated later this year. Our efforts were instead focused mainly on safety issues and crucial repairs.

The Tuesday Night Supper continued to serve the community throughout the pandemic. With the help of Charles Street Supply, a removable plexiglass divider was built for the front doors of the church to act as a Covid barrier and also to provide servers with protection from wind and cold while handing out meals to guests.

Other 2020 small projects included building a cover for a pipe that was a tripping hazard in the area used as a pantry for the Community Supper, repair work to the brick stairs and handi-capped ramp at the Parish House (another tripping hazard), and repair of two stained glass windows in the Lady Chapel and the leaded glass window in the front office.

During late summer, a hive of honeybees was discovered to have taken up residence at the church. The hive was located in the north transept approximately 40 feet above the Archives Room, making access a challenge. Tony Pulsone, who is a certified Master Beekeeper, recommended a local bee removal expert who was able to remove the colony and seal up the exterior access point.

Pre-pandemic, a major renovation was planned for the church office. However, due to the uncertainty of the times, a pared down, smaller scale renovation made more sense. New flooring, lighting, kitchen sink and countertop, a fresh coat of paint and some new furniture did the trick.

The hiring of Rich Lyerla as a part time Building Manager has been a much-needed addition to the church staff. Rich has electrical, plumbing, HVAC and carpentry experience which has allowed us to rely less on outside vendors for minor repairs and maintenance. In the few months since his hire, he has installed the lighting in the Rector's new office, installed a new kitchen

sink, faucet, and countertop in the office kitchenette, made some minor repairs to the boiler, and taken care of numerous maintenance items. Rich has also taken on the responsibilities of taking and recording the water level readings for our foundation piles recharge system.

As part of the church's ongoing monitoring of the building structure, a building movement monitoring program was implemented 1999 in order to establish a database that records building movement. Approximately every two to three years the church engages the services of Haley & Aldrich Engineering to take survey readings of the hundreds of established points around the building and make note of any movement.

On Sunday morning, November 8, 2020 a 3.6 magnitude earthquake (the epicenter of which was in Buzzards Bay) was felt by many Advent parishioners attending the 9 am service. Given the recent earthquake and realizing we were due for a regular survey of the monitoring points, we enlisted Haley & Aldrich to survey the building and check for any effects from the earthquake. We are happy to report that the movement in the recent survey, completed in January 2021, was within the expected range of movement and the water levels at our foundation piles were at or above the acceptable levels.

As part of the most recent survey, Haley & Aldrich recommended a maintenance (disinfecting) program for our water recharge system. This maintenance would be done every two years to keep the wells operating efficiently. Recharge water from our well is high in iron which can build-up in the recharge points and reduce the efficiency of the system.

Members of the Property Committee are currently surveying the condition of the pew kneelers and are putting together a proposal for re-upholstering and repairing the wooden frames. The hope is to put together a team of Advent volunteers to do this work. If you are interested in becoming part of this team, please contact Tom or Carolyn.

As always, there is a list of potential maintenance, repair, and upgrade items the Property Committee continues to evaluate and prioritize for the upcoming year.

Members of the Property Committee in 2020: Peter Madsen, Robb Scholten, Kyle Pilares, Tony Pulsone, Barbara Boles, David Russo, Jim Singletary (ex officio), Tom McDermott (Co-Chair) and Carolyn McDermott (Co-Chair). New members are always welcome. Meetings are typically held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:15 in Mosely Hall or, for the foreseeable future, via Zoom.

Tom & Carolyn McDermott, *Co-Chairs*



Stewardship Committee

On behalf of the Stewardship committee please find here the summary report of The Advent's Stewardship Campaign 2020.

- First, thank you again to everyone who pledged during our Campaign 2020. Every pledge no matter the amount is important, especially during these challenging times of the COVID pandemic and the impact on our parishioners and community. Through your continuing generosity and care for the Advent we received a sustainable level of contributions to support the activities we know and appreciate such as our renown music tradition, community supper outreach program, on-line broadcast for our masses, celebration of holy days, meditations and education sessions; plus much more.
- We also enjoyed the arrival and new Rectorship of Father Douglas Anderson whose spiritual leadership is most welcomed throughout our community of worship.
- We achieved \$553,685 in pledged amount which was especially encouraging given the difficult circumstances we collectively faced. This was a wonderful and blessed response from all Advent parishioners in support of what defines the well being of our beloved Church of the Advent. Thank you.
- We received 204 pledges in 2020; our 31 new pledges proved again our continuing growth as a community in Christ and their pledged amount helped to offset both the decreased and loss pledge amounts verse 2019; the increased pledges from 70 parishioners were instrumental in our campaign which represented a 17.2% increase in their contributions; plus, the solid foundation continued in place by those 74 parishioners who maintained their same level of contributing support for 2020 was another success factor.
- Once again, on behalf of the Wardens, the Vestry and our Rector, Father Douglas Anderson a heartfelt thanks to everyone for making Campaign 2020 a success through your thoughtful consideration for The Advent as a place of worship and fellowship in Christ. We have now turned our focus on to Campaign 2021. Thanks to everyone who has already pledged. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to make their pledges for 2021, we would like to encourage your consideration to pledge whatever amount possible to support the on-going activities for our community worship at the Advent. Please send in your pledges to the Parish office my mail, email or simply dropping in the Sunday collection. All the best to everyone and please be safe and take care of your health as we look forward to the renewed fellowship and hopes of celebrating Christ together again. Yours in the service of Jesus Christ our Savior and Redeemer...

Francesco Piscitelli
Stewardship Committee 2020, Chairman



Advent Website and Social Media

During the pandemic, the Advent's website and social media platforms have kept parishioners and our wider audience up to date on the ever-shifting developments in our pandemic response. While we continue to post sermons and scheduling updates on our website, a weekly email newsletter has taken the place of posted announcements. With the help of the clergy and the music department, we also began posting 'virtual' offerings of meditations and recorded liturgies (Sunday Masses, midweek Choral Evensongs, and seasonal music offerings). A highlight of this effort was a filmed Solemn Mass for Christmas, produced by Fr David Thompson's brother Kent, posted to our YouTube channel on Christmas Eve. We also used footage from past years to create a virtual Lessons & Carols during the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Parishioners and friends are encouraged to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and, for music, Soundcloud:

<https://www.facebook.com/theadventboston/>

<https://twitter.com/adventboston>

<https://www.instagram.com/adventboston/>

<https://soundcloud.com/mark-dwyer-2>

Respectfully submitted,
Julianne Turé
Webmaster