



The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

December 2020

WHAT IS ADVENT?



The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming". *Adventus* in turn is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives. Since the time of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux (d.1153), Christians have spoken of these three comings of Christ: in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily,

and in glory at the end of time. This season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming.

So Advent is **NOT**:

- ⇒ A little Lent, although there is a penitential flavor to the season. Alleluias are definitely allowed during the Advent season.
- ⇒ The "Countdown to Christmas". The remembrance of Christ's first appearance in the flesh (the Incarnation) is a significant part of Advent, but so is the anticipation of Christ's Second Coming in Glory, as well as the hope that the Risen Lord will make his presence known in our hearts daily.

Advent IS a remembrance that the Light of Christ came into the World, a thanksgiving that the Light of Christ is in our hearts, and a joyful anticipation that the Light of Christ will once again appear in at the end of this time!

The Theme of Advent at St. Mary's this year is the coming of the Light of Christ into the darkness of our world and hearts. Our lighting of the Advent Wreath will reflect this theme. I will have more to say about various Advent customs (including the Wreath) during the four Sundays of Advent. Until then, I leave you with the Collect for the Season of Advent (which we will use all four Sundays):

"Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

written by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in 1549:

See you in Church!

David+

VESTRY

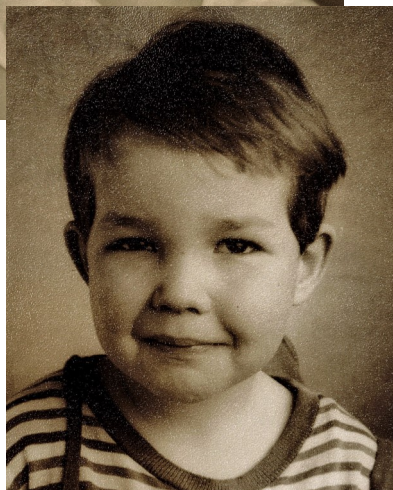
Bob Lowell, Sr Warden
 Richard Davis
 Charles Everhart
 Sandy Ferrell
 Judy Franklin
 John Joy

Feel free to contact any Vestry member with questions, concerns, ideas, etc.

Newsletter editor—John Glaze
Submissions to THE RED DOOR are welcomed. © items cannot be published without consent of the owner.

Who are these kids?

(answer next month)



Last month: Maggie Hatfield

Vestry Report

*“This is Christmas:
 not the tinsel,
 not the giving and receiving,
 not even the carols,
 but the humble heart that
 receives anew the
 wondrous gift,
 the Christ.”*

Frank McKibben (Twentieth Century)

Once again 12 pages of the calendar have turned to bring us right back to the Christmas Season. Thanksgiving has passed, leaving us to continue with this “Season of Not Knowing” what changes will be made for tomorrow. But even though we don’t know from day to day what will come next in this season of the pandemic, what we do know is that we can always count on knowing that God is with us. I know that I am glad to take time this year to count my blessings and reflect on how much He continues to bless our families here at St. Mary’s.

Now as we begin the Christmas season we are planning for one of the most important and joyous seasons of our year. As Advent approaches we begin to consider how we can spend our time reflecting on God’s Great Gift to mankind and what that Gift truly means in how we live our lives. Advent is meant to bring us a quiet time of reflection, a time of contemplation of how we can bring Grace to our souls, and with grateful hearts, new ways to serve. But do we really take time to remember the real meaning of Christmas? Just as our Lenten season brings us to the foot of the Cross, so our weeks of Advent bring us to the Stable. These weeks re-

mind us that though we are looking for those perfect gifts for our families and friends, the Christmas Season isn’t about the commercialization of Christmas, the very early Black Friday sales that now go on for weeks, food and parties, but rather, to the birth of the Christ Child, our Lord and Savior, and the anticipation we feel for Christmas Eve. David, our Priest, has shared his thoughts about Advent in this newsletter. I am looking forward to how he will be directing our thoughts each Sunday in Advent. We are still having services at St. Mary’s for those who feel comfortable face to face with masks and social distancing and are continuing the live stream at 10:00 am. Please join us as you feel comfortable.

Just a reminder regarding Vestry nominations: please send your nominations for new Vestry members in this month. You may put them in the offering plate, mail them to the church, or call the church with your nominations. Please do the same with your Pledge as that is helpful in making the 2021 budget. Both should be into the church by the last Sunday in December of 2020.

The Vestry has scheduled the church’s Annual Meeting for the 3rd week in January 2021, after Church. Of course, if we need to make other provisions because of the pandemic, we will do so and let you know.

Remember that all Vestry Meetings are open and letters or articles in the Red Door are more than welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Lowell
 Senior Warden

In case you've been wondering what has slowed down the movie making activities, Volume 3 is in production, but, in finding a shoebox **FULL** of slides which were taken by John Carson over the years he was Rector, you can understand my wish to include many of the images in the 3rd (and probably final) volume! Here are some of those photos of the sanctuary decorated for Christmas. All of the photos will eventually be posted on our website.



- Dec 1—Alanna Miller*
- Dec 2—Carolinn Shibley*
- Dec 3—Lorrie Smith*
- Dec 3—Peggy Larkin*
- Dec 8—Carol Drummond*
- Dec 16—Grant Joy*
- Dec 21—Lizzie Zumwalde*

The Red Door

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St.
Hillsboro, OH 45133



Christmas Eve
Service
4:00pm

NEEDS AT SAMARITAN OUTREACH

Samaritan Outreach continues to depend upon donations to meet their current needs. Please consider helping us to make a big donation to them! There is a collection box in the foyer of the new building.

Diapers: Size 3 and up

Laundry detergent

Paper goods:

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Women's Sanitary Napkins

If you would prefer to mail a monetary donation:

Samaritan Outreach Services

PO Box 242

Hillsboro, OH 45133

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Information

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
234 N. High St Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-393-2043

The Rev. David Bailey

The Diocese of Southern Ohio

WEB SITE:

www.smehillsboro.weebly.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP and SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00 am

Streaming on Facebook

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE—4:00PM