



The

Adventurer

Book of Faith

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>One Little Day...</i> | 2 |
| <i>One Big Difference</i> | |
| <i>The Doctor Is In</i> | 3 |
| <i>Training for Disaster Relief Team</i> | 3 |
| <i>New Pictorial Directory</i> | 3 |
| <i>Celebration of First Communion</i> | 4 |
| <i>Thank You</i> | 4 |
| <i>The Power of Three</i> | 5 |
| <i>Web Site Tips</i> | 5 |
| <i>Advent Square News</i> | 6 |
| <i>School News</i> | 6 |
| <i>Bible Studies</i> | 7 |
| <i>Leadership Academy</i> | 7 |
| <i>Upcoming Events</i> | 8 |

What is the world's bestselling book of all time that few people have ever finished? No, it is not *War and Peace* or Jeff Foxworthy's *Redneck Dictionary III*. Of course, with over six billion sold, it is the Holy Bible! And at a whopping 774,746 words it is no surprise that many of us who started with great determination at Genesis find ourselves flagging by Leviticus. One of the best things about going to seminary was being prodded to get through the whole book but I confess that I haven't made it through a second time. How many of us are included in the figure of 59% who read the Bible occasionally or 16% who read the Bible daily? Not only are less people reading the Bible but less people actually know what is in the Bible. When asked the question, "Can you recite a verse from the Bible?" a large number of people replied, "God helps those who help themselves." Unfortunately, that is not from the Bible but from *Poor Richard's Almanac* by Ben Franklin. On the *Tonight Show*, Jay Leno asked if anyone in the audience could name one of the Ten Commandments. No one answered. But when he asked if they could name the four Beatles, most of the hands went up.

While one English class recently named the Bible 77th of the top 100 books they would want on a desert island, I know most of us would name it #1. We love, revere, treasure, respect and honor God's word as revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. But do we care about it enough to read it regularly?

Many of us are intimidated or confused by it. Most of us do not have a good routine established to read it. Few of us take the time to study it in a Bible study group. But as we celebrate a new year what better resolution to make than to open up this book of faith and spend some time in God's word? The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is encouraging its members to "Open Scripture. Join the Conversation" over the next few years. They will be offering resources through their website <http://www.elca.org/bookoffaith/overview/> that may be helpful to you as you get started. We will be emphasizing the Bible in our worship series entitled "Book of Faith" beginning in January. Thanks to a generous donation by our PALS Group we will be replacing our "New International Version" pew Bibles with "Today's New International Version" Bibles. The TNIV is both a very accurate translation and a very readable one. Members will be invited to "Buy 2-One for the Church and One for You." That is, for \$25 you can buy one Bible that is donated to our ministry and one that you can keep for your family. We hope to be able to outfit the school classrooms, Advent Square, and even to have enough to give to visitors who don't have a Bible of their own. But the most important thing is not buying Bibles. The most important thing of all is for each of us to dedicate or rededicate ourselves to "open the book" and read it!

Pastor Andy

One Little Day...One BIG Difference

Many of the members of Advent responded to the invitation to make a big difference with their pledges and their gift of one special day for God's work. At this time over 100 pledges have been received for a total of \$300,000 toward our operating fund and the pledges for our AdventOne building fund total slightly more than that! As a congregation with more than 325 households, we hope that we will see even more pledges come in as the new year begins. What is most important is that our members know that all of their blessings come from God and that one great way to show their gratitude is to make sure that their church has the funds it needs to carry out its mission.

Many members also shared with us the ways they used one day or are planning to use one day to make a big difference. Although these are only a sample of the many days that were given, they certainly show how committed our members are to making a difference! Here are some of the exciting donations of one day offered:

- Volunteering at Women's Circle (underserved Women/Families).
- Helping at Bethesda Hospital's Women and Children's Center; helping blind friend.
- Helping to start the Young Adult Ministry at Advent with Chris and Dawn Byars.
- Assisting in Haiti.
- Serving at a soup kitchen in January.
- Traveling to Haiti for a mission trip.
- Gardening/painting projects at Advent Square.
- Delivering packages to Veteran's Hospital and at the Advent Square Christmas party.
- Volunteering at Boca Helping Hands.
- Decorating church for Christmas and serving at the Advent Square Christmas party.
- Collecting books to send to Camel Library for children in Kenya. Goal: send 4-5 boxes.
- Baking cookies for Boca Helping Hands and His Caring Kitchen.
- Working at the Belonging Weekend.
- Helping out at Bethlehem Village.
- Stuffing envelopes.
- Helping with Discovery Weekends, Alzheimer's Special Events, Homeless Ministry, Mentoring and Special Events.
- Assisting with public relations tasks.
- Cooking the holiday feast for the families at Advent Square on December 1.
- Visiting residents and clients with Therapy Dog Care at Advent Alzheimer's, Harbor's Edge and St. Andrews on a weekly basis.
- Preparing Thanksgiving meals for the homeless at Lutheran Ministry in Christ Church.
- Volunteering every Wednesday at Hospice By the Sea House Care in Boca Raton.
- Spending time with an elderly neighbor and taking her shopping.
- Helping a neighbor who needs a ride to the doctor, MRI appointments & CAT scans; shopping for her. She is very ill & lives alone.
- Providing tax and legal advice to the residents at Advent Square in February of 2008.
- Volunteering 2 days/month at the watercolor painting class at Advent Square.
- Calling members for donations of baked goods for the Bethlehem Village Bake Sale.
- Singing at nursing homes with the Praise Band and decorating the church.
- Praying for Advent and making phone calls. Doing things my health will allow me to do. My heart and soul is with Advent.
- Buying & wrapping Christmas gifts for needy children.
- Taking care of a grandchild in South Carolina.
- Ushering 4 months/year. Calling people that normally go to the 11:15AM service and are not there for two Sundays in a row.
- Helping an elderly couple.
- Landscaping at Advent Lutheran Church.
- Taking goody bags to Seafarer's House.
- Making phone calls to people we haven't spoken with for a while to let them know that we love them & are praying for them.
- Providing music, arts & crafts and writing to the Girl's Detention Center in West Palm Beach.

The Doctor Is In

As part of our “One Little Day...One Big Difference” campaign, Dr. A.J. Peterson will be available on Thursday, January 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. to meet with anyone who has a medical question or health concern.

Anyone who would like to talk with Dr. Peterson should sign up by calling the

church office at 561-395-3632 or by sending an email to receptionist@adventlifenet.org.

Please note that Dr. Peterson will not be providing any medical exams or health screenings. He is available for discussion only.

Training for Disaster Relief Team Announced

On Saturday, January 12, members interested in being trained for Advent’s Disaster Relief Ministry are invited to attend a training seminar from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Advent Life Enrichment Center. This seminar is led by qualified disaster relief trainers from Lutheran Disaster Response of Florida. Participants will learn the basics of disaster response: preparation, equipment, arrival at the site, interaction with victims, clean up, food serving, debris removal, and for those who desire, chain saw safety training. Doug Dowie and Dave Swick are co-leaders of this

new team and we would like to have at least 20 people trained to be in a pool ready for the next disaster response in our community or state. Our goal is to be ready to take a team of 4-12 team members as soon as a disaster site is ready and then to rotate team members in and out of the site as we are able. We will be outfitting a special trailer for this purpose. The cost for the training is \$40 which will include a team T-shirt. Please register by emailing Pastor Andy at ahagen@adventlifenet.org, using the tear-off card at worship or calling the church office at 561-395-3632.

Advent to Implement New Pictorial Directory

You ought to be in pictures! As in the new Advent Lutheran Church pictorial directory. That’s right, we are doing a new pictorial directory as it has been seven years since our previous one. After so many years most of us have changed a little, so we want everyone to be included. As we say in our motto, “At Advent everybody is somebody,” so everybody certainly should be in our new directory!

There will be two ways for your family to schedule a photography session. First, using a computer and the Internet, you can go online and schedule your day and time. If you choose this option you will receive a confirmation email when you make your appointment and a reminder email a few days before your appointment. Second, you can use the tried-and-true method of signing up with a live person at our table, which will be located in

the church courtyard after all three services. You will have two weeks to use the online method and four weeks to sign up in person. Either way, we encourage you to take just a few minutes and get the day and time that works best for you. Regardless of which method you use you will receive a reminder phone call from one of our wonderful volunteers. We will be accepting sign-ups for several weeks, so you should have ample time to pick your day and time. This article is only a preliminary introduction, so look for more details in the coming weeks.

The pictorial committee hopes that everyone will be part of this project as we want every one of our Advent family to grace the pages of our new directory. It wouldn’t be Advent without you!

Pastor Tracy & the Directory Committee



Family Faith Legacy Series: Celebration of 1st Holy Communion



Advent Lutheran Church offers fifth graders - or those at least ten years old and in at least fifth grade - the opportunity to participate in the preparation for the sacrament of Holy Communion. The First Communion milestone at Advent involves both the child and their parent(s). At baptism, a parent promises “to provide for their child’s instruction in the Christian faith.” Our program includes a partnership of home and church study.

We hope that you and your child will prayerfully seek God’s insight as to whether or not this is the time to receive His invitation to First Communion. Some young people are unsure. Please know that students are able to begin the program and decide later whether or not to commune for the first time.

Registration for our First Communion program begins January 20, 2008. Registration forms are available online at www.adventlifenet.org for students and for family members attending the Seder meal. Please fill out the form and bring it to the church office with your check to receive your handbooks. The \$10 registration fee includes the youth

handbook, the parent handbook, retreat, Communion cup and Seder meal.

To complete the program students and their parent(s) must:

- complete their 5 home sessions together by March 1, 2008.
- attend first and third Sunday communion worship.
- attend second and fourth Sunday 10:00 a.m. Breakfast Club.
- Attend the First Communion retreat on March 1, 2008 from 1p.m.– 6 p.m. Families must bring their completed handbooks to the retreat.

Once your child has successfully completed the program, First Communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, March 20, 2008 at the 6:30 p.m. worship service.

We pray this is an exciting time for your family; it is for us. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail ddrucker@adventlifenet.org

Thank you

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at Bethlehem Village to help prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our King, Jesus Christ. We are so thankful for the gifts and talents of our members and deeply appreciate their service to our ministry. We

also thank all who contributed the delicious baked goods for the Bethlehem Village Bake Shoppe. The generosity of our bakers allowed the Shoppe to offer a wonderful variety and stay open for business until the Village closed.

We are looking for people to be on the Bethlehem Village coordination team for next year. If you would like to help, please contact Donna Drucker, director of family ministry, at 561-395-3632 x32.



The Power of Three

I wanted to write this month about the number three. Like most of you during this Christmas season I thought about the nativity story. I think my favorite part of the story is the arrival of the three wise men because they brought fabulous presents and came from far away. The scriptures do not tell us how long after the birth of Jesus they came, but they did.

Jesus' story is a story told of threes. Mary, Joseph and Elisabeth were the only three people in the New Testament to know about His impending birth. Mary stayed with Elisabeth for three months during Elisabeth's third trimester with John the Baptist. There were three prophecies fulfilled with Jesus' birth: He was born 1) of a virgin 2) in Bethlehem and 3) among the poor. The three wise men - well scripture does not say how many men there were - brought *three* gifts. Christ was tempted three times, had a three-year ministry, and asked Peter three times "do you love me?" His parables often used the number three, there were three men crucified, and on the third day He rose from the dead.

That is a lot of "threes" in the Bible. I could go on, but why is three important? In Ecclesiastes 4:12 it says, "By yourself

you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped." How much better are we when we do things in threes? I found out the answer to that question before Christmas when I had the opportunity to work with two women of the two school divisions to facilitate Santa's Workshop for our school children to shop for their families and friends. The experience was great. There were three people on the committee, three days of shopping and three times I had to go shopping because we ran out of toys.

The things that did not come in threes came in larger quantities. Over 400 children shopped and 3000 items were purchased. Countless "elves" helped out and the profits we earned will help many young adults transition from foster care into society with the help of Kids at Home.

Jesus' story of threes helped countless people to be able to come to the throne of God. Because of His sacrifice we are able to do things but not alone, because we need each other to do much more than we can do by ourselves.

Christa Humphreys
Director of Discipleship Ministry

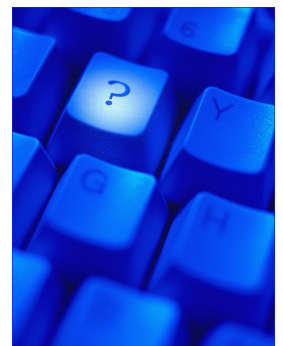


Did You Know?

Did you know that you can automatically receive updates of upcoming events at Advent? Simply visit our Web site—www.adventlifenet.org—click on "Calendar" on the **top** menu bar, scroll down to the very bottom of the page, and fill in your email address where it states: "enter your e-mail address to get updates

on upcoming events." You will be prompted to select the ministries for which you wish to receive updates.

You can also submit prayer requests through the church portion of the Web site or by emailing them directly to prayer@adventlifenet.org.



News From Advent Square



Earl and Carol Greve

For the Lord searches every heart & understands every motive behind the thoughts (1 Chronicles 28:9).

What makes a person volunteer week after week for **more than ten years**? At Advent Square we have searched for the answer and found two good hearts in the persons of Earl and Carol Greve. They have called thousands of BINGO games on Tuesday nights from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. for their grateful friends at Advent Square.

Under the **B's— Being there.** Earl says the best part of Bingo Night is the wonderful people who show up every week ready to play the game.

Under the **I's—Involvement.** Our residents know that people who volunteer and care are involved and everyone here really looks forward to seeing new friends again and again.

Under the **N's—New Friends.** Earl says that over the ten years that he and Carol have volunteered they made countless new friends that continue to enrich their lives. "We love you," he says.

Under the **G's—Advent Square folks would have to say, " thanks be to God for the Greve's and all the other volunteers who grace our lives.**

Finally under the **O's—Other's.** Earl and Carol love to volunteer and will continue to do so but would like to share the time slot with others.

So, if you have a heart for making new friends and would like to experience the smiles of victory and frowns of defeat during a friendly game of Bingo, please call 561-391-7207. Bingo is played every Tuesday from 6-7 p.m. Everything is supplied and we are looking to search every heart and make more good friends.

School News

Laughing, praying, singing, studying, exercising, learning, helping, reading, exciting, challenging, experiencing, growing – just a few of the things you might see if you visit Advent Elementary / Middle School during the day!

The new science lab is home to a bearded dragon, homemade volcanoes, and solar cookers. The campus has displayed replicas of Indian homes, butterfly chrysalises and campus maps. The new playground has had soccer practices, kickball games, basketball drills, four-square challenges, and more. Chapel has included cantaloupes, kiwis, bananas, and more as we explore the **Fruits of the Spirit** – not to mention guest speakers, puppets, beach balls, praise music, prayers, and very special visits from our Early Childhood friends.

Our students have brought in Food for Boca Helping Hands, tennis shoes for Haiti, letters of hope and encouragement for our troops, and toys for Florence Fuller Child Development Center as they practice being good neighbors

and generous spirits. They have made visits to Alzheimers' Day Care Center, Advent Square and Early Childhood to sing, read, and share smiles and stories.

Our students put on a wonderful Christmas program thanks to Miss Briggs and Mr. Ahern and participated in the Boca Christmas Parade. Our artists are hard at work preparing for our February Art Show. And, our Gators are busy competing against area schools – first it was volleyball and soccer; now we are on to basketball. Join our cheerleaders at they root them on to victory!

A very special thank you to all of our volunteers. It is a blessing to be part of Advent Ministries, and it is a blessing to have you all be a part of us! See you at our Auction this spring!

Happy New Year – may it be filled with God!

Laura Bluhm, Middle School Principal

Small Group Bible Studies to Begin in January

Advent's discipleship ministry is pleased to announce several new small group bible studies to kick-off the new year:

Experiencing God

Thursdays starting January 10

Length: 6 weeks prior to Easter; 6 weeks after

Cost: \$20

Facilitator: Sally Whitney

Location: TBD

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Daniel by Beth Moore

Tuesdays starting January 8

Length: 12 weeks

Cost: \$16

Facilitators: Tuesday Morning Small Group

Location: Advent Square

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible: Flawed Women loved by a Flawless God

Wednesdays starting January 9

Length: Unknown

Cost: \$12

Facilitator: Carolyn Kelly North

Location: Conference Room A

Time: 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Patriarchs by Beth Moore

Mondays starting January 14

Length: 10 weeks

Cost: \$20

Facilitator: Shirley Rollins

Location: Advent Square

Time: 7-9 p.m.

7 Pillars of Health

Sundays starting January 27

Length: 7 weeks

Cost: \$12

Facilitators: Amy DeVries & Suzy Christensen

Location: TBD

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

The Book of John

Wednesdays starting January 2008

Length: Unknown

Cost: \$5

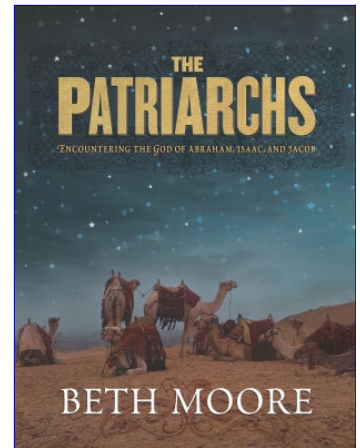
Facilitator: Susan Dietrich

Call Susan to register: 395-6481

Location: **Clubhouse Boca Del Mar**

Time: 7 p.m.

Please call the church (561-395-3632) or email receptionist@adventlifenet.org to register for all Bible studies unless otherwise noted.



Leadership Academy Begins January 9

Advent's Leadership Academy is pleased to announce the next series of classes to be taught beginning January 9. The classes will be facilitated by Pastor Andy and Pastor Rich and will be in the café from 6 p.m.—8 p.m.

Wednesday, January 9

- What Followers Expect From a Leader
- The Power of Vision

Wednesday, January 16

- The Leader and Integrity
- How to Break Out of Comfort Zones

Wednesday, January 23

- How to Handle Criticism Effectively
- The Power of Reproduction

Wednesday, January 30

- Developing Your Team
- Managing Change and Conflict

Sunday, February 3

- 10 Tests Every Leader Faces
- The Leader and Momentum

Sunday, February 10

- How to Keep Growing As A Leader
- The Role of Faith, Prayer and Servanthood in Leadership

The cost of the class, which includes dinner, is \$30. Please call the church (561-395-3632) or email receptionist@adventlifenet.org to register.

**A NEWSLETTER OF
ADVENT LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

300 East Yamato Road
Boca Raton, Florida 33431
Phone: 561-395-3632
Fax: 561-392-1470
www.AdventLifenet.org

Service Times:

8:30 a.m. Spirited Traditional

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Praise

11:15 a.m. Lutheran Liturgy

**NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boca Raton, Fla.
PERMIT NO. 6**

Upcoming Events at Advent

Children's Ministries

**Adventureland
Children's Ministry**
Meets during our
8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Worship Services

Crossroads
(for 4th –6th graders)
Meets the first Friday
of every month from
6:00—8:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry

EDGE
for 7th–8th Graders
Join us each Sunday
in the café
from 6-7:30 p.m.

Journey
For 9th-12th Graders
Join us each Sunday
in the café
from 6-8 p.m.

Dance Ministry

Join us for a series of
6 dance lessons
taught by award-
winning dancer
Olga Bogdanov.

**Mondays beginning
January 14
7:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
\$10/person/lesson**

**Call 561-395-3632
to register.**

Women's Ministry

One-day Conference
Saturday, January 26
9:45 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Featuring the paintings
& Bible teaching of
Kathleen Denis,
founder of Door of
Hope Outreach.

Tickets: \$15/person
and must be purchased
in advance between
worship services or in
the church office.

For a complete list of events at Advent, please visit us online at www.adventlifenet.org.