



APRIL 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:45 Men's Breakfast *8:30 Aerobics	2 *9:00 Kin-dermusic *10:00 Karate
3 *9&11 Worship *10:00 Sunday School 10:00 New Member Class 12:30 Listening Session *4:30 Huddle	4 *8:30 Aerobics *9:30 Pebbles & Boulders *4:30 Tumbling *5:30 Tumbling *6:00 Weight Watchers *6:45 Bible Study *7:00 GlassGroup	5-9:30 Dorcas Cl 2:00 Prayer Shawl 4:45 Jumping for Jesus 6:30 Stephen Ministry 6:30 Listening Session *7:00 Men's Basketball *8:00 Alanon & AA	6 9:00 Women of Praise 10:45 VBS Meeting *5:00 Youth Club *6:00 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner 6:30 Bible Studies 6:45 Choir Practice	7 *6:00 Praise Band Practice *7:30 Men's over 40 Basketball	8 Prayer Vigil all day	9
10 1:30 pm Congregational Meeting	11 6:30 Decorate cupcakes	12	13 6:00 pm Youth Club Celebration	14 7:00 pm Windows into the Soul	15 5:00 Skate Session	16
17	18 2:00 & 7:00 Learn to Crochet	19 2:00 Prayer Shawl 6:30 Stephen Ministry	20	21 10:00 Book Club 6:30 Windows into The Soul 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	22 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt 	23
24 Have a Blessed Easter! Sunrise Service 9&11 Worship 10:00 Sunday School 	25	26 7:00 Zentangle	27	28	29 6:30 Trinity Dinner Theater	30

March 2011

Advent Announcer

Advent Church
1879 N Germantown Pkwy
Cordova, TN 38016
901-755-6290

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends:

The first week in April is very important in the life of Advent. Before I talk about April 10th, I want to ponder a moment the season that we are in—Lent. Lent is a time when we remember who we are—fallen creatures in need of the saving love of God—and who Christ was—God Incarnate reconciling us through the self-giving, self-sacrificing, atoning love that Christ embodied and poured out for us on the Cross.

On the 17th we will celebrate Passion/Palm Sunday. At 7:00 pm on April 21st, Maundy Thursday, we will have a service celebrating the Last Supper of Jesus when he speaks the words, "Greater love hath no man than this, that he give up his life for his friends." This is a Communion Service. April 24th will gather at Sunrise with the Youth and at 9:00 and at 11:00 am to celebrate the power of God over sin and death—a power we see active in the resurrection of Christ. Easter is the single most important day in the Christian year, for it is on that day we celebrate God's victory over our sin and over death.

Sunday, April 10th at 1:30 p.m. is our long-awaited congregational meeting during which we will vote on the Session's recommendation that we be dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. This vote is important for Advent and its future. The Session studied and prayed for years. Over the past weeks, we have had a number of listening sessions, information both sent and available, and conversations and announcements. April 10th we cast our votes. I hope that each of you will make plans to attend. The full announcement is within the body of this letter. I have been asked, "How long will the meeting take?" The precise answer is, "I don't know." But, it seems to me that somewhere between one and two hours, depending on how much our members say, is reasonable. There is no early, late or mail-in voting, so please plan to attend.

As your pastor, I have tried to answer questions at information sessions and privately but have felt that there should not be a sermon preached specifically on the issue. Because it is Lent, it seemed best to go on with the sermon series we originally planned. By the time you receive this newsletter there will be about a week before the vote.

Friday, April 8th, the Session has called a Prayer Vigil from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm. All day long, there will be prayers going on in the Prentiss Chapel. There will be a closing prayer service at 6:00 in the evening. There will be one hour group prayers at 7:00 am and at 12:00 noon in the Prentiss Chapel. The Session has suggested that those who are able fast during this time, if possible. There will be information about the vigil on a table outside of Prentiss Chapel all next week. This prayer time is an important time of preparation for Easter and for our vote.

May the LORD bless and keep each of you,

Chris



**As disciples,
causing God great
joy by sharing the
love of God with
others as we have
seen it in Jesus
Christ.**

Table of Contents

Congregational Meeting.....	2
Listening Sessions.....	2
Easter Egg Hunt.....	3
Senior Adventurers.....	3
Easter Schedule.....	3
Frequently Asked Questions..	3
Dinner Theater.....	3
Church Calendar.....	4

Called Congregational Meeting Time Changed to 1:30 p.m.

On Sunday, **April 10, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.** in the afternoon the Session has called a congregational meeting to vote on its recommendation that Advent seek dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and affiliate with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. At the meeting, the congregation will also be asked to vote on two small matters related to the structure (not amount) of our pastors compensation and other changes which will accompany a change in denominational affiliation.

At the same time the congregation will be asked to approve a construction loan with a commercial bank to provide funding for construction until pledges are collected. The amount of any such loan will not exceed 85% of the amount of pledges outstanding for Building in the Spirit which the Session feels are collectible. This will allow us to continue to move forward in Arlington with a new educational facility as soon as the plans are drawn up and approved by the City of Arlington.

Please make plans to attend this very important meeting of our congregation. There will be child care for those children who need nurseries and for those children who are too old to be in the nursery but who have not gone through confirmation and joined Advent. Please call Daphne Stephens if you need childcare.

This meeting is very important to Advent and its future, if you are an active, voting member of Advent, please make a special effort to attend. Your Session humbly asks that you support their decision in this matter. This decision was made only after much prayer, discussion, and thought.

Listening Sessions Related to Congregational Meeting

In order to create the greatest possible degree of understanding of the reasons behind the Session's decision, they have provided for a series of Listening Sessions between their decision and the time of the vote. The Listening Sessions have close to the same agenda each time: there is a power point presentation led by one of our elders and a time to ask questions. So far, these sessions have been very helpful to those who have attended.

We hope that each member will take time to attend at least one of these presentations. The remaining listening sessions in Cordova are scheduled at 12:30 pm on April 3, 2011 in Lindsay Hall; and at 6:30 p.m. on April 6 in the Upper Room. There are two remaining Listening Sessions Sunday in Arlington at 10:00 and 12:00 noon.

If you have any questions and want additional information, please call one of the pastors.



Senior "Advent"urers

We are invited to Kirby Pines Manor for lunch on April 14, 2011. Please make reservations by April 10 by calling the church office or Robert Crumpton at 372-6420. We will get to visit Irma Marks, one of our members.

Easter at Advent

It is almost Easter!!! Please mark your calendar for the following special Easter Celebration Events:

April 17th: Palm Sunday services at 9:00 and 11:00 am

April 21st: Maundy Thursday Service: Communion Service at 7:00 pm

April 22nd: Easter Egg Hunt at the Cordova Campus at 10:00 am.

April 24th: Services at Sunrise (Cordova), at 8:45 (Arlington), 9:00 (Cordova), and 11:00 (both campuses).

Some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (Part 2)

Why the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)?

We believe that the EPC is the best fit for Advent. While not perfect, the EPC is a denomination that reflects our basic theological and moral principles. A number of local Memphis area congregations are members of the EPC, including Second Presbyterian, Hope, Highland Heights, Faith Presbyterian-Germantown and others.

Why should I vote to join the EPC?

Our church constitution requires that this change in affiliation be approved by a two-thirds majority of the congregation. Just as importantly: the Session and Pastors believe that we need the support of the congregation so that we remain the united, loving, Christ-centered and supportive community of believers that we have always been. The Session studied, prayed and thought about this decision for many years. Their decision deserves our thought, prayers and support.

What are the basic issues?

Our denomination has drifted away from the beliefs and practices upon which Advent was founded. For many years, the denomination has been embroiled in conflict over issues involving standards for leadership, the Authority of Scripture and the basic nature of the Christian faith. As a result of these fundamental issues, we are caught up in conflict over human sexuality, standards for leaders and many other issues. The denomination continues to decline and lose members. The Session believes that this conflict will only continue and get worse.

Does the EPC ordain Women?

Yes. All churches may ordain female elders, trustees and deacons. Advent does and will. Advent will belong to presbyteries which allow for women teaching elders (pastors).

Will this new affiliation with EPC change what we profess to believe at Advent?

Absolutely not. We will remain a Christ-Centered, Word-Centered, mission-oriented, loving body of believers dedicated to causing God great joy, by sharing his love with others as we have seen it in Jesus Christ.



SAVE THE DATE: Trinity Theater Group will present its next Dinner Theater production on **April 29th, 2011**. Tickets available now. All proceeds benefit the JON SHOBER SCHOLARSHIP FUND. If you have an item, service or gift available for our auction, please contact Phil Bellamy at 388-5776. Auction items may be tax deductible. Plan to be at this fantastic evening.