

MARCH 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 9:30 Dorcus Circle 2:00 Prayer Shawl 4:45 Jumping for Jesus *7:00 Men's Basketball *8:00 Alanon & AA	<i>2</i> 9:00 Women of Praise *5:00 Youth Club *6:00 Wednesday Night Alive Dinner 6:30 Bible Studies 6:45 Choir Practice	<i>3</i> *6:00 Praise Band Practice *7:30 Men's over 40 Basketball	<i>4</i> *6:45 Men's Breakfast *8:30 Aerobics	<i>5</i> *8:30 Kindermusic *10:00 Karate
*Starred Events are weekly						
<i>6</i> *9 & 11 Worship *10:00 Sunday School *3:30 Confirmation *4:30 Huddle	<i>7</i> *8:30 Aerobics *9:30 Pebbles & Boulders *4:30 Tumbling *5:30 Tumbling *6:00 Weight Watchers *6:45 Bible Study *7:00 GlassGroup	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 2:00 Prayer Shawl	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 10:00 Book Club 6:30 Windows into The Soul	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 2:00 Prayer Shawl 6:30 Stephen Ministry	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> 10:00 Intro to Advent—Cordova Campus	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>		

March 2011

Advent Announcer

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Session Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This particular newsletter is intended to give the congregation a bit more information concerning the vote that has been called for April 10, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Session is asking the congregation to affirm its decision to move Advent's denominational affiliation from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). This decision was not reached quickly, but was made after several years of study and prayer.

For many years, the PCUSA has drifted from its Biblical, Theological and Moral moorings. Our Session has constantly monitored these events for more than a decade. In 2007, the Session determined that it needed to create a Task Force which would study the matter in detail and report its findings to the Session, and periodically to the congregation. Such interim reports have been made on several occasions to the congregation and more frequently to the Session.

After the General Assembly last summer, the Session increased its level of prayer and thought, discussing all the major developments. It is impossible for a short letter to set out all the factors which have been considered. It is sufficient to say that many theological, moral and practical issues were discussed, as were several different strategies for renewal of the PCUSA. And, during this entire time, Advent supported various renewal efforts. Unfortunately, the PCUSA has continued to deteriorate.

After much prayer and discernment, the Session is in unanimous agreement that the time has come to realign our congregation with the EPC which is a strong, Biblical, Reformed and Presbyterian denomination. There are times when it is difficult to say all that needs to be said without being guilty of overstatement. It might be sufficient to say that your Session believes that there are substantial reasons to affiliate with the EPC at this time—and that further delay would only be harmful to Advent.

One constant question concerns "Will we still be Presbyterian?" The answer is "Yes". Another often asked question is, "Will we see big changes in Advent?" the answer is "No". The reason the Session feels that we need to make the change now is continue to be in a denomination where we can pursue God's call without continued distraction.

The EPC is a moderate, orthodox denomination. Our Pastors will belong to a new Presbytery as will our church. Our pastors and elders will go to a different Presbytery meeting. Most of us will see no change in Advent, its missions and programs. Please support our decision. Blessings in Christ!!!

For Session



**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

Session's letter	1
Congregational Meeting.....	2
Frequently Asked Questions.....	3
Church Calendar.....	4

Called Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 3:00 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. The Session humbly asks that you support their decision in this matter.

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 now and the time of the vote. At least two have already been held in Cordova and two in Arlington. 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. There are currently listening sessions scheduled at 12:00 noon on March 20, and April 2, 2011; at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 27; and at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30 and April 6.

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

Great Banquet

There will be a Men's Great Banquet March 24-27, and a Women's Great Banquet March 31-April 3. This three day retreat is a wonderful opportunity to get away, grow in Christ, and have time to ponder life. Please consider attending.

Should you need more information, please talk to any one of the pastors or anyone you know who has attended. Mike Karel is the elder in charge of our participation in the Great Banquet and he would love to speak with anyone interested in attending.

Over the years, many of our members have attended this three day retreat. Although it is clearly not for everyone, many people have experienced spiritual growth during the weekend.

Introduction to Advent Class for the Cordova Campus

Six-week class taught by our pastors and elders.

Learn more about our Christian heritage, our beliefs, Advent church, and its ministries. This is for members, visitors and those who just want to know more.

Began in February continuing in March at 10 am in Lindsay Hall

Know more about Advent, who we are and what we believe!!

Some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How will this change affect my day-to-day experiences at Advent?

Not at all! We will still have the same worship services, the same children and youth programs, and the same Bible studies. Unless you are an elder or a pastor, attending Presbytery meetings, you will likely see no changes.

Will any of Advent's programs such as Wednesday Night Alive or Huddle change?

No. We will still have all of the same programs.

How will this affect the local and international missions that we support?

We will continue to support all of our local and international missions just as before. We will continue to support Presbyterian Women and other PCUSA-affiliated groups

Will we keep our property?

YES. Our PCUSA Presbytery (Presbytery of the Mid-South) has a current policy of 'gracious dismissal'. This policy says that we can be dismissed to another Presbyterian church or similar church (called 'Reformed') with our property.

What do the Pastors think?

The Pastors and fully support the Session's unanimous decision to realign Advent with the EPC.

Will this change affect Advent financially? If so, how?

Advent will be fine financially. God has and continues to bless us. So that the Presbytery of the Mid-South can plan for the economic consequences of our departure, Advent will voluntarily continue to pay our usual annual denominational offerings for the next few years in declining amounts.

Will growth/building plans change? If so, how?

No. Our Building in the Spirit plans are on track and we don't foresee any changes. Dave's Barn on the Cordova campus is nearing completion and we hope to break ground on the Arlington campus Educational Building this summer.



SAVE THE DATE: Trinity Theater Group will present its next Dinner Theater production on **April 29th, 2011**. Tickets go on sale Feb. 27th, 2011. 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.