

Hot Off the Press! 11/30/14

advent ['ad,vent] noun the arrival of a notable person, thing or event

IN THE CHURCH, ADVENT SPIRITUALLY PREPARES US FOR THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ARRIVAL IN ALL OF ETERNITY — JESUS CHRIST BEING BORN IN THE FLESH. IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THIS IS A SEASON OF HOSPITALITY. THIS ARTICLE BUILDS ON ONE-ANOTHERING AND FOCUSES ON YEAR-ROUND CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY WITH ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE.

“The key to sharing the Good News in the 21st-Century? Hospitality!”

David Mattis - “The most strategic turf on which to engage the unbelieving with the good news of Jesus may be the turf of our own homes. When people don’t gather in droves for stadium crusades, or tarry long enough on the sidewalk to hear your Gospel spiel, what will you do? Where will you interact with the unbelieving [or with believers for that matter] about the things that matter most? Invite them to dinner.” The Bible is filled with texts about hospitality - eating and sharing life together.

Jesus’ Model - Invite the Believing and Unbelieving Too
We often begin to practice *Christian hospitality* by caring for fellow believers we know. “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” (1 Peter 4:8-10).

Hospitality then expands to Christians beyond the local church or community and to Christian global workers. “You are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the Church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. It was for the sake of the Name [Jesus] that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.” (3 John 5-8)

Love for Outsiders
The New Testament word for hospitality (Greek *philozenia*) is a combination of the word for “love” (*philo*) and “stranger” (*zenia*). Love for fellow Christians is vital. But the unchurched and non-believers will not be reached if we just *love those who love us.* Love, a fruit of God the Holy Spirit, is most obvious as a *work of God* when that love is for *those very different* from us - including the unlovable.

The Apostle Paul writes: “Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show *hospitality* to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Hebrews 13:1-2 [see graphic above]

Paul reinforces this: “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation,

be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show *hospitality.*” Romans 12:12-13

Church Leaders Lead Hospitality
An elder “must be . . . hospitable.” (1 Timothy 3:2)
An elder, “as God’s steward, must be . . . hospitable.” (Titus 1:8)
It was important enough to Paul to mention hospitality to both Timothy and Titus as they selected Church elders. [An interesting thought — when was the last time the CHPC Nominating Committee turned down a potential Elder candidate for Session if he or she wasn’t hospitable?]

Why does an Elder being hospitable make a difference? Elders set the tone for how the church will engage with nonbelievers. 1 Timothy 3:7 notes that an elder “must be well

thought of *by outsiders.*” If the elders who are to be *examples to the flock* (1 Peter 5:3) don’t engage with unbelievers, why should they expect the congregation to do so.

Strategic Christian Hospitality is not content to just have the old clan over for dinner again and again. Instead strategize how to make the hospitality of God known and felt all over the world — from the lonely church member in the next pew, to the hopeless youths in the community to International students at the University of Cincinnati. *Never underestimate how God might use the availability of a living room, dining room, or extra bedroom.* It might be “a launching pad for new life and hope and ministry and mission!”

John Piper, a visionary theologian, proposed that believers ask: “How can I draw the most people into a

deep experience of God’s hospitality by the use of my home [or church home]? Who are the people who could be brought together in my home most strategically for the sake of God’s kingdom [and His Glory]?”

God is the ‘Real Host’
Mature Christian hospitality includes inviting in and caring for believers, *contributing to the needs of the saints*, and nurturing disciples. It also includes welcoming ‘strangers’ for the Eternal Host, so that God will get the Glory. Such hospitality grows out of a grateful acknowledgement that ALL that we are and have belongs to God. As inheritors of God the Father’s grace through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit’s love we cannot help but extend His hospitality.

BY SHARLYN STARE — David Mattis, DesiringGod.org and Intn’l Friendships Inc (IFI) resources. Graphic: Kirill Ulanov icon — *The Hospitality of Abraham*, Saints Peter and Paul Church in Ustyuzhna, Russia.



advent hospitality ideas

“Feed them and they will come” has been our experience. The food doesn’t need to be fancy or even come from your own kitchen. It is a means of drawing people together. Try these:

- Home-made chicken noodle soup with bowls of raw things to add has been an enduring favorite. We fill small bowls with raw carrots, celery, croutons, nuts, shredded cheese, black olives, etc. Each person gets their hot soup and adds ingredients. My line is, “If you don’t like the soup it’s because you killed it!”
- ‘Homemade’ Family-Size Stouffer’s lasagna just needs heating. Ask others to bring salad or bread, relishes, beverages, dessert or contribute to the main dish. This works for gourmet cooks too.
- Dessert is another attraction. Sometimes I’ll make one or buy one. Recently, I invited folks to bring a dessert. I had a chocolate overdose for three days, and I’m not a chocolate fan.
- Use food sources outside your home. You can plan to talk around tables or afterwards go to your home or another quieter location. Try CHPC’s - Dec. 7th Chili cook-off or Christmas/holiday Feast of Love dinners. Meet for lunch with the *Lunch Bunch* or make a date at College Hill Coffee Co. or Panera.

What to do with the time?

Our hospitality training began shortly after we were married 40+ years ago. A small group guru named Lyman Coleman had just begun creating tools for beginners to pros. Some of his materials are still available on Amazon. We learned about ‘door openers’ to help guests have fun, get to know one another and tell their own story. As relationships grow, we add spiritual reflection.

Here’s an icebreaker: Tell about your name - your *full* name;



anything you know about it’s meaning; why your parents chose this name; how you felt about your name as a child; how you feel about it now; any nicknames you’re willing to share and why you got them.

We have unchurched family and international friends. We’ll use the questions below at holiday dinners. We will write each question on a separate slip of paper and put them in a bowl. A person picks one from the bowl and answers the question...or everyone can answer the question, and then move on to the next one. Here are five:

- Think about someone with an ‘attitude of gratitude’ and tell about him or her.
- Name a person or event *before your birth* for which you are grateful.
- Name 5 gifts from God that you can see from where you are sitting right now for which you are grateful.
- What little things are you grateful for today?
- Tell a story of one time when you were grateful and why.

Christmas Idea - We may use the same questions, or wrap up the characters in a manger scene and put them in a basket. Each person selects a ‘package.’ They open their ‘gift’ and tell

30. sunday

8:00am	Morning Prayer	Prayer Room
9:00am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:10am	Foundation Hour	
	• Children’s Classes	Barnabas Ctr
	• Jr. High	BC 204
	• High School	BC 206
	• ASF	Various
11:15am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:30pm	ACA Meeting	Clubroom
6:30pm	CRASH	BC 205 & 206

1. monday

6:30pm	Karate	Fellowship Hall
	AHG Meeting	Great Hall
7:00pm	12 Christian Beliefs	White House

2. tuesday

9:30am	Tuesday AM Bible Study	Parlor
6:30pm	Super Choir	Fellowship Hall

3. wednesday

9:30am	Library Work Day	BC 103
	Strategy For Mothers Lrg Grp	Fireside Room
5:30pm	Scouts Den Mtg.	Clubroom
7:00pm	Bi-Polar Support Group Session	Great Hall
		BC 201 & 202
7:30pm	College/Young Adult Gathering	Off Campus
	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

4. thursday

6:15am	Band of Brothers	Fireside Room
8:30am	Prayer	Prayer Room
10:00am	Knitting Group	Atrium
6:30pm	Karate	Fellowship Hall
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
	ACA Meeting	Club Room
	Grief Through the Holidays	White House
7:30pm	Alanon	BC 201 & 202

5. friday

6. saturday

2:00pm	Praise Dancers	Clubroom
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their part of the Christmas story as if they were the character. Baby Jesus goes last. We read Luke 2:1-22 and Matthew 2:1-12. If there are lots of people for dinner, we use extra shepherds, rocks, trees, the stable, sheep, etc. I’m always amazed at how these simple things can help make the holidays so much more meaningful and Christ-centered.

FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT SAM STARE 513-542-2442.

Children and Worship

Children ages Kindergarten through third grade are invited to a Children’s Worship service each week.

Start off with your families in both the 9am and 11:15am service.

Then listen for the announcement dismissing the kids to their special service.

This week’s helpers are:

9:00am Nate Smith

11:15am Jonny Wiers & Marissa Fox

Next week’s helpers are:

9:00am Andrew Duke & Michael Fox

11:15am Ian & Joshua Scheid

Ott Family will greet

Announcements

Grief through the Holidays Group Grieving the death of a loved one is difficult especially through the holiday season. The Care Ministry is offering a group to help support one another through this season. Thursdays, December 4 & 11 from 7-8:30pm in the Care and Counseling Center. Contact Jeanne Schneider, jschneider@chpc.org or 513-541-5676, 1160 if you plan to attend. The group is open to all inside and outside the church.

Chili Cook-Off, Brownie and Corn Bread Bake Off Sign up Today in the Atrium for the 3rd Annual Chili Cook Off/Brownie Bake Off & Corn Bread Bake Off - Sunday, December 7th, at 5:30pm. This will be a great night of food and entertainment! Sign up today to enter your best chili, brownies or cornbread. If you would like to help with this event contact Jeanne Schneider at 541-5676 x1160 or jschneider@chpc.org.

Do you like to read? Do you have a love of books? Please Consider coordinating and maintaining the libraries. Contact Robyn Hubbuch at 513-541-5676.

3C's Christmas Cards 3C's will be selling Christmas Cards again this year. Stop by the table on Main Street to place your order for cards and tags made by 3C's students. Deadline to order is December 10.

Please join the Brooks and the Wells for an exchange of some yummy treats and warm drinks and thoughts at our annual cookie swap and "Let's go a caroling night." We will start at the home of Joe and Helen Brooks, then take those joyful feelings to the streets of College hill in the direction of Andrew and Mandy Wells. There we will have some warm beverages and continue our caroling. Cookie swap - 2 dozen minimum / bring recipe to share. Please RSVP by December 10. Event will be Friday, December 19, 7 to 8:30pm. Joseph and Helen Brooks home is at 1192 Cedar Ave. (513) 851-0931. PS. Cookie swap is optional, Pillsbury is welcome and please be mindful to take home the amount of cookies you brought.

Really connect during the holidays and exercise your gift of hospitality - check inside this issue of Hot Off the Press for meaningful Hospitality Ideas perfect for Advent, fun for the holidays and year 'round.

Christmas Gift Idea give a 'Summer Ministry Experience' to the kids and adults in your life. Youth Camp is the week of July 6; Swim Ministry the weeks of June 22, July 13 and July 27; Super Summer Service for Jr and Sr Highs June 14-20. Interested in a 'gift certificate' for any of these, contact Sam Stare (542-2442 or starecvg@aol.com) free gift box included with every certificate.

Thanks to those who helped Nov. 23 to bring up the Christmas decorations from the Sanctuary lower level - deacons, the Martin kids, Luke Verhagen and Jacob Russell, Jan Scheyer and Ann Peacock. Bouquets to the Nov. 24 Sanctuary/Atrium deckers: Barry & Sam Stare, Art Stattman, Luke Verhagen, Mike Wagner and Avril Warren.

Help will be needed after 2nd service on January 4th to bundle and take trees down and transport the Christmas decorations back to storage.

Children and Youth

Christmas Eve Service Anyone interested in acting in the 5pm Christmas Eve Service drama should contact Mitch Teemley as soon as possible. Call 513-591-1964 or email teemley@fuse.net.

No CRASH tonight but we'll meet again next Sunday starting with the chili cookoff at 5:30pm followed by the Village at 7:30pm.

The children's ministry has the following specific needs: 11:15 service teacher for 3-4 year old class every other week

- 10:10 hour and 11:15 service helpers for 3-4 year old class
- 9:00 service and 11:15 service hospitality team: Greet and help families check in (every week or every other week)
- "Grownups"/mentors for kids who come to church without parents
- Actors and musicians (adults, youth or kids) for 5pm Christmas Eve Service

If you are interested in filling one of these roles, please contact Robyn Hubbuch at rhubbuch@chpc.org or 541-5676 ext. 1112.

Serving in our Community

Treehouse Mentoring needs more women and men to work with a child grade 4-6 at Pleasant Hill Academy, 5pm to 6pm Tuesdays. We have a waiting list of kids who want to get in! Contact Colleen Scheid 513-505-9826 or scheidison@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS FOOD COLLECTION AND GIFTS The Deacons want to thank everybody for their support of the Thanksgiving Food Collection. Over 366 families were served because of your generosity! Now it is time to start on the Christmas one. We will be collecting the instant mashed potatoes and canned sweet potatoes (same as last time) again on Dec. 7, 14, and 21. We will be collecting gifts for children from infants through age 17. Toys are good, but we could also use gift cards, disposable diapers, toothpaste, detergent or other hygiene items. Questions call David Welch 258-3808 or email dwelch@comey.com

Adult Spiritual Formation Update

New Schedule. Spiritual Formation discussion groups at 10:10am will meet through Sunday, November 30th. Many groups will elect to continue two more weeks through December 14th; talk to your group leader about this. For groups that elect not to meet on December 7th and 14th we are offering two weeks of Fast Food, focusing around the Advent Season and Missions. See the schedule below. More information is available at the sign up table in the Atrium. These 3 classes will be offered:

- **Meeting Christ in the Advent Season**
- **The Manger Through A Pastor's Eyes**
- **Mission Spotlight**

December 7 and 14 the last two sessions of the Fall-Winter terms of Cat & Dog Theology will be shown during the Foundation Hour 10:10 to 11:05am. The full class will be offered during the Winter term beginning in January. Be careful though... this class will change your life... for the better!

Prayer Page

"... without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers," - Romans 1:9

CHPC Community

Connie Warren	Thom Warren
Avril Warren	Galen Warren
Louise Weaver	John Wendt
Annette Welch	David Welch

Staff

Janis McLemore - HR & Finance

Officers/Leadership

Bonnie Mack - Deacon

Home Bound/Health Center

Betty Henderson

Ministries

Elders

Global Workers

In the Military

Adam Steveley US Army	Chris Jaeger USMC
Cary Jaeger USMC	Kirk Kalmbacher US Coast Guard
Zach Scharf Army National Guard	Nyjoel Baker Eielson AFB, AK
Danny Holian US Navy Pilot	Will Connor US Army
Joey Nieberding US Army	Peter Leugers US Navy

College/Career Students

Justin Wilson Alexis Wilsey

Children and Youth

Purity: "Create in them a pure heart, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in their actions." (Ps. 51:10)

Hamilton County JFS Featured Child

David

Congratulations

to Jan and Chick Hyde on the celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary on December 3rd.



November 30, 2014
Christmas Change
Invitation For All
Preaching: Rev. Drew Smith

Welcome to

College Hill Presbyterian Church

We're glad that you're worshiping with us today. Please let the ushers know if you have any special needs. There are many opportunities for worship, personal growth and service at CHPC. If you are a visitor, stop by the 5-Minute Party table to find out more about us. Please return, and be part of our dynamic church family!

Upcoming Services

December 7	Christmas Change Grace For All
December 14	Christmas Change Justice For All
December 21	Single Service at 10am Christmas Change Hope For All
December 24th	5pm Family Service 8pm Candlelight / Communion Service

Order of Today's Service

Prelude

Call To Worship & Opening Prayer

Songs of Praise

Time of Confession & Forgiveness

Song of Response

Passing of the Peace

Scripture & Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Offering / Closing Song

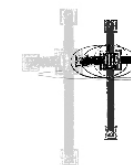
Announcements

Charge and Blessing

Postlude

Please see an usher for a lyric sheet for the 9am service.

Building flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ



college hill presbyterian church

connecting . serving . celebrating
5742 Hamilton Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45224
(513)541-5676 . www.chpc.org