

The History of Advent



The word *advent* means “coming.” Christians know and celebrate the season of Advent as a time of preparation and reflection in anticipation of Christmas, the celebra-

tion of Christ’s birth. Throughout the Advent season, Christians also acknowledge and anticipate the promised second coming of Jesus Christ.

Before the formation of the Christian church, Jewish custom dictated the celebration of the New Year in the spring. At first, as the followers of Jesus began meeting together, they continued in this Jewish tradition.

There are indications, however, that Christians from year to year, even from century to century, eventually developed the rites and traditions of Christmas and the New Year as a mid-winter celebration. Midwinter, the



time of the winter solstice when the sun is at its lowest ebb, has long been an important season for people of Northern cultures. It is the time of shortest daylight, when people yearn for the sun to return with its brightness and warmth, and look for a sign that spring will come.

By the fourth or fifth century, Christmas was established as a religious festival that signified the beginning of the ecclesiastical year. It was at this time In the year 529, Emperor Justinian

also declared December 25 a civic holiday, an action that prohibited any work to be done on that day. Then in the year 567, the Council of Tours established the season of Advent as a time of fasting preceding Christmas Day. The council also proclaimed the 12 days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred season. At that time those wishing to become a part of the Christian fellowship on the day of Epiphany, January 6, maintained a period of fasting.

Initially, the Advent period varied from three to seven weeks. Later it became customary to observe the season for four weeks. This then became the actual beginning of the church year.

Today we still look to Advent as the beginning of the church year. Although the dates change from year to year, Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30 and contains the four Sundays before Christmas Day. The season can range anywhere from 23 to 28 days, depending on which day Christmas Eve falls.

The season of Advent represents the coming of the King as a human child. In the form of a baby, wrapped in cloth and laid to rest in a manger of straw, Jesus came to us. We commemorate this event on Christmas Day.



Once again we will observe Advent with three special Wednesday evening services beginning December 1. Our **theme this year will be “Away In a Manger.”** See details in the Tide, and plan now to join us for these special worship services.

Faith Leadership

Church Council is the governing body of the congregation, administering congregational affairs.

Committees under the council (listed below) meet the first Thursday of each month, 7 PM, unless otherwise noted.

Council Chair

(Council – third Monday, 7 PM)

Alice Burden
714.330.8798
burdensings@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jane Jones
714.378.3948
jjones114@socal.rr.com

Treasurer

Peter Swanson
714-963-5883
Treasurer@faithhb.org

Ministry of Care

(Outreach – second Wednesday, 11:15 AM)
Darla Nicholl
714.893.4836
darlanicholl@verizon.net

Ministry of Gifts

(Stewardship - Open)

Ministry of Properties
(Properties – first Thursday, 7:30 PM)
Gregg Leonard
714 .968.0801
possum9331@aol.com

Ministry of Youth/Education

(Education – first Thursday, 7 PM)
Youth Ministry -
first Monday, 6:30 PM)
Dave Simenson
714-964-6650
DPSimenson@gmail.com

Ministry of Outreach

(Recreation – second Sunday, 6 PM, at member homes)
Jack Schlinsog, Deacon
714.962.5423
youthministry@faithhb.org

Board of Elders assists the pastor in ministering to the spiritual needs of the congregation.

(Elders -
second Thursday, 7 PM)
(Worship –
first Thursday, 7 PM)
Jack Schlinsog, Deacon
714.962.5423
youthministry@faithhb.org
(Altar committee)
Velda Ryan 714-960-0492
ryanhb@socal.rr.com

General Assembly elects 2011 officers

Congregational members *elected and reaffirmed officers for the 2011 church council at the General Assembly meeting, Sunday afternoon, Nov. 7:

*Peter Swanson- Chair; Darla Nicholl, Care and Family Ministry; Dave Simenson - Education Ministry; Gregg Leonard, Ministry of Property; *Don Wilson, Stewardship Ministry; *Garrett McFaul, Youth Activities Ministry; Jane Jones, Recording Secretary; Jack Schlinsog, Outreach Ministry. To be appointed - Treasurer.

PROPERTIES REPORT 2011

Balanced Budget... This concept, bandied about politically, is a new reality for many local, state and federal agencies. Living within our means is good stewardship—individually and for our nation.

In the coming year properties is committed to “Living Within Our Means.” Our budget for 2011 is as lean and bare bones as we can make it, there are no extras. Good and faithful stewardship of the Time, Talent and Treasure we receive, by the Grace of God, will ensure that our doors are always open, presenting a welcoming environment for everyone.

Our Family of FAITH is truly blessed to have been given so much in these challenging economic times. Properties will continue, with your help, to keep our campus running smoothly and efficiently. Please keep us in your prayers as we do the best we can with what we have, and remember our congregational work day is always the second Saturday of the month from 9:00-12:00.

— Gregg Leonard, Properties

OKTOBERFEST WAS WUNDERBAR!

The Oktoberfest evening on Saturday, October 23, was so much fun with 75 people attending! The brats, potato salad, sauerkraut, along with the delicious apple cobbler, were enjoyed by all. Lots of folks came in their German attire, so it was fun judging the costume contest—**won by Judie Saaranen and the Merrick's granddaughter.**

The polka contest was a runaway for Al and Catherine Rasch, followed by Mary and John Swiger. **Let's not forget to mention the yodeling. Judie Saaranen rocked the house! There was also a surprise guest doing the “chicken dance!”** None other than Chuck Braker, dressed up in a full fledged chicken outfit!



Men on the grill, Gary Tiedgen, Mike Galitzen, Chuck Braker and Chuck Burden, wait for the coals to heat. You can't celebrate Oktoberfest without plenty of brats.



Not only was Judie Saaranen a costume contest winner; she also rocked the house with her fabulous yodeling.