

inspiring lives

CHURCH OF THE ADVENT
STEWARDSHIP 2012

INSPIRATION IS IN THE AIR. TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

Our theme for Stewardship 2011 was “Spiritual Home.” This is still an important focus of the Church of the Advent’s mission. People from across the nation continue to move into the Logan Square neighborhood. Because we are a small, growing and deeply welcoming Christian community, offering a “spiritual home” in a huge city is a real gift. In 2011, many new people found the Advent community to be exactly that.

While we continue as a “spiritual home,” we can now embark upon a new level of development with our growing community: nurturing and transforming discipleship in Jesus Christ. **“Inspiring lives” is our stewardship theme for 2012.**

We are a community of life-long Episcopalians, Christians from other faith traditions new to the Anglican way, and folks with no particular faith background at all. Some of us have served at the Advent for decades; some of us have discovered and embraced the Advent community in the last year or two.

What we share in common is that every person in this community has a known or growing sense of Christian discipleship that helps to build up this church. Every person in our congregation lives a life inspired by our God. And every person in our congregation is an inspiration to the community.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH IN THE LOGAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD

One of our mission priorities is “to help those most in need in our neighborhood.” We continue our community outreach with the following ministries:

The **Saturday Lunch Program** is a shared ministry of Nuestra Señora de las Americas and the Advent. It is offered every Saturday of the program year. We cook and serve lunch for 40-50 neighbors in need. The **Clothing Closet** is offered each week to our guests, and community members generously respond to calls for seasonal clothing.

The **Orpen Study Center** opened again this school year to help kids with their homework and provide a place of encouragement and support. The Study Center meets on Thursday afternoons until and also serves dinner to the students. Both veteran and new members have helped kids with homework and hospitality.

The Advent’s ministry to **Fellowship House**, a residence for persons in recovery and with mental health concerns, continues every Saturday. We offer a gentle ministry of community prayer, healing and pastoral presence.

Additional neighborhood events have included a **Pet Blessing** (on the second Sunday of October) that, in 2011, took place right on our corner of Logan Boulevard throughout the afternoon. We hosted our fifth annual **Halloween Open House** for neighborhood kids in 2011. Over 1,000 kids stopped by the church for a break and some treats! We had information about our community available and offered tours of the church.

OUR TOP THREE MISSION PRIORITIES:

- To bring in new members.
- To help those who are most in need in our neighborhood.
- To engage Logan Square residents in their 20’s and 30’s.

NEW MINISTRY INITIATIVES

One of our goals for 2011 was to develop **new ministry initiatives**.

Thanks to a diocesan incentive grant, we were able to offer **two free ice cream socials** on hot Sunday afternoons, with several community members available to greet and meet with passersby. We also hosted a **game night** in the early fall, and offered an exciting night of **salsa dancing!** Each event was open to neighbors in Logan Square.

Our new **new Facebook profile**, www.facebook.com/adventlogansquare has expanded our communication ministry. While we continue to post news, community information and sermons on our website, our Facebook profile has up-to-the-minute newsflashes and event reminders, posted by a team of community members.

Monthly Advent Community Outings offer exciting fellowship opportunities, initiated by a newer community member this past year. You can see some of our adventures on our Facebook page!

OUR TOP THREE WORSHIP PRIORITIES:

- To be completely accessible to newcomers in worship, fellowship and formation.
- To be a multicultural church in our diverse neighborhood.
- To embrace, explore and express the nearness of God together.

The **pastoral care team** has expanded its ministry by not only visiting the sick and homebound, but also in offering to be companions to community members in their spiritual journeys.

A new learning opportunity, **“The Anglican Way”**, is in place to respond to newer members’ questions about the Episcopal Church and the Christian life. We meet on Wednesday evenings at the church building.

You can find a complete listing of the Advent’s ministries by going to our website – www.adventlogansquare.org – and selecting “Serve.”

WE AREN'T PARISHIONERS. WE ARE MISSIONARIES.

WE AREN'T CHURCH MEMBERS. WE ARE CHURCH BUILDERS.

A few years ago, the Advent shifted from being a self-supporting “parish” to being a “mission” under the supervision of the office of the Bishop of Chicago. Being a mission congregation, along with our sister community, has brought a new perspective on what really matters in a Christian community: profound hospitality, a daily dependence upon God’s grace to help us handle our challenges, and renewed energy to serve as Jesus’ followers in our neighborhood.

For many of our newest members, a bit of community history here might be helpful. More than thirty years ago, the parish of the Church of the Advent helped to form and host a Spanish-speaking Episcopal mission congregation – Nuestra Señora de las Americas. This relationship is a vital one to this day.

Both congregations share the church facilities and face financial challenges. We need each other in order to sustain our financial responsibilities and pay our bills. Our congregations split building and operating costs. There is the often unseen work of shared building use, calendar planning, and building repairs. The part-time clergy of Nuestra Señora also serve their own full-time congregations in Chicago. Both congregations

really want to grow. The people of both congregations are not just church members – they are church *builders*. Your generous financial support is both an inspiration and an investment our shared life.

CREATIVE FUNDRAISING

Even with financial challenges, Advent members have developed creative ways of raising money:

Rummage and bake sales take place seasonally, with summertime and the Advent season being community favorites.

The Great Tomato Sale of 2011 was “cultivated” by our church botanist, Dan Gordon, with dozens of tomato varieties for our gardens.

We have **online donation capabilities through PayPal**. Though most members prefer to make their offerings in person on Sundays, we also offer the option of online donating through our website.

We really stretched the limits of church fundraising with Boxing 4 God 2, our second such fundraiser which offered dinner, raffle prizes and a boxing tournament at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park. Over 500 bought attended the event Memorial Day Weekend 2011, raising over \$4,000! It was spearheaded by Ralph Vara, who loves to box and loves his church! Church folks helped sell tickets, gather raffle prizes, spread the word and run the front end of the event.

THE ADVENT COMMUNITY HAS GREAT HOPES FOR 2012.

Each year’s development goals build upon the hard work that our community has already undertaken. As we reach for a new level of growth and service, we need everyone’s help. Every dollar counts. Pray over the pledge you might make. Remember what makes you passionate about our shared life in Christ.

As church builders, our common life of worship, fellowship, formation and outreach reveals the work of Jesus in Logan Square. And being in the world means that we must financially support our mission, even when times are tough. We need generous givers who are inspired by the hopes we have for 2012:

We will continue to let our mission and worship priorities guide us in developing the way forward.

We need to expand our marketing efforts and continue to get the word out.

We hope to incorporate even more new members into the Advent community.

We will continue to discern and develop leadership from newer community members.

We will expand community fellowship and formation opportunities.

We will envision and develop new outreach efforts in Logan Square.

We will continue to attend to church building needs, restoration and repair projects.

WE WILL, WITH GOD’S HELP. AND YOURS.

church of the advent

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AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CHICAGO’S LOGAN SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD

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CHURCH OF THE ADVENT'S 2012 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

A NARRATIVE BUDGET FOR 2012

Submitted by John Medenwald, Warden & Treasurer

This narrative budget is a description of our planned ministries in 2012 and the dollar cost it would take to implement them. Since our economy is still struggling overall, we are being conservative with our projections in the hope of keeping expenditures as close to 2011 as possible.

However, in keeping with this year's stewardship theme of "Inspiring Lives" we have included in each category an additional paragraph of what our ministry might be inspired to accomplish with extraordinary gifts of time and money.

Worship

We will continue to have a sung Eucharist each Sunday at 10 a.m. and Morning Prayer each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. We will continue to be inclusive and invite all to experience the Advent's spirit and hospitality. Our worship is intended to build community and strengthen our spiritual growth. The cost budgeted to accomplish this in 2012 is:

Priest	16,284
Music	7,916
Supplies	1,000
Total	25,190

✚ An inspired worship budget might include compensating Fr. Peter for two days per week instead of only one. It might include some start-up money for an organ restoration fund.

Priest	9,000
Organ restoration fund	1,000
Inspired Worship Total	10,000

Jubilee Ministries: Orpen Study Center, Saturday Lunch Program, Citizenship and Spanish Classes

While the bulk of the cost of these programs is funded from outside grants there is a cost to house them. We continue to offer food and education showing God's grace to all in our community. This is done in partnership with Nuestra Señora and St. Mary's, Park Ridge. The cost budgeted to accomplish this in 2012 is:

Building insurance	6,400
Utilities	6,100
Building Maintenance	1,500
Total	14,000

☞ *An inspired building budget might include* more volunteers to write grant proposals and tutor children; additional funds for building maintenance to replace the floor in the north room of basement; and other small repair projects. This would be **an inspired building total of approximately \$3,000.**

Administration

An office and staff is needed to enhance communication and help administer our programs and ministries. The Administrative Assistant staffs the office one morning per week. The cost budgeted to accomplish this in 2012 is:

Admin. Assistant Salary	1,076
Janitor	800
Office Supplies	1,200
Phone	1,200
Total	4,276

Community-building

We have budgeted money for groups that we are a member of and support. We believe these groups (the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and the Logan Square Neighborhood Association) strengthen and enhance our ministries and connect our work to the larger community. We have also moved our Clothing Closet, Chaplaincy Visitation and a new Advent Outings program started this year by Heather Robertson into this category. The cost budgeted to accomplish this in 2012 is:

Diocese of Chicago	4,400
Membership in LSNA	200
Our community-building ministries	1,000
Total	5,600

☞ *An inspired community-building budget* would be supported by additional volunteer time. The Clothing Closet has grown in the last two years. There is always someone to visit. I also envision an Advent presence at any community event in Logan Square. We could enhance our community-building by continuing to offer events like the summer ice cream socials and the fall game night and salsa dance. We could also have funds in reserve for inviting and paying for some people that may not be able to afford some of our outings. This would be **an inspired community-building total of approximately \$1,000.**

2012 Basic Budget	39,066
Sum of Inspired Possibilities	14,000
Total	\$53,066

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PLEDGE FORM for STEWARDSHIP 2012

Recognizing that the support of every member is valued and vital to the mission and ministry of the Church of the Advent, and in thanksgiving for the blessings I / we have received, I / we pledge to contribute a total of

\$_____ per year in 2012

to be paid (*check one*):

_____ weekly _____ monthly _____ quarterly _____ yearly

Print your information clearly.

Name(s)_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip Code_____

Phone_____

Email address_____

Please mail your pledge form to:

Church of the Advent
2610 North Francisco
Chicago, IL 60647

You can also make online donations through PayPal by going to our website and clicking on "Donate to us" in the upper right-hand corner of the home page. You do not need a PayPal account in order to participate; please note that a small percentage of your pledge donation is taken up as a convenience fee by PayPal.