

ADVENT

SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

The last several months have been an exciting time in the life of Church of the Advent! Keep reading to see what we've been up to at the Brookland and Columbia Heights Parishes.

BROOKLAND ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In late April, Advent celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Brookland Parish, which began meeting together on Sunday, April 17, 2016. Both Brookland and Columbia Heights members worshipped and shared a meal together at a joint service at Archbishop Carroll High School, and we heard stories of how God has been at work in Northeast DC. Tim Barley, Anika Smith and Clarissa Simmons shared their testimonies of God's faithfulness in the Brookland community.



ADVENT MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Advent's Children's Ministries has been growing by leaps and bounds! Between January and July 2017, 13 new babies joined our community and we celebrated the baptisms of 10 children.

In June, two rising fourth-graders at Brookland transitioned out of our children's worship program into a more active role in the life of the church. They received a Bible and will begin a new Sunday School program this fall for middle schoolers, and begin serving on a ministry team.

As we start a new year of children's worship curriculum this fall, Children's Ministries is in need of volunteers, especially at Advent Brookland! For more information, contact Children's Ministries Director Jane Olson at jolson@adventdc.org.



Children watch as Adelaide Hobert and William Beilman receive their Bibles

CORE GROUPS

In May, Core Group leaders and Ministry Heads gathered at Restoration Anglican Church for Leadership Saturday, where we celebrated the ways God has been at work in our Core Groups and ministries in the last year and looked ahead to the new year. The structure of Core Groups has been modified slightly, to provide for more options and flexibility for leaders and participants. *What's changed?*

Summer Sunday at Columbia Heights in June



- Core Groups will run on a semester basis, from September-December and January-May. Groups can be ongoing or meet for only one semester.
- Core Groups will be able to pick their own topics, including Bible or book studies, evening prayer, and classes on various topics. This fall semester we will be offering Advent Foundations (our membership class), a class for women on Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (using Peter Scazzero's book by the same title), a Financial Peace University (Dave Ramsey) course, and more.

Registration opens Friday, August 18 and groups will begin meeting the week of the Labor Day holiday.

HOSPITALITY

Summer is the perfect time to get outside, and the Columbia Heights HUGs (Hospitality, Ushers and Greeters) team has been taking advantage of the great weather with monthly "Summer Sundays." These low-key events are a great way to get to know other members and enjoy a sweet treat. The last Summer Sunday will be held on August 20 immediately following the service at Columbia Heights.

ADVENT LIFE

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

On Good Friday, we gathered at Church of the Holy City to solemnly reflect on Christ's sacrifice on the cross, then met on Saturday for our Easter Vigil, held in partnership with Church of the Ascension and Church of the Resurrection, at National Baptist Memorial Church in Columbia Heights. We celebrated the joy of Christ's resurrection at both parishes on Easter Sunday. We also formally welcomed new members, who received a membership bell as a reminder to serve as a "herald" of the Gospel. More than 30 people completed our Advent Foundations class and became members this spring.

STAFF CHANGES

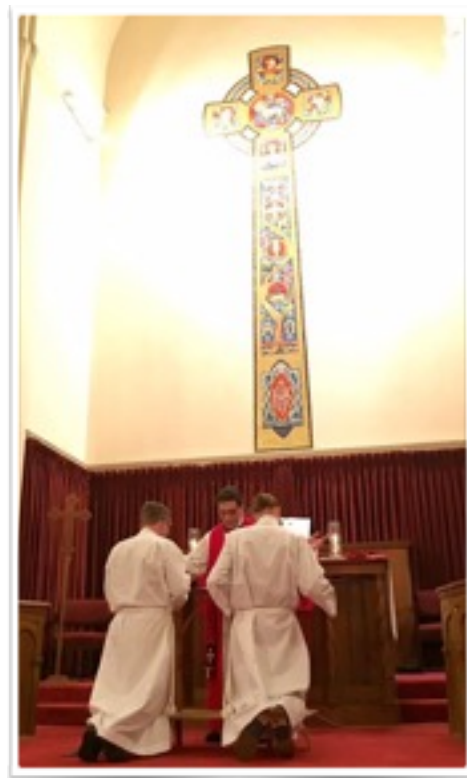
In February, our Bishop Steve Breedlove visited DC to ordain Pastor of Worship Arts and Spiritual Formation Dan Beilman as a priest, and Pastoral Assistant Josh Ruiter as a deacon.

We were sad to say goodbye to Josh Ruiter and our Minister of Care and Community, Melissa Litwiller, at the end of June. Melissa, her husband Jonathan and their boys Graeme, Declan and Rhett are pursuing new opportunities for their family in Arizona, while Josh and his wife Candice have moved to his hometown of Pella, Iowa to pursue bi-vocational work as he explores planting an Anglican church in the area. We are so grateful for the impact both Melissa and Josh have had on our church, and excited for what God has in store for them in their new communities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars with these upcoming events:

- **Men's Ministry Camping Trip, August 23-25**
- **Core Group Leaders' Training, August 30 at 7:00 PM (Canaan Baptist Church)**
- **Parish Retreat in Middleburg, Virginia, October 13-15**
- **Diocese of Christ Our Hope Synod, McLean Presbyterian Church, November 2-4**
- **Joint morning service for Brookland and Columbia Heights Parishes, November 12**
- **Lessons and Carols Service, December 10**



Bishop Steve Breedlove prays during the ordination service



New members are received on Easter Sunday at Columbia Heights



Baptism at Brookland