

## From the Pastor, January-February 2011



The Rev. J. Elise Brown

It is an audacious claim – the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Yet, we gathered on a dark night and cold morning and, together, made this bold proclamation at Christmas. We sang it. We prayed it. We read it. We listened to it.

Now we are called to live it.

Christ's light has broken into our darkness once again – the darkness of violence, of meanness that threatens to rob our hope and shutter our spirits, the carelessness and cruelty with which we treat creation and one another. But Christ's light shines...dispelling even the darkest of darknesses and saying to the whole creation, the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never, ever overcome the light.

The light of the manger invades the world. We move toward the warmth and beauty of that light and pick it up. We carry the light of Christ with us wherever we go, in whatever we do, to whomever we meet. And every time we shine that light on a place of darkness and despair, we proclaim once again – the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome the light.

Christ's hope and light be with you.

See you in church,  
pb

### Luther's Morning Prayer

This is from Martin Luther's instruction to the head of the household as to how to teach members of the household to say the morning blessing.

"In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say: Under the care of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you wish, you may recite this little prayer as well:

"I give thanks to you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger and I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and every danger, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

After singing a hymn, or whatever else may serve your devotion, you are to go to your work joyfully."

## Thinking and Planning Strategically about God's mission through Advent from Charles Miller

Recently Pastor Brown in her Christmas letter introduced the topic of the strategic planning newly underway at Advent Lutheran Church. This planning process, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will study, evaluate, and analyze Advent's present mission and ministries and will seek to determine our ministry priorities for the next 3-5 years.

Guiding the process is a council-appointed steering committee. Members are Pastor Elise Brown, Bill Ellis, Julie Hagen, Kelly Kandler, Linda Kelly, Carlos Lopez, Norma Martin, Djamilah Samad, Rose Tresgallo, and Aaron Wunsch. The facilitator is Pastor Charles Miller.

All members and friends of Advent are invited to participate in the centerpiece of the planning process. On Sunday, January 23, 2010 Advent will hold its annual meeting following the 11:00 a.m. service. The heart of our time together at the Annual Meeting this year will be 90 minute small group conversations led by steering committee members. We will be discussing critically important questions that explore the next chapter of Advent's life.

You will be given the advance opportunity to prepare for these discussions. Everyone will receive a summary of Advent's statements of mission, vision, values and priorities, a listing of present ministry areas, and a statistical summary of current trends in finance, worship attendance, and membership. You'll also receive a worksheet with the questions on January 9<sup>th</sup> or can find it on Advent's Web site ([www.adventnyc.org](http://www.adventnyc.org)). By the time of the January 23<sup>rd</sup> discussions, we expect that you'll have much you want to share about the future mission and ministries of Advent.

If the January 23<sup>rd</sup> activity simply doesn't fit your schedule, there will be additional small groups held during the following week and after the 11:00 service on January 30<sup>th</sup>. And, the questionnaire also can be completed online.

We strongly urge you to plan your participation in this "guided conversation" part of Advent's planning. This is your opportunity to share your vision for Advent in the near future.

The results of these conversations will be studied carefully and then synthesized for further discussion by the church council at a retreat in March. We'll continue to report on this process as it unfolds.

---

### Adult Education – Sundays at 10 a.m.

January 30 and February 6 – The 1st and 2nd Letters of Peter, led by Vicar Alisa Joyce

February 13th and 20th – The Letter of Philemon, led by Vicar Marc Stutzel

February 27 – New Series! Living our Vocation – Come and hear Advent members share how they live their vocation each day through their work. Advent members have very interesting jobs! Come and hear how they share their faith through vocational living. Stay tuned!

## Norma Martin – A Faithful Attendee by Karen Cantrell



Norma, 2nd from l, with Mark Gunderman, Christian Chavarria from El Salvador and Sarah and Rob Goie.

If you haven't met Norma Martin, then you're probably dashing out of Advent immediately after a service. It took me two Sundays to meet her - after a dozen years of living one block away from her in Tribeca.

This is about community: Norma's first reason for coming to Advent. Being part of a Christian community for her meant looking for people who shared similar questions, and at Advent she found people who knew each other in authentic ways. Soon she felt that if she missed church, she'd missed something important.

Regular attendance has led Norma to more awareness of the changing liturgical seasons. During the pre-PB years, when there were several pastoral vacancies, the music, the lessons, and the liturgy spoke to her. Today the exceptionally high quality of preaching we enjoy makes attendance even more significant.

She also benefits from her active participation in the Advent Chorale. By practicing the anthems, hymns, and liturgy, the music and the texts become integrated into her prayer life. (Trust me: she never makes plans for a Wednesday night if there is choir practice!)

She came to church because the youth ministry saved her life by getting her out of her own small church in Utica, NY and into the broader Mohawk Valley Lutheran community. But her reasons for continuing to participate have more to do with how Advent helps her build her own theology.

So on that second Sunday, I returned to Tribeca from 93d and Broadway and ran into friends of mine who also know Norma. "Norma's WONDERFUL," they said, and now I completely agree. Norma has become part of my community - both in Advent (she calls me if we don't see each other in church) and without. And I'm only ONE of her good friends at church!

---

## Tiffany Celebration

On February 6, 2011, at the 11 AM service, there will be a re-dedication ceremony for our beautifully restored Tiffany Windows. This has been such a labor of love for all involved and, not only will we re-dedicate the windows; we will thank those whose efforts produced this gift. A celebration luncheon will be held after the service. If you are interested in helping, please contact Suzanne Chadwick at [suzychadwick@aol.com](mailto:suzychadwick@aol.com). God bless all who made this possible!

### Cleaning for a Reason

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment.

"Cleaning for a Reason" will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women -- <http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

## Getting Acquainted with El Salvador by Mark Gunderman

Advent Lutheran Church and the ELCA support mission in El Salvador. This article's intent is to provide you with a brief introduction to the country's history and people.

### GEOGRAPHY AND OVERVIEW

El Salvador's geography consists of a narrow Pacific coastal plain, backed by volcanic mountains, and a fertile plateau. The geography plays a large part in the country's turbulent history that is scarred by civil war, extreme poverty and natural disasters. The rich volcanic soils attracted plantations of agriculture, where rich landowners subjugated the peasant population. The resulting economic inequality led to many violent clashes - the most recent being the civil war from 1980-1992. At present, El Salvador's democratic government shows success in improving education and jobs, but continues to face the stubborn challenges of poverty, violent gangs and natural disasters.

### PEOPLE

The country's people are a devout group of Roman Catholics with a strong Protestant minority. The capital city of San Salvador has over a million and a half people, but almost 40% of El Salvador's population lives in poor, underdeveloped, rural areas. When visiting El Salvador, I am impressed by the Salvadoran's warmth and intelligence. They exude a tremendous commitment of faith and hope for a brighter future. This in spite of their violent past and overwhelming challenges they continue to face.

### HISTORY

In 1838, El Salvador became an independent republic. El Salvador's early history as an independent state--as with others in Central America--was marked by frequent revolutions.

In the late 19th century coffee took the main stage. It quickly became El Salvador's most important cash crop and earned money that was neither taxed nor distributed in reasonable wages to the workers. By the 20th century, 95% of El Salvador's income derived from coffee exports, but only 2% of Salvadorans controlled that wealth. In January 1932, Augustin Farabundo Martí led an uprising of peasants and indigenous people. The military responded by systematically killing anyone who looked or sounded indigenous, or who had supported the uprising. In all, 30,000 people were killed in what became known as *la Matanza* (the Massacre). Martí was arrested and killed by a firing squad. His name is preserved today by the political party FMLN (Frente Martí Liberación Nacional). As a result, the military took control of the nation. Military officers formed alliances with the land-owning elite who controlled the nation's purse strings. Peasants and farm workers continued to be repressed, growing disgruntled as the economy worsened in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s.

During the 1970s, El Salvador suffered from landlessness, poverty, unemployment and overpopulation. The polarized government struggled for power through coups and electoral fraud. Guerrilla activity increased and the right wing responded with the creation of death squads. Thousands of Salvadorans were kidnapped, tortured and murdered.

In 1979, a junta of military and civilians overthrew President Carlos Humberto Romero and promised reforms. When these promises were not met, opposition parties banded together as a revolutionary army composed of five guerrilla groups. On March 24, 1980, the outspoken Archbishop Óscar A Romero was assassinated while saying mass. His murder is often seen as the point at which widespread civil unrest turned into out-and-out civil war. The civil war was fought in the context of the global [Cold War](#), with [Cuba](#) and the [USSR](#) backing the guerrilla rebels and the [United States](#) backing the right wing military Salvadoran government. The number of estimated deaths varies, but the entire population has, in some way, been affected by the violence.

## El Salvador, con'td

In January 1992, after prolonged negotiations, the opposing sides signed peace accords which ended the war. The military was brought under civilian control, and the former guerillas were allowed to form a legitimate political party and participate in elections.

### NATURAL DISASTERS

El Salvador lies along the Pacific Ring of Fire, and is thus subject to significant tectonic activity, including frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity. The San Salvador area has been hit by many earthquakes. The earthquake of 1986 resulted in 1,500 deaths, 10,000 injuries, and 100,000 people left homeless. More recent examples include the earthquake on January 13, 2001, that caused a landslide killing more than eight hundred people. Another earthquake, only a month after the first one, killed 255 people and damaged about 20% of the nation's housing. El Salvador's most recent destructive volcanic eruption took place on October 1, 2005, when the Santa Ana Volcano spewed up a cloud of ash, hot mud and rocks, which fell on nearby villages and caused two deaths.

El Salvador's position on the Pacific Ocean also makes it subject to severe weather conditions, including heavy rainstorms and severe droughts. In the summer of 2001, a severe drought destroyed 80% of the country's crops, causing famine in the countryside. On October 4, 2005, severe rains resulted in dangerous flooding and landslides, which caused a minimum of fifty deaths. El Salvador's location in Central America also makes it vulnerable to hurricanes coming off the Caribbean.

I hope this gives you an informed introduction to the country of El Salvador.

---

## Common Ground from Jordan Clawson

During Common Ground services we sing many types of music together. From hymns and contemporary worship songs to musical theatre and popular music selections, I really enjoy the fabric of texts woven together throughout the services. One song I hope to use in the upcoming season of Common Ground is "Help!" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. When I'm down or in need of guidance I pray for the kind of all-encompassing help only God can provide. I find that the words in this song mirror those thoughts, and I'd like to share the excerpt below with you. If you have a suggestion for a song or reading to use at Common Ground that helps to express your feelings and spirituality please let me know anytime. Even if we aren't able to pair it with the theme of an upcoming service, I hope we'll be able to sing it together sometime soon. Common Ground meets every other Thursday evening at 7pm. Check the bulletin or the Advent website for more details.

"Help!" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney

Help, I need somebody,  
Help, not just anybody,  
Help, you know I need someone, help.

When I was younger, so much younger than today,  
I never needed anybody's help in any way.  
But now these days are gone, I'm not so self assured,  
Now I find I've changed my mind and opened up the doors.

Help me if you can, I'm feeling down  
And I do appreciate you being round.  
Help me, get my feet back on the ground,  
Won't you please, please help me?

## Music Mondays

### ECCO

January 24, 2011

[www.eastcoastchamberorchestra.com](http://www.eastcoastchamberorchestra.com)

Fresh from a new CD recording project, the fiery, conductor-less East Coast Chamber Orchestra (ECCO) brings its signature sonic exuberance back to Music Mondays. Each player is an accomplished soloist in his or her own right, and the combined effect produces a unique and astonishing alchemy. A Music Monday's favorite, "these youthful players are helping form classical music's future" (Washington Post).



### Enso Quartet

February 21, 2011

[www.ensoquartet.com](http://www.ensoquartet.com)



Maureen Nelson, violin | John Marcus, violin | Melissa Reardon, viola  
Richard Belcher, cello

With a 2010 Grammy nomination in hand for "Best Chamber Music Performance," the Enso Quartet is emerging as a string quartet of international stature. Lauded for their "glorious sonorities" (Washington Post) and "jaw-dropping prowess" (MusicWeb International), the Enso Quartet has held residencies at Rice University and with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. They will be joined in this performance by Advent's Aaron Wunsch for Robert Schumann's exuberant Piano Quintet.

See [www.musicmondays.org](http://www.musicmondays.org) for more info.

## Vocation is Everybody's Business by Ellie Sudbrock

We are all called to a life of vocation – newborns and baby boomers; those with advanced degrees and those with GED's; people struggling to pay the rent on time and people of comfortable wealth; everyone on your Christmas card list – we are called and equipped by God to live to the praise of God's glory. God calls us, in grace, to be and do God's way of peace, hope, joy, freedom and justice where we live and work. Living vocationally is to respond to the gifts, opportunities and challenges presented to us by God. It is to say, "Yes", and letting God plunge us into the present world in the company of Jesus and our sisters and brothers of faith. Living vocationally is to be transformed by God's grace and being God's transforming grace for others.

Transfiguration Sunday, March 6th, is Vocation Sunday at Advent. Come and celebrate your vocation. We will also have Sunday Forum discussions and a spring retreat at Koinonia about vocation. Stay tuned in for details and tune in to your vocation.

**"Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Martin Luther King Family Day of Service**, 1pm-3pm on Sunday, Jan.16<sup>th</sup>. All families are invited to our Day of Service in honor of MLK's birthday. The event, co-sponsored by Advent and Anshe Chesed Synagogue, will take place at Anshe Chesed (entrance on W.100th St between Broadway and West End). This is a wonderful event for your family to participate in various service projects to help people of all ages.

Activities will include: Preparing care packages for soldiers, decorating lunch bags as part of a hunger awareness campaign, Alex's lemonade stand for pediatric cancer research, assembling Project Sunshine pediatric craft kits, creating an "I Have a Dream" Mural, baking cookies and lasagna for the AC shelter, making bookmarks for the local library story hour, and making birthday cards for the elderly. The event is free. However, the Discovery Programs Gym will be available for open play with a donation to the Anshe Chesed homeless shelter and the Advent Lutheran Food Pantry (\$10 per family). We also ask that families please bring a canned food item for the Advent Lutheran Food Pantry.

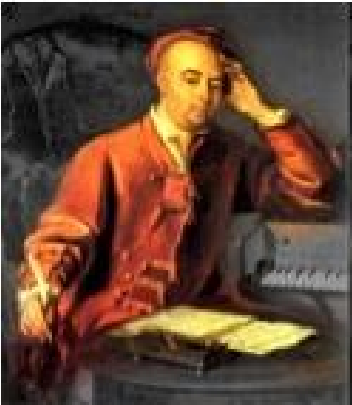
Please invite your friends, classmates, and neighbors!

**"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But... the Good Samaritan reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?""** -Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Choirnotes from Aaron Wunsch

On Sunday, February 6, Advent will celebrate the rededication of our newly restored Tiffany windows, the vibrant colors of which are now evident even after the sun goes down. The Chorale will offer a musical counterpart to Louis Comfort Tiffany's artistic achievement: George Frederic Handel's *Te Deum* in D Major. If you look closely, you will see the "Te Deum" text inscribed upon our windows: "We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord...."



George Frideric Handel

While Bach's Lutheran credentials are beyond question, Bach's exact contemporary, George Frideric Handel (both born in 1685), was from the Lutheran town of Halle, only 50 miles away from Bach's birthplace of Eisenach. A few decades before Handel's birth, Halle's own Henry Melchior Muhlenberg arrived in Pennsylvania and established the Lutheran Church in America! Handel grew up in a Lutheran environment and soon turned out to be a prodigiously gifted organist, much to the chagrin of his father, who preferred that he study law (certainly not the first or last musician's parent to object to such a career path!). Handel was obedient, but immediately abandoned his university studies upon his father's death and became a musician. After following his dream of studying opera in Italy, he settled down as Kapellmeister in Hannover, when something rather peculiar happened: his employer, Georg the Elector, accidentally became the King of England through a peculiar line of succession (King George I). Georg cared little for England, but Handel settled there permanently, combining the musical style of his Lutheran roots with the pomp and circumstance of English royal music, which usually involved trumpets, drums, and large choirs.

Handel composed the *Te Deum* in D Major ("Dettinger") in order to welcome home King George II from the Battle of Dettingen in the Austrian War of Succession (1743). England had sided with Austria against Prussia and France, maintaining with Austria that Maria Theresa was a legitimate heir to the throne despite her being a woman. (England, after all, had a long tradition of female leaders, unlike France, and Prussia.) Many in England were concerned to see George II himself go into battle and were relieved to see him home again. Perhaps there is a parallel with our beautiful windows: gone for several months, they are home with us again, their splendor greater than ever. Handel was as adept as any composer who ever lived in expressing joy in music; here it is a spiritual joy that comes from the knowledge that we have a great protector in God, and that one's faith lies forever secure amidst a world of potential perils. In the words of the *Te Deum*, "In You have we trusted; we will never be confounded."



George II of England

## Thanksgiving Community Extravaganza!



The November Community Lunch was a banner day for this important outreach ministry at Advent. 180 people were served a scrumptuous lunch, 40 volunteers came to help and we received a surprise visit from Councilwoman Gale Brewer. What a day! This is a wonderful, all-volunteer run ministry that is always in need of volunteers. If you would like to help at an upcoming lunch, the fourth Saturday of each month, please contact Carlos Lopez at [cl517@columbia.edu](mailto:cl517@columbia.edu).

## Notes from the Church Council

### Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee and Church Council reached out to people who had not pledged. As of December 31, there were 105 pledges totaling \$311,258. Although this is 6 fewer pledges than at the end of the 2010 campaign, the pledge figure is \$20,000 higher than last year's figure. The Stewardship Committee plans to focus on environmental stewardship in the spring. In 2011, weekly giving envelopes will be mailed to members' homes every two months through a new giving envelope system.

### Budget

The draft budget for 2011 was presented and approved at the December Council meeting. Anyone interested in participating in the budget process next year should speak with Hans Kriefall or Pastor Brown.

### Pastor's Report

Matt Jones is still in the hospital at Mt. Sinai, 11 East. He will be moved early this year to a long-term care facility. Bill Ellis fell on the subway and hit his side, causing a hairline fracture at the top of his femur. He is recovering well. Kathy Matson had a knee replacement and is doing well. Tracy Keats is getting stronger with time.

### Children, Youth and Family:

Pastor Brown and Julie Hagen met with the families of elementary school children and parents of youth. All of us are working very hard together to increase attendance at the various programs, coordinate an acolyte program, and keep the 9:00 am service to 55 minutes. The older youth have asked for more leadership in worship.

Children's Church during the 9am service has begun! Younger children are invited to go downstairs during the Gospel verse with the presiding pastor and Julie for a 15-20 minute active, hands-on exploration of the Gospel lesson for the day. They will return to worship at the passing of the peace to be able to participate in the offering and Holy Communion. The Children, Youth and Family ministries at Advent are the responsibility of all of us; please join us in working to strengthen the unique program we share at Advent.

### Property

The masonry work for the Tiffany restoration is complete and all windows have been installed, with the exception of the five middle-vent panels on the lower level (that had to be custom made). The rebuilt and tuned piano has been returned and should be good for 50 years. Security cameras have been installed in BUCC's offices downstairs.

### Communications

Pastor Brown and Vicar Marc will continue to compose and send the new e-letter every two weeks. Vicar Marc will update the Website with videos and a more accurate calendar. The newsletter will focus on stories and liturgical seasons rather than on dates and announcements. The announcements page in the bulletin will continue to be one page, front and back. One insert, at most, will be included in the bulletin in addition to the announcements page. Separate inserts will target one ministry every week and will appear once in the bulletin. They will then go onto the back table unless they are seasonally specific and should be run more than once (i.e. flower inserts). Verbal announcements during service that used to happen at the end of worship will be moved to after the Passing of the Peace and be limited to two or three important, time-specific announcements.

Nominations for 2011 Council: Nicole Johnson met with Church Council candidates at her apartment on December 12. We currently have five candidates for Council openings.

Scenes from a Busy Holiday Season  
At Advent



---

### What Makes Something a Sacrament?

In the Lutheran Church and in most Protestant Churches, there are only two sacraments: Baptism and Communion. These are sacraments because they are commanded by Christ and use an earthly element to convey a promise from God. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus says "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In Mark 16:16, Jesus says "The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned." Jesus instituted Holy Communion on the night before he was crucified, telling his disciples that his body given for them and his blood shed for them was for the forgiveness of sin.

---

### Some Important Lutherans.....

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (1711-1787) came to Philadelphia in 1742 and organized congregations throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, gave his name to Muhlenberg College and to Advent's own Daniel Muhlenberg! Linus Pauling (1901-1994) received two Nobel Prizes in two different fields - chemistry and the Nobel Peace Prize for his campaign against above-ground nuclear testing. Dag Hammarskjold (1905-1961) was the second Secretary-General of the United Nations; his journals, published under the title of "**Markings**" reflected his deep spirituality.

## Happiness is in the Next Pew Over by Kathleen Carpenter

Jesus found companionship, solace, friendship and support in his circle of friends - which was much wider than just the twelve disciples and didn't include just men. Can you imagine sitting down to dinner with Christ! While Pastors Brown and Sudbrock have preached on the importance of community on multiple occasions, I sometimes think that not enough emphasis is given to this communal life of Jesus. After all, the first miracle occurred at a wedding!

A new study from sociologists Robert Putnam of Harvard University and Chaeyoon Lim of the University of Wisconsin-Madison has shed light on another aspect of worship - spiritual friendships. It would appear that people who strongly identify with their religion, regularly attend church and have three or more close friends in their congregation report greater personal well-being than people who attend but don't form close relationships with other congregants. In fact, the "loners" seem even less satisfied with their lives than those who don't go to church at all in this study. Other studies have suggested that religious people are, on the whole, happier than the nonreligious. Of course, it could be that these "loners" are seeking something in faith but are prevented for some reason from reaching out to others for support. It could be that, like many in our culture, they see religion or the spiritual life as an individual journey. Or, possibly, they are unable to form close relationships



because of shyness, insecurity, or depression. Spiritual friendships are considered by some to be one of the marks of discipleship, along with worship, prayer, study, giving, inviting and serving. It is through spiritual friendships that we support and encourage one another. If you've been holding back, take a deep breath and reach out to someone next week! Or consider joining the Youth Group, Advent LIFE, Common Ground or the Adventurous Adventonians. Their activities and meetings can be found on the website or in the weekly bulletin.

### Luther's Evening Prayer

This is from Martin Luther's instruction to the head of the household as to how to teach members of the household to say the evening blessing.

"In the evening, when you go to bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say:

Under the care of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

"Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you wish, you may recite this little prayer as well:

"I give thanks to you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today, and I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. For into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen

Then you are to go to sleep quickly and cheerfully."

# ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. J. Elise Brown, Pastor  
2504 Broadway at 93rd Street  
New York, NY 10025

Phone: 212-665-2504  
Fax: 212-222-3827  
[www.adventnyc.org](http://www.adventnyc.org)



*We are a diverse, Christian community committed to building relationships and transforming lives through faith and action.*

*If you'd prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please let Jane Huerta know by emailing her at [finance@adventnyc.org](mailto:finance@adventnyc.org).*



*"Happiness found in next pew over."*

**Science News, 1/1/2011**

**Come join us!**

**Be sure to check out Advent on Facebook and Common Ground on MeetUp.com!**