

**Growing *The Beloved Community* in South County  
through service and the creative arts.**

- **Anti-Racism Workshop** was held on Saturday, February 3, at Advent.
  - Pastor Adisa Armand led our daylong Anti-Racism Workshop. She is an experienced Lutheran pastor and anti-racism trainer. About 50 people participated in the workshop. Pastor Adisa and Pastor Anita prepared and distributed booklets with valuable information about racism and anti-racism, a glossary of terms, a bibliography, and other media resources. Participants provided positive feedback on the workshop along with suggestions for some improvements. Several people expressed interest in helping with future anti-racism events.
  
- **The annual Council Retreat** was held on Saturday, February 24, at Mt. Hermon. Some staff members and SCORE leaders joined Council at the retreat. Our agenda:
  - **Devotions** – led by Joyce
  - **Beloved Community Arts Center (BCAC)** – led by Pastor Anita
    - The BCAC team is using a Co-Development process. This involves engaging all stakeholders (young students, parents, mentors/teachers, the congregation), sharing power, stepping back from previous ways of doing things, and being patient with the process.
    - The BCAC team had very positive initial conversations with people at the Learning and Loving Education Center in Morgan Hill.
    - Development of the Minimum Viable Option (MVO) concept continues. The MVO will be the first BCAC offering for the community. It will be a short-term project from which BCAC will learn what works well and what needs to be improved. The BCAC will build on the first MVO to add more options.
    - Retreat participants agreed BCAC would be a good Council Conversation topic.
      - (Side note – At its Feb. 27 meeting, Council approved BCAC Scholarships as the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter mission)
    - BCAC is the signature ministry vision for Advent, is owned solely by Advent, will be ongoing and sustainable, will tap into the majority of Advent's members and friends, and will build on our strengths.
  - **Reflections on Anti-Racism workshop and next steps** – led by Pastor Adisa Armand
    - Council invited Pastor Adisa to join our retreat for further work on this topic.
    - Pastor Adisa encouraged us to watch our language. Don't refer to others as "those people." Be mindful, say "I'm sorry" when we misspeak.
    - Luke 6:20-26 was read and reflected upon.
    - Pastor Adisa asked us to form small groups and consider if racism is idolatry.
    - Thoughts to enhance progress on anti-racism include establishing one-on-one relationships. Get to know others. What can we learn about others interests, concerns, and families?
    - Ideas to explore:
      - Connect with Jackson Academy of Math & Music, a magnet school in MH
      - Promote CMT to the Learning and Loving Education Center
      - Can Advent's website become bilingual?
    - Pastor Adisa ended by saying, "This is hard work" to which all attendees agreed.
  - **Rebranding** – led by Lynn

- A rebranding initiative is under consideration so Advent will remain vibrant, relevant, and continue to serve the needs of our community.
  - Lynn led a discussion around rebranding and presented a framework for how to do it, building on the church Council discussions in 2017.
  - Our brand is more than our name and logo. It is the total experience and perception our community has with Advent.
  - Discussions centered on our strategic objectives, our target audience, and the Advent brand experience.
  - Key considerations include the demographics of the communities we serve, our strategic direction as a church, and defining an effective process for rebranding.
  - This initiative requires careful consideration and analysis as rebranding is something that should last more than one generation.
- **Dialog with Pacific Point Christian School continues** regarding their interest in renting space for their preschool. Advent has required them to focus their attention on using some space in the north education wing (rooms 9, 10, and 12/13). They have not yet submitted a Facility Use Request and a Use Agreement for Advent to consider.
  - **Murphy Frontage Improvement Project** – nothing new to report.

Council reviewed the Action Items list at its Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. The list is being updated. More information will be provided in the next Council's Corner.

Guests are always welcome at Council and Executive committee meetings held in the Berkland Fellowship Hall. Executive committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. Council meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. All meetings start at 7:00 PM. (Meetings are on the Advent's website calendar, <http://advent-lutheran.org/advent-master-calendar/>).

Your 2018 Council roster:

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|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Ed M., President                          | Kris A., Faith Development       |
| • Brad B., 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President   | Lynn A., Communications          |
| • Jacqui K., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Marcia N., Community Connections |
| • David C., Financial Secretary             | Carrie M., Operations            |
| • Peter McE., Secretary                     | Joyce G., Stewardship            |
| • Norm O., Treasurer                        | Valerie S., Worship & Music      |

Respectfully submitted, Ed M.