

# THE GOOD NEWS

December 2020

St. Ignatius of Antioch  
Episcopal Church  
Walking in love as Christ taught us



## A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN



Dear Ignatians ~

As the song puts it, we are entering “the most wonderful time of the year.” Yet, people have been complaining for as long as I can remember that the Christmas season starts too early. And it seems to begin earlier every year!

I’m grateful that our Episcopal Church preserves both the season of Advent, which began on November 29th, as well as the traditional Twelve

Days of Christmas. It’s important for us to set aside time so that we can adequately prepare our hearts to meet the coming Christ, and time to properly extend our festivity beyond Christmas Day and into daily life.

*Advent is about waiting to meet Christ* – what we do while we prepare to welcome Christ. And *Advent is also about longing to meet Christ* – what we do while Christ prepares to come to us. And although we typically associate Advent with Christ’s Birth (his first advent), it’s also about waiting to meet Christ at the time of his death, and when he returns to judge the world (his second advent).

Rutledge writes: “All the Advent preparation in the world would not be enough unless God were favorably disposed to us in the first place.” We are called, first and fore-most, to actively *wait* and to appreciatively *long* for God’s in-breakings into our world and lives.

*Waiting.* We’re *waiting* for a lot of things right now. While our presidential election has finally concluded, we are still *waiting*. We are *waiting* to see if our divisions will continue to deepen or if we

will begin to heal. We are *waiting* for the pandemic to end. We are *waiting* to see when things will finally be back to normal — and *waiting* to see what “normal” is going to mean from now on. Our *waiting* has a lot to do with our attitude – we can make the most of our time, and do our best with the time and circumstances at hand. We can choose to make ourselves part of today’s problems or part of tomorrow’s solutions.

As Christians, we know that our lives are defined by *waiting*. We are *waiting* for something far bigger — and better — than normal. We are *waiting* for something that is even better than Christmas. For this we prepare.

*Longing.* As we actively, constructively, and cooperatively wait, we are also *longing* for God to finish the work that was begun on the cross, to “destroy the works of the devil.” As believers, we are *waiting* for Christ to “appear again with power and great glory” so that “we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom.” And as believers, we *long* for the Lord’s will to be done and for his kingdom to come. This is the Lord for whom we *long* – individually when we each die, and collectively at the end of this world.

The Christian life is an Advent life, a balance of *waiting* as though the outcome depends on us, while *longing* because we know the outcome is dependent on God’s love, mercy and grace.

*And so, we wait even as we long. Come, Lord Jesus!*

~Fr. Brian

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## **Episcopal Diocese of Chicago** **183rd Annual Diocesan Convention** **November 21, 2020**

The convention was called to order by Bishop Jeffery Lee at 10am on November 21, 2020, with 113

congregations attending with delegates out of a total of 122 congregations.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, the next General Convention of the Episcopal Church will not happen until the year 2022. That will be the 81st General Convention.

Elected to the Bishop and Trustees Committee were Rev. Amity Carrubba, clergy representative, and Micheal Mattson, James Barrett, and Robert Neal III as Lay representatives. The Bishop and Trustees hold title to and oversee the use of the real property of the Diocese of Chicago, including St. James Commons, mission congregations, and closed properties.

For the Diocese’s Standing Committee: Rev. Miguel Briones, clergy representative, and Antoinette (Toni) Daniels, Lay representative were elected. The Standing Committee of the Diocese is a council of advice for the bishop. They serve as a sounding board for any topic or issue that the bishop would like to address.

Seven resolutions were put before the convention for consideration and voting upon:

(1) A-183, was to affirm the rules of conducting a virtual meeting by Zoom as this may be the norm of meetings for the near future. The rules resolution was approved by 100% of votes cast.

(2) B-183 encompassed the need for Clergy, mission leaders, and outreach groups to pledge to receive information from the Episcopal Policy Network, Global Episcopal Mission Network, Episcopal Relief and Development, Episcopal Migration Ministries, and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence on 13 subjects, ranging from opioid addiction to systemic racism. Resolution passed by 97%.

(3) C-183 called for submitting to the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church a call to reject the nationalistic theology of Christian Zionism. The resolution condemns the political policy positions that it sponsors and financially supports, including Israel’s expansion across the entire land of Palestine-Israel and the displacement of Palestinian people, including our indigenous Palestinian Christian and

Muslim brothers and sisters. This resolution commits the Episcopal Church to making it clear in liturgy and in teaching the clear distinction between current political situation and the Biblical past. Resolution passed by 91% of votes.

(4) D-183 calls upon the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to recognize the State of Israel as practicing apartheid laws that discriminate against its non-Jewish citizens. It calls for the General Convention to call upon the U.S. government to withhold military funding from the State of Israel until Israel eliminates apartheid laws, respects Palestinian human rights, and stops violating international law. Resolution failed a majority vote, 58% no, 42% yes.

(5) E-183 petitions the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to call on the U.S. President and U.S. Congress to oppose legislation that penalizes or criminalizes support for non-violent boycotts on behalf of Palestinian human rights as an infringement of 1st amendment rights. Resolution passed by 90% of votes.

(6) F-183 proposed a 1% increase to the full-time clergy compensation, requiring the minimum cash compensation for the year 2021: (a) \$65,600 if no housing and utilities provided; (b) \$47,800 if housing and utilities provided. Much discussion followed with the result of two amendments being approved. (a) That part-time clergy receive compensation based on a percentage of full-time clergy compensation relative to the part-time clergy's hours of work. (b) That the Standing Committee resolve to develop compensation guidance for part-time clergy and congregational staff by the next Annual General Diocesan Convention. Resolution with amendments passed by 74%.

(7) G-183 proposed seeding the development Community Purchasing Alliance for the Diocese with \$10,000 from the Diocesan budget. Its purpose is to leverage the buying power of community institutions to accelerate progress towards sustainability, equity, and justice by harnessing the power of market insight, the leverage of an effective group, and the efficiency if a well-organized collaborative process. Such a cooperative is anticipated to be an effective way of buying from

Black, Indigenous, People of Color owned businesses that disproportionately suffer from economic divestment. Resolution passed by 84% of votes.

The 183rd Convention of the Diocese of Chicago was adjourned at 3:15pm.

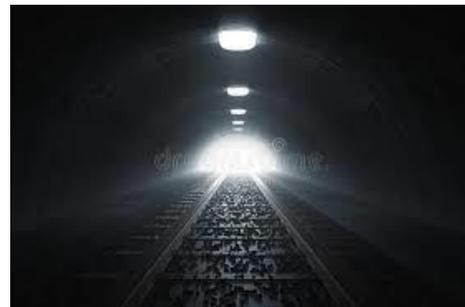
**Respectfully submitted,  
2020 Diocesan Convention Lay Delegates**

**Terry Hansen-Beno  
Carolyn Van Patten  
Roger Van Patten**

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*Once again, I'd like to share a blog by  
Fr. Jay Sidebotham.*

*Enjoy! ~ Fr. Brian*



When I was in seminary, our New Testament professor gave us this assignment: Write a parable. I wrote one about Advent, which I often bring out at this time of year. It goes like this:

The experience of Advent is like unto that season in my life when I commuted from the suburbs into Manhattan. That daily trek involved a train ride, on tracks that ran along the Hudson River. In winter, commuting took place in darkness. Seasoned commuters gathered on the platform, clustered in precise intervals, knowing exactly where the doors on the train would open. It seemed to be a law of the universe that the colder and windier the morning, the longer the train was delayed. Delay happened often. Sometimes the train didn't show up at all, which led to a scramble for other ways to get to work. One could never predict. So standing in our clusters on those dark, chilly mornings, anxiety could be high.

## November Outreach Summary

We would look up the train track, craning to see far into the distance. And waiting.

And then one could see the tiniest bit of light on the track. So very faint. But that first, little bit of light changed everything. For me, there was a sigh of relief. Don't get me wrong. I was still cold. The wind penetrated. I was not yet on the train. But I knew that soon and very soon it would arrive. That bit of light, perhaps comparable to the first candle lit on an Advent wreath, changed everything. It changed not only my expectation of the future, but also the way I navigated the present dark, anxious, chilly moment until the train arrived.

How might you see my parable at work in today's world? Maybe we witness it now with the promise of a COVID vaccine. It's not here yet, but as leaders have told us, there is light at the end of the tunnel. That small glimmer, yet unrealized, changes how we act now. I don't know about you, but it has diminished my Corona-fatigue. It's also encouraged me to keep doing the things (as annoying as they are) that mitigate spread. It's made me take to heart the admonitions that what we do now is an expression of love of neighbor. The medical hope for the future changes how I live now.

That is the deal with Advent. It is a season focused on hope. That doesn't mean we just sit around in a holding pattern. It means we conduct our lives right now, confident in the promises of Christ's coming, signified in that manger, but also arriving in each of our hearts, in each of our encounters, in each of our responses to a world in need, in our communities, in our big and beautiful and broken world.

Wherever you find yourself as Advent begins, you might want to consider the ways that you can hold on to hope. And as you're doing that, play the 1965 Curtis Mayfield hit, a great Advent hymn, which has this refrain:

***People get ready. There's a train a-coming.  
You don't need no baggage. You just get on board.  
All you need is faith. To hear the diesels humming.  
You don't need no ticket. You just thank the Lord.  
So people get ready.***

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Thank you to all who donated money for our November outreach project: Honoring our Local First Responders. Due to the generous donations of \$600 we were able to provide a total of 8 large fruit baskets and 7 additional baskets filled with sausage, cheese, candy, nuts, crackers, snack bars and coupons to Taco Bell, Wendy's and Culvers. 115 fire department employees and 137 police department employees received these gifts on Thanksgiving Eve. We had hoped to have teams of parish members deliver the baskets but due to Covid 19 restrictions we were limited to 2, so Fr. Brian and Terry made the deliveries.



While getting out of the car at the police station a man with a cane was just getting into his car. He said that the sign on the station door said to call the posted number. The man offered to call the number and state his request, as well as inform the officer about the basket delivery. While waiting, the man shared that he was battling cancer and was dealing with additional out of state family concerns. He himself was disabled but had a cheerful attitude. He was thanked for making the call and said, "Of course. That is what people used to do. Right? Help others."

Officer Nowotarski arrived in the lot. When he saw the donation he said, "This is why I love being an

officer in Antioch. I have been here 20 years and it's the people I love."

Officer Nowotarski asked that the delivery be brought up to the station and he would open the doors. The man with the cane offered to walk to the station door and help unload the baskets. Then he offered to take a photo. When offered thanks on behalf of St. Ignatius, the man said. "No! Thank you! Thank you for letting me be a part of witnessing the good you and your church have done in honoring the police."

We may not have had teams of parish members deliver the Thanksgiving baskets this year, but we encountered a kind and thoughtful stranger who not only recognized St. Ignatius' outreach efforts but chose to be a part of it. Thanksgiving at its best.

**-Outreach Committee**



## "Christ-Mass"

Unless something drastic occurs during the next few weeks, our plans are to celebrate Christmas Eve Eucharists at 5 & 8pm, and Christmas Day at 10am. All three services will be zoomed for those who will not be able, comfortable, or available to join us for worship in-person.

## Fun Facts!

**Why do all Episcopal Church's have red doors?**

There are a couple reasons you may find that our church's doors are red, all of which bear some truth. The red doors were originally established in England during the Middle Ages as a sign of sanctuary, refuge, and safety.



Another reason is the symbolization of the "Blood of Christ". Some churches have these red doors at each side of the church representing the sign of the cross. Other meanings have been as a reminder of the Passover and God's covenant with the Israelites. Some of the church's used to also paint the doors red as a representation of the mortgage being paid off.

Nevertheless, we like to think of it as a symbol of sanctuary and love for all of our members. We welcome all to enter these bright red doors to experience community worship of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

So, to our friends and family, old and new...**WELCOME TO ST. IGNATIUS EPISCOPAL CHURCH!**



## CRANBERRY COOKIES



**YIELDS 5 DOZEN**

Sweet and soft, these nutty cranberry cookies are a family favorite. Make them for friends and family, for your next cookie exchange or bake and freeze getting them out when the cravings strike.

### **Ingredients:**

- 11 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup milk
- 3 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2-1/2 cups halved fresh cranberries
- 1 cup finely chopped walnuts (optional)

### **Instructions:**

1. Heat the oven at 350°F. Line a couple of cookie sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy.
3. Beat in the egg and milk. Stir to combine. Scrape the sides of the mixing bowl with a spatula.
4. Combine the flour with the baking powder and salt; gradually add to the creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in the cranberries and walnuts.
5. With a medium size ice-cream scoop, drop cookie dough on the prepared baking sheets. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

### COMEDY CORNER



THAT YEAR WHEN CHRISTMAS EVE WAS LIVE-STREAMED FROM THE RECTORY.

