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CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

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October 19, 2026

Advent Family,

Once again, the familiar signs of the season are upon us. The persistent heat wave has finally broken, the clouds have opened, and homecoming games and dances fill our schools. Our pets have received their blessings, and nearly everything is touched with pumpkin spice. Fall is truly in the air. At Advent, these signs announce the joyful arrival of our cherished traditions: Trunk or Treat, the annual Barbecue, Silent Auction, and Bake Sale, and—God willing—this year's election of our next Bishop.

Fall is also a season of gratitude—a time to give thanks for the harvest, for friends and family, for the beauty of creation, and for our shared life as a parish family. Last **Sunday, October 18**, I preached on gratitude and generosity as we began our stewardship season and annual pledge drive. In the coming weeks, we will remind one another of God's faithfulness in our lives and in our ministry together.

Reflecting on the past year, I am grateful for the steadfast work of the Advent family, echoing the vision of our founding rector, Fr. Tomes, who proclaimed 169 years ago that the Gospel of Jesus Christ must be preached to all in Nashville by word and deed. This year, thanks to the generous bequest of beloved member Mary Clyde Sparks, we addressed deferred maintenance, including updating most of the rectory windows to more energy-efficient models. We also enhanced our nave's microphone system, improving the quality of our live stream. In 2026, we expanded the outreach of our Body & Soul Pantry and provided new mattresses to guests at our Room in the Inn winter shelter. Another generous gift allowed us to invest in our children by expanding the playground. Through careful stewardship of the 2026 budget, the vestry not only paid our bills, but also increased the parish administrator's hours, invested in welcome stations, and broadened our external communications.

As the vestry and I prepare for 2027, I invite you—during this season of gratitude and generosity—to reflect on God's faithfulness in your life and in our parish. Please prayerfully consider how you are being called to respond to God's gifts by offering your time, talents, and treasure in service to Jesus Christ our Lord and the Advent family.

Enclosed you will find a pledge card for 2027. Please return it to the offering plate during worship or to the church office anytime through **Sunday, November 15**. You may also pledge online at adventnashville.net/give. The amount you give is a personal decision between you and God; pledging simply helps the vestry plan wisely for the coming year.

Finally, I invite you to join us on **Sunday, November 15**, for the in-gathering and consecration of our pledges, tithes, and offerings to God. Together, we will enjoy the fellowship of our November potluck lunch—reminding ourselves of God's faithfulness and provision, and celebrating with joy as we look forward to another year of ministry!

In His Peace,



Fr. Brian McVey, Rector
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