



THE PARISH PAPER

Seasonal News, Events, and Inspiration from Church of the Ascension

April 2019

EMBRACING AWKWARDNESS

As a youth minister, I deal with a lot of awkwardness. The definition of awkward is “causing difficulty, hard to deal with” or “causing or feeling embarrassment or inconvenience.” Many youth have a constant sense of feeling awkward about themselves, about how they interact with each other...everything always feels uncomfortable and cringey during their transition and growth into adulthood. We like to think of Jesus as this perfect, divine, super-saintly person from birth to adulthood, but we don’t usually imagine Jesus dealing with the awkwardness and discomfort of adolescence.

In Luke 2:41-52, the only story in the Bible about Jesus as a young person, his parents can’t find him in the caravan on the way back from the Passover festival. They double back to Jerusalem and find him teaching the priests and elders in the temple and as his exasperated mother and father approach him he casually says, “Didn’t you know I’d be in my father’s house?” I know most parents can understand the awkward and uncomfortable silence between parent and child that likely lasted for the days-long journey on foot back to Nazareth between Mary and Jesus.

The apostles experienced awkwardness too. In the Gospel of Luke, the women came to the tomb to anoint the body, and they expect to see a closed tomb. Instead, they find the tomb’s stone rolled away, the tomb empty, and two men in dazzling clothes saying “Why do you look for the dead among the living? He is not here but has risen.” The women then go tell the apostles what they’ve seen. The apostles don’t believe them. The same apostles who dropped their fishing nets to follow Jesus around Galilee for three years, listened to Jesus’ teachings and saw him perform miracles STILL did not believe that what Jesus LITERALLY told them would happen actually happened. Peter even had to go and see it for himself. Imagine having to tell Jesus that when you were told of his resurrection that you did not believe it. AWKWARD!

Awkward moments and discomfort are a big part of growth and change. Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski in his youtube video* discusses how lobsters grow, since they are mushy animals that live inside rigid shells. As they grow they begin to feel uncomfortable, constricted and stressed, so they go under a rock, shed their shell and grow a new one. Then that shell gets too tight, the lobster feels stressed again, so it goes back under the rock and repeats the process. The stimulus for the growth is stress and discomfort! So, this Easter season I challenge you to embrace the awkwardness and lean into it because when we work through the discomfort and adversity of life, there’s growth on the other side. Amen.

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aDXM5H-Fuw>

GiGi Logan

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Parish-Wide Meeting, May 5

During the Sunday School Hour

A parish-wide meeting will be held on Sunday, May 5, during the Sunday School hour at 9:15 am. This is an extension of the vestry listening sessions. Please make plans to join us at the meeting.

UTO Ingathering Palm Sunday

The United Thank Offering (UTO) Ingathering will take place on Palm Sunday, April 14. Make sure you grab a UTO box and fill it with coins! Envelopes are also available for cash/check donations.

100% of your donations go to funding grants and projects across the nation. You can make a difference with just a little box!

Check out the Ascension Workday on pg. 5!

In the fading light of dusk, twenty-six souls, representing fourteen different countries in the Anglican Communion, held candles at the altar of a darkened Canterbury Cathedral and recited the Lord's Prayer. Tribal languages from various African countries blended seamlessly with French, Korean, English, and Hindi. Voices merged together rhythmically, echoing throughout the hollowed spaces of the cathedral, filling the emptiness with unified prayer, and illuminating the darkness.

Such a moment captures my experience in summer 2012 as a Canterbury Scholar. The program, hosted by former Archbishop Rowan Williams, focused on ordination and how the call, regardless of one's culture or nationality, creates both challenges and opportunities for engaging God's work. A primary aim of the course was seeking out and knowing one another within the Anglican Communion.

One of the presenters, the Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, Director of the Battle Peace Institute, and presenter here at Ascension back in March, quoted the Roman Catholic Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens' observation: "In order to unite, we must first love one another. In order to love one another, we must know one another." Dr. Battle added, "But before we can know one another, we must seek one another."

The engaging classroom discussions about our understanding of ordination carried over into hiking excursions across the English countryside, afternoon tea in the terrace gardens, and evenings in the pub. As the three-week seminar progressed, cultural chasms transformed into bonds of affection that endured long after the program ended.

Several months later, one of the participants from South Africa tragically died. The group connected over Facebook, expressed their grief, and organized a memorial service in her honor in each person's respective worship space. During a designated time, we offered prayers derived from a common liturgy honoring the life of our friend. Such an experience revealed to me the Anglican vision—a vision that seeks unity through common worship aimed at upholding one another despite differences of culture and language. I became enamored by this vision so elegantly demonstrated at Canterbury.

Although we live in a divided world, the meeting of radically different cultures through common prayer opens up pathways for genuine friendship that have transformative effects. Such exchanges not only illumine more brilliantly the presence of God, but also give a foretaste of a heavenly life yet to come.

The Rev. Christopher Hogin

Friends of the Music and the Arts is fortunate to host another first-rate choir on **Tuesday, April 2nd**, when the Choir of New College, Oxford, performs here at **7:30 pm**.

The relatively low \$15 ticket price (for a choir of this caliber) is possible because of a fee that was discounted due to a gap in the choir's touring schedule. The boys will be every bit as well trained as their Viennese counterparts last month, and they will be augmented by thirteen men singing alto, tenor, and bass with them. Together there will be 28 singers and two organists, all under the direction of Robert Quinney.



The submitted program, entitled "Treasures of New College," has a bit of everything: music of the Renaissance (Palestrina's "Sicut Cervus" and Allegri's "Miserere"); music from the Romantic era (Parry's "Hear My Word, Ye People"); modern classics (Howells's "Like As the Hart" and Walton's "Jubilate Deo"); and contemporary works (Matthew Martin's "Ave Maris Stella" and Paul Drayton's Magnificat from the New College Service). British choirs sing where the organ is, and this concert will be performed from the choir loft. It is typical

for British choirs to take a moment of respite during an organ solo on each half, and during those pauses the organists will perform the *Toccata* by Flor Peeters and the *Folktune* and *Scherzo* by Percy Whitlock.

With these March/April concerts, lovers of the choral art have the good fortune to behold in a relatively short period of time a continental approach to sound (Austria) with the British ideal. Both schools of thought cultivate clear, bell-like head tone from choristers, and I'd be curious to hear audience members' thoughts about any potential differences. Picayunish comparison would be odious, as both of these groups are the sonic equivalent of caviar.

Being president of the optimists' club (figuratively speaking), I continue to hope that there might be available hospitality for an overnight stay for the young choristers from St. Peter's in Charlotte who sing here on June 14th. Do call me if you need particulars about that potential opportunity. Meantime, I thank caterer Julie Teglas and the hosting families in the parish who are showing trademarked Ascension hospitality to the altos, tenors, and basses of the New College Choir during their stay here in Knoxville.

Jim Garvey

TICKETS FOR NEW COLLEGE

Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 pm

Ticket pricing:
\$15/adult, \$10/student and kids 12 and under

Tickets are available in the parish office
and at www.knoxvilleascension.org/boxoffice

What's Coming Soon!?

Mark your Calendar for Saturday, May 4!

For Our "Taking Care of God's Creation" Ascension Workday

Sponsored by the Building and Grounds Committee

Our next Ascension workday is fast approaching and many opportunities for volunteer work and donations are available.

Our workday, May 4, will involve several projects including mulching, planting approximately 15 flats of seasonal flowers, pressure washing (including our playground) and some interior projects that are being determined.

The workday will run from 8:00 am to Noon with lunch provided. Please sign up to help in the foyer. Signing up will help us determine how many to order lunch for from our favorite Steamboat restaurant.

Not able to help us work? That's okay! Once again we have Greenscape Sponsorships available. With our tight budget this year, we really need your help to enable us to do the work that makes our church building and grounds so beautiful and inviting for our church family and visitors. You may designate your donation in memory, celebration or thanksgiving which will be published for two Sundays including Mother's Day.

So please sign up to work or donate or both at our table in the foyer. We've also included a copy of the donation form in this edition of the parish paper.

Thank you and happy Spring!!

Linda Hawley

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 7, 14, and May 12

Searcher and Explorer Class - Parish Hall

April 7 - *Prayer Book and Liturgy* taught by the Rev. Pat Wingo and the Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo. A brief history of the Book of Common Prayer and its rich content.

April 14 - *Sacraments* taught by the Rev. Pat and the Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo. The seven sacraments of the Episcopal Church and what it means to live in a sacramental world.

May 12 - *The Bible: Our Book, Our Story* taught by the Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo. A brief history and survey of the Bible and an exploration of the power of metaphor and story.

Small Group

April 7 - *Learning about Palm Sunday* taught by the Rev. Christopher Hogin

April 14 - *Learning about Holy Week* taught by the Rev. Christopher Hogin

May 12 - *Caring for Creation: Bible Study of Genesis 2* taught by the Rev. Christopher Hogin

No class on Easter - April 21

April 28 - Combined Sunday School with *Reflections on Resurrection* led by Mr. Ed Lester. The class will view a few films about resurrection with the invitation to reflect together.

The Tweens have a HUGE April shower of events!

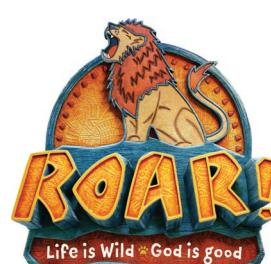
Tweens Putt Putt: Weather permitting, we will be heading to play Putt Putt Golf on **April 5th from 6:00-9:00pm**.

Ijams River Rescue: Then on **April 6th**, we will be attending the Ijams River Rescue event for a fun outdoor service project from **10:00-12:00pm**.

White Oak Cleanup: On **April 13th**, the Tweens will attend the White Oak Playground Cleanup Day with parents and other Ascension friends.

Tweens Stations of the Cross: On Good Friday, **April 19th**, we will have our tween-friendly Stations of the Cross at noon. We do this around the outside of the church and make it special as we prepare for Easter. Kids in Grades 3-5 are welcome to attend these events. Contact Megan for details megan@knoxvilleascension.org

Date Night will take place on April 5th from 6:00-9:00pm for kids in Grades 5 and under. Let our staff take care of the kids while you enjoy a night to yourselves. Please remember to bring money for pizza. RSVP by April 4 to nursery16@knoxvilleascension.org



Life is Wild-God is Good! Vacation Bible School registration is OPEN! Follow this link by pasting it in your browser to register your kiddos or yourself as a volunteer. <https://vbspro.events/p/ascension2019>

Our ROAR VBS event will take place June 10-13 from 6:00-8:30pm each night. Join us as we head to the African savanna and look for God through stories, crafts and fun.

The Ascension Family Easter Service and Egg Hunt will take place on April 20th at 3:00pm. Kids in grades 5 and under are welcome to participate in this annual event. Come listen to our special service led by the kids of Ascension followed by a festive Egg Hunt around the campus.

If you would like to donate some PRE-FILLED Easter Eggs for this event, drop them off to Megan's office by April 19th.

Megan Alden



PARISH CALENDAR

April 2019

WEEKDAYS

7:00 am Morning Prayer (Chapel)
5:45 pm Evening Prayer (Chapel)

SUNDAYS

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
9:15 am Godly Play I: PreK (Room 213)
9:15 am Godly Play II: Grades K-2 (Room 204)
9:15 am Connect: Grades 3-5 (Room 105)
9:15 am AYG: Middle School and High School (Room 104)
9:15 am AYG: Youth Confirmation (Room 107)
9:15 am The Forum Class (Room 101)
9:15 am Searcher and Explorer Class (Parish Hall)
9:15 am Small Group (Room 102)
9:15 am Centering Prayer (Library)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
10:30 am Junior Children's Church: Age 4 to Grade K (Room 213)
10:30 am Children's Church: Grades 1-5 (Room 210)
6:00 pm AYG: High School Youth Group (Room 107)

MONDAYS

1:00 pm Play Bridge! (New Transept-Parish Hall)
5:15 pm Centering Prayer (Chapel)
6:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal (Choir Room)

TUESDAYS

7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)
10:00 am Kindermusik (Room 210)
4:30 pm Guinnessis (Pero's on Rocky Hill)

WEDNESDAYS

10:45 am Lectionary Study (Library)
12:00 pm Healing Service (Chapel)
4:45 pm Boys and Girls' Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
5:30 pm Middle School Girls' Book Club (Room 104)
6:00 pm Parish Supper (Parish Hall)
6:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (Room 107)
6:45 pm Wednesday Evening Program (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Parish Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

THURSDAYS

7:00 am Brotherhood of Saint Andrew (Old Transept-Parish Hall)
4:30 pm Centering Prayer (Library)
7:00 pm Ascension Schola (Choir Room)

FRIDAY

9:00 am EfM: Education for Ministry (Library)
5:45 pm Stations of the Cross (Nave, during Lent)

Daily Calendar

2 - Tuesday

5:30 pm Finance Committee (Room 209)
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training (Room 101, Parlor, Library)
7:30 pm FOMA: Choir of New College, Oxford (Nave)

3 - Wednesday

9:00 am Ascension Trekkers: Porters Creek Trail (Parking Lot)
5:15 pm Mardi Gras De-Briefing (Library)
6:45 pm Journeys of Faith (Parish Hall)

4 - Thursday

2:00 pm Grief Recovery Class (Room 101)

5 - Friday

10:00 am Stitch in Time (Parlor)
5:45 pm Stations of the Cross (Nave)

6:00 pm Date Night (Christian Education Wing)
6:00 pm TWEENS (Garden Room)

6 - Saturday

8:00 am TWEENS River Rescue (Ijams Nature Center)
8:30 am ALOHA Stewardship Conference (Parish Hall)
10:00 am Community Chest Drop-Off (Side Parking Lot)

7 - Sunday

12:00 pm Youth Advisory Team (Youth Room, Room 107)

8 - Monday

11:00 am Icon Guild (Rooms 101 and 102)
7:00 pm Justice Knox Rally (Central UMC)

9 - Tuesday

6:30 pm Vestry Meeting (Room 101)

10 - Wednesday

10:00 am Wilderness Weavers (Room 209)
5:00 pm Building and Grounds Committee (Room 209)
6:45 pm Journeys of Faith (Parish Hall)

11 - Thursday

2:00 pm Grief Recovery Class (Room 101)

12 - Friday

5:45 pm Stations of the Cross

13 - Saturday

9:00 am White Oak Elementary Cleanup Day

14 - Palm Sunday - UTO Ingathering

12:00 pm Youth Advisory Team (Youth Room, Room 107)
2:00 pm AYG Jump Jam Trip

15 - Monday

9:00 am Ascension Trekkers: Cove Hardwood (Parking Lot)
5:30 pm LAMBS Ministry (Library)
5:45 pm Quiet Eucharist

16 - Tuesday

11:30 am The Lunch Bunch: Featuring Mike Combs (Parish Hall)
5:45 pm Quiet Eucharist
6:30 pm Stephen Ministers (Parlor, Library)
7:00 pm Parish Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

17 - Wednesday

7:00 pm Tenebrae (Nave)

18 - Maundy Thursday

9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry)
2:00 pm Grief Recovery Class (Room 101)
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service (Nave)
8:00 pm All-Night Vigil (Nave)

19 - Good Friday

7:00 am Morning Prayer and Communion (Chapel)
9:00 am Education for Ministry (Off-site)
12:00 pm Good Friday Service (Nave)

20 - Saturday

8:45 am Ascension Trekkers: Ave Gap Road (Parking Lot)
3:00 pm Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Service (Nave)
7:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter (Nave)

21 - Easter Sunday

7:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
9:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
11:15 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

22 - Monday

Church Office and Building Closed

23 - Tuesday

5:30 pm Caris Healthcare Memorial Service (Nave)

24 - Wednesday

6:45 pm Movie: Risen (Parish Hall)

25 - Thursday

9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry)

2:00 pm Grief Recover Class (Room 101)

26 - Friday

Depart for Parish Retreat

27 - Saturday

8:00 am Daughters of the King Spring Assembly (Parish Hall)

29 - Monday

7:30 pm FOMA: Organ Recital by Aaron Tan (Nave)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ascension Trekkers: The Ascension Trekkers will be on wildflower searches in April beginning in Greenbrier on Porters Creek/Fern Falls and on to Campsite #31 for up to 7.2 moderate miles on Wednesday, April 3. On Monday, April 15, they will take an easy 2-4 miles to Cove Hardwood Trail and perhaps another nature trail in the same area. The last hike of the month will be on Saturday, April 20 on Ace Gap Trail near Townsend for 5-10 moderate miles. This trail terrain is fairly rolling without lots of steepness. Put these dates on your calendars and let Emily Vreeland (emilyvree@aol.com) know if you want to go on any of them.

Justice Knox Rally: On Monday, April 8, Justice Knox will hold its Spring Rally at Central United Methodist Church for an update on all that is happening and what has been researched since last year. If you need more information, contact Ann O'Connor, Greg O'Connor, Valerie Biberdorf, or Sarah Ringer.

The Lunch Bunch: On Tuesday, April 16, beginning at 11:30 am, The Lunch Bunch will gather in the parish hall for their monthly meeting featuring Mike Combs. Mike will demonstrate many of the percussion instruments that you hear all the time without knowing just how the sound is produced. He will cover symphonic and ethnic percussion as well as the emotional impact percussion can have on the listener. Mike Combs plays with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and recently retired as Professor of Music at the University of Tennessee. Make sure to bring \$2/person and an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. RSVP at the parish office reception counter.

Hurting Parents: The Hurting Parents group has been closed until the Fall of this year. Please check our publications closer to the fall for information on the continuation of this group.

Next Parish Paper Deadline: The deadline for each edition of the parish paper is the 15th of the preceding month. The deadline for the May 2019 Parish Paper is Monday, April 15.

April 2019

Regular Meeting times:

Sundays 9:15-10:15 am Teen Sunday School (Grades 6-12, Room 104)

Sundays 6:00-8:00 pm High School Youth (Grades 9-12, Youth Room)

Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm Middle School Youth (Grades 6-8, Youth Room)

Holy Week Calendar Changes: There will be no Sunday School or High School Youth Group on Easter Sunday, April 21.

Dinner Angels: We need Dinner angels! Dinner Angels is a program in which parents and other parishioners are invited to sign up and share in this service and fellowship opportunity to serve dinners to our youth. Want to try out a new recipe? Have a flair in the kitchen? Just willing to feed a small crowd? We welcome home-cooked meals and catered meals and we welcome and encourage our dinner angels to attend youth with us after serving. Our sign-ups, details, and schedule are available online:

Middle School Dinners (Especially 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, and 4/24):
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4dada922a5ff2-middle>

High School Dinners (Especially 4/7 and 4/28):
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4DADA922A5FF2-high>

JUMP JAM: All Ascension Youth are invited to join us for a trip to Jump Jam on April 14, 2019. We will depart Ascension at 2:00 pm and return around 4:00. Youth participating will need an Ascension Consent form filled out, as well as a Release Form for Jump Jam. Please RSVP to GiGi by Wednesday, April 10.

Middle School Girls' Reading Club: A few of our Middle School girls have expressed an interest in having a Middle School Girl's reading club, a continuation from the Girl's Reading Club they attended as part of Children's Ministry. Our April meetings will be April 3 (Chapters 13-18), April 10 (Chapters 19-23) and April 24 (Chapters 24-32) at 5:30 on Wednesday nights before youth group, and we are reading "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott. Youth interested in participating in this program should contact GiGi to be added to a reminder list.

KEY: Please save the date for Sunday, May 5 as our "Cinco De KEY" meeting from 4:00-6:00 pm. Location TBA.

Senior Sunday: Our celebration of our Class of 2019 graduating seniors will be held on Sunday, May 5. There will be a light reception in the parish hall honoring our seniors following the 10:30 am service. Parishioners will have an opportunity to "adopt" them and send them care packages at college for their freshman year.

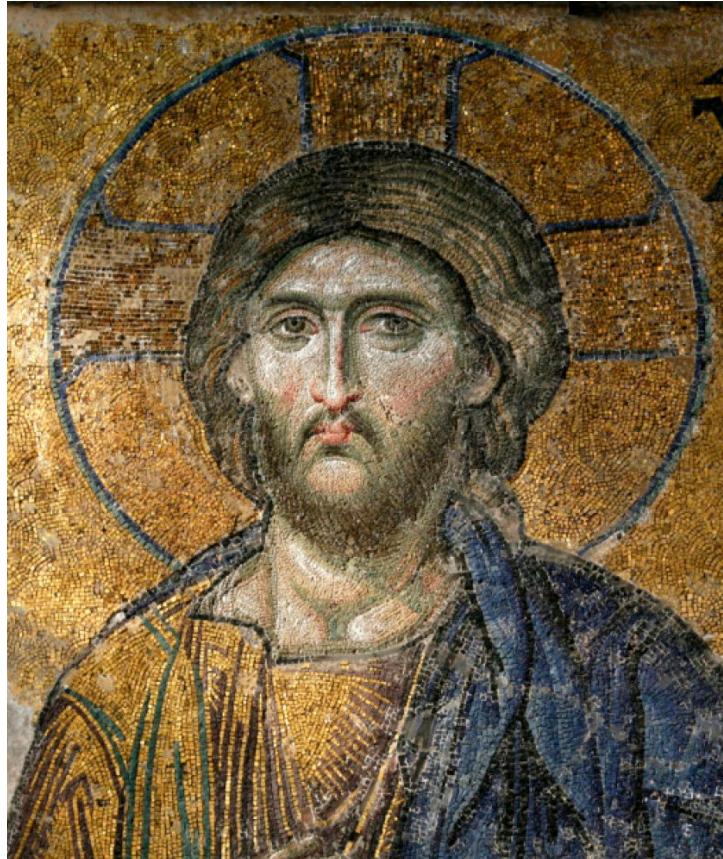




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Holy Week Services

Beginning Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday - 8:00 & 10:30 am

Quiet Eucharist
Monday and Tuesday at 5:45 pm

Tenebrae - Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday - Thursday at 7:00 pm

All Night Vigil - Thursday at 8:00 pm

Good Friday - Friday at 12:00 pm

The Great Vigil - Saturday at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday - 7:30, 9, & 11:15 am