



THE PARISH PAPER

A PUBLICATION OF CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

September 2019



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Cover Photo: The cover image is of the Middle School Youth Group playing spoons as they teach Brother Andrew Aelred this fun and fast paced card game.

Info: For subscription to this newsletter, email Bro. Andrew Aelred at andrew@knoxvilleascension.org.

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?



Recently, I said in a sermon that in my years of ministry in the church I don't think I have ever seen a church where everyone, clergy and lay people, were completely comfortable talking about money, possessions and our relationship with them. This is in spite of the fact that over a third of Jesus' parables were directly concerned with money or possessions. In addition, while the Bible gives us in the neighborhood of 500 hundred verses about prayer, and less than 500 on the subject of faith, more than 2,000 are concerned with money and possessions. So, we have to pay attention to this, even though money is sometimes an uncomfortable subject to speak of in churches.

The former Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama who sent me to seminary, Furman Stough, used to say, "If someone tells you it's not about the money, don't believe them. It's always about the money!" Bishop Stough was also one of the great champions of Stewardship in the Episcopal Church, which is why the Diocese of Alabama was number one in giving in the church for many years. The reason it is always about the money is because, as the philosopher Yuval Noah Harari has pointed out, "money is not coins and banknotes. Money is anything that people are willing to sue in order to represent systematically the value of other things for the purpose of exchanging goods and services. Money is accordingly a system of mutual trust..."

Harari is not coming from the perspective of faith, but he makes good points that align with so much of Jesus' teaching. Jesus knew that the woman who lost a coin and went searching for it would be a powerful parable to tell to people because they could so easily relate to it. Jesus turned over the moneychangers tables in the temple because they were using God's holy space to make a profit for themselves. Perhaps Jesus' most succinct and profound teaching about money is this: "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." How we use money is a reflection of the things we value, the things we fear, and the things that bring us joy.

So, we will be talking about money this fall at Church of the Ascension. I hope this doesn't make you anxious. I see it as something not only that is necessary, but something that, as we grow deeper into it, can indeed bring us joy. The most important reason we are going to talk about money is because, as I hope you see from what I have written above, it is a big piece of Jesus' teaching and is a common theme in the Bible. Our relationship with money and possessions is as much a part of one's spiritual life as prayer, receiving the sacraments, caring for others, and coming to church.

The other reason we are going to talk about money this fall at Ascension is that as this parish prepares to call a new rector in the near future, it is essential to get our house in order. The way we handle money as a congregation is vital to that work of preparation. Andy Oakes wrote an excellent article in last month's Parish Paper that did a great job of outlining some of the financial history of Ascension, including some of the more recent work. As a priest coming from outside the system, I have been impressed in the last year in the way that the Finance Committee, Treasurer, and Vestry, along with our staff, have addressed some challenging financial issues. Your leadership is committed to being as transparent as possible around our finances because some tough decisions have been made and will likely continue to need to be made as we address the issues with the roof, debt, and staffing.

In less than a year, a search committee will be put together to begin the process to call the next rector of Ascension. As a prospective priest looks at this parish, she or he will want to know a lot of things: how does the parish live out its life in Christ? What is outreach like? How do people with differing opinions about theological issues, politics, and liturgical sensibilities get along and care about each other? And, importantly, how does the parish live out its relationship with God around financial issues? Here are some things the prospective priest will want to know about our relationship with God and finances:

What percentage of the congregation pledges? (This shows how active people are, and it is also why even if you cannot make a large pledge, filling out a pledge card with a lowball estimate is important.)

How does the parish deal with debt? (Andy addressed this in his article last month. My opinion is that Ascension is in good shape in the way we handle debt, but we have a lot of work to do in reducing debt.)

Is giving seen in the parish as part of a life of faith, or is it more like "paying dues" to the PTA or Rotary Club?

Is the use of money mission-driven, or maintenance-driven? (The use of the word "maintenance" here does not mean maintenance on the building, although that is also very important. A maintenance-driven church looks to maintain the successes of past years without adapting to current and future mission possibilities and challenges.)

These are just some of the financial questions that a prospective priest might want to ask, and there are certainly many others. The potential rectors will want to ask these questions because, to paraphrase Jesus, "where a church puts its treasure will show you its values and its heart." I have come to know that Church of the Ascension is a wonderful, deeply spiritual, and loving parish. You all love God, desire to follow Jesus, and are committed to doing God's work in the world. My desire is for the clergy who want to discern with you whether they are called to be your next rector see that clearly. The way we give generously, manage those gifts, and get our financial house in order will be a key.

Pat Wingo

REPAIRING OUR HEAVENS: HOW ASCENSION WILL GET A NEW ROOF

If you're like me, during worship you can't help but look upward to God only to wonder if the stains on our divine ceiling are spreading. The good news: This summer they do not appear to be getting worse. The better news: Designs and plans are underway to replace the roof, while we are also beginning plans to restore Ascension's interiors.

Considering the landmark status of our building and the only minor cost differences between full slate and other roof systems, on May 16 the Vestry approved the recommendation of the Building and Grounds Committee to replace the existing roof with a new slate roof. The Vestry also approved hiring an expert roof consultant to design the plans and closely observe the construction. After comprehensive research and interviews, Ascension hired Roof Design and Consulting Services, headed by Sid Hankins. Mr. Hankins is handling our project personally.

The vast majority of Roof Design and Consulting Services' portfolio is roofing projects. As the premier roof expert in East Tennessee, they have been the architect for most of the major church re-roofings in our area. Even more importantly, they have a particular expertise in slate roofs. Because of this expertise and experience, they not only know how to exactly detail slate roofs, they also understand capacities of roofing contractors. The University of Tennessee, among others, has successfully used Mr. Hankins as their roofing consultant, including for several campus slate roofs.

This past week members of the Building and Grounds Committee and the Junior Warden met with Mr. Hankins to closely review the roofing design, plans, details, specifications and potential schedule. As part of that review, we worked diligently to insure our Parish gets

a lasting and performing peak roof. Specific differences between this project and the 2011 re-roof:

- Unlike in 2011, the project contract documents have specific details on all aspects of the roof.
- The new roof will have edge venting and ridge vents to allow moisture to escape, a critical feature for slate roofs, which the 2011 roof did not have.
- The project includes additional insulation with an R-15 roof assembly saving significant future energy.
- The only contractors that will receive invitations to bid will be those both Mr. Hankins and the Building and Grounds Committee agree have expertise and extensive experience on Slate Roofs.
- Each of those invited to bid must provide references for previous slate roofs they have done.
- Only those contractors specifically invited will be allowed to bid on the project.
- The bidders must detail who will manage and work on the project. Any substitutions must be approved by Ascension.

- Everyone working on the project must pass background checks.

- Both Mr. Hankins and the Building and Grounds Committee will regularly inspect the project during all phases of construction.

- The contractor will pay \$200 for each day the project extends past the specified contract completion date.

- Significantly, we are requiring a three-year project bond and other bonds, giving Ascension additional protection over and above the typical construction warranty.

The plans and specifications will be finished by the end of this month, with the project released to invited bidders right after Labor Day. Bids will be received by the third week of September, then reviewed by Mr. Hankins and the Building and Grounds Committee with a contract being awarded by September 30.

Work should begin in early October. As part of the project, we will work closely with Jim Garvey to insure our beautiful organs are protected during all project phases. The contractors also understand they will need to schedule work around Ascension's activities. Because of these requirements we plan on 120 days for project completion with the new roof finished in early February.

Replacing a roof a second time within eight years is bad. Replacing it yet again would be unforgivable. Your vestry remains committed to taking every action necessary for Ascension to receive a successful long lasting new roof.

Dave Irvin

***Replacing a roof a
second time within
eight years is bad.
Replacing it yet
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Clockwise from top right:

- Byron Proaps retires and celebrates with staff
- ECW provides dinner for Tyson House students
- The Sisterhood had a great time at Finn's Tavern (pg. 7)
- Emma Mitchell, Ascension's New Youth Assistant (pg. 6)



A PAST THAT MOVES US FORWARD

I'm a member of a Facebook group called Bearden Past and Present. It's a group of long-time Bearden residents who share photos from the community's past. There's a picture of Wade's Bakery next to the old White Stores. There's a photo of Long's Drug Store. Another album is devoted to area neighborhoods and how they looked before the rise of developments. You can see wide-open fields and farm lands. Comments from viewers responding to these photos are interesting. They are almost always melancholy and wistful. One viewer responded by saying, "I miss old Knoxville. I miss the purity of an earlier era." It's a nice sentiment, but is it true? The past has a way of glossing over darker moments.

I also remember those places with fondness. I remember eating hamburgers at Long's Drug Store. I remember shopping at White Stores, how bag boys wore white shirts and navy-blue bow ties. I remember running to Wade's Bakery and devouring a half-dozen orange-iced thumb-print cookies while staring at a towering wedding cake displayed in the window. I remember wide-open fields of my Forest Brook neighborhood before development. I remember endless summer afternoons exploring. They are wistful memories that evoke joy and nostalgia.

Yet if I think hard enough, other memories emerge. I remember getting stung by wasps in that undeveloped field in Forest Brook. I remember how difficult it was breathing in Long's Drug Store. Practically everyone smoked—including the servers. I remember moments of terror at White Stores as I saw parents publicly spank their kids in the aisle for misbehaving. (Thankfully mine never did.) As far as Wade's Bakery is concerned, there are no dark memories. That place was perfect.

I wish the Bearden Past and Present Facebook page would post more photos of the present and not just the past. Bearden has grown. We have coffee shops now where people gather. We have ethnic restaurants with an array of cuisines. We have diverse grocery stores, including gourmet markets. There are at least five bakeries in the

Bearden area; two of them serve thumb-print cookies. (Not as delicious as Wade's, but still delectable.) This is a good time for Knoxville and the Bearden area.

Sometimes churches also change for the better. Here at Ascension we have a rich history. While it's important we celebrate our past, may we recognize the past was not always perfect. Exciting changes are happening now. Opportunities abound at Ascension. Our congregation is diverse. It's full of long-time Ascension members, but also newcomers. There are cradle Episcopalians, and people joining from other faith traditions. There are young families, empty-nesters, and retirees—all gravitating here for community and worship. We have a group who gathers for weekly hikes, marveling in God's creation. We have FISH volunteers, and a prayer shawl ministry. There's a group who cares for animals, and an active Stephen Ministry program. Every Sunday a crowd of smiling children process down the aisle waving their hands on their way to chapel. A vibrant energy abounds.

As the new year begins, may we celebrate the accomplishments of the past, but also understand the past helps us move forward. May we see the positive changes happening now, not only in our community, but in our church. In the Gospels, Jesus is always looking forward, often proclaiming the kingdom is near. There's a consistent theme: Jesus moves forward; Jesus looks ahead. So should we

Christopher Hogin

***"Exciting changes
are happening now.
A vibrant energy
abounds."***

NEW YOUTH ASSISTANT

Hello! My name is Emma Mitchell and I am the new Youth Ministry Assistant at Ascension! I am a freshman at the University of Tennessee, and I am majoring in Anthropology with a concentration in Human Rights. I have been a member of Ascension since I was 14 years old. I am so lucky to be able to serve my church through the youth ministry. The Episcopal Church has been one of the most important places in my life. I hope to cultivate that sense of 'home' in the youth at Ascension. In my free time, I like to play with my dog, Honey, eat acai bowls, and visit Downtown Knoxville with friends! I cannot wait for this year with the middle schoolers at Ascension and I know we will have the best time together!

Emma Mitchell

ASCENSION WORKDAY

You can do it!! Set your clocks to be at the church at 8:30 am, on Saturday, September 21, to take part in the semi-annual Ascension Workday. Put on your grubbies and come prepared to work and clean. Starting Sunday, August 25, we will have a sign-up table in the foyer to let us know if you are coming because we plan on feeding you lunch before you head home. We will need a good head count to make sure nobody goes hungry. It's so hard to get Monty Harris to share his sandwich, we have to be prepared. We will provide some donuts first thing so if you decide to skip breakfast we have you covered. There will also be cold bottled water and protein bars to keep you going until lunch. You should be on your way around 1:00 pm.

At present, we have mulching, trimming bushes, pressure washing, and cleaning the pews as jobs to be done on the workday. There will be more choices of jobs to choose from, better keep an eye out for the one you wish to take part in. To sign-up to be part of the Ascension workday, head to the table in the foyer or email announcements@knoxvilleascension.org and we will put your name down.

ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS

The Ascension Endowment Fund seeks to enable the congregation to fulfill its mission more completely by developing its ministries beyond what is possible through the annual operating budget. Distributions from the Endowment Fund are used for a variety of purposes such as: outreach ministries and grants; seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects; and capital improvements of the church. The upcoming proposal deadline is Sunday, September 15, 2019. Proposal request forms are available in print in the church office or on the church website at www.knoxvilleascension.org/endowment. Please complete and return proposals on or before the deadline by mail (ATTN: Endowment Committee, 800 S. Northshore Dr. Knoxville, TN, 37919) or email, abusby@andersonbusby.com. All mailed proposals need to be postmarked by the deadline.

GARDENING MINISTRY

Calling all garden lovers! Help is needed to keep the trees and grasses watered on the bank across from the Sunday-school side (north side) of the church. Unfortunately, we have not been able to get our watering system put in there. So, we have to do this by hand. The hose needs to be pulled across the parking lot and the "gator" bags filled for each tree, and each grass needs to be thoroughly soaked. The process takes about 1-1/2 hours, 2 to 3 times a week while it is hot. Pam and Allen will work out a schedule to share the task and we will show you how we do it. Email or text at (865) 207-7503 or pam@knoxip.com if you can help. Thanks!

THE SISTERHOOD

Ladies Night Out was held at Finn's Tavern and we had a great time. We want to share this fun with you!

The next gathering of The Sisterhood will be on Monday, September 16, at 6:00 pm at Bone Fish Grill at the Bearden location at 6610 Kingston Pike. Please RSVP to Charlotte Wood, seebyrdfly@aol.com or 615-594-1781, by Friday, September 13. We look forward to seeing you there!

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Ascension Chapter of Daughters of the King is holding a Pot Luck Lunch and meeting at 1:00 pm on Saturday, September 14th, at the home of The Rev. SuZanne Seavey's. For those interested in joining Daughters of the King, email Donna Riggs at riggsdrh@att.net.

MUSIC REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for the Parish and Boys and Girls' choirs, Handbell Choir, and Ascension Schola commence the first week of September. Membership is open to all; call the music office at 588-0589 for more information.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

This sheet of paper is designed to be pulled out of the calendar that you may post it where you need. Just grab hold of the calendar. The online version of the Parish Calendar is available at www.parc.org

DAILY OFFICE EACH DAY

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

CENTERING PRAYER

Sunday 9:00 am in Library
Monday 5:15 pm in Chapel
Thursday 4:30 pm in Library

1 SUNDAY

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)

2 MONDAY

Parish Office and Building Closed for Labor Day Holiday

3 TUESDAY

7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)
5:30 pm Finance Committee (Room 209)
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Training (Room 101 and Parlor)

4 WEDNESDAY

8:30 am Ascension Trekkers: Twentymile (Parking Lot)
10:45 am Lectionary Study (Library)
12:00 pm Healing Service (Chapel)
5:00 pm Building and Grounds Committee (Room 209)
4:45 pm Boys & Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
6:30 pm Middle School Youth (Youth Room)
7:00 pm Parish Choir (Choir Room)

5 THURSDAY

7:00 am Brotherhood of Saint Andrew (Old Transept)
4:45 pm Boys & Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
7:00 pm Ascension Schola (Choir Room)

6 FRIDAY

9:00 am EfM Weekly Study (Library)
10:00 am Stitch in Time (Parlor)
6:00 pm Date Night (Education Wing)
6:00 pm TWEENS (Garden Room)
6:00 pm Young Families Dinner (Bravo)

7 SATURDAY

10:00 am Community Chest Drop-Off (Side Parking Lot)

8 SUNDAY - RALLY DAY

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
11:30 am Lunch and Mission Project with
Rise Against Hunger

9 MONDAY

11:00 am Icon Guild (Room 101 and 102)
1:00 pm Cognitive Care Group (Room 209)
1:00 pm Play Bridge! (New Transept)
6:45 pm Handbell Choir (Choir Room)

10 TUESDAY

7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)
11:30 am ECW at the KMA (Knoxville Museum of Art)
6:30 pm Vestry Meeting (Room 101)

11 WEDNESDAY

10:00 am Wilderness Weavers (Room 209)
10:45 am Lectionary Study (Library)
12:00 pm Healing Service (Chapel)
4:45 pm Boys & Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
6:30 pm Middle School Youth (Youth Room)
7:00 pm Opera 101 (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Parish Choir (Choir Room)

12 THURSDAY

7:00 am Brotherhood of Saint Andrew (Old Transept)
8:00 pm FOMA: City of Ashes (Nave)

13 FRIDAY

9:00 am EfM Weekly Study (Library)
8:00 pm FOMA: City of Ashes (Nave)

14 SATURDAY

1:00 pm Daughters of the King Luncheon

15 SUNDAY

All Sunday School Classes Resume and New Service Schedule

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
9:15 am Sunday School Hour (Various Rooms)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
12:00 pm Daughters of the King (Room 209)
5:00 pm High School Youth (Youth Room)

16 MONDAY

9:00 am Ascension Trekkers: Botanical Garden
(Side Parking Lot)
1:00 pm Cognitive Care Group (Room 209)
1:00 pm Play Bridge! (New Transept)
6:45 pm Handbell Choir (Choir Room)

17 TUESDAY

7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)
11:30 am The Lunch Bunch (Parish Hall)
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry (Parlor and Library)

18 WEDNESDAY

10:45 am Lectionary Study (Library)
12:00 pm Healing Service (Chapel)
4:45 pm Boys & Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
6:30 pm Middle School Youth (Youth Room)
7:00 pm Parish Choir (Choir Room)

19 THURSDAY

7:00 am Brotherhood of Saint Andrew (Old Transept)
9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry)
4:45 pm Boys & Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
7:00 pm Ascension Schola (Choir Room)

20 FRIDAY

9:00 am EfM Weekly Study (Library)

21 SATURDAY

8:00 am Ascension Work Day (Campus Wide)
9:00 am Ascension Trekkers: Chimney Rock
(Side Parking Lot)

the magazine and either folded or left unfolded so
l of both pages and pull away from the staples!
ble at www.knoxvilleascension.org/calendar.

OCTOBER CALENDAR



22 SUNDAY

8:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
9:15 am Sunday School Hour (Various Rooms)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
12:00 pm Youth Leadership Schedule (Youth Room)
4:00 pm TWEENS (Room 105)
5:00 pm High School Youth (Youth Room)

23 MONDAY

11:00 am Icon Guild (Room 101 and 102)
1:00 pm Cognitive Care Group (Room 209)
1:00 pm Play Bridge! (New Transept)
4:00 pm Memorial for Sylvia Peters' Sisters (Nave)
6:45 pm Handbell Choir (Choir Room)

24 TUESDAY

7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)

25 WEDNESDAY

10:45 am Lectionary Study (Library)
12:00 pm Healing Service (Chapel)
4:45 pm Boys & Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
6:30 pm Middle School Youth (Youth Room)
7:00 pm Parish Choir (Choir Room)

26 THURSDAY

7:00 am Brotherhood of Saint Andrew (Old Transept)
9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry)
4:45 pm Boys & Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
7:00 pm Ascension Schola

27 FRIDAY

9:00 am EfM Weekly Study (Library)
11:00 am Mary Lee Bergeron Memorial (Nave)

29 SUNDAY

8:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
9:15 am Sunday School Hour (Various Rooms)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
12:00 pm Newcomers Ministry Meeting (Room 209)
4:00 pm Tweens
5:00 pm High School Youth (Youth Room)
5:30 pm Celtic Service (Chapel)

30 MONDAY

1:00 pm Cognitive Care Group (Room 209)
1:00 pm Play Bridge! (New Transept)
6:45 pm Handbell Choir (Choir Room)

OCTOBER

DAILY OFFICE EACH DAY

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

CENTERING PRAYER

Sunday 9:00 am in Library
Monday 5:15 pm in Chapel
Thursday 4:30 pm in Library

1 TUESDAY

7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)
5:30 pm Finance Committee (Room 209)
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Training (Room 101 and Parlor)

2 WEDNESDAY

10:45 am Lectionary Study (Library)
12:00 pm Healing Service (Chapel)
5:00 pm Building and Grounds Committee (Room 209)
6:00 pm Family Night (Parish Hall)
4:45 pm Boys and Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
6:30 pm Middle School Youth (Youth Room)
7:00 pm Parish Choir (Choir Room)

3 THURSDAY

7:00 am Brotherhood of Saint Andrew (Old Transept)
4:45 pm Boys and Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
7:00 pm Ascension Schola (Choir Room)

4 FRIDAY

9:00 am EfM Weekly Study (Library)
10:00 am Stitch in Time (Parlor)
6:00 pm Date Night (Education Wing)
6:00 pm Tweens (Garden Room)

5 SATURDAY

8:00 am Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting (Parish Hall)
10:00 am Community Chest Drop-Off (Side Parking Lot)

6 SUNDAY

8:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)
9:15 am Sunday School Hour (Various Rooms)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)
12:00 pm Newcomers Ministry Meeting (Room 209)
4:00 pm Blessing of the Animals (Nave)
5:00 pm High School Youth (Youth Room)

7 MONDAY

1:00 pm Cognitive Care Group (Room 209)
1:00 pm Play Bridge! (New Transept)
6:45 pm Handbell Choir (Choir Room)

9 TUESDAY

7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)
10:30 am ECW visits the Zoo (Zoo Knoxville)
6:30 pm Vestry Meeting (Room 101)

10 WEDNESDAY

10:00 am Wilderness Weavers (Room 209)
10:45 am Lectionary Study (Library)
4:45 pm Boys and Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
6:30 pm Middle School Youth (Youth Room)
7:00 pm Parish Choir (Choir Room)

11 THURSDAY

7:00 am Brotherhood of Saint Andrew (Old Transept)
4:45 pm Boys & Girls' Choir (Choir Room)
7:00 pm Ascension Schola (Choir Room)

The remainder of the October calendar will be published in next month's Parish Paper.

ECW LAUNCHES ACTIVE YEAR

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) has launched a exciting and active 2019-2020 program year. ECW is open to all women of the parish. Make sure to contact Pat Rutenberg for questions about joining the ECW. The ECW typically schedules meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am unless otherwise noted.

September 10, 2019 - Knoxville Museum of Art and Lunch

October 8, 2019 - Zoo Knoxville and Lunch

November 12, 2019 - Tour of Sacred Heart and Lunch

December 10, 2019 - Christmas Luncheon at Gettysvue Country Club

January 14, 2020 - Taylor Phipps with the Tennessee Voices for Children program and Lunch

February 11, 2020 - Beck Cultural Center and Lunch

March 10, 2020 - Cancer Support Community Lunch and Tour

April 14, 2020 - Lunch at Bravo with a Style Show at Janice Ann's Boutique with members as models!

May 12, 2020 - Family Promise Speaker and Lunch

Announcements for ECW are published in the Parish Paper, the Sunday Bulletin, and the weekly email, The Heavenly Post.

PORK TENDERLOINS

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew will be smoking pork tenderloins for the Labor Day holiday weekend. They will be available for pick-up on Saturday, August 31, from noon to 2:00 pm and then after services on Sunday, September 1st. The price is \$15 per tenderloin and proceeds will go to support the mission work of the Brotherhood.

ASCENSION TREKKERS

The Ascension Trekkers will kick off the Fall season with a nearly 8 mile RT moderate hike on the Twenty Mile Loop on Wednesday, September 4. The drive to the trailhead is nearly 2 hrs. So, the departure time will be 8:30 am from the church. The moderate rating reportedly has to do mostly with the length of the trail and maneuvering over downed trees; otherwise the elevation climb of 1000 ft "is so mellow you won't even break a sweat"...so the story goes.

The "Easy Monday" hike on September 16 will be at the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum for a 2 mile walk of the rolling hills of the garden. There is a combination of paved and packed gravel trails as well as meandering through gardens, meadows, and groves of trees. The garden's office is in the old family home of the former owners, which is an added treat. Departure time from the church will be a 9:00 am.

On Saturday, September 21, the Trekkers will hike a moderate 6.5 mile loop starting on Chimney Rock Trail to Overlook and Paint Mountain, near Del Rio, TN. There is an initial steady climb before the trail becomes up/down and returns to the parking lot. There are views of the French Broad River and other mountain ranges on clear days and part of the trail is along the river.

THE LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will kick-off its 2019-2020 season with a presentation by Bill Elliott, entertainer, speaker, and singer with a distinguished 25-year career at Disney University. Bill Elliott taught hospitality and leadership development and was the recipient of the Walt Disney Legacy Award. Make sure to sign-up in the parish office at the reception counter and bring \$2 along with an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. The mouth-watering main dish, prepared by Carole Lundin, is provided. You can also email your RSVP to announcements@knoxvilleascension.org.

A REFLECTION ON STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship is a theological belief that humans are responsible for the world and that we should take care of it. In all monotheistic traditions, stewardship refers to the way time, talents, material possessions, or wealth are used or given for the service of God. Let's look at stewardship from the perspectives of ownership, management, gratitude, and investing in deeper relationships.

Ownership

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. - Psalm 24

I read a story of a woman who had finished her shopping and returned to her car to find four men inside it. She dropped her shopping bags, drew a handgun from her purse, and with a forceful voice said, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!" Those men did not wait for a second invitation. They got out and ran like crazy!

The woman, understandably shaken, quickly loaded her shopping bags and got into the car. She just wanted to get out of there as fast as she could. But no matter how she tried, she could not get her key into the ignition.

Then it hit her: This isn't my car! She looked, and indeed her car was parked four or five spaces away. She got out, looked around to see if the men were near, loaded the bags into her own car, and drove to the police station to turn herself in.

The desk sergeant, after hearing her story, nearly fell out of his chair laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four men were reporting a carjacking by a woman with glasses and curly white hair, less than five feet tall, and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed (Greg Laurie, *A Time to Worship*, Decision, Nov. 2001). She thought it was her car, but it really belonged to someone else.

The truth is: God owns everything. He owns that lady's car and the one she mistakenly got into. And He owns everything we call "ours." He owns it all. Everything we have comes from God. We are simply stewards.

Management

For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summed his servants and entrusted his property to them...-Matthew 25:14-30 (parable of the talents or money)

There are 38 parables in the Gospels. In almost half of them, Jesus addresses money or possessions. Whether he

is talking about a rich young man, a prodigal son who squanders his inheritance, or vineyard laborers and how resourceful they were with the owner's "talents," we are reminded that we are simply sojourners on the earth and are responsible to God for the safekeeping of the resources we have been provided. I understand this to mean everything: time, talent, abilities or gifts given to us by God and material wealth. We are also cautioned not to live with the mindset of a 'scarcity economy' fearing to take risks and we are not to compare our gifts to those of others.

Gratitude

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. -Psalm 100-4

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life. -John 3:16

Whenever I enter Ascension's sanctuary, I am reminded again of those who have gone before us and have left us this beautiful house of worship. I sense the presence of the Holy Spirit as I sit in the nave and thank God for the foresight, financial investment and commitment of our predecessors. But more than that, when I receive the Eucharist in that holy space, I receive the gift of God's love and grace along with the saints on my left and on my right as we kneel at the rail together in the fellowship of believers.

Relationships and Joy

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. -Galatians 5:22-23

A transaction is a 'one and done' experience while stewardship involves commitment and leads to deeper relationships. By investing and participating in any of the many programs at Ascension we have an opportunity to deepen our faith and extend the love of God both to other parishioners and to the community beyond our walls. In so doing we build stronger relationships with God and each other in all we do both at church and in our daily lives.

The joy I experience in weekly Bible study, the fellowship and service we perform through the Brotherhood of St Andrew and the opportunity to share God's love through Eucharistic visitation all deepen my relationship with God and other members of Ascension. Our mission statement says we are to 'enable ourselves to experience God in Christ, to see and serve him in others, to grow toward Christ and to proclaim Him to the world'. In order to fulfill our mission our church needs the investment of our time, talent and yes, the worldly resources with which God has blessed us all. We all will be blessed with the joy of a deeper relationship with God and our fellow parishioners.

Les Hargrove

FOMA: A NEW SEASON



CITY OF ASHES / SEPTEMBER 12th and 13th

The 2019-2020 Friends of Music and the Arts calendar is scheduled to be mailed the last week of August. When you receive your brochure, you will notice that the first event, the opera *City of Ashes*, comes up rather quickly on September 12th and 13th.

This first event was covered extensively in last month's Parish Paper issue by parishioner Emily Anderson, the author of the opera's libretto. Seeing this opera produced locally has been a goal of many parishioners and lovers of opera in our city, and FOMA is excited at the prospect of hosting the North American premiere (the opera has recently been performed in Paris and Beijing). The production will be by Marble City Opera, employing its singers, musical staff, and stage directors. Scenery will consist of projected artwork painted by Knoxville artist Barry Spann. Danny Harb and HP Video are involved in the production, as is lighting technician Jeff Pless. MCO director Kathryn Frady will have artistic oversight of all aspects of the performances.

The subject matter of the opera is profound, dealing with the harsh realities of life experienced by the women of Berlin at the end of World War II. It's a story of redemption and ends on stirring notes of hope and love. The music by composer Evan Fein is quite lovely and melodic and is very listenable.

The score for the hour-long opera calls for three major singing roles and piano accompaniment. Dr. Evan Fein of the Juilliard School faculty in New York City will be in town for the production. He is offering a talk about the opera—its genesis and his composition of it—in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, September 11th, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

The cost of the opera's production is being shared by MCO and FOMA. Please note that there will be no preferred seating for the performances, but there will be a wine and cheese social offered at 7:15 pm, 45 minutes in advance of curtain.

Lifting up local talent is one of FOMA's goals, and we are excited to collaborate with Marble City Opera in bringing *City of Ashes* to the Knoxville community. Tickets are available at knoxvilleascension.org/boxoffice. Tickets will be available at the door.

Jim Garvey

I NEED A BREAK!

Adults and parents: have you ever had that day so full and so stressful that you come home from work and instead of going into the house immediately, you sit in the car in the driveway for 15 minutes or so before going into the house because you know that if you go straight into the house, you may blow and say something to those you love and will regret it because it's been a heck of a day at work? We've all had that day. Being an adult, and knowing yourself well enough, you know when you need that time, and you take steps to make sure you get it.

The brains of our teenagers are still developing, and they are still learning what their triggers are. They know they need something that they're not getting, but they don't know what it is and they get frustrated and blow up more often than most adults. Most often what they need is time. A break. A chance to process what's happened during their busy day and take some time for themselves. And for most teens as they re-adjust to school starting back, they may need more of this.

I once saw a video on the Facebook page "Love What Matters." They posted a video of a child laying on her bed with a string attached to a hoberman sphere that was mounted to the ceiling, and she is pulling the string with each breath saying "breathing out, breathing in, breathing out, breathing in." Her mom explained that she was having meltdowns after school when being asked about how her day was, etc. She wasn't getting the time she needed after school to process what went on during that day, so she'd just blow up after school. When she got the time she needed to cool down after school where she's been "on" all day and had to hold it together, she could then communicate effectively to her Mom how her day was.

Teens desperately need this reflection and processing time too. However, it doesn't always look the same for each teen. For some teens, it's going for a run or doing something athletic or physical. For other teens, it's reading a book, listening to music, or playing video games. For some, it's meditating, journaling, coloring, or praying. And some teens need more of that time than other teens. But they all need it, and the symptoms of not getting enough of that time will be apparent in their behavior, the same way it is in adults. When we adults do not get enough of that time, we act out too: we snap at our family members for no reason, we have road rage, we lash out at the barista at Starbucks, etc. But we can easily judge when we are beginning to feel that burnout, whereas teens are still learning how to read their own emotions. So what's the best thing to do? Show grace and allow space for teens and children to process and absorb everything that has been thrown at them that day. It will help them grow. Amen.

GiGi Logan

AYG: ASCENSION YOUTH GROUP

The Ascension Youth Group (AYG) program has an active year ahead. Both Middle and High School Sunday School (grades 6-12) will resume on September 15. We meet at 9:15 am on Sundays downstairs in room 104. High School Youth meet regularly on Sundays from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Youth Room. Middle School Youth meet regularly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Youth Room.

The Ascension Youth also thank everyone who purchased a t-shirt for Rally Day to help with Rise Against Hunger and Ascension Youth mission work. We hope you enjoy your t-shirts. Your support means a lot to the youth.

Middle School Retreat

Save the date for our Middle School Sabbath Retreat on October 18-20, 2019 at Grace Point. Highlights include s'more's, fun, boating, worship, fellowship, and more! We'll be staying at the Retreat House. Deadline to register is Wednesday, October 16.

Prayer Partners

Prayer Partners is a ministry that pairs an Ascension teen with an adult parishioner in the church who will pray for that teen and exchange monthly letters, hopefully building relationships between our teens and the wider church. Last year we had three pairings of Prayer Partners and teens. This year we hope to double that! This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with a young person and support our youth one-on-one. To sign up an adult or teen, a written sign-up will be on the reception desk of the church office, or you can contact GiGi (gigi@knoxvilleascension.org) with any questions.

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 Fall 2019 schedule is live! Check out our sign-ups, details, and schedule:

Middle School Dinners: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4dada922a5ff2-middle>

High School Dinners: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4DADA922A5FF2-high>

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Rally Day signals the beginning of the church activities. Children's Ministry at Ascension will continue with our usual offering of Sunday School classes, Date Night, Tweens, and Children's Church. Be on the look out for more events and news in the Sunday bulletin and weekly email.

Children's Sunday School classes will resume on **Sunday, September 15, from 9:15-10:15 am**. We will offer Godly Play I for PreK (ages 4-5), Godly Play II for Grades K-2, and Connect for Grades 3-5. Both Godly Play classes are upstairs in Rooms 202 (GP I) and 203 (GP II). Our Connect class is downstairs in Room 105.

Children's and Junior Children's Church are always offered throughout the year for our children during the later service. Junior Children's Church is designed for kids age 4-Grade K and meets in Room 213, the Garden Room. Children's Church is focused on Grades 1-5 and meets in Room 211. The kids follow the cross out of the service and return at the Peace.

Date Night is typically offered on the first Friday night of each month. Our next Date Night is Friday, September 6, from 6:00-9:00 pm. To register your children for Date Night, email nursery16@knoxvilleascension.org. Please also consider a small donation to offset the cost of dinner and staff for the evening.

The Young Families Gathering is the same night as Date Night! What a great opportunity to let someone else watch your kids while you hit the town and meet other families at Ascension. We'll be gathering at Bravo on the hill beginning at 6:00 pm. Make sure to call Drew Stock by September 2nd at 865-765-2151 to let him know you are attending.

Nursery Care is always there for you year round. We offer a wonderful nursery facility with well-qualified staff. The nursery is open 8:45 am to 12:30 pm during the school year. Our staff have taken CPR and Safeguarding God's Children.

Volunteering in Children's Ministry can be very rewarding. All of our Children's Ministry programs thrive because of amazing volunteers like you. Help us teach God's story to our youngest parishioners by becoming a Sunday morning classroom teacher. Seeing the world through children's eyes can be very enlightening. Whether you are a parent of children or teenagers, an empty-nester, or a grandparent, you can make a difference in the lives of Ascension's children by volunteering in our Sunday School classes, group meetings, and events.

If you have any questions about Children's Ministry at Ascension or if you would like more information on volunteering in Children's Ministry, email Rachel Thomas at rachel@knoxvilleascension.org.



Clockwise from top left:

- Mary of Egypt, one of two icons for the Icon Workshop (pg. 15)
- Men of the parish attended the Episcopal Laymen's Conference
- Moses the Black, another icon for the Icon Workshop (pg. 15)
- Families had a great time at the home of Fr. Christopher for a Young Families Gathering

FOYER GROUPS RESHUFFLE

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Foyer Groups are a splendid way to meet and get to know other Ascensionites. If you are new to the parish or if you have been here forever, Foyer Groups can be a way to make that nave full of new or unfamiliar faces much less intimidating! The groups are formed twice a year—in early spring and early fall—and allow 7 or 8 people to learn the names of people you have seen across the church for month or years but have never met. The groups meet in one another's homes about once a month and share a simple meal and fellowship. Couples, singles, young, old, working, retired...all are included. Get to know interesting people in a comfortable setting.

Fall/Winter groups will be formed in September. To that end, please see the following:

- If you have participated in this current (Spring/Summer) rotation and would like to be assigned to a new group for Fall/Winter, you do not have to do anything. You will be included in a new group automatically.
- If you have participated in this current rotation but do not wish to be included in the Fall/Winter one, please notify Bettie Corey at bcorey41@comcast.net by September 9. If she does not hear from you, you will be assigned to a new group.
- If you have never been in a foyer group or if you have not been active in this current rotation and would like to rejoin, please notify Bettie at bcorey41@comcast.net by September 9. Please include your name (and, if a couple, both names), a telephone number, and your e-mail address.

Bettie Corey

CELTIC WORSHIP

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Join us for a special Sunday Evening Worship Service

Celtic Worship Service

Sunday September 29th at 5:30 pm

We invite you to a Sunday evening Celtic Worship experience. This is not a typical Episcopal service. Many Episcopal churches have created Sunday night Celtic Services as they reach out to new worshipers in their communities.

The Celtic Service is a candle-lit service using contemplative music to provide a meditative worship experience. The atmosphere is one of stillness and calm. There is no traditional sermon, but a brief reflection

near the beginning of the service. Bishop Brian Cole will deliver the reflection at this service.

Introspective, prayerful...quietness and peace that the late afternoon with its fading light and soft glow of candle light provides...those words come to mind to help you envision this special service...Eucharist in the Celtic Tradition.

For those interested in learning more about the Celtic Christian tradition, Esther De Waal's book *Every Earthly Blessing: Rediscovering the Celtic Tradition*, is a good place to start. The Rev. Pat Wingo will be teaching on this book in the fall term of Adult Sunday School on September 15, 22, and 29. De Waal traces the development of Christianity among the Celts and explains how this distinctive Christian tradition came to be.

Pat Richardson

EAST TENNESSEE ICON WORKSHOP

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A two and a half day icon writing workshop will be hosted by the East Tennessee Iconographers Guild at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension from **Sunday, October 13, through Tuesday, October 15**. The Sunday session will be from 1:00-4:30 pm and the Monday and Tuesday sessions will be from 9:00 am-4:30 pm.

Our primary icon will be of St. Mary of Egypt. A second, optional icon of Moses the Black will also be available for those that would like to complete a double set. Examples are on the preceding page.

Our workshop leader will be Peter Pearson, M. Div., Th. D. Peter Pearson has studied under nearly a dozen master iconographers and has been painting icons for fifty years. He's been teaching iconography for more than half that time and has authored three books on the subject. Icons by his hand grace the walls of churches, monasteries, and retreat houses, mainly in North America but also throughout the world. Peter is an organized and accessible teacher and guide in the history, technique, and theology/spirituality behind these ancient images of faith.

The cost of the workshop is \$275, which includes all painting tools and supplies. Bring your own lunch for Monday and Tuesday. A \$75 non-refundable deposit is required by October 4. Mail your name, address, phone number, email, and deposit check to Church of the Ascension, 800 S Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919 Attn: Jim Phillips. For more information, contact Jim Phillips at 865-253-7330 or jphilips@utk.edu (yes, one "l").

Jim Phillips



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RALLY DAY 2019 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Rally Day 2019 is Sunday, September 8. We will be partnering with Rise Against Hunger to package over 10,000 meals to feed those in need overseas. While t-shirt sales may be closed, lunch tickets and volunteering opportunities abound.

Lunch will be catered sandwich boxes from Honey Baked Ham for only \$5/box with a \$20/family max! Turkey, ham, and vegetarian garden salad options will be available. You can go to www.knoxvilleascension.org/rallyday (no surcharge) or visit the table in the foyer beginning Sunday, August 11, to buy your

lunch ticket. Lunch orders need to be completed by Tuesday, September 3.

You can sign-up to volunteer on Rally Day by going to www.knoxvilleascension.org/rallyday. We need as many volunteers as possible to help with packaging meals! We can pack over 10,000 meals in under two hours, if you help!

**RALLYING THE CHURCH
TO MISSION 2019**

