



# THE PARISH PAPER

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

May 2019

## MISSION MUSINGS...FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR

Our celebration of Easter at Church of the Ascension was glorious! I hope you found the liturgies and other offerings uplifting, and that our common worship and life together in this Easter season continues to deepen your faith and expand your ministry to others. And I hope you will echo my thanks to all those who worked so hard on helping us worship. The choir and musicians, the altar and flower guilds, the acolytes and acolyte masters, the ushers and greeters, the lay ministers, chancel masters and sound techs all gave us a gift by their service to God. And our parish staff was simply outstanding!

Now we must quickly turn our attention to some temporal business as we continue to look to the future. As I hope you have heard by now, there will be a parish meeting between services on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting is to continue the dialogue and transparency coming out of the vestry listening sessions held each Sunday in February. Below are many of the items we hope to discuss:

- In January the Vestry sent out a letter explaining our budgetary situation. The parish has responded to that letter and the Vestry, after receiving some good work from the Finance Committee and Treasurer, has passed a budget for 2019. It is important that the parish understand some details of this budget, and why we are where we are financially.
- Another piece of our financial situation concerns our roof. Some of you may not know that after a destructive hailstorm in 2011, a new slate roof was put on our buildings. If you have looked up at the ceiling in the nave you know that the roof is not doing what roofs are supposed to do—keep water out—and so we are faced with the need for another new roof. The Vestry and Finance Committee will be updating that situation as well.
- Because I believe this year is critical in the life of our parish going forward, I have reorganized the vestry so that the work they do may be carried out differently, and hopefully more effectively. I will share this reorganization structure at the meeting.
- A number of people at the listening sessions wanted to know more about timelines. When will the search for a new rector begin seemed to be the primary concern, but timelines about of parts of our life together need to be shared as well. We will also talk about some things that need to happen and that will happen between now and when that new call is made.

I have been with you now for almost eleven months. The last year has gone by in a flash, and I have been very pleased with where we are as a parish. Our Holy Week and Easter services reminded me, and I hope all of us, of what we are about at our core: worshipping God through Jesus Christ, and living out God’s reconciling love in the world as we follow Jesus. Many years ago Ascension adopted a Parish Mission Statement: “To enable ourselves to experience God in Christ, to see and service him in others, and to proclaim him to the world.” I pray that we will continue to live out that mission statement in the months and years to come. Please join us at the parish meeting as we discuss how we will do so.

Faithfully in Christ,

*Pat Wingo*

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## Ascension Workday May 4

The next seasonal Ascension workday is **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**, **beginning at 8:30 am**. Lunch will be provided. Both indoor and outdoor projects will be available.

If you would like to sponsor plants for the landscape, you can visit the Greenscape display in the foyer. Dedications will be listed in the Mother’s Day bulletin and other publications.

## Parish-Wide Meeting May 5

A parish-wide meeting will be held on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**, **during the Sunday School hour at 9:15 am**. This meeting will include an extension of the vestry listening sessions, discussion of the church budget, an update on the church roof, and other topics. Please make plans to join us at the meeting.

Check out Vacation Bible School on pg. 5!

Lent happens in winter. During winter the trees are bare, and a wet chill remains. Most days are gray and rainy. Lent is a time where we examine our relationship with God by recognizing our brokenness and move towards repentance. During Lent, many people make a commitment. Giving something up, or assuming a discipline is common. Our liturgy reflects this penitential season. The appointed Psalms are harsh, as they agonize over the brokenness of the human condition. Lent fits well with the tail-end of the winter season.

Upon the arrival of Easter everything changes—most notably our physical environment. The world explodes with spring colors: blazing red azaleas, yellow dandelions, rainbows of tulips, and soft-petaled dogwoods permeate the landscape. Deep green leaves appear, and the sky above becomes an azure blue. There's a softness in the air. Morning and evenings remain cool and the afternoons pleasant. While Lent happens in winter, a time of fallow dormancy, Easter happens in spring, a time of birth, renewal, and change.

Our liturgy also reflects the season. During Easter we forgo the confession of sin and omit the prayer of humble access (normally done at the 8:00 am service). The purpose of this is to emphasize Easter as a time of celebration and delight. It's a time of enjoying this season of resurrection and rebirth.

As glorious as this is, there's one thing missing. In Lent, people assume intentional disciplines such as fasting or giving up something. We don't have any such intentional practices during Easter. This is unfortunate because Easter should be a response to Lent. While Lent is a time of repentance and reflection, Easter should be a time of joy and celebration. We have Lenten challenges and Lenten disciplines. Why not have Easter challenges and disciplines, but with a different take?

Here's a proposal: this Easter, make a commitment to enjoy the season. Carve out a few hours, either by taking off work early (or doing so on the weekend) to simply observe all the changes happening during this season. Delight in God's creation. Enjoy and appreciate food and drink. If Lent is a time of contemplative repentance, let Easter be a time of contemplative joy.

Most of us work hard. We do the best we can. Let us not forget why we work hard. Let us appreciate what is around us each and every day. As the fictional character Ferris Bueller proclaimed in the 1987 hit, Ferris Bueller's Day Off, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while you could miss it."

This Easter delight in God's creation. Enjoy the beauty of the earth. Seek out the miracle of resurrection by noticing all things, not just within the material world, but within yourself as well.

*The Rev. Christopher Hugin*

## BISHOP'S VISIT: JUNE 2ND

Bishop Brian Cole will visit Church of the Ascension on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, for his annual visit. We encourage as many parishioners to attend. This will be the last Sunday of the regular worship schedule before changing over to the 8:00 and 10:00 am summer schedule on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

The music department extends its sincerest thanks to those Ascension households that were able to assist with the housing of the choral scholars and lay clerks who toured with the choir of New College, Oxford, last month. Anecdotal feedback from those who hosted indicated to me that getting to spend time (albeit brief) with young Britons was a delightful experience. We like to think of Church of the Ascension in Knoxville possibly developing a reputation in Europe as a superior venue for touring; should that be the case, it would be due to Ascension's first-rate acoustics, caterer Julie Teglas's culinary talents, the nonpareil hospitality that parishioners are able to offer, and the warm reception that audience goers give FOMA's performers.

Even though the 2018-19 FOMA season officially wound down with Aaron Tan's organ recital on April 29<sup>th</sup>, there is a lagniappe that I mentioned in an earlier parish paper article. The Choir of St. Peter's, Charlotte, NC, is including us on a small tour to Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville next month, and is scheduled to perform a concert on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 pm. We are in the market for overnight hospitality for the nearly 30 boys and girls in this choir. Several families have graciously volunteered to host, but we could use just a little more space. If you might be in a position to help, we would be most grateful for a call from you. This choir has been to Church of the Ascension twice before under their former director, Ben Outen (in 1994 and the mid-aughts), and promises to be in equally fine fettle under their new director, Elizabeth Lenti. And even if you don't have spare bedrooms lying around at home, come to the concert and enjoy an enjoyable mixed program offered by the music department of a sister congregation.

*Jim Garvey*

## ASCENSION DAY EUCHARIST

*Thursday, May 30, 6:00 pm*

Mark your calendars for our church's feast day, Ascension Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. A Eucharist service led by The Rev. Patrick Wingo, the Ascension Schola, and other Knoxville chant scholas. The service will last approximately one hour.

## YEAR-END PICNIC

*Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:00 pm*

Ascension Youth Group will be pairing up with Children's ministry to have a Family Ministries year-end potluck picnic at the Gazebo at the West Hills Park (410 N. Winston Road by the YMCA and Tennis Courts). All families with school-age children and teens are welcome to join us for this time of fun and fellowship! More details to follow.

# PARISH CALENDAR

## May 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 Parish-Wide Class (Parish Hall)  
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)  
2:00 pm Grief Recovery Class (Room 101)  
4:30 pm Centering Prayer (Library)  
7:00 pm Ascension Schola (Choir Room)

### FRIDAY

9:00 am EfM: Education for Ministry (Library)

## Daily Calendar

### 1 - Wednesday

8:30 am Ascension Trekkers: Cove Lake State Park  
6:45 pm Wednesday Programming: *Risen*, Part II

### 2 - Thursday

6:00 pm Vision Team Meeting (Room 209)

### 3 - Friday

10:00 am Stitch in Time (Parlor)  
6:00 pm Date Night (Christian Ed Wing)  
6:00 pm TWEENS (Garden Room)

### 4 - Saturday

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

### 5 - Sunday: High School Senior Sunday

9:15 am Parish Meeting (Parish Hall)  
11:30 am Reception for High School Seniors (Parish Hall)  
4:00 pm High School Youth: Cinco de KEY (Parking Lot)

### 6 - Monday

4:00 pm Funeral for Judy Bowers (Nave)

### 7 - Tuesday

5:30 pm Finance Committee (Room 209)  
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Training (Room 101, 102, Parlor, Library)

### 8 - Wednesday

10:00 am Wilderness Weavers (Room 209)  
5:00 pm Building and Grounds Committee (Room 209)  
6:45 pm Wednesday Evening Programming Feedback (Parish Hall)

### 12 - Sunday: Mothers Day

### 13 - Monday

11:00 am Icon Guild (Room 101 and 102)  
6:30 pm Cursillo Ultreya Taco Fest (Parish Hall)

### 14 - Tuesday

6:30 pm Vestry Meeting (Parish Hall)

### 16 - Thursday

9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry)

### 18 - Saturday

8:30 am Ascension Trekkers: Black Mountain Trail (Parking Lot)  
10:00 am Diocesan Acolyte Festival (Nave)  
10:00 am White Oak Clean-Up Day (Parking Lot)

### 19 - Sunday: Teacher Appreciation Sunday

Family Promise Arrives  
Last Sunday of Sunday School  
12:00 pm Daughters of the King (Room 209)  
5:00 pm Family Ministries Picnic (West Hills Park Gazebo)

### 20 - Monday

8:30 am Ascension Trekkers: Cherohala Skyway (Parking Lot)  
11:00 am Memorial Service for Pam Brock (Nave)

### 21 - Tuesday

11:30 am The Lunch Bunch: Emily Anderson (Parish Hall)  
1:30 pm Stephen Ministry (Library)  
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry (Parlor and Library)

### 23 - Thursday

9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry)

### 26 - Sunday

Services Continue at 8:00 and 10:30 am

### 27 - Monday

Parish Building and Office Closed

## Justice Knox Nehemiah Action Assembly

The 2019 Justice Knox Nehemiah Action Assembly will meet on **Monday, May 6, at 7:00 pm (with doors opening at 6:15 pm) at Central United Methodist Church, 201 3rd Avenue.** Please come and bring friends and family! Our goal is to have 1000 people at this assembly. Carpooling from Ascension will be available at 6:00 pm. For questions, please contact Ann O'Connor (aoconnor1309@gmail.com), Greg O'Connor (gregoconnor1214@gmail.com), Sarah Ringer (violinsarah@gmail.com), or Valerie Biberdorf (valbeeb@gmail.com). You can stop by the parish office to grab a registration card(s).

## Wednesday Night Programming Feedback

On **Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:45 pm** the Wednesday night program will feature a feedback session on Wednesday night programming. What you would like to see on the schedule? What were your favorites? ***It will also be our last Wednesday night program and parish supper of the 2018-2019 program year.***

## The Bible: Our Book, Our Story

On **Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>,** the Parish-Wide Sunday School will feature an exploration of the history of the Bible and the power of metaphor and story led by The Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo. The class begins at 9:15 am in the parish hall.

## Family Promise Golf Tournament

Golfers of Ascension, please save the date to join the fun at Williams Creek for the 2019 Golf Tournament benefiting Family Promise of Knoxville on **Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am.** The cost is \$75 per person or \$275 per team. The format is Four Person 'Power Ball Scramble' and includes golf cart, lunch, and range balls. The putting contest is only \$10.00. Check out information at the communications counter for sponsorships.

## Family Promise at Ascension

Family Promise will be at Ascension beginning **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.** Barbara Corey, Ascension's Family Promise coordinator, is in need of a number of volunteers to help with: overnight hosting, meal preparation, grocery shopping, laundry, and evening/dinner hosting. Help extend Ascension hospitality to our guests. Question? Ready to volunteer? Emily Barbara Corey at barbaracorey@gmail.com.

## Celebrating Sunday School

On **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>,** the Parish-Wide Sunday School will gather all Sunday School classes (including Centering Prayer, the Forum class, Searcher and Explorer, Small Group, and the Video Series) to share fellowship and celebrate learning. The class will discuss favorites of the year and talk about interests in offerings for next year.

## The Sisterhood

The Sisterhood will head to Casa Don Gallo on **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm** for a late Cinco de Mayo themed Sisterhood dinner. Make sure to RSVP to Charlotte Wood at seebyrdffy@aol.com by **Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch will meet on **Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 11:30 am.** Emily Anderson will be the featured speaker with a presentation on her opera, *City of Ashes*, which will see a US premier here at Church of the Ascension in September. Please bring \$2/person and an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. The main dish will be provided. You can sign-up at the parish office reception counter or by emailing announcements@knoxvilleascension.org.

## Ascension Trekkers

The Trekkers will keep on trekking' in the merry month of May, starting with a drive to Cove Lake State Park to hike Devils Racetrack trail on **Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.** This is 5.3 mile round-trip hike and has a rating of moderate. On **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>,** the hike will be on the Black Mountain Trail in Cumberland Mountain State Park for a moderate 7.5 miles. The Easy Monday hike will be on **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** to go see some waterfalls on the Cherochala Skyway for 2-4 easy miles. Contact Emily Vreeland (emilyvree@aol.com) for questions or to sign up.

## FISH Food Pick-Up

The FISH food relief ministry has a rather urgent need for additional drivers a couple hours weekly to pick up donated food with one of their U-Haul type trucks. For more information about this ministry opportunity contact David Lovett at 865-776-1711 dmlovett1@gmail.com or Jim Wright at 865-207-8572 jimwright@knoxvilleascension.org. Thank you.

## Summer Music Workshops

The dates for the 2019 Summer Handbell and Chant workshops have been set! Mark your calendars for these different workshops being offered.

**Introduction to Gregorian Chant Workshop-Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am:** Want to learn how to read those squiggly notes and discover how they become the iconic music of cathedrals and monasteries? The Introduction to Gregorian Chant workshop is right for you!

**Intermediate Chant Workshop-Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm:** This workshop is great for those who have had some introduction to chant. Most of the session will be spent reading chant and practicing commonly used repertoire.

**Introduction to Handbells Workshop-Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 am:** This workshop is perfect for anyone with no experience with handbells. The workshop will focus on proper ringing technique, reading music (with an easy color method), and beginning repertoire. Should enough participants register, a beginning handbell ensemble may form out of the group.

## Men of the Parish

Consider joining the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew at their weekly Thursday morning breakfast meetings at 7:00 am. Each week features a speaker or discussion topic from the parish, local, or regional interest. Breakfast is served! Joining the Brotherhood is an easy, low-obligation way to meet fellow men of the parish, make new friends, and expand your knowledge and spiritual horizons.

## 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)

**End of year schedule** // There will be no Teen Sunday School, or High School or Middle School Youth following our Year-end Picnic on May 19. We are looking ahead to Milkshake Mondays at the Cookout on Cedar Bluff from 7:00-8:00 pm on Monday evenings in June and July.

## 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:

**Wednesday Night Middle School Dinners (Especially 5/1, 5/8, 5/15):**  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4dada922a5ff2-middle>

## 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 May meetings will be 5/1 (Ch. 33-39), 5/8 (Ch. 40-47) and 5/15 (Watch as much of the movie as we can get thru) 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** at St. Stephen's in Oak Ridge. For those attending and needing a ride, we will meet at Ascension's parking lot ahead and take the church van to Oak Ridge—Contact GiGi to arrange.

## Senior Sunday

Our Celebration of our Class of 2019 Graduating Seniors will be held on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**. Following the 10:30 am service will be a light reception in the Parish Hall honoring our Seniors and allowing for parishioners to "adopt" them and send them care packages at college their freshman year.

## KINDERMUSIK SUMMER FUN!

Are you interested in trying out Kindermusik with your child or grandchild and seeing what it's all about? Then we have the perfect play-date for you.

Join us on **Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am** for a beach-themed Kindermusik class for parents with babies and toddlers. Donations are accepted for this free summer trial class.

To register or for questions: [megan@knoxvilleascension.org](mailto:megan@knoxvilleascension.org)

## Third Times the Charm!

The White Oak Playground Clean Up has been rescheduled for **Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 am-2:00 pm**. Lunch will be provided. We are determined to get this done before the summer begins! We were washed out by rains in April. However, we accomplished a number of things in the last few weeks and still need to finish painting, planting, and a few other things. All ages are welcome to come and help! Make it a family event. This is a great outreach opportunity. Sign-up table in the education wing.

## Celebration Zone Ahead Tweens End of Year Party!

**Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:00-9:00 pm.**

We will have a great night of celebrating our graduating 5<sup>th</sup> graders and welcoming our new 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. We have a special night planned, so please join us! Parents of the graduates are welcome at the beginning to watch the celebration of their 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

## Teachers are appreciated at Ascension!

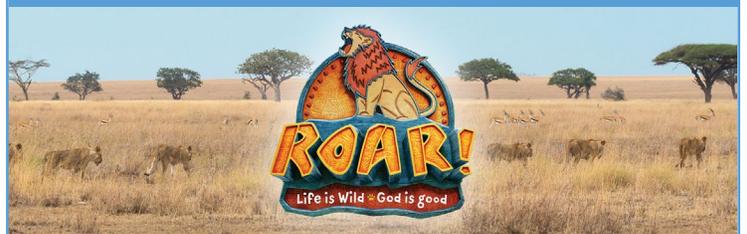
We appreciate our volunteers year-round, but on this special day, **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**, we make it THEIR day! Say a special thank you to all the volunteers in children's ministry today that spend their own time teaching the children. It is a special commitment. And if you are a volunteer in any of the Sunday school or Children's Church classes please stop by the education wing for a special "thank you" gift on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Moving to Summer Schedules

Children's Sunday school classes will end on May 19<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing everyone back in Sunday school in the fall.

Children's Church and Junior Children's Church will continue to take place during the summer months. Junior Children's Church is for kids ages 4 to grade K. And our Children's Church program is for kids in grades 1-5.

## ROAR With Us! at this year's Vacation Bible School!



It's that time of year! VBS is almost here! **June 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:30 pm each night**. Dinner is provided to all volunteers and kids. Join us this summer as we travel to the African savanna to learn about God. **Life is Wild-God is Good!** We will offer a nursery-aged group for our volunteers' children. Tribes will be created with kids in Pre-K (must be potty trained) to grade 5. You may go the homepage of the church's website to register yourself as a volunteer or your kids as participant:

[www.knoxvilleascension.org/vbs](http://www.knoxvilleascension.org/vbs)



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