



# THE PARISH PAPER

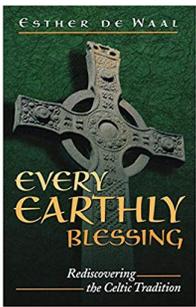
Seasonal News, Events, and Inspiration from Church of the Ascension

June-July 2019

## CELTIC CHRISTIANITY

Dear friends,

I want to invite you to intentional preparation for the establishment of a once monthly Sunday evening Celtic Eucharist which we hope to start in the fall of 2020. Essential to this launch is a small group of people committed to introducing this liturgy to our parish. I am most grateful to them.



For those interested in learning more about the Celtic Christian tradition, I recommend Esther De Wall's book *Every Earthly Blessing: Rediscovering the Celtic Tradition*. I will be teaching on this book in the fall term of Adult Sunday School. De Wall traces the development of Christianity among the Celts and explains how this distinctive Christian tradition came to be. She believes that the early Celts have great wisdom to impart in our time, wisdom that has the potential to refresh and deepen our own Christian journeys: "For those who are wearied by the institutional church, and are looking elsewhere for whatever will help make our praying a natural part of living, take us beyond words and nourish our imaginations, and above all bring us a contemplative vision, the Celtic way opens many doors."

The Celts reflected on John the Beloved who leaned against Jesus at the Last Supper and thereby heard the heartbeat of God. This listening for the heartbeat of God has become a symbol of listening to the Holy: deep within ourselves, deep within one another, deep within the body of the earth, and deep within the vastness of the universe. There is a story of five year old Brendan asking seven year old Rowan, "Where is God?" Rowan states, "God is in our hearts." Brendan surmises, "So God goes beat, beat, beat." Intending to hear the heartbeat of God is part of the Celtic way. Also central to this focus on the heart is the Celtic saying, "There is a mother's heart in the heart of God." This because a mother is willing to make sacrifices for her child.

One of the most well-known saints in the Celtic tradition is Patrick. As Patrick spread the Gospel in Ireland, he was often in danger. He wrote a prayer invoking the Trinity for protection. St. Patrick's Breastplate, as it is known, can be found in our *Hymnal 1982*, hymn number 370. One of the best known verses from this hymn is as follows:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

At the beginning of Celtic Christianity, well before four walled churches were built, the people gathered around high standing crosses out doors. *(continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue...

A New Way to Lift Spirits .....	2	Youth News .....	5
Preserving Our Past .....	2	Family Ministry .....	5
Parish Calendar .....	3	VBS .....	5
Announcements .....	4		

## Additional Vestry Listening Sessions

Sunday June 9th, 9:00 and 11:30 am

Sunday, July 14th, 9:00 and 11:30 am

We will be offering two more opportunities for members of the parish to attend upcoming Vestry Listening Sessions. The next dates on the calendar are: Sunday, June 9th at 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and Sunday, July 14th at 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. These sessions were well-received and well-attended earlier this year and gave parishioners a chance to ask questions and express their thoughts. The Vestry is committed to being open and transparent with the entire congregation regarding issues that impact us all. We hope that you will take the opportunity to attend.

## Peanut Butter Sunday July 13th

Mark your calendars for Peanut Butter Sunday, our annual fundraising drive for FISH Hospitality Pantries. Donation envelopes will be provided in the bulletins prior to July 13th. Baskets for donations of jars of peanut butter will be in the narthex that day. *Let's make this the biggest year yet for Peanut Butter Sunday!*

Check out info on Preserving Our Past on pg. 2!

Here they experienced the boundlessness of the Spirit in earth, sea, and sky. Further, they spoke of thin spaces. This is akin to what we might call a mountain top experience when, high upon a mountain (literal or figurative), we sense our closeness to the heavens and come to know that heaven on earth is possible. That place where heaven joins earth, where spirit touches matter is a thin space. This thinness is present at all times, but when we fail to access it, we miss the beauty that shines everywhere.

Honoring these dimensions of Celtic Christian tradition, the Celtic liturgies include: fewer words and more silence; the beauty, simplicity, and inspiration of Celtic music; reference to God as mother as often as reference to God as father; candlelight, candlelight, candlelight.

I am excited about the potential to enrich our common life with the help of the Celts. In the year to come, look for various opportunities to learn about and experience the Celtic way.

Faithfully in Christ,

*Pat Wingo*

### A NEW WAY TO LIFT SPIRITS

For many years now at Ascension the feast day of Pentecost has been marked with the decoration of helium balloons in the nave.

Several indicators in the last decade have foreshadowed that this tradition might not be sustainable much longer. The first of those would have been Party City's decision a dozen years ago to forgo the rental of helium tanks. With Holston Gases in town this wasn't a dealbreaker, and in these latter years we threw our business their way, both when their depot was on the south side of the river and in their newer location on Baxter Avenue.

Even then though, there were two or three years when the U. S. helium supplies in the Texas panhandle and in Wyoming were allowed to dwindle, jeopardizing availability. Sweet-talking the Holston salesman, reminding them that the helium would be going to a non-profit and a customer of long standing at that, allowed us to eke out the balloon effort for a few more years. Last year's balloon decorations represented a fortuitous conjunction of circumstances; Qatar, one of the three places in the world that mines helium, had recently been declared a terrorist state and sanctions were lifted right before Pentecost of 2018.

Holston Gases has indicated this year that helium will be available only for medical and other essential uses. Efforts to find other helium suppliers haven't been fruitful. Our experiences locally have been mirrored in the national news of late; NBC Nightly News recently did a piece on the helium shortage, and Party City has announced plans to shutter 45 of its stores, in part because of the lack of availability.

Barring some change in the situation, we shouldn't anticipate this year the helium balloons we all enjoy. We nevertheless will try to mark the Pentecost feast day in some sort of alternative way. Challenges represent opportunities!

*Jim Garvey*

The cleaning specialist Marie Kondo is a world-wide phenomenon. Her book, *The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, and recent Netflix series, challenges people to throw away possessions that do not spark joy, or that have no practical daily use. According to her philosophy, removing accumulated physical baggage is tied to spiritual baggage. Letting go of the physical frees up the spiritual.

I like Kondo and agree with her up to a point. Holding on to possessions, especially those we rarely see or use, is not healthy. The inability to let go of physical possessions can be symptomatic of a deep spiritual sickness. We tend to hold on to items for two reasons: either we grasp on to memories connected with the item, or we believe an object will someday be needed. (For some reason I keep holding on to a large kerosene lantern, irrationally thinking I'll need it someday.)

Yet I believe Kondo goes too far. Purging ourselves of all items can have its own negative consequences. The past has a place in our lives. Memories not only help us understand who we are, they communicate to later generations what was important to previous ones. I receive a thrill every time I explore an antiques shop, or wander through an attic. For me, it's like entering a time machine. Memories build identity, and identity helps explain why people or institutions engage in certain behaviors. In short, understanding the past helps us reconcile our present.

Ascension is now engaging an exciting project of preserving its past. Parishioner John Seivers and staffer Andrew Morehead are collecting Ascension memories for the purpose of creating an archive. The goal is to digitize old VHS tapes, audio recordings, photos, and clippings of Ascension's long and illustrious past. Recently, a parishioner brought in video recording of Rally Day 1989, and another event from the 1970's. These are priceless treasures that remind us of who we are, where we've been, and where we are going.

This summer, clean out some old closets. Go through the boxes in the basement. Heed Marie Kondo's advice of simplifying life by streamlining possessions. But if you do come across old items connected with Ascension (maybe a cookbook from the 1970's, a bulletin from the 1950's, or a newsletter, from the 1980's), pass it along to Andrew and John. They are our memory keepers, the ones dedicated to preserving our past. By preserving our past, we can prepare ourselves for navigating the exciting challenges that lie ahead in our future.

*Christopher Hogin*

### ARCHIVES VOLUNTEERING

Archiving is an ongoing and limitless endeavor for a church. The goal is to continually preserve the tangible and digital assets of the church in an organized and safe manner. It involves many different projects, computer tasks, scanning, and converting media. Should you be interested or want to hear more about how you can help with the Ascension archives, stop by or email Andrew Morehead ([andrew@knoxvilleascension.org](mailto:andrew@knoxvilleascension.org)). This is also a perfect summer volunteer opportunity for students to gain volunteer hours while engaging creative problem solving skills. Who wouldn't want to play with computers, scanners, tape and VHS players?

# PARISH CALENDAR

## June-July 2019

### WEEKDAYS

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

### SUNDAYS (Except June 2nd)

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I (Nave)  
9:00 am Centering Prayer (Library)  
9:00 am Summer Quire (Choir Room)  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II (Nave)  
10:00 am Jr. Children's Church (Room 213)  
10:00 am Children's Church (Room 210)

### MONDAYS

1:00 pm Play Bridge! (New Transept-Parish Hall)  
5:15 pm Centering Prayer (Chapel)  
7:00 pm Milkshake Mondays (Cookout on Cedar Bluff)

### TUESDAYS

7:00 am Men's Bible Study (Parlor)  
4:30 pm Guinness (Pero's on Rocky Hill)

### WEDNESDAYS

10:45 am Lectionary Study (Library, No Class in July & August)  
12:00 pm Healing Service (Chapel)

### THURSDAYS

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

## June Daily Calendar

### 1 - Saturday

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

### 2 - Sunday: Bishop Visitation

9:15 am Presentation by Bishop Brian Cole (Parish Hall)  
11:45 am Reception for Confirmants (Parish Hall)

### 3 - Monday

1:00 pm Play Bridge! (New Transept-Parish Hall)

### 4 - Tuesday

5:30 pm Finance Committee (Room 209)

### 5 - Wednesday

9:00 am Ascension Trekkers: Piney River Pocket (Parking Lot)

### 7 - Friday

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

### 8 - Saturday

8:30 am EfM Luncheon and Party (Offsite)

### 9 - Pentecost Sunday

Service Schedule Changes This Sunday, See Above

9:00 am Vestry Listening Sessions (Parlor and Room 209)  
11:30 am Vestry Listening Sessions (Parlor and Room 209)

### 10 - Monday

11:00 am Icon Guild (Room 101 and 102)  
6:00 pm VBS: ROAR! (Parish Hall)

### 11 - Tuesday

6:00 pm VBS: ROAR! (Parish Hall)  
6:30 pm Vestry Meeting (Room 209)

### 12 - Wednesday

10:00 am Wilderness Weavers (Room 209)  
6:00 pm VBS: ROAR! (Parish Hall)

### 13 - Thursday

6:00 pm VBS: ROAR! (Parish Hall)

### 14 - Friday

7:30 pm St. Peter's, Charlotte, NC, Concert (Nave)

### 15 - Saturday

9:00 am Ascension Trekkers: Little River Trail, Elkmont (Parking Lot)

### 16 - Sunday

12:00 pm Daughters of the King (Room 209)

### 17 - Monday

9:00 am Ascension Trekkers: Easy Monday,  
Big Creek Trail (Parking Lot)  
5:00 pm Hammock Hangout (Labyrinth Garden)  
6:00 pm The Sisterhood: Altruda's

### 18 - Tuesday

10:00 am Kindermusik (Room 210)  
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry (Parlor and Library)

### 20 - Thursday

9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry)  
4:00 pm High School Girls Pool Hangout (Offsite)

### 23 - Sunday

2:00 pm Seeds of Abraham

### 24 - Monday

11:00 am Icon Guild (Room 101 and 102)

### 26 - Wednesday

6:30 pm Video Game Night with Davis (Youth Room)

### 27 - Thursday

9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry)

### 30 - Sunday

11:30 am Reception for The Rev. Sara-Scott Wingo (Parish Hall)

## July Daily Calendar

### 2 - Tuesday

5:30 pm Finance Committee (Room 209)

### 4 - Thursday, July 4th Holiday

Building and Offices Closed

### 5 - Friday

Building and Offices Closed

### 6 - Saturday

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

### 7 - Sunday

Choose Some Shoes Drive

### 8 - Monday

11:00 am Icon Guild (Room 101 and 102)  
5:00 pm Hammock Hangout (Labyrinth Garden)

### 10 - Wednesday

10:00 am Wilderness Weavers (Room 209)  
6:30 pm Video Game Night with Davis (Youth Room)

### 12 - Friday

6:00 pm Date Night (Christian Education Wing)

### 14 - Sunday

Choose Some Shoes Drive

9:00 am Vestry Listening Sessions (Parlor and Room 209)  
5:00 pm Evensong Service with St. John's Cathedral Choir (Nave)

*(continued on page 4)*

- 15 - Monday  
9:00 am Ascension Trekkers: Easy Monday, Ijams Nature Center (Parking Lot)
- 16 - Tuesday  
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry (Parlor and Library)
- 18 - Thursday  
9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry and Office)
- 20 - Saturday  
9:00 am Ascension Trekkers: Stinging Fork Falls (Parking Lot)
- 21 - Sunday**  
Choose Some Shoes Drive  
12:00 pm Daughters of the King (Room 209)
- 22 - Monday  
11:00 am Icon Guild (Room 101 and 102)
- 24 - Wednesday  
6:30 pm Video Game Night with Davis (Youth Room)
- 25 - Thursday  
9:00 am FISH Pantry Day (FISH Pantry and Office)
- 28 - Sunday**  
Choose Some Shoes Drive  
3:00 pm AYG Kick-off at The Change Center



The Sisterhood at their latest "Ladies Night Out" at Casa don Gallo!

### The Sisterhood

Please join the Sisterhood for "Ladies Night Out" on **Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**, at Altruda's Italian Restaurant! Altruda's is located at 125 North Peters, Knoxville. **We will meet at 6:00 pm.** We always have such a great time and this is a great way to get to know the ladies in the church! Please RSVP to Charlotte Wood at seebyrdfly@aol.com or call 615-594-1781 by June 13<sup>th</sup>!



### Family Promise a Success

Sincere thanks to all of you who gave of your time, energy, and money to help make this a successful week at Ascension. One of our families this past week was led by a grandmother who has found an affordable 3 bedroom apartment and hopefully will soon move in. She is immensely grateful for our help during this transition. **Please mark on your calendars for the next Family Promise week, August 11-18.**

Thanks especially to those who donated 29 pillows to help replenish the supply needed at the day center for each new family. All that were bought plus one very generous cash donation should have them set up for MONTHS!

### Episcopal Churchmen Conference

Registration for the Tennessee Episcopal Churchmen Conference, **August 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**, is open. There are many activities and lodging options. This year's speakers will feature Johnny Majors, Drew Maddux, and Tony Eubanks. Head to [tnchurchmen.org](http://tnchurchmen.org) to register.

### Oh, Fair Linens, Where Art Thou?

If you have not noticed, we have beautiful linens that adorn our chancel altar and our chapel altar for our many worship services. Our Altar Guild works hard to care for these beautiful linens. Recently, we have found some of our chapel credence cloths and chalice towels missing. Now we are sure many have been used by different groups for different services and perhaps have simply not made it back to their home in the sacristy. If you know of anyone or any group that may still have some of our linens being used for a certain worship service or event, would you help us by reminding them they need to be returned back to the Sacristy. To check out linens, please contact Judy Thompson, Altar Guild Chairperson.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Ascension Trekkers

The Ascension Trekkers love summer hiking and will start with going to the Piney River Pocket Wilderness near Spring City on **Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**, for a 6-mile moderate hike. **On Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**, the trek will be in the beautiful Elkmont area starting on Little River Trail, crossing Cucumber Gap Trail, and following Jakes Creek Trail down to the parking lot for about 6 miles, most of which is easy because the trail is wide and relatively flat; the moderate section is crossing Cucumber Gap which is narrow, hilly with roots, and has stream crossings. Finally, on **Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>**, will be fan favorite Big Creek near Waterville, NC for a 4-mile easy hike, passing Midnight Hole and Mouse Creek Falls.

In July, the Ascension Trekkers will venture to Ijams Nature Center on **Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**, for the Easy Monday hike. The next outing will be **Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**, to Stinging Fork Falls in the Spring City area.

All these hikes will depart from the church at 9:00 am. Anyone wanting to go is asked to contact Emily Vreeland at [emilyvree@aol.com](mailto:emilyvree@aol.com) in advance so transportation can be determined. Contact Andrew Morehead, [andrew@knoxvilleascension.org](mailto:andrew@knoxvilleascension.org), to receive the periodic Ascension Trekkers newsletter.

### Justice Knox

If you attended the Justice Knox Action Assembly on May 6<sup>th</sup> or if you want to know more about the Assembly, please join us for a light lunch on **Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>, after the 10:00 am service** in the old transept of the parish hall. It's a great opportunity to hear what happened at the assembly, share your thoughts and talk about next steps for Justice Knox. If possible, please RSVP so we are sure we have enough food! See you on the 9<sup>th</sup>!

## Regular Meeting Times

- Mondays 7:00-8:00 pm, Milkshake Mondays at Cookout (321 Cedar Bluff Road)

## Milkshake Mondays are BACK!

**Every Monday from 7:00-8:00 pm** in the summer starting June 3<sup>rd</sup> the youth (rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade-recent graduates) will be welcome to meet GiGi at the Cookout (321 Cedar Bluff Road) to fellowship, share summer plans, and enjoy milkshakes. No need to RSVP, just show up! Contact GiGi with further questions.

## Hammock Hangouts

Enjoy breeze, hammocks, trees, and shade? Then one of our Hammock Hangouts are for you! A time of fellowship for our youth preceding our Milkshake Mondays will be available for our youth from 5:00-6:30(ish) on **Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>**, (weather permitting). BYOH (bring your own hammock) and water to our literal hang out.

## Video Game Nights

Join our High School Youth Assistant Davis Richards for video games of your choice on **Wednesday nights, June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, and July 24<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:00 pm**. Bring a snack or drink to share, your video game console, and games of your choice.

## High School Girls Pool and Pizza

High School girls (rising 9-recent grads) have been invited by the Mitchell family to enjoy some time with them at their neighborhood pool! **Pencil us in for Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm**. Wear a swimsuit and bring a towel and a change of clothes. More details to follow.

## Service Sunday with Seeds of Abraham

Seeds of Abraham is an interfaith youth group here in Knoxville and each month on a Sunday afternoon, they host a "Service Sunday," in which they support Knoxville's homeless population by preparing and distributing food during that afternoon. We will join them on **Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at their 2:00 pm meeting**. Check your bulletin in the weeks to come for more info.

## AYG Kickoff Event at the Change Center

We are planning to do our annual AYG Kickoff Event at the Change Center on the evening of **Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>!** They have a skating rink, as well as a climbing wall, etc. Details are still in the works so please check your bulletin in the weeks to come for more info.

## SUMMER DATE NIGHTS

### June 7<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup>, and August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Come drop off your kids to us for some summer fun and pizza while you head out to a night on the town. And don't forget to bring money for the pizza. RSVPs are due by 5:00 pm the Thursday before the event to:

[nursery16@knoxvilleascension.org](mailto:nursery16@knoxvilleascension.org)

## Musical Fun this Summer!

Kindermusik will be hosting a special summer event on **June 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-10:45 am**. The theme will be "Beach Bash". This is a class for babies and toddlers with a parent or other adult in their lives. Kindermusik has an award-winning curricula with world-class educators providing musical learning experiences during the years most critical to brain development. If you have thought about joining this class with your child but weren't sure, then come try it out. There is no cost for this summer class, but a donation is welcome. Karalyne Ley is our wonderful teacher and she loves her job and makes the class a lot of fun. So, join us for this event and see if you are interested in joining our fall classes. Pre-Register at [megan@knoxvilleascension.org](mailto:megan@knoxvilleascension.org) to attend.

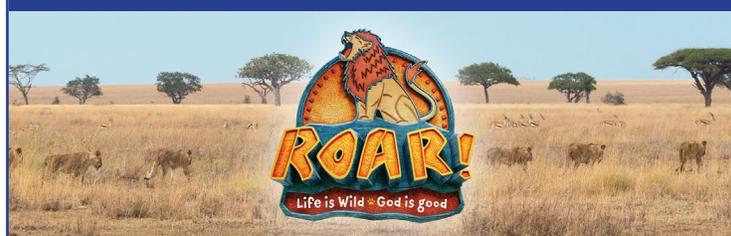
## Blessing of the Backpacks

Save the Date: Our Blessing of the Backpacks will take place on **August 4<sup>th</sup>** during the second service. Kids and Teachers come bring your school backpacks and bookbags to be blessed for a great upcoming school year. Start the year off right!

## "Choose Some Shoes" Shoe Drive

The "Choose Some Shoes" shoe drive will begin on **Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**. Leading up to the start of the new school year, we collect new closed toed shoes for the kids at White Oak School. It is a low-income area and these shoes mean a lot to the kids during their first week of school. All sizes are needed. There are about 160 kids at the school in PreK to Grade 8 at this school in Campbell County. Last year, we got around 130 pairs of shoes. We will have a collection barrel in the foyer to gather the shoes each week in July. Our last day to collect will be August 4 so we can deliver them that following week.

## 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!** The last night will feature the Crusin' Cone and a water slide. 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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