



Church of the Ascension

Voting Member List for the January 26, 2020, Annual Meeting – FINAL

Please address any related questions to either Warden or the Rector

Abbott, Andrew D.
Alexander, R. Gary
Alonzo, August
Anfossi, Janis
Avila, Joyce
Avila, Ricardo Antonio
Bacasmot, Kathryn
Baran, James J.
Bassford, Abraham
Berger, James Mark
Boitse, Brenton
Bridenstine, Rachel
Browning, Robert L.
Cisek, Scott
Clark, Michael Paul
Connaughton, Richard
Colomberti, Kelly
Cook, Judy
Cox, Beverley
Cox, Lawrence
Cozette, Kenneth C.
Devens, Mary Lou
Devens, Robert D.
Donnell, Patrick
Drury, James D.
Edinger, Marlea
Ehlen, Thomas J.
Evans, Marilyn
Farrell, Charles
Finlay-Frame, Paula F.H.
Flodin, William L.
Frame, Will
Galliher, Jonathan
Genet, Mary Eliza
Green, Claire
Greene, Kenneth F.
Hammer, Joel
Hammer, Lindsay
Hector, Avril
Hector, Lynette
Hedley, Joan H.
Hedley, John H.
Holt, Jana J.

Hwang, Mary Beth
Illás, Pablo
Illás, Pedro Pablo
Jacot, Jay F.
Johnston MD, N. Patrick
Jones, David DeWitt
Jones, Jenna C.
Kelling, Kenneth
Knitter, Scott R.
Kowalski, Mary Jane S.
Kowalski, Timothy Paul
Lawler, (Rev.) Gary
Lawler, John
Lenz, James A.
Lo Bello, James J.
Luery, Carter
Luery, Dana
Luery, Rodney E.
MacDougal, Charlene
MacDougal, Gary
Maceda, Arelys A.
Malone, Carnola
Malone, Michael Maleek
Martin, Ethel
McKee, Christopher
Minieka, Edward
Mulcare, John R.
Nelson, Burton Edwin
Nitka, Judy
Norén, (Rev.) Carol M.
O'Malley, Jeffrey
Opferman, Thomas G.
Parker, Grady
Perrizo, Cynthia Z.
Peterson, Cheryl R.
Peterson, Jay H.
Petite, (Rev.) Robert
Pineda, George
Rarick, Robert
Raymond, Christopher
Raymond, E. Brooke
Reeves, David E.
Reinert, Philip J.

Rivera, Alexia
Rivera, Benjamin
Roberts, Lindsay
Robertson, David Alan
Robinson, James J.
Sakai, Kunitoshi
Saunders, LaVerne Rollé
Saunders, Theodore D.
Schlough, Susan D.
Schrader, David D.
Seet, Jessica
Shepro, Richard
Sheridan, Robert P. P.
Smith, Betty B.
Smith, Michael-Francis
Smolinski, John
Sommers, Beth
Sommers, Samuel
Stanley, (Rev.) Gordon J.
Suratt, Robert (Beau)
Susman, Barbara A.
Taylor, Charles M.
Tracz, Richard Francis
Vales, Michael J.
Vara, Judy
Vara, Ralph
Vargas, Claudia Nineth
Vargas, Ingrid
Vargas, Luis R. Rolando
Vilaseco, Enrique
Walsh, DiAnne J.
Walsh, James
Weber, Elizabeth A.
Weiner, Susan
Wentz, Dennis
West, John A.
Wheat, Jonathan
White, David
Wilson, Catherine
Wilson, James T.
Zelazny, Amber
Zhao, Judy



***We especially welcome
those on the list to the
left and below who are
new Voting Members:***

Anfossi, Janis
Bacasmot, Kathryn
Colomberti, Kelly
Cook, Judy
Cox, Beverley
Cox, Lawrence
Hwang, Mary Beth
O'Malley, Jeffrey
Parker, Grady
Roberts, Lindsay
Seet, Jessica
Shepro, Richard
Sommers, Beth
Sommers, Samuel
Wheat, Br. Jonathan



CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

2019 Annual Report

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Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to
understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that
we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, from The Book of Common Prayer, p. 833

From the Rector

Dear people of Ascension,

Please join me in giving thanks...

- For all of the blessings we shared in 2019.
- For all who lead our various ministries, take pride in their leadership and share their achievements and thoughts with us in the pages that follow.
- For the nominees who have made themselves available for election to parish leadership.
- For our assisting clergy and all lay ministers and their diverse gifts willingly shared with all of us.
- For our Wardens and Vestry members and their quiet, hard work on behalf of all of us.
- For our Treasurer, Susan Schlough, whose few pithy pages of financial reports are only a small representation of her significant week-to-week efforts on behalf of all of us.
- For Br. Nathanael Rahm BSG, who keeps many things running smoothly during the week and who assembled much of this report.
- For all, named and unnamed in the pages that follow, who love God and Ascension and who devote their care, time and good works to sustain our ministries and mission.



The Rt. Rev. Patrick Raymond, Rector

O God, the King of saints, we praise and glorify your holy Name for all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear: for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all your other righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we pray that, encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In memoriam 2019



Thomas Holden



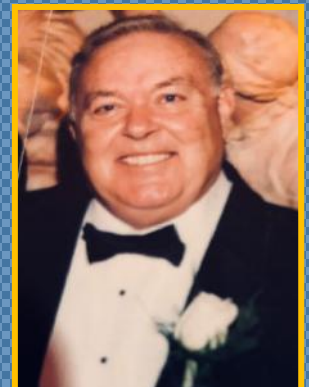
Ray Patrick



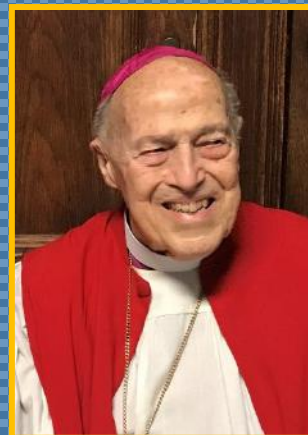
Dorothy Murray



Donnie Richmond



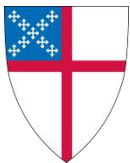
Michael Milano



The Rt. Rev. James
W. Montgomery, IX
Bishop of Chicago

Church of the Ascension
Annual Meeting of Sunday, January 26, 2020
Proposed Agenda

- I. Call to Order (during announcements, 10 a.m. Mass)
- II. Opening Prayer – Fr Alonzo Pruitt
- III. Appointments: Clerk, Parliamentarian, Chaplain, Tellers
- IV. Review and Approval of Agenda, with Amendments if Any
- V. Notice of Approval of Minutes from the January 27, 2019, Annual Meeting
- VI. Nominations & Election of Warden and Vestry Members
 - A. Report of Nominating Committee – Ken Kelling
 - Members will Elect One Warden (2-year term), and Three Vestry Members (3-year terms)
Warden nominee: Cheryl Peterson ***Vestry nominees:*** Kelly Colomberti, George Pineda, Enrique Vilaseco
 - B. Opportunity for Nominations from the Floor
 - C. Election by Acclamation OR Balloting
- VII. Nominations & Election of Delegates to the June 2020, Election of the XIII Bishop of Chicago
 - Members will Elect Three Delegates and, if enough candidates, an Alternate.
Nominees include: Gary Alexander, Patrick Johnston, Jay Peterson
 - A. Opportunity for Nominations from the Floor
 - B. Election by Acclamation OR Balloting
- VIII. Ministry Spotlight
- IX. Financial Presentation—Susan Schlough, Treasurer
- X. Announcement of Election Results (here or later if not yet available)
- XI. Newcomer Remarks & Responses
- XII. Bylaws Revision Proposals, Discussion, Vote.
- XIII. Warden’s Remarks: Gary Alexander, Cynthia Perrizo
- IXV. Leadership Recognition: Outgoing Warden and Vestry Members
 - Cynthia Perrizo (Warden), Claire Green, DiAnne Walsh (Vestry)*
- XV. Acknowledgement of Ministry, Program & Committee Reports, Leaders, Participants
- XVI. Open Mic (2 minute limit): Parishioner comments, questions.
- XVII. New/Old Business.
- XVIII. Closing Hymn (*Cwm Rhondda*, #594) and Prayer
- IXX. Adjournment



Information on Wardens and Vestry Members from the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago



FOR WARDEN

From Canon 19. “There shall be two Wardens who shall be Communicants in good standing, and who may be distinguished as Senior and Junior, although all duties belong equally to both, and both shall be held responsible for the performance of such duties. The Wardens shall see that the Church is provided with a Bible ... and Prayer Books and Hymnals.... It shall also be their duty to provide the fair linens and the elements of bread and wine for the celebration of the Holy Communion; to procure proper vestments and vessels; and to cause the alms and other offerings of the people to be gathered in decent basins provided for the purpose. The Wardens shall have care that the Church Building be kept from all secular or other uses not authorized ...; that it be kept in good repair and clean, and that the premises around be in proper order. It is the duty of the Wardens to preserve order and decorum in and around the Church Building on all occasions whatever, and especially during the time of Divine Worship, and to admonish persons guilty of any unseemly levity or rudeness. In case there is no Rector, or in case of the Rector’s absence or inability to act, the Wardens according to seniority shall preside at all meetings of the Vestry and of the Parish.”

Leadership. Standards and expectations for Wardens are included in our parish bylaws. A Nominee for Warden should have previously served on the Vestry to insure his or her familiarity with the operation of a Parish, and must be faithful in attendance at Mass and in the practice of good stewardship.

FOR VESTRY

From Canon 20. “The Vestry shall consist of the Rector ..., the duly elected Wardens, and the duly elected members of Vestry. The Rector shall preside at all meetings.... In case of the Rector's absence from a meeting of the Vestry, or if there be no Rector, one of the Wardens (in the order of their seniority if both Wardens are present) shall preside at such meeting. The Vestry shall transact all the temporal business of the Parish; shall see that all things needful for the Public Services are provided; shall collect and disburse all moneys due for Church purposes; shall provide that ... officers be suitably appointed and faithfully discharge their duties; shall pay with punctuality ... the stipulated salaries of the Rector and others; shall inform themselves of all collections required by the Canons of the Diocese, and of assessments which may be imposed by the Convention, and take measures for the due and prompt liquidation of these obligations; and before the close of each fiscal year of the Diocese the Vestry shall collect ... a sum sufficient to liquidate all the current expenses of the Parish. The Vestry shall ... cause to be written and delivered to the Rector... a statement of the temporal condition of the Parish.... The said statement shall set forth what money, lands or other property have been received during their time of office, and from what source, what money has been expended, and for what objects, and what property has been purchased, exchanged or mortgaged, and for what purposes.”

Additional information may be found in the Ascension Bylaws, available for review by any parishioner.

Our Nominating Process

An *ad hoc* Vestry Nominating Committee, ably led by Ken Kelling, with participation by the Wardens and Rector, met a number of times starting in October, 2019. In November and December, by way of the newsletter and announcements at Sunday masses, parishioners were invited to self-nominate or propose others. We were and are blessed with a sense of promising candidates and with individuals, willing to serve and lead, who said ‘Yes!’ Our bylaws allow for nominations from the floor of the annual meeting. Floor nominees must a) be Voting Members, b) be present at the meeting, c) consent to nomination, and d) be supported by two or more fellow Voting Members.



Nominee Information and Statements

Following are responses provided by nominees to standard questions on the nomination form.

WARDEN

CHERYL PETERSON

Employment/Profession: I am retired; I was formerly a DCFS grant administrator for the Children's Justice Task Force and for the development of Children's Advocacy Centers throughout the state.



Number of years at Ascension: I have been a member at Ascension since 2007.

Present and past Activities at Church of the Ascension: From 2010 until 2017, I served two terms on the Vestry and was Clerk during 2015-2017. I am a member of the Flower Committee and the Finance Committee and serve regularly as an usher and lector. During the past two years, I have coordinated our nursery program; and I taught Sunday School for several years when Ascension had an active youth membership. Most recently, I have served as Buildings and Grounds chairperson and I am delighted by the considerable renovations, restorations, and beautification that have benefited our properties along LaSalle Street from Elm to Maple. One of my current and ever-developing interests is in the area of pastoral care and in promotion of the Sharing Lunch, Sharing Blessings monthly gathering. I hope to continue with this group as it evolves throughout the coming year.

Activities in former parishes: As a member of Trinity Church in Jacksonville, I was a member of the choir, a substitute organist, and director of the children's choir. I also helped with the Christmas luncheon and book sale.

Present or past Diocesan activities or community/volunteer leadership: I was a representative to the Chicago Diocesan Convention in 2011 and 2013. During the spring of 2018, I participated in the Spiritual Care Visitor Training offered by Bishop Anderson House and remain active in its alumni group. For the past 6 years I have been a member of the Board of Directors for the Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois, serving on the Executive Committee as secretary.

Share briefly why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry's leadership in the coming year. I am inspired by the positive spirit and substantial accomplishments of the Vestry in recent years. It is a joy to me that our clergy and lay leaders have worked steadily together to foster collaboration and communication and to create opportunities for spiritual growth and financial stability. And it is truly exciting to observe the modest but very welcome ways in which our parish is growing and engaging with visitors and new members. I hope to work with our Rector, the Vestry and parishioners to further develop lay leadership opportunities, increase our outreach and hospitality to people in our neighborhood, encourage Christian formation activities for children and young adults, and expand our ability to promote the mission of Ascension within the Diocese and within our community. I ask Almighty God by the grace of the Holy Spirit, to "fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" (BCP, p. 817)

THE FOLLOWING ARE FOR 3-YEAR VESTRY TERMS

KELLY COLOMBERTI

Employment/Profession: Receptionist

Number of years at Ascension: 1½ years

Present and past Activities at Church of the Ascension: Part of Ascension

Connections team, initiated and helped organize Open House Chicago, occasional pantry assistant.

Activities in former parishes: serving hot dinners weekly at All Saints.

Present or past Diocesan activities or community/volunteer leadership: 'Ministry for the Common Good' conference, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, Jan. 2020.

Share briefly why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry's leadership in the coming year. I see great potential in the spirit of Ascension and its parish to further achieve unity within itself and partnership with our community. I would love to strengthen my Christian spirit by bringing energy and fresh ideas to the church, and to help make responsible decisions in its maintenance. A church with such history and presence deserves caring leadership, and I would be proud to contribute to that.



GEORGE PINEDA

Employment/Profession: Verizon

Number of years at Ascension: 2

Present and past Activities at Church of the Ascension:

Lector, Altar Server, Society of Mary - Lead, Flower Guild, & Event Volunteer

Activities in former parishes:

Choir Member (Baritone/Bass), Cantor, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Usher AGLO member (LGBT Outreach) & Holy Name Cathedral Filipino Network Member (Outreach)

Present or past Diocesan activities or community/volunteer leadership:

AT&T Pioneers-Volunteer Organization -IL Chapter President, managed 2000+ volunteers

Share briefly why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry's leadership in the coming year. Serving at the Church of the Ascension has been fun and an honor thus far. But to be invited to serve officially to be a Vestry member is extra special to me. Why? This is because of the following reasons –



-
- **Share my Project Manager (PM) Skill-Set** - As a professional PM, I can share my time in managing church projects (big or small), run meetings and/or look for opportunities to improve processes.
 - **Share My Creative Mind** - Being creative is second nature to me. I have great ideas and would like to collaborate on these ideas with anyone to make the Church of the Ascension a better place. Sharing these ideas sustains and encourages church members to be more active and promotes participation of church activities.
 - **My Ability to Get People Engaged** - Having been a member at the Church of the Ascension for more than 2 years now, I see more and more people who are interested in church activities. As a member of the Society of Mary, we have been able to engage more of our members to participate in church activities; such as praying the Rosary, attending mass and other social church functions to name a few. I would like to continue this outreach and grow church members' involvement. This could also influence/result to increase church's membership.

If I am elected, I promise to continue serving the Church and I hope that I will not disappoint you! Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy for the Vestry. Cheers!



ENRIQUE VILASECO

Employment/Profession: Orchestra Director/Educator

Number of years at Ascension: 2 +

Present and past Activities at Church of the Ascension: Served on the Vestry and at the altar, as crucifer, acolyte and thurifer. Recently I have been participating more in order to support the parish in preparation for and during Jim Lo Bello's upcoming absence.

Activities in former parishes: Before Ascension, I was only occasionally active in the Church since my youth.

Present or past Diocesan activities or community/volunteer leadership: (See above.)

Share briefly why you would like to serve on the Vestry and/or your vision for the Vestry's leadership in the coming year. I would like to serve so that I can connect better with our parish community. My hope is to contribute a positive approach to any issues that might arise and to offer as much help to resolve and overcome challenges within our parish community. I would love to see our membership grow and to embrace while always embracing our current membership. I would love to see more open inclusion of all who seek to join us regardless of education or financial status, I would love for us to embrace diversity and to open our doors to all who seek Christ. I would also love to encourage more musical and educational opportunities at our church.



JUNE 20, 2020 BISHOP ELECTION DELEGATES

GARY ALEXANDER. I felt luck to participate in the diocesan convention that elected Bishop Griswold back in the 1980s. Many of the same qualities that impressed and inspired me about Bishop Griswold as a candidate are what I would look for in a new bishop: a compelling and inspiring preacher; a priest with a deep respect for tradition and Anglo-Catholicism as well as an understanding of the ways the church can be present and relevant in the wider world; a bold proponent for social justice; the capacity to be both a good pastor for clergy and laity alike; someone who respects and will support the important role that campus ministry plays in the future of the church; someone who respects the importance of intellectual rigor in theological education.



PATRICK JOHNSTON. As a cradle Episcopalian, I have a great love for the church and feel a responsibility to see that she remains a beacon of hope, charity, love and strength for those who would seek God in this way. A bishop should be an Apostle of Christ. We should elect a bishop who emulates Christ; not one who seeks election out of a sense of entitlement or to seek personal prestige. I will keep an open mind, and vote as I am moved by the testimony, the history and the actions of the candidates.

JAY PETERSON. I believe that there are at least four vital qualities which the 13th Bishop must possess. 1) An administrator who has wide experience in managing a large energetic congregation with attention to finances and expertise in conflict resolution. 2) A pastor who relates easily with various cultures within our Diocese and who can appreciate diverse preferences. 3) A homilist who can encourage reflection on Christian theology and inspire sympathies for current worldwide and local concerns. 4) A liturgist who acknowledges that there are multiple historic forms for communicative corporate worship. I would be particularly interested in a candidate who has precise ideas for continuing to invigorate the Church. I myself feel well-qualified to serve as a Church of the Ascension lay delegate. As a musician, primarily an organist, I have worked under the guidance of four rectors and have witnessed the work of four bishops. I currently serve as organ associate at Christ Church Episcopal in Winnetka and have been a member of Church of the Ascension since 2007. As part of these experiences, I have noticed various qualities among clergy who have encouraged multiple successes and some failures. I would welcome the opportunity to help call a Bishop who would likely strengthen a community of faith in the Episcopal tradition.



WARDENS' REPORT

As we looked back over the last year, we were both impressed by how much the parish was able to accomplish. Some of the items on the list below were highly visible and obvious and some more behind-the-scenes but no less significant. In either case we thought it was worth sharing what we, as a parish, were able to do together:

- Restoration and refurbishment of our magnificent pipe organ
- Ongoing excellence in our liturgy—our splendid service of Lessons and Carols, a truly worshipful Holy Week and Easter; our fine holy day observations including Ascension Day, Michaelmas, the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin, and Epiphany and the week-in, week-out beauty of our liturgy.
- The restoration and tuck-pointing of the sanctuary arch and the refurbishment of the high altar and sanctuary lamp.
- An uptick in our average Sunday attendance.
- Growing in community with one another through cultural and educational outings with Ascension Connections and Sharing Lunch Sharing Blessings.
- An upgrade to our heating and cooling systems and ongoing maintenance of our aging infrastructure as well as a completely resurfaced parking lot
- A reinforced commitment to our food pantry ministry and the smooth transition to new leadership
- The integration of women clergy into the liturgical life of the parish.
- A refreshed commitment to welcoming LGBTQ members and visitors.
- Outreach to the increasing number of younger congregants and to supporting young families by providing professional Sunday morning nursery care.
- The designation of David Schrader as Organist Emeritus.
- Welcoming seminarian David Knox and his ministry.
- A revived Society of Mary.
- Participation in Open House Chicago which demonstrated both pride in our parish on the part of more than a dozen parishioners who volunteered and interest in who we are as evidenced by the 500 people who passed through our doors that weekend.
- Gathering of a working committee to attend to the outdoor columbarium which is in need of refurbishment/replacement.
- Hiring of a part-time verger to help plan, coordinate, and oversee the liturgical life of the parish on Sunday mornings and Holy Days.
- Keeping God's People Safe—all continuing members of the vestry have undergone this training and we are now working to ensure that all parishioners in leadership roles are in compliance with diocesan policies on this important topic.



Continued ...

- Staffing—with encouragement of the wardens, Father Raymond undertook to ensure that all members of the Ascension staff now have written job descriptions and up-to-date contracts.
- An increase in the number of pledges made to the parish, including 11 new pledges.



As part of a Vestry meeting last summer, Father Raymond asked each member of the vestry to write a prayer for Church of the Ascension. In deep gratitude for affording us the opportunity to serve as your wardens and by way of looking forward to the year to come, we thought we'd share the prayer that Gary wrote, below.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Perrizo, *Senior Warden*
Gary Alexander, *Junior Warden*

"Almighty God, source of all strength and hope, guide the people of Ascension that we, trusting in your never-failing mercy and confident in the redeeming grace of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, may be continually grateful for the many gifts you have bestowed on this parish family and also emboldened and courageous in sharing those gifts with our neighborhood, the wider church, and the world, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord."

Seminarian Report, David Knox, Fall 2019

Dear People of Ascension,

It has been my joy to be among you during the Fall semester as I continue my studies at Nashotah House. Thank you for being patient with me as I have come to know your names and a little about you. Thank you for participating in the activities in which I have been involved. I appreciate all the feedback. I hope it contributes to making me a better servant of Christ and the Church.



I look forward to continuing my learning and ministry among you this next semester. If there are particular activities or topics for teaching or discussion in which you would be like to participate, please speak to me or Fr. Raymond. I am here to serve you and the Church in any way that I can. I keep the people of Ascension in my prayers, and want us all to grow together in our knowledge of and love for Jesus. I truly sense that the Lord is doing something special in this place at this time, and I hope and pray that our souls are ready to receive what gifts the Spirit has for us this year.

In Christ's love,

David Knox

Other ministry reports are found following the financial presentation and bylaws material.

Treasurer's Report – 2019 Financial Highlights

- Notable features of our 2019 income and spending:
 - » The Vestry approved total expenditures of \$907,359 when the budget was developed and we spent \$957,360
 - » Pledge and plate giving [both parishioners and visitors] was \$10,168 more than anticipated
 - » Contributions to the food pantry were \$6339 more than anticipated
 - » Building Fund contributions were \$41,992 more than budgeted as a result of a special fund drive for the unexpected organ renovation Phase 3
 - » Building Fund withdrawals were \$17,388 higher than anticipated
 - » Capital work on the church [including organ] and rectory was \$110,331 more than budgeted; some unexpected carryover from 2018 and some unanticipated work
 - » Disbursements from the Stoskopf Trusts were \$58,470 less than anticipated as explained in the bullet below
- Every year we meet expenses by withdrawing monies from our endowments. We use a 12-quarter average value and the Vestry sets a spending percentage before developing the budget. If there is an emergency that comes up during the year, the Vestry can vote to increase the amount spent.
 - » General Endowment, unrestricted: 3.9%
 - » Ruhling Heating & AC Fund: 6.4% [by special vote]
 - » Baar Music Fund: 2.0%
 - » Gaines Altar Linens & Furnishings Fund: 0%
 - » Ekner Repairs & Maintenance Fund: 2.0%
 - » Building Endowment: 23.2% [by special vote]
- We again invested in our physical plant to be good stewards of the property:
 - » We completed Phase 2 and the unexpected Phase 3 of the organ renovation
 - » We completed the interior masonry work in the Sanctuary, replaced heating and cooling units, completed work on the parish house lower roof, and completed lighting upgrades to reduce energy usage
 - » We completed work on the rectory roof and replaced the rectory back porch and stairs
- The William and Alice Stoskopf Trusts provide regularly monthly contributions to our income. In addition, we normally receive extra payments in the Fall called “distribution deficiency payments”. These come after all taxes and fees are paid and ensure that the Trusts disburse 5% of their beginning-of-tax-year balances. These payments were delayed in 2019 due to a tax extension filed by the Trustee. We now expect to receive the payments by March 15, 2020.

Counters and Check Signers

- Our process requires that people other than myself and Beth Cole [our bookkeeper] count the cash and checks each week, and that there be two signers on every check we issue. We have parishioners who faithfully come to do this, and our system would collapse without them.
- Thank you to the 2019 counting teams and check signers:
 - Claire Green, Jay Jaycot, Mary Jane Kowalski, David Reeves [counters]
 - Jay Jacot, Jim Lo Bello, Cheryl Peterson, Mike Vales [check signers]
- If anyone is interested in volunteering for the counting effort, please contact me directly.

Susan Schlough, Treasurer

3-YEAR SPENDING VIEW

	2018 ACTUAL	2019 ACTUAL	2020 BUDGET
Operating Income			
Plate & Pledge	\$133,204	\$134,141	\$108,320
Stoskopf Trusts	\$439,830	\$333,287	\$390,180
Endowment	\$70,843	\$190,820	\$228,856
Bequest Income	\$5,410	\$29,826	\$5,700
Other	\$102,566	\$81,501	\$101,500
Total	\$751,193	\$769,575	\$834,556
Non-Operating In- come			
Building Fund	\$55,500	\$177,247	\$103,625
Outreach + Pantry	\$11,406	\$12,895	\$5,959
Total	\$66,906	\$190,142	\$109,584
Total Income	\$818,760	\$959,717	\$944,141
	2018 ACTUAL	2019 ACTUAL	2020 BUDGET
Expenses			
Work Outside Parish	\$95,659	\$100,820	\$108,366
Clergy Support	\$210,937	\$218,124	\$248,633
Worship	\$10,722	\$17,509	\$31,482
Music Program	\$144,837	\$150,549	\$158,562
Christian Education	\$354	\$5,464	\$8,240
Other Programs	\$13,671	\$14,616	\$20,501
Administration	\$90,610	\$86,581	\$103,594
Maintenance	\$150,012	\$143,358	\$178,182
Capitalized Repairs	\$99,254	\$215,331	\$69,002
Total Expense	\$816,056	\$952,622	\$926,562

Pledging for 2020

- Pledging is up from last year

- Three-year overview:

» In mid-January of **2018**, we had 61 pledges in the amount of **\$102,583**

» In mid-January of **2019**, we had 57 pledges in the amount of **\$86,145**

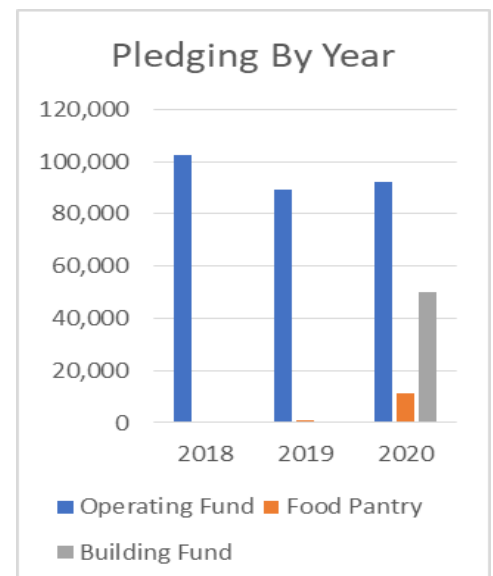
» By the end of **2019**, we had 60 pledges in the amount of **\$89,120.00**

- We collected 92% of the pledged amount

» In mid-January of **2020**, we had 65 pledges. Most people pledged to the general Operating Fund. Some pledged to the Food Pantry, others to the Building Fund.

- Operating Fund pledges: \$92,409
- Food Pantry pledges: \$11,200
- Building Fund pledges: \$50,000

Thank you to everyone who has pledged. It makes financial planning much easier.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION-MODIFIED CASH BASIS, P. 1

	Dec 31, 19	Dec 31, 18
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1010 · Bank of America		
1011 · Operating Checking		
1011.1 · Operating Fund	28,454.83	27,710.01
1011.11 · Building Fund	0.00	2,422.74
1011.2 · Columbarium Fund	32,011.00	31,011.00
1011.3 · Society of Mary Fund	0.00	120.00
1011.4 · CD Recording Fund	130.00	130.00
1011.6 · Altar Linens & Furnishings Fund	1,536.33	7,604.99
1011.75 · Sunday Flowers	2,000.00	0.00
1011.8 · Other Special Offerings Fund	531.56	192.86
1011.9 · Food Pantry Fund	0.00	2,101.00
Total 1011 · Operating Checking	64,663.72	71,292.60
1012 · Operating Payroll	33,796.60	25,684.63
1013 · Savings Account	5,642.75	1,478.23
Total 1010 · Bank of America	104,103.07	98,455.46
1051 · Rectors Discretionary Fund	5,832.41	6,204.00
Total Checking/Savings	109,935.48	104,659.46
Other Current Assets		
1100 · Vanguard General Endowment		
1110 · 500 Index Fund Admiral	3,474,179.80	2,659,909.37
1120 · Long Term Bond Index	934,054.61	784,472.08
1140 · Wellington (Ruhling)	1,008,566.74	871,310.66
1160 · Wellesley (Gaines)	39,356.73	33,814.08
1170 · STAR (Baar)	25,812.51	21,535.76
1180 · Federal MM Fund	6,076.07	120,133.19
Total 1100 · Vanguard General Endowment	5,488,046.46	4,491,175.14
1200 · Building Endowment		
1210 · 500 Index Fund Admiral	251,027.62	260,005.48
1220 · Long Term Bond Index	181,686.29	152,590.45
1240 · Wellesley (Ekner)	103,226.51	90,396.86
1250 · Federal Money Market Fund	18,162.16	60,030.10
Total 1200 · Building Endowment	554,102.58	563,022.89
1300 · Beneficial Int-Stoskopf Trusts	9,964,992.95	8,430,016.16
1400 · Interest in Mineral Rights	16,730.61	17,570.42
Total Other Current Assets	16,023,872.60	13,501,784.61
Total Current Assets	16,133,808.08	13,606,444.07

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION-MODIFIED CASH BASIS, P. 2

Fixed Assets	Dec 31, 19	Dec 31, 18
1500 · Property and Equipment		
1501 · Church and parish house	5,797,963.00	5,797,963.00
1502 · Furnishings-Church&parish hall	870,439.93	870,439.93
1503 · Church&parishhouse improvements	745,268.38	566,775.56
1504 · Fine Arts & stained glass	845,000.00	845,000.00
1505 · Columbarium improvements	5,865.00	5,865.00
1506 · Convent	930,802.00	930,802.00
1508 · Rectory	898,747.00	898,747.00
1509 · Rectory improvements	317,543.00	280,705.00
1510 · Coach house	316,709.00	316,709.00
1512 · Garage	20,563.00	20,563.00
1590 · Accumulated Depreciation	-4,150,756.71	-3,875,316.77
Total 1500 · Property and Equipment	<u>6,598,143.60</u>	<u>6,658,252.72</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>6,598,143.60</u>	<u>6,658,252.72</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>22,731,951.68</u>	<u>20,264,696.79</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
24000 · Payroll Liabilities		
24010 · Pension Liability	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,088.00</u>
Total 24000 · Payroll Liabilities	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,088.00</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,088.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,088.00</u>
Total Liabilities	0.00	2,088.00
Equity		
3000 · Opening Balance Equity	21,316,936.12	21,316,936.12
3200 · Unrestricted Net Assets	-274,447.44	1,442,678.75
3300 · Change in Vanguard Fund Value		
3310 · Vanguard Earnings	509,567.72	345,007.91
3320 · Market Gain/Loss	1,344,445.29	419,115.93
3330 · Withdrawals	-570,025.58	-468,087.42
3300 · Change in Vanguard Fund Value - Other	<u>-485,131.35</u>	<u>-485,131.35</u>
Total 3300 · Change in Vanguard Fund Value	798,856.08	-189,094.93
3400 · Change in Values Stoskopf	944,191.83	-590,784.96
3500 · Change-Mineral Right Interests	-839.81	0.00
Net Income	<u>-52,745.10</u>	<u>-1,717,126.19</u>
Total Equity	<u>22,731,951.68</u>	<u>20,262,608.79</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>22,731,951.68</u>	<u>20,264,696.79</u>

Church of the Ascension
Proposed Bylaws Revisions – January 2020

Revision I: Vestry Member Vacancies

The Existing Provision:

8.3. Vacancy “In case of a vacancy among Vestry members, the Vestry shall, elect a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.”

Proposed Revision:

8.3 “In case of a vacancy among Vestry members, the Vestry may elect a replacement to serve until the next Annual Meeting, at which time any remainder of the originally elected Vestry Member’s term shall be filled by Nomination and Election.”

Rationale for Proposed Revision:

The proposed revision a) does not require the Vestry to fill a vacancy in the event (for instance) of a vacancy only a month or two before an Annual Meeting, and b) allows the congregation to elect a new Vestry member to fill the remaining one or two years in a vacated seat.

Revision II: Vestry Absenteeism

The Existing Provision

Section 9.5. Absenteeism. Any Vestry Member who is absent for three consecutive regular Vestry meetings is deemed to have resigned from the Vestry. Any Vestry member who is absent for more than six regular Vestry Meetings in one year is deemed to have resigned. A replacement Vestry Member shall be elected by the Vestry in accord with Section 8.3.

Proposed Revision:

Section 9.5. Absenteeism. In the event that a Warden or Vestry Member is absent for three consecutive regular Vestry meetings or if absent for any six regular Vestry meetings in a 12-month period, that Warden or Vestry Member may be deemed to have resigned. If not already known, the Rector, or a Warden or Vestry Member designated by the Rector, shall inquire about the cause or causes of the absences. The Vestry, being apprised of the matter, may then, with or without that Warden’s or Vestry Member’s participation or consent, elect to accept that Warden’s or Vestry Member’s resignation. A replacement Warden or Vestry Member may be elected by the Vestry in accord with Section 7.3, if a Warden, or Section 8.3, if a Vestry Member.

Rationale for Proposed Revision:

In each of the past two years, at least one member of the Vestry missed three consecutive meetings. In 2018, a member missed due to an extended health matter. In 2019, a member missed a number of meetings due to a sequence of family commitments and work scheduling conflicts. In both cases, the Vestry as a whole felt that the individuals were still able to positively contribute to Vestry leadership. The Proposed Revision reflects the Vestry’s actual handling of Vestry absenteeism and the recommendation of the 2019 Vestry.

2019 Attendance Report

Attendance records for Sunday worship services are mainly kept by ushers. Figures for each service are entered into a formal register kept in the priests' sacristy. The annual Parochial Report required of all Episcopal congregations asks for 'Average Sunday Attendance,' defined as the average of all persons of any age or role taking part in all Sunday worship services (whether mass, daily office, Evensong & Benediction, Lessons & Carols or other) over the course of a (secular) calendar year.

Average Total Sunday Attendance All Services

Sunday morning and afternoon services, Easter Vigil

2018: 103 2019: 106 Change: +3%

Average of Sunday Morning Services Only

Morning Prayer and masses at 8am, 9am & 11am

2018: 93 2019: 95 Change: +2.5%

Average Attendance by Sunday Service

Average for...	2018	2019	Change	2019 high	2019 low
Morning Prayer	4	5	+25%	8	3
8am Mass	7	8	+15%	11	4
9am Mass	19	18	-5%	24	13
11am Mass	63	64	+2%	91	41
4 pm Service	50	52	+4%	142	13

Average Seasonal Attendance: Sunday Mornings

Average for...	2018	2019	Change
New Year to the Sunday before Memorial Day	94	87	-7.5%
Sundays from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend	91	91	0%
Sunday after Labor Day through December	88	104	+18%

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

- Book of Common Prayer, page 235

For what it's worth ...

Attendance for ...	2018	2019	Change
Easter Vigil	66	68	+3%
Easter Morning	151	160	+6.5%
Easter Total	217	228	+5%
Evensong & Benediction AVERAGE (7 services)	30	32	+8%
Michaelmas Celebration ¹	124	142	+15%
Lessons & Carols ²	112	98	-12.5%
Christmas Eve	93	90	-3%
Christmas Day	58	60	+3%
Christmas Total	151	150	- 0.5%

¹ Michaelmas 2018 was a 'Deanery Celebration' and welcome of Mother Erika Takacs; 2019 was Schrader recital & Bishop visit for organ rededication.

² Lessons & Carols 2018 was 2nd Sunday of Advent; 2019 was 1st Sunday of Advent (Thanksgiving weekend)



MINISTRY & PROGRAM REPORTS

Acolyte Report

Our dedication to beautiful liturgy here at Ascension is undoubtedly one of our gifts: for me, and perhaps for many of you, it is something like a taste of heaven on earth. My service as Verger commenced in November 2019. Since then, I have had the privilege of learning from Jim Lo Bello and working alongside vestry members and experienced volunteers as I take on various tasks that enable the service of our team of acolytes. I am delighted to report that we have recently welcomed a number of newer acolytes, whom you may have seen serving at the altar alongside dedicated longtime servers. We do welcome your additional assistance, and we hope to offer training opportunities in the near future to include more of you in what we do and advance the abilities of those who already serve. I am thankful for your service and support!



Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Hwang, *Verger*

Ascension Archives Report



Having a dedicated space in the coach house has allowed for better organization in a more archive-friendly environment. Thanks in large part to Dr. Norén's leadership, knowledge and steady work, many important archives have been examined, organized and moved here from a diaspora that included a musty space below the church nursery.

The most exciting archives project this year was involvement in Open House Chicago. We gathered photographs that reflected the church's history and had brief explanations of each photo. These were mounted on a timeline in St. Michael Hall for OHC visitors to enjoy. We need to continue documenting the evolution of our entire campus, so that the timeline and our larger history reflect more of what is happening in the 21st century. New members may not be aware that we *have* archives, or where they are located. The archives room is in the small, southwest room on the second floor of the coach house behind the convent.

There are two current archives projects. The first is making a more complete inventory of what we have, and making it available to you and others. This is a work in progress; the inventory is about sixty pages long as of this writing. The second project is adding to our DVD and oral history collection. We now have many of the 'major feasts' video-recorded. We hope to add interviews with long-time members to create a richer sense of what Church of the Ascension has been in the past, and, by the grace of God, it may become in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol M. Norén, *Archivist*

Ascension Connections Report

Ascension Connections sponsored four events in 2019. In January, a group met at Loyola University Museum of Art to see a special exhibition “The Art of the Season” featuring works by David Lee Csucsko. Also on display were creches from LUMA’s vast collection. Parishioner Marlea Edinger, a docent at LUMA, lead the group. A trip to Argo Tea followed.



In March a group went to a concert at the Cultural Center, part of the Myra Hess Concert Series. Lunch at Miller’s Pub followed.

Then in April, a group went to ShawChicago to see *The Doctor’s Dilemma* directed by Jr. Warden Gary Alexander. A discussion followed between the group, the actors and our guest, The Reverend Jackie Cameron. The theme of the discussion was ethics in medicine when resources are scarce.

The final 2019 event was a concert and picnic in Millenium Park. More events are planned for 2020. Suggestions are welcome. Watch for Ascension Connections happenings in upcoming TWAAs.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Perrizo

Flower Guild Report

The Flower Guild is an important and rewarding ministry. We help to beautify the church for the glory of God by purchasing and arranging flowers on the High Altar and on the three shrines throughout the church. Parishioners donate flowers to be dedicated at a cost of \$80 for the High Altar and \$30 for each shrine. At Easter and the Advent and Christmas season, the Flower Guild creates the beautiful displays to adorn Ascension. We are a team that works well together and has fun as we perform our creative duties.

The Flower Guild is looking for new members. You don’t need to be skilled, just be ready to have fun and create the floral arrangements requested. We will train you if necessary, and you can work in teams or alone. If you would like to join our team, just contact me or one of our members.

I would like to thank all that belong to the Flower Guild for their dedication and artistry. Our members are Avril Hector, Lynette Hector, Carol Noren, Cheryl Peterson, George Pineda and Marlea Edinger.

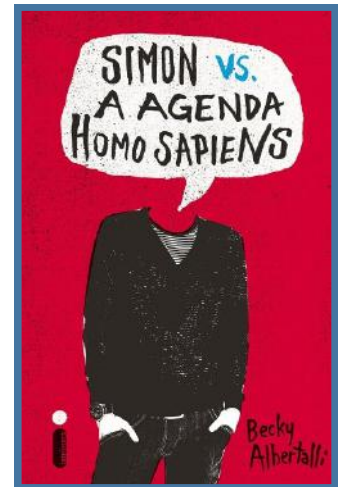
Respectfully submitted,
Claire Green, *Chairperson*



Book Group Report

The Ascension Book Group tends to follow the academic year of September to May. For the 2019-2020 term we have been and will be exploring books that have a broad variety of themes that concentrate on the rise and struggles of a middle class America, yet always remain exploring Christian messages and themes. The books for the 2019-2020 season are as follows:

Becky Albertalli (b. 1986) *Simon vs The Homo Sapiens Agenda* (2015)
Louise Erdrich (b. 1954) *Future Home of the Living God* (2017)
Charles Brockden Brown (1771-1810) *Edgar Huntley* (1799)
Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888) *A Merry Christmas: And Other Christmas Stories*
John Steinbeck (1902-1968) *East of Eden* (1952)
Edgar Lee Masters (1868-1950) *Spoon River Anthology* (1915)
John Updike (1932-2009) *Rabbit, Run* (1960)
Lewis Sinclair (1885-1951) *Main Street* (1920)
Mark Twain (1835-1910) *Life on the Mississippi* (1883)



We meet one evening each month or on Sunday after church for book discussions. Although we are a small group, the discussions can be quite lively at times. Due to the advance of the Internet and social media, our book group titles have made it out into the cyber-world thanks to TWAA. I have received emails from members of book groups from other congregations that are following our selection list to see what we are doing and have even received suggestions for new titles from them.

I receive emails or am told comments by parishioners that they are keeping up with the titles we are reading, and even reading some of the titles along with us, but do not participate in the discussions. To that I can only say that our discussions would be far richer with you there, but keep following along if you cannot make it anyway. Sometimes members have not had enough time to read every title through; by participating in the discussion anyway it has occasionally given them the push to finish reading it the rest of the way through.

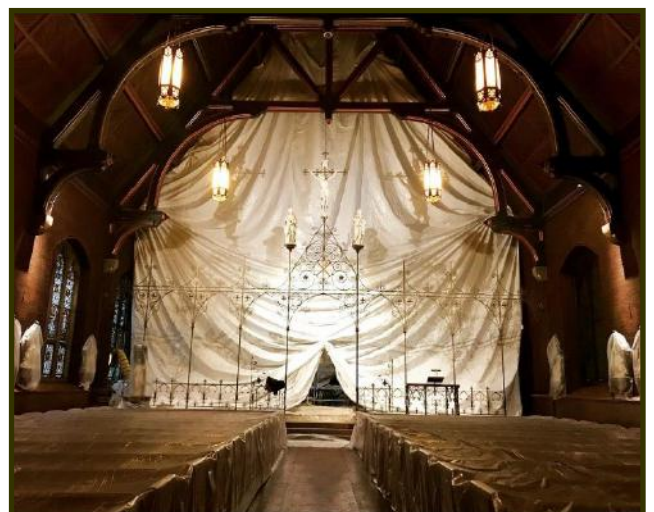
We have not yet decided on a theme or book titles for the 2020-2021 season, so if there are any suggestions, get them to me or any Ascension Book Group member and we will consider them. It has been suggested and is a good idea that we have individuals moderate for an individual book title that may be near and dear to his/her heart. That would be great. Just let me know and we will follow up on that.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Kelling

Building & Grounds Report

The Buildings and Grounds Committee continues to invest in the improvement of church properties, including the church building proper, parish hall, rectory, coach house, the garden and surrounding grounds. Several major projects were completed in 2019, some of which were authorized in 2018.

The major accomplishment of 2019 involved rehabilitation of the sanctuary arch and the walls surrounding it. Touchstone, Inc. was engaged to: 1) remove unsightly efflorescence of the mortar and completely re-mortar the brickwork of the front wall and arch; 2) repair a large crack at the top of the arch and strengthen the brickwork; 3) replace deteriorated brick in the north wall; and 4) repair crumbling plaster above the arch and repaint this wall all the way to the peak. The work was completed during February 2019.





All at Ascension were alarmed to learn that, as the altar was being covered in preparation for this repair work, the top of the altar spire fell and shattered. The Chicago firm of Daprato Rigali was on site the next morning and was retained to repair the altar which was fitted with a new top (using crushed and reformed marble from the original) and completely cleaned in March 2019.

Other accomplishments during 2019 include:

New and improved lighting throughout the interior of Wheeler Hall, St. Michael Hall, and all areas of the parish hall.

A new flat roof for the lowest section of the parish hall (entrance hall) and new shingles, roof and gutters for the rectory;

Installation of a new air conditioning unit for Wheeler Hall and the Library; these units are mounted on the wall and the A/C condenser is located on the roof; old window units were removed.

Complete repaving and re-striping of the Ascension parking lot—an amazing improvement. New thermostats for the church to control heating and A/C. New technology required a major revamping of the sensor system.

Garden planting and beautification, including tree removal near the columbarium and reworking of the mulch system on the LaSalle Street tree lawn. Many generous donations of plants, as well as design services and labor, have been made seasonally by JW Landscapes.



Due to a partial collapse last summer and resulting safety concerns, the exterior stairway to the 3rd floor of the rectory and all landings were demolished, removed and completely rebuilt.

Marco Patricio works 4-5 hours on Thursdays, cleaning throughout the buildings. He also does outdoor trimming and other garden projects as needed. His work ethic and friendliness are greatly valued.

Volunteers at spring and fall workdays assist with flower and bulb planting, leaf raking and special interior projects.



Buildings and Grounds involves a group effort. Many thanks to: Mike Vales, co-chair, Claire Green, Jim Lenz, Jim Lo Bello, and Rachel Bridenstine. Special thanks to George Panice, facilities manager, for his expert attention to needed repairs. B & G is grateful to Fr. Patrick Raymond for his steady commitment and leadership. Our Church of the Ascension properties have many needs. We welcome the energy and interest of those who might join the committee or invest in a special time-limited project.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Peterson, Chair

NOTE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT:

WITH CHERYL PETERSON'S LIKELY
ELECTION AS SENIOR WARDEN,
ASCENSION WILL NEED A NEW
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS CHAIRPERSON ...



Fall Harvest Meal 2019 Report



The 2019 community meal was named Fall Harvest Meal and was served on Sunday, November 24 to approximately 125 attendees. We also served 100 take-away meals. 60 parishioners and friends of Ascension contributed funds, set tables, and on November 24 prepared and served meals and hosted our guests. Parishioners donated 12 of the 21 cooked and carved turkeys, and Luis Vargas contributed aluminum baking pans, and seasonal table decorations (stored in the kitchen for next year). The Vestry budgeted \$700, and allocated \$350 of church funds, toward the meal. The meal cost \$977.50 according to an accounting summary. The event planners raised additional funds via published requests. Father Patrick and others rounded out the final dollars to cover the short-fall. It is recommended that budget be raised to \$1,000 for 2020, and that we try to increase parishioner-donated turkeys to 20. The purchase of 10 turkeys from Jewel in 2019 was at a cost of about \$350.00.

- David Robertson & James Baran, 2019 Planners

St. Anthony of Padua Food Pantry Report

Dear Sisters & Brothers of Ascension:

Over the spring and summer the coordination of the Food Pantry shifted from the very capable hands of Susan Schlough, who led the pantry for a very successful nine years to myself. I have spent time thinking about how we might do a few things differently. To that end we have shifted to a different food supplier who can deliver directly to us, and have adjusted our spending on some items as well as placing orders on-line. As an example this past month we were able to afford toilet paper, which will now become a regular item in our bags. We continue to distribute 156 bags of groceries, sack lunches & toiletries to people in our neighborhood. We have also been blessed by a regular set of volunteers who have been very supportive of the small changes that have been made so far, and have welcomed new faces to our ranks as well. We are always looking for more volunteers to support this ministry, many hands make light work as we continue to put Faith into Action at the Church of the Ascension! I am happy to talk with anyone about what we are doing, and am very open to suggestions as to how we might improve our Food Pantry moving forward.



Deacon Charles Farrell

Lectors Report

"So they read from the book, from the law of God ... They gave the sense, so the people understood the reading." Nehemiah 8:8

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been so diligent in providing their service to Church of the Ascension as Lectors. This is a wonderful ministry, where any of the laity can contribute to the Eucharist. We currently have 19 lectors. If you are interesting in reading the lessons at the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. masses, at Evensong or on Special Days, please let me know. Again thanks to all, especially 9 a.m. lectors who work so diligently because of the limited lectors available.



Respectfully Submitted,
Avril Hector

2019 WAS A WONDERFUL YEAR for the Choir of the Ascension. We presented 13 Mass settings that I had not previously conducted at Ascension, including



U.S. premieres of works by John Tavener and Thea Musgrave, and works by Langlais, Stravinsky, Pärt, and others. We also presented many new-to-us motets and Evensong canticles in settings not heard at Ascension for years. It may be interesting to learn that many works newly added to our repertoire are those by Byrd, Palestrina, and others from centuries past. Because these composers were so prolific, there are still many pieces that haven't made it into our library! It is always my goal to balance the expected with the unexpected, with newer music and newly-discovered older music mixed in with the tried and true works that form the backbone of our repertoire. We have also changed the musical status quo for the summer High Mass somewhat, by incorporating more SATB Sundays and training and using the treble voices in the singing of the Gregorian Propers. We continue along this path in 2020 with great appreciation for your continued support and attendance at Mass. - Benjamin Rivera, Choirmaster

Music Report from the Organist

2019 was a banner, indeed a once-in-a-generation year for the Schrader Organ. 2019 saw the completion of the major, three-phase **Organ Restoration Project** – consisting of (I) the replacement of sliders and slider-motors, cleaning of associated electrical contacts, toeboards, chests, etc.; (II) the removal to the shop and restoration/rebuilding of all 480 reed pipes, as well as a complete tonal finishing of the instrument; and (III) the installation of all-new electronics in the console, MSP (Master Stop Processor) and additional couplers, relocation of stops and expansion of the organ's aural scope. Originally, the Vestry had approved a two-phase project, but the complete failure of the organ's console about an hour before the Assumption Day Mass on August 15 resulted in the Rector's and Vestry's approving an additional third phase: the new console and attendant work. The work was completed by our longtime curators, Berghaus Pipe Organ Builders, Inc. of Bellwood, IL, whose craftsmen and experts were practically 'resident' at the parish for long periods of time and did an excellent job.

The Restoration Project was gloriously capped off with a huge celebration on our Patronal Feast, Michaelmas, Sept. 29, highlighted by a spectacular Re-Dedication Recital by **David Schrader**, who was named *Organist Emeritus*, in gratitude for the myriad glories he has brought to our parish during his service here as Organist from 1980-2015.

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam
David White, Organist



Open House Chicago

In 2019, Ascension participated for the first time in Open House Chicago, an annual event sponsored by the Chicago Architecture Center (CAC). On October 19 and 20, selected host sites across the city were open to visitors. Kelly Colomberti promoted Ascension as CAC decided who would be invited.

Once Ascension was selected, Kelly, Cynthia Perrizo, Jay Jacot and Carol Norén prepared our campus for visitors, creating an illustrated timeline, map of the nave, and cards identifying art works. Thirteen parishioners served as docents and provided hospitality. David White offered four organ demonstrations and Benjamin Rivera conducted an open choir rehearsal. St. Anne's Convent offered tours. They had 131 visitors; the church had 500 visitors. A CAC volunteer commented, "Wow! You have one of the best-organized sites I've seen!"

The event was a tremendous success. Some of the Saturday visitors returned to attend mass on Sunday. Ascension has already been invited to participate again in the coming year. Many visitors commented, "I've walked by here many times and always wondered what was inside." Now they know.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Perrizo



Pastoral Care and Lay Eucharistic Visitor: Ken Kelling

Each week I regularly visit several individuals who reside in nursing care or assisted living facilities. My focus is on individuals who have either no living relatives or have relatives who do not live in the Chicago area and/or no one to look in on them. I spend quality time with them for two hours or more per individual. Sister Barbara Drell from the Sisters of Saint Anne has been accompanying me on one of those weekly visits. During the prayer portion of the visit, we follow the church's weekly Solemn High Mass program and recite some of the prayers and readings to prepare for receiving communion. If another resident should be near by, such as in the nursing home, and asks to participate, we welcome that individual to share in our prayers and to receive communion if a baptized Christian.



This year two of those parishioners to whom I had been ministering and with whom I had been spending time for a number of years have passed away. The nursing homes were very helpful in making things run smoothly after their passing. They had funerals held at Church of the Ascension.

Continued ...

Since one of the parishioners was to be interred outside of Illinois on the East Coast, at the direct request of the family and with the permission and assistance of our Rector, I drove out to Burlington, Vermont with the individual's ashes in August and had the honor to lead the graveside interment ceremony, which was very well attended by his family.

I distribute approximately between three and five communion hostia per week. I meet with our rector regularly as needed to give a report on my pastoral activities and to let him know how the individuals are doing whom I visit.

If I receive a specific request from a parishioner or from a family member or from our rector, I do make other pastoral visits to hospitals and rehabilitation facilities as needed. I have helped parishioners with rides to and from the doctor or the church as needed and occasionally run errands to do some minor shopping.

I work very carefully with the doctors, nurses, and other hospital or nursing home staff in order to serve as a vocal advocate for any of our parishioners in need.

If a parish member needs pastoral care for a family member, or for himself/herself when in a hospital, rehabilitation facility or any other situation, one needs only ask and I will do my best to provide whatever pastoral care is needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Kelling, Lay Volunteer Chaplain & Lay Eucharistic Minister

Sharing Lunch, Sharing Blessings

The Sharing Lunch, Sharing Blessings (SLSB) group was formed in October 2018 and meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month following the noontime mass. During 2019, the group met 9 times—January through June and October through December. The group enjoys a meal together, and its participants look forward to a time of informal conversation and fellowship. Each meeting has a theme and includes a time devoted to scripture, psalms, prayers, and personal reflections. In February we began a ministry of sending birthday cards out to all of our parishioners as well as others who identify as friends of Ascension. This ministry has increased our outreach and has connected us to many individuals who affiliate with the parish from afar.

This group will continue to grow and evolve as we reach out to additional members and to some of our neighbors. It is encouraging to experience the spiritual growth that has occurred through listening, learning, caring, sharing and prayer. Volunteers to help with lunch preparation or programs are always welcome, and special requests for favorite meals are honored. Carol Noren, DiAnne Walsh, David Reeves, Mother Judith and others are devoted helpers and cooks. Fr. Raymond and assisting clergy have offered special support with their faithful presence.

I continue to visit about 4 parishioners who are unable to attend church on a regular basis. Some visits occur on a weekly basis, others less frequently. This particular activity offers many rewarding experiences, and I encourage other Ascension members to reach out with spiritual care for those who are in difficult circumstances. I remain actively engaged with other alumni of Bishop Anderson House and its Spiritual Care Visitor Training which I completed in 2018.



Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Peterson

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer, page 817

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Church of the Ascension

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