

Church of the Ascension
2026 Vestry Election

Greetings! My name is Dorothy DeCrescenzo; I've been a member of Church of the Ascension since 2015. I was formerly the Associate Manager of the New York Botanical Garden's museum store, and am recently retired. Since I found Ascension I've been involved in the following activities:

Studied: Education for Ministry for two years

Volunteered: Voices of Ascension, Haunted Church and the Food Pantry

Contributed: Lenten Reflections and the Advent Calendar

Hospitality: Coffee Hour, Shrove Tuesday, Harvest Dinner

Apart from Ascension:

Studied: Alpha Course, St. John the Evangelist, Duxbury, MA

Daughters Of Abraham Interfaith Book Club, Wellesley, MA

Served: St. Paul's Kitchen, Brockton,

Angels in the Kitchen, Duxbury, MA

Prepped/Delivered: God's Love We Deliver, NYC

My friend Ned Fitch spoke highly of Ascension when we worked together. After having left New York and moving back 13 years later, I began "church shopping." One Sunday evening I attended the Meditation and Sacrament Service and knew that I had found my spiritual home. The overwhelming beauty of the physical church combined with the intimacy of the service felt transcendent!

Attending the 11:00 service affirmed my feelings: the liturgy was inspiring, the choir incredible, the sacred space and magnificent windows dazzled in daylight, and clergy as well as congregants were so very welcoming at coffee hour. When I began attending on a regular basis, I realized how caring and committed to fellowship Ascension was; I felt truly embraced as a valued member of this beloved community. I also love House Eucharists, and hope to host one in the near future.

I volunteered this past Halloween for Haunted Church; we had over 2,000 visitors. My vision for Ascension would include reaching out to engage those families to the degree that we could offer

Sunday school classes to a large group of children, while their parents fill the pews - thereby growing our congregation. I also would love to see an interfaith component introduced, either through a book club such as Daughters of Abraham, or another venue that would support understanding and respect among the three Abrahamic faiths - perhaps partnering with NYU's religious studies department.

My years of customer service in retail and wellness are an extension of my passion - which is hospitality. Nothing makes me happier than connecting and providing joyful, memorable experiences - whether it be in my professional, personal or spiritual life.

Frederick Buechner wrote in *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." We have so much to offer, and I would be honored to contribute my time and talent in a more meaningful and productive way.