

# ASCENSION TIDINGS

## SUMMER 2014

### Summer at Ascension

Welcome summer heat! On page three and four, you will see my reflection on Easter and the School Auction. As much as I like the slower pace of summer, I miss seeing you when you are traveling and vacationing. Come and pay your Rector a visit at church and say hello when you are around. The family and I will be venturing to Wyoming for a bit this summer as well. You will notice a format change in the Tidings. We are combining May, June and July into one large newsletter. It gives you an overview of the summer, and gives our staff a small reprieve.



### May

#### Fertile Ground Workshop May 17<sup>th</sup> - 9am - 4pm to discern our future

Ascension is in a very good place. We are stable and secure, but we have the potential to make an even greater impact for the Kingdom. What is that impact? I believe the Holy Spirit wants to give us a new vision for our potential at Ascension about how we can welcome new and different people into our midst. This *fertile ground workshop* is one small step for listening to the Spirit's movement at Ascension.

Denise Trevino of the Diocese of Texas will be coming on May 17<sup>th</sup> to facilitate. This is ***not outreach and mission work***. This is expanding the Ascension family. We are working to create a space where multicultural people are welcome in worship. Denise is the head of the intercultural ministry at the Diocese. If we are going embrace our Gospel identity, we, as a whole community, will need to do some deep thinking - about our mission field and how to authentically make room for fellow disciples at Ascension. Please RSVP starting May 2nd on the church website with who in your family is coming, especially number and ages of your kids. We will have activities for them throughout the day.

If you think this is a great initiative or terrible, we want you to help us discern the future of Ascension's identity.

#### Mother's Day and Children's Choir

Let me give you a taste of what is also happening in May. Mother's Day, Sunday May 11, is around the corner and we will celebrate those who are mothers to us. ***Children's Choir*** will be making its maiden voyage in church on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am service. First rehearsal will be in the school choir room on May 4th at 11:45am. We have met the minimum number and are excited about getting started. As such, RSVP'ing is not necessary, but still helpful. You may drop in to the May 4th rehearsal, but please be committed to attending all rehearsals and singing in church on the 25th. (RSVP - [HERE](#) )

## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR...(CONT.)

### **Ascension Day and School**

Come out Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> for the school/church celebration of Ascension Day at 7pm. The AES kids will be singing and we will have Ascension Day scriptures, sermon, and prayers. May 14<sup>th</sup> is the school's volunteer appreciation day, and May 18<sup>th</sup> is the AES Graduation ceremony. Also come out Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> for the school book fair.

### **Adult Education – Rector's Class**

We will wrap up the Revelation class at 9:30am on May 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Sunday School on Memorial Day weekend, and on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> two weeks series on planning your funeral, end of life issues, living wills, power of attorney, etc. Don't put it off, plan your funeral, it is a big gift to your family. Even if you are 30 and single, this is good work to do. We will hand out planning forms and have some hands on work for you to do. You might just have fun thinking about scriptures and music for your memorial. After Pentecost we will have lectionary study in the Parish Hall.

## June

### **Graduate Sunday and Whitsunday**

June 1<sup>st</sup> is graduate study. We would like to honor those who have studied hard and completed their program. It can include high school, college, welding school, nursing school, or whatever formal course of study the graduate has completed. Please send Paul Belk [newcomers@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:newcomers@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org) any biographical information you would like included in the bulletin for this Sunday.

June 1<sup>st</sup> is also Whitsunday. It is a day where we invite Ascension to support the Episcopal Endowment Fund. Should you choose to give, there will be white envelopes available that day. The "Episcopal Endowment Fund" (Canon 16) is administered by the Church Corporation Trustees with net earned income to apply to payment of the salary of the Bishop of the Diocese. It applies as revenue support toward the Diocesan (Assessment) Budget.

### **A Woman's Heart, God's Dwelling Place – Women's Bible Study by Beth Moore**

Starting on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm Diane Baker and Sarah Berrie will be leading a 10 week women's group. It is open to all women both church members and women in the community. Explore the fascinating account of the building of the Old Testament tabernacle, the significance of its intricate design, its pivotal role in God's eternal plan, the grand fulfillment of its purpose by Jesus Christ, and its variety of meanings for your walk with God today.

### **"33 The Series" - Men's Group**

"33 the series" is a study of biblical manhood on Wednesdays from 7:00pm to 8:40pm at church. It has begun and continues through summer. There is an optional \$15 study guide. If cost is ever an issue, the church will scholarship the material. You may join at any point.

### **Parents' Night Out**

Our last PNO of the school year will be on June 7<sup>th</sup> with a "wet and wild" theme. Bring a change of clothes and towel because we will have lots of water games. We continue to need volunteers for the Fall. If you are interested, contact Robi at: [youth@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:youth@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org). Children's safety is at the core of our commitment to your children. Those who work with kids undergo a three hour training called Safeguarding God's Children.

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### **Pentecost Sunday / Happy Birthday Church and Rector's Open House**

That same weekend is the Sunday morning Pentecost celebration (June 8<sup>th</sup>) with décor and special snack, wear your best (maybe only) red clothes. We will have a birthday cake for after the 10:30am service. Later that day, on Pentecost Sunday afternoon, come to our Rector's Open House at the Bryant home from 4:30pm -6pm. We will have a water bouncy (bring a change of clothes and towel), adult beverages and snacks for all ages.

### **Father's Day**

June 15<sup>th</sup> is Father's Day. It will be a time to honor the people who have been father figures to us.

### **Summer Bible Study, Breakfast and Sunday School**

On Pentecost Sunday we will be moving to continental breakfast for Sunday breakfast. There is no Sunday School on Memorial Day weekend (May 25<sup>th</sup>). Youth and Children's Sunday School will be moving to a combined schedule at 9:30am on Sunday mornings starting on Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Kidventure**

You don't know what to do with you kids over the summer? Send them to Kidventure at Ascension. You can register week by week and there are aftercare options as well. The first camp week begins on Jun 9<sup>th</sup>. Register [HERE](#) or go to the front page of the church website (button near the bottom left of the page).

### **Summer Choir**

Starting Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>, we will start our "Summer Choir", that means you don't have to come to Wed rehearsals to sing on Sundays. There will be no rehearsal beginning on Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup>. You can come just for Sunday warm-up and sing in church. Regular Wednesday rehearsals return on Aug 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **July**

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### **Independence Day**

Independence Day Celebration will have patriotic music in worship on July 6<sup>th</sup> (the Sunday after Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>) Come ready to sing loud and proud.

### **Yoga**

Yoga is happening throughout the summer. Come out on Thursday at noon. Polly would love to see you.

## **Fall**

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Looking further ahead we will have our next Newcomer weekend in the Fall. And as we move back into to gear, we will have Sunday School Kickoff, Hat Day, Return of Hot Breakfast, Fall Sunday School, Fall Children's Choir, and a Rector's Open House. We will have a "Food for the Poor" speaker coming on September 21!

### **Easter and School Auction in Review**

### **Easter Weekend**

Our Saturday Family Fun Day (day before Easter) was superb. Lots of new families came out. Twenty units of blood were collected for MD Anderson. There were five "deferred" meaning they will give blood, but

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could not at the time. Easter Day was excellent. It was the largest crowd we have had since I have been here. Combined total for both services was 360. The music was crisp and powerful. It was a delight to have 39 kids in Children's Chapel and more for the Egg hunt. The energy and joy hung with me for days afterward.

### School Auction

Thank you, thank you to all who supported the Auction. Kimberly Bryant and Ann Seitz worked tirelessly for an excellent auction. The Auction team was more effective and had more volunteers than ever. One person who came said that he has been to countless fundraisers in his career, and AES was the best run auction he has been to. The gross total was \$58,000. Even after expenses are figured in we will have exceeded the 40K net goal. See details inside.

Thank you all for your commitment to ministry and to the future growth of our church. I pray for safe journeys to all who are traveling this summer, and look forward to seeing you soon.

Peace,



Pastor Todd Bryant

## NEWCOMER CORNER

As we enter the summer time heat, trying to remember what temperatures below 90 degrees were like, I am excited for the energy we've had this spring. Ascension has welcomed a number of great newcomers into our growing church community. Each person is adding her or his specific gifts and presence that we so vitally need to minister in our neighborhood. Let's keep up our inviting and warm welcoming spirit as the temperatures start to skyrocket!

Beginning May 10th on each second Sunday, we will be holding a drop-in class during the 9:30am Sunday School hour for any visitor (or longtime member) who would like to know more about Ascension. This time will be hosted by our Newcomer Minister, Paul Belk. Think of this time as a snapshot of the larger Get-to-Know-Ascension Weekends.



Our next Get-to-Know-Ascension Weekend will be held in the fall. This Friday evening and Saturday morning retreat serves as our membership class. At the end of it, you are fuller a member of the Ascension family and will have the option to be confirmed into the Episcopal Church before one of the Bishops during his or her next visit. Start looking for a save the date announcement sometime later this summer.

## Fertile Ground in a nutshell

We will explore Cultural Competent Leadership Skills. This is taking a look at things that we think people need in today's fast changing world to be more effective and inclusive leaders. Then we will follow with learning RESPECT Guidelines which is foundation of how we will be in community together for the day. We'll move into learning and practicing a tool called Mutual Invitation and get a chance to practice it thru Bible study and at other times in the day. This is a tool that helps up to learn new ways to make sure everyone has been invited to speak without interruption. It's a subtle tool that helps us to neutralize environments when one or two people usually do all the talking and others remain silent.

Then we will study culture both from an internal and external perspective and explore what it means when churches have their own internal and external culture and what that is like for newcomers coming in. We'll then explore different communication styles and get a chance to learn more about our own style and those around us.

Also, we will begin exploring power in our own lives and from a church context. There will be some small group work with "Photo Language" and others that will help us explore our own internal culture and those of other cultures.

Please see the following for an informational brochure sent by the Diocese.

### the Seeds for Leadership in a Changing World



By Eric H. F. Law

#### Respectful Communications Guidelines

- R** = take RESPONSIBILITY for what you say and feel without blaming others
- E** = use EMPATHETIC listening
- S** = be SENSITIVE to differences in communication styles
- P** = PONDER what you hear and feel before you speak
- E** = EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions
- C** = keep CONFIDENTIALITY
- T** = TRUST ambiguity because we are *not* here to debate who is right or wrong

#### Our Mission Statement...

The mission of our Intercultural Ministry is to serve the Episcopal Diocese of Texas in its vision to embrace all people in mutual love and respect. The Office strives to make the Diocese One Church reconciled by Jesus Christ and work towards a vision of the Kingdom of God which includes all people. It is the goal of this office to teach our church communities to respond faithfully to the call to be inclusive of all cultures and people.

#### Our Commitment To You...

Every participant will be met with grace and without judgment. We invite you to come with an open mind and heart for a new and valuable learning experience.

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas recognizes The Fertile Ground Project as fulfillment for racism awareness training mandated by General Convention. Six CEU's are awarded. (3 professional , 3 personal)





# The Fertile Ground Project



**The Fertile Ground Project** is a workshop designed to introduce us to new ideas, theories and skills in order to help us build more diverse communities.

Rooted in the Gospel, **The Fertile Ground Project** helps us to affirm our individual cultures and helps us to positively engage another person's culture. Participants will find that this workshop addresses many complexities facing the church today with grace and respect.

**The Fertile Ground Project** is a shorter version of the Kaleidoscope Institute's multicultural competency training developed by The Rev. Eric Law, an Episcopal priest. The workshop addresses issues surrounding cultural sensitivity, power struggles, differences in communication styles and other areas that affect how we relate to one another.

**The Fertile Ground Project** invites you to come learn how to build a more diverse and inclusive community that achieves a healthier balance of power, communication, respect

## Prosperous Community We will...

- Explore self-awareness and a deep understanding of our own cultural values, strengths and weakness.
- Explore our differences as opportunities, rather than obstacles.
- Renew our commitment to listening to different understanding of issues while still being able to make faithful decisions.
- Engage in active theological reflection on diversity issues as they relate to our self, others, and our community.
- Learn appropriate skills, models and theories that will increase the inclusiveness of various situations.
- Learn new ways to guide and support our community to move toward change faithfully in response to our changing environment.

- Assumptions we make about others.
- What it means to be a competent leader in today's world.
- Explore our own cultural makeup.
- Recognize communication styles.
- Understanding perceptions of power.
- Study stages of intercultural sensitivity.
- Practice respectful communication guidelines.
- Ways to facilitate dialogue thru a process called "mutual invitation."
- Experience group sharing and discussions.



Office of  
Intercultural  
Ministry  
Episcopal Diocese



## DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Having worked in public education for so long, spring was such a hectic time that summer would always just seem to sneak up on me and arrive before I'd know it. That's kind of how I'm feeling now. Really – it's almost summer? The school year is actually almost over? Wow. As anxious as I'd be for some "down time", I always had a running list in my head of all the things that I didn't get done, and all the things that I wanted to do for the next school year. My mind is doing that now, as well as I having a few ideas of things I'd love to put in place for the kids and families of Ascension. That means new opportunities for you to serve in Children's Ministry, and I hope that many of you will join me. The kids of Ascension are simply the best!



Although the school year is over, children's Sunday school will continue to meet throughout the summer. We'll be learning about many of the stories and characters of the Bible, and incorporating lots of art and games. You might even find us meeting outside sometimes, enjoying the bright sunshine and beautiful weather!

Looking ahead to the fall – I am excited to be starting an **"EYSeedlings" group for our children in 2nd through 5th grades.** This will be a junior youth group that will serve three purposes, community service, Bible study, and fellowship. First is to give the kids a chance to learn more about God and his call to us in serving others. The second is to help them learn more about the Bible. The third reason is to help them to get to know each other and bond as a group, so they feel the church is a kind of "home away from home" where they always find acceptance and a place they know they belong.

This group will hopefully become a great source of friendship, and will just naturally flow into the senior youth group when they reach sixth grade. They'll have mission opportunities as well as fun social outings. I'll need some enthusiastic adults to help lead this group... I'll need you.

I hope this summer will be a joyous season for all of our Ascension families, and that you all have many opportunities to make some wonderful memories. As always, feel free to come join us any Sunday morning for Sunday school! You might have so much fun that you'll just decide to stay!

### **Summer Sunday School Teachers Needed!**

I am very blessed to have an incredible group of teachers and assistants to work with during this school year. They have faithfully created wonderful lessons and activities to help lead our children and youth into a deeper understanding of God and our Christian faith. I would love to be able to give them all a much deserved break during the summer months so that they'll want to come back next year to do it all over again!

Thus, I'm looking for volunteers to serve as teachers or assistants during June, July and August. If you have always wanted to work with our Sunday school department, but weren't sure if it was a good fit for you ...summer is the perfect time to try us out! Many families go on vacations making classes much smaller and much more relaxed. You won't have to search for lessons – all lessons and activities are provided for you! All you need to do is familiarize yourself with the week's lesson so that you are ready to lead. We will form a rotation as no one is expected to teach every week, and will absolutely work vacations. The more volunteers I have, the larger the rotation! Interested? Likewise, if you want to teach every Sunday, I am more than willing to accommodate. Please email, or call Robi Lasiter, or just come talk to me after any service.

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## **Ministry Opportunities**

As I stated before, Children's Ministry continues on throughout the summer.....so if you enjoy working with our kids, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to do so!

**Sunday School** will continue on its normal schedule throughout the summer. I'm looking for a few good people to help teach our children from June to August (flexible scheduling available to work around vacation schedules!) Curriculum and materials will be supplied.

**Parents' Night Out** will hold its final night of the school year on Saturday, June 7th. I want us to go out with a bang, and will need lots of adult and high school-aged volunteers to help the children of our church, school and community usher in summer. The more volunteers we get the more children can attend. This

All volunteers must go through the Safeguarding God's Children program. If you are interested in helping with either of these events, or in working with our children and youth in general, please see Robi Lasiter so that we can get you registered.

## **Safeguarding God's Children**

We will be holding a Safeguarding God's Children training in August, before the start of the new school year. If you are interested in joining us in any of the ministries involving children or youth (including Sunday school, youth programs & mission work, EYSeedlings, PNO, etc.) and have not yet been through the Safeguarding program, please contact Leslie Nirider ([membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)) Robi Lasiter ([robilasiter@gmail.com](mailto:robilasiter@gmail.com)) who are able to enter you into the system. Doing this now will allow you plenty of time to complete the online process prior to the training so that you'll be good to go!

Please also contact us if you are already certified, but believe that your 5 year re-certification might be coming due. We can check on the date for you, and make sure you are included in the training, as well. We will be checking our records this summer for those whose certification is coming up, even by several months. So if you don't know, or aren't sure, we may be contacting you. If your certification is up in November, recertifying before the school year starts will certainly be less hectic.

## **PNO ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Parent's Night Out will be June 7th.**

Come out and celebrate the beginning of summer with us. Join us for the last one of the school year, but bring a change of clothes and a towel!! This PNO is guaranteed to be wild and crazy. Activities haven't been confirmed yet ,but there will probably be water balloons, splash pools, and other wildness. Registration will open the Monday after memorial day and close on June 5th. Please remember to bring:

- Swimsuit, or clothes that can get wet and muddy (Because you know where there is water...there will be mud.)
- Towel
- Change of Clothes
- Bag to put wet stuff in (we will have extra grocery sacks, but probably not enough to go around)
- Dinner (probably to be eaten picnic style, so the water stays outside!)

**And Label EVERYTHING!!**



## MEMBERSHIP

The first Quarterly Statement for 2014 has been mailed. It is a good time to check to see if we have your pledge recorded correctly. Please don't hesitate to contact Leslie Nirider at the church office 713-781-1330 or via email to [membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org) if you have any questions or corrections.

What else does the Membership office do? We try to keep track of current contact information for all of our members. Did you change your email? phone number? Did you celebrate a birth or marriage? You would be surprised at how many birthdays we do not have listed. This is a great time to review your information and consider whether you have any changes in contact information you have been 'meaning to' report to the church.

You can fill out an information card in the pew and drop it in the plate or contact us by telephone or email. It won't be long before hurricane season returns and Ascension wants to be able check on our members in the event of a natural disaster.

Faithfully,  
Leslie Nirider  
Membership

### A Reminder

Whitsunday, (aka Pentecost) is the day designated by Canon, for the Diocese of Texas to ask each parish to make an offering to the Episcopal Endowment Fund. This year, Sunday, June 1 is Whitsunday and Ascension will participate by collecting voluntary offerings for the Diocesan Endowment. If you wish to contribute, there will be white offering envelopes available to designate your gift to the fund. Checks may be made out to Ascension, with a note in the memo line "Episcopal Endowment" or Diocese of Texas. Ascension will record your donation and write one check to the Diocese. You may also write your check to the Diocese of Texas and the church will send it to them. Thanks in advance for your stewardship; reserving funds today for a stronger future for the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas.

## NEW BIBLE STUDY OFFERING

### SUMMER EVENING BIBLE STUDY FOR LADIES

*"A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place"*

*by Beth Moore*

***Tuesday, June 3-August 12***

***DVD***

***6:30 – 8:15 PM***

***Study Questions***

***Parish Life Meeting Room***

***Discussions***

***INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!***

***To Register: Diane Baker, 281-497-4222, [cbaker@hal-pc.org](mailto:cbaker@hal-pc.org)***

***or Sarah Berrie, [berriesj@gmail.com](mailto:berriesj@gmail.com)***

***\$18 material fee***

***(As with any Bible study, if the fee is what prevents you from attending, please speak with Fr. Todd about scholarship.)***

## ASCENSION SCHOOL

Dear Parishioners,

We are always surprised at how soon the last month of school arrives. It is always one of the busiest months of the year.

Our Spring Book Fair is on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. It will be open from 9 am until 11 am for parishioners to purchase books for summer reading. Come and see all our Book Fair has to offer.

On Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate Mother's Day with Chapel at 9 am and a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Our Book Fair will still be open to see at that time.

We will honor our volunteers on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, with a morning coffee and light breakfast. This will be in the Parish Hall from 8 am until 9:30 am. We will have a coffee bar to serve your favorite morning refreshment; there will be tea and hot chocolate in addition to coffee.

Our annual Ascension Day Program will be on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Church. Come and join us as we provide music for this special day.

Our Fifth Grade students graduate on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm in the church. There will be a reception in the Parish Hall after the ceremony.

On Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, we have our Awards Chapel for grades 1-5. This is held in the church for all students and families to attend.

Our Fifth Grade class goes to Port Aransas on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, returning on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Our last day of classes is Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, with a 12:15 dismissal. Our ELP Program is open all summer; Kidventure will join us on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, for a summer of fun and learning. It is great to have them back for the 4<sup>th</sup> year. The camp has grown so we should see more campers this summer than we have in the past years.

We will spend June and July getting ready for our August return, Open House on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, and our first day is Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to the 2014-15 school year.

Faithfully,

Nancy Clausey  
Head of School



### Book Fair, Sunday May 4th

Ascension Episcopal School is hosting their Spring Book Fair for all of our avid young readers. The church's contributions to the Fall Book Fair were as always amazing! It was our best year yet. So, whether you are young or young at heart, be sure to stop by on Sunday, May 4th, in the Parish Hall from 9:00 AM to Noon. It will also be open Monday May 5th through Friday May 9th, from 8:15 AM to 3:00 PM.





# EASTER ACTIVITIES

Thank you to all those who gave a lily and those who donated to underwrite the brass. Please take a moment to look at the wonderful pictures from such a great day.





## AUCTION RECAP!

Auction night was so much fun thanks to our wonderful volunteer team and so many families who came out to support us. A BIG thank you to the entire AES and Ascension Church communities!

Here's a RECAP in a snapshot:

- There are a few more school-related auction items still available. (See below for more information.)
- Our GROSS total was about \$58,000! We will know our net soon, but it will be well above our goal of \$40,000. Thank you!!
- Class Participations numbers are in! One (1) class made 100%, but others came close.

We are extremely grateful to everyone for your interest, energy, time and support. The auction is a huge event, made possible only by having such a fantastic community of families.

### Last Auction Items - Ends Friday, May 2nd! First come, first serve!

There are a few more school-related auction items left. We want to give you all one last chance to sign up for any of the spots. Here's what we have:

- Name the Toddler Playground: \$100
- Lunch at Dairy Queen with Mrs. McDonough & Mrs. Durham on May 6th - 3 spots left!: \$50 each
- Lunch at Crespo's with Mrs. Smith on May 7th for one (1) more 1st grade student: \$50
- Popeye's Picnic at AES hosted by Preston Boyd for 3rd - 5th grade students (on a Friday in May) 6 spots available: \$15 each
- Popeye's Picnic at AES hosted by Gaby Boyd for 1st - 2nd grade students (on a Friday in May) 3 spots available: \$15 each
- Wear Whatever You Want Day! (9 spots available) May 8th: \$50 per child
- Wear Whatever You Want Day! (2 spots available) May 22nd: \$50 per child
- PreSchool Class Project - Digital Scrapbook (unlimited): \$75
- PreSchool+ Class Project - Digital Scrapbook (unlimited): \$75

If you would like to grab one of these options for your child, please turn in check or cash to Donna in the AES office. Indicate what you are buying. First come, first served! Ends Friday, May 2nd at 6pm.

Thank you for an amazing year working for AES and our children! Please see our picture collage on the next pages.



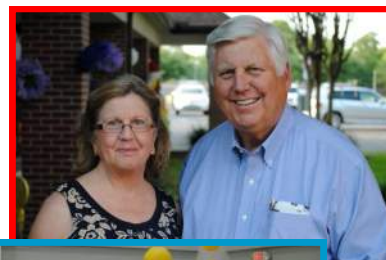
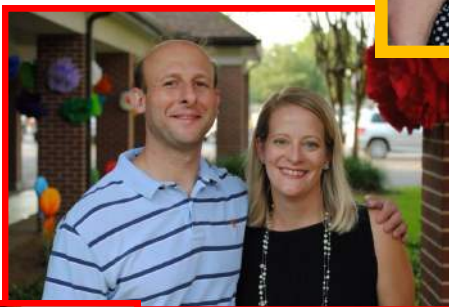
Sincerely your Co-Chairs,

Kimberly Bryant &  
Mom of:  
Lauren (2nd grade),  
Carter (Kinder)  
and Andrew (PreK3)  
kharvin@hotmail.com

Ann Seitz  
Mom of: Megan  
and Matthew (3rd grade)  
annseitzhere@yahoo.com









# AUCTION RECAP!







Of course not everyone could have come with "The most interesting man in the world!!...."





# ASCENSION FAMILY FUN DAY!

Our Ascension Family Fun Day was a smashing success! Many thanks to all our blood donors and to our volunteers who made the day happen, especially Michael and Sayle Fox who worked so hard planning this awesome event! The grill was fired up early that morning while the younger crowd hunted all the Easter eggs hidden around the playgrounds. So many squeals of delight were overheard!

As everyone moved to the north parking area, they feasted on grilled burgers and hotdogs as we were able to thank the public servants in the community with a free meal the kids had field games and bouncy house fun. One highlight of the day was Pastor Todd first challenging everyone under 10 years old to tug-o-war and then later watching him get pummeled with water balloons as each person stepped up for a turn to soak him! All proceeds from the day went to the MD Anderson Blood Bank in honor of our members who are battling cancer.







On behalf of MD Anderson blood bank & cancer patients, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ascension Episcopal Church for hosting a very successful blood drive. Here are the results:

Registered:	25
Deferred:	5
Whole Blood:	20
TOTAL	20

Because all of the whole blood gets divided into the 3 therapeutic components of platelets, red blood cells, and plasma Ascension may be responsible for touching the lives of 60 cancer patients, allowing them to continue with therapies, treatments and surgeries, bringing them ever closer to the goal of eliminating the disease from their lives.

Especially over the Easter weekend, it is appropriate to recognize the importance of giving blood and saving lives. As Christians, the celebration of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for all of mankind is poignantly demonstrated in the small act of one human being giving blood to save another's life. As it says in the Bible: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." ~Hebrews 13:16

I would like to invite you to set up another blood drive with MD ANDERSON this year, perhaps even this summer in July or August when the blood supply dips dangerously low.

Many people are unaware of the significant amount of blood products it takes to provide cancer patients with the cutting edge treatment and therapy they deserve. No matter how advanced and sophisticated the cancer treatments become, unless the patient's blood is healthy, the medications are useless in fighting this devastating illness. MD ANDERSON is the NUMBER ONE TRANSFUSING hospital in the country, using around 500 platelets and 200 red blood cells each day. Additionally, every unit collected at one of our mobile drives is used within days, sometimes hours, right here at our Houston hospital or treatment centers.

Please consider helping us again.

Gilda Hart  
Community Representative  
MD Anderson Blood Bank  
ghart@mdanderson.org  
713-563-0249 (direct)



## ACTIVITIES AND OFFERINGS

### **We have a special Mother's Day gift:**

#### **Renovated Bathrooms!**

On May 11<sup>th</sup> we will be unveiling renovated bathrooms in the church. We are so grateful to Craig and Margo Kaplan for their generosity. In addition, Earl Madison with HD Supply and Wes Manion with Dominion Custom Homes are helping make this remodel possible.

We give great thanks for Margo and Craig's generosity.

### **Senior Bus Trip**

The May Senior Bus trip on Wednesday, May 14 is to Liberty Texas for docent-led historical tours of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center - a part of the Archives and Information Services Division of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the 1883 Norman House, the 1898 St. Stephen Episcopal Church, and the Jean and Price Daniel home. Cost of the trip is \$8.00 with lunch at our own additional expense at Ann's Seafood - average \$7.50 for lunch menu plus tax and tip. (\$5.00 of the trip cost is tax-deductible to the 501(C)3 Atascocito Historical Society.) If you are still interested in the trip but haven't paid, please contact Barbara Wiese at 281-496-4740.

### **Boy Scout Fundraiser**

The Scouts of both Troop 1836 and Crew 1836 are raising funds to support their units in their scouting adventures. They need funds for proper equipment such as tents, stoves, cooking gear.

camping fees, and the occasional unique equipment rental, like canoes. Even having fun has its costs. We hope that you will support us by purchasing something from our booth next Sunday, May 4th, after the 10:30am service, and support us in our scouting adventures.



### **Thank you**

Thank you Joy Dyer, our resident sewing guru. Pastor Todd asked her to make a banner for the junior acolyte that would represent the Episcopal church. Going off only a picture, she brought in the completed banner the very next week. Joy also made Jr. Acolyte robes, for us last year. Thank you Joy for all you do.



### **Daughters of the King**

The Daughters of the King will hold their regular monthly meeting on Saturday, May 10th in the parish meeting room, with fellowship at 9:30 AM and the meeting at 10:00. Wendy Willeford will lead our study of Women of the Old Testament, focusing this month on Naomi. The program will be followed by a time of prayer. All ladies of the parish and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

The Daughters will also meet on the second Saturday of the Summer months, June 7 and July 12.

## Remember Ascension Episcopal Church and School in your will.



Contact: Leslie Nirider at  
[membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)

**Lifeline** is a nondenominational social and support group for widows and widowers. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month in the Parish Hall at 7:30 PM.

For more information please contact

Jackie Clift

281.497.2663 or email [jackieclift5@hotmail.com](mailto:jackieclift5@hotmail.com)

## Hurricane Season Is Here

The Disaster Response Committee wishes to remind all parishioners of the forms now available on the church website:

<http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org/disaster-ministry.html>

On that page are two downloadable forms:

1. An Equipment/Service sign-up sheet – these volunteers only to be called upon during a disaster response situation.
2. A Member Assistance form for those who may have special needs – due to physical handicaps, living alone, or lack of proximity to friends and/or family. If you do not have computer access, please contact the church office and these forms will be provided.

## Ascension Disaster Response Committee

Lee Nirider	713-464-8544
Jim Jackson	713-785-6909
Faye Armstrong	281-558-6817
Suzanne McMath	832-687-0864

## WHAM Food Drive...

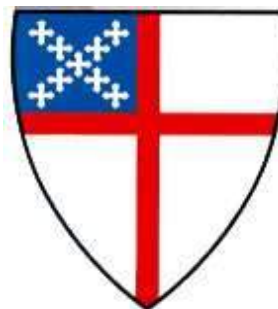
We receive nonperishable food items for distribution to those in need in our community every Sunday. These donated items are moved to the West Houston Assistance Ministry facility for distribution by volunteers. Look for the wooden box in the Narthex! Contact: [office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)

## Staff

The Rev. Todd Bryant, Rector; Charles Jordan, Organist-Choirmaster; Leslie Nirider, Membership; Samantha King, Secretary; Reginald Johnson, Sexton; Sandi Peters, Bookkeeper; Paul Belk, Newcomer Minister; Robi Lasiter, DRE

## The Vestry

John Searle (Sr. Warden), Jim Anderson (Jr. Warden), Jeri Platt (Clerk), Jim Anderson, Thom Fenner, John Edel, Patrick Schwabrow, Laurie Taylor, James Berrie, Matt Murphy, Carol Goulet, Michael Fox, Mike Black, and The Rector.



## The School Board

The Rector, Amy Criswell (President), Terry Kahn (Vice President), Ann Seitz (Secretary), Gemma Williams (Treasurer), Cindy Cadle, Patrick Gallagher, Cleveland Johnson, Aura Guevara, Meredith Levine, Beatrice Menendez, Marike Owen, Pamela Schwabrow, Nancy Searle, Ray Valenti, and Ex-officio members: The Sr. Warden, The Jr. Warden, and The Head of School

## The Mission of Ascension Episcopal Church

Our Mission as faithful followers of **Jesus Christ** is to love the **Lord** and one another unconditionally. We proclaim **God's** truth found in Holy Scripture and make disciples through Evangelism and Christian Education, while ministering joyfully to all **God's** people.

