

ASCENSION TIDINGS

ADVENT TO EPIPHANY



*This is the irrational season
When love blooms bright and wild
Had Mary been filled with reason
There'd have been no room for the child*

Madeline L'Engle 1918-2007

I can't put my finger on it, but this Advent really fills me with hope and expectation in ways that I have not experienced in past Advent seasons. Advent (December) is so fraught with "should haves" and "could haves". You know what the "right" answer is for December:

- slow down.
- get really squishy feelings about faith.
- stir up warm feelings about God, baby Jesus, and family.

For many, that Norman Rockwell feeling has gone down the drain by December 3rd. What replaces that hopeful feeling is a sense that you should be living your life with much more joy than you actually have. I am praying that you experience the gift that Advent is supposed to be: *unmanufactured* hope, joy, anticipation of the revelation of Christ. It really is the gift you can't force.

J I Packer, an Anglican, writes:

Optimism hopes for the best without any guarantee of its arriving and is often no more than whistling in the dark. Christian hope, by contrast, is faith looking ahead to the fulfillment of the promises of God...

Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God's own commitment, that the best is yet to come.

I believe in my bones that the best is yet come. I believe this because of what, or more precisely, who has come and will come. This already, not yet worldview is best described in a \$50 word: prolepsis. Prolepsis is a big part of my world view. A "proleptic" hope is grounded in a conviction that a future event is already confirmed; therefore, existing simultaneously as a present condition and a future hope. For a less religious example, someone invites you to a party and you say wholeheartedly, "I am already there". That is thinking

Christmas / Advent Schedule

School

December 4th,

A visit from St. Nicholas, 9am

December 10th,

Elementary Program, 7pm

December 18th,

Baby in a Manger, 9am

Christmas Eve

9am Bread and Soccer, Big Field,

5pm Eucharist, Candles, & Children
lead the Gospel Message

9:pm Carols and Hymns in the Church

9:30pm Eucharist, Candles & Brass
Ensemble

Christmas Day

10:30am Eucharist & Christmas
Hymns, PJ's optional,

continued on next page

proleptically. We Episcopalians pride ourselves on an *already, but not yet* thinking, which I believe is the heart of Advent: the waiting, the preparing for the life promised in Christ.

The dictionary defines Advent as the arrival of a notable person. In Advent we **don't** celebrate God's First Advent, baby Jesus, as much as we celebrate and prepare for Jesus' Second Advent, his coming again for his people. This makes us swim upstream against a culture that is saturated in fake snow, Santa, and baby Jesus from Nov 1 to Christmas Day. In this approach to worship, we are constantly telling people that it is not Christmas yet. This is proleptic, and dare I say an apocalyptic way of worshipping God.

Episcopalians often get uncomfortable about the word apocalypse. But it simply means revelation. You might already be an apocalyptic Christian and not even know it. Are you one who eagerly awaits with hope and certainty (prolepsis) for the coming revelation of God's love to be made manifest in Christ again (the apocalypse).

Advent is so much better than wishful thinking. Every day and in every way may you see your God more clearly, love your God more dearly, day by day.

Rector's Advent teaching series

Nov 29 – Advent Art – a romp through several centuries of Advent art.

Dec 6 – Uriel Lopez – Hispanic missionary for the diocese will come for preaching and adult Sunday school.

Dec 13 - Advent liturgy - how worship in Advent has evolved

Dec 20 – Advent Poetry – encountering the Advent poets.

Worship

During Advent we will be inviting you to reflect on what different themes mean. Week one will be hope; week two, peace; three, joy; and four love. And each week a family will light the Advent wreath with a very brief liturgy.

School Programs

December 10th - Elementary Program, 7pm

December 18th - Baby in a Manger, 9am



Mug O' cocoa

On December 13 and 20, the children's program will be handing out mugs of cocoa for us to give to people we would like to invite to church. The mugs will have our Christmas schedule in them.



Cookies

Help us out on Christmas Eve. Pack up your cookies from your Christmas parties, put them in a ziplock and bring to church so that we can have goodies on Christmas Eve and Day. You can also buy cookies for us, if you would like.



Granola for the homeless

On Christmas eve, we will be handing out a package of granola attached to a water bottle that you may take to give to the homeless.

Christmas Eve Schedule

9am - Bread and Soccer, Big Field,
5:00pm - Eucharist, Candles & Children's Program
9:00pm - Carols and Anthems with Brass Ensemble
9:30pm - Eucharist, Candlelight, & Brass Ensemble

Christmas Day Schedule

Dec 25th, 10:30am Eucharist & Christmas Hymns, PJ's optional

Christmas Caroling

(during the real Christmas season!)

Jan 3rd, Treemont Retirement Community
2501 Westerland, Noon (After Church)

I pray each of you this Advent season, finds Hope in the promise of our Lord, spreads the Joy of the season's anticipation, gives Love to those less fortunate, and finds Peace in the blessing of the things God has given you.

Peace,

Father Todd

REACH OUT

Those of you who attended church on Christ the King Sunday may remember that I began my sermon noting that Christ was the king who offered to give His life to save His people rather than what most kings do... which is to demand his people sacrifice their life to save his. This ties right on in with the beginning of Advent-which is defined as the anticipation of a notable event. Actually many years ago on the now famous eve of the birth of the Christ...no one noticed. It was only due to the kindness of an innkeeper that Jesus was born in that semi-enclosed barn rather than on the side of the road. We had one bright star in the heavens that guided three wise men to the site. Their journey to seek the child worried one king, who had all first born males killed. Then all was quiet until the ministry of Jesus. No one really marked the day Christ was born...until three days after he was crucified.



As Christ gave us His ultimate gift on Easter, we began to mark God's gift on Christmas Eve. As Advent begins, let us celebrate both of those gifts. Hopefully along the way, we will recall that God tells us he looks for worth within the heart and not on outward appearances. The gift that usually touches us most is one from the heart. In my ministries I have encountered Christ in the humblest of places, and if you keep watch you will too. As we bundle up our gifts for family and friends, let us remember to also prepare to give the gift of love as God gave us so very many years ago.



When we went to The Center in October, we were invited back to help them begin Christmas at the facility. On December 5th from 1-4pm we will go back to join in getting them ready for the holidays. We will be assisting with decorating the outside areas; bringing a craft for the residents to make (Sandra Colley and her daughters are planning another fun project for them) and providing/assisting with decorating cookies. We could add games if someone wants to head that effort up. The residents love company! They do not get out often to chat with folk....and they love to just be with new friends. Please plan to join us. We will carpool from the church at 12:15 from the parking lot near the field. It would be helpful if you let us know you are coming (email me at deacon@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org).

Our work at Walnut Bend Elementary continues. We can always add you into the mix somewhere. My Lunch Bunch group keeps me on my toes and are such a happy enthusiastic group. Next year we have plans to coordinate a day working with books for children who cannot afford to buy any. The outing will be great for children to help and for a wonderful cause....stay tuned! If you have a project you have heard about, or a group of people who need some help... anything close to your heart....let me know. I am about on Sundays and you can catch me on emails-I would love to hear from you. As we say on Sundays....Let us go forth in THE NAME OF CHRIST!

Narthex Advent Windows

As we move into Advent, we will use the four main windows at the front of the Narthex to help us focus on the fruits of this season: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Each week, we invite you to come to the window of the featured word and write your thoughts. For example, on the first week we will focus on "hope". Using the special markers provided, you are welcome to write out what you are most hopeful for (yes, right on the window!) For "peace", you can share your prayers for peace, or what it is that helps you find peace. During the week of "joy", let us know what brings you joy! And finally, for the week we focus on "love", tell the world who or what makes you feel loved. By Christmas, we will have a visual reminder of the gifts given to us by the Christ Child. The dates are:

- Nov. 29: Hope
- Dec. 13: Joy
- Dec. 6: Peace
- Dec. 20: Love

Joy
Peace
Love
Hope



Christmas Caroling at the Treemont

Bring some holiday cheer to our neighbors at the Treemont Retirement Village, where several of our parishoners live. In the true Christmas Season, we invite you to join us on Jan 3rd after the 10:30am service to bring the joy of Christmas to our elderly neighbors. We will meet in the Parish Hall at noon for a light repast and then carpool over. All members and friends of Ascension Episcopal Church and School are invited. We will provide the scarves and songbooks!

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT



As I write this note for Tidings, Thanksgiving is a little more than a week away... and in ten days, it will be Advent!

On November 22nd, we observed the end of the liturgical year through Christ the King Sunday. We give a musical nod to Thanksgiving, too. The children's choir anthem is appropriate in any worship setting but it has very special meaning within Ascension's beautiful sanctuary. If you are in town, please come worship with, and through, the eyes and voices of our children.

The Parish Choir is preparing for the season that is almost upon us! Our rehearsals are filled with the music of Advent and Christmas. Please join us!

Our Tidings Parish Choir Secret: Some people join the choir for a season ... and then step away for a bit. Of course, YOU are invited to do this, too. NOW is the time. Please join us as we prepare our hearts, minds, and voices for Advent and Christmas!

In the season of Advent, we step into a time of contemplation, preparation, anticipation, and excitement – all at once! Advent offerings sing of God's promise to us, the promise of a savior. Over the span of a few short weeks, we will journey from the promise words of the prophets to prophecy fulfilled!

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday, NOV 29 | ADVENT 1 | The Parish Choir will usher in the Advent season with <i>Shout for Joy, Ye People!</i> Its text was inspired by the prophetic scriptures of Isaiah. This hauntingly beautiful song has a wonderful violin obligato accompaniment. |
| Sunday, DEC 08 | ADVENT 2 | <i>Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?</i> is a much-loved Advent anthem at Ascension; its question is one each of us is invited to ask during this season of penitential preparation. |
| Sunday, DEC 13 | ADVENT 3 | The third Sunday of Advent is often called <i>Gaudete</i> ("Rejoice") Sunday. The midpoint of Advent has been reached and we begin to rejoice, for we know our celebration of Christ's birth is near. <i>Redeemer</i> is our anthem of joyful anticipation. |
| Sunday, DEC 20 | ADVENT 4 | This is traditionally a Sunday that looks to the Virgin Mary. <i>Ave Maria</i> will be sung. The choir will share a very special anthem, <i>My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning)</i> . |
| Thursday, DEC 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 p.m. | The 5:30 service is filled with excitement...and children! The Ascension Children's Choir will help present the Gospel message. They will be assisted by all children who wish to participate! |

9:00 p.m. The Music of Christmas Fills the Air!
Please join Suzanne Anderson, our organist; the Parish Choir, and the Christmas Brass Quartet as we celebrate Christmas with songs and carols of the season.

9:30 p.m. Organ, brass quartet, and choir will share the glory of the Lord's birth with fanfare and acclamation...and with awe and reverence.

Friday, DEC 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 a.m. This celebration of our Savior's birth is joyous and fun!

Sunday, DEC 27 CHRISTMAS SUN. The celebration continues. At the 10:30 service, the choir will share a delightful setting of *Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child*.

Let's sing joyful songs to the Lord!

Blessings & Joy!
Nancy



DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Even though, according to every store I've been in, the Christmas season has been here for months, I have always refused to put up any decorations or begin any of the festivities until after Thanksgiving. Now that the REAL Advent season is upon us, I'm ready to dive head first into unpacking and setting up all of the decorations I lovingly packed away a year ago, digging out all of our must-have recipes and firing up the oven for our holiday baking, and finally get started on the family traditions that we cherish. All of us have those activities that we must do year after year, or else it will just seem like something is missing. Some of these traditions have been passed down for generations, and some we've created new with our own families.



In the midst of all the merriments, it is vital that we keep our focus on the reason we celebrate Christmas at all, which is the wonderful gift of Jesus. If you are looking for some simple Christmas activities that you can do with your family that will help remind everyone of the "reason for the season".....here are some great ones I've found from the Ministry to Children and Focus on the Family websites (two great sites that you can go to year round for Christian family ideas).

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CONT.)

Create a Good Deeds Manger – Wrap the outside of a small box with brown paper. Use markers or paint to make the paper look like slats of wood (draw lines, knot holes, etc.) Tie pipe cleaners or straw into a bundle using ribbon or raffia. Place the manger in a prominent spot (such as the center of the dining table or coffee table), with the bundle of “straw” nearby. Each evening, have your family get together and talk about the good deeds they’ve done during the day. For every good deed done, that person gets to place one “straw” in the manger. On Christmas Eve, place baby Jesus (use either a doll or picture) in the manger on the soft bed you have built for Him with your good deeds.

The Empty Gift – Wrap an empty box, and put it under the tree along with all of the other gifts. On Christmas morning, have a family member open it up. They’ll all look at you like you’re crazy for a moment or two, and think that you’ve somehow made a mistake! Explain that Jesus was in the box, since he is everywhere, including right there in the room with you Christmas morning. What a wonderful way to stop and remember the true meaning of Christmas in the frantic midst of opening gifts!

Create a Jesse Tree – Since Advent is a season of waiting, create a Jesse tree to help build joy and anticipation as you wait for Christmas. A Jesse tree is used to retell the stories of the Bible that lead to Jesus’ birth. It is named from Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” These trees are adorned with ornaments that represent the people, prophesy, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. From Dec. 1 through Christmas, have a short devotional reading each night, and kids can either create an ornament that represents that passage in the Bible, or unwrap one that has been created or purchased to put on the tree. They can be as simple as a picture that is drawn, cut out and attached with a pipe cleaner, or as ornate as you want to make. You can google “Jesse tree” for hundreds of ideas. Two sites I particularly liked are: www.myjessetree.com and <http://www.loyolapress.com/the-jesse-tree.htm>

Wishing you and your families
a blessed Christmas season!



Children’s Sunday School Advent Lessons

Advent is a time when children can truly experience the mystery of Christmas. Each year during Advent, our children are treated to a special series of lessons presented by the wonderful Dave Maschek which helps them to experience and better understand the season. Using the manger scene each week to lead up to the birth of Jesus, Dave tells the Christmas story in a way that keeps the children (and.....I must admit, the adults in the room, as well!) totally mesmerized and engaged. This special series runs from Sunday, November 29th through December 20th beginning at 9:30 in the upstairs children’s Sunday school room. Trust me.....you don’t want your children to miss out on this special Ascension tradition!

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CONT.)

Seedlings and Youth Christmas Service Project

(and yes.....we'll have pizza!)

Our Seedlings (grades 2 through 5) and Youth (grades 6 & up) will meet in the parish hall after the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 13th to package granola bars and water to distribute to the homeless at Christmas. We'll serve pizza for lunch! For those kids who are participating in the Christmas Eve children's program, please attend practice as usual, and join us after you are finished.

ASCENSION SCHOOL

Dear Parishioners,

St. Nicholas will visit us on Friday, December 4th at our 9 am all school chapel. We all enjoy knowing the story of this saint and receiving a special penny from him.

We invite you to join us on Thursday, December 10th, at 7 pm in the Church for our Elementary Program. It is an evening of music and story as performed by our students in grades 1-5. We hope you will come and enjoy this evening.

On Friday, December 18th, our Kindergarten students re-enact the Baby In The Manger. Our students in Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 also participate in this program. It is one of the best ways to see young children involved in the story of Jesus' birth. The program begins at 9 am in the church.

We will enjoy some time away to celebrate Christmas and the New Year. Our last day of school is Friday, December 18th. We return on Monday, January 4th, 2015.

We wish you a joyous Christmas.

Faithfully,

Nancy Clausey
Head of School





KIDS' MARKET

AT

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

3-5PM

Students of AES, AEC and fellow student friends:

On Sunday, December 13th (3-5pm), we will be hosting our 1st Kids' Market. Kids will create whatever they want to sell, and we will do our best to get the word out for people to come buy their creations! As decided by AES Student Council, ***ALL proceeds will be donated to children's cancer research*** (exact charity to be determined). Students - Please make non-edible creations. Parents - Please consider making edible creations (or highly supervising students making them).

Please fill out the form below to let us know if you and/or your child will be participating in making something to sell for this special way of helping our kids give back. The market will take place in the AES carpool lane (weather permitting, or Parish Hall). We will provide tables for market set up. **Please arrive at 2pm Sunday with your goodies to set up your table** and be prepared before 3pm. And of course... spread the word! You'll receive an electronic copy to share with everyone!

Participant's Name(s): _____

Anticipated Creation: _____

Parent Signature: _____

ONGOINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Christmas Brass Underwriters



November is the time to start thinking Christmas!! Please make an offering to help underwrite the Christmas Brass Ensemble expense. This wonderful experience adds so much to the Christmas Eve services. Checks may be mailed to the church, placed in the offering plate, or brought to the church office. Be sure that your check is made out to the church and indicate "for Choir Fund/Christmas Brass".

You may dedicate your the gift in memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for, etc., and the contribution will be acknowledged in the Christmas orders of service. Please call the office at 713-781-1330 or email Samantha at office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org to confirm the dedication for your contribution. Thank you for your support of the Music Department. As with the poinsettias, the ***deadline for dedications and donations will be December 18th.***

Christmas Poinsettia Offerings

It will soon be time to sign-up to donate and dedicate a poinsettia. We ask that you sign the flower chart in the narthex and write your dedication in the book below the chart. The dedecatins may be made in honor of someone, in memory of someone or in thansgivings for all the wonderful things that God has put in your life. The cost is \$25, but any donation amount is welcome. Any questions can be directed to the office or to Mrs. Ann Burton. ***The last day to accept any donations or dedications will be December 18th.***



Thank You!



Seafarer's Christmas Box Program - Thank you to all those who supported the Seafarer's Program this year. The students of Ascension Episcopal School packed Eighty Four shoeboxes this year. We may not have set any records, but that is 84 seafarers that will have a merrier Christmas. Thank you for your out pouring and support.

Forgotten Senior Victory - We are declaring "Victory"! Last Sunday, Nov 22, all the "Forgotten Senior" bags were distributed. As in the past, we are making a few extra bags to satisfy the over-flow of requests. Thank you for your participation in the program that that is devoted to the Christmas season for our "Forgotten Seniors" **Remember, all bags should be returned by Sunday, Dec 6th.**

Youth/Seedlings Service Project



The youth and Seedlings groups will be meeting together to prepare outreach gifts for the homeless on Sunday, December 13th from noon until 2:00. We will have a light lunch. (Those participating in the pageant rehearsal can join us once they are finished). We will be packaging Granola bars with water bottles, for distribution on Christmas Eve, so that we may bless those less fortunate. If time permits, we will also work on the Mug giveaways with our service times on them.



Bread and Soccer!

Please join us for the Second Annual Christmas Eve Bread and Soccer Gathering at Ascension Episcopal Church. We gather at 9:00 am on Christmas Eve morning at the Ascension soccer field to play an intergenerational game of soccer. Grandpa, Auntie Margaret and Baby Jane can all join in!! After soccer, come to the Parish Hall to share bread, coffee, tea or juice. Everyone brings their favorite bread to share (muffins, bagels, bread) as well as any of your "schmeears" (jam, jelly, peanut butter, cream cheese, whatever you like). The church will provide coffee, tea, juice, water. Time: 9:00 to 11:00 am, Christmas Eve



Vestry Nominations

Do you know a person who demonstrates a passion for Ascension and shown themselves to be a leader? We would like the congregation to submit the names of people they think would be good vestry members, no later than December 13th by dropping the nominees' information into the offering plate with the title "vestry nomination".

Each nomination should include: the nominee's name, contact information and what you think qualifies them for this leadership position. If you do not have their contact info, don't worry, we will get a hold of them. The Nominating Committee asks that you **DO NOT** speak to the person you are nominating before submitting his or her name. The vestry will confirm each person's willingness to serve before their name goes on the ballot. Thank you for your help in this process which is vital to the ongoing life of Ascension.

Photo Directory -

Send us your selfies! Only a few photos have been added to our directory recently; we need add more. The directory program works well with cell phone snapshots or scanned photos and it's a great tool to learning who is who. Please send a favorite to membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org. You can always send an update later if you tire of the one you send us. Help us in our fellowship. The Directory is password protected on our website or you can ask us for a printed document.



Safeguarding God's Children

All adults over the age of 18 who minister to children or youth in any capacity, be it church or school, are required to obtain certification in the Safeguarding God's Children program. "[This] is a training program for the prevention of sexual abuse of children and youth. The training informs participants of the ways predators gain access to and groom children for abuse and it outlines the safeguards the Church has put in place to protect children and youth in our churches, schools and diocesan institutions." Certification is good for 5 years. If you are in need of training or recertification, please contact Robi Lasiter, robilasiter@gmail.com or Leslie, membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org. We will be glad to work with your schedule to help you complete the process.

STEWARDSHIP

A great thank you to all those who have pledged. To date, we have only had 80 pledges turned in. This is significantly behind our goal of 120. Ascension can not carry out its mission in Christ's service without your generosity. If you haven't turned yours in yet, please help us make our goal. If you have questions, Pastor Todd and Leslie are happy to help you.



Your Stewardship Team,

John Searle

Thomas Fenner

Miranda Greisbaum

Tom Sutton

Dipo Ogunmesa

Matt Murphy

Quarterly Giving Statements

Thank you for every penny of donation to Ascension Episcopal Church and its ministries. Your contributions have enabled us to make a difference in our community. Let us continue to reflect the salvation the Lord has given us by sharing all things he has given us; our gifts of the spirit, our wealth, and our time. Your contribution statements were sent just before the Stewardship Drive and should have arrived last month. Consider it as you learn about the ministries of our church. If you have questions email Leslie at membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org or give her a call at 713-181-1330.

Important

2015 Tax Deductions

Please remember that in order to be included in 2015 Tax Deductions the office must receive your contribution by December 31, 2015. If your check is dated December 25, 2015 but is not received until January 2016, it will be credited on the 2016 Statement. Holiday mail may suffer delays due to increased volume and vacation schedules. Give early, give often and gladden your heart.



Baptisms

Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, which commemorates the coming of the Magi and the baptism of Christ. We are honored to celebrate Epiphany by inviting you and your loved ones to baptism. If you or someone you know is interested in learning about baptism and what it means liturgically, you may find an explanation online at <http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org/baptisms.html>. If you have questions that are not answered

by the online information, Pastor Todd is eager to answer any questions for your baptism or that of your child. If you are ready to be baptized, there is an online application that maybe downloaded and printed. Just go to the church website at the above address and click on the pdf at the bottom of the article, print out and complete the Application for Baptism. You may send it snail mail, scan and email it to membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org , or simply drop it in the plate on Sunday morning. We wish to welcome you to a life of grace through Christ our Lord.

December Calendar

- Nov 29 - Advent One, Art, a romp through several centuries of Advent art
- Dec 3 - Lifeline Meets, 7:30pm
- Dec 4 - St. Nicholas Chapel
- Dec 5 - Volunteer at the Center, 1-4. (See Deacon Mary)
- Dec 6 - Advent Two, Hispanic missionary, Uriel Lopez, for the diocese will preach.
- Forgotten Seniors ingathering
- Dec 10 - Elementary Program
- Dec 12 - DOK meets for Christmas Party (location announce later)
- Dec 13 - Advent Two, Liturgy, how worship in Advent has evolved
- Seedlings Meet for Community Service
- First Ever Kids Market
- Dec 18 - Poinsettia/Brass Deadline
- Baby in the Manager, 9am
- Last Day of School for Christmas Break
- Dec 20 -Advent Three, Poetry - encountering the Advent poets
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve
- 9am Bread and Soccer, Big Field
- 5pm Eucharist, Candles, & Children lead "Sing a Song of Christmas"
- 9pm Carols and Anthems with Brass Ensemble
- 9:30pm Holy Eucharist with Musical Ensemble
- Dec 25, Christmas Day
- 10:30 am Eucharist & Christmas Hymns, PJ's optional
- Dec 27 - No Hot Breakfast, We will provide a Continental Style Breakfast.
- No Sunday School
- Jan 3 - Caroling at the Treemont
- Jan 10 - Epiphany Sunday
- Jan 24 - Annual Meeting

Questions....Details?

As always, if you have a question, need more information, an address, or details, please email the church office at secretary@ascensionhouston.org.

No email? No problem. Just give us a call at 713-781-1330.

Remember Ascension Episcopal Church and School in your will.



Contact: Leslie Nirider at
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

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...

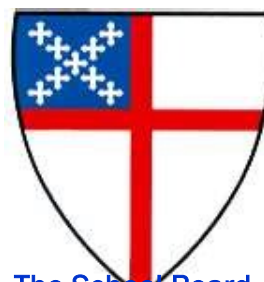
We now receive nonperishable food items for distribution to those in need in our community every Sunday. These items are moved to the West Houston Assistance Ministry facility for distribution by volunteers. Look for the wooden box in the Narthex! Contact: office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org

Staff

The Rev. Todd Bryant, Rector;
The Rev. Mary Reddick, Deacon;
Robi Lasiter, Director of Religious Education
Dr. Nancy Ginsburg, Choir Director;
Leslie Nirider, Membership;
Suzanne Anderson, Organist;
Samantha King, Secretary;
Ann Seitz, Bookkeeper

The Vestry

Mike Black (Sr. Warden), John Searle (Jr. Warden), Jeri Platt (Clerk), Thom Fenner, John Edel, James Berrie, Matt Murphy, Carol Goulet, Clement Falayi, Cindy Breton, Cheryl Coppock, and The Rector.



The School Board

The Rector, Dana Murphy (President), Todd Breton (Vice President), Amy Criswell (Treasurer), Ann Seitz (Secretary), Cindy Cadle, Patrick Gallagher, Shay James, Tom Konitzer, Beatrice Menendez, Marike Owen, and Ex-officio members: The Sr. Warden-Mike Black, The Jr. Warden - John Searle, and The Head of School -Nancy Clausey

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.