

TIDINGS



FROM LENT TO EASTER 2015



As a pastor, I have a confession to make; I love doing funerals. Not for any kind of morbid twist, but because of the joy people so often find inside the midst of grief. Funerals encapsulate the Lenten, Holy Week and Easter journey. During this year's journey to Easter you are invited into the experience of dying to what no longer serves you, so that you may be raised with Christ in Easter.

This lent, I'm asking you to prayerfully reflect with me. What does God want us to let go of, and what does God want us to take on? It's fine if you want to give up scotch, chocolate, and/or caffeine, as long as it prepares you to experience new, Easter, resurrection living.

We had our first two Lenten yoga compline services, and they were a delight. I want to thank the many leaders of this church. Ascension has always found the balance between innovating and embracing tradition. There is equal value in the old and the new. Ascension seems to have a healthy sense of a living tradition where we embrace what works.

The Daring way ®

Personally, I am coming into lent after an amazing workshop called "the daring way." Men's Bible study does not know it yet, but they are going to be my guinea pigs. The focus of the daring way is to build resilient disciples by tackling shame. Shame is "I am bad". Guilt is "I did something bad". Guilt is good. Guilt can provoke us to repentance and transformation, while shame cements is into an identity that we are irrevocably rotten. After the men work with the me in Easter season, we will look to the fall where we are going to launch a parish wide workshop on the daring way. Way off in the horizon, I want to use the daring way as a means for us to begin small groups in early 2016.

continued on next page

**Don't forget the time
change this Sunday.**



**We "Spring Forward"
one hour.**

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR...(CONT.)

Rector's Sunday Morning Class

After Easter and before the Daring Way, I will be leading a Sunday morning class based the "New Church Teaching series". The first installment of this series will be "Opening the Bible". Like it sounds, this class will be an overview of development of the bible as a book you hold in your hand, and how to have a general understanding of how the modern (bound) bible. There will be teaching and a little group work each week. For those who want to go deeper we will have a few copies for sale (at cost).

Holy week

I want to write to you about Palm Sunday. Our liturgical cycle will look very similar to the years before. With one big exception: Palm Sunday.

Our 8 o'clock service will be typical: palm procession, passion reading, and Eucharist. However, 10:30am will start with the traditional palm procession. After the procession, we will move quickly into scriptures and the sermon. There will be a musical offering called a cantata. This cantata will offer a trio of spoken word pieces paired with musical offerings. For example the crown of thorns will "tell" us, from its perspective, the experience of the passion followed by a choral response. There will be no communion at this service. We will finish with a passion reading and closing hymn.

Reason:

Nancy and I want to offer you a lens by which to see the passion in a new light. From my perspective, the inauguration of Holy Week and the passion can get a little lost in the typical three part procession, passion story, and Eucharist. To be overly simplistic, I'd like us not to follow the betrayal (passion story) with the party (Eucharist).

I hope your Lenten walk with Jesus
has been holy, good, and peaceful,



Pastor Todd

Yoga Sundays

Yoga is going great on Sunday Evenings at 7pm upstairs in the High School. The people who have come a very pleased with the worshipful peaceful experience. Come check it out. You can do it, no matter your physical limitations or experience with yoga. The class is free.



The Lenten Wednesday Program

Wednesdays between February 25th and March 18th, you and your children are invited to join us at 6:00pm for stations of the cross that lasts just over 20mins. The stations, made by AES students still look great. We will go to the parish hall for a light soup supper after stations. If you prefer, you may bring different food for your family and eat with us in the Parish Hall. **The nursery will be available from 6:00pm-7:15pm for children up to 4 years old.** Toward the end of the meal, Fr. Todd will lead a brief (20minute) teaching and meditation in the 5 Prayer Disciplines as follows:

Week 1 – Feb 25th - We made prayer “ropes” which was a hands on activity that taught us to clear our minds using tactile means. (Literally, praying on the go.)

Week 2 – Mar 4th – The Daily Examen and teaching on Ignatian prayer. A way to order your daily prayers by using the daily examen.

Week 3 – Mar 11th – Prayers of the Body, and Gregory of Nyssa’s physical faith. The body is super important for supporting a prayerful life.

Week 4 – Mar 18th -- Compassion of Christ Meditation and teaching about guided meditations. This session will walk you through a guided meditation to practice the compassion of Christ on ourselves.

Week 5 – Mar 25th – Indaba African Bible study method and teaching about how the church can listen and reason together. Indaba is a Zulu word describing a community collectively listening for God’s direction.

In a Nutshell:

- 6:00pm Stations
- 6:25pm Family meal
- 6:45pm teaching/meditation while meal continues
- 7:15pm Finish up and leave

New Tidings Publication Schedule:

This year we are changing the publication schedule to better follow the seasons of the Church. Look for your Tidings at the following times:

- Epiphany and Early Lent
 - Lent to Easter Day
 - Easter to Pentecost
 - The Summer Edition
 - Fall and Back to School
 - Stewardship
- and
- Advent Christmas

Thank you scouts for all your help on Scout Sunday and for making delicious pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. We look forward to next year.



NEWCOMER CORNER

Walking into a new church for the first time is never easy.

Likely, a newcomer has spent a few hours online looking up churches in the area, the particulars of each denomination or community, trying to find one that might be a good fit. That's the easy part. Then Sunday comes and they make the bold move to actually walk through the church doors. Think of the bravery this takes! Imagine for a moment if a church were more like a party hosted by a neighbor you've never met. Everyone in the neighborhood is invited, but really only the ones who know each

other typically come to these kinds of things. It is a brave soul that shows up without knowing a single person! Lucky are the ones who truly find a connection there. It's just the same with the church. Everyone is invited, but it takes a brave first step to go and to connect. Just like the host of any good party will make sure the stranger is welcomed and introduced to other friends and make them part of the group, we are called to be extravagantly hospitable hosts to those who show up at church for the first time.



Connecting in a meaningful way with people that fit into three distinct categories will demonstrate that kind of hospitality, and these three categories contain the key to retaining people who are searching for a church home:

1. **Another church-goer.** This is someone who attends the church and often fits in the same demographic as the first-time guest. They might sit in the same row, attend the same service and/or are in the same life-stage. The value here is that the first-time guest knows that they will be accepted and that there is the potential for friendships and connection at your church.
2. **A non-pastoral leader.** This could be a Sunday School teacher, a greeter, a vestry member, or anyone who is in a leadership position within the church. This is someone who can answer some questions about the church and point the way for newcomers to go deeper and get connected more quickly. The non-pastoral leader is looked at as a person who represents the church in an official capacity.
3. **A pastor.** People go to church for spiritual direction and growth. Connecting with a pastor increases the likelihood that they will get their questions answered, take steps forward in their faith, and fully integrate into the church family. Pastors who are welcoming and accessible are integral to the decision that newcomers make about continuing to attend a church.

Being intentional about connecting newcomers to people in our church that fit these three categories will exponentially increase the likelihood that they will want to stick around. All three of these connections, of course, do not have to happen on the person's first visit, but the more you can escalate the rate at which these happen, the higher the chance that they'll fall in love with a church and continue to attend. I've always said that we have something special here at Ascension. By following these simple guidelines, we can better share that special something with others.

What is your definition of mission?

by: Wanda S. Lee

Have you ever heard people argue about the definition of the word missions? Maybe you hear some of the same questions and comments I do about the difference between ministry and evangelism. Things like: Which is the most important—ministering to someone or witnessing? Isn't giving a verbal witness the only thing God requires of us as believers? Or the opposite view . . . I don't have to say a word because my life tells it all! You do the talking and I will do the serving. And what does the word missions mean anyway? Isn't it just about witnessing to people? Or the best misconception yet . . . missions has nothing to do with evangelism.

While I realize the word missions itself is not found in Scripture, the meaning of the word is woven throughout the Bible. From God's call to Abraham to His calling of the disciples to go and preach, teach and baptize, God has been in the missions business. His book is a missionary book from beginning to end. Missions began in the heart of God and will continue with God until Christ returns. So why all the questions?

The word missions has been defined by many people, written about in hundreds of books, and discussed in many sermons. Somewhere along the way we separated it into two activities—ministry and evangelism. In reality, missions is both/and, not either/or. Missions is what God does through His people, the church, to spread the gospel through word and deed to all people of the world. Missions is evangelism AND ministry, woven together in such a way that people see Christ, hear His call to follow, and invite Him into their lives. Yes, at times their physical needs are met and at other times their emotional and spiritual needs are the priority. Hopefully, whatever their need, they come to know Christ because they see in us, His followers, a living, vital relationship with the One who makes all the difference in how we act, what we say, and where we place our priorities.

Christ Followers have settled the issue and are finding great joy in living out the missions lifestyle everyday through ministry AND evangelism. They have heard the words of Jesus and accepted the challenge. "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23 NIV). As we follow, let's rediscover the meaning of the word missions and find joy in meeting human needs while we share the message of hope through Christ's gift of eternal life.

<http://www.wmu.com/index.php?q=blog/wmu/team-blog/what-your-definition-missions>



Summer Family Mission Trip to Dulac, Louisiana

We are thrilled to announce that we are going on a Mission Trip this year!! And unlike the usual summer mission trip that is aimed at only the youth group, this mission trip is open to everyone from the age of 5 and up. The dates are Sunday, June 7th through Friday, June 12th. We will be traveling to Dulac, Louisiana, which is in the very southern part of the state. Dulac is an impoverished area which suffered devastating blows during both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, and Gustav and Ike in 2008. They are still struggling to recover. We will be working with the staff at the Community Center on our specific duties, but they are likely to include light construction and restoration work. No experience needed! They could also include work at the food bank and outreach center. While youth from 6th grade through high school are able to attend on their own (they will be supervised by Ascension staff), younger children will need to be accompanied by at least one parent.



While in Dulac, we will be staying at the Dulac Community Center. Each participant will be supplied a bunk bed with a mattress and basic bed linens. We will be provided three meals per day Monday through Friday. The cost is estimated to be \$250 per person, but Pastor Todd is working with the vestry to subsidize a portion of this cost. Our Seedlings and Youth group will be holding several fundraisers during the spring, and all money earned will be going to help defray some of the costs.

We will hold an informational meeting in March (watch for the date) for anyone interested in learning more. Space is limited, so if you think you or your family will be interested in joining us, please email Robi Lasiter at robilasiter@gmail.com

WHAM Outreach Event Thank You

With mission in mind, we would like to thank all those who came to the WHAM workday. Our help was greatly appreciated. Hope to see you at the next outreach event.



DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Welcome Spring! Or, I hope by the time you are reading this, it is finally beginning to feel a little more spring-like. More importantly, Spring ushers in our celebration of Easter and the promise of the resurrection. Throughout Lent, our children's Sunday school classes have been learning about the life of Jesus. They've learned about His baptism, ministry, and journey to the cross. They have studied His model of service to others, and how we are to do the same in our own lives.

In celebration of Easter, we will have several activities especially for children & youth:

Sunday, March 22 (12:15 – 2:00) -Seedlings & Youth meeting in the parish hall. (Those in Children's Choir can join us as soon as they are finished). We will be making Alleluia Banners for Easter, as well as planning fundraisers for our summer mission trip.

Saturday, April 4 (1:00 – 1:30) – Community Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 0 through 5th grade. Come join us for lunch and family fun at the Family Fun Day, then bring the kids on over to the AES playground at 1:00 for an Easter Egg hunt! There will be separate areas for younger & older kids.

Sunday, April 5 - If one Easter Egg hunt isn't enough...join us for a second one! We will be having our annual Ascension Easter Egg hunt following the 10:30 service on Easter Day. Participating children should line up at the locked gates to the playground to hear instructions prior to the hunt. There will be a separate hunting area for infants and toddlers. Parents are welcome to join in the fun!



Traveling Light – Women's Study Group opened it's doors to All Adults

The # 1 New Year's resolution is always to lose weight. If you would like to lose 10-20 pounds of unsightly emotional and spiritual weight, we have a program for you! Join us on Wednesday evenings after the Lenten soup supper. The first study will be on Max Lucado's, *Traveling Light: Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Meant to Bear*. With the start of a new year, let's dump all the old baggage that has been holding us down. God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Bring me back from gray exile, put a fresh wind in my sails! Psalm 51:10-11. Any adult who is interested, please contact Michelle Feagin at mfeagin1@comcast.net , who can answer any of your questions.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT



-Dr. Nancy Taylor Ginsburg

I pray your Lenten journey is one of both introspection and, as is becoming the practice, service and outreach. Serving the Lord in worship leadership helps prepare all worshipers to go into the world in the love of the Lord. It could be time for you to serve the Lord in this way!

There are special blessings within each choir rehearsal! You see, choir rehearsal time is more than a time of learning music to be presented in our corporate worship services. Rehearsals are a time of growing together in a faith community, of spiritual and theological awareness, of learning the songs of our faith we will carry with us all our days, and of worship.

Ascension Parish Choir: The Parish Choir is preparing for Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter...and there's still time for you to join us! On Easter Sunday, all worshipers will sing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. The choir has one advantage: we get to practice it NOW! And you are invited to rehearse with us! (Rehearsal: each Wednesday evening in the sanctuary, beginning at 7:00...or as soon as you are able to arrive!)

Ascension Children's Choir: If you have a child/children, please send/bring your child/children to children's choir! (Children do best in choir if they were at least four years old in September. If you have a younger child you believe is ready for choir, please remain in the rehearsal area to help us ensure a good experience for your child.) We rehearse after 10:30 worship each Sunday; rehearsals are held in the parish hall.

The Ascension Children's Choir will lead the procession of the palms on Palm Sunday and will also sing a wonderful song with the parish choir that day! We've also started our spring musical, Praise Rocks!

Easter Brass Quartet: Ascension Episcopal Church traditionally hosts a brass quartet on Easter Sunday...and this year the music will be glorious! Your generous support of these musicians, through a memorial or tribute gift, will help enable us to continue this tradition!

Organist: In late January, Ascension Episcopal Church welcomed organist Suzanne Anderson to its staff. We give thanks for her love of the Lord, musical gifts, and worship ministry. Welcome, Suzanne!

Blessings & Joy!
Nancy

ASCENSION SCHOOL

Dear Parishioners,

We have completed re-enrollment very successfully and now are enrolling new families. If you have family or neighbors looking for the best school, please send them our way.

We look forward to one of our favorite celebrations, Rodeo Day, on March 6th. We enjoy games, rides, bouncy house, a petting zoo, and a hot dog lunch at the end of the morning. Eating donuts on a string is an Ascension favorite.

We will have a traveling performance from Main Street Theater of Flat Stanley. Flat Stanley will come to Ascension and read his book to us on Thurs, March 12th.

Our School Spring Break is Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20. Our ELP Programs will be open at this time. Our students in grades 3rd and 4th will travel to Camp Allen on Monday, March 23rd to Wednesday, March 25th. They will be accompanied by their teachers for a trip and learning experience at Camp Allen.

Our 5th Grade students will go to Kerrville and attend Mo Ranch on Tuesday, March 24th returning on Friday, March 27th. This will also be a time to learn about outdoor courses, working together as a group, and enjoying their 5th grade trip.

These trips are experiences our students remember long after graduation. We have alumni visit and they always speak about their trip to Camp Allen, Mo Ranch, and Port Aransas.

Faithfully,
Nancy Clausey



**Watch for your RSVP
for the school auction in the mail.**

Didn't get one?

Call the school, we will send one out.

Onsite childcare is available with **ADVANCED** reservation.

\$5 per child ★ No Walk Ins

Please include your childcare needs and payment
online or with the enclosed **R.S.V.P.** form by April 17th.

Original Artwork on front by AES Art Teacher

JANIS EDEL



6:00 - 9:15 P.M. ★ PARISH HALL

\$50 per person

Dinner, Dessert + 2 Drink Tickets
Reserve now! No tickets sold at door!

R.S.V.P. ONLINE:

<http://ascensionepicschool.schoolauction.net/auction2015/register>

or return the enclosed card with your payment
to the school office by Thursday, April 17th

Questions: (713) 783-0260 ★ Childcare info on back

Auction 2015

Ascension Episcopal School's Annual Auction and Social will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015. This year's theme is "Our Stars are bright, deep in the heart of A.E.S. NOTE: We have a limited number of reserved tables available; if you are interested in purchasing a RESERVED table, please contact Kimberly Bryant (kharkin@hotmail.com) for more information. ALL other details are coming soon. We look forward to celebrating our wonderful school with you!

Thank You Sponsors!!

- ☆ Thank you Bristow Group for supporting us at the Yellow Rose of Texas level, the highest level of support!
- ☆ Thank you Crespo Pizza for underwriting most of the cost of pizza for our movie night / fun run night!
- ☆ Thank you Molasses Candy for donating the creation of auction invitations!
- ☆ Thank you Dr. and Mrs. David Paulus for underwriting the printing of auction invitations!

Thank You Donors!!

- ☆ Thank you Children's Museum of Houston for donating 4 complimentary guest passes!
- ☆ Thank you Crescendo Family Music for donating music classes and a child's drum!
- ☆ Thank you Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion for donating (4) orchestra level tickets to one Houston Symphony performing arts event from the 2014 schedule!
- ☆ Thank you Downtown Aquarium for donating a Family 4 Pack, 4 All Day Passes, 1 BOGO All Day Pass and 1 free appetizer of the day!
- ☆ Thank you Mrs. Janis Edel (AES art teacher) for creating a beautiful auction logo for us to use!
- ☆ Thank you Houston Museum of Natural Science for donating a special "Family Pack" featuring (8) complimentary admission coupons!
- ☆ Thank you Houston Symphony for donating 2 vouchers!
- ☆ Thank you Robin Jackson Photography for donating an 11x14" family portrait package!
- ☆ Thank you Town & Country Orthodontics for donating \$750 off orthodontic treatment!



Thank you Mrs. Edel
for an amazing logo!

Calendar of Events

- ☆ January 5 - Class Art Projects Began
- ☆ February 25 - Began collecting for Class Baskets
- ☆ March 13 - Class Art Projects DEADLINE
- ☆ April 8 - Class Basket donations DEADLINE
- ☆ April 11 - Fun Run & Obstacle Course
- ☆ April 13 & 14 - Class Basket assembly days
- ☆ April 15 - Deadline for donations to be recognized in Auction Catalog
- ☆ April 17 - DEADLINE for ALL donations for RSVPs
- ☆ April 17 - 19 - Online Auction
- ☆ April 24 - All day SET UP
- ☆ April 25 - Day of SET UP & AUCTION NIGHT!

Class Baskets

My name is Rebekah Clausey, and I am the lead for class baskets for the AES Auction this year. Each class collects items and monetary donations for a themed basket. The basket is then auctioned in the spring at our Parent Social and Auction. Room parents will be the coordinator for each class's basket. They will be emailing all classes asking that you be on the lookout during holiday sales for items for the baskets and medium to large sized baskets (good condition) for us to use for packaging. If you have any items to donate, would like to give a basket or just want a sneak peek, please see the categories below. Collection begins in February.



Class Basket Assignments

- ☆ Ducklings & Turtles: **Backyard Bash** (Everything you need for a fun backyard party-outdoor games, picnic items, etc.)
- ☆ Lambs: **Parent's Night Out** (Every couple needs time to reconnect-a gift card for a restaurant, tickets for a movie or a play, or another fun, relaxing event.)
- ☆ PreS & PreS +: **Coffee Break** (Wake someone up with a basket of specialty coffee, mugs, flavorings, etc for the coffee aficionado.)
- ☆ PreK3 - Blythe: **Family Fun Night** (Get ready for a fun family night with games, movies, puzzles, snacks and more!)
- ☆ PreK3 - Warak: **Foodie Frenzy** (Let yourself go in the specialty food store - only nonperishables please!)
- ☆ PreK4 - Haase: **Gardening with Kids** (Families can have fun together planting a garden with seeds, tools, books, and tickets to the Houston Arboretum.)
- ☆ PreK4 - Maness: **Gettin' Crafty** (Have some family fun time with crafts and art activities)
- ☆ Kinder - Michael: **Girly Girl/Boy Oh Boy** (The boys would like to get down to some serious playing with toys, crafts, dress-up and so much more- suitable for boys K - 3rd Grade. Girls just want to have fun with toys, crafts, dress-up and more -suitable for girls in K - 3rdGrade. These two baskets will be made jointly.)
- ☆ Kinder - Lawhon: **Girly Girl/Boy Oh Boy** (The boys would like to get down to some serious playing with toys, crafts, dress-up and so much more- suitable for boys K - 3rd Grade. Girls just want to have fun with toys, crafts, dress-up and more -suitable for girls in K - 3rdGrade. These two baskets will be made jointly.)
- ☆ 1st Grades - Smith & Durham: **Don't Mess with Texas** (Celebrate our great state with Texas themed items and non-perishable foods. Include items made in the Lone Star State!)
- ☆ 2nd Grade - McDonough: **Mad Scientist** (Take a trip to the Museum of Natural Science, and then do family science experiments-includes tickets to the museum and various science experiments.)
- ☆ 3rd Grade - Schwabrow & Tomasino: **Wine Lover/Beer Snob** (Anything for the serious and not-so-serious wine lover and beer snob- decorative glass markers, cork extractors, bottle stoppers, wine, glasses, craft beers, mugs, etc.)
- ☆ 4th & 5th Grades: **Leggo My Lego** (Lego, Lego and more Lego. Make a child happy with a variety of fun sets.)

Thank you,

Rebekah Clausey
rclausey@ascensionepiscopalschool.org

Acolyte Training

Becoming an acolyte is a wonderful way for our youth to participate in our worship service. Acolytes carry the cross and lead the processions, light and extinguish the altar candles, and assist the pastor during Communion. Training for new acolytes may be conducted on Sundays from 9:30-10:15 AM. To schedule a training, please email the office or Eric Caulcrick.

Altar Flowers

The deadline to sign chart to give a lily and participate in church flowers for Easter is approaching. Remember to sign chart and write dedication in flower book. The cost is \$25. Please put your donation in offering plate or send to church office, marked "flower fund." We have a new florist and after Easter the cost of our flowers will be \$100 but we will not have a delivery charge.



DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®

Andre Cox, *General*
Commissioner Donald C. Bell, *Territorial Commander*
Lt. Colonel Ken Luyk, *Divisional Commander*
Major Chris Flanagan, *Area Commander*
Major Sandy Flanagan, *Associate Area Commander*

February 16, 2015

Mr. Alan Burton
Ascension Episcopal Church
2525 Seagler Road
Houston, TX 77042

Dear Alan,

I am happy to report that The Salvation Army of Greater Houston 2014 Angel Tree Program was a huge success! We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Ascension Episcopal Church for participating this past Christmas.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and groups in our community, we assisted nearly 26,000 children and seniors in the greater Houston area receive gifts. This tremendous output could not have been accomplished without the generous support of organizations like Ascension Episcopal Church

Each year proves to be quite challenging as thousands of families and individuals come to our facilities seeking help. With your help and philanthropic spirits, The Salvation Army was able to answer their call, and help families across Greater Houston enjoy the holiday season. We thank you again for supporting the Angel Tree program, and look forward to your future participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Zermeno".

Carmen Zermeno
Volunteer Coordinator



ACTIVITIES AND ONGOINGS

Senior Bus Trip

For those 50 or more years young, join our Senior Bus Trip on Monday, March 30 for a scenic tour of wildflowers and a docent-led tour of the Seward Plantation in Independence, Tx. Cost of the trip is \$15.00 with payment deadline on Tuesday, March 10. At your own additional expense: there will be a stop on the way at the Chappell Hill Deli and Bakery with lunch in Brenham at the Must Be Heaven Sandwich Shop. Departure time: 08:30AM. Please leave your check with Samantha, made out to Ascension Episcopal Church and noted for "March Sr. Bus Trip". For more information, please contact Barbara Wiese at [281-496-4740](tel:281-496-4740) or barb@blkbox.com.



Please keep the following **future 2015 Senior Bus Trips** on your calendars with details to be provided at a later date:

- April 24 – Friday
- May 20 – Wednesday
- June 19 – Friday

Parenting Sunday School

On March 22nd, we will begin the 6-week Bible Study "The Love Dare for Parents" which looks at scriptural parenting. "It is about walking in relationship with the One who created us and entrusted our children to us. This study will inspire and challenge busy parents to walk more closely with God and fully cherish and enjoy their children during each season of their lives."

The Love Dare for Parents study will bring us to the end of the Spring semester, and the Parenting Sunday School class will take a break for Summer, before starting again in the Fall.

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King will hold their regular monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 14th in the parish library. All ladies of the parish are invited to join us for fellowship and prayer.

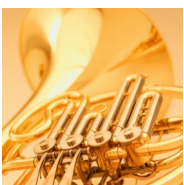


Easter Lilies



The time is coming to consider signing up for lily donations and dedications. The cost is \$25, but any amount is welcome. Sign the chart in the narthex and write your dedication as you would like for it to appear in the Easter order of service. In order for the dedication to appear in the order of service, the dedication must be received by March 18.

Easter Musicians



Please make an offering to help underwrite the Easter Musicians. They were wonderful at Christmas and we look forward to a repeat performance. The donation may be dedicated in memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for, etc., and will be acknowledged in the Easter orders of service. Donations will be accepted through Easter, but in order for the dedication to appear in the bulletin, it must be received by the office no later than March 18st. Please email the church office (office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org) or 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...

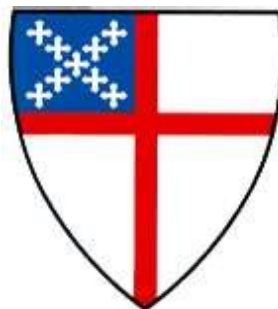
We now receive nonperishable food items for distribution to those in need in our community every Sunday. These donated items are moved to the West Houston Assistance Ministry facility for distribution by volunteers. Look for the wooden box in the Narthex! Contact:

Staff

The Rev. Todd Bryant, Rector; Dr. Nancy Ginsburg, Choir Director; Leslie Nirider, Membership; Suzanne Anderson, Organist; Samantha King, Secretary; Reginald Johnson, Sexton; Ann Sietz, Bookkeeper; Paul Belk, Newcomer Minister; Robi Lasiter, Director of Religious Education

The Vestry

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



The School Board

The Rector, Amy Criswell (President), Terry Kahn (Vice President), Ann Seitz (Secretary), Gemma Williams (Treasurer), Dana Murphy, Cindy Cadle, Todd Breton, Shay James, Marike Owen, Beatrice Menendez, Patrick Gallagher, 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.