

# ASCENSION TIDINGS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015



♪ ♪ ♪ We wish you lightly season, We wish you a lightly season,  
We wish you a lightly season in Epiphany. ♪ ♪ ♪

The season of Epiphany starts on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, "The Epiphany" (The Magi's discovery of Jesus). The season wraps up on Feb 15<sup>th</sup> with Transfiguration Sunday. On Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday ushers in Lent. The season of Epiphany celebrates Epiphanies or revelations of God's mercy throughout the scriptures.

## Annual Meeting

Come to our annual meeting to get an update on church business on Jan 25th in the parish hall immediately following the 10:30am service. Food will be served. We will affirm diocesan delegates to council, give a budget update, elect new vestry members, say goodbye to outgoing vestry members, and I will give a brief "state of the union".

**Shrove Tuesday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>**

**and**

**Ash Wednesday, Feb 18<sup>th</sup>**

Join our Girl Scout Troop 149014, Feb 17th, who will be leading the charge for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

The next day will be Ash Wednesday. Worship for the school is at 8:30am (school chapel). There will be service at 12pm, and 7pm as well as "Drive thru" ashes in the church parking lot from 9:15 to 11am.



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

### Reading the Bible in Lent

We will continue our tradition of reading the whole bible in Lent. Look for signups online and on paper in the narthex as the time approaches.

### Stations of the Cross | Soup Suppers | Lenten Teaching on Wednesdays

- Stations of the cross begin at 6pm. AES stations are still in the church from last year and they look phenomenal!
- Light Soup Supper is served at 6:30pm by the following ministries:
  - Feb 25 - DOK - TBD
  - March 4 - Altar Guild - Potato
  - Mar 11 - Newcomer/Evangelism - TBD
  - Mar 18 - Sunday School - TBD
  - Mar 25 - AES - Chicken Vegetable
- Teaching follows after everyone has food. This year's theme is "traveling light". We will explore disciplines that help you put down what is no longer useful as well as study disciplines that bless you by taking them up.

*Nursery care will be provided starting at 6pm.*

### Passive (Yin) Yoga and Compline on Sundays at 7pm during Lent

I am super excited to offer a new, alternative worship experience on Sunday evenings at Ascension. During the five Sunday evenings in Lent starting at 7pm, we will offer a free yin/restorative yoga session (30-40mins) followed by the liturgy of Compline. It is free and open to all. Tom Pierson of Tranquil Heart will lead the yoga portion of the evenings. I and lay leaders will be leading the compline portion.

- **With regard to Yoga** -You will NOT sweat. You might fall asleep. It will be completely Christian in direction and intent. This class is for adults of all ages and all skill levels, from the "never even taken a single yoga class beginner" to "pretzels are how I sleep yoga expert".
- **With regard to Compline**-In the Book of Common Prayer there is a prayer service called Compline. The word comes from the latin word complete, which means "to complete" or "to fill up".
- **Yoga and Compline together** – the perfect pairing for a good night's sleep and preparation for the week ahead. *Childcare will not be provided.*

"Come and get tucked in for Jesus!"

Peace,



Pastor Todd Bryant

Look for more information in the near future regarding our February mission event to WHAM on February 28th, from 9-12. The church will provide lunch afterward.

## NEWCOMER CORNER

### Let Your Light Shine!

We met Christmas with excitement and beauty in December, soon to be followed by Ash Wednesday and the more somber mood of Lent. How quickly we move from celebrating the birth of the baby Jesus to readying ourselves for the death and resurrection of the Christ. But what about this season in between, this season of Epiphany? Epiphany celebrates the coming of the Magi to visit the Christ Child. These three people in the Christmas story had very little to do with anything of the Jewish faith, but they recognized that a light had come into the world that was like nothing before it! It shone so brightly that they felt compelled to follow it and learn more.



We were thrilled to celebrate two baptisms on Epiphany Sunday as well as a new tradition for us, a formal reaffirmation and blessing of the baptismal commitment. Though we all reaffirm our baptisms during the liturgy, some felt compelled, just like the Magi, to follow the light even more closely and formally remember and commit to lean deeper into the meaning of their baptism. As Todd blessed the baptism candidates with water and the recommitment candidates with oil, as a community we got to celebrate the movement and work of the Spirit in and amongst this congregation. Since all those who participated in this liturgy were fairly recent newcomers, I am excited to see how God will lead these members of our community in ministry and an even closer walk with Jesus. I can only imagine the light we shine as a church is what brought these newcomers to us, and now their light will glow all the more! May this season of Epiphany remind you to allow your light to burn brightly. This is the Spirit of God ablaze within you!

## FROM MEMBERSHIP



The Stewardship count of pledges received is 119. Thank you to each and every person who has turned in a pledge. Thank you to those who faithfully contribute in other ways.

Pledging helps the Treasurer to know how to allocate funds and budget during the year. We adjust pledges up through November of each year, so if you make a pledge you are always welcome to change it and we appreciate the notice. Just as when we commit a certain time to, outreach, altar guild, choir or your favorite ministry of time and talent, we try to give the organizers a little warning if we know we can't make it to a scheduled event. Pledge cards can be turned in at any time. Please don't let fear get in the way of making a commitment. Our pledge is our promise to be an active steward. It helps the church to be a good steward as well. If you have questions, please contact our membership secretary, Leslie Nirider, at [membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org). If you need a pledge card there is usually one in the pew cards and you can put in the plate or the mail.

Please look for your 2014 giving statements the first week of February.

Again, thank you for all you do for Ascension.

## DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy New Year! 2014 was a busy time for Children's Ministries. In Sunday school, we grew in numbers to the point where we needed to add an additional class, allowing us to be able to target instruction on a more age-appropriate level. Our Parents' Night Out ministry continued to provide much deserved breaks for the parents of our community. We began a junior youth group called "Seedlings", who enjoyed both social outings as well as service projects. They joined our senior youth group to make gifts for the homeless at Christmas.



All of this couldn't have happened, of course, without dedicated volunteers who give selflessly of their time and talents on a regular basis. These men and women routinely give of themselves to help bring the love and knowledge of Christ to our children. They do it quietly and without any fanfare, and most people at Ascension probably aren't even aware of just who these wonderful volunteers are. I've been trying to think of new ways to let each of them know just how appreciated and valuable they are, and I've decided that each month, I want to highlight one or two of them and describe the wonderful gifts that they bring to their ministry.

This month.....I want to thank Dave Maschek. Dave has been teaching the children of Ascension for many, many years. He began working with children when his own kids were small, and fortunately for us, continues to teach even though his sons are now grown. His quiet and reserved nature brings a calm structure to the classroom, and his scriptural knowledge comes through as authentic to his students. A gift that Dave brings to us each year is his special Advent series for the children. Each week in Advent, Dave gathers the children around him, and using a nativity set (complete with candlelight!), he brings the Christmas story alive for our students. When you see Dave in church, please thank him for being such a blessing to our youth!

**We need 3 teacher assistants** to come be in the classrooms. You do not have to teach. We need a minimum of two adults in each classroom to maintain Safe Guarding Standards. Please let Robi know if you are interested.

### Children's Communion Class – "Not Just a 'Snack'"

In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are "welcome at the table" to receive communion, including children. As parents, we want our children to participate in this Sacrament, but we want to make sure they know just how precious and meaningful the act of receiving communion is. On March 1 and 8, there will be a special communion class for children that will help them to understand why and how we celebrate the Eucharist, and what it all means. This two part series will cover topics such as The Last Supper, symbols in communion, the priest's actions during the Eucharist, and how to properly receive the bread and wine. The class is open to children ages 3 and above, and parents are encouraged to attend. It will be held upstairs in the Parish Hall from 9:30 until 10:15. Registration for this class is required. For more information or to register, please email Robi Lasiter at [robilasiter@gmail.com](mailto:robilasiter@gmail.com)





# Parent's Night Out Saturday, February 14th

## Just in time for Valentine's Day!

Treat yourself and your honey to an evening out on the town, and send your kids to join us for a special Parents' Night Out on Saturday, February 14th from 5:00 to 9:00. Children ages 6 mos. through 5th grade will enjoy valentine's themed games, crafts and activities, along with lots of outdoor play. Registration will open Monday, February 2nd and close on Thursday, February 12th. For more information, please contact Robi Lasiter at [robilasiter@gmail.com](mailto:robilasiter@gmail.com). The Registration link can be found on the front page of the church website or click below. Please remember the link will not be active until Feb. 2nd.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=9aa7eqkab&oeidk=a07eag28mv07efa2cfb>

Thank you to those new volunteers who have stepped forward. The purpose of this ministry as community outreach draws people from the school and surrounding neighborhoods. As a result we have welcomed several new families into the Ascension family, and we look forward to welcoming more.

**We do however need more volunteers.** Our core group is dwindling due to families moving, new babies, and other commitments. Please set aside the second Saturday for February, March, April and/or May, from 4:30 to 9:00 and come play with us. If you can only come for a short shift, like from 7-9 or 5-7, talk to Robi. Who knows, maybe there is someone else who can only come the opposite shift. The more volunteers we have the more children we can host and the more people we bring to Ascension.

It is the volunteers who make this possible and we thank each and everyone of you. If you haven't volunteered before, contact Robi. You may look forward to taking part in apple bobbing, dance parties, pictures with Santa, snowball fights, football, kickball.....and so much more!



## FROM THE CHOIR LOFT



-Dr. Nancy Taylor Ginsburg



Happy Epiphany! From early January until Ash Wednesday we celebrate this glorious season of light – of God’s light shining upon, in, and through us! It is also the new year, a time of new beginnings.

In music ministry, this is very true – all choirs have been working on music for Christmas for several months. Each January, we start anew...and immediately begin to work on music for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter! Easter is only three months away!

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. I’ve even worked with choir members who came to rehearsals and were never available to sing in worship.

Come to 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.)

The Ascension Children’s Choir will enjoy a few weeks of rest. When we meet again, it will be in Parish Hall because we have outgrown the choir room! Isn’t that wonderful? It also means we are planning to prepare an awesome spring musical! We return to regular Sunday rehearsals on February 1st following the 10:30 service.

The Ascension Parish Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. And, yes, we’re going to be starting music for the upcoming Holy Days! This choir is open to high school youth and all adults who would like to share God’s story through music. If you are ready to sing in the choir, please join us!

-Blessings & Joy!

### **Annual Meeting**

The annual Parish meeting is next Sunday, January 25th. Please make plans to attend this meeting. It will follow the 10:30 service and we are serving Chinese food for lunch! We will be discussing budgeting, both last years review and upcoming year and saying good-bye to our exiting vestry members. As an election is not required, we will also be introducing your incoming vestry members. Look forward to reading their short biographies in future publications. This is also a good time to get caught up on the activities of the ministries in the organizational report and learn the needs of the ministries around you. Come for fellowship and to be a part of the future of your church.

## ASCENSION SCHOOL

Dear Parishioners,

Happy New Year! January is always a month of new beginnings as we leave 2014 and look forward to the remainder of our school year. We began with a celebration of Epiphany on Friday, January 9th at 9 am, as our Pre-K 4 classes re-enacted the coming of the Wise Men to see Jesus.

Our Parent/Teacher Conferences for the School are on Monday, January 26th. This is the second time during the school year that parents and teachers meet to talk about our students. The parents are given current assessments of student's reading and math progress this school year.

We invite all prospective parents to join us on Friday, January 23rd for Open House from 9:30 to 11 am. This is for any new families interested in our ELP and School programs. We hope you will invite neighbors and friends to attend.

We hope that February will bring us more playground time. It has been proven that children learn better when they are physically active and our students in the elementary grades have 90 minutes of PE per week and playground two times per day. Some schools no longer have playground time, but we believe it increases our student's ability to learn and grow.

This month we are celebrating our 9 am chapel, inviting each of our students in Pre-School to Pre-K 4 to bring someone they love to chapel on Friday, February 6th. We look forward to sharing our chapel with family and friends.

Our Student Council is selling Valentine cupcakes to be delivered on Friday, February 13th. These will be pre-ordered, either yellow or chocolate cupcakes with vanilla or chocolate frosting. The cupcakes will be in a special Valentine box and homemade by the Student Council Advisor.

Our Ash Wednesday service for grades K-5 will be on Wednesday, February 18th, at 8:30 am. We invite you join us for this service.

We will have our second International Festival on Friday, February 20th in the Parish Hall. We are a school of 37 countries and many are represented at this Festival. We learn about climate, customs, dress, and food from many areas of the world as told by our families.

We have two important previews this month. All parents interested in Pre-K 3 will be invited to Pre-K 3 Preview on Tuesday, February, 4th at 7:30 am in the Church Library. Our Pre-K 3 teachers will share curriculum, schedule, insight into our Pre-K 3 program at Ascension.

On Wednesday, February 25th, we will have Elementary Preview. Our teachers in grades 1-5 will present an overview of their classroom for parents. This is at 4 pm in the Parish Hall.

Faithfully,

Nancy Clausey  
Head of School



## ACTIVITIES AND ONGOINGS



### Senior Bus Trip

If you are at least 50 years young please join us on Wednesday, February 25 when we will travel to Lake Jackson for docent-led tours of the Sea Life Center and the Lake Jackson Historical Museum. The \$10.00 cost includes donations to both venues and gratuity for the bus driver. Lunch will be at your own expense at an area restaurant to be announced. Please reserve your place and make your payment by Tuesday, February 3. Questions? Please contact Cheryl Coppock at 281-293-0888.

### Super Bowl Party at Ascension

Let's spread the word and fill the parish hall.... This is a perfect opportunity to invite your neighbors, friends and family members who are looking for a church home, or perhaps have been out of fellowship, or even never experienced the faith building community of Ascension! Everybody is welcome!

Church Members are donating meat, wood and smoker, cook time, pork shoulders, hot dogs, burgers, and buns. We need you to bring the sides!! Chips dip, cookies, dessert, potato salad, casserole if you are feeling adventurous.

The Church is providing water, coke, diet coke, sprite, and lemonade in quantity for the game. As well as plastic ware and paper products. Please Note: **Adults beverages are BYOB in personal cooler.**

If you have a few extra minutes, we need 2-4 people to assist in set up at 4:30 p.m. and 2-4 people to assist in clean up during second half so as to get Parish Hall back in order for regular business. Please let us know if you can help.

Ms. Gloria and Ms. Sally have graciously agreed to watch children from 5:00 p.m to 9:30 p.m.; so if you have a little one four or under, bring them, just be sure to RSVP so we are certain we have enough childcare workers. This event is open to EVERYBODY! The Berries will bring some board games for kiddos and adults who want to be part of the experience but not watch the game.

Each attendee is asked to bring at least one non-perishable item canned good or personal hygiene/toiletry item to be donated to WHAM.

In order for this event to run smoothly **Reservations are required.** You may register through this [LINK](#), on the church website, or by calling in your reservation into the church secretary. On the registration link, you will be asked for the following information:

- How many are coming? (So we can provide food.)
- Do you need childcare? (So we can provide care.)
- What side/dessert are you bringing? (Because we are really curious!)

**Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Kickoff is approximately 5:30 p.m.**

**See you there!!**







### **God's Word Read Aloud in God's House by God's People**

We are continuing our tradition at Ascension of reading the Bible from Genesis through Revelation during Lent. Readings are approximately a half hour and are scheduled on weekday mornings and evenings and on Saturday morning. You may use the Bible on the lectern or your own. You may read in the language of your choice. You may stand or sit and if access is difficult you may sit in the first row.

Sign up for a reading and include your telephone number. You'll be called the night before as a reminder. You may sign up online starting Monday on the church website, by clicking on the front page link. There is also a sign up sheet near the name tag table in the narthex on Sunday morning. Come to the church at the scheduled time and read aloud the verses assigned. The church will be open and the lights in the altar area turned on. If for some reason you find the church locked, the office has the key. If you wish to have an audience, you must bring your own. You may share this experience with a friend or church member or read on your own. It is suggested that you preview your reading the night before. If you would prefer to read at noon, choose the last reading in the morning or the first reading in the evening on that day and slide it to noon.

Please note that the Sunday paper sign-up and the online sign-up will be combined on Monday, and the newest version printed out the Friday before Sunday. So what this means, is if you sign-up late Friday or on Saturday, you will not see your name reflected on the sign-up sheet, but you are signed up. Last year we did not have any conflicting shifts, but if for some reason there is this year, Pam Schwabrow will simply contact the two parties that have signed up. One may choose to take a different time slot, or share the time. It will be up to you. Remember in the Bible it says "...make a joyful NOISE unto the Lord,..." so come as you are and read as you can.

### **Shrove Tuesday Feb 17**

Join us in the Parish Hall at 6:00pm for a Pancake Supper hosted by Ascension Girl Scout Troop 149014.

### **Ash Wednesday Feb 18**

Three services will be held on Ash Wednesday. (Nursery is not available.)

- 8:30, in conjunction with the school, non Eucharist
- 9:15-11:00 Drive Thru Ashes ( Pastor Todd will be available in the church parking lot.)
- 12:00pm, noon, a Eucharist service
- 7:00pm, an evening Eucharist service

### **The Lenten Wednesday Program**

Wednesdays between February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup>, 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, a look at ancient techniques for growing closer to God. So in a Nutshell:

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



### **Altar Flowers**

The flower chart for 2015 is now posted in the narthex. Thank you to all who made flower donations last year. The cost of our flowers is now \$100 plus \$20 for delivery, but as usual any amount is acceptable. Please remember to sign the flower chart and the dedication book below it, and remember to place your donation in the alms basin or send it to the office, marked flower fund. Questions, call Ann Burton 713 782 6572.

**Parenting Sunday School: Dare to Discipline** Starting January 11 in the library, Liz Goodman and Sarah Berrie will lead us in Dr. James Dobson's Bible Study, Dare to Discipline. This is a 4-week DVD and discussion study to help parents learn the importance of discipline, why we need boundaries, and when to give in. The last class is Feb 1st.

**The Strong-Willed Child** Starting Feb. 8th, we will continue with another Dr. Dobson study, The Strong-Willed Child. This is another 4-week DVD and discussion study to help parents discern between willful disobedience and childish irresponsibility, then set appropriate boundaries, and lovingly enforce them.

### **Traveling Light – Women's Study Group**

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! We are resuming our Women's Study Group on Wednesday evenings. 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. If you would like to join the study group, please contact Michelle Feagin at mfeagin1@comcast.net so she can order the books.

### **Daughters of the King**

The Daughters of the King will hold their regular monthly meeting on Saturday, February 7th in the parish library, with fellowship at 9:30 AM and the meeting at 10:00. Angela Morales will lead our study of Women of the Old Testament, focusing this month on Esther. All ladies of the parish are invited to join us for fellowship and prayer and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

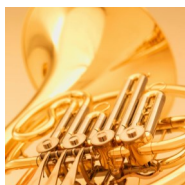


### **Easter Lilies**



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 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 18th. Please email the church office (office@ascensioneiscopalchurch.org) or call at 713-781-1330.



### **Youth & Seedlings Event – Sunday February 22**

There will be a Youth/Seedlings social event on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:15 until 2:00. Shhh.....can't give you all the details now.....but mark your calendar, because you won't want to miss it! Watch your email for more information!



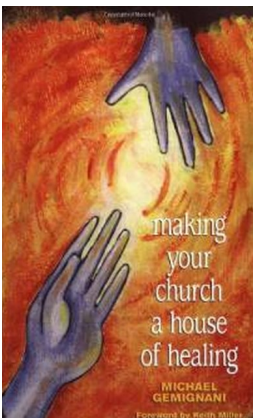
### **Do you know CPR?**

Want to learn how to save a life? Ascension is hosting a CPR course for certification in infant, child, and adult CPR on Sat, March 7th. This one day class is open to everyone so invite friends, family, scouts, teachers and PNO volunteers. Please look for the registration link soon. Cost per person is expected to be \$100.00 or less depending on number of attendees. The training priceless. Scholarships for financial assistance are available through the church.

### **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.

### **Making your Church a House of Healing February 4th at 6:15**



Have you ever desired to grow closer to God in your spiritual life? Have you felt that there had to be more to being a Christian than just showing up for church on Sundays? Do you find that there are things in your life—habits, patterns of thinking-- that get in your way?

The Lord Jesus loves us and wants us to turn to him. Christ came to heal us from spiritual dis-ease, and Dr. Michael Gemignani says that the best place for that to happen is in a Christian community that recognizes the need for that healing. Spiritual growth needs to happen and a Christian church can create a place and programs that encourage it. Spiritual growth will happen when a desire for growth and the movement of the Holy Spirit act in our lives.

Fr. Michael Gemignani, the author of *Making your church a house of healing*, will be here to discuss his book on February 4 at 6:15pm in the large discussion room/library. The OSL study group will continue to discuss the book during their normal meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 6:15pm beginning in February. All are welcome.



# West Houston Assistance Ministries

**Tell all your friends!**



## SHRED DAY HELPS WHAM MINISTRIES

Bring your sensitive information to be **shredded securely ON SITE** and **recycle your electronic devices** at West Houston Assistance Ministries – 10501 Meadowglen, Houston, TX 77042.

The event takes place on Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 9 am to Noon.

**100% of your donation goes to support the programs at WHAM Ministries.**

**Remember the Date:** Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Remember the Place:** 10501 Meadowglen (corner of Meadowglen and Rogerdale).

**Remember the Time:** 9 am to Noon

**Donations:** \$10 minimum (usually \$75 for this service)

**Contact:** Ed Young – 832-413-5677 or [ed.young@whamministries.org](mailto:ed.young@whamministries.org)

Susan – 713-320-8019 or [susan@techbox21.com](mailto:susan@techbox21.com)

This event is generously underwritten by:



Selling in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
[www.TechBox21.com](http://www.TechBox21.com)

### Notes from WHAM:

WHAM is gearing up for one of our largest volunteer activities of the year. Please consider this activity if you have a group of volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to help with one of the biggest food-raising and fundraising campaigns of the year -- the 2015 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING. Grocery stores across Houston will sell "Tackle Hunger" Bags of food which are donated to Houston Food Bank partner food pantries. West Houston Assistance Ministries receives all the bags sold at 6 different grocery stores in our area. The stores – and WHAM – are looking for volunteers to help sell the Hunger Bags between January 14th and February 1st. Two-hour shifts are available Mondays-Fridays between 4-7pm and Saturdays-Sundays from 12-6pm. This is a great way to help tackle hunger in our community. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Ella Clark at 832-413-5983 or Robin Stilwell at 713.795.2880 or [robin.stilwell@whamministries.org](mailto:robin.stilwell@whamministries.org).

**WHAM Blanket Drive** - We are in need of blankets for the homeless. We are seeing more people sleeping on the streets now. We have no blankets to give them. If you have a few extra blankets, please consider donating them to WWHAM. You may drop them off at the church office, and Samantha will take them over.



# 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](mailto: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 - Begin 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

## 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...

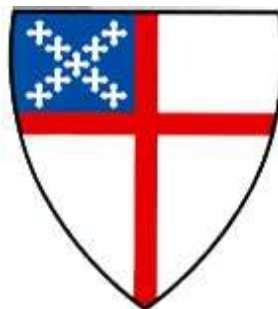
We now receive nonperishable food items for distribution to those in need in our community every Sunday. These donated items are moved to the West Houston Assistance Ministry facility for distribution by volunteers. Look for the wooden box in the Narthex! Contact:

## Staff

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

## The Vestry

John Searle (Sr. Warden), Jim Anderson (Jr. Warden), Jeri Platt (Clerk), 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), 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.