# ASCENSION TIDINGS

# LENT THROUGH EASTER



Greetings in the name of Jesus,

In this Tidings our schedule covers late Lent to Pentecost. As I write, we are mid-way through Lent. I have been touched by the clean simplicity of Wednesday night worship and have loved getting to know new people through Get-to-know Ascension classes as well as through Mary and Robi's classes. Bishop Fisher's sermon during confirmation was a "top ten best"—Go Prairie View Panthers! I highly recommend you listen to the sermon on our website:

http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org/sermons.html .

As we move through Holy Week, Easter, the Easter Season and Pentecost Sunday, I am praying that you are renewed

day-by-day by the goodness and mercy of the Lord. We have been blessed many times over, far beyond what we could ask or imagine. That is worth our praise and thanksgiving.

Getting ready for Easter, we ask you to give generously for our music and lily fund to make Easter glorious. Come for all that we offer, and please make a special effort to join us for Good Friday where all the sponsoring churches of West Houston Assistance Ministries join us for worship at Ascension this year at 12pm, Mar 25th. And, we have a special surprise for the kids on Pentecost Sunday that will make worship special.

# **Sunday School**

Read more from Robi inside because we continue to work on a vision and new plan for Sunday School, it's effectiveness, and timing. We are going to try a test run before I go on sabbatical. Starting May 1st, we are integrating Sunday School into 10:30am worship.

#### Sabbatical

Many of you are interested to know about Sabbatical planning. Here are some basics for the sabbatical which starts on May 16th.

# **General objective**

Sabbatical is a time of renewal for the clergy AND the congregation. The congregational leadership finds new ways to minister, the priest "resets" and dreams about the future of ministry at Ascension.

The Bishop expects clergy to take sabbaticals. After talking with Bishop Fisher, I realized that my dream of traveling the world interviewing preachers was way too big for my stomach, even if I had received funding. During my sabbatical my family and I will:

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

Go to Atlanta for the "festival of homiletics" (preaching conference) and back at the end of the week to start our road trip. https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/ (sans family but everything else will be with the family)

## Road trip through the south.

Visit Sewanee, Virginia and Austin seminaries to chat with current professors about their view of the church of the future. Write a lot, specifically biographies/studies of great preachers. I am hoping to share excerpts of my writing process with the congregation.

When I come back I will be ready to rock and roll with you especially in the realm of community building and outreach. One big project that I am dreaming about is a community garden. The primary aim is not to grow zucchinis for their own sake, but to foster a community of servants for the needy. Take a look at the "after sabbatical" section for the dreams that will be percolating.

## What I am not going to do

I have no desire to leave you all when I get back from sabbatical. I know the last sabbatical was not handled optimally and left the congregation drifting for too long. Your diocesan staff has put in guidelines and safeguards for making sabbatical great for clergy and congregations. I am not going on sabbatical then leaving you all holding the bag in the Fall! We have too much good stuff to work on together.

## Supply clergy:

May 22 – Jun 5 June 12, 19, 26 and July 3 July 10 – Aug 21 Rev. Will Hood Rev. Jim Morgan Rev. Bob Flick

#### Outreach this summer

Deacon Mary and the outreach team will be thinking about how to help our outreach efforts as effective as possible. They have some excellent ideas that even I don't have all the details on. But, this summer will be a great chance to try some new ways to engage the community. My family and I will not be going to Dulac, but the church is absolutely going on the Dulac mission trip.

#### After sabbatical

Community Garden 2016 -2017

#### Vision

• The Garden will be the means to build a community of servants who feed the needy.

#### **Primary Goals**

- Build community among Westchase businesses, community groups, faith groups, and public servants.
- Grow fresh produce for underserved families and individuals.
- Cultivate and harvest produce on a schedule using church members and community groups who will work the garden.
- Donate produce to Mission of Yahweh and West Houston Assistance Ministries or other ministries we target.

#### Location

There are a couple of location options:

- Option 1 At a place central to the Westchase business district.
- Option 2 Onsite at Ascension.

There are lots of details to figure out. If onsite, these fenced in, raised beds will be located in between the northern face of parish hall and the southeastern fence line of the big field. The enclosure will be on the western side of the grassy area. (the eastern side has a ditch that floods periodically).

#### Non-negotiables

• It has to be attractive, well kept, and increase the "welcoming face" of Ascension wherever it is located.

#### Logistics

- Irrigation
- Fencing the type of foods we grow will dictate the type of enclosure. Produce like tomatoes would need to be fully enclosed with squirrel and bird proof fencing and high profile sign advertising that the garden is a ministry of Ascension and a clear explanation on how to get involved.
- Raised beds, soil, and seeds. Girls scouts silver award projects and / or boy scouts install raised beds.
- Tom Sutton be our resident "expert" on the horticultural stuff and help raise up other experts.

Much more to follow when I get back!

Peace.

**Pastor Todd Bryant** 

Todal Byant



#### **Baptism at Pentecost:**

The Birthday of the Church, Pentecost, falls on Sunday May 15 this year. This is a day the church celebrates the beginning of the church; the day when the Holy Spirit was received by the Apostles, empowering them for their mission to spread the good news of Christ. It is also a day we like to celebrate Baptism.

If you or someone you know is ready for Baptism please accept this invitation to join the church, the body of Christ. Take some time to learn about baptism at Ascension by going to http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org/baptisms.html. If you have questions about Baptism for you or your child, please ask Pastor Todd. There is an Application for Baptism at the bottom of the Ascension Webpage about baptism. Print it out, complete it and mail, scan and email the document to Membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org, or bring it to church and drop it in the plate. Ascension will be honored to welcome you to a life of grace through Christ our Lord.

# REACH OUT

There is some very real excitement bubbling up in Outreach as our first Outreach Committee has been meeting. It is a great group, ready to lead Ascension out into our community. We have been developing a mission statement and setting goals....and along the way developing our first larger project.

A-Dios (Spanish for "to God") as well as "goodbye" meaning leaving the campus. We will celebrate our First A-Dios on Saturday April 9th and Sunday April 10th. On Saturday a group of us will travel to WHAM (West Houston Assistance Ministries) to help staff the Pantry and Second



Blessings (the resale shop). As many of you know, both of these areas have recently been renovated and enlarged. While this is wonderful, it has increased customer traffic but volunteers to assist in staffing has not increased. This has led to a critical stage in the Pantry.

The new Pantry is the state of the art for pantries-it is arranged like a grocery store and clients are given a grocery cart and a chart so they can select their own groceries within guidelines. But...each client must be accompanied by a volunteer to oversee and assist them. When they do not have enough volunteers to staff, they have to turn clients away.

Second Blessings has a new manager who is doing a wonderful job of creating a very positive sales space, but they are also in need of people to help. As this area does a better job, more funds are brought in the help with WHAM's many ministries. WHAM has many areas they serve in our community, one area of interest is low income seniors. I hope we can help them enlarge this ministry to this very vulnerable population in our midst.

On Sunday April 10th, we will be working for the community on campus. We will host a large truck which will be placed in the parking lot to collect items for Second Blessings. As you come to church, you can pull up to the truck and we will have people who will help you unload your items. I understand housewares are one of their best selling items and they have a new children's area that needs children clothes. Please consider spring cleaning and helping us fill the truck. We will have donation slips available.

We will also be assembling hundreds of "goody" bags for the students and faculty of Walnut Bend to support them as they start STAAR testing. This is such a wonderful partnership. During March, we have a group who will be reading to all of the first grade classes every week for Read Aloud Month. Ascension is also a sponsor of this event which will place books in children hands. Every week we have people who work in the Lunch Bunch and tutoring programs.

On A-Dios we will also have a group who will cook some small meals that will be frozen and available to take to parishioners when they are ill or need assistance. We are still working on a couple of other projects...so expect to see more. Many hands make light work as well as friends, we hope you will join us in this event.

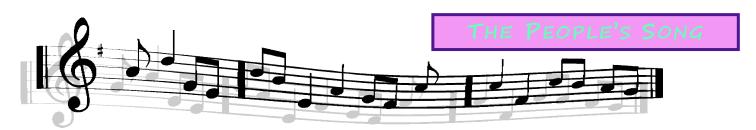
You may have noted a new effort...Fill the Box Sunday. This will be an ongoing event, on the first Sunday of every month we will collect food for WHAM in the box in the narthex. Any items that are in critically short

supply will be noted on the sign and in the weekly email. Please help us with this ongoing effort to support those who are losing their jobs in this current economy.

I have also been leaving the building a lot this last couple of weeks. I consider that we at Ascension are building relationships in the community, so I go out and meet the people in charge before we consider going in to volunteer. There are many wonderful places that need our joyful spirit and hands. Like Dr. Seuss said...."oh! the places we will go!" Look for news here in the upcoming Tidings, on the church website as we develop the Outreach button, in church bulletins and weekly emails, as well as announcements from the altar.



Come go with me! Mary







Although there's plenty of new Lent and Easter music, we have a wealth of seasonal music that has stood the test of time. Many would never have been 'top 40 hits,' which probably helped them endure. They contain truths for all time no matter the original language. Well crafted words and music make it easier to remember the lesson that the hymn conveys. Don't underestimate the power of these songs. Not all of us can walk out of worship recalling every spoken word, but many of us can recall the music we sang. This makes the message portable. Notice how familiar hymns

bubble to the surface when there are crises: *God bless America* and *Amazing grace* were sung widely as our collective comfort songs after 9/11. Families who have strayed from regular church attendance often sing from memory when they attend funeral services at their childhood church home. The hymns still sing their message. They are waiting for you.

During Lent, we recall our previous Lents as we sing the wonderful Isaac Watts hymn (#474) When I survey the wondrous cross, the 16<sup>th</sup> C. (#168) O sacred head now wounded, and the spiritual, (#172) Were you there? Personally, I remember childhood Palm Sunday processions. Who could think of celebrating Easter without (#207) Jesus Christ is risen today?

If you want to express your faith to a child, cuddle up your favorite little one with a favorite hymnbook. Sing your favorites. Be sure to say why they mean so much to you. What a wonderful gift to give, the story of Christianity in song.

Faithfully yours, Suzanne

# ASCENSION SCHOOL

Dear Parishioners,

We welcome spring and the last months of the 2015-16 school year. We have had a very successful year building enrollment and adding new classrooms. We have 180 students on campus and look forward to another year of successful enrollment for the 2016-17 school year.

This spring we invite you to join us on March 4th for Rodeo Day. We enjoy pony rides, a petting zoo, games and lunch together. Put on your cowboy or cowgirl boots and join us for the morning.

Our 3rd and 4th graders travel to Camp Allen for an overnight trip on Tuesday, March 22nd returning on Wednesday, March 23rd. They will explore the nature trails, learn some Texas history, canoe, and have a campfire and stories in the evening.



Our 5th graders travel to Mo Ranch on March 30th for two nights of exploration, rope courses, nature trails, wildlife and fresh water ecology, canoeing, and archery are a few of the many experiences for the three days.

We will celebrate with a Communion Service on Tuesday, April 5th at 8:30 and you are welcome to come and join us for this service.

Our Spring Book Fair will be open for the church on Sunday, May 1st. We hope you will stop in the Parish Hall and purchase some summer reading for family and friends. We thank you for your support. The money raised goes to the library to purchase more books for our students.

We wish you a Joyous Easter,

Nancy Clausey Head of School

Watch for your RSVP for the school auction in the mail. Didn't get one?

Call the school, we will send one out!

# Auction Tickets to go on sale in Late March

Watch the announcements and be ready to go online to buy your auction tickets. The link will be available on the church website. Please come support the school in this impressive endeavor!

#### **HERE'S the LINK:**

https://ascensionepiscopalschool. schoolauction.net/auction2016/ti ckets/ticket sales

#### **Exciting Reasons to come to the Auction!**:

Pappas BBQ is catering.

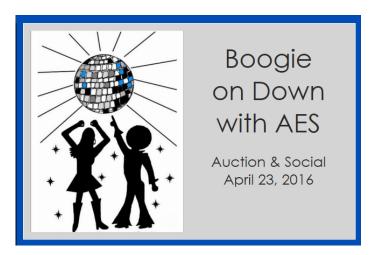
Disco Themed

Support the School

Wine Pull

Bid on fantastic items such as:

- Houston Polo Club donated a 10 pack of tickets for any 2016 spring polo match!
- Ally & Tim McCaffrey (AES Parents) donated 2 tickets to a regular season Chicago Cubs game, plus a \$250 travel voucher!
- Fighter pilot for a day!
- Paintings by Genie (Genie Mack, AES Staff) donated a custom pet portrait!
- Ervin Schroeder/Cindy & Todd Breton (AEC Members and School Board President) donated time in a Hot Springs Village, AR townhome!
- Disney donated 4 1-Day Park Hopper Passes to Disney Land!



# AUCTION 2016

It's that time again! Auction planning has begun, and we want to tell you all about it!

First, every year AES holds an auction and social in the spring. The event is a great opportunity for parents, teachers, friends, families and church members to come together to celebrate our wonderful school with food, fun, drinks, music and dancing... and to support the vision of AES through the silent auction.

We encourage all church families to attend and participate. RSVPs will be taken starting in March. Reserved tables may be purchased beginning now. There is more information available online. Invite many to join us!

Second, our goals NOW:

- 1) We are beginning to procure donations for the online and silent auctions. (Online auction will take place April 15-18.) We need your help! Donation forms are available online on the AES website. or for pick up in the school office. Take them around town with you and ASK, ASK, ASK. Also what can you offer? Who do you know?
- 2) We need to begin getting sponsors and underwriters for our event. Underwriting opportunities include DJ, food, wine/beer, decorations, photographer, software, childcare, etc. All sponsors and underwriters that have committed by December 18th will be recognized on our auction t-shirt. Help us!

Finally, the auction team has begun forming and has our first meeting on Friday, November 6th, 3:30-5pm in church library. If you'd like to participate, please come if you can or reply to this message.

Ready, set, go! Let's get the FEVER!





2015: \$53,600!

2014: \$47,800

2013: \$38,000

2012: \$24,000

2011:\$12,000



You can see that each year is getting better and better... so let's make this year the BEST one yet! Thank you for your continued and increased support!

# DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



The Lenten season is a busy one for children's ministries! While many of our children have been busy rehearsing the drama to be presented on March 6, those who have continued to attend Sunday school have been walking the path with Jesus toward the cross. Our younger ones have learned many of the parables and lessons that Jesus taught during his ministry, and our older ones are about to embark on the Stations of the Cross.

We have been taking a hard look at how we minister to our youngest worshippers, and are considering some changes in how we provide

Christian education to them. Parents of children from three years of age though high school will be receiving a survey via email this week asking for information and opinions on several aspects of children's Sunday school. I encourage all of you to complete it so that we can find the best way possible to serve our children and youth. You know your children and family needs better than anyone, so your input is invaluable to us!

#### **Annual Easter Egg Hunt**

Children of all ages are invited to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:30 service on Easter day. Last year, instead of placing candy and small trinkets inside the eggs, we put tickets that the kids traded in for prizes of their own choosing. They seemed to enjoy this change so much that we are planning on doing the same again this year! We will have separate hunts for children ages infant through 2 years, and those who are 3 and above.





#### Mission Trip 2016 – Return to Dulac!

Our annual Mission trip to Dulac, Louisiana is June 5 – 10. We will hold an informational meeting for anyone considering joining us on Sunday, March 20 following the 10:30 service. The trip is open to everyone 5 years of age and above. Youth in grades 6 and above are able to attend without parents. Younger children will need to have at least one parent go on the trip with them. The trip is limited to 30 people, so if you are interested in attending, please give you name to Robi Lasiter at robilasiter@gmail.com as soon as possible!

# Can't wait to see you there!

# ACTIVITIES AND ONGOINGS

# Welcome!!

Please welcome the following graduates of Get to Know Ascension Class of February 2016 who were presented to Bishop Jeff W. Fisher on February 28, 2016 at Ascension

#### Confirmed

Kelly Cottle
Oluwatumininu (Tumi) Agboola-Fatinikun
Olawole Fatinikun
Kiesha Laster
Diego Parra

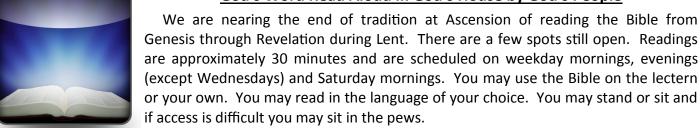
#### Received

Ryan Gowens April F. Wackenreuter

#### Reaffirmed

Olutoyin (Toyin) Agboola
Travis Bowman
Tiffany Gowens
Sheryl Jorgensen
Jarrod Lashley
Curmetta Maloney
Grecia Parra

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



Sign up for a reading and include your email address. You will be sent an email reminder a couple of days before your reading. You may sign up online starting at the beginning of February on the church website, by clicking on the front page link. There will 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.

# ACTIVITIES AND ONGOINGS



## **Altar Flowers**

We do not have flowers during Lent. After Easter, we will resume flower dedications so please sign the flower chart which is posted in the narthex. The cost of our flowers is \$100 (which includes delivery). Please remember to sign the flower chart, the dedication book below it, and place your donation in the alms basin or send it to the office, marked flower fund. All questions can be answered by Ann Burton (713) 782-6572.

#### Thank you!

A great thank you to Pat Cole and members of the Altar Guild for the beautiful desert Altar. This vision is truly a treat each year.



# **Daughters of the King**

The Daughters of the King will hold their regular monthly meeting on Saturday, March 12th and Saturday, April 9th in the parish library, with fellowship at 9:30 AM and the meeting at 10:00. All ladies of the parish are invited to join us for fellowship and prayer and their friends are cordially invited to attend.



#### **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 Paul Searle.



#### Photos for the Directory -

Easter is a great time for photos. The family usually dresses in nice spring outfits. There are Easter baskets, patent leather and we are all thankful for the Lord's most precious gift to us. Share your gladness by posing for a quick photo to use in the Ascension Photo Directory. Leslie will have her membership bonnet on and be ready to capture your best smiles to share with the congregation. If you have questions, email membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org.

#### Finishing Up the Lenten Wednesday Teaching

Nursery available
Adult Classes (Led by Pastor Todd)

Join us for the last two teachings and soup suppers'

Mar 9th - Inter religious reconciliation (Islam and Christianity) Soup: Sunday School, Taco Soup

Mar 16th - "Monk-y" business. Intro to Easter Season adult class on Sunday mornings for developing a rule of life.

Soup: Parish Life, Chicken Tortilla Soup



6pm Evening prayer - two hymns, evening prayer from the church of England, and brief (3-5min) reflection.

6:30pm Soup supper and breakout

for teaching.

7:30pm Class finishes.

## **Drama Troupe**

Our children and their director, Carrie Durham, will present the "Prodigal Drama" today at the 10:30 service. We look forward to seeing all their hard work come to fruition. There will be no Children's Chapel at this service, so that we may all enjoy the presentation

#### **Limited Office Hours**

The office will be opened for limited hours on Spring Break (March 14-18). Please email the office with any needs, the secretary will be checking regularly.

# Do you want to donate to the rector's sabbatical?

You may send it to the church office or drop it in the plate. Simply write "sabbatical" in the memo line of your check or use a designated offering envelope for cash.

# **Daylight Savings Starts**

Don't forget to set your clocks forward as we "spring" ahead on March 13.

(That's next Sunday!)



# **Graduate Recognition Sunday**

Share your good news!

On June 5, 2016 Ascension Episcopal Church will be honoring high school, specialty programs, technical school, and college/grad school graduates. This is a very special occasion in your family member's faith

journey, so mark your calendars and plan to attend the 10:30am service.

We need to hear from you by May 24th with the student's name and any information (such as a short bio or future plans) you want included in the bulletin in order for us to recognize these graduates' accomplishments. Please contact Paul, newcomers@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org, with the names of any family members or friends of Ascension who are Spring 2015/December 2014 grads. It will be helpful to know your graduate's school, as well as future plans following graduation. Thank you for your assistance as we prepare for this special recognition Sunday.



#### **Easter Lilies**

The time is growing short to sign up for lily donations and dedications. The cost is \$25, but any amount is welcome. Act today to see that your dedication is included in Easter bulletin. The deadline is March 21. 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 21.

#### **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 21st. Please email the church office or call at 713-781-1330.

# **Holy Week**



Palm Sunday, March 20th 8 am & 10:30am Palms and Passion story nursery available from 8am - noon



Maundy Thursday, March 24th 6:30pm foot-washing & stripping of the Altar nursery available



Individual meditations of

Stations of the Cross,

March 21st - 6-7:30pm

Holy Saturday Stations,

March 26th, 12pm



Good Friday at Ascension, March 25th, 12pm, led by the WHAM churches, Preacher -Pastor Hazel from Ashford UMC

# Easter Day, March 27th flowering of cross at both services 8am with communion & hymns nursery available from 8am to noon



**Easter Day** 

#### **Easter Day continued**

10:30am with communion, lilies, & brass

Egg hunt After 10:30am worship on school playgrounds nursery available at 10:30am

"He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

- Luke 24:6-7

# 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

#### **Disaster Response**

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...

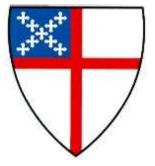
We now receive nonperishable food items for distribution to those in need in our community every Sunday. These donated items are moved to the West Houston Assistance Ministry facility for distribution by volunteers. Look for the wooden box in the Narthex! Contact:

#### **Staff**

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

#### **The Vestry**

Mike Black (Sr. Warden), Cindy Breton, Cheryl Coppock, Clement Falayi, Carol Goulet, Miranda Griesbaum, Laura Konitzer, Doug Meyers, Matt Murphy, Lee Nirider, Dick Stabell, Tom Sutton, 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 - Miranda Griesbaum, 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.