

# ASCENSION TIDINGS

## PENTECOST TO SUMMER

Hello Church,

Summer is here! Please take a look at the things we have cooking. You will notice several things. We have a fall preview and the formation calendar, 2017-2018, for the children and youth. We really want you to have sense where we are headed and what good things are in store. In the meantime come to worship stay for Summerfest on periodic Sundays after church and keep walking with Jesus. Last but not least, take a look at the vision work inside -- it continues!

Early in June, I head to preaching workshop called "Deep calls to Deep" at Virginia theological seminary. Later in the summer the family does our usual Wyoming trip. And in between my kids will alternate between summer camps and staring like zombies at their screens.

Peace,



Pastor Todd Bryant



She is middle schooler now! 🙄

### Vision Update

Your church staff and lay leaders met again on June 3rd to further our work on updating the mission and vision of Ascension. You've seen our new Mission Statement and Core Values. Now, we want to share with you the 1st draft of how we intend to move forward so that our vision is realized in five years.

### Welcome and Embrace

#### **Vision**

Ascension is a loving church that attracts and welcomes all into a relationship with God and each other. All members are encouraged to use their talents in active ministry.

#### **Looking Ahead**

We are developing a plan to enhance how we identify visitors, ensure that they feel welcome, and return to us again. Our ultimate goal is for newcomers to become church members who are actively involved with Ascension so that they are both being ministered to and using their talents to minister to others.

### Forming Disciples

#### **Vision**

Ascension is a community that celebrates its life in Christ, providing many opportunities for Bible study and spiritual growth as we share our faith.

#### **Looking Ahead**

We are working to increase Bible study opportunities and exploring how to communicate (provide?) spiritual growth opportunities with the congregation.

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## Into the Community

### **Vision**

Inspired by the Holy Spirit to serve God, we are the hands and feet of Christ in our community. We know our neighbors and are known by them. We provide opportunities for everyone to work together to restore relationships and build new ones.

### **Looking Ahead**

We will be focusing on enhancing our strategic relationships with various community partners in West Houston. We also plan to increase congregational participation in our service to these partners, and the community at large.

## Children though Young Adults

### **Vision**

Ascension's ministry to its children, youth and young adults is powerful, vital, growing, and exciting; where our children and youth, with their families, are shepherded to develop into disciples of Jesus, and where our young adults find their place in the church. We enjoy Christian community, and worship in services that are friendly to all ages.

### **Looking Ahead**

It is our goal to provide age appropriate Christian education to all of our children and youth. We want this group to be divided into 3 age appropriate groups and for these groups to be taught by the same teacher each week. We will provide engaging lessons so that our children develop a solid basic knowledge of their Christian faith and what it means to be Episcopalian. Our youth and young adults will build on that knowledge while also becoming leaders in the worship service and Christian community.

## Ascension Episcopal School

### **Vision**

Ascension financially, spiritually, and publicly supports the mission of Ascension Episcopal School, and continually seeks ways to create closer bonds between church and school families.

### **Looking Ahead**

We are working to enhance communication between the school and the church. We want church members to understand the relationship between the church and school and for church members to be aware of school events or concerns. We also want school families to become active members of the church. Further, we will develop a plan to effectively manage, and improve, all of our church and school facilities.

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To love and worship Jesus Christ through scripture and prayer.  
To love and serve one another through fellowship and community outreach.  
To prepare and send disciples to grow God's kingdom.

## **CORE VALUES**

**Worship** We adhere to the living traditions of Biblical Teachings, the Book of Common Prayer, the practice of the Sacraments and Joyful Praise.

**Spiritual Formation** We grow spiritually through Bible study, worship, fellowship and education.

**Fellowship** We build relationships and nurture one another in the love of Christ and welcome the community into our family of faith.

**Mission and Outreach** We proclaim the love of Christ through prayer and compassionate service to the larger community.

**Diversity** We welcome all in sharing our common faith.

## THE PEOPLE'S SONG



The People's Song, June 2017

What is the Presentation Hymn? What's a doxology? At Ascension, we sing music sung at the presentation of the offering. We sing words of glory, praises in a Trinitarian form. This is also known as a doxology, which comes to us from the Greek, *doxa* and *logos*. Not only does this musical response recognize our presentation of offerings to Go, but it also prepares us in the manner of an entrance into the Eucharist. (ex: 324, vs.1)

There are three main forms of doxology. The Greater Doxology (Glory to God in the highest) can be sung or spoken at Morning Prayer, particularly in the Eastern churches. Often called the Gloria or Hymn of Praise, it can be sung after the First Lesson. The Lesser Doxology can also be called the Gloria Patri (Glory to the Father). This is sung at the beginning of worship service and before or after psalms and \*canticles. Metrical doxologies are used as presentation hymns. We know many specific doxology texts, (Praise God from whom all blessing flow) which are set to tunes we easily recognize. This includes the tunes from our Jazz doxology by Paul Vasile, and Old 100th. Old 100 is an obvious connection to Psalm 100: All people that on earth do dwell.

Many Reformation Era hymns have a final, often 5th stanza that is a doxological verse. It seems amusing today, but these extra verses were often tagged onto a perfectly complete hymn to make it of sufficient length. We can find these extra verses throughout our hymnal: 1-4, 11-17, 19-23, 29/30, 38-41, 43, 47, 52, 55, 59, 60, 63/4, 76/7, 85, etc.

A Presentation Hymn does not have to be a doxology. Any verse which is a prayerful acknowledgement of the gifts we bring and the gifts God gives can be appropriate: 7 vs. 1, 332, 337, vs. 1& 4, 338.. During Lent, we have used all of the stanzas of # 152, Kind Maker of the world, O hear. This text expresses Lenten sentiment in a thoughtful prayer of acknowledgement of our imperfect selves and the hope that new life in Christ embues. Hymn 618, stanza 4 rings with Eastertide joy. You can comb the hymnal and find many texts that can be appropriate, whether sung or spoken. Even if you do not sing, the hymnal can be a wonderful source for your full worship life.

\* A canticle is a hymn, psalm, or other song that is based on a Biblical or holy text that is not from the Book of Psalms, such as the Magnificat (Luke 1: 46-55) or Nunc dimittis/Canticle of Simeon (Luke 2: 29-32). Our Book of Prayer cites 21 canticles for use in worship.

Glory to God in the highest!

Suzanne  
organista-no.1@comcast.net



## Fall Preview 2017

We have great opportunities for serving and learning.

### **On the Adult Education front:**

#### **Sunday Morning @11:15am - two classes.**

Rector's Class – We pick up with Acts 17 with a one-chapter a week approach.

Small group Class – various series (4-6 weeks at a time). The first one will be a video/discussion series “catching fire, becoming flame.” Others will be announced later.

#### **During the week**

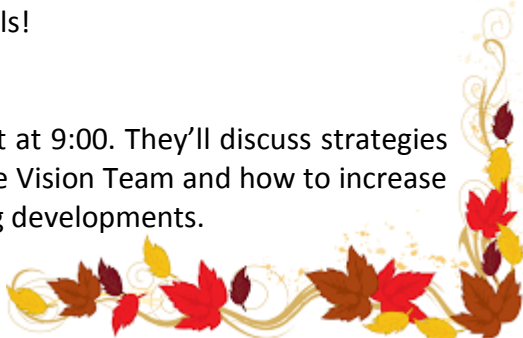
Tuesday at 1pm and Thursday at 6:45am Bible studies continue (as well as through the summer)!

#### **Youth and Children's education**

We are working towards having one consistent teacher for each classroom; this will allow our children to develop a better relationship with their teacher and for our teachers to share more exciting lessons. In addition to continuing our class specifically for 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above, we plan to have one social event and one service opportunity each semester for the youth. Check out the 2017 – 2018 Christian Formation Calendar for more details!

#### **Ministry Kick Off**

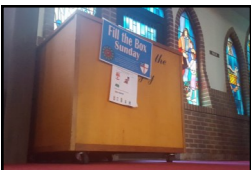
Our ministry leaders will meet August 20<sup>th</sup> for a group breakfast at 9:00. They'll discuss strategies for implementing the new vision plan being developed by the Vision Team and how to increase their volunteer base. See the Vision Update for those exciting developments.



## *ONGOING MISSION AND OUTREACH*

#### **Lunch with Friends**

Lunch with Friends at Mission of Yahweh occurs each month on the first Saturday. We have a great time being with each other and the residents. Please sign up in the Narthex and we will send you the last minutes details of when and where to arrive.



#### **Fill the Box**

Don't forget. Fill the Box Sunday is the First Sunday of each month. This summer we will fill the box on July 1 and August 5th. Let's fill the wooden box in the Narthex with non perishable foods for WHAM.

#### **WHAM Volunteering**

On the third Saturday of each month, we send a team to WHAM to repackage food items for their Food Pantry. Be sure to sign up in the Volunteer Binder in the Narthex and be part of this month's team on June 17th, 9am to noon.

#### **WHAM Recycling Center**

Please bring your unused travel toiletries, condiment packets, bags, both paper and plastic, and egg cartons to donate to WHAM. Don't throw these things away! Look for the recycling center in the Parish Hall.



## **Congratulations Graduates!!**

Congratulations to the following friends and family of Ascension:

- **John Harwood "Jack" Barry**, grandson of Sonny and Sandra Colley and great-grandson of Mrs. Bud Collins Hardwood (former member of Ascension now living in Austin) graduated from Stratford High School and will pursue a BBA in finance at Texas Tech University.
- **Hannah Gray Devine**, granddaughter of Sonny and Sandra Colley and great-granddaughter of Mrs. Bud Collins Hardwood (former member of Ascension now living in Austin) graduated from the May's School of Business at Texas A&M University with her BBA in finance. She will be employed at Sewell Cadillac in Houston.
- **Keegan Bosco**, grandson of Carol Goulet, graduated from Stratford High School and will Montana University in the fall.
- **Tyler Erik Hansen**, son of Todd and Karin Hansen, graduated from The University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business, with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting and a Master in Professional Accounting Degree on Saturday, May 20th, 2017. Beginning in August, he will be employed by PricewaterhouseCoopers, Houston.
- **Emily Jackson**, granddaughter of James and Cora Jackson, graduated from the University of Houston with her Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning in December 2016. She was hired by the Houston Independent School District for the spring semester and will begin working for the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District in the fall.
- **Philip Murvee**, son of Edwin and Jolie Murvee, graduated from Stratford High School and will be attending Texas Tech University in the fall.
- **Obruche Okoro** graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center's School of Nursing. She is preparing for the NCLEX exam.

### **Thank you for a wonderful Sunday School year!**

Our Sunday School teachers play a vital role in the Christian formation of Ascension's children and youth! The next time you see one of our fabulous volunteers be sure to let them know how much you appreciate them.

<i>Adam Brown</i>	<i>John Searle</i>	<i>Margo Kaplan</i>
<i>Allison Miles</i>	<i>Kimberly Bryant</i>	<i>Melinda Merwin</i>
<i>Craig Kaplan</i>	<i>Lilian Care</i>	<i>Ngozi Adimora Nweke</i>
<i>Fumni Falayi</i>	<i>Liz Goodman</i>	<i>Pam Schwabrow</i>
<i>Geraldine Liborio</i>	<i>Louise Sutton</i>	<i>Sharon Black</i>



### **Looking Ahead**

We're going to have a fantastic summer! While we give all of our Sunday School teachers a break this summer we'll be having Summer Fest twice a month. There will be games for the children while the adults have plenty of time for fellowship.

In August, we'll have a Sunday School Kickoff party where your children can meet their teachers and we'll bless their backpacks for the school year.

September 10<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Welcome Back Sunday. You'll learn about all of the exciting ministries that you can serve in and we'll start Sunday School for all ages. Take a look at the calendar on the next page to see the schedule for the entire Sunday School year.

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### **HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE**

The Emergency Response Committee (formed to react to the temporal needs of our church community in times of emergency.... weather related or not) wishes to remind all parishioners of the Member Assistance form, available in the Narthex, for those who may have special needs – due to physical handicaps, living alone, or lack of proximity to friends and/or relatives. Please fill out the necessary forms as applicable, and return to the church office. A separate form is available for anyone wishing to volunteer to serve on this committee. Remember, this effort is for the benefit of us all.

Lee Nirider, Committee Chairperson

### **Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who checked their entry in the Directory and gave us photos and updates. It was a great help. The new edition has been posted on the Ascension Episcopal Church website. A new draft of the Directory is also now in the narthex, so if you have changes or corrections please make them next to your entry or turn in a card or email [membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org).

We want to get it right. Thanks again for your help! Faithfully,

Leslie Nirider, Membership Secretary

### **Parishioner updates**

Please welcome:

#### **New Members:**

*Matthew Boyleston and Abby Heller Boyleston,  
and their children Maeve and Carys from  
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, January 2017.*

#### **Those who have been Baptized:**

*Jackson Everett, born to Hope and Bryan Everett on January 11, 2017.  
Dane Richard Rosoff, Grandson of Sheryl Jorgensen.*

#### **Those who have been recently Married:**

*Judith Cull and Stanley Dennis, married in January.  
Allison Miles and Cory Garcia, married in April.*



## Ascension Episcopal Church

### 2017 - 2018 Christian Formation Calendar

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

#### JUN 2017

6/4 Pentecost Sunday  
6/18 Summer Fest & Father's Day

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

#### JUL 2017

7/4 Independence Day  
7/9 Summer Fest  
7/23 Summer Fest  
7/30 Youth Sunday

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

#### AUG 2017

8/6 Summer Fest  
8/20 Summer Fest  
Ministry Leader Breakfast  
8/27 Sunday School Kickoff  
Party & Backpack blessing

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

#### SEP 2017

9/4 Labor Day  
9/10 Welcome Back Sunday & Sunday School Starts

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

#### OCT 2017

10/29 Youth Sunday

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

#### NOV 2017

11/26 No Sunday School

Thanksgiving Break

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

#### DEC 2017

12/24 No Sunday School  
12/31 No Sunday School

Christmas Break

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

#### JAN 2018

New Years Day Break

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

#### FEB 2018

2/14 Valentine's Day & Ash Wednesday

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

#### MAR 2018

Spring Break

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

#### APR 2018

4/1 Easter/No Sunday School  
4/29 Youth Sunday

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

#### MAY 2018

5/6 Celebrate Ascension Day  
5/10 Ascension Day  
5/13 Mother's Day & Last Day of Sunday School  
5/20 Pentecost Sunday

#### Important Sunday School Dates

9/10/2017 Start Date  
11/26/2017 Thanksgiving Break  
12/24/2017 Christmas Break  
12/31/2017 New Year's Day Break  
4/1/2018 Easter Break  
5/13/2018 End Date

#### Youth Group Activities TBD

10/1/2017 Social Activity  
12/3/2017 Service Project  
2/4/2018 Service Project  
4/15/2018 Social Activity

#### Youth Sunday's

7/30/2017  
10/29/2017  
4/29/2018

    Summer Fest  
    No Sunday School / Holiday  
    Sunday School

## ACTIVITIES AND ONGOINGS

### 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 9:00-9:45 AM. To schedule a training, please email the office or Miranda Griesbaum.



### Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King will hold their regular monthly meetings on Saturday, June 10th, July 8th and August 12th in the parish library, with fellowship at 9:30 AM and the meeting at 10:00. Come and share the fellowship. All ladies of the parish and their friends are cordially invited to join us for fellowship and prayer.

### Can you operate a Smartphone?

If you can operate a smartphone, then you will have no problem operating our sound system. The Sound Ministry is down to just two people. They are in need of a few parishioners to step forward and give one or two Sundays a month. Please do not be intimidated by technology. Alan Burton and Kathleen Hannah are happy to give you all the information you will need. Please email [kathleen.hannah@att.net](mailto:kathleen.hannah@att.net) for more info.

### Recycle Bin

There used to be a Paper recycling bin on the school property. The company has requested that we pay \$150 a month to maintain it. We have chosen to remove it from the property as that is not in the budget. Please note that Frostwood Elementary has several bins as well as other elementary schools near you.



### Altar Flowers

Please sign up to dedicate the Altar flowers. The flower chart is posted in the narthex. The cost of the 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](tel:7137826572).

### Calendar

Want to know about upcoming events? Check out the church calendar on the Ascension website. This calendar features, the church schedule, school schedules, outreach events, and facility usage merged into one. You may choose to look at only one at a time by clicking on the small downward arrow in the upper right hand corner and selecting which topic to view. If you have any questions, ask Samantha in the office. The calendar is being updated constantly, so check back for new events.



### Online Sermons

Missed the sermon last weekend? Wish you could replay it or share it with a friend? Well you can! Please see the church website, and under the Sundays tab, you will find the sermons. Feel free to share them.



Dear Parishioners,

We have ended our school year with great celebration as you can see in the attached photos. In our Awards Chapel we awarded the Donnie Hollowell Scholarship to Shelby Owen. Shelby will attend 4th grade next year at AES.

Our graduation of 15 students was the largest we have had in many years. They have all been accepted to the middle school of their choice. The private schools they chose were: Holy Spirit Episcopal School, The Village School, St. Francis Episcopal Day School, St. Cecilia Catholic School, The Joy School, Trent International School, and Wesley Academy. The public schools our students chose were: Tanglewood IB Middle School, Spring Woods Middle School, Cornerstone, Academy, and Westchester Middle School.



KidVenture is here for the summer, the youngest division, Pre-K 3 to K, is full for the summer and there are a few openings in the older division for students going into 1st to 5th grade.

We look forward to the next school year, 2017-18, our enrollment will decrease in the upper grades and that is happening in most private schools this year as families move farther west and into public school districts.

We celebrated the retirement of Roxanne Haase, Karen Maness, Valerie Varhaug, and Pam Warak. They have served so many families and we are grateful for their love and care of children.

We cannot replace these wonderful teachers, but we are most fortunate to have Julia Lawhon and Colette Yuille to teach Pre-K 4 next year. One of our afterschool teachers who has been teaching in an area preschool, Angela Comuyog, will be teaching Pre-K 3.

We thank Ascension Church for all the support, talents, and time given to us this year, you make a difference each day in the work we do together.



Faithfully,

Nancy Clausey  
Head of School





Remember Ascension Episcopal Church and School in your will.



Contact: Leslie Nirider at  
membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org

### 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...

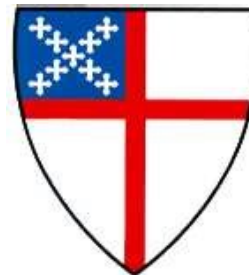
We have a drive **once** a month on the First Sunday and on the 3rd Saturday of the month we go over to WHAM to work to prep food for distribution in the Food Pantry. So bring your non-perishable goods on the First Sunday and please Sign up in the Volunteer Sign Up Log in the Narthex to help on-site. If you have questions or would like more information please contact Deacon Mary at [deacon@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:deacon@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)

### Staff

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

### The Vestry

Tom Sutton (Sr. Warden), Lee Nirider (Jr. Warden), Cindy Breton, Alan Burton, Cheryl Coppock, Glenn Criswell, Clement Falayi, Michelle Feagin, Liz Goodman, Margo Kaplan, Doug Meyers, and The Rector.



### The School Board

The Rev. Todd Bryant, Todd Breton (President), Jim Anderson (Vice President), Thom Fenner (Treasurer), Amanda Candler (Secretary), Shay James, Diego Parra, Patrick Gallagher, Tom Konitzer, Tim Gilheart, Marike Owen, Kevin McNulty, and Ex-officio members: Vestry Reps, Mike Black, 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

