

# ASCENSION TIDINGS

## STEWARDSHIP 2016

Fall(ish) greetings my friends,

I am very happy to be fully in the ministry swing with you. Your leadership is working very hard on two fronts - vision work (starting in November) and fellowship (in progress). Let me give you a picture of the road ahead.



### Oct 1 - Fellowship

Our kickoff fellowship event for our new ministry called "Supper Club" was at the Mattern's house down the street. I am so grateful to them and everyone who came for a great night. This was a fun mixer meant to spur some dinner fellowship groups that we are helping to develop.

Over the fall and spring, we are working with several people who want to open their homes for social time and dinner as part of the supper club ministry. If you are interested in being a host home at least once or many times, let me know.

### Oct 2 - St. Francis inspired blessing of the Animals

We had our annual blessing of the Animals at Ace Hardware 14455 Memorial Dr. Deacon Mary and I were there to bless your furry or scaly pets. We think this was a wonderful blend of worship and community presence. Check out some photos in the Tidings and on Facebook

### Oct 9 - Seafarer's Ingathering

On the pure outreach front, our Seafarer's drive that has already begun will culminate in our annual ingathering on Oct 9. Houston International Seafarers' Centers is a vital ministry of the Episcopal Church. Its mission is to be "home away from home" for seafarers visiting the Port of Houston. Rev. Lacy Largent helped us see the big picture of our ministry by preaching on September 18. Go to our sermon page on the website if you missed her <http://www.ascensioneiscopalchurch.org/sermons.html>. Seafarer's ministry exists to provide a safe, spiritual environment for those who have chosen the sea as their livelihood.

### Oct 16 - Stewardship Kickoff

Our annual stewardship campaign begins on Sunday, Oct 16. Please pickup your stewardship packets at church on either Oct 16 or Oct 23. The rest of the packets will be mailed on Oct 24. Take a look at your stewardship packet. We are trying to clearly align not only our stewardship with ministry, but also to align stewardship with our mission and vision that we are working on this year and next see "November 12" for more details.

### Oct 23 - Youth Sunday & Oct 30 Out of town wedding/ Drama Group

We will have the youth our church in charge of multiple aspects of worship. I love to see the children and youth take an active role in worship. It is a tangible reminder that the church is about the future and not just where we are now. The following weekend, I have the pleasure of marrying our own Travis and Danielle in Nashville. Because it is a Saturday evening wedding, I won't be back in time for Sunday Morning worship but we gotcha covered. And there will be the drama group presentation that promises to be delightful as well.

### Nov 6 - All Saints and Baptism

We want you! If you are interested in Baptism for yourself, family member, or child please contact our new baptism coordinators Amy and Jonathon Mauritz! [amymauritz@gmail.com](mailto:amymauritz@gmail.com). We will celebrate All Saints with a couple of baptismal families and would love to have you join the baptism party. We will also rededicate the Memorial Walkway at the closing of the Nov 6 service, so get your bricks ordered!

*continued on next page*

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

### November 12 - Beginning of Mission, Vision, and Core Values work

This year we have a strategic planning consultant who is working with us to sharpen our core values, mission, vision and five year plan. We are so excited to have a chance to align our values and our ministries. There will be several opportunities for the whole congregation to participate in workshops and surveys specifically designed to give voice to the faithful's desire for Ascension. This will be a truly grassroots experience and we need your help to shape the vision. It will be a long range process that will lead us into the Fall of 2017 and the years ahead. Once we have done this work, we will have a purpose filled approach for how to organize everything we do around our mission, vision, and core values. If you don't know the core from the floor check out what has made us tick in the past: <http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org/mission.html>.

#### The basic idea

Reb Scarborough, the consultant recommended by the Diocese of Texas, will be facilitating the meetings and providing guidelines. The success of this work depends on the people responding to invitations and participating. The work requires our active participation for a healthy process and ongoing buy-in of the results. Accuracy of the results very much depends on the amount of participation we get.

The first event on November 12 will be a group of 40 people from all areas of Ascension to help us brainstorm on our core values.

Schedule in **2016-17** for workshops and surveys:

**Nov 12:** *Core Values workshop* on Saturday. (childcare and box lunch provided, approximately four hours). We will be inviting about 40 members from all parts of Ascension to bring their brainstorming hats.

**Dec 3:** *Mission Statement workshop* on Saturday. (childcare provided, no lunch approximately three hours). Around 40 parishioners will engage this work.

**January 8- January 29:** *Parish Needs Assessment Survey*. This will be both on paper and online. It will be one of several ways to give helpful direction to our strategic plan.

**January 22:** Parish wide, *everybody-show-up* meeting on a Sunday morning. This day is super important, and we want everyone there. There will be only **one Worship service at 9am, followed by breakfast tacos, coffee and fruit and then the parish wide vision work**. We need everyone's input about who we are called to be over the next five years.

**Feb 5- Feb 22:** Validation Survey. Paper and online. It will be a chance to see if the work up to this point is really on track for who we want to become.

**March 11:** A small group to have initial planning meeting. This group will become the template for how to prayerfully organize our ministry around the mission and vision.

**March to May:** begin working the plan and reshaping our ministries around the vision, mission, and core values.

**May to September:** streamline and launch the plan for the whole community to run with for the next 5 year.

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### **Nov 13 - Stewardship and Commitment Sunday (Ingathering)**

Come this Sunday with your pledge in hand. We will have a chance to place our pledge cards on the Altar as a tangible way to make our commitment to Christ at Ascension. This will be an opportunity at both services. Personally, it is one of the most powerful thing I do. I am honored to be able to make a tangible commitment to the life and ministry of Ascension with my family

This year let's have a potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share. If we get 13 jello molds, then the people have spoken!

### **Nov 13 - Dec 11 Vestry Nominations.**

Vestry nominations begin on Nov 13 and run for a month.

### **Nov 27 - Forgotten Seniors Ingathering / Advent 1**

As is part of our regular practice we will gather the gifts you bring to the forgotten seniors program. This Sunday the Altar will be surrounded by black plastic bags. I think it is a truly beautiful site to connect our work at the Altar with our work in the world.

I know, I have a strange esthetic

### **And way, way off - Feb 5 Parish Meeting**

Yes, I know, but Super bowl kickoff is 5:30pm. This year we want to have the annual parish meeting to start at 9am sharp and be done no later than 10:10am. So come here the state of the state, enjoy football inspired food and if you are a 10:30am person, then go to worship.

**Peace be with you**

We have good ministry ahead of us!



Pastor Todd Bryant

### **Looking forward to our Sermons:**

- Oct 9 Gratitude covers many ills
- Oct 16 The "how much more" principle in the Gospel.
- Oct 23 Parable of the Tax Collector and Pharisee
- Oct 30 Guest speaker. Pastor Todd is celebrating an out of town wedding.
- Nov 6 All Saints means you sorry sinners too.
- Nov 15 Stewardship as a way of life

### **and Sunday school topics:**

- Old testament Rabble-Rousers Sept and Oct.
- Psalms - the politics of devotion Nov and Dec



## SUPPER CLUB

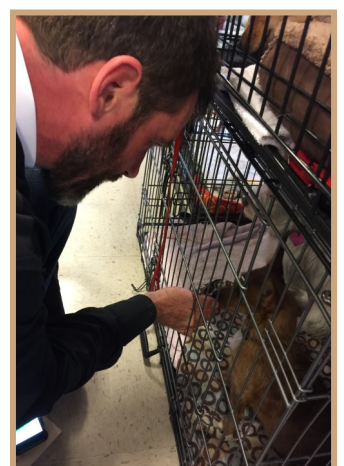
Our kick off event was superb. Thank you to Carol Goulet for cooking literally vats of hot dogs. We are so grateful to the Mattern's for opening up their home and pool. Thank you to the Goodman's and Kaplan's for promoting this new initiative. If you want to be included in the supper club groups that are forming, but have not signed up yet, please email [membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org). The groups are up to 8 people, with simple food, time to socialize and connect. And these groups will meet 4 times before the end of May.





## PET BLESSING

The staff and animal owners who participated in this year's St. Francis blessing of the animals were so glad to be blessed by our Ascension clergy. We blessed 50 dogs, 4 cats, and a chameleon with about 45 owners. Big thanks to Ace Hardware on Memorial.





## REACH OUT

Retirement has been a new experience for me personally. My husband Max and I worked together full time for the last 24 years, therefore retiring at the exact same time. So, as usual it seems for me anyway, several transitions are happening at the same time. With my new schedule-or lack of one superimposed over my days-I have reordered my personal reading and study time to first thing in the morning. I begin with the Daily Office and my Scripture reading and with the addition of coffee begin my reading of the other materials I am studying. From time to time I vary how I read the Bible; I think the change helps me focus on the material in a different way-helps me pay more attention to familiar material.



Right now, I am reading from Tyndall's Bible in One Year. It is a physical book (as opposed to on line or turning to a section of your Bible) and is printed with a date followed by the readings. Each day, I read a section of the Old Testament, the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs....each in order as they are in the entire Bible. As hoped, the word is revealed in a way that brings different elements into focus for me. This last week while I was reading Isaiah the following verses from chapter 58 were before me: "Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am."

Here in Isaiah, in the midst of the Old Testament prophets, is the core element of the basic 2 commandments Christ leaves with us. To show our love of God-we are to love others as we love ourselves. Add to those important elements, the basic message that God will return to you as you give to him...and that means how you treat others. We are plainly being told that the Lord expects action, not symbolism like going without eating, to honor him. While there is certainly a place for fasting in our faith practices, this scripture is quite plain about what God wants from us. The directions are full of active verbs requiring action from us: loose, set free, share, bring, cover, show yourself. The Bible is full of threes...and I think the basic actions God asks of us are: study the Bible, worship in community, serve your fellow man in the world. We are asked to do all three of them regularly.

As the deacon assigned to Ascension, my role is to assist Todd in our community but especially with the "in the world" part. That is actually any part that takes place outside the campus of Ascension. I envision my role as bringing various needs in our immediate community to your attention by gathering opportunities for you to interact with those groups. Christ asks us to personally meet, talk to and through our heart-to travel with these individuals, to offer them companionship, love and hope. Most of them are in difficulties. Many are lonely. All of them need and seek companionship.

My goal is not to ask you be superhuman and to volunteer everywhere. My urging is for you to inform yourself about the offerings and to pray about them...to find the one or two that call to you personally. Then to commit to that group effort to support those you are called to. Along the way, you will serve with other members of Ascension, your family in Christ. We will all grow personally, as a church family and as a member of the whole church throughout the world. We are the light of the world through Christ now...and as Isaiah says when we serve the Lord in the world "your light shall break forth like the dawn". Let your light shine!

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# OUTREACH CALENDAR-COMING EVENTS

- October 15      Reach Out Workday-  
Mission of Yahweh..9am-1pm
- October 15      WHAM re-packaging.....9am-12pm
- October 27      Family Literacy Night  
Making It Better & Walnut Bend Elementary
- November 5      Lunch with Friends-  
Mission of Yahweh..11am-1:30pm
- November 19    Books Between Kids  
\*family friendly\*\*    10:30am-12:45pm
- November 19    WHAM re-packaging      9am-12pm
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## T-Shirts

Remember we have Outreach T-Shirts still available for purchase. These T-shirts were designed by Janis Edel and identify us in our mission work throughout the community. Cost: \$12.00. Available in most sizes. Just ask Deacon Mary and she will happily provide you with one.



## Outreach needs you!

If you have a few hours on a Saturday to spare, or maybe during the week, look in the volunteer sign-up log and see how you can help. There are many opportunities. Every little bit goes a long way.

*(Pictured left: Volunteers working at the Beacon.)*

## NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT



Just these last few days, I have felt that maybe we've turned the corner from summer to fall. Maybe. That means Thanksgiving is not that far away. I love Thanksgiving and the music associated with it.

First celebrated in 1621, Thanksgiving Day was originally a religious and sacred festival, Thanksgiving has now taken the form of football, pilgrimages home for the big feast, and these days it is the gateway for Christmas retail. It is still a national holiday observed throughout the United States as people decorate their homes and prepare traditional foods. Before anyone steps forward to take that first bite, Americans still offer prayers and songs of thanks.

We have some wonderful thanks and praise hymns in our book. *Now thank we all our God* was among the first hymns written for celebration of harvest. The author wrote it for his children to sing as grace before meals. It is based on Ecclesiasticus 50: 22-24, and is in every German hymnal. *Faith of our fathers* was introduced to us when it was sung at the funerals for Fanny Crosby and President Franklin Roosevelt. *Come, ye thankful people, come*, has text written by the son of a priest who later became an Anglican priest himself. The Dutch *We gather together to ask the lord's blessing*, made it to America in 1903, but its popularity came during WWII. The line "the wicked oppressing" was understood to include Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

More hymns of thanks are *For the beauty of the earth*, *We plough the fields and scatter*, *Praise my soul, the king of heaven*, *Rejoice! ye pure in heart*, *All things bright and beautiful*, *'Tis a gift to be simple* and *Lift every voice and sing*. You will find even more in your hymnal.

If we include secular songs that express thanks, we have even more choices. *Food, Glorious Food* from the musical **Oliver**, is based on the Charles Dickens novel of the same name. Nothing makes you more grateful for your impending feast than a bunch of starved orphans who get nothing more than meager portions of gruel for each meal! Bing Crosby's *Count Your Blessings*, from Irving Berlin's 1954 **White Christmas** is a sweetly sung song that almost sounds like a Christmas carol. *My Favorite Things*, from **The Sound of Music** is simply a song about gratitude for what we love most and fits perfectly with the Thanksgiving season. *What a wonderful world* is another pop song of thanks. And one can retrofit a children's song with this text: *If you're thankful and you know it, clap your hands*. <clap clap>.

Find the music that suits you best, and use it to raise thanks to God.

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### Choir Practice

Choir practice is every Wednesday evening beginning at 7:00 pm. Come to learn new songs, practice the ones you know, and sing in Sunday's choir. Practice lasts about two hours.

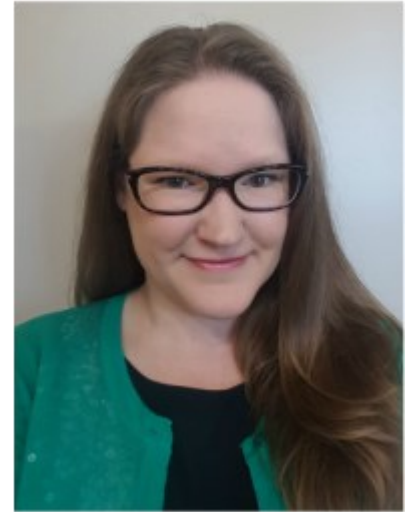




## DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

I am so excited about this new opportunity to serve Ascension! Prior to becoming the Director of Religious Education and Newcomer Minister I volunteered in many areas – Safe Church, Choir, helping out in the office, and serving as the Jr. Warden. Now, I’m looking forward to serving our families with children and helping visitors see just how wonderful our church family is.

This fall, our children are learning about God and the Holy Trinity, how the Bible can guide their beliefs, their identity in Christ, compassion, stewardship and more! I hope you all will join me in thanking our Sunday School teachers for their faithful service to our children and for being so patient during this time of transition since Robi left to join her family in Louisiana.



I’ll be spending the coming weeks meeting with our Sunday School teachers, parents, and anyone else who wants to go get coffee. I’m looking forward to hearing your ideas about what might need to change, what’s working well, anything new you’d like to see us try for both Sunday School and the Newcomer ministry. I can’t wait to talk to you after church or for you to email me at [youth@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:youth@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org).

### Safeguarding God’s Children

I am coordinate the Safeguarding classes. This class is open to anyone interested in learning about how to prevent or detect child abuse and is required for all individuals who volunteer or work with children through both Ascension Episcopal Church and Ascension Episcopal School; certification lasts for five years. If you’re interested in volunteering for the first time or if you think your certification may be expiring soon please contact me at [youth@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:youth@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org) or Leslie at [membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org) with any questions or to sign up for the class.

Blessings,  
Miranda

### **Drama and Service Club**

For those parents who attend Adult Sunday School and for those children 5 and up, interested in performing in the Church Play, Drama Club will returns today at 9:30. They will meet in the Church Library at 9:30. For those kiddoes, for whom acting is not their forté, they may meet in the high school room for an activity based in community service. These activities are geared for ages 5 and up. If you have a little one under the age of five, they may play in the nursery until 10:20, when Sunday School begins.

# ASCENSION SCHOOL

Dear Parishioners,

In October, we have our Fall Book fair, Grandparents Chapel, while November brings a salute to Veterans in our Veteran's Day Assembly. We invite church members to fellowship in all of our activities.

We go into Thanksgiving with Community Service Day when the entire campus works to help those in need with folded newspapers for CAPS, gently worn winter clothing for Mission of Yahweh, toiletries and bottled water for Lord of the Streets, and gift boxes for the Seafarers.



We will also be collecting presents for Salvation Army. In the school office we will have our Salvation Army Angel Tree. The tree contains tags for children who need Christmas gifts. Many of our families shop with their families to buy items for children who will not have Christmas without our help.

Our Blessings to you all,

Nancy Clausey  
Head of School

## AES HAPPENINGS

### Calendar of Events:

- Oct 10 ..... No School for AES
- Oct 17-21. Book Fair
- Oct 18 ..... School Chapel with Grandparents and Special Friends
- Oct 20 ..... School hosted Spaghetti Supper
- Oct 26..... 2nd grade Assembly
- Oct 31..... School Closed for Parent/Teacher Conference
- Nov 9 ..... Veteran's Day Program in the Church, 9am.
- Nov 18 .... AES Community Service Day (Half day)

### Book Fair

Ascension Episcopal School is hosting a Fall Book Fair for all of our avid young readers. Whether you are young or young at heart, be sure to stop by on Sunday, October 16th, in the Parish Hall from 9:00 AM to Noon. The book fair will remain open all week from Monday Oct. 17 through Thursday Oct. 20, from 8:15 AM to 3:00 PM, or during the Spaghetti Supper. Come support our school, and get some early Christmas shopping in.





# ASCENSION EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

## SPAGHETTI DINNER FORM

2016 - 2017



AES Annual Open House/ Spaghetti Dinner and Book Fair!

**Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>**

Dinner Buffet 1st Seating	5:30 - 6:00
Dinner Buffet 2nd Seating	6:15 - 6:45
Open House Classroom Visit	6:45 - 7:30
(Pre-K 3 – 5th Grade only)	
Book Sales	5:30 - 7:15

\*The event is hosted by our Second and Third Grade Classes.

### Advanced Ticket Sales

Please return by Monday, OCTOBER 17th!

Partial underwriting by our friends at



\_\_\_\_\_ x \$6.00 for adult plate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$4.00 for child plate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Circle Seating:**                      **1st**                      **or**                      **2nd**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a check made out to AES for Advanced Tickets Sales!

Write the number of tickets to be purchased in the memo line of your check.

Tickets are available at the door beginning at 6:30pm:

(Walk-in tickets will not be sold during the 1st seating)

Adult plate = \$8.00      Child plate = \$5.00



### Seafarer's Ingathering

October 9th is the Seafarer's ingathering. At both services, the donations at the altar to the Seafarer's Ministry will be blessed. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity. This ministry is only successful through the cooperation of the church and school and the many donations made. (If you really wanted to donate, but forgot to bring the items today, you may drop them off in the church office during the week.) After the AES students pack the boxes on their community service day, November 18, we will let you what the final count is. We are hoping have at least 100 boxes to donate.

### 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.

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



### Editorials

Parishioners are welcome to submit letters to the Tidings for publication. Would you like to recognize someone you think does an outstanding job in the community? Maybe you'd like to share some observations, or recap an event that was held here. If you have participated in an activity that was not reported on in the Tidings, please send us some pictures and an article or quick note telling us what you did or are doing. We would love for the congregation to know all the wonderful things that members of the congregation are doing.

### Altar Flowers

Please consider making a dedication and donation to the altar flowers. Just sign the flower chart posted in the narthex. The cost is \$100.00, but any amount is acceptable and goes toward the cost of the flowers. There may be more than one dedication per Sunday. Flowers are on the Altar every Sunday except during Lent. If you have any questions call Ann Burton. 713-782-6572



**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. The current contact, Jackie Clift, would love to answer your questions. Please feel free to email her or you can get more information online at <http://houstonwidows.com>. Meeting Dates: October 6th, November 3rd, and December 1st.





## Pledges and Statements

Thank you to everyone who has pledged to the ministries of Ascension Episcopal Church. Third Quarter Statements will go out by mid October. A note of caution, cash in the plate is more secure than cash sent through the mail. I am especially grateful to those who helped me to make corrections in our records. We need your input if we are to stay up-to-date. Ascension is a community and in order to reach out and support each other it is important to have current contact information. Please take a moment to give us changes in address, e-mail, and/or telephone number(s) by contacting Leslie through a phone call to the office or emailing her at [membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org). You may also put the information on a Newcomer's Card and drop it in the plate any Sunday.

## Baptisms

All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday of November is our next day of baptism. If you or someone you know is interested in learning about baptism and what it means liturgically, go online to <http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org/baptisms.html> for an explanation. If you have questions that are not answered by the online information, Pastor Todd is eager to answer any questions for your baptism or that of your child. If you are ready to be baptized, our baptism coordinators, Jonathon and Amy Mauritz are able to assist you from application to event. There is an online application that may be downloaded and printed. Just go to the church website at the above address and click on the pdf at the bottom of the article, print out and complete the Application for Baptism. You may send it snail mail, scan and email it to [membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org), or simply drop it in the plate on Sunday morning. We wish to welcome you to a life of grace through Christ our Lord.



## **Why do we baptize on All Saints' Day?**

From: The Hilltop Shepherd's Watch

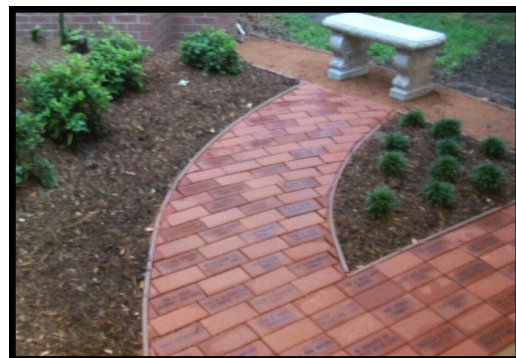
*(<https://hilltopshepherd.wordpress.com/2011/11/01/why-do-we-baptize-on-all-saints-day/>)*

Why do we baptize on All Saints' Day? Because, on All Saints' Day, we acknowledge all of the members of the covenant community, known and unknown to us, into which we are being welcomed. The newly baptized is not just entering a covenant community with the members of his or her local parish. Likewise they are not just entering a covenant community with the members of his or her own denomination. They are not entering into a covenant community with all Christians worshiping God today. Rather, the newly baptized Christian enters a covenant community with all faithful believers who have ever lived and worshiped Jesus Christ. The community is not just the faithful we see, but also those who stand before the throne and worship Our Lord face to face. We are one community, "one body" as St. Paul tells us, not only with those alive today, but with the saints, confessors and martyrs, whose names are known to the Lord alone.

We baptize on All Saints' Day because when the newly baptized rises from the water he or she finds himself not only in a permanent relationship with Jesus Christ, but also in a covenantal relationship with All Saints who have ever lived and worshiped Jesus Christ. As we join their glorious company, it makes perfect sense to baptize on the day we honor their faithful commitment to Our Lord.

### **Memorial Walkway Pavers -**

This year we would like to rededicate the Memorial Walkway as a part of our All Saints Day celebrations. If you would like to purchase a paver as a memorial or to honor a birth, baptism, anniversary or favorite person, we are taking orders. Complete the form available in the Narthex and return it to the church office or email [membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:membership@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org) to have a form sent to you electronically. Dedications are limited to 16 characters per line. The cost is \$100.00 per paver. Who will you honor? What event might you commemorate. If you have questions, please call the church or send Leslie an email. Orders must be received by Sunday, October 9, 2016.



The Lord is asking us:  
What is the condition of our cups?  
Will we come and be filled with Christ?

*Daughters of the King invite all Ladies to attend the guest speaker, Betty Breuer on October 8. Coffee and social time, will be at 9:30 am and the presentation at 10:00 am. Please contact Wendy Willeford at [wwillefo@yahoo.com](mailto:wwillefo@yahoo.com), so we know how many chairs we'll need.*

The Daughters of the King will hold their regular monthly meeting on Saturday, November 12th in the parish library, with fellowship at 9:30 AM and the meeting at 10:00. The teaching is followed by a time of prayer. All ladies of the parish and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

### **WHAM has a special request**

Ascension is very generous with their food donations, however with children back to school, their pantry is being depleted of specific items. They will, of course, accept all non-expired food donations, but are asking parishioners to pull out all the stops and donate the following five most needed items (in no particular order):

1. Canned Soup
  2. Canned Vegetables
  3. Rice & Beans (Bags or boxes)
  4. Tuna Fish
  5. Jelly/jam any flavor in plastic jars if possible (for the homeless clients)
- They will not refuse glass jars.

**Let's Fill their Pantry!!**



## STEWARDSHIP

Your 2016 Stewardship Team looks forward to seeing you in church this Stewardship Season. Come hear them speak each Sunday on how money, mission, service, and relationships come together and show the Love of Christ is the mission.

Craig Kaplan  
Mike Black  
Oladipo Ogunmesa

Liz Goodman  
Tom Sutton

### Picking up your Stewardship Packets!

The stewardship team will be distributing your packets in the narthex at both services on Sunday October 18 and 25th. Please be sure to pick up your packet. Those packets not picked up will be mailed the on Nov 2nd. Please look forward to guest speakers during the Stewardship Season as they express to us what giving means to them and how mission drives the church.

### Stewardship Ingathering Celebration

Calling all cooks....In thankfulness for the generosity of all our Ascension members and their gifts during our stewardship drive, we invite you to join us November 15th for a potluck celebration following the 10:30 service. Please watch future bulletins and online publications for updates.



**WHO WILL YOU  
CHOOSE?**

### Vestry Nominations

Do you know a person who demonstrates a passion for Ascension and shown themselves to be a leader? We would like the congregation to submit the names of people they think would be good vestry members, beginning at the Stewardship Luncheon on November 15th. Persons can be nominated by filling out the nomination cards or by dropping

the nominees' information into the offering plate with the title "vestry nomination".

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

## LOOKING FORWARD IN NOVEMBER

### The Salvation Army Angel Tree “Forgotten Senior” Program



On Sunday **November 13th** we will begin distributing the bags for the Christmas Angel Tree “Forgotten Senior” program. All Angel Tree gift bags must be returned by Sunday, **November 27th**. They can be placed around the altar and be “blessed” by Father Todd.

The Salvation Army has a very well organized procedure for this wonderful program. From the request received, individuals and families are screened. They must meet the federal minimum poverty guidelines to qualify and most are in nursing homes with no family support. As in the past, we will distribute 25 bags for females and 25 bags for males.

Distribution of the bags will start after both services on Sunday, **November 13th**. The tags have gift suggestions but good common sense comes in handy. There are no limits of how many or how few gifts you place in the bags. After the Angel “tags” are picked up, the gifts purchased and returned to Ascension, they will be picked up by the Salvation Army and distributed to the neediest of “Forgotten Seniors”.

The Angel Tree “**Forgotten Senior Program**” focus is on seniors, age 62 and older, as they seem to be a “**forgotten**” group. The most important aspect of the program is to make sure all bags are returned

Please give this wonderful program your support to help others who have not been as blessed

### Brass and Poinsettias



November is the time to start thinking Christmas!! Please make an offering to help underwrite the Christmas Brass Ensemble expense and/or donate and dedicate a poinsettia. These wonderful additions add so much to the Christmas Eve services.

You may dedicate your the gift in memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for, etc., and the contribution will be acknowledged in the Christmas orders of service. Please call the office at 713-781-1330 or email Samantha at [office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org) to confirm the dedication for your contribution.

Checks may be mailed to the church, placed in the offering plate, or brought to the church office. For a brass donation please indicate “for Choir Fund/Christmas Brass” on the memo line and for poinsettias the cost is \$25 and please indicate “Poinsettias” on the memo line.

Mrs. Ann Burton manages the poinsettia program and asks that you sign the flower chart in the narthex and write your dedication in the book below the chart. She is happy to answer any of your questions. And you can always contact Samantha in the office. Thank you for your support of these programs.



## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL REFRESHER

Arrive at 9:30

Under 5—Children 3 up to 5 can have playtime in the Nursery.

Ages 5 & up may choose from the following:

Drama Club—These children will meet in the church library and work on dramas that will be presented periodically throughout the year during the 10:30 service

Service Club—These children will meet upstairs in the Primary Sunday school room, where they will work on various service projects for the community.

Then at 10:20

Children in Drama or Service Clubs will be escorted to their Sunday school rooms unless picked up by parent.

3 & 4 year olds in the Nursery—Children whose parents indicate on the nursery sign-in form that they should attend Sunday school will be escorted to their Sunday school room. ***Parents should also indicate whether children should be escorted to church at the end of Sunday school, or returned to the nursery.*** Children whose parents do NOT check the box for them to attend Sunday school will remain in nursery.

If you arrive 10:35

Children 3yrs. Through 5th grade in attendance at the 10:30 service who would like to attend Sunday school will be invited to follow the Jr. Acolytes to the parish hall and join their class. (Children who prefer to remain in the church are welcome to do so).

At 11:05

All children (except those whose parents have requested that they be returned to the nursery) will be escorted to the church, and join their parents for Communion.

## LOOKING AHEAD:

Please see the tentative dates below. As always watch future publications and weekly bulletins for possible changes in dates, times, and locations.

- Oct 6 - Lifeline Meets 7:30pm in the Parish Hall
- Oct 8 - Daughters of the King Meet 9:30-11am
- Oct 9 - Deadline for pavers
  - Seafarer's Ingathering & Blessing
  - Guest Organist: Sharon Leyerle
- Oct 10 - No School for AES, Church Office Closed
- Oct 16 - Stewardship Kick off - Pick up Packets in Narthex
  - Book Fair Sunday - runs to Friday, October 21.
- Oct 17-21 - Book Fair
- Oct 18 - School Chapel with Grandparents and Special Friends
- Oct 20 - School hosted Spaghetti Supper
- Oct 23 - Youth Sunday - Youth to give a short homily
  - Pick up Stewardship Packets in Narthex
- Oct 24 - Stewardship Mail Out
- Oct 26 - 2nd grade Assembly
- Oct 30 - Drama Presentation, choir meets in library
- Oct 31 - School Closed for Parent/Teacher Conference
- Nov 1 - All Saints Chapel, Church welcome to join school 8:30am
- Nov 3 - Life Line Meets 7:30pm in the Parish Hall
- Nov 6 - All Saints Day with Baptism, identify people
  - Re-Dedication of Memorial Walkway (before blessing)
- Nov 9 - Veteran's Day Program in the Church, 9am. (School)
- Nov 12 - Daughters of the King Meet, 9:30, Church Library.
- Nov 13 - Stewardship Ingathering and Luncheon
  - Forgotten Seniors Kick-Off
  - Vestry Nominations (At the Luncheon, cards will be available)
  - Guest Organist: Sharon Leyerle
- Nov 18 - AES Community Service Day (Half day)
- Nov 20 - Begin Brass/Poinsettia Announcements
- Nov 21-25 - No School K-5/ELP Open
- Nov 23 - No Choir Rehearsal, Happy Thanksgiving
- Nov 23-25 - Church office closed Holidays/All School Programs closed
- Nov 27 - First Sunday of Advent
  - Forgot Seniors Ingathering

## 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)

### 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...

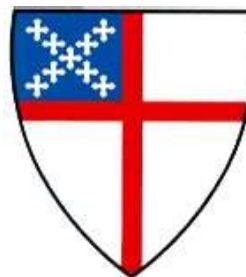
We have a drive **once** a month on the First Sunday and on the 3rd Saturday of the month we go over to WHAM to work to prep food for distribution in the Food Pantry. So bring your non-perishable goods on the First Sunday and please Sign up in the Volunteer Sign Up Log in the Narthex to help on-site. 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

Mike Black (Sr. Warden), Jim Anderson, Cindy Breton, Cheryl Coppock, Clement Falayi, Carol Goulet, Doug Meyers, Matt Murphy, Lee Nirider, Dick Stabell, Tom Sutton, 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 Education, while ministering joyfully to all **God's** people.