

Ascent

June
2018

Green Days

In June everything turns green. Of course, the trees and the grass outside have been green for a while. We are entering a time in the church calendar which has gone by various names: 'Sundays after Pentecost', 'Sundays after Trinity', and 'Ordinary Time.' Each of these names puts a bit of a different emphasis on this season. However, no matter what we call it, the season is cloaked in green.

The church year is basically divided into two halves. The first part of the church year, beginning with Advent, is a series of liturgical celebrations revolving around the major events of the life of Jesus. Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, the coming of Jesus into the world and also a time of preparation for his second coming at the end of history. The Christmas season leads to Epiphany when we remember the "Manifestation" (that's what 'Epiphany' means), the revelation or unveiling of Christ to the whole world.

Traditionally in the West this season begins by remembering the story of the coming of gentiles - the magi - to worship Jesus. The Eastern Church emphasizes the story of Jesus' Baptism and the manifestation of the Trinity itself - in the story of the Baptism of Jesus, the Father's voice acknowledges Jesus as the Son and the Holy Spirit anoints him for his mission. From Epiphany we move to Lent, the great time of repentance in preparation for the yearly remembrance of the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. The whole first half of the year is brought to (another!) climax in Pentecost, the birth of the church, and Trinity Sunday, when we remember that the life of Christ on earth is in fact the culmination of the drama of the Triune God's action of salvation for the whole world.

Having gone through this dramatic sequence of fasts and feasts, the second half of the church year might appear to be a bit staid. In the vestments and church adornments we see no purple, white or red - just miles and miles of green: 'Ordinary Time'.

But that is life, isn't it? We all experience times of deep sadness and grief, times of preparation, times of great joy and celebration...but much of the stuff of life is, well, 'ordinary', day to day, routine, occupied with the common every day rituals of eating, sleeping, working and cleaning. When I was growing up I remember being reminded that even the most famous and exalted of people 'put on their pants one leg at a time.' Canadians were reminded that even the Queen had to wash her face and go to the dentist!

Calling this time the 'Sundays after Pentecost' reminds us that all of the Christian experience, even at its most mundane, is life lived under the guidance of the Spirit. The title, 'Sundays after Trinity' reminds us that just as Jesus lived his earthly life in constant fellowship with his Father and in the power of the Spirit, so our own existence should be a walking with Jesus for the glory of God the Father, animated by the Spirit. And so, during these Sundays the gospel readings take us through Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing, so that our lives can be shaped more and more by his life.

These Sundays after Pentecost and Trinity Sunday are *wonderfully* 'Ordinary.' Wendy recently reminded me of a quote from Mother Theresa of Calcutta: "it's not so much what you do but the love with which you do it." 'Ordinary Time' teaches us that God loves the common, the habitual. He blesses it. Just as he uses bread and wine to teach of his self-giving love, just as he uses water to incorporate us into his body, the church, so God takes our everyday routine realities and in each one gives us the opportunity to love him and to love one another.

May this year's 'Ordinary Time' be a season of green growth for all of us. May we be continually renewed by the Spirit of Pentecost, continually aware of the presence of God's Triune life, and continually filled with love in the midst of each of life's circumstances.



Bishop Grant,
Priest in charge

Live in the South Hills? Put some Potluck dates onto your calendar!

Christina and Rodrigo Silva are coordinating potlucks for those who live in the South Hills. The dates for upcoming summer potlucks are June 2 and 23, July 14, August 4 and 25. They begin 5:30pm and conclude 7:30pm. Kids welcome. Contact Christina at csilva1231@gmail.com or 412-626-4485 if you want more information.

Handbell Concert

Friday, June 8 at 7:30pm in Ascension's Nave



One of America's premier youth handbell choirs, The Bells of Christ Church, hails from historic Christ Church Anglican (est. 1733) in downtown Savannah, Georgia. This exceptional bell choir will be performing their summer touring concert at Ascension on Friday, June 8 at 7:30pm. All welcome!

Kairos Prison Ministry Luncheon

Saturday, June 9 from 11am – 1pm



Kairos Prison Ministry of Pennsylvania cordially invites you to attend a Meet & Greet Luncheon to introduce you to our ministry programs that support the incarcerated inside prisons and their families outside the prison walls. For more information on Kairos Prison Ministries, please have a chat with Ascension's Ron and Judy Yadrack or visit www.kairosprisonministry.org. To RSVP for the luncheon email cmenow47@hotmail.com Please join those gathered!

10am Combined Service & BBQ on the Lawn

Sunday, June 10

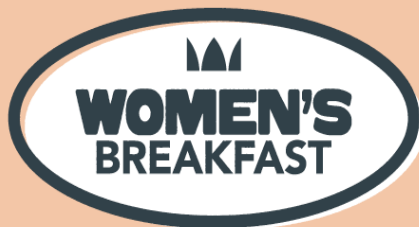
Join us as we launch summer at Ascension. We plan to bookend the weeks of summer with a couple of special Sundays. On Sundays June 10 and August 26, we will have one worship service at 10am followed by a BBQ on the lawn. Plan on coming, bring a side dish and invite a friend!



Young Adult Dinner & Compline

Thursday, June 14 at 6:30pm

The next Dinner & Compline in our Summer Series is Thursday, June 14th at 6:30pm. For more info, contact Alex at alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org or 412-652-3137. This is a time for young adults to eat together, have some fun, and conclude the evening with an Anglican Service of Compline. Join us!



Saturday, June 16 8:30 – 10:30am

Childcare provided (no additional cost) All Welcome!

Have you suffered loss in your life? A loved one? A job? Your health or well-being? How are we best positioned to cope with the losses we encounter? What does this journey look like as a Christian? Marilyn

Chislaghi, Director of Ministry at Ascension, will share her own personal story of loss as well as her journey through grief and recovery. At the conclusion of the morning, there will be time for table discussion among friends.



Marilyn Chislaghi

All women of Ascension (and their friends) are warmly invited. A hot, catered breakfast will be served at 8:30am.

COST: \$10. REGISTER by completing a bulletin insert *or* sign up online by visiting www.ascensionpittsburgh.org. Mark your calendars and plan on coming!

New Treasurer

We are pleased to welcome Susan Crary as our new treasurer, replacing Nate Barrett who has faithfully served us for the past several years. Susan and her husband, Karl, along with their two children, Elizabeth and Peter, attend the 11am service. You may have seen Sue singing in Resounding Grace. Sue gave her first treasurer's report to Vestry in May, reporting that year to date we are 11% ahead of giving as compared to last year. We are very grateful for this. Welcome Susan and thank you for your willingness to serve!



Susan Crary

International Ministry



Ascension's International Ministry is coming up to its second year anniversary. To date, we've had 200+ internationals involved in this ministry in some way – taking English classes, going on field trips, coming to parties and seasonal events, being tutored, meeting off-site with conversation partners, being hosted in Ascension homes for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Recently a group led by LuAnn Pengidore, Denise Cox and David Van

Every went on a trip to the Carrie Furnace to explore Pittsburgh's rich heritage as a steel making powerhouse.

Summer is a fun time to get involved with Internationals. Classes continue through June and July as do special field trips. Many internationals would love conversation partners. Internationals particularly love being invited into American homes. With July 4th celebrations coming up, perhaps this is something you could consider. If you would like to explore ways to connect with internationals, please email LuAnn at PittsburghEnglish4U@gmail.com. You can also speak with her on Sundays.

MUSIC MINISTRY Ascension Songwriters Collaborative

TIME: 9 – 11:30am

DATES: June 23, July 21 and August 18

LOCATION: Old Catacombs

Connecting Ascension's songwriters of all ages and levels of experience to write new songs for the glory of God and the encouragement of the local church



Each month, we look at a particular liturgical theme for inspiration and then pray that the Holy Spirit would anoint us with his creativity as we break into pairs or groups for a collaborative writing process. Everyone has a place at the creative table - poets, melodists, and prayer warriors – anyone who has a desire to see fresh musical expressions in the church.

We firmly believe that, through collaboration, grace and healing abound. We bring our skills, preferences, and styles as offerings – not demands – and join with our brothers and sisters to glorify the Lord through the creative process. Come! Write and sing to the Lord a new song! We look forward to sharing this sacred space of fellowship and creativity with you.

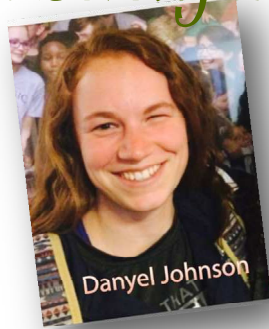
Please contact Elise Massa at elise.massa@gmail.com for more information or to be added to the emailing list.

Family News

June Birthday

1. Katie Swab
2. Alisa Helj
Scott Watters
Jim Wilson
3. Dave Carlton
Denise Cox
Abigail Moyer
Lucca Spence
5. Rob Martsof
Barbara Zimmerly
6. Isaac Miller
Austin Newhouse
7. Alison Sutton
8. Renee Clark
Mitra Saeidi
9. Jane Banfield Hicks
Abby Hall
11. Joan Anson
Alicia Helmick
13. Jim Antis
14. Richard Cavallucci
Ellen Meadows
Jennifer Stewart
15. Lori Porter
16. Elisa Cardoso
17. Sarah Gilmer
Darlene Trower
Raine Warren
18. Jessica Kissell
19. Alyson Holt
Josh Moyer
20. Nate Jernigan
Mark Meadows
Melissa Tickner
21. Judy Daniels
Dave Liefer
Caleb Shirk
22. Ardath Smith
Cathy Van Every
23. Enkhlen Buuch
Elena Gowdy
24. Judy Yadrick
25. Andy Cole
Shawn Scannell
26. Lu Ann Pengidore
James Welsh
Emily Wilson
David Woods
27. Bill Rued
28. Alyanna Wilson
29. Alice Hickey
Conn Thieman

Young Adults



A Farewell Note from Danyel Johnson

I'm so thankful that I got the opportunity to be a part of Ascension staff over the past year, it went by so fast! This year has allowed me to grow in ways I wasn't even expecting.

I was challenged to step outside my comfort zone and I was able to become even more a part of this big Ascension family. I will be forever grateful for the relationships I've made and the love and support you have all shown me.

Many new initiatives created

I had the honor to watch many new and exciting things come to be over this last year – 25 young adult newcomers made Ascension home, a new community group was formed, 10 young adults are now being mentored by older members, and our monthly Dinner & Compline series was created!

Campus fellowship

I am SO thankful to all of you who volunteered, served, gave advice, wisdom and love to this ministry. Thank you to Gabbie, Jack and Austin; our fearless college student leaders who were willing to try many new things, served in our youth ministry, and helped to create new initiatives for our college students! Thanks to Gabbie for all her efforts in helping Ascension Campus Fellowship become a registered student organization at Pitt.



3 Community Groups

Also, a huge to all of our young adult community group leaders! Thanks to Amy and Daniel for leading Tuesday's group, Emily and Will for leading Thursday's group, and to Sarah and Bailey for starting our new Wednesday group! If you are a young adult in Pittsburgh this summer and want to join one of our three young adult groups, contact Alex at 412-652-3137 or email him at alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org.



Dinner & Compline

Thursday, June 14 at 6:30pm.



Thanks to everyone who has come to our Dinner & Compline events! Thanks to all those that helped out in any way to make this possible, especially all those who have come to speak during these events! The next Dinner & Compline in our Summer Series is Thursday, June 14th at 6:30pm. For more info, contact Alex (info above)

A huge thank you to the Banfield Hicks family!

Thank you so much for being my mentors, support, big brother and sister, and for letting me hang out with your adorable children. I've learned so much from you over the past year and look up to the two of you in so many ways! I feel incredibly blessed to have the five of you in my life!



Campus Ministry

Welcome Leah!

As many of you know, Alex Banfield Hicks has been recently appointed as our Director of Youth and Emerging Adult Ministries. He will be supervising Leah Hornfeck, Associate Director of Youth and Emerging Adult Ministries, who is soon to arrive at Ascension. On the morning of Sunday, June 10 we will welcome Leah! She will be working alongside Alex in a number of initiatives, but one of the most exciting ones will be developing Ascension's campus ministry at Pitt.



Leah Hornfeck

If you are interested in meeting Leah, praying for Pitt, and shaping our campus ministry plans, then also join Alex and Leah that evening. We will park at Ascension at 6pm, meet in the Neville entrance, and walk together to Cathy (Pitt's Cathedral of Learning). There we will find an international room, hear from Leah and pray together for the challenges and opportunities of student life in 2018. Contact Alex for more information.

June Anniversaries

4. Dave & Kati Perrine
10. Phil & Allison Mollenkof
11. John & Kathy Barnard
13. Arnold & Betsey Fritsch
14. Jim & Nancy Foster
- Tyler & Kate Marwood
15. Dan & Alice Hickey
- Bill & Nancy Rued
- Sean & Sara Regan
17. Zack & Rachael Wallover
19. Bob & Colleen Frederking
21. Jim & Chris Antis
24. Earl & Susan Glotfelty
28. Jordan & Brenna Markley
- Dave & Suzie Hall

PLEASE NOTE:

If we are missing your Birthday or Anniversary, please contact the church office so we can update our records.

Annual Parish Retreat

DATE: October 5 – 7, 2018

TEACHING: "Lord, Teach us to Pray..."

SPEAKERS: The Rev. Canon Jonathan and the Rev. Dr. Andrea Millard;
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and the Rev. Tish Warren

Please note:
Registration opens
Sunday, August 12.

Our Annual Parish Retreat will be held at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center from Friday, October 5 – Sunday, October 7. The weekend offers great teaching, an opportunity to enjoy beautiful natural surroundings and the chance to get to know others who regularly attend Ascension. The retreat has something for everyone – married or unmarried, from kids to college-aged to empty-nesters. Children and youth enjoy concurrent programming with their peers. Saturday afternoon there are several optional activities to enjoy the outdoors. Campfires and hot chocolate will also be part of the mix. Corporate worship, small group discussion and prayer ministry are highlights for many. The weekend concludes with Sunday morning worship followed by lunch.

All of the logistical details for registering for the retreat including meals, accommodation and scholarship will be available on our website in early August. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Registration will open on Sunday, August 12.

This year our retreat will be co-taught by two clergy couples - the Millards and Warrens. Together we will explore such topics as why we pray, when we pray, the Anglican Way of Prayer, the Lord's Prayer and how we Pray. We hope to offer workshops on the 'how' of prayer, including topics like praying with icons, praying with beads, praying in silence and even praying with color. The weekend will be a rich experience of great teaching as well as a wonderful time of connection with the Ascension church family.



Youth: Going the D-i-s-t-a-n-c-e



A big thank you to everyone who made the **Lasagna Fundraiser and Marathon Overnight** such a success. Thanks to our team of chefs who brought Lasagna, to Jonathan and Paula who provided a mountain of salad, and to Kelsey and team for cooking and serving everything! Thanks to all our guests who generously gave over \$2,000 towards initiatives that help our young Christians 'run the race with perseverance', especially through the challenging transitions of life (to college, and beyond). Thanks to my wonderful CAYG (Church of Ascension Youth Group) ministry team who led the evening with a record-breaking number of teens involved, and to Tracey and Jamie Russell who brought some of their youth group from Fox Chapel to join us. And thanks to the enthusiastic squad who gave out Gatorade and water to runners throughout Sunday morning! It was indeed a Marathon event for us too!



Youth Alpha Series

The 9 weekends in June and July will see CAYG welcome rising **6th graders** on Friday nights and rising **9th graders** on Sunday nights!

Both youth groups will engage in the **Youth Alpha Series**. You can see some of these top-quality videos on youtube, *with titles like ...*

'Life: is this it?'

'Prayer: why and how do I pray?'

'Faith: how can we have faith?'

Do pray for honest conversations, deep community, and increasing faith! Pray that established folks from youth group will see their non-Ascension friends joining us! And pray that the LORD will send the right new leaders to help welcome and mentor the rising numbers!

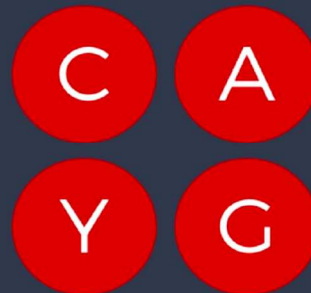
For more information on Ascension's youth program, visit our website at caygonline.com or contact Alex at alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org or 412-652-3137.



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S YOUTH GROUP IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE OUR:



CHRISTIAN ART COMPETITION. \$1,000 PRIZE!



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
YOUTH GROUP

A PERMANENT CHURCH PIECE
TITLED 'RESILIENT FAITH'

Entries need to be delivered to Church of The Ascension (4729 Ellsworth Ave, PA 15213) between August 6 - 10, 2018. Winning piece unveiled on August 24, 2018. More info via weblink below.

www.caygonline.com/resilient



Want to join a team?

Pittsburgh is a city of great sports teams. Ascension is a church that also has great teams. And, we're recruiting! Would you like to join one of our teams?

11am Greeters

We need people who are willing to offer a smile, a handshake and a warm welcome to those coming for worship.

To participate, email Marilyn marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org or text 412-953-7050.

11am Welcome Table

People who serve at the welcome table offer a smile, a chocolate bar (welcome gift!) and conversation. Our 11am team needs new recruits. To participate, contact Marilyn (details above).

Hospitality Hour Hosts (between services)

We have a team of hospitality hour hosts who have a special eye for newcomers. The task is easy – connect and chat. If you would like to explore this further, contact Marilyn (details above).

Summer Youth Group (Fridays or Sunday evenings)

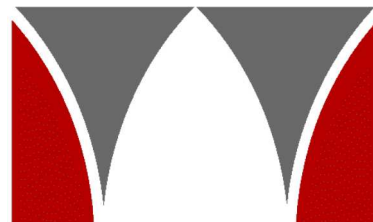
We need some fresh faces this summer. For more info, email Alex at alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org or text 412-652-3137.

Children's Sunday School (Sunday mornings)

We need teachers who will work with kids at the 11am service. For more info, email Matt at matt.ulrich@ascensionpittsburgh.org or text 724-581-7005.

Soul Food Meal Ministry & New Moms Meal Ministry

We offer meals to those who have special needs due to the birth of a child, illness, death, and other life challenges and transitions. We would love a few more people to participate. Needs are occasional and you can make meals as you are able. To join the team, email Jill Shook at jilleshook@gmail.com. Let her know which meal ministry you'd like to belong to (Soul Food, New Moms or both).



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

A Worshipping Community;
Equipping God's People;
Sharing Christ's Healing With a Broken World

Worship Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist

11:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist

Wednesday

Noon
Holy Eucharist
in the Gordon Chapel

Address

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The Ascent

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Ascent Deadline

Articles for the June Ascent
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will be available July 9th.