

Parting Letter From Bishop Grant

A few reflections arising from being 'priest in charge'

I thought I had written my last Ascent article - but then the staff realized that Fr. Jonathan would (not “wouldn’t”, but “would”) return to work close to the day that this Ascent was due to be printed...so I get one more chance to say a few words. It was also suggested to me (by whom I am not at liberty to say) that I’m in a unique position to say a few words that might be more difficult to say by someone remaining on paid staff. Well, that is an intriguing (and dangerous) invitation.



Before I say anything else, I want to say “thank you” for giving me the opportunity to help the Church of the Ascension over the last few months. I can’t thank everyone personally. One thing I have noticed is just how many people do so many things to make sure that this community of Christians is a healthy place. Obviously, the staff come to mind first. They are hard-working and devout. This is a great combination - they love God and they love the people of Ascension. They love the people who have been here for decades - and the people who just walked through the door yesterday. I’m impressed with their dedication. But of course, they get paid - but many of you volunteer in countless ways, working quietly and carefully. Paul in his letters has several lists of spiritual gifts (see Ephesians 4, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12). His lists are not exhaustive. They include leadership-type gifts (pastors, teachers, etc.), gifts which are of the miraculous kind (healing, tongues, and so on), and “ordinary”, everyday gifts (like serving and administration). I’ve seen all these kinds of gifts exercised at Ascension over the last months. It is wonderful to watch the body of Christ in this place functioning in such a healthy way. Thank you for all that you do to put love of God and love of neighbor into practice here. And thanks for letting me be a part of this great place.

Ascension has obvious strengths. But every strength that an individual or a Christian community has carries with it an inherent danger. Being good at something or valuing something (or someone) highly should always make us reflect on whether we actually value that thing or person *too* highly. The danger, of course, is called idolatry...

Does Ascension have an idolatry problem? Well, I don’t think so. But, human beings are inherently worshiping beings - so it is always worth wondering where we are putting our hearts, where we are putting our treasure (see Matthew 6.21).

So what does Ascension value most? Is there a danger that what we value highly at Ascension could become idols? Let me mention just two things that are highly valued here.

First Ascension values beauty. So do I. Ascension is extremely careful to present its worship in an aesthetically attractive way. The music is carefully planned and offered. It is done as well as our gifted musicians can present it. The building (beautiful in itself) is kept neat and clean. The work of artists is encouraged. The budget for the building and for the music is fairly substantial - it needs to be if we are to keep up the standard that is expected in this place. Such a ministry, which may look like it is money spent on ourselves, does not mean that Ascension neglects reaching out - in fact, the beauty of the building, the music, and the worship does actually make Ascension a place that attracts people.

But the very beauty of this place means that we as a body need to be vigilant against the danger of doing things because they are beautiful, rather than because we are making an offering of the best that we have to God. Believe me, I speak from experience! Cathedrals (and Ascension is kind of Cathedral-like) often (often!) have fallen into the trap of valuing aesthetics over true spirituality. I am not saying that Ascension is doing this - not at all. I am saying that this incredible strength carries with it a danger, a temptation. We are called to “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 96.9) - not the holiness of beauty. We also need to pay attention to the budget - is money spent on beauty in proportion to money spent on ministering to a lost world outside of our doors?

Second, Ascension also considers itself a welcoming community. Now ‘welcoming’ is a difficult thing to assess. I am sure that we have not done all that we can to be welcoming. We try, but we may miss opportunities. I’m sure some have come to Ascension and not been welcomed. But if I can brag on Ascension one more time - this congregation tries really hard to welcome people ... short of making ourselves annoying, clinging, stalkers, of course. But welcome in itself (this may sound weird) can have an idolatrous edge. In Ephesians 4.15 Paul speaks of “speaking the truth in love.” This may be one of the hardest things Paul ever wrote - or at least hard for our culture to hear. For us in the western world in the 21st century, love and truth are hard to reconcile. We think of love as “acceptance” of people “the way they are.” We think of differences of opinion as things to avoid, things which put a strain on relationships. Some even think of any criticism as “hating.” Ascension works hard to make sure that everyone who walks through the door feels that they are welcome. But in the Christian life, not every thought is equal. In the church of God, not every action, or every lifestyle is acceptable. Long ago I heard that the job of the preacher is to comfort the afflicted - and afflict the comfortable. That doesn’t mean that the job of the priest - or any other follower of Jesus - is to go out of our way to find fault and condemn others. Far from it! But the Christian life involves growth into the image of Christ (Romans 8.29). It means that our thoughts and actions are not to be shaped by this world, but are to be transformed by the Spirit (Romans 12.1-2). This means there should be no talk in the church of “my truth.” This means that not every spiritual practice is acceptable just because it is “spiritual.” This means that not every sexual practice can be blessed. It also means that not every political opinion is equally valid: there is a long tradition of Christian political thought, a long tradition of thinking about how Christians relate to the world - and some of what passes for “Christian” views of politics these days (on both sides of the aisle) does not measure up to the church’s wisdom. Perhaps rightly, Ascensionites are hesitant to express partisan political views. Such views might give rise to conflict, and conflict does not make for a very welcoming atmosphere. Yes...but. Truth and love must not be divorced. In our welcoming of one another, let us not neglect the importance of public truth. And in our pursuit of truth let us not forget to love one another.

Well, that’s enough. The issues I’ve raised are not simple ones and both boldness and wisdom are needed to negotiate these paths. May God continue to give Church of the Ascension the good will, the energy, the creativity to minister in a complex world that is so in need of God’s love in Jesus.

+*Grant LeMarquand*, sometime priest in charge

We are please to announce that as of the fall of 2018 Bishop Grant has a one-year appointment as visiting Professor of New Testament at Trinity School for Ministry. He and Dr. Wendy will continue to worship with us at Ascension.

OWLS FELLOWSHIP Older, Wiser, Lively Still

Seniors Ministry

Our OWLS (Older, Wiser, and Lively Still!) Fellowship Fall Kick-off Luncheon is Thursday, September 13

Janet Helms, a well-known parishioner of Ascension and founder of *Orphaned Heart Ministries*, will share with us stories of Christ's healing of those who have suffered the loss of their families during the frequent unrest that has occurred in parts of Africa. The mission of *Orphaned Heart Ministries* is to help people heal from the spirit of rejection and abandonment through the power of the Holy Spirit. Janet will demonstrate to us how she ministers in the power of the Holy Spirit and, as music is an important part of reaching into a broken heart, Janet will bless us with several beautiful solos as well. You don't want to miss what will be a special time together. Join us from 12:30 to 2:30pm for a delicious lunch catered in the Hunt Rooms followed by Janet's presentation in the sanctuary. Parking restrictions will be lifted for people to park on the streets and the Neville Street lot will be reserved for OWLS only. There is a \$10 charge for lunch, but *first-time friends are free!*

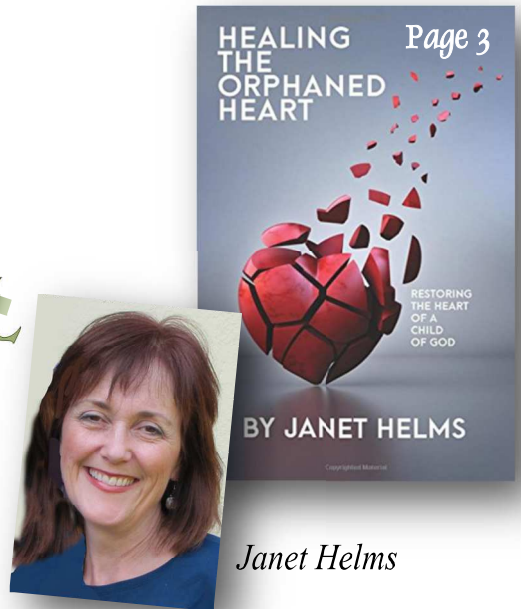


Please RSVP to Ann Tefft at
412-526-1107 or tefft.ann@gmail.com.

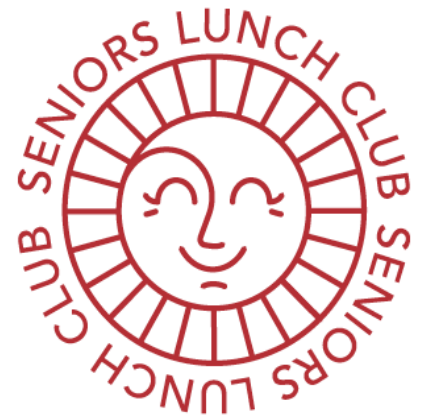
OWLS: 2018-2019 Schedule

The second Thursday of the month, 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Date	Subject
Sept. 13	'Inner Healing' with Janet Helms
Oct. 11	'Prayer' with Wendy LeMarquand
Nov. 8	'Spiritual Direction' with Barb Franzen and Jack Gabig
Dec. 13	'Ken Bailey Christmas Story and Carols', with John and Susan Bailey, Peg Anderson
Jan. 10	'Pittsburgh: Quirks and All' with Louise Sturgess of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation
Feb. 14	'Valentine's Day, Abraham Lincoln, and President's Day' with Jack Puglisi
March 14	'Plants of the Bible' with Susan Bailey
April 11	'Easter and How to Witness' with Alan Komm, Peg Anderson and Ann Tefft
May 9	'More on Beauty' with Shirley Kilpatrick



Janet Helms



Evangelism Cohort Beginning Fall 2018

First Session:

Sunday, September 23 after the 11am service

One of the church's core commitments is to evangelize, to share the good news of Jesus Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil with those who have not heard it. The church is sustained by the message that Christ has delivered us from powers of this world that keep us from fulfilling the vocation we have to devote ourselves fully to God and to be priests to and stewards of the vocation. He has delivered us from the grip of the fear of death (Heb 2:14-15).

He has fulfilled the law of God and has become the perfect sacrifice for sin (Matt 5:17-20; Heb 10:14), offering vicariously for us what we were supposed to offer to God but in our weakness and sinfulness could not. In other words, by the power of the divine life within Him, Christ shows us what true humanity looks like. But he does not just do all this on our behalf or in our place: he invites us to be united to him and participate in this work with him. The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost (19:10, cf. 4:16-20), and the church participates in the mission of God to redeem the lost by proclaiming Christ and enacting justice and righteousness in our communities (Matt 25; 28:18-20; Gal 6:10; Jas 1:27).

Evangelism in word and deed is the calling of every Christian, not just those who are gifted to be evangelists (Eph 4:11). But evangelism has become controversial and neglected in the past century, and many of us have little to no background or practice in doing it. Even those of us who want tell others about Christ may be intimidated by evangelism. We may not know where to begin. We may be worried about proselytizing (the Catholic Church helpfully distinguishes between evangelization and proselytizing by defining proselytizing as "the promotion of a religion by using means, and motives, contrary to the spirit of the Gospel; that is, which do not safeguard the freedom and dignity of the human person" *Doctrinal Note on Some Aspects of Evangelization*, n. 49).

I would like to propose that we make a new start in our evangelization by doing it together. As Christians we are members one of another (Rom 12:5), and we can help each other to become intentional in our evangelistic relationships with non-Christians by meeting together and praying together for one another, for the mission of the whole one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, and for the non-Christians in our relational circles. We can encourage one another with testimonies about the conversations the Lord has permitted us to have with non-Christians and will enable us to pray for each other and for the non-Christians in our circles whom we are seeking to evangelize.

I want to invite anyone who is interested to join me once a quarter to talk about our evangelization of our neighbors, to encourage one another, and to pray for one another. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 23 after the 11am service. We can grab snacks and coffee from the parish hall and then gather in the Hunt Rooms. I hope you will join me!

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you stretched out
your arms of love
on the hard wood
of the cross
that everyone
might come
within the reach
of your saving embrace:*

*So clothe us
in your Spirit
that we,
reaching forth
our hands in love,
may bring those
who do not know you
to the knowledge
and love of you;
for the honor
of your Name.*

Amen.

(Prayer for Mission in
Daily Morning Prayer)



*Jonathan Warren,
co-Associate Rector*
[jonathan.warren@
ascensionpittsburgh.org](mailto:jonathan.warren@ascensionpittsburgh.org)

International Ministry Fall Kick Off!

Our summer program was full of cooking classes, a Shakespeare play, and field trips to the Heinz History Center, Frick Art Museum, Mount Washington, and Strawberry Picking. The International English Ministry program enjoyed the summer!

We are gearing up for this fall term with a training of new volunteers. If you would like to be a tester, help for one month as a teacher’s assistant, help with discipleship, or accompany students on field trips in the future, please contact Lu Ann at PittsburghEnglish4U@gmail.com.



International Ministry Open Trainings: August 22 and September 5

We will be having two short training sessions before we begin this ministry again in the fall. The first will be Wednesday, August 22 from 6:30 - 8pm and will be more ‘big picture’ on the vision of our ministry with internationals. On Wednesday, September 5 we will have another training from 6:30 – 8pm on the nuts and bolts of our program.

All welcome! We could use more hands-on deck as teachers, assistants, testers, conversation partners, etc. Trainings will be in the Hunt Rooms. Contact LuAnn for more info at PittsburghEnglish4U@gmail.com.

Wednesday , August 22

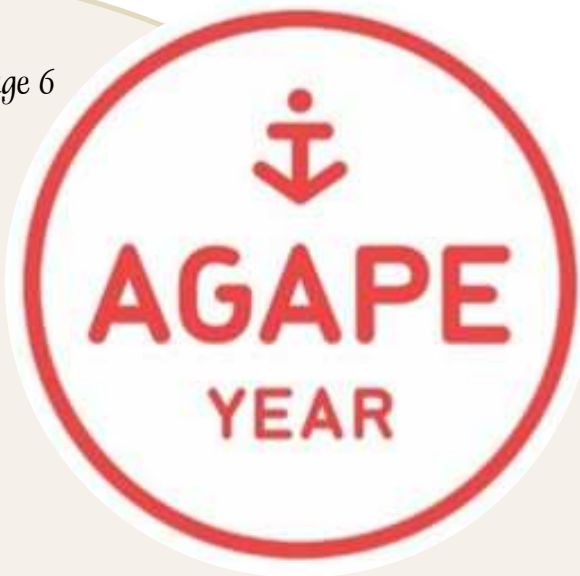
6:30 to 8pm

The “big picture” of our ministry with internationals

Wednesday, September 5

6:30 to 8pm

Focusing on the nuts and bolts of the program



Get to Know Kieran Caspian Kirby



My name is Kieran Caspian Kirby. I'm from Gainesville, Florida, and I graduated from P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School.

What are you most excited for with Agape Year?

I'm most excited for working closely with other Christians 24/7.

What is your favorite meal/food?

I'm simple man, and my favorite meal is cheese pizza.

What do you want to do in the future/vocation/job?

I would love to become an architect and/or a priest.

What is your favorite hobby/what do you do for fun?

Acting and writing. Those are two of my best skills.

Get to know Tessa Turner



My name is Teresa Turner but as I got older I started to prefer to go by my nickname Tessa. I am from Attleboro Massachusetts and graduated from Attleboro High School (go figure).

What are you most excited for with Agape Year?

I've never been out of the country or really out of New England before, aside from trips to my birth place-Florida, so I am most excited to travel during the Agape Year. The idea of learning about new cultures and different people first hand is the best thing ever.

What is your favorite meal/food?

My favorite food is something I can eat like most fruits, but I have a lot of allergies so I pretty much eat what I can and do my best to cook it in a way that makes it new and interesting.

What do you want to do in the future/vocation/job?

In the future I want to work with women and/or kids and also want a family of my own. I fully consider being a parent as a second job, albeit a wonderful one.

What is your favorite hobby/what do you do for fun?

I'm also a huge bookworm so my favorite thing to do is probably read. Or listen to music. Sometimes both at the same time.

Agape Year is a partnership between the **Anglican Global Mission Partners** and **Young Anglicans Project**.

The Directors of Agape Year, Nate and Erika Twichell, attend Ascension and all Agape Year Fellows participate in the life and worship of our church. Agape year is a 9-month program for recent high school graduates. They are encouraged to 'go deep', living in community while receiving intense discipleship instruction; to 'go far', living and ministering oversees for 4 – 6 weeks; and to 'go tell', concluding the program with a tour of U.S. churches to witness to what God did during their time as fellows.

Agape Year is super excited to welcome its second cohort to Pittsburgh on September 3rd and eager to introduce them to their new church family. Over the course of the next 9 months at Ascension our Missional Fellows will be tutoring with the ESL ministry, volunteering with the youth, assisting with Prayers of the People, and serving as chalice bearers and readers. So please introduce yourself to Tessa and Kieran as we welcome them to Agape Year and Pittsburgh!



Nate and Erika Twichell along with Henry and Anne

Fall Sign-up

What is the vision for Community Groups at Ascension?

The vision for Community Groups at Ascension comes from the description of the early church's practice in Acts 2:42-7. The church devoted itself to four core practices: devotion to the apostle's teaching, fellowship, sharing meals, and prayer. As we know from the rest of Acts, these core practices formed the community for the sake of bearing witness to Christ in word and deed to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and 'the ends of the earth'.

The New Testament is clear that this commission is not issued to solitary disciples, but to the body of Christ, the people that God is forming for himself. The Bible affirms the dignity, the worth, and the freedom of the individual, but it repudiates individualism. Individualism, which can be summarized as a belief in personal autonomy and self-creation, is at odds with the biblical conviction that "we are individually members of one another" (Rom. 12:5). As the biblical scholar Craig Bartholomew argues, "we need a spirituality that will undermine western individualism." In addition to corporate worship every Sunday, our Community Groups are the chief way that we express our conviction that we are a body and not isolated individuals with private relationships to Christ.

Our Community Groups bear these commitments and practices out in different ways. Some groups meet every week, others meet every other week. Some share a meal at every meeting, others elect to do so on special occasions. All of our groups are open to participation by anyone, but they differ in the degree of commitment that they require. Some groups are open and flexible in terms of participation. Some groups, which we call Rule of Life Community Groups, require a greater degree of commitment. The Community of St. Barnabas, for instance, abides by a communal rule adapted from the Rule of St. Benedict for lay use and asks for a year-long commitment from members. At the heart of all of our groups, however, is the commitment to form disciples into the body of Christ through the core practices of the faith for the sake of the mission of the gospel.

A Preference for Geographical Proximity

The long history of the church demonstrates that the practices of the church are most formative when the members of the church live close to one another and can DO life together. Another way to say this is that the more disparate and diffuse we become geographically, the less we resemble a body and the more we resemble a group of isolated individuals who happen to show up at the same place once a week.

Among secular intellectuals, there is a vast literature documenting and lamenting the 'crisis of place' that has been introduced as a result of car culture. This literature highlights the lack of flourishing that results from being constantly on the go in our cars and not deeply rooted in particular places, but also the way in which our ability to travel anywhere at any time generates an unrelenting sameness on all places. One observer calls this monochromatic pattern of building the 'geography of nowhere'.

As the church, we are not immune to this feature of American life, and we will not overcome it by challenging our members all to move within a mile of the church so as to artificially recreate the parish. At the same time, we recognize the way in which our lack of geographical proximity to each other dilutes not only the quality of our relationships but also the power of the fellowship to form us deeply into the body of Christ.

We are committed, therefore, to promoting geographic proximity in our Community Groups. If possible, we would like to encourage you to attend a group near where you live. We have groups that meet all over the city, and we are always adding more groups so that we can extend the fellowship of the body of Christ to more and more people in the city of Pittsburgh. You can view our **Community Group map** by visiting Ascension's website <http://www.ascensionpittsburgh.org/connect/community-groups>.

How Do I Get Involved?

Contact me, Jonathan Warren (co-Associate Rector), at jonathan.warren@ascensionpittsburgh.org. I would be happy to connect you with an existing group, or to help you launch a new group in your part of town!

Fall Sermon Series

By Jonathan Warren

The Lectionary

The Lectionary is a gift to the church and its preachers. It spares us from vanity, self-flattery, and staleness by forcing us to consider, week in and week out, the ‘whole counsel of Scripture’ (Acts 20:27).

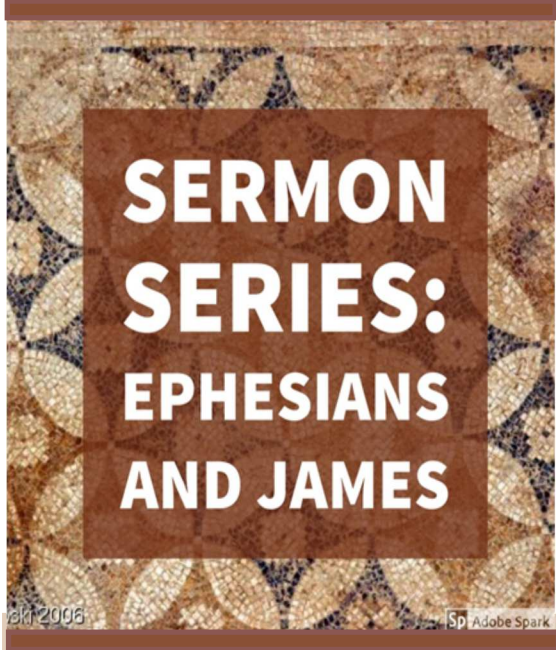
Preachers are assigned texts to preach: we do not have the luxury of choosing comfortable passages to preach on, nor do we have the luxury of substituting passages without Episcopal permission. Moreover, if you follow the Anglican ‘rule of life’, which commends the devotional practices of joyful and attentive participation in weekly communion, the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, and private devotions (Q. 255, *To Be a Christian*), you will read through the entirety of Scripture every year in the Daily Office Lectionary and once every three years in the Sunday Lectionary: a thorough immersion in the Bible.

Continuity of Scripture

At the same time, the Sunday Lectionary does not take us passage by passage through books of the Bible, and it gives us each week readings from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the NT Epistles, and the Gospels. Preachers may focus a sermon on any or all of these readings. For all of these reasons, it can be difficult to get a sense of the continuity of the Scriptures – to get a sense of the purpose of each book, and to get a sense of how the whole hangs together in the light of Christ – even through attentive participation on Sunday morning. For that reason, in 2018 we have been focusing our preaching consistently on one reading in the Sunday Lectionary. In most cases, this has meant that each preaching ‘series’ has been on one book of the Bible, enabling us to unpack the meaning of that specific book over a series of Sundays and to place that book in its context within the whole of Scripture.

Sunday Scriptures and Sermon Questions

Each week, our preachers will also craft a series of questions based on the reading on which they are preaching for use in Community Groups, by families and individuals. We hope that in all of those settings, you will return to the Scripture and read it again, with the second reading freshly illuminated by the preaching of the word on Sunday. These questions will be made available on Ascension’s website no later than Sunday afternoon for use during that week – just look for the Sunday in question and click on the date. These preaching series and the accompanying questions are aimed at equipping the people of God’ to pray and ‘hear...read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest’ the Scriptures so that we “may embrace and every hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life” (Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent).



SERMON SERIES: EPHESIANS AND JAMES

What’s coming up?

Series on Ephesians

Sunday, July 29: Eph. 4:1-16

Sunday, Aug. 5: Eph. 4:17-25

Sunday, Aug. 12: Eph. 4:25-5:2

Sunday, Aug. 19: Eph. 5:15-20

Sunday, Aug. 26: Eph. 5:21-33

Sunday, Sept. 2: Eph. 6:10-20

Series on James

Sunday, Sept. 9: James 1:17-27

Sunday, Sept. 16: James 2:1-18

Sunday, Sept. 23: James 3:16-4:6

Sunday, Sept. 30: James 4:7-12

Mark Your Calendar

Young Adult Dinner & Compline

Wednesday, August 15 at 6:30pm

The next Dinner & Compline in our Summer Series is Wednesday, August 15th at 6:30pm. For more info, contact Alex at 412-652-3137 or

alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org

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.



Songwriters Collaborative

Saturday, August 18 from 9 – 11:30am

With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." (Colossians 3:16b)



For our August gathering, we are hosting an “open forum” for Ascension song-writers who may be seeking a space to share and receive gentle edification from their song-writing community. Songs do not necessarily need to be crafted for liturgical worship. We believe that the beauty of all art forms can bring glory to the God through sheer existence, not necessarily in its potential “usefulness” in a church service. Please email Elise Massa (elise.massa@gmail.com) for more information or to be added to the emailing list. We look forward to sharing this sacred space of fellowship and creativity with you.

ALICE Security Training for the Education Wing

Saturday August 25 from 9am - Noon

The training will cover the ALICE response (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) to a variety of crisis situations that could occur (but we hope never will!), with specifically in view the possibility of an armed intruder with an intent to harm. It is unfortunate that we need to have this conversation, but important that we do so. We want to be as prepared as possible should we face one of these worst case scenarios that we read about in the news far too often. Matt Ulrich will co-lead this training with the colleagues from Winchester Thurston who previously led a similar training in the Nave.

Please note that we are NOT able to provide childcare during this training. This is for two reasons:

- 1) the training involves role playing scenarios which will include the nurseries.
- 2) the training involves all of the people who would normally work/volunteer in childcare.

ALICE training for the Education Wing is open to anyone, and we are specifically asking those who serve/work in the Ed Wing to make every effort to attend. The more people in the know, the better! Feel free to invite another parent or interested person. For more information, contact Matt Ulrich, Director of Children’s Ministries, at matt.ulrich@ascensionpittsburgh.org.

10am Combined Service & BBQ on the Lawn

Sunday, August 26

Join us as we bring our summer months at Ascension to a close. Our next 10am combined worship service and BBQ will take place the last weekend of August. We’ll be doing fall sign up for Community Groups and hope to welcome college students and launch a new campus ministry. Plan on coming, bring a side dish and invite a friend!



Prayer Ministry Brunch: Saturday, Sept 15

All members of our prayer ministry team are invited to a Prayer Ministry Brunch to be held in Ascension Hunt Rooms on Saturday, September 15. At this brunch we will be taking a look back at our prayer ministry the past several years and will prayerfully look forward to what the next chapter might look like. Please plan on attending. This will be a catered event in thanksgiving for the faithful ministry of all of our prayer ministers. If you can attend, please RSVP to marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org.

Parish Retreat

Friday, October 7 – Sunday, October 7

We are pleased to announce that the theme of our Parish Retreat this fall is *Lord, Teach us to Pray: Exploring Rhythms and Practices of Prayer for Everyday Life*. The retreat will be co-taught by two clergy couples: Jonathan and Andrea Millard as well as Jonathan and Tish Warren. In addition to our regular teaching sessions, several workshops will be hosted on Saturday afternoon to help us explore unique ways to engage in prayer.



The Parish Retreat has considerable history at Ascension. For 30+ years we have had an all parish/all ages retreat on the first full weekend of October at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center. We have outgrown two meeting spaces there, and now meet in the largest group facility available to us. Last year, about 300 people came out over the course of the weekend. There is programming for adults, youth and kids. There are a variety of accommodation types. While it's ideal to come for the entire weekend (we begin with Friday dinner and end with Sunday lunch), participants are welcome to come for just one night, for Saturday, or even just for Sunday.

Whatever your choice, we hope you plan on coming out. It's a terrific way to connect at Ascension, to experience great teaching, and to enjoy the beautiful fall colors of Western PA. Registration for the retreat will begin on Sunday, August 19. We'll have a registration table available after both services. Online registration will also be available. For more information, please feel free to reach out to Marilyn at marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org.

Women Alive in Christ

Diocesan Women's Retreat

Saturday, October 13 from 9:30am to 4:30pm

Guest Speaker will be the Rev. Andrea Millard at St Thomas Anglican Church
4106 St. Thomas Drive
Gibsonia, PA 15044
More info to come!!



The Rev. Andrea Millard



Explore Ascension/New Member Class: Saturday, October 20



Our next Explore Ascension class will be Saturday, October 20. This class is for all those who are new to Ascension, who wish to find out more about Anglicanism in general or Ascension in particular. It is also part of the pathway to membership. So, mark your calendars! The class is co-taught by all Ascension clergy – Jonathan Millard, Jonathan Warren, and Tish Warren. We begin with breakfast and conclude with lunch. Childcare is provided. More info and online registration will take place in September.

Music & Worship this fall

By Jeanne Kohn, Director of Music Ministries

The thing that delights my heart the most about being Director of Music Ministries at Ascension is being able to worship with the rest of the Body of Christ as we come together before God at various times during the week. In this article I want to address a few ways in which YOU might be called to bring your gifts as an offering of worship before Him.

Prelude Music!

Even after 25 years at Ascension, I continue to marvel at the number of people who bring such a variety of musical gifts and skills to share during the time when people are gathering for worship. I want to invite you to let me know you are there and willing – perhaps even excited – to share your music making with the rest of us in this way. **A special note to parents!** As many of you know, we particularly love to have prelude music from our children. I don't always know which children among us might enjoy sharing their gifts in worship, so please do contact me either by email or phone (jeanne.kohn@ascensionpittsburgh.org or 412-735-8485) to let me know!

Speaking of our children, our **Children's Choir** is for children age 6 through fifth grade, who rehearse each Sunday from 10:10 to 10:50am (and it IS possible for children who attend the 9am service to be part of this choir!) and sing once a month, typically on the 4th Sunday of the month. They learn songs, learn about worship leading, talk about the theology in the words they sing, play games together, and grow as worship leaders and as musicians. Melissa Tickner directs this group, please contact her to learn more or to sign your child up, at Red.Ruler.Queen@gmail.com or 412-735-4453.

Contemporary Music Team: Co-led with Chris Massa, Assistant Director of Music Ministries, this group of musicians leads the contemporary music at both 9am and 11am services and different teams are formed each week. Whether you sing or play any instrument (strings, flute, woodwinds, electric bass, piano, guitar, drums), we would love to hear from you. Musicians who are scheduled to serve on a given week gather at 7:45am on Sundays to prepare for the services and the entire ministry gathers once a month to worship together, work on skills, and have fellowship and prayer. Prior experience is NOT required. If you are interested, please contact either of us by email or phone (chris.massa@ascensionpittsburgh.org or 412-977-1395; Jeanne's contact info is above).

Adult Choir: This group prepares special music to sing at the 11am service and helps to lead the worship. A very friendly, intergenerational group, they rehearse Thursdays from 7-9pm and are always in need of new members in every section. Special training or experience are NOT required. Our first rehearsal for the fall is on August 16 and we will be singing to welcome Jonathan and Andrea Millard back from sabbatical on Sunday the 19th and will sing every Sunday thereafter. If interested, please contact me (see contact info above).

Pictured below is Melissa Tickner, who directs the Children's Choir, along with a group of the children involved in last year's Christmas service



Jeanne Kohn
Director of Music Ministries



Chris Massa
Assistant Director of Music Ministries

Want to join a team?

Service is a great way to get plugged into the life of our church! To follow are ministries at Ascension in need of a few more recruits. See a ministry that matches your interests and giftings? To sign up, email Director of Ministry, Marilyn Chislaghi at marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org



MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	TIME
Acolytes	Participate in the liturgical procession and altar party; 11am service; kids/adults	Sundays; 3 – 5 times/quarter
Altar Guild Ministry (Communion team)	Join a fun ministry team to set up for Sunday worship; training provided	One month per quarter on a team
Archives	Archive resources to preserve Ascension history	As needed; training provided
Building and Property Task Group	Assist with building projects big and small; need people handy with tools; engineers, managers	Project based
Campus Ministry	Be a home for students; host gatherings; pray; mentor a student	Academic year Sept. - April
Chalice Bearers/ Lay Readers	Read during worship services and serve at communion	Sundays; 3 – 5 times per quarter
Children's Sunday School	Teach ages pre-K to 5th grade; assist in other administrative ways	Sundays; on a rotation with other teachers
Community Groups	Lead or host a group that meets weekly or biweekly	Weekly or biweekly
Young Adults	Mentor a young adult; help organize events	Casual; as agreed
Greeters	Stand at entrances to greet those coming to church on Sunday	Sundays; 1 month/quarter
Hospitality Hour Hosts	Converse with newcomers in the Parish Hall	Sundays; 1 week/month
International Ministry	ESL teachers/assistants; conversation partners; discipleship classes	Ongoing weekly
Meal Ministry: New mom	Prepare a meal for a family with a new baby (we have many babies on the way!)	As needed
Meal Ministry: Soul Food	Cook for the sick, bereaved or homebound (many more cooks needed)	As needed

MINISTRY	DESCRIPTION	TIME
Music: Contemporary Music Team	Vocalists and instrumentalists for our contemporary music ministry	Practices as needed
Music: Adult Choir	Sing at the 11am service (September – May)	Thursday practice
Music: Children's Choir	Sing once a month on the last Sunday at the 9 or 11am service	Practice Sundays 10:15 - 10:50am; sing monthly
Music: Sound Techs	Operate the sound board at 9 or 11am service	4 times per quarter
Prayer: Altar Prayer	Pray for those requesting prayer during communion at 9 & 11am services	3 – 5 times per quarter; monthly practicum on Saturdays
Prayer: Pray for our leaders	Pray one hour for the church, diocese, leaders and staff	9am Sunday mornings with a group
Security	Walk the facility between services	Sundays; 3 times per quarter
Special Needs Ministry	Teach/assist Sundays at 9am; be a buddy to a special needs friend	Sunday mornings or Saturday club
Ushers	Welcome, hand out bulletins, assist with offering & communion	Sundays; 1 month/ quarter
Welcome Table	Greet newcomers after worship services	Sundays; 1 month/quarter
Youth Ministry	Be a friend and mentor to a teenager! Help with Middle School on Fridays or High School on Sundays	Friday or Sun evenings

Want to get connected?
 Contact Marilyn Chislaghi
 Director of Ministry
 412-621-4361 ext. 219 or
marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org



Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Bridges Not Bubbles

Bubbles inevitably pop. Bridges support transitions. I'm very thankful to be able to serve at Ascension where we have restructured to provide bridges not bubbles. Some churches neatly organize ministry so there is a 'youth pastor', a 'college pastor' and a 'young adult pastor'. While such focus can be helpful, there is also the danger that such a division offers young Christians minimal support at the precise time they face the maximum challenge; transitioning from one season of life to the next. We all know that going away to college is a massively disorientating transition, with troubling statistics like "somewhere between 60 percent and 80 percent of previously engaged Christian youth become disengaged with their faith as they transition into college," but emerging from the 'student bubble' and joining the workforce is reportedly just as challenging. One is no longer surrounded by like-minded friends but instead faces all the uphill battles of dealing with unfamiliar expectations, alien workplace culture and possibly doing so in a new city with minimal relational support.

So how does Ascension's Youth and Young Adult Ministries (affectionately known as 'yaya' for short) look to develop strong youth, college and young adult ministries, while building bridges for those transitioning from one season of life to the next? And how can you be involved? Here are just five examples:

Strategic Summers

#1

Arriving as a freshman at a new middle school or at high school can be a scary prospect - which is why rising 6th graders are invited to the middle school youth group gatherings the summer before they start at their new school, and the same for 8th graders starting at high school. When, for example, John and Joseph start at Allderdice at the end of August, they already have good relationships with juniors and seniors from youth group who can help welcome and orientate. At the same time, high school youth group graduates who are thriving as Christians at college, like Mari Gowdy, come back to help over the summer, connecting with those who have that college transition in their foreseeable future. So please do pray that these middle and high schoolers will be full of faith, hope and love as they step into their school buildings for the beginning of the new semester at the end of August. And do write letters of encouragement to Ascension's former high school students who are away now at college. Reach out to me or Leah for any contact details. Thanks!

Layered Teams

#2

Just as it has been wonderful having admirable college students working alongside the middle and high schoolers throughout the year, I am thankful that the CAYG team (Church of Ascension Youth Group) also includes those in their early and later twenties. Intentionally building teams of folks who are close enough in age to easily connect, but also a stage removed in life and career, supports ongoing discipleship for all involved. If you are in your twenties, and open to the possibility of being a significant mentor and encouragement to another who is a few years younger than you, then do contact me or Leah to find out more.



Confirmation Mentors

#3

You can read more about this wonderful opportunity for Ascension's younger teens later in this edition of the Ascent, but I would like to underline one 'bridging' aspect to our Youth Confirmation process. Over two years, and structured around monthly lunches on a Sunday, each confirmand gets to both learn and teach others. And the preparation to share at the monthly lunches happens with an assigned confirmation mentor. Each confirmand gets three mentors in sequence, each who walks alongside them for a period of four months. And the ideal is if one mentor is an 'older sibling' figure, another being the age of their parents, and another the age of their grandparents! Not only does everybody learn together, but a 13-year-old can walk into the parish hall and see a range of smiling faces who are pleased to see them! Read more about confirmation in a few pages and contact me if you're interested in being a confirmation mentor. Or come to our Introduction to Youth Confirmation on September 23rd.

Dinner and Complines

#4

The monthly dinner and complines, organized by young adults for young adults, have proven to be a wonderful opportunity for Ascension's more established twenty-somethings to welcome the newer arrivals. From 'Burgers with the Bishop' to 'Samosas with Sima' it has been delightful to see Ascension's young professionals and grad students gather for dinner, welcome a guest speaker and engage them with questions, as well as introducing themselves to the new folks who are constantly arriving on a Sunday morning. I'm excited to see this monthly event open its doors to the new wave of college students arriving this fall, both graduate and undergraduate. Do get in touch with Leah and me if you'd like to join the leadership, catering or worship teams for these events. And remember; I am very thankful that this is NOT 'youth group for grown ups'!

Life Mentors

#5

As someone who has lived in six different cities and three different countries since graduating from college, I know the ups and downs of being mobile and can sometimes feel slightly jealous of those who have extended family within reach. For the many young adults who have come to Pittsburgh for college or for work, and don't have parents or relatives nearby, I am glad that Ascension members have been hosting dinners and mentoring individuals. How do you prepare for your first Pittsburgh winter? How do you understand the different neighborhoods, Pittsburgh directions (turn left where the swimming pool used to be) and why are there fries on my salad? We are developing a network of life mentors who can regularly invest in those who appreciate guidance when facing this challenging season of life and would love to hear from you if you'd be interested in joining the team!



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 Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org
 Cell: 412-652-3137.

Leah Hornfeck,
 Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries,
leah.hornfeck@ascensionpittsburgh.org
 Cell: 724-630-0167.

CAYG =

Church of Ascension Youth Group

By Alex Banfield Hicks

In my first year at Ascension I had the privilege of praying with and listening to youth, parents and volunteers as we sought to articulate the vision for our youth group program. The result is read at the beginning of every regular CAYG event and each time we pray that we might increasingly be ...

“A Christ-centered and open-hearted youth group dedicated to fostering faithful disciples through worship, service and the teaching of biblical truth.”

I was impressed by the eloquence of our teens, and later underlined what I think is the heart of this statement and the focus of our ministry. It is found in that delightfully alliterative middle section: “dedicated to fostering faithful disciples.”

Before he graduated out of youth group and went to Princeton (poor fellow), Peter Foster would emphasize the ‘foster-ing’ part. We would laugh. But having visited some empty-nester Christian friends who have taken up fostering refugee children, I wonder if this extra resonance of ‘fostering’ is particularly pertinent for this program.

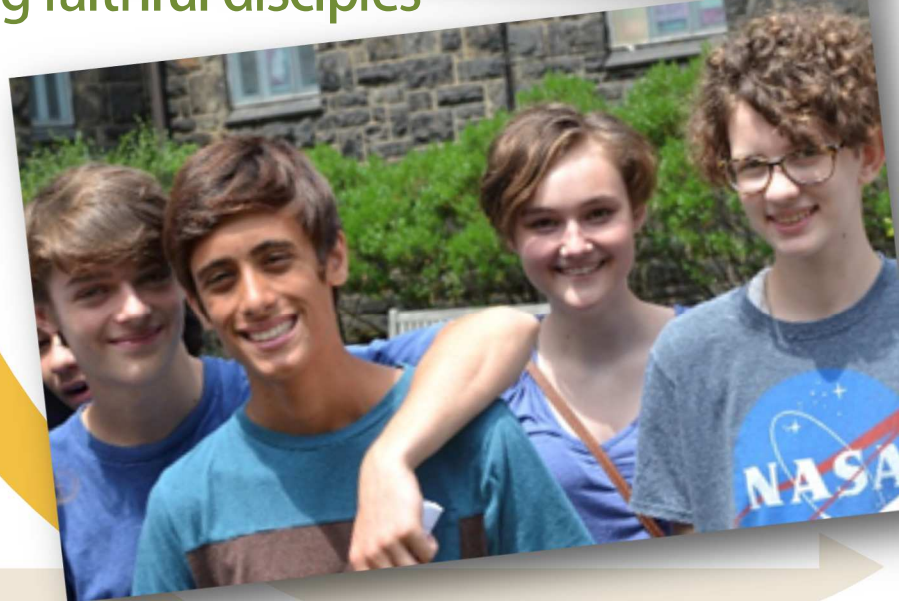
Just as these friends take kids under their wings for a season of life, investing and caring for them, before saying tearful goodbyes, I and the wonderful team of CAYG volunteers feel we are doing something similar—but with the particular focus of fostering their discipleship of the Lord Jesus Christ, that their relationship with Him and his people might be life-giving and life-long.

And all this is my long-winded way of saying that discipleship is really the point of all the varied events on the calendar opposite, and we would love you to pray that we, the leaders and your kids and your kids' friends, would truly grow as faithful disciples, now and into the future.

Fostering faithful disciples



Fostering faithful disciples



Fostering faithful disciples



2018-2019 Calendar

FALL

FLO @ ST JO'S

10am Sat Aug 25 - 26th
Fall Launch Overnight

FALL SERIES (9)

Sep 7+9 - Nov 16+18
Doubting our Doubts

PARISH RETREAT

October 5+7
No Youth Group Oct 12 / 14.

DYG

Saturday November 3
Diocesan Youth Gathering

WREATH \$\$\$

Collect Sun Dec 2
Let's Fundraise \$3k+!

ADVENT (2)

Two weekends
Service + Movie Making

OVRNT B4 XMAS

Friday December 14th
Dinner, Movies, Christmas Fun

REST

Christmas and NYE
Take a holiday break!

(CAYG TEAM)

Saturday Jan 5th
Fox Chapel + Guest

SPRING

SKI TRIP

Jan 13-14
Hidden Valley

SPRING SERIES (10)

Jan 18+20 - Mar 29+31
Praying for Change

SENIOR TOURS

Various weekends
College-prep Church visits

GIRLS / GUYS

Feb 15+17
Valentines Discussions

DYG @ PP

Saturday April 13
Diocesan Youth Gathering

EASTER WEEKEND

Thursday April 18 - Sun 21
With whole church family

MRTHN OVRNT

Saturday May 5
+Going The Distance

REST

Rest of May
Take a warm break!

(CAYG TEAM)

Saturday June 1st
Fox Chapel + Guest

SUMMER

TRANSITIONS

2nd Sunday in June
Hi 6th! Bye Seniors!

YOUTH ALPHA (7)

From 2nd w/e in June & July
Plus trips to Razzzy Fresh

PLANO, TEXAS

June 17-24
ACNA + Mission Trip

DAY TRIPS

2 July Wednesdays
CAYG Adventures

(CAYG TEAM)

Saturday August 3rd
Fox Chapel + Guest Speaker

REST

August
And breathe...

MIDDLE SCHOOL

FRIDAYS 6:30-8:30PM

HIGH SCHOOL

SUNDAYS 6:30-8:30PM

Thanks for praying for this program with us as we
foster faithful disciples of Jesus Christ!
(caygonline.com)

Youth Confirmation

By Alex Banfield Hicks

Anglicanism requires a public and personal profession of the Faith from every adult believer in Jesus Christ. Confirmation by a bishop is its liturgical expression. In Confirmation, God, through the bishop's prayer for daily increase in the Holy Spirit and the laying on of hands, strengthens the believer for Christian life in the service of Christ and his kingdom. Grace is God's gift, and we pray that he will pour out his Holy Spirit on those who have already been made his children by adoption and grace in Baptism.

During the Confirmation service, the bishop will say: "Dearly beloved, it is essential that those who wish to be Confirmed in this Church must publicly confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; become his disciple; know and affirm the Nicene Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments; and have received instruction in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and the Catechism of the Church." But how do young confirmands learn the Nicene Creed? How can we at Ascension best help them understand the Old and New Testaments and the Catechism of the Church? How can we do this together?

The nine confirmands pictured here completed the first iteration of a two-year youth confirmation process. They met together for lunch on the first Sunday of each month, enjoyed the presentation of a guest speaker, discussed it together, and went home with an assignment to undertake with their confirmation mentor, the results of which they would present to the group the following month.

The 2018-2020 youth confirmation process follows a similar pattern of monthly lunches, mentors and homework assignments but has been streamlined from 16 to 12 main sessions, plus an introduction, end of course assessment and Confirmation Sunday itself. See opposite for an outline of the dates and the theme of each session. If you're interested in joining our team of confirmation mentors, or would like your child to be considered for the youth confirmation process, then please do contact me. I am very thankful that Tom Hillman and Zack Wilson have joined the team to run our monthly sessions, but am looking for a volunteer to coordinate the catering. I hope to hear from you!





Year 1 7 Monthly Sunday Lunches

9/23/18	Introduction
[10/7/18]	[Parish Retreat = No Meeting]
11/4/18	The Gospel
12/9/18	Bible Overview
1/6/19	Creeds
2/3/19	Sacraments
3/3/19	The Lord's Prayer
4/7/19	Ten Commandments

Year 2 8 Monthly Sunday Lunches

9/8/19	The Anglican Church
[10/7/19]	[Parish Retreat = No Meeting]
11/3/19	Book of Common Prayer
12/8/19	God the Holy Spirit
1/5/20	God the Father
2/2/20	God the Son
3/1/20	Capstone Presentations
4/5/20	End of Confirmation Assessment
5/10/20	Confirmation Service + Lunch with the Bishop!

Young Adult Ministry

By Alex Banfield Hicks

Ascension Campus : Harry Potter Trivia Quiz

My favorite seminary professor wrote an excellent book called 'Echoes of Eden; reflections on Christianity, literature and the arts' in which amongst other things, he made a strong case for clear Christian themes in the Harry Potter series. Given this, and the widespread appeal of the books and movie franchise, I thought it might be fun to host a 'Harry Potter Trivia Quiz' at Pitt's Cathedral of Learning during the first week of the fall semester. Not only will the publicity raise the profile of Ascension on campus, but I have also observed a curious affinity between an interest in the world of Hogwarts and an interest in the Anglican church! Do pray for Leah and I as we spend more time on college campuses in Oakland from late August, meeting and helping the new arrivals there! Pray that this event might be a useful doorway for many to step through to all the other things Ascension will be offering Oakland in the coming weeks and months.

Weekly Bible Study for college-age students

One of the things that impressed me about Leah during the interview and discernment process was her love for the Bible and her confidence in starting new initiatives. It was no surprise therefore to see that she has begun a weekly evening Bible study with a collection of Ascension's college-aged students. They are going through the book of Ruth and learning how to express love in action. Do pray for the growth of this study, with Leah raising up new leaders to follow her example in drawing others to encounter the love of Christ and hear the word of God.

Meeting new arrivals

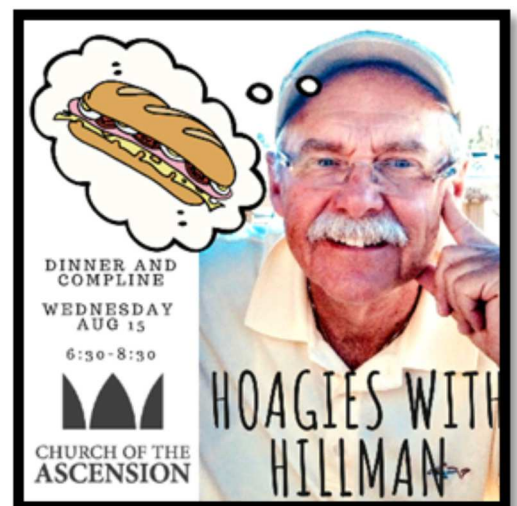
I am glad that Ascension is a large and welcoming place, but one of the dangers of our size is that newcomers can walk in for one of the Sunday morning services and leave again without really getting to know anyone. Therefore, Leah and I are doing our best to connect with the transient twenty-something population, but would love any suitably extroverted friendly Ascensionites to join us in keeping an eye open for new arrivals.

Dinner & Compline

As outlined in the 'Bridges not Bubbles' piece, we continue our series of monthly Dinner and Compline events, connecting not just Ascension's young adults with a range of wise Ascension after-dinner speakers, but also with each other. There are a number of community groups particularly welcoming to the young adult demographic, and this is a chance for them to gather in the same space. And from late August the Pitt and CMU arrivals we will be meeting will also be invited. Do pray for these gatherings and let us know if you're interested in joining the worship or catering teams!

Bridges to Pittsburgh

We have started a conversation with leaders from a range of East End churches, looking to organize a series of events for Christian twenty-somethings. Given Jesus' call to be salt and light, and the prophetic urging to seek the welfare of the city (Jeremiah 29:7), we can best do that when building bridges between Christians and between the cultural life of Pittsburgh. So to that end we are hoping to organize two large-scale events a year, with titles like 'Bridges: to music', gathering all those involved in or interested in PGH musical life, or 'Bridges: to sport', gathering those looking to recruit or join clubs, or 'Bridges: to service', for those wanting to be involved in urban service projects. Do pray for us as we assemble a steering committee from churches in the area.



Children's Ministry

I am excited about the upcoming Fall Season! It is a joy to see the children becoming more like Jesus Christ as they “grow in wisdom and in stature” (Luke 2:52), and see them being formed as worshipers of Jesus Christ through participation in the children’s programming and the life of the church. Each child is truly a blessing from the Lord

-Matt Ulrich, Children's Ministry Director

Summer Recap

We are excited to report on how Children's Ministry is joining with the rest of the Church in “Ordinary Time,” or as we often call this season, “Green Growing” time. As summer comes to a close, we are finishing up our unit on saints of the Church. Each week children have been introduced to a different saint and invited to explore how that person used their gifts for God. It has been a wonderful way to solidify our understanding of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

unleashed at Pentecost. God's Spirit is working in the Church and in us! He is working not just in Bible times, but throughout all of the history of the church, and into our current day. Perhaps you've caught a glimpse of one of the many saint cards we've been passing out each week in conjunction with that Sunday's lesson? A few of our children have managed to collect a full set of all 9 'saints cards' of those studied more closely through this series.



One way we help kids grow is by following the Circle of the Church year! As our children, and all the adults ministering among them, walk to the pace of “church time” it gives order to our lessons. It also creates paths towards deeper understandings of the God that forms us, redeems us, and continues to make all things new. Our Fall Programming season actually begins during the final quarter of the church year as summarized by the pictured church calendar (puzzle version!) During our last summer celebration at our combined Sunday Service, August 26, we will offer a special presentation on the Circle of the Church Year. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

FALL KICK OFF September 2nd

9AM

- Room. 101 (Nursery): Ages 0-1
- Room 102 (Toddler Rm.): Ages 2-3
- Room 103 (Children & Worship Rm.): PreK
- Room 104: Grade K-1
- Hunt Room: Grade 2-5

11AM

- Room 101 (Nursery): Ages 0-1
- Room 102 (Toddler Room): Ages 2-3
- Rm. 103 (Children & Worship Rm.): PreK - Gr. 1
- Hunt Rm: Grade 2-5

With the beginning of the school year, we will go far, far back to beginnings as we turn towards digging into a deeper understanding of the Story of God's people throughout the Old Testament. We will walk through a narrative overview of the Hebrew Bible, from Genesis up through the Prophets. Our children will be invited into God's story as they learn about God's relationship with God's people and all His creation. With the history of God's people fresh in their minds, the children will be open to exploring the radical gift of the Incarnation as we begin again the church year with the Advent season. We hope to encounter baby Jesus with renewed thankfulness that God chose to dwell among us. The PreK and some elementary classes will be based on the Sacred Stories core lesson series from the Godly Play curriculum, while the 11am older elementary class will follow the Old Testament lessons from a Bible Survey (Great Commission Publishing). All classes Toddler - 5th grade will be invited into the story of God's people beginning in Genesis. We're excited that the Fall Theme will carry into our Parish Retreat!

Fall Registration

Every child who will be actively participating in the children's programming this Fall should fill out the brief but important registration form. This is especially helpful for making sure we are adequately caring for, welcoming, and ministering to each of your children. This form is updated from last year! Please take the time to fill this out by the end of August! It is most easily done online at: www.ascensionpittsburgh.org/cm-registration or by scanning the code with your phone. Paper forms will also be available in the Education Wing.



Children's Ministry *continued*

Parish Retreat!

And a final plug for our church retreat at Laurelville, October 5-7, please join us! We are so looking forward to the extended time we will have all together as kids and families participating in the retreat. Our focus will be on God as Creator, drawing on the Godly Play lesson on creation to explore the natural world and wonder together about our God who made us in the very image of our Creator. While the adults explore teachings on prayer, the children will look again at the relationships we are created to have with God and each other, the heart of these relationships being rooted in prayer. We are planning age appropriate programming for preschool aged children up to 5th grade. It includes outdoor adventures, art exploration, games, and so much more! Watch for further details soon.



The Children's Ministry Staff

I am excited to have had Keira Fuener join the team over the summer, in particular to bridge some of the gap while Karen Sloan welcomed her second child, Michelle! Keira and Karen will continue to share hours as we head into the Fall.


Keira has been instrumental in the development of our Summer Saints curriculum and upcoming Parish Retreat program. Karen continues to play a key role in expanding our use of the Godly Play curriculum and resources for parents and teachers. I (Matt) am very grateful for their efforts and we (together) are enthusiastic about the spiritual nourishment of the children and families at Ascension!



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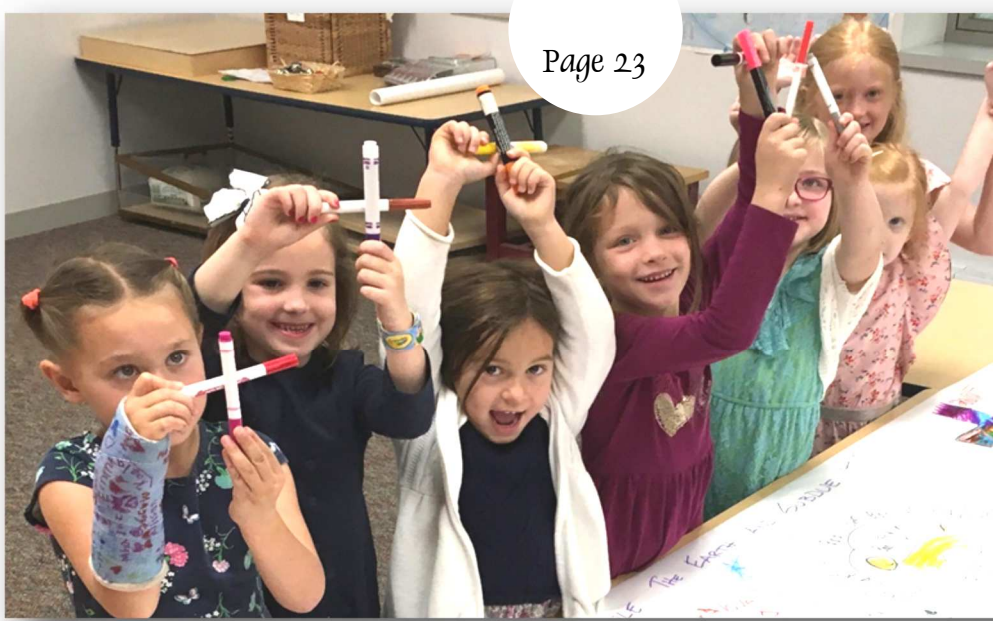


Keira Fuener,
Assistant Director of
Children's Ministries
keirafuener@gmail.com
412-638-3057

Partner with Children's Ministry

We are so grateful for the growth we have seen in our children's ministry! Will you consider donating your time and/or talents in the following ways? Thank you!

- Teachers and assistants (including youth volunteers!)
- Classroom clean up and organization
- Hallway monitor/administration
- Parent volunteer on the Parish Retreat
- Donations of art supplies



Special Needs Ministry

Ascension's special needs ministry for teens and adults has two primary programs: A Sunday School class that meets concurrent with the 9am service, and a Saturday Capernaum Friends Club that meets the second Saturday of the month from 2 – 4pm. Our Special Needs Ministry is a great outreach to special needs friends as well as their families and caregivers. If you would like to participate as a volunteer (teacher, assistant, music, buddy), please contact one of the program directors:

2018-Program:

2nd Saturday of the month, 2 – 4pm

September 8

The Lord is My Strength and Shield

October

Square Dance
(in the South Hills; details TBA)

November

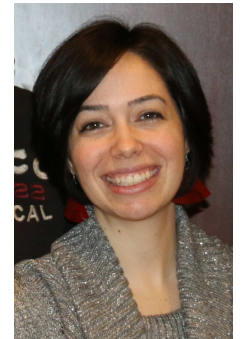
Thankfulness

December

Christmas Pageant



Christina Carlucci
at carlucci.christina@gmail.com



Dana Kaasik
at dana.kaasik@gmail.com



TFW LTE

32%

CONNECT NOW

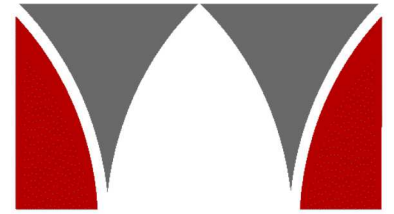
Text 412-953-7050

or email

marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org

and list the connections
you want to make

- Newcomer/
Explore Ascension
- Community Groups
- Children
- Youth
- College
- Young Adult
- Seniors
- Special Needs
- Internationals
- Music / Arts
- Volunteer



**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

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The Ascent

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