



MORE THAN STONES

Welcoming our Neighbors, Reaching the Nations

My husband Rob and I started attending Ascension twenty years ago and, while it was a welcoming community then as it is now, it looked quite different. Our children, youth and campus ministries were all located in the Parish Hall wing of the building. Staff offices were at one end of the 2nd floor and children's ministry at the other end. There was no Education wing and, in fact, the church did not own the land on which the current Education wing is located.

It was difficult to build up children's ministry to accommodate more families because there just wasn't space. I taught 15+ PreK/K kids in the room that is now our Rector's office. I dropped off my daughter in the nursery which was located in the current Conference Room (there was no Conference Room back then). My son joined with other elementary aged children in a room which is now the Prayer Chapel and a mix of offices. Nursing moms used the choir room. No groups or committees could meet concurrent with the single 10:30am service because there was simply no room.

Speaking of "No Room":

- ◆ **There was no room for our Special Needs ministry;** specialized ministry to our friends Hannah, Elineke, Holden, Stephen, Andrea, James, Clara, and others.
- ◆ **There was no room for International Ministry;** ministry to those new to our country - those people who have come to a living relationship with Christ, the many who are in Bible studies and who have tasted Christian hospitality for the first time.
- ◆ **There was no room for the 200+ member AA group** that meets Saturday morning and where literally hundreds of people have become sober or maintained their sobriety over the past 15 years.
- ◆ **There was no room for the Workshop ministry** and all who have come to greater degrees of wholeness through it.

I am thankful for the vision and financial commitment of those who made it possible for the **Education wing** to be built through the "**Growing to Serve**" **capital campaign** that concluded 2001. It clearly expanded our capacity for ministry and has enabled Church of the Ascension to impact real people, people like you and me who are made in the image of God, with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for faithful leadership that dared to dream.

What does that have to do with the current "**More than Stones**" capital campaign? Our leadership is dreaming again, and we have all have been invited to share in that dream - what steps can we take at this juncture to influence more people for the Kingdom of God?



Each month as I edit articles and then grab a coffee and flip through the pages of the finished Ascent, I am amazed at the green shoots of God-given growth that I see. There is a sense of bursting at the seams – something I experience with trepidation on Sunday mornings as I regularly admonish little kids not to take dives under the serving tables with hot chafing dishes in the Parish Hall! If you read this month’s article on international ministry, you’ll get a picture of what I mean. We are offering hospitality to people from 22 nations, and an awesome team has been gathered who joyfully minister among these new friends on

a weekly basis. As a member of staff, I’ve had the joy of seeing ministry happen with our international friends as they query who the God is that we worship, or as they come to us with their needs - loneliness, immigration problems, health issues, financial struggles, divorce and relational breakdown, legal difficulties.

I am grateful for the vision that undergirds the proposed refurbishment of the Parish Hall - absolutely necessary at this time for reasons I’d be super happy to engage anyone at length about! Put simply, its infrastructure is worn and it is too small. As was the case with the expansion to the Education wing, I am hopeful that this facility expansion will once again enable us to grow our ministry capacity and bring others within the saving embrace of Christ and his church. Our leadership is putting before us the opportunity to enlarge our footprint so ministry to real people who need Jesus can happen to a greater degree.

I was part of the working group that liaised with the architectural team and am delighted with the way their renderings, currently on display in the Education wing hallway, capture the vision expressed by vestry at its spring retreat. As someone who frequently greets those new to Ascension, our ‘fortress look’ of heavy stones and closed doors, however beloved, has sometimes hurt us. I can put names to faces whose eyes have lit up with surprised expressions as they’ve entered our doors on Sunday to see the vibrant life of our community. **Light pouring out and outsiders invited in** – that’s what the design speaks to me. **The refurbished Parish Hall is all about invitation, speaking to our neighbors “Will you join us?”**

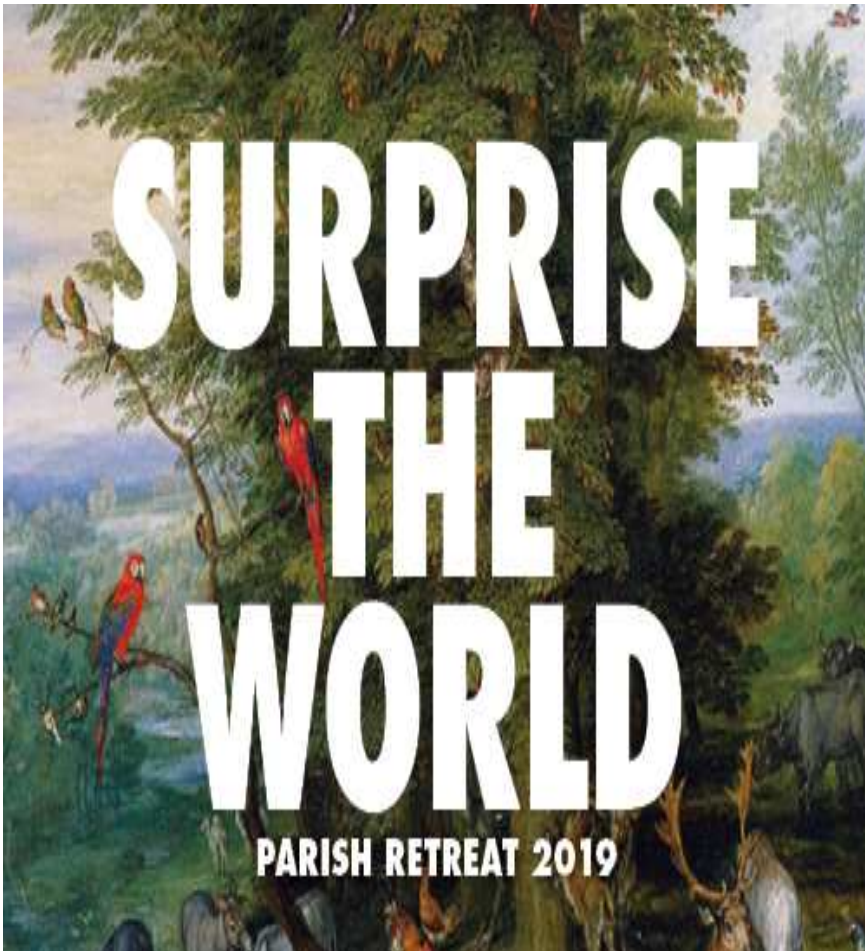
Finally, I’m glad that a fund for mission and ministry is part of the current campaign that will be used strategically to increase staffing so that all can continue to press deeper into the life of Christ. There is a depth of commitment from our pastoral staff to being a ‘worshipping community,’ namely people who not only worship together but also “do life” together, and who together are being equipped to live like Christ-worshippers in their families, communities and professional lives.

Twenty years later there has been a lot of water under the bridge. My husband Rob passed away shortly after the conclusion of the first capital campaign and he was buried in the columbarium. My kids, raised here to know Jesus, are grown and out of the house and are actively pursuing their discipleship as young adults. I’m married to the wonderful Charlie and we’re invested as mature stake-holders at Ascension and have approached our giving to the campaign as such. We long to see our church thrive and flourish in the generations to come and we hope that our pledge, made before God, reflects our hearts as it is used for this purpose.

Marilyn Chislaghi
 Director of Ministry
marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org



A Preaching Series on the Gospel of Luke



October 6

Parish Retreat

Luke 7:36-50

Jesus Anointed by a Sinful woman

October 13

Luke 17:11-19

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

October 20

Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

October 27

Luke 18:9-14

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

November 3

Luke 6:20-26

The Beatitudes

The gospel, as Paul describes it, is that by the Holy Spirit we are “in Christ,” united to him and sent out to participate in his mission to reconcile the world to God. When we “clothe ourselves with Christ,” we are more and more transformed into his image and likeness and set free to surprise the world in the same ways that Jesus himself did. Join us as we explore the many ways that Jesus surprised the world and how we are challenged to follow him in this as we meditate together on Luke’s telling of the story of Jesus this fall.



by the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Warren
Associate Rector

BIBLE STUDIES coordinated with the sermon series will be available on our website at www.ascensionpittsburgh.org



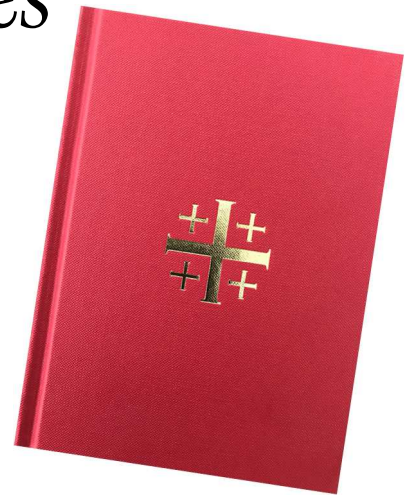
Introducing Christian Practices

Wednesdays in October

by the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Warren



Paul tells us in 2 Tim. 4-6 that the Christian life requires practice, just as being a soldier, a farmer, and an athlete. There are many practices in the Christian tradition that help us to “put on Christ” (Romans 13:14). All are welcome to join us on Wednesdays in October as we explore three of these practices that are stressed especially in Anglican spirituality. These workshops are required for those seeking Adult Confirmation.



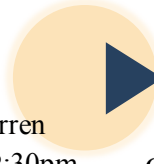
Spiritual Direction

with Andrea Millard
October 9, 6:30 – 8:30pm



Daily Office

with Jonathan Warren
October 16, 6:30 – 8:30pm



Contemplative Prayer

with Hannah Halfhill
October 23, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Companions in Holy Listening:

A Group Spiritual Direction Cohort

In the midst of our busy, plugged-in lives, many of us long to cultivate quiet, focused prayer. If you share this desire, consider joining *Companions in Holy Listening: A Group Spiritual Direction Cohort*. This cohort is led by the Rev. Dr. Andrea Millard and a team of gifted male and female facilitators. We will begin in Advent, which marks the start of the liturgical year.

What is Group Spiritual Direction? Group spiritual direction is an intentional community that seeks to rely on the Holy Spirit to direct our lives as we pursue our relationship with the Lord through prayer and reflection on God’s activities in our lives. We listen together in prayerful silence. While group spiritual direction can take many forms, the rhythm of *Companions in Holy Listening* includes a monthly gathering for silence, scripture reading, individual and group reflection and prayer. For seven months (beginning December 7 and ending June 6) men and women will gather on the first Saturday of the month to embrace a pattern that features less talking and more listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another.

If this sounds appealing to you, we invite you into a discernment process, that begins by requesting and completing a brief application. Email your interest (or questions) to our Director of Prayer Ministries, Andrea Millard. A team member will send you a one-page application form and address your questions. Application deadline is October 29.

The Rev. Dr. Andrea Millard
Director of Prayer Ministries
andrea.millard@ascensionpittsburgh.org



OWLS FELLOWSHIP

OLDER WISER LIVELY SAINTS

The OWLS at Church of the Ascension extend an invitation to the OWLS Luncheon and Presentation. Enjoy Lunch, Fun and Fellowship! All are warmly welcomed!



Ann Tefft

Mark your Calendars for the **2nd Thursday** of the month
12:30PM – 2:30PM

➤ **November 14**
Heroes of the Faith
with Mark Stevenson
(Who will actually take on their personalities!)

➤ **December 12**
Christmas Party
with Lara McGill
Music to Delight Us All and Celebrate the Season

Thursday, October 10th
12:30PM – 2:30PM
With Frank and Anne

Anne and Frank will talk about their life and work in North Africa, what they have learned about ministry by living in a Muslim country, and what the church in North Africa looks like and where it is going.



COST: \$10 charge for lunch, but first-time friends are free!
RSVPs are necessary to Rev. Ann Tefft: 412-526-1107 or tefft.ann@gmail.com.
Parking restrictions will be lifted for people to park on the streets, and the Neville Street lot will be reserved for seniors. We meet in the Parish Hall.

International Ministry this Fall

Fall term began on Sept 9th with oral testing of new English students and classes and Bible studies beginning Sept. 16th. If you have any questions or would like to come alongside this ministry and help in some way (teacher, assistant, conversation partner), please contact Lu Ann at PittsburghEnglish4U@gmail.com.

This year our students come from many parts of the world including:

- Columbia
- Korea
- Ukraine
- China
- Turkey
- Brazil
- Japan
- Middle East
- Venezuela
- Ecuador
- Spain
- Russia
- India
- Philippines
- Peru
- Chili
- Kazakhstan
- Thailand
- Paraguay
- Chad
- Taiwan
- Serbia

Our students have a variety of different professional backgrounds:

- Engineering
- Computer Science
- Waitress and restaurant workers
- Medical Professionals
from many specialties
- Hotel workers
- Visiting scholars at Pitt and CMU
- Grad students at Pitt and CMU
- Au Pairs
- Spouses
- Grandparents
- Permanent immigrants
- Professional ballet dancer!

PRAYER REQUEST:

Will you pray for our teachers and others assisting with the international ministry in some way?

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Denise Cox | Kavya Weaver |
| Sima Weaver | Maya Weaver |
| Bonnie Rose | Barb Zimmerly |
| Ben Rocke | Joan Carcillo |
| Lu Ann Pengidore | Jen Cummings |
| Christina Hyland | Denise Bozich |
| Nathan Purdue | Ann Tefft |
| Christian Conger | Amina |
| MJ Botula | Sue Myers |
| David Van Every | Enkhlen Buuch |
| Timmy Podnar | Donna Wilkes |
| Meg Sateia | Ruth Kuscmierz |
| Carli Watson | Alan Irvine |
| Chris Thieman | Maggie Hall |
| Reeny Davison | David Hall |
| Catherine Crotty | Diane Stadelmeier |
| Erika Twitchell | Ellen Meadows |
| Kim Wadsack | Linda DuPlessis |
| | Suzanne McLaughlin |
| | Anne |





Ascension Campus Ministry

VENITE
ASCENSION
CAMPUS MINISTRY

A look of delighted surprise came across one Pitt student's face when he saw a good friend from his hall turn up unexpectedly at Venite with another mutual friend. This has been a sort of paradigm for the first month of Venite. As we've been welcoming and getting to

know new students, God has been surprising us and delighting us with who he has brought through our doors. Not only have we had new students from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, but we've also had gap year students, an exchange student from Japan, and a student from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. It's been a joy getting to know these students and watching them grow and mature in Christ through the Venite community. We will continue doing this through our **October series, which will be on the problems that Christian college students face, particularly in the social scene on college campuses.**

September Update CCO's Leadership Together gathering

Our Student Leaders were challenged to live out their biblical worldview on campus using their gifts and honing their skills in order to be more effective leaders for God's Kingdom and invite others to do the same.

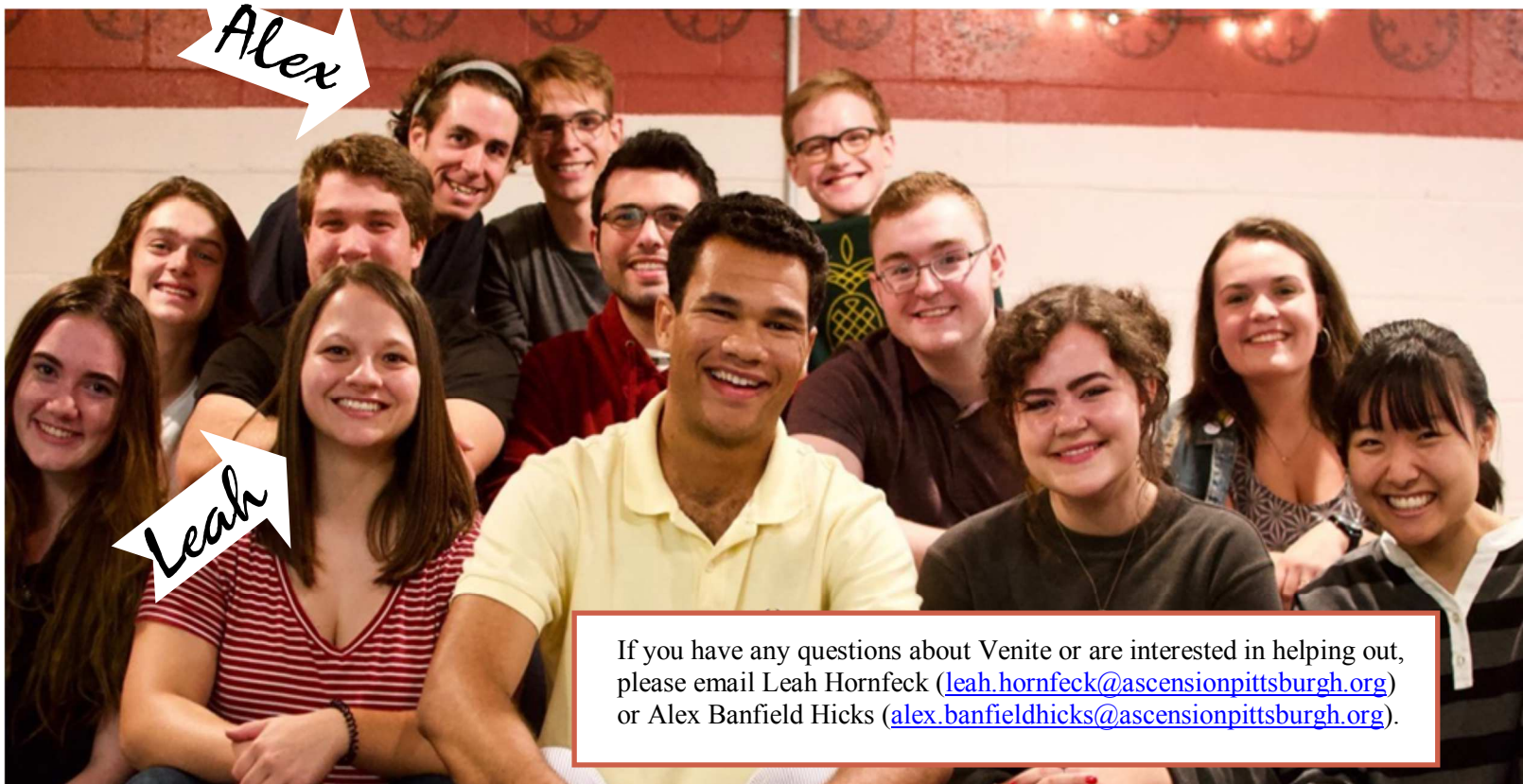
October News College Sunday Brunch October 13th

A brunch will follow the 11am service. A great opportunity for students to connect and meet other congregants to build intergenerational relationships.



Venite's WEEKLY Fellowship Wednesdays

8:30pm in the Ascension Old Catacombs!



If you have any questions about Venite or are interested in helping out, please email Leah Hornfeck (leah.hornfeck@ascensionpittsburgh.org) or Alex Banfield Hicks (alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org).

Children's Ministry



Where We have Been, Where We Are and Where We are Going



As we head into the fall season, I want to take a moment to thank all those who have worked so hard to create stability for the children's ministry during this time of transition. For the faithfulness of our teaching and caregiver teams who serve from week to week. For the search committee members who were incredibly gracious and extended themselves in many ways. In mid-summer, we gathered in the Education wing, prayed together, and shared a time of visioning for the coming days. Thank you all for your good work. During the summer months, Karen Sloan did a great job writing curriculum and guiding the kids into an exploration of Paul's Epistles. For months now, Jill Amber Graham has been "holding down the fort" and certainly deserves a volunteer of the year award for the diligence and care that she has shown. I am also very grateful to Mari Stout, Rhonda Herman, Matt Ulrich, Keira Fuener, Jenn Newhouse and Elisabeth Moyer who have taken time during my onboarding process to help me get acclimated.

Currently, we are hard at work strengthening the children's Sunday program, and preparing for our Parish Retreat. Our hope is to integrate our teaching material so that it allows children to experience some of what parents will experience during the weekend. Thanks to Father Jay Slocum for helping us with the formation of our curriculum. A summary of the children's curriculum is included below.

As I work to recruit volunteers, develop and strengthen relationships with parents and children, and adjust to the complexities of Church of the Ascension, I will also be striving to develop clear rhythms for the church calendar so that children and parents will have a sense of where we are going in the coming days as we look forward to Advent, Christmas and the new year.

Please consider praying for the children of Ascension and their families and for me and the volunteers called to minister to our children. Specifically, that God would help us to see children as whole people, whole families as integral to the flourishing of the world, and that we would have wisdom to guide them into adulthood as those who are known and know the God who so loves them.

Surprise! How God's Kid's Bless the World Parish Retreat for Kids

At the Parish Retreat, children will explore four ways that we bless the world by being salt and light, by forgiving others, and by being agents of peace. Through play, instruction, crafts, discussion and lots of fresh air, they will learn about a few of the BIG ways Christians bless the world.

Salt and Light – When Jesus tells his friends to be salt and light, he is putting together two things that do not seem to go together. Peanut butter and Jelly go together, salt and pepper go together. But, how do salt and light go together? Well, salt works when all the crystals stay together, just as the church works when it is one body. Jesus wants us to be salt by working in unity. Light scatters when it goes out and even a single ray can lighten a room. When Jesus tells us to be light, he is saying that our individual presence in the world can make a BIG difference.

Forgiveness – We all make mistakes. And, some mistakes can be washed away, others paid for. Some mistakes seem to be unrepairable. In the story of the Bible we find the miracle of a forgiveness so strong that it even can bring a person from death to life. Christians forgive because they have been forgiven.

Shalom – A strange word that means peace but is not just a peace sign. This word is used from the beginning to the end of the bible and it means wishing to see the world not as it is but as it should be. To say Shalom, or peace be with you, is to wish for a world as it should be; right relationship with God, others, ourselves and all of God's creation. We bless the world by working and resting and playing in ways that God intended!

Catherine Slocum
Director of Children's Ministries
catherine.slocum@ascensionpittsburgh.org

Music Ministry

This Laurelville, the Music Team will introduce the song "Let us be Known by our Love."

Here is an interview with Ryan Flannigan, co-writer of the song and co-founder of the music project, Liturgical Folk.

What is the story behind "Let us be Known by our Love?"

In 2015 I attended a songwriting camp in Nashville. Four songwriters crammed into a little writing room and began wondering what it would be like if people thought of Christians as the ones who were first to take care of those in need, to provide a home for the fatherless, and to run towards disaster. At the time there was a fantastic op-ed in the New York Times by David Brooks calling Christians, those who subscribe to a faith built on selfless love, to "the next culture war". The four of us read the article and thought of Jesus' call in Matthew 5:14-16. It didn't take too long for the song to come together from there.

"Let us be Known..." was previously recorded in English on the Liturgical Folk album, *Crumbs* (2018). How was it decided to make the song bilingual?

Isaac Wardell is our producer [for Liturgical Folk]. He had the idea of singing the second verse and the chorus in Spanish. Diana Gameros, an amazing artist from California/Mexico doing incredible work with refugees on the border, translated it for us. Right now the Latino community is in desperate need of our unconditional hospitality. Singing in Spanish not only makes them feel welcome, but it can bring English speakers into a greater appreciation and awareness of the presence and needs of our Spanish-speaking neighbors, even if there are few Spanish-speakers in our churches.

Please tell us more about your musical project, Liturgical Folk.

The seed for the Liturgical Folk music project was planted in 2014 at the first ever United Adoration songwriting retreat in Oak Park, IL. It was there that I first felt the need and sensed the calling to set ancient liturgical texts to new folk tunes. Prior to that my imagination for "appropriate" church music was limited to either contemporary choruses or traditional hymns. I left the retreat invigorated to help expand the church's imagination beyond these two categories.

In February 2015, shortly after I became the Music Director of All Saints Dallas, I stumbled into a creative partnership with a retired priest and parishioner named Fr. Nelson Koscheski. Our collaboration [Ryan as melodist, Fr. Nelson as lyricist] was so fun and life-giving that we continued writing [more than 40] new hymns all the way until Nelson's death in March 2019. Our mission is to make beautiful and believable sacred folk music for the Church and the world.

Will Liturgical Folk be performing in the Pittsburgh area anytime soon?

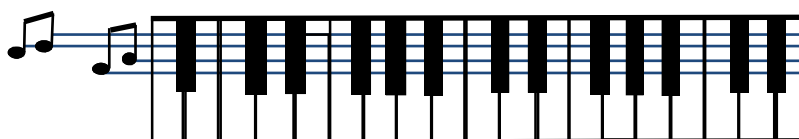
YES! We will be playing in Johnstown, PA on Nov. 25 at *Our Mother of Sorrows Church*. We will have just released our *Advent* record, so, in addition to introducing our music to the fine folks of Pennsylvania with songs from *Table Settings*, *Edenland*, and *Crumbs*, a portion of the concert will be Advent-themed. We would love for our Pittsburgh friends to make the trek! We cannot wait for the coming of Christ with you.

By Elise Massa

Assistant Director of Music and Worship Arts

elise.massa@ascensionpittsburgh.org

Ascension Music and Worship Arts
Chris and Elise Massa

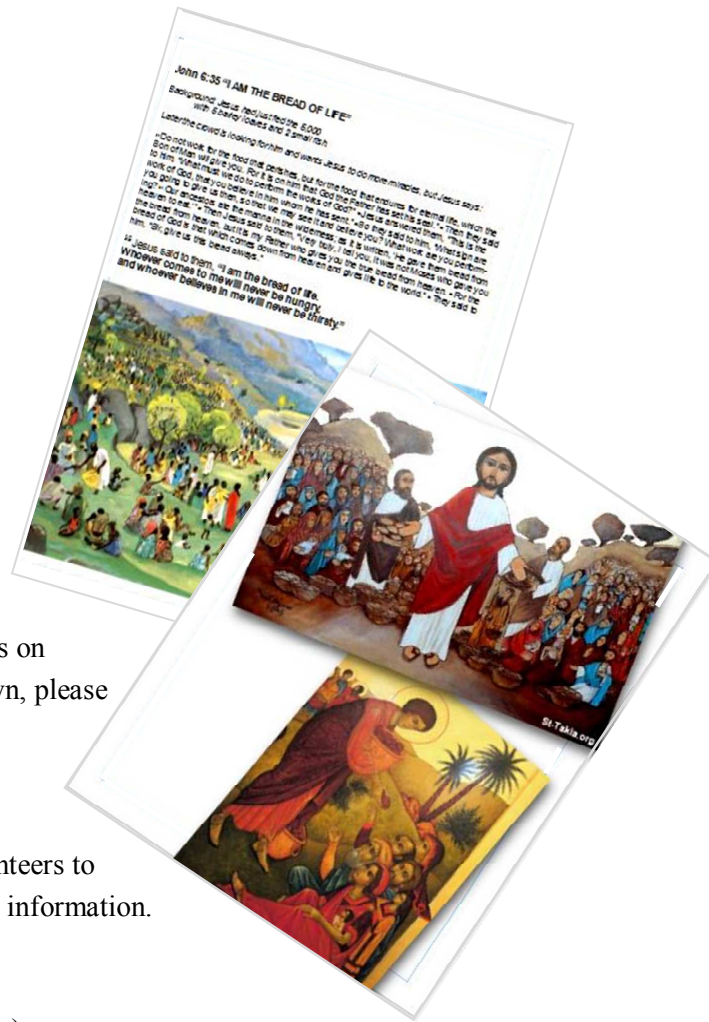


Special Needs Ministry

Sunday Morning WINGS:

Our Fall series is a visual walk through the Gospel of John.

We believe that God wants to be known by all of us. Jesus told his followers who he was in many different ways, and he also spent time laughing and crying, celebrating and working, worshipping and resting with his friends and family. Our goal with WINGS for this series is to think together about who Jesus said he was using pictures of stories in the Gospel of John, almost like getting to know someone by looking through a photo album together. If you would like to join us on Sundays, or join us in spirit by contemplating these images on your own, please contact program director Keira Fuener (keirafuener@gmail.com).



Capernaum Friends Club:

Fall dates are below, Saturday 2-4pm. We are always looking for volunteers to fellowship with our friends with special needs. Contact Keira for more information.

Sept 21: The Lord is my Shepherd

October 19: Square Dance with South Hills Club (NOT at Ascension)

November 9: Thanksgiving: Every Good Gift comes from God

December 14: Christmas Celebration



Parenting in a technological age



Saturday October 12. 5:00-7:00pm. Talk and discussion.

Food and child-care. \$10 suggested donation.

Limited places. Sign up by October 6 at:

<https://caygonline.com/techno/>



Ministry Lessons from Overseas

By Frank and Anne

When we first began living among Arabs in an Arab country eighteen years ago, we noticed almost immediately a level of hospitality that we were not familiar with. This hospitality was demonstrated in a couple of ways.

First, we saw it in social conventions: one doesn't invite a person into one's home without providing some sort of food or drink, one doesn't take "no" for an answer when their guest says they don't want food or drink, the guest always gets the best of everything and the place of honor, when a guest indicates a desire to depart one always insists they stay longer, etc.

Secondly, we saw this hospitality manifested in the fact that as foreigners we were a fascination to people. In many cases we were the first Americans that our new acquaintances had ever met. Arabs tend to be very welcoming of foreigners, very polite towards outsiders, very interested in meeting westerners, and affectionate towards Americans.

After a couple of years, once the novelty of outsiders in the neighborhood wore off, we noticed that it was actually very difficult to get close to people. We mistook hospitality for friendliness or openness and realized that people were really very cautious about being vulnerable and hesitant to get close.

In response to this difficulty we developed a mantra: make overtures and be persistent. For a long time that described how we operated. We would make overtures: food, invitations, phone calls, going out of our way to say hello, etc. Also, we would be persistent: we would initiate the first connection, the second connection, and the sixth and seventh connection. We recognized that we were ambassadors for the greatest news on earth and there was no room for quid pro quo. After years of this we developed many friendships, close friendships, and had opportunities to share our faith.

Over the last year some of our kid's educational needs have forced us to be bi-locational, and we have found ourselves here in Pittsburgh for extended periods of time. As we have wrestled with getting to know people, making friends, and sharing our faith in this city we have found it helpful to come back to our old mantra: make overtures and be persistent. It is not just a tactic of missionary work or a good idea when living cross culturally. Making overtures and being persistent is how God can work through any of us, in any place, to share the Gospel in a world desperately in need of His love.

We welcome you to our mission. If you'd like to keep up with us, ask to be put on the mailing list for our newsletter "Bless Carthage."



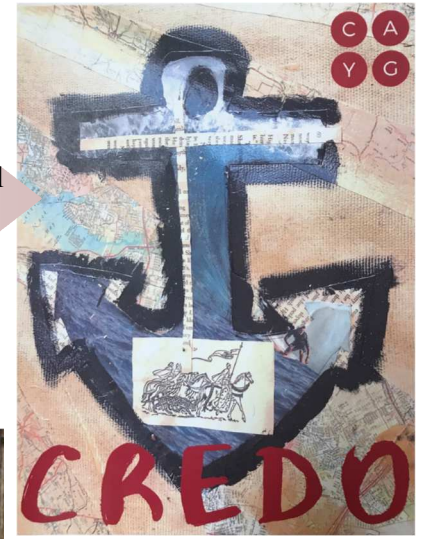
Ann and Frank pictured with their four children: Asher, Rachel, Amina and Elias (oldest to youngest)

Youth Ministry

Attendance at Church of the Ascension's Youth Group ('CAYG') rises as friends bring friends who bring friends. This weekend we saw 89 involved in both Middle and High school youth group, compared to 28 at this time in 2016. I am incredibly thankful for the wonderful team of leaders that we have been blessed with here at Ascension, that I am sure they present a significant part of the appeal for our middle and high schoolers to come back and bring others!

Do pray for us and for the Friday night Middle School and Sunday night High School CAYG events as we dig deeper into the Apostle's Creed!

Alex Banfield Hicks, Director of Youth, College & Young Adult Ministries
alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org.



This photo is from our CAYG Leadership Training features from left to right:

[back row] Gabbie Stout, Carli Watson, Leah Hornfeck;

[middle row] Alisa Huston, Kelsey Regan, Ethan Huston, Matthew Jones (youth minister for Bellefield Presbyterian Church), Andrew Calvetti, Molly McGill;

[front row] Wes Williams, Sam Ferguson, Austin Fritz, Christian Conger, Nate Perdue, plus some old bloke in a blue t-shirt at the front (Alex Banfield Hicks).

Not pictured, but equally appreciated are Austin Everett, Taylor Roberts and Olivia Skal.

Want to save money and support our youth?

ORDER A CHRISTMAS WREATH!

You'll be saving up to 25% off retail as we buy wholesale (Premier Foliage) and add a minimal markup. Profits provide scholarships to support Church of the Ascension's Youth Group summer service projects in 2020.



Fill out this form and combine with payment in an offering envelope, stored in pew.
Put in the offering plate as it passes!

Name:

Phone number:



Thanks so
much for
supporting
us!



YOUR ORDER



How many?

- x \$20 30' of White Pine Roping
- x \$30 20-22" Frazier Fir Wreath with Bow & Cones
- x \$35 24" Mixed Wreath
- x \$40 Hanging Basket of Greens
- + \$5 Delivery Charge (if you can't pick up from 4729 Ellsworth Ave on Sunday December 1st between 9:00am- 2:00pm)

\$ _____ TOTAL

Referring youth (or team) name:

How are you paying? [checks payable to 'Church of the Ascension']

___ Cash ___ Check _____ Check Number

Delivery? Address:

___ Yes

___ No, I will pick up at Church of the Ascension on **December 1st, 9-2pm**

Fold, Tear & Keep

Order & Payment Deadline! *Sunday, November 24th.*

Pick Up: *Sunday, December 1st 9:00am-2:00pm*
at 4729 Ellsworth Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Deliveries made between *3:00pm and 5:00pm*

Note your order below and
Bring this slip when collecting



Update

Four years ago when Erika first sent me the job description for what would become Agape Year

I was confused. We were just a few years into marriage and had already experienced job loss, we'd moved twice, and our son Henry was only a year old. I wanted stability. I wanted consistency. I wanted to be in charge of our finances and our future. Leaving a good paying job to become a support raising missionary did not scream stability, but after a lot of prayer and consultation with our community, it did sound an awful lot like obedience.

Agape Year is an 8-month long discipleship program that seeks to anchor 18-20 year old's in *The Story to Believe In*, *The Family to Belong To*, and *The Kingdom to Build Up*.

Through study of Scripture and communal life together, our Fellows see that story of scripture is their story.

We want them to see that God is not calling them to be passive hearers, but inviting them to respond to His living word.

In a time of crippling isolation and a deep yearning for identity, our God calls out with *a Family to Belong To*. Through worship at Ascension, ACNA churches around the country, and the Anglican church in Thailand, our Fellows get to see that they are part of a very diverse family.

The call to follow Christ doesn't end with the sinner's prayer. We've got a job to do. We've got *A Kingdom to Build Up*. God is at work redeeming His creation and extends the unbelievable offer of participating in that redemption with Him. Our Fellows get to see that being on mission with God can look like serving overseas, but also can look like listening to the lonely, eating with the hungry, and creating a safe space for the vulnerable right here in Pittsburgh.

One of the reasons we said yes to starting Agape Year was that we knew that we could do this as a family. We get to take our kids to sit with the homeless and worship with our brothers and sisters in Thailand. They see us inviting people into our house, they ask hard questions, and they know that they are a part of something bigger than just our family.

Another reason we said yes was because of you. We knew that we were part of an amazing family that has so much to offer young people. It has been so much fun to have so many of you over for meals with our Fellows, to see you get to know them at Youth Group or teaching ESL, and to have your voices and stories be a part of their formation at such a critical age.

It's a daunting thing to step out in obedience to God's call. We are so grateful that we get to be sent from Ascension and know that you are behind us. We'd love to connect and share more about how you can be a part of what God is doing in the lives of young people.



Nate, Erika, Henry, Anne, George, and Jack Twichell

New to Ascension



If you are new to Ascension, here are a couple dates to mark in your calendar. If you have any questions, please email Ascension's Director of Ministry at marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org.

Newcomer Dinner

*Sunday, October 20
from 5 – 8pm*

Summerset at Frick Park Community House 1425 Parkview Boulevard, Pittsburgh PA 15217
Come together with clergy and staff and other members of Ascension for a fun evening. Bring your kids!

Explore Ascension

*Saturday, November 16
from 9am – lunch*

We offer this course every 2 to 3 months. It is a look at Anglican/Ascension history and theological distinctives. This course is part of the pathway to membership. Childcare provided.

Parish Workday

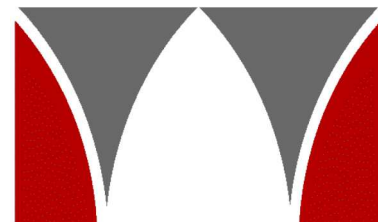
Saturday, October 19 from 8:30am - lunch

Put on your old clothes, grab some work gloves, and **help us get ready for winter**. We have a ton of jobs to do from cleaning windows to painting walls. All skill levels welcome. For more information contact our Director of Administration at karen.gowdy@ascensionpittsburgh.org.

Photo Directory

Will you send us a photo?

Ascension's pictorial directory is located on our church website. It is password protected and is super easy to update with current photos. It is also a great way to match names with faces of people at Ascension. You can email a good quality digital photo to our church secretary, Judy Yadrick, or you can call Judy and she will meet you on Sunday and take your picture. We'd love to see more photos on the directory, so will you consider participating? Ask any member of staff for the password! Contact judy.yadrick@ascensionpittsburgh.org or 412-621-4361.



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

4729 Ellsworth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: 412-621-4361
Fax: 412-621-5746

Website

www.ascensionpittsburgh.org

The Ascent

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Ascent Deadline

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