

# Ascent

May  
2018

## A Letter from Bishop Grant

### May 2018: From Easter to Trinity Sunday

**May is an important month!** Every Sunday we learn something more of who God is.

Of course, it all starts with the rather strange liturgical event that seems to be called “Marathon Weekend”. By the time you read this you will know that Sunday is on Saturday that week because getting to church on the Sunday of the Pittsburgh Marathon just doesn’t seem to work.

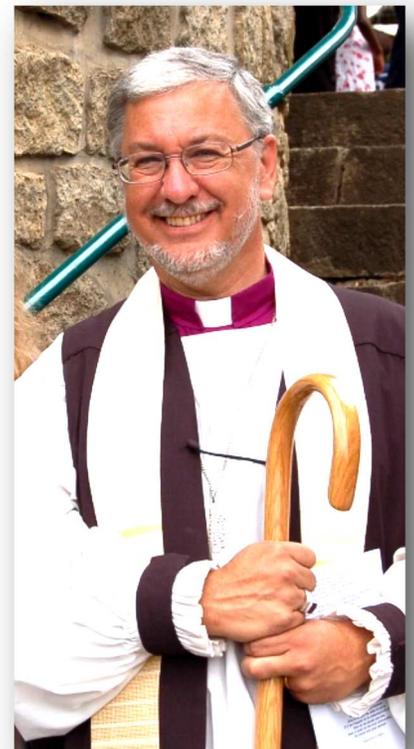
**Then we have three weeks in a row of special services:**

**May 13 is Ascension Sunday**, the event after which our church is named, and at which we look at the ascension and honor the ascended Christ. As is our usual practice **our diocesan bishop, Jim Hobby**, will be here to celebrate with us and to confirm those who will be asking for a special in-filling of the Spirit on that day. Some, especially some of our young people, have been preparing for this confirmation service for two years! Please keep these confirmands in your prayers as this day approaches.

**May 20 is the Feast of Pentecost**, when we remember the birthday of the church. Pentecost is not just the church’s birthday - it is an important mission day. On Pentecost we remember that the mission of the church could only begin after the first believers were filled with the Holy Spirit - the immediate results being a multi-lingual proclamation of the mighty acts of God (Acts 2:4-11) and the conversion and baptism of 3,000 new believers on that first day of the church’s existence. Since Pentecost is the beginning of the church’s world-wide mission, it is appropriate that **on May 20 the whole congregation is invited to a lunch after the 11am service** so that Wendy and I can share a bit more about the work of the church in the Horn of Africa. More about that in a moment.

**Trinity Sunday on May 27** concludes our month of special services. Who is this God who loves us - Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Trinity Sunday sometimes gets short shrift. After the excitement of Holy Week and Easter, Ascension Sunday and Pentecost, perhaps we just get a bit tired. In most churches in the Western world, Christmas and Easter are the big feast days. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church has a different perspective. Their big day is “Timkat” - the feast of the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. This confused me at first. “How could such an event outrank Christmas and Easter?” until it was pointed out to me that Jesus’ baptism was the first public appearance of the Trinity! As the Son is baptized, we see the Spirit descend and hear the voice of the Father. The self-giving love of God we celebrate at Christmas and Easter is the love of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Continued ...*



**A few more words about May 20:**

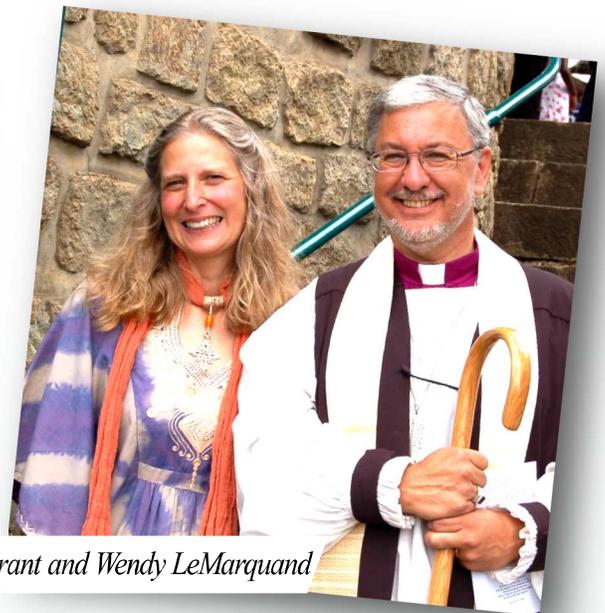
As most of you know, my wife Wendy and I have recently returned from Ethiopia where we served as missionaries of SAMS (the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders). Amidst the hardship and the joy, the love of God was evident.

Gambella, where most of the Anglican churches are, is poor, neglected, hot, and politically unstable. Crises are the norm. In rainy season floods destroy homes and crops. In dry season fires do the same. Food insecurity, lack of employment, shortages of water, electricity and internet access, thousands of new refugees from the war next door in South Sudan, and frequent ethnic tensions - to say nothing of the snakes, scorpions, hyenas and crocodiles - make life vulnerable. On the worst days Wendy and I would sometimes look at each other and say, "Wouldn't it be nice to worship at Ascension this Sunday?" Now that we are back in North America, I am sure that there will soon be days when we will look at each other and say, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to worship in Gambella this week?"

During our years in Ethiopia, Ascension (both the church and individuals from this congregation) has partnered with us in prayer and in financial support. Some of you even came and worked with us for a while in Gambella. Thank you so much.

Please join us for "11 and Lunch" on May 20 and learn a bit more about what God has - and is - doing in a special part of the world. Lunch is by donation. Childcare will be provided for ages K and younger.

+Grant LeMarquand  
Priest-in-charge



*Bishop Grant and Wendy LeMarquand*



**Guest Speakers:** Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy LeMarquand

**Topic:** Ministry to the poor in the Horn of Africa

**When:** Sunday, May 20th after 11am Service

**Where:** Parish Hall

Lunch by Donation

Childcare provided

# 2 Opportunities For Special Prayer in May

**As** we have been reading and preaching in the Book of Acts since Easter we have been reminded that the church (and individual believers!) can only do God's work in the world in and through the power of the Holy Spirit. It seems appropriate, therefore, that we devote two special times to pray for a special infilling of God's Spirit in our lives.



*Bishop Jim Hobby*

## Ascension Sunday

On Sunday, May 13 we will welcome our Bishop, Jim Hobby, to our services. He will preach and preside at the Eucharist at both the 9am and the 11am service. At the 11am service several members of the congregation will receive the rite of Confirmation. Confirmation is a service in which those previously baptized have the opportunity publicly to affirm their faith in Jesus Christ and receive prayer and the laying on of hands by the Bishop that the Holy Spirit will strengthen them for ongoing ministry.

*Please do consider these times on Ascension Sunday and Pentecost to be opportunities to re-affirm your faith and to seek a further empowering of the Spirit in your lives.*

Any who have already been confirmed but wish to publicly reaffirm their faith in Christ are also invited to come forward for prayer and laying on of hands. It could be that you were confirmed as a young person, but you sense a need to recommit your life to Christ. It could be that you have a renewed sense of ministry and want prayer for God's Spirit to further enable you. If you sense this might be appropriate, please contact Jonathan Warren at

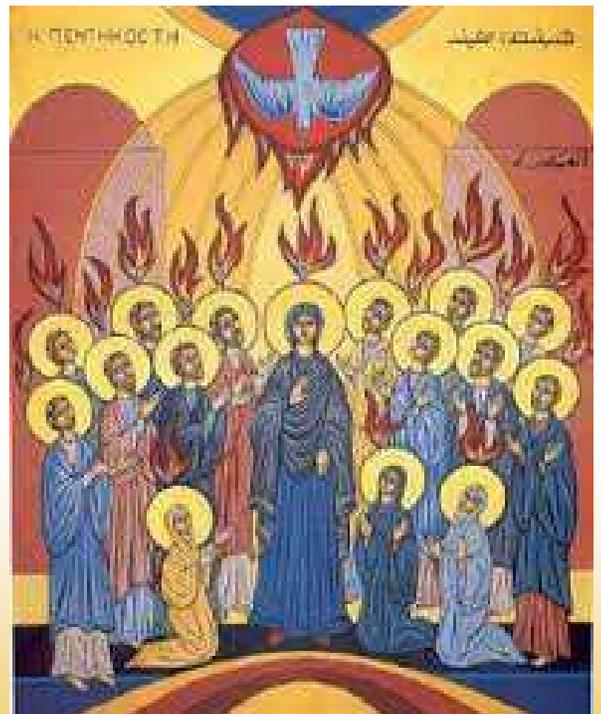
[jonathan.warren@ascensionpittsburgh.org](mailto:jonathan.warren@ascensionpittsburgh.org).

## Feast of Pentecost

On the next Sunday, May 20, we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the church 2,000 years ago. This seems a wonderful opportunity for anyone who desires a fresh filling of the Spirit. On that day, during the time in which the congregation receives Communion, Bishop Grant will be available to pray for anyone who feels led to come forward to receive prayer for an infilling of the Spirit. There is no need to sign up for this. More details will be announced as we come closer to the day.

The key thing here is to remember that all those who believe in Jesus are *indwelt* with the Spirit - that doesn't change - God's Spirit will never leave us. On the other hand, being *filled* with the Spirit for ministry is an ongoing need. Ephesians 5:18 instructs us to "be filled with the Spirit" - and the sense of the Greek tense there is continuous: "continue to be filled with the Spirit", or "be filled with the Spirit over and over."

+Grant LeMarquand  
Priest-in-charge





## A Sermon Series on 2 Corinthians

June 3	Second Sunday after Pentecost	2 Corinthians 4:1-12
June 10	Third Sunday after Pentecost	2 Corinthians 4:13-18
June 17	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	2 Corinthians 5:1-10
June 24	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	2 Corinthians 5:14-21
July 1	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	2 Corinthians 8:1-15

*Please remember that sermon questions are posted to our website (calendar listing for that Sunday) each week. The questions are created by the preacher for small group or individual study.*

## Adult Education

The Corinthian correspondence was written to a people in crisis. Paul had originally preached the gospel to the Corinthians, but they had succumbed to factionalism, with ‘heart divisions’ (one very appropriate way to translate the Greek word that has historically been translated ‘schism’) ripping apart the body of Christ. These heart divisions tore the body itself apart and led them to doubt Paul’s efficacy as an apostle. 2 Corinthians is Paul’s spirited defense of his ministry to the Corinthians, which he strikingly casts as an illustration of the ‘power of the cross’, which he had already proclaimed to them ‘as of first importance’ (1 Cor. 15:3).

Anyone concerned about our present ‘heart divisions’ in the church should want to hear about the apostle Paul’s ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:11-21) and how it formed hearts and minds in ancient Corinth and can do so again in our midst. **Join us on Saturday May 12 from 10:30am to 12pm for an introduction to this important Pauline letter. Light snacks and childcare provided.**

## EXPLORE ASCENSION

*New Member Class*



## Saturday, June 2 from 9am – Lunch

Interested in learning more about Ascension? Want an overview of Anglican history? Please join us for an informative and fun morning designed both for those who are brand new and just want to know a bit more about the church, as well as for those who want to become members. At the end of our morning together, participants will have a great overview of Anglicanism and Ascension (which includes a quick tour of the Nave), will have a clearer notion of where they can connect and serve, and will have met several members of the staff team.

A light continental breakfast will be served at 9am. Childcare will be provided throughout the morning. We’ll end our time together as adults and kids gather for a pizza lunch. To register, please email [marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org](mailto:marilyn.chislaghi@ascensionpittsburgh.org). Mark your calendars and plan on coming!

# MISSIONS

## Teams up with Children's Ministry

Women's Choice  
Network



### Baby Bottle Campaign

Each year Ascension's Children's Ministry encourages the support of our local pregnancy center at Women's Choice Network (WCN). The Baby Bottle Campaign is a simple and creative way for us to partner in mission with this organization.

Typically, we have run the campaign from Mother's Day to Father's Day. However, there are logistical challenges with those dates this year. So... in honor of Mothers, whose day we celebrate in May, and Fathers, whose day we celebrate in June, and the Holy Spirit, who works in the hearts and lives of families, this year's Baby Bottle Campaign will run from Pentecost through the end of June. **Look for the table and display in the Parish Hall on May 20 and pick up your baby bottles!**

WCN's medical clinics offer free pregnancy tests, STD testing and treatment, sonograms, medical consultations, and caring, confidential, and non-judgmental options counseling. When abortion vulnerable women come to one of the four centers in the Pittsburgh area and see their sonogram, 85% will choose life! Clients are encouraged to enroll in "Life Support," an ongoing accountability program that enables families to earn while they learn. Childbirth, parenting classes, and life skill programs allow clients to earn clothing, furnishings, formula, and other items.

Services also include post-abortion care and education on abstinence and healthy relationships. WCN works with schools, churches, and community groups to share the benefits of sexual abstinence and the message of the sanctity of human life.

All of these services are offered under the direction of a professional medical staff and are provided at no charge to clients because of generous gifts from individuals and churches. WCN is not funded by any state or federal dollars. They rely on local partners to help give hope to a new generation.

Meg Sateia is a member at Ascension who volunteers at the Northside center as a Client Advocate doing options counseling and facilitating Life Support classes. She says, "I love that my title includes the word 'advocate' because it makes me think of how Jesus was an advocate to people in vulnerable positions. That is what I get to do through this ministry. I am in a unique position to meet with people who are in the midst of a crisis, provide them with a listening ear, and offer them both the tangible support they need and the hope of the Gospel." Talk to Meg if you'd like to hear more about Women's Choice Network or visit [mypregnancycenter.org](http://mypregnancycenter.org).



Meg Sateia and husband Josh with Isabella and baby Wesley

# Rest

Rest • Reading • Recreation • Research

## Sabbatical Prayer Letter

Jonathan Millard shared this letter and weekly prayer calendar on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, just prior to leaving for his sabbatical which will last through mid-August.

*“In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”  
(Isaiah 30:15)*

This is my 15th year as Rector of Ascension and 26th year as a priest; (and Andrea’s 7 years as a priest and 15th in ministry.) I am extremely grateful for the Sabbatical Ascension is giving me and pray that it will be beneficial for us all. Please pray that we will be able to enter in to the four areas I have outlined for this Sabbatical time: Rest, Reading, Recreation and Research.

As I wrote in the January Ascent, I will be reflecting on how I am being called to serve God and Ascension in the final quarter of my full-time ministry as a priest in Christ’s church. I will be spending some time with other long-tenured rectors of large churches learning how they have maintained faithful and fruitful ministries. I am also going to be exploring if/ how they have managed to transition from being rector as a “CEO” to being rector as “Father-in-God.”

There will be time for slowing down, for rest, and renewal - including much longed-for time to read. We will be spending time at home and away together and with our families in the UK and in New England.

In April’s Ascent, I shared my longing for our church family that we might increasingly be a community of Christians that is marked by: Deep Love, Deep Care, Deep Belonging, Deep Prayer, and Deep Dependency on the Holy Spirit. We will be praying for these things for ourselves and for you, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Finally, until we see you again, after August 18th, “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.” (*Ephesians 6:10*).

Jonathan N. Millard (Rector)

### Week 1 (April 9-15)

As we begin our journey, please pray for complete healing for Andrea who has a herniated disk and has been suffering with severe sciatic pain.

Andrea will be participating in the ACNA Liturgy Task Force – please pray for her, Archbishop Duncan, and the team as they continue to work on the 2019 Book of Common Prayer.

Pray for Jonathan as he enters in to this Sabbatical (he will not be a part of the Liturgy meetings.)

### Monday, 9:

Pray for Jonathan and Andrea’s meeting with Bishop Thad Barnham whose ministry is focused on clergy health within the ACNA. Pray that Jonathan may receive insights for himself and for his role as Canon for Clergy Health for our diocese.

### Friday, 13:

Pray for Jonathan’s meeting with The Rev. Marc Robertson, rector of Christ Church, Savannah - the first of his meetings with long-tenured rectors.

### Saturday, 14:

Pray for Jonathan’s meeting with The Rev. Eric Dudley, rector of St. Peter’s, Tallahassee.

### Sunday, 15:

Pray for Andrea as she preaches at Trinity, Thomasville (where David Trautman is rector) and for our visit with the Trautmans, that it would be a time of mutual encouragement and support.

### Week 2 (April 16-22)

This will be a week for reading and rest in Naples, FL.

### Week 3 (April 23-29)

We will be spending time with family on both sides of the Atlantic.

### Saturday, 28:

Pray for Jonathan’s meeting with The Rev. Stephen Wookey, rector of St. David’s, Moreton in Marsh. Pray also for their time with Jonathan’s mother that weekend.

### Week 4 (April 30 to May 6)

Monday through Friday: Jonathan and Andrea will be on retreat at Lee Abbey, in Devon. This will be a time for prayer, spiritual direction, and hiking.

# Family News

## Weekend of 4-6:

Time with Jonathan's sister, Suzanne and her husband, Edward.

## Week 5 (May 7-13)

A week spent 'far from the madding crowds' in Scotland, most likely including a visit to Iona.

### Sunday, 13:

Pray for Jonathan's time with The Rev. David Richards, rector of Scotland's largest Anglican church, St. Paul's and St. George's, Edinburgh.

## Weeks 6, 7, 8 and 9 (May 14 - June 10)

Mainly we will be at home.

### Saturday, 19:

Pray for Andrea and Jonathan and their time with family as they attend Juliet's Graduation from Grove City College.

Pray for Jonathan's meeting, on a date to be set, (via video conference) with Bishop Sandy Millar, former rector of Holy Trinity Brompton.

Pray for Jonathan's meetings with other long tenured, local clergy.

## Week 10 (June 11-17)

We will be in Israel, spending time on retreat in the northern hills above Galilee before attending the GAFCON Conference.

## GAFCON (June 17-23)

Pray for this important meeting in Jerusalem which will gather more than 2,000 Anglican leaders from around the world. We will both be delegates to this third Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) and Jonathan will be representing the diocese as one of our Diocesan Provincial Council Deputies.

## Week 11 (June 24-30)

A week for rest and renewal in St. David's, Wales.

## Week 12 (July 1-7)

A week exploring Andrea's ancestral roots and our Celtic Christian heritage in Ireland.

## Week 13 (July 8-14)

A week in the Lake District, England, with other family members, to hike and read.

## Vacation (July 15 to August 17)

### July 14-21:

Please pray for travelling mercies for Jonathan's adult children, Jack, Juliet, and Jane, and for joy and peace as we spend a week together with extended family in France.

### August 1-10:

Time with some of Andrea's family on Cape Cod.

## May Birthday

1. Ellen Holt, Jolie Kilpatrick
2. Hannah Gudim, Zoe Woon
4. Lydia Banfield Hicks, Ella Rose Fuener
- Cynthia Gilmer, Jewel Anita Hendrix
- Tyler Perrine
6. Allyson Entner
7. Sarah Ito, Diane Stadelmeier
9. Bill Campbell
10. Jake Bell, Midori Hasegawa
11. Michael Fuener, Brenda Harger
12. Sebastien Janaszek
- Ella Jane Newhouse
13. Jocelyn Emrock
- Tracy Medrano Gonzalez
15. Karen Rutter
16. Caleb Massa, Petra Tomcik
17. Daniel Block, Lucia Campbell
- Mary Headen, Renee Smith
- Samuel Waters
18. Missy Finnell
19. Sam Wilson
20. Sara Regan
21. Scott Bowles, Joanne Spence
22. Joy Sato
23. Allen Burnett, Luke Cummings
- Abby Miser
24. Bob Frederking, Adam Gernhard
- Josh Miser, Matt Turpin
25. Austin Guenther
26. Logan Shirk, Melissa Wilson
27. Chris Antis, Elise Massa
28. Connie Castor, Reeny Davison
29. Robin Capcara, Amy Foster
- Jessica Pearcey
31. Shirley Kilpatrick, Corinne Walker

## May Anniversaries

1. Barbara Zimmerly & Fran Pionati
- Dave Carlton & Karen Sloan
5. Paul & Linda Von Bloch
8. Brian & Nicole Mack
9. Jack & Marcia Walsh
12. Baba & Abi Fapohunda
17. Dave & Ginger Weeber
20. Rob & Donna Martsoff
21. Fred & Chris Thieman
- Jack & Lori Porter
22. Ron & Judy Yadrick
24. Tom & Marcine Hillman
26. Kathy & Cliff Hartle
- Jay & Cynthia Gilmer
27. Matt & Aarika Turpin
29. Jonathan & Christy Deal
31. Jim & Shari Hobby

# Seniors Ministry

## Seniors Lunch Club (OWLS)

Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30pm

The next meeting of our Seniors group will be Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Shirley Kilpatrick will be presenting on a topic which is very dear to her heart, “Engaging Beauty”. Here is what Shirley says about the topic:

*Augustine says, “Late have I loved You, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you!” He laments that it took him so long to recognize the Beauty which is the heart of reality. As older people, we perhaps have known this God for a long time. Still, Augustine’s words should urge us on. We must continue to pursue this Beauty, who is so worthy of our love.*

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Lively Saints) meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month in the Hunt Room. (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](mailto:tefft.ann@gmail.com).



Shirley Kilpatrick



The Rev. Ann Tefft



# Special Needs Ministry

The theme for our April Capernaum Friends Club meeting was “New Life”. We compared butterflies to the resurrection of Jesus. All of our special needs friends had fun wrapping up Andrea Burnett in a ‘cocoon’ and she emerged as a new life in Christ! Here’s a picture of Andrea with a butterfly craft she made. Interested volunteers are welcome to join us! For more info, please reach out to Christina at [carlucci.christina@gmail.com](mailto:carlucci.christina@gmail.com).

# International Ministry

Our teachers and assistants are taking a much-deserved break to refresh during the month of April. They are gearing up for a 3-month run of Monday morning and Wednesday evening classes that begin in early May and run through the end of July. Please keep this faithful crew in your prayers!

Also pray for the Monday evening International Bible Study at the home of Jim and Barb Franzen. Many of the participants from the recent International Alpha Course attend the study, continuing to learn about and from the Word of God.



LuAnn Pengidore  
Program Director

# Young Adult Ministry

Staying in Pittsburgh this summer?



Danyel at 585-905-5260  
or [danyelj10@gmail.com](mailto:danyelj10@gmail.com)



## Join us for our Dinner & Compline Summer Series!

Whether you're a young adult living in Pittsburgh or a college student coming back for the summer, we'd love for you to join us for Dinner and Compline. Over the next four months we'll be having some extended fellowship time, eating, and celebrating summer together. We'll also be listening to some leaders in the church share their testimonies. We'll conclude our evenings with a Compline service. Thanks to all of our young adult leaders that help to plan these events each month! Join us for our first Dinner and Compline on May 16th, 6:30-8:30pm in the Old Catacombs of the church.

## New Community Group starting in May

On the 23rd of May a new Young Adult Wednesday group will be meeting for the first time. This group is starting due to the growing number of young adults making Ascension their church home. The group will meet in the Prayer Chapel (2nd floor of the parish hall wing) every Wednesday night from 7-8:30pm. If you are not currently involved in a community group and would like to check one out, please contact Danyel at 585-905-5260 or [danyelj10@gmail.com](mailto:danyelj10@gmail.com). We also have young adult groups that meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. And, if you know of someone coming home from college for the summer, they are welcome to contact Danyel to get connected to the Young Adult ministry. Thanks!

## Will you pray?

Please pray for the beginning of the new Community Group, especially for **Bailey** and **Sarah** who will be leading the group and for all those that will be joining. Also, please pray for all the new people that will be moving to Pittsburgh this summer, either for work or school. Pray for those that visit Ascension, that they would feel welcomed and accepted here and that we would be able to make their transition to Pittsburgh easier.



Bailey Nichols

Sarah Gilmer

# Youth Ministry



'SAVE MAN-BUN' or

## 'LOSE MAN-BUN!' Fundraiser

I had an expensive haircut. It cost over \$2,000. I didn't pay for it. And, actually, the money went to new Bibles, a ping-pong table, and an art-work commission (plus other things). But I did have my hair cut, by a couple of middle school boys, in a parking lot!! Thanks everyone!



## Resurrection Day Away

The haircut happened at the end of our Resurrection Day Away at St Joseph's Baden. I am so thankful for the weather! It **snowed** the week before **and** the week following, but on Saturday we could prayerfully walk outside in beautiful creation enjoying the warm sunshine! I am also thankful for the youth and leaders who prayed, led, read in chapel, and supported me as I had my hair cut (that happened about 30 minutes after this large group photo). Do pray that the evidence I presented for the historical reliability of the Biblical resurrection accounts will stick with people and serve them well in conversations with friends! Pray we would also continue to learn how to draw closer to Jesus through rest and retreat, and that we would be refreshed for mission and ministry!



In the weekends leading up to Pittsburgh's Marathon Sunday (May 6th), the youth groups are focusing on a new series called 'Running the Race.' The Christian life is compared to a race at various points in the New Testament, not least in Hebrews 12:1

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..."*

We are inviting guest marathon runners, physical and spiritual? (i.e. who have been Christians for many decades) to share what keeps them running with endurance. Pray these teenagers will run all the way to the final finish line!

## Going the Distance Fund

I was disheartened to read in *Growing Young* [Baker, 2016] the following: "Multiple studies highlight that 40 to 50 percent of youth group seniors drift from God and the faith community after they graduate from high school." In marathon terms, it seems to be that 40 to 50 percent 'hit the wall' and then quit. What could help them push through? What could help them go the distance? **After Ascension's Saturday Service on May 5th, we are hosting a Lasagna Dinner raising money for a new 'Going The Distance' Fund.** This fund will resource a range of initiatives that support youth and emerging adults through the faith-challenging transitions of school, college and beyond. Do pray that we will hit our target of \$5,000, and that, in a year's time, we can present all the exciting projects that the fund brought to life! You can also give via Easy Tithe on the Ascension website's 'GIVE' page.

**Saturday, May 5th**  
**Pittsburgh Marathon**  
**Weekend**  
**Lasagna Dinner**  
**Youth Fundraiser**  
**6:30pm**

Plan to  
**Come!**



Plan to  
**bring a check!**

Plan to  
**bake a lasagna!**

Plan on  
**great table**  
**Conversation!**



## You May Ask

Last May we introduced a new short apologetic series inviting our teenagers to ask their questions; hence the title ‘You May Ask’. We will be doing this again, with some ‘weighty questions’ brought forward to the Running the Race series as well. Do pray that these discussions might remove things that hinder folks from running as well as they could.

I also encourage you to ask the Lord of the Harvest to send more volunteers for CAYG (Church of Ascension Youth Group) over the summer as I am losing some wonderful leaders due to relocation and career moves! Thanks for all your prayers. For more information, contact me at [alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org](mailto:alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org)

## Children's Ministry



### Want to become a Sunday School Teacher?

We have an amazing team of volunteers who teach and assist with children’s Sunday school classes! Jesus said,

*“Let the little children come to me”* and then said, *“it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs”*

Matthew 19:14.

How are you sharing the kingdom of God? Conversely, when I ask teachers what they have learned through teaching they often say things like, “I’ve learned new things about the Bible” or “I’ve grown closer to God through teaching” because, as they have gone through the process of communicating the truths of God to young people, their hearts have become more able to receive the kingdom like a child. Would you like to be a part of this? Would you like an opportunity to explore how your gifts can be used in discipling kids? All help is appreciated, especially if you could serve with elementary ages at the 11am service – this is an option for those who attend either the 9am or 11am services! Talk to Matt Ulrich, Children’s Director!

### Parent Meeting Saturday, May 5 at 3:45pm

One of my goals is to keep you in the loop about how your kids are being formed through the children’s ministries at Ascension and, when possible, to equip you with resources you can use at home for the discipleship of your kids. To that end, I’m inviting you to a parent meeting! This meeting will take place on May 5 ahead of our special 5pm Saturday night service. We’ll meet at 3:45pm in the Hunt rooms. Childcare will be provided!



Contact Matt at [matt.ulrich@ascensionpittsburgh.org](mailto:matt.ulrich@ascensionpittsburgh.org).



### **Marathon Weekend: Saturday Worship on 5/5 at 5**

On the weekend of the Pittsburgh Marathon we cancel all Sunday services and gather for worship at 5pm on Saturday instead. Please plan to join us then and enjoy supporting the City of Pittsburgh on Marathon Sunday!

After our worship service on the 5th, the youth are hosting a Lasagna Dinner fundraiser. Plan to come and 'carb up' prior to the race. The money raised will go toward a new 'Going the Distance' Fund. This fund will resource a range of initiatives that support youth and emerging adults through the faith-challenging transitions of school, college and beyond. Come to the dinner to find out more!

### **Are you running the race? Running for a non-profit?**

If you are running the marathon (full marathon, half marathon, relay), we'd love for you to come up for prayer at the time of the Peace on May 5th. We'll pray for you and any non-profits you may be running in support of.

### **Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser**

After the Saturday Service, Ascension youth are hosting a Lasagna Dinner fundraiser so the congregation can stay to eat while also giving towards a youth 'Going the Distance' fund. After dinner many from the middle and high school youth groups will stay for evening programming, before 'sleeping' overnight at church and waking bright and early to serve at an official Marathon Fluid Station, distributing water and Gatorade to the passing runners.

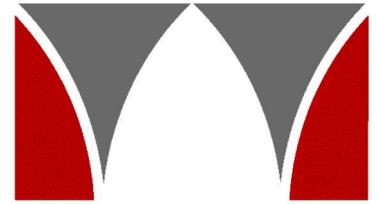
## **Lasagna Dinner Youth Fundraiser**

**Plan to come!**

**Plan to bring a check!**

**Plan to bake a lasagna!**

**Plan on great table conversation!**



**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](http://www.ascensionpittsburgh.org)

### **The Ascent**

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