

## What are the Fellowship Opportunities?

Seasonal celebrations and special parish events provide frequent occasions to celebrate our life together. All newcomers, as well as “seasoned Ascensionites”, are invited to join Foyer ~ a fellowship guild of small groups that share a simple meal in each other's homes.

### Parish Seasonal Events:

- Blessing of the Animals
- Pig Roast
- All Hallows Eve
- Advent Lessons & Carols
- Children's Christmas Pageant
- Epiphany/Twelfth Night Celebration
- Easter Egg Hunt

### Parish Fellowship Groups:

- Brotherhood of St. Andrew
- Contemplative Prayer Group
- Daughters of the King
- Families of Young Children
- Foyer Dinner Groups
- Labyrinth Guild
- Men's Bible Study
- Men's Group
- Mothers of Young Children
- Singles & Young Couples
- The Over 21 Lunch Club
- Trinity Group (*working moms*)
- Women's Bible Study

## How would I meet other Newcomers?

A Newcomers' Welcome Brunch is offered at the home of a parishioner and is attended by clergy, staff, vestry, newcomers and those who have transferred their membership to Ascension within the past year. There are many other opportunities throughout the year in which parishioners gather for fellowship.

## Can I receive parish mailings without being a member?

Yes. Simply fill out a pew card indicating that you would like to be on the mailing list.



---

# NEWCOMERS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

---

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
800 Northshore Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

[www.knoxvilleascension.org](http://www.knoxvilleascension.org)  
(865)588-0589

## NEWCOMERS' FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What do Episcopalians believe?

As stated in the Apostles' Creed, Episcopalians believe in God, creator of heaven and earth, in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who arose from death, and in the Holy Spirit, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

*Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.*

### What are The Sacraments?

Sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace given to us by Jesus Christ as sure and certain means by which we resume that grace. The two great sacraments given by Christ to His church are Holy Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. Other sacramental rites include confirmation, ordination, holy matrimony, reconciliation and unction. (The Book of Common Prayer, pp. 857-861)

### What is The Book of Common Prayer?

*The Book of Common Prayer* (red book) in the church pew provides formats for worship and various readings and prayers to compliment those worship formats, which are called liturgies.

### Are there mid-week program opportunities?

Yes. We offer supper, fellowship and education on Wednesday evenings. An excellent supper is offered, beginning at 6:00 PM, at a modest cost, and is followed by education programs or book studies. Bible studies are scheduled throughout the year as announced.

### Does Ascension have a Special Music program?

Yes. In addition to the year's liturgical celebrations, Friends of Music and the Arts, a Church of the Ascension sponsored organization, offers a series of events each year to take advantage of Ascension's resources and acoustical space. Most of the offerings involve sacred music. Performers who have appeared range from local and regional to those of international renown.

### Are there Outreach programs?

Yes. We have multiple opportunities for Christian service at Church of the Ascension. We are part of a city-wide service network that feeds the hungry, houses the homeless and provides clothing and other essentials to the local Community Chest. Emergency food is also offered here at the church through the FISH program.

### What are the Volunteer Opportunities at Ascension?

Following is a list of some of the lay volunteer ministries that are always seeking volunteers. We have a full time Director of Lay Ministry Connection who will assist you in determining which ministry is best suited for your God-given gifts and talents.

- Acolyte
- Altar Guild
- Caring Cards Ministry
- Chancel Master
- Choir
- Community Chest
- Driving Miss Daisy Program
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Eucharistic Visitors
- Family Promise Program
- FISH
- Flower Delivery
- Flower Guild
- Greeter/Hospitality Teams
- Hospital Visitors
- Intercessors
- L.A.M.B.S. ~ Pet Ministry
- Lectors
- Library
- Newcomers
- Nursery
- Office Hospitality
- Parish Life Events
- Praise Band-musicians/singers
- Soundboard
- Stephen Ministers
- Sunday School Teachers
- Ushers
- Vacation Bible School
- Volunteer Ministry Center
- Wedding Guild

## **YOUTH FORMATION, 6th - 12th grades:**

Our Sunday School curriculum is designed to provide our youth with the opportunity to explore and develop a faith relevant to their daily lives.

**Middle School** concentrates on the stories of the Old Testament using drama, discussion, and commentary to develop a larger sense of God's story and covenantal message through time. Exploration of Jewish tradition and practice provides a rich context for re-reading the Gospel.

### **Middle School/6th-8th grades: Room 104**

**High School.** Topical discussions, film clips, and guest speakers give High Schoolers a chance to delve into the values of their faith and to reflect on their own experiences and those of others who share the Christian faith. This year the High School class will have the opportunity to produce a video statement describing what it means to them to be persons of faith in today's world.

### **High School/9th-12th grades: Room 106**

*Service projects give ALL YOUTH the chance to act on their beliefs and to serve others.*

## **Do you have a Youth Program?**

Yes, our youth meet each Sunday at 9:15 AM for Sunday School programs (*see above*). Also, there is a weekly Ascension youth group meeting every Wednesday night at 6:00 PM, beginning with a church-wide dinner and followed by a time focused on fellowship and fun. The youth also participate in service projects and diocesan-wide youth events and mission trips.

## **Do you offer Adult Christian Education classes?**

Yes. We offer a variety of interesting and informative adult programs that take place on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 AM in the parish hall. All adults are encouraged to participate.

## **What types of worship services are offered at Church of the Ascension?**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| 8:00 AM  | Traditional, Rite I ( <i>a more formal liturgy</i> )     |
| 10:30 AM | Traditional, Rite II ( <i>a less formal liturgy</i> )    |
| 5:00 PM  | Contemporary, Rite III – twice a month ( <i>casual</i> ) |

## **Are there other services at Ascension?**

Yes. Our services of Morning and Evening prayer are lay led and meet in the chapel on the following days and times:

- Morning Prayer ~ Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM
- Evening Prayer ~ Tues., Wed., Thurs., 5:45 PM
- Eucharistic Healing Service ~ Wednesdays at Noon

## **What is K\*I\*D\*S Worship?**

This is a Sunday morning program for children ages 4-8. Children are dismissed early in the church service to go to K\*I\*D\*S Worship (*accompanied by an adult*) where they participate in a liturgy specially prepared for them. The Gospel is read and a short homily is given, then the children return to their parents for the Eucharist.

## **What does the word Eucharist mean?**

It is another name for Holy Communion, a part of the service when bread and wine, representing the body and blood of Jesus Christ, are offered to the congregation. All Baptized Christians are invited to take part in the Eucharist in the Episcopal Church.

## **Am I expected to do all the bowing and gestures, etc.?**

No. You don't have to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. If you're not accustomed to bowing, making the sign of the cross, etc., don't feel you must (*some Episcopalians don't*). No one will be keeping score. In fact, we take great pride in the freedom of expression allowed in the Episcopal Church.

## **May I receive Holy Communion?**

All Baptized Christians are welcome to receive the consecrated bread and wine with us from the Lord's Table.

### If I choose to receive Eucharist, how is it done?

To receive the consecrated wafer (Host), place one hand over the other palm - palms up. The Host is placed in your hand. Take the Host and place it reverently in your mouth. Yes, you may chew the wafer, reverently. To receive the consecrated Wine, grasp the base of the Eucharistic cup with one hand when it is presented to you, helping the minister to guide it to your lips.

### If I don't wish to drink from the common cup, how do I receive the consecrated wine?

Upon receiving the consecrated wafer, simply leave it in the palm of your hand. When the minister approaches you with the cup, pick up the wafer, dip it into the cup and place it in your mouth. This is called "intinction".

### Does music accompany the services?

Yes. The parish adult choir sings traditional church hymns and worship music at the 10:30 service. We also have a Boys and Girls' choir for children ages eight and older. The Ascension praise band sings contemporary music at the bi-monthly 5:00 PM contemporary services. There is no choral music at the 8:00 AM service.

### How can I join Church of the Ascension?

If you are a Baptized Christian, you may become a member by having your baptismal date recorded by our Registrar. You can also join by becoming confirmed when the Bishop makes his annual visit to Ascension. The Priest-In-Charge would be pleased to discuss your joining Ascension with you.

### What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

### What is required of those to be confirmed?

It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

### Do you have a Nursery?

Yes. We care for children from birth to three years of age. It is a Christian-based curriculum in which a short story is read to the children, followed by a time of interaction and activity. Our nursery is well-staffed and all of our volunteers have taken appropriate training. We use a SAFE CARE card security system and parents are given a pager to keep with them during the worship service. The nursery is available from 9:00-Noon every Sunday and is located in rooms 205-207. You will find it by walking through the office area, continuing straight ahead into the hallway and turning left. The nursery rooms are on the right side of the hallway.

### Do you have Christian Education programs for Children and Youth?

Yes. Christian Education programs take place on Sunday mornings from 9:15 - 10:05 AM.

#### **YOUNG CHILDREN**

#### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, ages 3-6th Grades:**

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is for children ages 3 through 6th grade. The aim of the program is to create an environment which supports children's spiritual development and understanding of our traditions of worship and faith.

- Room 202, Level I ~ ages 3 & potty-trained - 5 years old
- Room 204, Level II ~ Grades 1st - 3rd
- Room 213, Level III ~ Grades 4th - 6th\*

\* 6th Graders may choose to attend either Catechesis or the Middle School Youth class.

**STAY INFORMED! RECEIVE REMINDERS OF CHILDREN'S EVENTS!** E-mail your name and children's grade levels to Jacqueline Soltys: [jacqueline@knoxvilleascension.org](mailto:jacqueline@knoxvilleascension.org)