

Pages 8 and 9 are the month's calendar which is in a separate attachment.

## The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

800 Northshore Drive  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919  
865-588-0589  
fax: 865-584-7922  
[www.knoxvilleascension.org](http://www.knoxvilleascension.org)

The Rt. Rev. Charles G. vonRosenberg, Bishop of East Tennessee  
The Rev. Dr. Howard J. Hess, Rector  
The Rev. Robert P. Travis, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Brett P. Backus, Associate Rector  
The Rev. Mary Lee Bergeron, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Amy H. Morehous, Deacon

## February 2010



A GREAT EVENING!

SUPPORT OUR BOLIVIAN MISSION TRIP BY  
ATTENDING THE MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION ON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, AT 6 O'CLOCK.

DELICIOUS FOOD AND BEVERAGES  
SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS  
LIVE JAZZ BAND  
PARADE  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 12!



Deadline for March *Parish Paper*: February 15

# Service Schedule for February

## Sunday, February 7 - Epiphany V

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II

*Appointed Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11*

## Sunday, February 14 - Last Sunday after the Epiphany

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II

5:00 PM Taizé service

*Appointed Readings: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12 — 4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)*

## Sunday, February 21 - First Sunday in Lent

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II

*Appointed Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13*

## Sunday, February 28 - Second Sunday in Lent

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II

5:00 PM Taizé service

*Appointed Readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35*

## Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2010

7:00 AM — *Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes*

12 NOON — *Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes*

7:00 PM — *Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes*

a letter from Fr. Howard —

January 11, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My letter this month will be briefer than usual as I'm leaving for my retreat at the oceanside after I finish my letter to you. God and I always have our best conversations as the tides go in and out. There are basically two things I want to share with you this month. First I am exceedingly grateful to all of you for stepping up to the plate so to speak on this year's stewardship drive. As I write we edge ever so close to our target. God is good and so are the people of Ascension!

My second point is that we had an exceptionally productive vestry retreat last Saturday. We have a new clarity about some repairs that need to happen this year to our physical plant in order to avoid some much greater damage to parts of our building that are past their promised prime. We will also be having some conversations in the upcoming weeks about that and about the vestry's commitment to hire a full-time youth minister. There is no question...we will need God's help to do what God is calling us to do and we will need your additional help as well. And so I ask you to listen closely to the information that will be shared with you in the days and weeks to come. I also ask that we enter into a season of prayer at Ascension to ask God to continue to send God's Spirit in full measure to this part of the Body of Christ.

There's much more that could be said when I think about all the wonderful things that are happening here. But we will talk more at a later time. For now may the Lord Bless and Keep You and Make His Face To Shine Upon You and Those You Love Today and Always. Amen.

In Christ,  
Father Howard



## Do Not Live Afraid

"Do not be afraid."

Those words are spoken in many places in the Bible. The angel tells Mary – the heavenly host proclaims it to the shepherds – Jesus says it after his resurrection; "Do not be afraid."

Well, sure – easy advice for the first century. But how does it apply to our lives now? Surely, today, we have ample reason to be afraid. We live in fear of losing our jobs and livelihoods. Or we have lost our jobs and fear becoming homeless. We see wars being fought on foreign soil, and worry that it will spread further to ours. We surreptitiously watch our seatmates on airplanes. We worry about our government and its role in our lives. We discuss threats to public health, and the spread of disease. We worry about our own family's health and access to health care. We see the aftermath of natural disasters and the spread of human suffering. Why shouldn't we be fearful? Wouldn't we be crazy not to be?

This Lenten season, we will discuss those fears and how easy it is to become captive to them. Using John Indermark's book, *Do Not Live Afraid*, we will spend time discussing our response as Christians to living in a world full of fearsome things. 1 John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." Indermark suggests that a life full of anxiety and fear can prevent us from having a healthy relationship with God and with one another.

So how do we counter our fearful tendencies in times which seem so fear-full? Come discuss that together, as we read through Scriptural examples of encounters with fear, as we work through some spiritual exercises, and as we walk together on the journey of Lent, toward the resurrection of Christ.

If you find your life dominated by fear and anxiety, consider attending this five-week study, led by Ascension clergy and laity. It will begin February 24 at 7:00, after our Wednesday evening dinner, and continue through Lent. A copy of the book is \$15; please sign up at the information desk to reserve your copy.

## REPORT FROM THE VESTRY RETREAT

January 16, 2010

The vestry met in retreat at the home of Bob and Cathy Wadley on Saturday, January 16, 2010. Fr. Howard thanked the Wadleys for graciously offering their home and for their years of devoted and faithful service to Ascension. He then explained the vestry's role, making it clear what he is expecting from them in the way of personal leadership and service.

John Pannell presented the December 2009 and Year-End Financial Reports for discussion. The December report shows total operating income exceeded the budget expectation by \$19,124. Total operating expense in December exceeded budget by \$8360. As a result December showed a surplus of \$10,764. Several items of expense in December were not budgeted. \$2,945 for Christmas bonuses to the staff were not budgeted and cost for redesign of Ascension's website exceeded donations by about \$2000.

Fr. Howard reminded the vestry that 81% of Ascension's income is committed each year to fixed costs. That leaves only 19% of that income to spend on programs and activities that the church wants to conduct during the year.

The Year-End Financial report was discussed in considerable detail. Total operating income for the year exceeded budget by \$4132. 96.6% of the pledged amount was collected. Total operating expense exceeded the budget by \$5439, resulting in a slight deficit at year end of \$1307. Additionally, four items of expense totalling \$11,300 were deferred from 2009 into 2010 due to lack of funds. Utility expenses were under budget in 2009 due to a cool, wet summer and improvements that have been made in operation of the heating and ventilation (HVAC) system. The clergy did not use their contingency education funds ending this item under budget. Keeping department heads aware of their expenses on a monthly basis will be critical in 2010. Postage and flower expenses should be managed better in 2010.

It was noted that Ascension's flower expenditures are low compared to other churches. Several suggestions were made to this end -- putting a notice in the *Parish Paper* each month stating which Sundays need contributions for flowers and increasing the cost of wedding flowers.

The vestry decided that that it was time for a "full disclosure" of our budget. First, we should make the parish aware of the expenses that had to be deferred from 2009 into 2010 due to lack of sufficient funds in 2009. Second, we should make the parish aware of additional programs or activities that are needed in 2010 to secure the future of the church and the fact that we don't have the funds to do them. While some at Ascension are short of funds and are already doing all they can, there are others who could sacrifice a bit more to make those programs and activities possible.

Fr. Howard commented that with the average pledge at ~\$3800, most parishioners are not tithing. A true tithe from a majority of parishioners would provide more than sufficient funds to fully support the parish.

Fr. Brett announced that a youth commission has been formed including: Fr. Brett Backus and Paul Banick, leaders, with Molly and David Smelser, Tracy Edmundson, and Tina Richards.

Three key observations came from video interviews of our youth:

- Youth in the parish do not believe they are on the "radar screen" at Ascension.
- They have a desire for more spiritual growth.
- They don't have specific ideas of how to improve the current program.

Many of our youth members have been lost to other programs. The various youth activities at Ascension are isolated from one another, with no central coordination.

After extended discussion, Paul Banick made the following motion which the vestry approved:

- 1) Vestry affirm hiring a Youth Program Director within the next six months, and
- 2) Finance Committee investigate funding for this and other evolving issues that may be developed during this 2010 Vestry Retreat.

During lunch, George Dixon presented a video about Grace Point and its many offerings. Attendance at summer camps at Grace Point has been lower than expected recently, in spite of all the wonderful facilities that are offered there.

These include sleeping quarters for about 40 girls and boys, a main lodge that will sleep 16 (or more at times), a swimming pool and the lake. Archery and many other activities are provided. Plans for more "adult" accommodations resembling hotel rooms are in the works. There is a need for teenagers to serve as counsellors and for volunteer labor. Anyone can contact George for more information.

Rick Turner presented the vestry with a thorough and detailed listing of building and grounds items needing attention over the next five years and beyond, mostly because of the age of our buildings. Because a portion of our building has now exceeded the design life expectancy, we are beginning to experience the need for more substantial (expensive) repairs. Rick's report addressed "issues that affect the function of our roofing, exterior stucco and mechanical systems. Other items are issues of appearance and changes to our present building to meet the changing needs of our programs and community. We are fortunate to have beautiful buildings and grounds that support and express our values as a community of God. It is well within our ability to address these building needs, but it will take a commitment in our budget and the communication of these stewardship responsibilities to the parish. The risk of not taking the necessary steps to address these issues in an informed and systematic approach is that we will enter a cycle of one building crisis after another. This will cause interruptions in our operations, services and budgeting. In addition many of these issues will compound into more extensive damage and accompanying expenses."

**"It is well within our ability to address these building needs, but it will take a commitment in our budget and the communication of these stewardship responsibilities to the parish. The risk of not taking the necessary steps is that we will entertain a cycle of one building crisis after another."**

**Rick Turner**

Following an itemized discussion, the motion below was approved by the Vestry:

- 1) Vestry adopts the specific maintenance items listed for 2010, up to \$75,000.

- 2) Vestry commits, in principle, to a five-year schedule of maintenance work similar to the one proposed in Rick's report.
- 3) Vestry, as a matter of policy, provides a schedule of upcoming maintenance expenses to the Finance Committee during the annual budgeting process. This should include a five-year forecast.
- 4) Energy efficiency should be factored into future maintenance decisions.
- 5) Ascension maintain a history of maintenance costs.

Budget for 2010

Tr. Howard began this discussion by reminding the vestry that Ascension has been one of the lowest diocesan supporters in recent years. Accordingly, while all other items in the

proposed 2010 Budget may be negotiable, this year's contribution to the Diocese of \$140,600 (10%) is not.

Two items to note in the proposed budget are a salary increase for the staff (averaging 3%) and an assumed shrinkage (pledges not collected) of 4.8%. Bob Wadley commented that the budgeted pledge amount of

\$1,180,300 represents actual pledges received plus an estimate of pledges not yet received amounting to only 1%. Forecast income from the Endowment Fund is expected to be \$30,000 in 2010 compared to \$36,000 in 2009, due to an expected return on invested funds of only 4% vs. 5% in 2009.

Total Operating Income Budget for 2010 is \$1,452,770, with 81% of that committed to fixed costs. This compares to \$1,406,662 Total Operating Income in 2009 (increase of about \$46,000).

The proposed 2010 Budget does not provide funds for hiring a Youth Program Director or for completing the maintenance items scheduled for 2010 in the Building and Grounds report, both motions having been approved by the vestry.

A third budget issue concerning the Endowment Fund and how those funds are used was raised. Bert Ackerman commented that the original intent was to use investment proceeds from the Endowment Fund to support outreach, education, and potentially building emergencies (about one-third of the funds for each)-- activities that enrich the parish. In recent years we have found it necessary to use the Endowment Fund proceeds to supplement the operating budget. Following discussion, Bert proposed that in the 2010 budget we reduce the amount of Endowment Fund transfer to the operating budget by \$12,000. This would represent a third significant funding shortfall from the proposed 2010 Budget (in addition to the two mentioned above).

John Pannell observed that adding these three items to the proposed budget would result in budgeted expenditures exceeding budgeted income by about \$112,000:

\$75,000 for Buildings & Grounds maintenance items

\$25,000 for Youth Program Director (full time for last 6 months of 2010)

\$12,000 for reduction in transfer of Endowment Fund to operating budget

\$112,000 Total

It was then proposed that we revisit our budgeted income with the idea of "fully disclosing" to the parish our financial situation. During the home eucharists several years ago parishioners expressed their concerns that our youth program is inadequate and that the buildings and facilities need repairs. If we settle for the budgeted income as it stands, when will we ever address these issues?

After extended discussion, a motion was made to approve the proposed 2010 budget, including the three items listed above, contingent upon identifying funding for those items by March 1, 2010. No funds for these three items would be released prior to that date. The vestry discussed this motion at length, primarily debating when and how to explain this situation to the parish. The vestry decided to use a three-step process for explaining our situation to the parish:

Step 1 - Tell parishioners as soon as possible about what we discussed at the vestry retreat

Step 2 - "Fully disclose" to the parish those items that were deferred from 2009 into 2010 due to lack of funds.

Step 3 - Promote the three additional items that need additional funds in 2010.

The proposed 2010 budget, and the motion to add the three additional items contingent upon identifying funding for those items by March 1, 2010, was approved by unanimous vote.

Further reports were made on

**Alpha** - Fr. Rob reported that the expectation was for 50 - 60 people, but 84 signed up for Alpha. The actual attendance of about 80 was excellent. A number of new people were among the attendees. Fr. Rob was complimented for doing an excellent job and for adding his own personal reflections to supplement the materials provided.

**Mardi Gras Planning** - Tina Richards has formed a committee to begin planning for the Ascension Mardi Gras celebration the night before Ash Wednesday.

**Stephen Ministry** - Sixteen new applicants have been welcomed into the Stephen Ministry. There are now 35 parishioners involved in this program. Anyone interested can contact Bob and Laura Barnes, Jane Phillips, Peg Hess, Fr. Rob or Fr. Howard.

**Lenten Educational Offering** - Amy Morehous will be hosting a presentation on "Fear", with a guest speaker, Mary Katherine Crone.

**Commission Assignments** - Fr. Howard provided the vestry with proposed commission assignments for their concurrence. All positions have been filled with the exception of Communications. Larry Jones volunteered to fill this position as liaison with the vestry for this commission.

Julie Hembree, Sr. Warden

## from our Associate Rector

Dear Parish family,

I could not be more pleased with how things have turned out with the Alpha Course, which you heard about so much from me and from our Alpha Director David Johnson over the last few months. As I write this, we have come through a fantastic Celebration Dinner and are looking forward to the first night of the course. We had a larger turnout than we expected; more than 80 people were on hand for the celebration supper. The food provided by Gary Harper was wonderful, and the Alpha Team made the place feel so inviting and provided good hospitality to our guests. The most wonderful thing though, for me, was that you all listened. What I mean is, people brought friends and family members who are not connected to church to the Celebration Dinner. That was fantastic! And many of them signed up for the course. I believe this shows Ascension's willingness as a parish to venture into new territory, by reaching out and sharing our faith with those we know, fulfilling the Great Commission. You can expect to hear exciting stories of faith in the coming months, as people develop their relationships with Christ.

Another note of thanks. Jackie and I deeply appreciate all the effort that went into the baby shower provided for us in expectation of the birth of our son. Thank you to Amy Avery and Vaiden Taylor for organizing it, and to all of you who came or brought gifts. It is a good feeling to be surrounded by a community of love which is the Church of the Ascension. We hope our son as he grows up here will continue to experience that love as Eva Jane and Annalise already have .

With Gratitude,

Father Rob



## MUSINGS from The CHURCH MOUSE

Well, I made it through Christmas and Epiphany. There were so many wonderful moments, not to mention the incredible feasts available to me. Our three priests dressed and speaking as Jewish Rabbis at the early Christmas Eve service was a treat. And, of course, the music preceding all the Christmas Eve services, as well as the Epiphany service music, was all spectacular. What a blessing to be in a place with such beautiful music and so much food. And the flowers! I don't know how Jeanie and her helpers do it week after week. But, Christmas especially was a work of art.



Poor Father Howard got through Christmas but then suffered for a couple of weeks with a respiratory infection. Thankfully, he is back and getting everyone geared up for another great year. The vestry recently met for a full day to plan and organize the various commissions and ministries. There is so much happening, I'm glad I'm just a little mouse and can observe everything from my secret nooks.

A special program launched in January is Alpha, designed to answer questions about Christianity for anyone seeking to learn more, both newcomers, as well as long-time believers. I remember watching videos featuring an Englishman, Nicky Gumbel, in an Alpha program several years ago. But, Father Rob has introduced a whole new way of experiencing Alpha. I have heard a lot of people saying how much they are enjoying it.

Sometimes I sound like a broken record, even to myself, but I can't help repeating how blessed it seems Ascension is, and how blessed I am to be able to call it my home.

The February donors for the support of our mission work at Cristo, Pan de Vida church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, are John Robertson and Dana Teagarden.

## From our Director of Christian Education

Sitting around at the dance studio and the ice rink while my children practice, I take part in countless casual parental conversations, and overhear even more. These conversations often begin with complaints about crazy schedules—the number of activities we shuttle our children to each week, how far we travel to get to those activities, how we manage dinner and homework. Then they shift to worries or anxieties about how our children measure up, how hard our children work, what they achieve and where they fall flat, how well they manage their highly scheduled time. There's an undercurrent of concern that our own kid might not stack up, might not work hard enough, might not stay focused and organized and, consequently, fall behind.

As parents, we have enormous goals and dreams for our children. We have expectations. And, to be honest, the investment of time and energy we place in them is huge. We sign them up for classes, shows, competitions, special athletic workshops, not to mention the many extra projects and events at school. We pay the fees. We keep track of it all on our blackberries, juggling multiple places to be and carving out the best possible route to accommodate siblings' competing schedules. We drop them off; we pick them up; we wait, and we wait, and we wait. We have given so much for their lessons and training. We have given hours and hours of every day; we have given up the chance to sit still in our homes, to eat dinner unhurriedly around the family table, to relax, to have friends over for dinner; we have given up the right to do nothing, or to spend an hour on the phone catching up with an old friend. Surely, we feel, there will be a measurable, positive return on our investment... Surely, it is worth the sacrifice.

I wonder, sometimes, how Mary and Joseph approached this strange job we call parenting. The Messiah's earthly parents—talk about pressure! Would their son's success as the chosen one depend at all on how they raised him, on the choices that they made? They didn't even have the benefit of previous experience; Jesus was their first, the one you learn on. Mary and Joseph knew Jesus would be remarkable; they had



that assurance from multiple sources. Isn't that what all parents wish for and look for? We watch our children move from activity to activity and look for signs. Where is their specialness, their gift, their purpose in life? Our children watch and yearn for it, too. They hope that we will find it and show it to them, that their teachers and coaches will put it on display. Mary and Joseph had stars, prophecies and magi. We, too, are all looking for clear unmistakable signs of greatness -- stage lights, honors and prizes, visitors offering scholarships....

We track our children by cell phone now, or GPS. We can use software in their computers, cars, and iPods to monitor their activities. Can you imagine traveling an entire day before you noticed your child was missing? Mary and Joseph leave Jerusalem and discover, after a day's journey, that Jesus is not with them. He had stayed behind and gone to the temple because he knew that was where he belonged. What a moment for a parent! To realize, in a flash, that your child's destiny is beyond your understanding, that your child and God are already working out a future without you. In that story I hear a message and a reminder to myself: my children have purposes all their own. Those purposes do not belong to me, but to them and to God. Like Jesus and his earthly parents, my children and I will part paths. My children may be headed to Jerusalem just as I am leaving. They may spend time in the desert and face temptation. They may choose friends that will betray and hurt them. They may even be arrested some day, or sacrifice themselves for someone they love.

All the time I spend managing my children's schedules gives me an illusion of power. I organize my children's time and ferry them from here to there and back again, but I do not manage the direction or trajectory of their lives, nor can I determine their future. That is God's job, and theirs. As different as my life is from Mary's and Joseph's, our role as parents remains the same, even across this much space and time. Like Mary and Joseph, we watch for signs of God's goodness and promise in our children, we pray, and we wait. I've got a lot of practice at waiting, anyway.

Jacqueline Soltys

## from our Priest Associate

*Even in the cold and snowy weather parishioners and visitors have come on Wednesday for the meditation, healing service, and lunch time together. I have asked several people to write what this service means to them. Kathleen Ambrose, one of our lay ministers in the healing ministry, has responded with this sharing about what this service means to her.*



It was 1996 and I was truly in transition. I had walked away from a 30-year career in research to follow God's call to "something else." I did not and would not know for some time what that "something else" would be.

A good friend, Jane Phillips, invited me to Ascension's Wednesday healing service, and with my days now open, I began to attend. What a wonderful community I found there: the singing, the hugs, the homilies, the healing prayers and most of all, the Eucharist. At the time, my daughter Emily and I were members of a small Lutheran church that we loved and that loved us, yet to be "given" this mid-week gathering at Ascension was to me an important sign of God's presence and guidance during this time of unknowing. I found in the healing service a time and a place where I could take my concerns to the altar and receive prayers, prayers through which God spoke to me in specifics often unknown to the intercessor. Eventually as I found that call to "something else" to be a career in teaching, I could no longer attend the Wednesday service, but by 1999 I had become a member of the Church of the Ascension and was attending the Sunday morning Eucharist.

Now some fourteen years since my first visit to Ascension's healing service, I find myself in another period of transition, having retired from teaching and waiting to hear God's instructions for our next great adventure. Again my days are open so again I seek my mid-week refuge in the Wednesday healing service. And for that gift, that opportunity, I say "Thanks be to God."

Kathleen Ambrose

## United Thank Offering

The United Thank Offering is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. It is the sum of our daily thanks for the blessings in our everyday lives - for good weather, happy times, job opportunity, and unexpected visits. There are so many things for which we can be thankful. At the very least, we can be thankful to God for blessings and take action by putting coins in the Blue Box. The United Thank Offering is an organization founded by women in 1889 and originally supportive of women missionaries. It has become a worldwide effort to meet compelling human needs and to expand the mission and ministry of the church for men, women and children throughout the world. The United Thank Offering is a way for each person to express tangible thanks to God. United with the prayers and offerings of Episcopalians, its ministry reaches around the world. This past year with the UTO ingathering money, 17 companion diocesan relationship grants were awarded, amounting to \$621,105.96 covering the areas of Africa, Asia/Pacific, Caribbean, Central America, Europe, Middle East, South America, and the United States. I invite you all to pick up a Blue Box on Feb. 28 in the foyer and also at the information table in the office and join the United Thank Offering. Put it in a convenient place. Take a moment each day to say thank you to God and put a coin in that box. We are not meant to be passive receivers; rather we are bid to be active participants in God's work in the world. We will have our ingathering date in late May. Thank you!

Courtney Zirkle UTO diocesan coordinator/  
East Tennessee

## Community Chest Collection Day

Saturday, February 6, 2010

10:00 - 11:30 AM

in the church parking lot.



## from our Associate Rector

Hello, Ascension Family and Friends!

I can't believe it! We are already gearing up for our second mission trip to Bolivia! As you know, last year's mission team helped to discern where Ascension could best serve in an international mission relationship for the future, and the team felt most called to Cristo Pan de Vida in Santa Cruz,



Bolivia. Since then, our church family has generously supported our brothers and sisters in Bolivia and as a result Cristo Pan de Vida has been able to keep their doors open throughout this entire year! Ascension is returning to Santa Cruz this summer, and the team will be made up of our high school confirmation class and chaperones.

There is still much work to be done. Cristo Pan de Vida has recently moved into another facility that needs a lot of work, and they continue to provide breakfast, Christian education, and aid to many of the impoverished children of their neighborhood. This year, Ascension's mission team will be working directly with Cristo Pan de Vida in an attempt to improve and support their vital children's ministry as well as their church community in general. However, as you well know, mission efforts like this one greatly depend on fundraising efforts in order to be possible. Therefore, I would like to tell each of you that you are cordially invited to participate in and support this year's Ascension mission trip through one of our most important fundraisers, our Mission Mardi Gras headed up this year by our own Tina Richards and her talented Mardi Gras committee. Please see the information in the accompanying box to see how you can participate.

On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Bolivia I thank you all again for your generous support and prayers.

God's Peace,

Fr. Brett

## Mission Mardi Gras!

February 16, 2010  
6:00PM in the Parish Hall

Please join us for our Ascension Mardi Gras dinner and auction with all proceeds benefitting this year's mission trip to Bolivia. We are having a Cajun Celebration with a menu that includes smoked sausage with red beans and rice. We are excited that "Jack Russell and the Terriers" jazz band will return as well to provide live and festive music. Look for the sign-up sheets at the front desk and in the lobby. The silent and live auctions this year will focus again on the many Gifts and Talents of our parishioners. We would like to auction your art, needle work, stained glass, photography, wood work, cooking, flower arrangements, fly fishing lessons, sailing lessons..... Whatever your gifts and talents are, find a way to share them with your fellow parishioners! You can also offer a service for auction or even a week or weekend at a holiday home! The possibilities for you to help support our brothers and sisters in Bolivia are endless! There will also be children's activities, a few surprises, and our traditional children's parade. There is something for everyone, so come on out for the food, fun, and fellowship while supporting this year's Ascension mission trip to Bolivia. See you there!

Donations? Please contact Tina Richards 406-7380 (therichards4@bellsouth.net) or John Montuori 385-4379 (jmontuori@gmail.com)

Look for our sign up sheet in the lobby. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child over 5 years old. \$30 Maximum per family.



## Noteworthy —

news from our Director of Music

Friends of Music and the Arts is proud to present The King's Singers in concert on Monday, February 22, at 7:30 PM. This world famous sextet is England's premiere male vocal ensemble, and to my knowledge has never appeared in Knoxville before. The King's Singers have been on FOMA's wish list for some time now, and it was only through a fortuitous opening on their tour through the Southeast this year that this appearance became possible.

Formed in 1968 when former choristers of King's College in Cambridge decided to form an adult ensemble, the King's Singers have performed the world over to universal acclaim. Like America's Chanticleer, the King's Singers perform SATB music, often in their own arrangements. Many of these were first done by Bob Chilcott, a former King's Singer, who has gone on to a compositional career that today rivals John Rutter's in size and quality.

For their Ascension appearance the King's Singers have submitted a mixed program designed to appeal to all tastes. From the Renaissance era there is music of Byrd, Dering, and Gibbons; from the modern era Walton, Richard Rodney Bennett, and Cyrillus Kreek; from contemporary composers they offer music of Patricia Van Ness, John Brunning, and Bob Chilcott. In the last section of the program, entitled Simple Gifts, the singers will announce close harmony arrangements from the stage.

Friends of Music feels privileged to host ensembles of this caliber (this program year alone the Singers' itinerary takes them from San Francisco to Boston, London to Beijing, Jerusalem to Salzburg). FOMA's position in Knoxville, while not unique, occupies something of a niche market. There are other churches in the city with fine arts series, but Ascension's nave along with its fine acoustic are a special combination. FOMA's steering committee, along with its patrons, believe that being a good steward of that sacred space demands that we offer liturgical events of quality to



the community at large. Such offerings are not an inexpensive proposition, and FOMA's ticketed choral ensembles have each year cost more than \$15,000. Sometimes there is bargaining room with agents and managers, and on occasion there is a conjunction of circumstances allowing Knoxville to squeeze into what is otherwise a nearly complete tour. Nevertheless, the cost of our groups reflects the negotiated fee, not the quoted fee. FOMA's steering committee employs a calculus combining the 600-seat capacity of our nave along with an ensemble's fee to determine ticket prices. Since the \$30 ticket price for Feb. 22 is not cheap, do speak with me if the cost of admission is onerous. The economy being what it is, we would hate to see truly interested persons not attend due to hardship.

FOMA's offerings frequently have an educational and evangelizing component as well, and that will again be the case here. During the afternoon of the 22nd the glee clubs of three area high schools, Farragut, Clinton, and South Doyle, will perform for the King's Singers' comments. Interaction such as this with the community represents FOMA at its best and ensures that there will be many young people at the concert that evening.

Plan to come on the 22nd to see what the fuss is about. Tickets for the King's Singers are available in the office during the week, or at the sale table in the table throughout February.

## Marcus Borg to lead seminar

Marcus J. Borg, a biblical and Jesus scholar and author of well-known books such as *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* and *The Heart of Christianity* will lead a seminar at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Farragut on Friday and Saturday, February 19 and 20. He will give four lectures beginning on Friday night at 7 and continuing during the Saturday session at 9 o'clock, 11 o'clock, and 1:45. The cost of the seminar is \$45 which includes lunch on Saturday. Brochures with registration forms are available in the parish office at the communication center.

# Passages

*Birth*

**Josiah Robert Wiegenstein**, grandson of **Barbara Andrew** and **Tim Wiegenstein**, on December 10, 2009.  
**Edward Richards Brabham IV**, son of **Richie** and **Mandy Brabham**, grandson of **Jim** and **Cheri Brewer** on January 21, 2010.

*Baptism*

**Austin Albert Madigan** on December 27, 2009  
**Rose Stewart Walker** on January 10, 2010

*Marriage*

**Kathleen Tarver Archer** and **James Lemuel Thompson, Jr.** on January 9, 2010

*Added to rolls as baptized members*

**Luke Madigan**  
**Monica Crane**  
**Maurice Darr**

*Transferred from Ascension*

**Luke Hall** to St. Timothy's, Herndon, VA

*Death*

**Ellen Percy** on December 29, 2009  
**Elizabeth Lummis**, aunt of John Brock, on January 8, 2010  
**Mary Frances Bradley** on January 11, 2010  
**Wiley Allmon**, father of **Wylene Vrba**, on January 16, 2010  
**Kate Poppen**, mother of **Bill Poppen**, on January 18, 2010  
**Blanche McLaurin**, mother of **Les McLaurin**, on January 24, 2010

## Financial report through December 2009

	Dec. Budget	Dec. Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
<i>Pledge, plate, &amp; unpledged contributions:</i>	\$186,005	205,588	1,139,246	1,140,032
<i>All other income:</i>	31,896	38,111	205,254	271,737
<i>Total Income</i>	217,901	243,699	1,344,500	1,411,769
<i>Total expenditures:</i>	124,984	140,018	1,344,500	1,413,076
<i>Net Surplus (loss):</i>	92,917	103,681	(1,307)	(1,307)

## Getting to know our Ascension Staff

*This is a monthly feature in the Parish Paper through which you, the parish, will be introduced to each of our staff members. Even if you've known some of them for many years, you may learn things about them that you didn't know! This month we feature Jane Maddox.*

When you think about receptions or Mardi Gras meals at Ascension, the first person that comes to mind is Jane Maddox. While Danny may be the barbeque king, Jane is the really good cook in the family.



Jane Bailey Maddox was born in Bristol, Tennessee, on an undisclosed date, but obviously not too long ago. One of three children to Jim and Roy Bailey, Jane has a sister, Ruth, and a brother, Cliff. Jane graduated from East Tennessee State University in 1981 with a degree in Marketing. She began a 20-year career as a sales representative in the pharmaceutical-medical equipment industry following gradua-

tion. Her job took her to Nashville, where in February, 1988, on a blind date arranged by her sister, she met Danny. They were married in August of that year and moved to Knoxville four months later in December, 1988. Knoxville's gain was certainly Nashville's loss.

Jane operates her own catering business, Churchlady Caterer, and teaches cooking classes, in addition to being in charge of all receptions at Ascension. Prior to returning to the staff last year, she previously served as Director of Youth Ministries at Ascension for four years. Jane is a FISH volunteer, serves on the Flower Guild, went on the mission trip to Bolivia and, upon returning, organized the drive that resulted in boxes of clothing being sent to the Cristo, Pan de Vida Church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. She has completed two years of Education For Ministry (EFM).

Although she thinks Danny is pretty special, Jane really dotes on their son, Neil, and her two dogs, Einstein and Winston. She loves playing with her dogs, though Einstein can be a challenge, as he is about the size of a U. T. lineman. Jane also enjoys working in her garden, cooking and is a country music fan.

*The Church of the Good Samaritan was founded as a mission by The Church of the Ascension to serve a growing population in the Cedar Bluff area. The Rev. James Curtis was a deacon-in-training on the staff of Ascension when he was appointed as the first vicar of Good Samaritan.*

*The people of  
 The Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan  
 invite you to join us for*

*"A Celebration of Ministry"  
 honoring our  
 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

*The Last Sunday of Epiphany  
 February 14, 2010  
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
 Preacher: The Rev. Dr. James Curtis, Founding Vicar  
 Reception in Henslee Hall*

*For more information, contact the church office at  
 865-693-9591  
 or email [goodsam@knology.net](mailto:goodsam@knology.net)*

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

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 P A I D  
 Permit No. 166  
 Knoxville, TN

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

---

---

### Staff

George Boling — Sexton  
 John Brock — Associate in the Music Department  
 Jeff Conley - Night Sexton  
 Bettie Corey — Registrar/Publications Editor  
 James Garvey — Director of Music Ministries  
 Charis Hoskins — Financial Assistant/Coordinator of Office Services  
 Sabra Martin — Program Secretary  
 Byron Proaps — Facilities Plant Manager  
 Jacqueline Soltys — Director of Christian Education  
 Bob Wadley — Parish Administrator  
 Cathy Wadley — Executive Assistant to the Rector and Director of New Member Ministries  
 Lynn Wise — Nursery Coordinator  
 Jim Wright — Director of Hunger Ministries

*Office hours: Mon, - Thurs, 9:00 AM — 4:30 PM; Friday 9:00 AM — 4:00 PM*

*Building hours: Sunday: 7:00 AM — 3:00 PM*

*Monday - Friday 8:00 AM — 5:00 PM*

*Saturday 8:00 AM — 4:00 PM*

### Vestry

Julie Hembree - Senior Warden  
 Bert Ackermann - Junior Warden

Paul Banick - Youth  
 Lida Barrett - Worship  
 David Baumgardner - Great Commission  
 Leo Beale - Great Commission  
 Louise Conrad - Children/Youth Christian Formation  
 Ben Davidson - Pastoral Care  
 Claire Eldridge - Stewardship  
 Ann O'Connor - Outreach  
 John Pannell - Finance  
 Scott Poland - Great Commission  
 Culver Schmid - Inreach  
 Vaiden Taylor - Inreach  
 Rick Turner - Building and Grounds

Mike Terry-Cochran — Treasurer  
 Larry Jones — Clerk