

Pages 10 and 11 are the month's calendar which is in a separate attachment.

## The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

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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

### May 2010



**REGISTER TODAY!**  
**VBS . JUNE 7 - 10**  
**9:00 AM - 12 Noon**

Vacation Bible School plans are moving along well. It's not too soon or too late to get involved! See p. 6 for full details!

Deadline for June *Parish Paper*: May 14

# Service Schedule for May

## Sunday, May 2 - Easter V

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II

*Appointed Readings: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35*

## Sunday, May 9 - Easter VI

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II  
5:00 PM Taizé service

*Appointed Readings: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23-29*

## Sunday, May 16 - Easter VII: The Sunday after Ascension Day

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II  
5:00 PM Taizé service

*Appointed Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-530*

## Sunday, May 23 - The Day of Pentecost

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II  
5:00 PM Taizé service

*Appointed Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:25-35, 37b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17, (25-27)*

## Sunday, May 30 - Trinity Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist I  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II

*Appointed Readings: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15*

Sunday, May 2

— Special Dates to Remember —

Teacher Appreciation Reception in the parish hall following the 10:30 service

Sunday, May 9

Last day of Sunday School until fall

Awards Sunday: recognition of our graduating acolytes and Boys and Girls' Choir members

Sunday, May 23 — Pentecost Celebration (balloons!)

Stephen Ministers Commissioning; United Thank Offering Ingathering

## a letter from Father Howard

April 23, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Ascension,

My mind is drawn during this Easter Season to the large and small changes that accelerate both around and within us. The signs of new life, albeit accompanied often by the signs and symptoms of old allergies, surround us and the grayness of winter lifts. It is a most fitting time for the opening acclamation of our Sunday morning Eucharist. As you remember, the celebrant proclaims: "Alleluia. Christ is risen." And the people respond: "The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia."

The word "alleluia" has been absent from our liturgies during Lent and returns with the Easter Vigil. In my experience the return of "alleluia" each year is like meeting an old, true friend after a period of fond absence. It is good to be reminded of the meaning of the word and ponder periodically what it means in our worship. The term is a transliteration of the Hebrew word "Halleluya" used 24 times in the Hebrew Scriptures. It most often means "praise God." In Christian usage it is considered a joyful word of praise to God with emphasis upon joyful. It is most desirable when we use this term, particularly during the Easter Season, that we focus on how God has blessed us in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ.

This week I have been observing our blessings with an eye to writing this letter. Last Sunday we welcomed the Bishop of Toliara in Madagascar, discerning about the possibilities of joint mission, and we baptized Fr. Rob and Jackie Travis's son, Robert John. Joyful energy was in the air; the Holy Spirit was in our worship. It was our first Sunday to pass out our new welcome bags, and the number of visitors far exceeded our expectation. All week I have been calling these newcomers to share more with them about Ascension and to offer to meet with them. The joyful experiences of Ascension have continued every week day. Sometimes I wish that more of



you could see how active this place has become — Bible studies, the Lunch Bunch, dinners, and small group meetings have continued through the week. But I'd like particularly to share what joy I have felt related to two observations. First, as I left about 7:00 on Wednesday evening, I ran into the youth group hustling outside to meet. We've been averaging 15 to 20 youth each week. Their excitement and enthusiasm was overflowing. Earlier that day I had talked with two potential applicants for the youth director position, encouraging them to submit their materials for review. And I have talked with one of our vestry members about plans to reconfigure our youth room downstairs. New life in evidence.

My second observation has to do with our Other Brothers Yard Sale which, as I write this, is coming up soon. Merchandise has been pouring in all week; the downstairs is overflowing. We've almost run out of space to contain the gifts. Many parishioners have responded to the call to carry, sort, price, and prepare for the sale. The whole experience testifies to God's overflowing grace when we set about doing the work of his kingdom. New life in evidence.

One more reflection: This season usually includes some farewells as we say goodbye to folks beginning new lives in other places. Our youth go off to college, some families move to new places while others move here from somewhere else. As much as we wish it might not be so, new life has a certain amount of fluidity and ending as well as beginning.

Our Lord has prepared us for all of this and tells us through the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:28: *We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.* So let us remember in this season of new life that God is absolutely in charge of our new life at Ascension and asks us to partner with him in bringing about his will for us in this place. And if we have any questions about God's faithfulness to us, we can remember what we know to be true:

*Alleluia. Christ is risen.*

*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

In Christ,  
Father Howard

## Report from the Vestry April 13, 2010

The vestry met on Tuesday, April 13. Following a service of Holy Eucharist, Father Howard welcomed Bishop Charles vonRosenberg of the Diocese of East Tennessee as a special guest for the April vestry meeting. The bishop's visit was in preparation for the vestry retreat planned for May 1 and 2. After discussions with the bishop, Father Howard called the regular vestry meeting to order with the prayer of Bishop Clay Matthews.

As Treasurer, Michael Terry-Cochran presented the March and year-to-date Summary Financial Reports. Total operating income for March was \$42,247 more than original budget. Total operating expense was \$36,892 over budget. Year-to-date total income was \$110,342 over original budget, while year-to-date expenses were \$21,416 over budget. The existing line of credit for the Church of the Ascension has been renewed for another year at the same interest rate. There were no surprises in the March accounts but several early payments and the purchase of tickets for Bolivia contributed to expenses being temporarily over budget.

John Pannell, as chairman of the Finance Committee, presented the recommended revised budget for 2010. Revisions to budgeted income include:

- Increase in annual pledges from \$1,199,000 to \$1,218,318
- Increase in additional pledges from \$110,000 to \$148,000
- Alpha contributions of \$3,344 (omitted from original budget)
- Decrease in unpledged contributions from \$64,000 to \$62,000.

Revisions to budgeted expenses include:

- Reduction in general contingency from \$7,000 to \$2,836
- Increase in medical/dental/life insurance from \$98,542 to \$105,882 (includes new Youth Minister)

- Increase in building maintenance from \$82,000 to \$120,000
- Increase in Vacation Bible School from \$600 to \$4,200 (VBS Director)
- Increase in office equipment from \$100 to \$3,778 (new folding machine)
- Increase in software/consulting from \$1,500 to \$3,000 (expand wireless coverage to entire building)
- Increase in Alpha from \$1,500 to \$3,782 (actual expense)

The reports from the Rector, Sr. Warden and Jr. Warden will be given at the May meeting.

Rick Turner gave a status report on the ongoing building and grounds work. The hood in the kitchen has been replaced. An architect has been retained to assist with remodeling the youth room. Work on the roof and heating and ventilating system has also begun. Research on what is required for the bell tower continues. Rick reminded the vestry that this is a five-year commitment. During this time, discoveries will necessitate both additions and deletions to the plan.

An effective method for communicating progress on building and grounds work to the parish is needed. Suggestions included displays of all the replaced equipment somewhere for parishioners to see and a progress chart to track the status and completion of major building and grounds improvement items. Rick mentioned all the painting done by volunteers as another example of noticeable progress. Father Howard commended Rick for his continuing leadership of this vital effort.

Fr. Brett reported that a job description for the Youth Minister position at Ascension has gone out. There have been two responses to date. Various methods of publicizing this position and sources of potential candidates were discussed and it was suggested we include this job description in the Sunday bulletin to increase our chances of finding a local candidate.

Fr. Howard reminded all the vestry members to please return their responses to the questionnaire that was sent to them. These responses are necessary for planning the agenda for the retreat.

After the vestry adopted the Diocese of East Tennessee's Policies and Procedures Manual for Dealing with Sexual Misconduct, Fr. Howard asked the members to sign documents for another year affirming their commitment to these policies.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Julie Hembree, Senior Warden

## New freezer for FISH

An outpouring of community support enabled us to build our FISH Northwest Pantry/Food Warehouse which in two years of existence has had a dramatic impact on hunger in our community.

Now we find ourselves at a new stage in our outreach to hungry families, and we are asking for your help.

**FISH Hospitality Pantries provides more food to hungry families than all other Knoxville pantries combined.**

Though more and more people are suffering due to the difficult economic times in our country and many agencies have seen their resources dwindling, we are happy to report that FISH Hospitality Pantries was able to provide food for an additional 15,000 families in 2009 compared with the previous year.

In 2009, we received food donations valued at \$2,050,000--over \$600,000 more than the prior year. This is almost eight times as much as the \$260,000 in donated food we had space to accept in 2007 (the year before our new pantry/food warehouse on W. Scott Avenue was completed). These donations, combined with food we purchase to make a more nutritious bag, made it possible for us to distribute 144,000 food packages to the hungry Knoxville families who visited our four pantries last year.

**We are losing large perishable food donations for lack of freezer and refrigeration space.**

Our success brings new challenges. With over half of our donations being perishable food, we find ourselves in need of additional freezing and cooling storage capacity.

Our W. Scott Avenue food warehouse contains a 400 sq. ft.

freezer unit and a 400 sq. ft. cooler unit (each holding up to 24 pallets of food). Our growing success at finding perishable donations has been far greater than we expected when we planned the new facility. This abundance has meant that, while many more people came to us for help last year, we had much more food on hand to give to each family than in the previous year. But recently we have begun to lose some frozen and refrigerated food donations because we do not have enough freezer and cooler space to store all the food offered to us. (Many proposed donations are full trailer loads of 24 pallets.)

**Help us build a new freezer and local families in need will receive more food.**

We are planning to build a new freezer unit--three times larger--on the west side of our warehouse. It would hold three trailer loads (72 pallets) of frozen foods. We would then convert our present freezer to a second cooler to double our refrigeration space. The estimated cost of the 1200 sq. ft. freezer unit is \$175,000, which includes special preparation of ground foundation and insulated concrete pad support.

We want to be able to take advantage of all the donations available to us so that we will not lose any additional nutritious foods that could support our local families and children. In just the first twelve months after the new freezer is operational we expect to receive additional perishable donations valued at twice the project's cost.

Please help in the effort to end hunger in our community by making a donation today to build the new "Freezer for Food."

Jim Wright

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## Community Chest Collection Day

### Saturday, May 1, 2010

10:00 - 11:30 AM

in the church parking lot

**VBS 2010 . Join us for a high seas adventure!**



**REGISTER TODAY!  
VBS . JUNE 7 - 10  
9:00 AM - 12 Noon**

Get ready for a swashbuckling adventure that starts at High Seas Expedition. Campers will learn how God's Word is true, comforting, surprising, life-changing, & for everyone!

- TO REGISTER: CALL, VISIT WEBSITE OR VBS DOCK
- ASCENSION . 588-0589
- WEBSITE . Download registration form from website [www.knoxvilleascension.org](http://www.knoxvilleascension.org)
- VBS DOCK . Visit the VBS display (foyer).

**Volunteers** are key to the success of VBS. If you would like to volunteer, help, or have questions, please contact Lynn.

**QUESTIONS & MORE INFORMATION...**

Lynn Wise: email: [lynn@knoxvilleascension.org](mailto:lynn@knoxvilleascension.org) ★ phone: 769-4930  
Nancy Tisue: email: [nancy@tagresources.com](mailto:nancy@tagresources.com) ★ phone: 212-9710

**Visit the  
VBS  
Giving  
Dock!**

If you would like to make a difference by making a monetary donation, visit our Giving Dock at the VBS Corner (located in foyer).



**V.B.S.  
2010**

*from our Associate Rector*

Koinonia Groups – Continuing in the Apostles' Teaching

As you have heard, we have many ministry groups at Ascension. Some of these share a common purpose of accomplishing a ministry for the church (like Altar Guild or Flower Guild). Some share a ministry for those outside the church (like Family Promise or Fish). Some are oriented towards a specific learning task, (like the Men's and Women's Bible Studies). While all of these are important, there are many people who do not participate in any of them, and yet are a part of our congregation. It could be that these people are called to ministries completely outside the church, at their place of work or in the community. Some may not be able to engage in a ministry because of their place in life, like when they are deep in the important ministry of raising a family. Wherever the Lord calls us to be active, we all need to be a part of a small group of people to receive nourishment and upbuilding in Christ. It is for the upbuilding of all our members, for our ongoing discipleship, that we are forming Koinonia groups. The goals of these groups are based on one of our baptismal vows, "Will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?" For the next few *Parish Papers* I will explore each of these four goals.



The first goal is to continue in the Apostles' teaching. For most groups, this will be a simple form of Bible study, as the Bible is our best source of that teaching. But it could include other sources. Important as the source itself is the way a Koinonia group engages that reading. In these groups, the goal is to connect with the reading spiritually and personally. One of our Brotherhood of St. Andrew members sent me this passage from Henri Nouwen, which handles well this kind of reading.

*"Reading Spiritually About Spiritual Things"*

*Reading often means gathering information, acquiring new insight and knowledge, and mastering a new field. It can lead us to degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Spiritual reading, however, is different. It means not simply reading about spiritual things but also reading about spiritual things in a spiritual way. That requires a willingness not just to read but to be read, not just to master but to be mastered by words. As long as we read the Bible or a spiritual book simply to acquire knowledge, our reading does not help us in our spiritual lives. We can become very knowledgeable about spiritual matters without becoming truly spiritual people. As we read spiritually about spiritual things, we open our hearts to God's voice. Sometimes we must be willing to put down the book we are reading and just listen to what God is saying to us through its words. (Henri Nouwen)*

So as our Koinonia Groups continue in the Apostles' teaching at each meeting, they will be engaging in Spiritual reading as Nouwen describes. We will share our lives by discussing the teaching as it applies to our lives right now. This will help us grow together in community and experience God more in our daily lives.

Fr. Rob

**Last day of Sunday School is May 9.**

**Our summer schedule of services will remain the same:**

**8:00 AM — Holy Eucharist I**

**10:30 AM — Holy Eucharist II**

**Our Taizé service will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of May but will be on hiatus during the summer.**

from our Associate Rector

Greetings Ascension Family and Friends!



Our second annual Ascension mission trip to Bolivia is in full swing! By the time you all read this, the Other Brothers' Yard Sale (our last big push for fundraisng) will have passed, and your team will be in the final preparation stage for our upcoming trip June 14th. My wife, Carla, Deacon Amy, and I are very excited as the leaders of this mission to be bringing a lot of new faces on this year's trip, and especially Ascension's 2010 High School Confirmation class! We are confident that this year's trip will be a life-changing experience for all those who are involved. It will impact the lives of those we are going to serve, as well as provide spiritual growth and incomparable life experience for our team members.



This summer, your mission team will return to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, for a week at La Iglesia Cristo Pan de Vida, to reevaluate the need for Ascension's ongoing financial support of our Brothers and Sisters in Santa Cruz. Because of your generosity and monthly donations, Cristo Pan de Vida has been able to keep their doors open throughout the entire past year, as well as begin vital construction and maintenance projects on their facility. While we are in Santa Cruz, we will experience some of these projects first hand, and will physically participate in some of these various projects. One of the more exciting tasks ahead of us is to construct an altar to be used in all worship services! We will also be repairing and

painting the inner and outer walls of Cristo Pan de Vida's compound. Before our trip, and throughout the week that we are there, your mission team will also be preparing for an intense and meaningful day of a mini retreat or VBS for the younger children and youth who are served by the community in Santa Cruz. Serving the underprivileged children of Santa Cruz is still one of the largest ministries of Cristo Pan de Vida, and our program will hopefully serve as a way to bring in even more children and their families to the church, as well as make the surrounding community more aware of what services are offered to them by Cristo Pan de Vida. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we are excited for this opportunity to serve.

We would all like to thank each and every one of you, once again, for all your generous support and prayers. Without each one of you donating time, money, and talents to both the Mardi Gras celebration and the Other Brothers' Yard Sale, Ascension's continued mission work in Bolivia would not be possible. Thank you, again, and be on the lookout in the near future for more ways you can serve our brothers and sisters in Christ in Bolivia. Please remember that through your service and participation, no matter how big or small, each of you truly is enabling and in effect doing the mission work of the Church. God's Peace, Fr. Brett

The May donors for the support of our mission work at Cristo, Pan de Vida church in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, are Tom and Vicky Anderson.

Noteworthy —

news from our Director of Music



I wish to acknowledge the commitment of time and hard work that our choirs invest at this time of the year. In addition to the concert on April 18, there were seven sung services here at Ascension during Holy Week. Our musicians understand the commitment that these liturgies require, and I doubt any of them would want it any other way; nevertheless, our tradition is one that is very demanding of church choirs, and I want to thank everyone for acquitting themselves so well on a great deal of music. I should probably thank spouses and friends of our choir members as well for their loss of convivial time in the week leading up to Easter!

Many parishioners have expressed appreciation to our musicians, both verbally and in writing, for all of the Easter music. Affirmation such as that is greatly appreciated, and for everyone's many kindnesses we thank you.

Inevitably, the pace begins to taper off during the month of May, and as in years past, we invite any interested parishioners to consider joining Summer Quire. Since regular choir members are encouraged to take several Sundays off during the summer months, the addition of other singers is very helpful in perpetuating the illusion that all is well in the music department. During the summer the Sunday anthem literature is a great deal easier than that of the program year, and Wednesday evening rehearsals are scheduled only once a month. Consider joining the Quire, even if just for a season.

Our Boys and Girls' Choir is always open to new recruits as well. This summer our choristers will be joined at choir camp by the choristers of St. Elizabeth's in Farragut, the director of which, Elizabeth Farr, is anxious to provide a choir camp experience for her children. The more the merrier! Tentative plans include a collaboration on John Rutter's Mass for the Children, to be performed jointly. This year's camp is scheduled for August 11th through the 14th at Grace Point. Camp is open to new recruits as well as

returning choristers; call me in the office (588-0589, x. 216) for more information.

And I will remind everyone, as is my wont from time to time, that there used to be a handbell choir here at Ascension. The Handbell Ensemble had to go on hiatus a few years ago when we lost a few ringers for varying reasons. The church owns three octaves of bells, a gift given by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Jost and by Eva Cuningham (choirmember Lyn Warren's mother) a number of years ago. Perhaps you have ringing experience in your background? Even if you don't, give us a call!

Jim Garvey



Fire it Up!

Host: East Tennessee Lay Churchmen
Location: St. John's Cathedral
When: Saturday, May 8, 12 noon

Men of Ascension are invited to the East Tennessee Laymen's Roundup to promote this year's conference of the Tennessee Churchmen. The conference, the largest gathering of Episcopal laymen in the country, will be held August 27, 28, and 29 at Dubose Conference Center, Monteagle, Tennessee.

At the Roundup you will receive information and materials about the 64th conference, hear an invitation from Bishop vonRosenberg, and feast on BBQ'd ribs and sides prepared by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew chapter of St. John's Cathedral.

Please RSVP to Eric Haralson at 806-3505 or eric@fahe.org.

## from our Director of Christian Education

This month my dad is moving out of the house he has lived in for 34 years and into a continuing care community. He will have to downsize significantly. Since my sister and I have houses which are not infinitely large, we simply can't take everything he wants to give away. My dad will have to decide which of his belongings he'll take with him into this last phase of his life, which belongings he can let go of. There will be no turning back from these choices. An estate sale is planned. Whatever we don't take will be sold.



At our house, my children are growing out of clothes and games. We've been going through the playroom, making decisions about toys and books to give away. I watch my children struggle with the same sorts of choices my father is making now—how hard it is for them to let go of toys that remind them of happy memories, how worried they become that they'll lose the good feelings if they let go of the toys.

My husband came home recently and told me he's being recruited for some great jobs in faraway states. All of a sudden, everything in my life looked different. The grocery store clerks who know my name, the librarian who remembers my children from toddler storytime, my favorite places, my friends, my house, our yard, all the memories we've made here—they all gained a warm, rosy glow. How could I give these people and places up? "Everything I want is here," I told my husband. "Why would I want to go anywhere else?"

I often wonder, if I had been an established Jew in Jesus' day—would I have accepted Christ's message? It was the social outcasts and the poor who seemed readily attracted to Jesus, those who didn't belong, those who didn't have much to hold on to. But the Jews who fit into Israel's story, the ones who followed the rules, prayed the prayers, knew what the Messiah would do when he came—they had a whole identity

to lose. Imagine how strange it must have seemed to accept a Savior who had died in shame, how shocking it must have been to cast off kosher laws observed for generations, how frightening to welcome the unclean into communities of worship. Why? Why would any observant, faithful Jew who knew the story of Israel, knew his past, knew his place in God's world, his purpose and call—why would he give that up to follow Christ?

The fear of giving up ourselves, of giving up our certainties, our identities, our belongings—this fear is basic to all of us, at every stage of life, even the youngest. I will never forget my toddler's joy when we returned from a week at the beach. She ran into her room, surveyed her familiar belongings and declared in surprise, "Mommy. It's all still here!" What does Christianity have to say to us when we are faced with the fear of losing the places, people, belongings and beliefs that anchor us and tell us who we are? You must be reborn, says the scripture; like a seed you must shed your self in order to grow. Christianity doesn't deny our fears of losing ourselves and all we hold dear. It doesn't offer an alternative or absolution either. It just says, "Do it. Giving yourself up is the path to true life." True life? Do I want true life? Or do I want the life I have and know and feel comfortable in? That question may be the one belonging I can never give away.

Jacqueline Soltys

## Lunch Bunch to meet on May 18

The Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, May 18, at 11:30 in the parish hall. The program will be presented by the Tennessee Valley Players who will talk about the theater scene in Knoxville as well as what performances they will be offering in the next few months. There may even be some snatches of music performed.

Please bring an appetizer, vegetable, or dessert. All are welcome to this enjoyable and tasty once-a-month gathering of parishioners and friends of Ascension.

## The People We Select in our Life Journey

Join us for the fourth in our series of programs featuring special speakers with time for discussion and questions.

Sunday, May 23, 2010,

*Crime and Punishment and Christian Responsibility*

The Reverend Charles Fels Rector, Good Shepherd, Knoxville,  
and

Randy Nichols, Knox Co. District Attorney

The talk begins at 3 PM and is followed by a cheese and wine reception.  
The Taizé service follows in the chapel at 5 PM.

We invite you to submit future topics to the Program Committee and consider joining this committee. Members are:

Claire Eldridge  
Francie Elrod  
Laurel Humphreys  
Janice Kell  
Jerry Vreeland  
Courtney Zirkle

Advisor: Fr. Howard

## Tell us about your graduates

Graduations in May mark the ending of one part of a life and the beginning of a new segment. We like to acknowledge all in the parish who are graduating from high school, college, or a graduate program. Please call the office before May 14 with names of your graduates. For high school we need only the person's name; for college and graduate school, please include the degree and the institution granting it. We will print the information in the June *Parish Paper*.

## Eucharistic Ministry Training

For those who would like to become Eucharistic Ministers, Father Howard will conduct a training on Saturday, May 8, beginning at 10 AM. If you are interested in learning how to serve in this special ministry and in being a part of a worship team, please call Cathy Wadley, 588-0589.

## Were you moved by the work of the McGregors?

Were you touched by the work in Madagascar that we learned about when Bishop Todd and Rev. Patsy McGregor visited Ascension on April 18? Did you feel what might have been a nudge to participate in some way in this powerful ministry in Madagascar? I know that for some of us that was the second time to hear of the work of Christ carried out through the McGregors. If you want to consider if and how we might be involved in this ministry, in discerning a response to that invitation, (even if you are not sure you got a nudge) come pray and talk with others who find themselves wondering these same things. This is not a signing on for a mission trip, but an opportunity to come together as the Body of Christ to respond to the Spirit's leading, both as individuals as well as part of Ascension. We will meet right after the 10:30 service in the old transept of the parish hall on Sunday, May 23.

### *Our Special Giving (as of April 21, 2010) Gifts given for the benefit of specific Ascension programs.*

A Memorials committee has been established at Ascension to handle monetary gifts given as memorials or to honor living persons. Janice Kell is chairman and the committee's policies have been approved by the vestry.

If you would like to make a contribution as a memorial or to honor someone, give your check to Charis Kraski who assists Bob Wadley, our parish administrator. If your memorial or honorarium is designated to any of Ascension's programs such as Parish Life, Mission, Outreach, Music, Building and Grounds, etc., it will appear in this column of the *Parish Paper*.

### *Memorials benefiting FISH Hospitality Pantries*

- **ED HAMMOND** - Dewey and Genevieve Ledford, Lida Barrett, Virginia Duckett, Joe and Wylene Vrba, and Carole Lundin

## MUSINGS from The CHURCH MOUSE

The Wednesday night class was over  
The church was closed for the night  
when a little brown mouse crept out of his hole  
to bask in the pale moonlight.

He ate all the crumbs on the parish hall floor  
and on his haunches he sat,  
and all night long you could hear him roar,  
"I don't care if I get fat!"

What a special time of year! The long winter has finally ended and spring has sprung. The dogwoods are in bloom, azaleas, too, while the trees and grass are turning a beautiful green. And then there is the pollen. With all the beauty comes a coat of yellow dust that has the clergy of Ascension praying for summer to come soon. But, in the meantime, the most wonderful week of the year, Holy Week, has just ended. The church was so busy, it was hard to find a place to nap. Morning Prayer every weekday morning at 7, then Holy Eucharist

Monday and Tuesday evenings, then Tenebrae on Wednesday (I'm not sure what it is, but the music was beautiful), then the Agape Supper



and footwashing ceremony, followed by the Maundy Thursday service (what does Maundy mean?), after which there were people in the church praying all night long. At 7 o'clock on Friday morning another Holy Eucharist and then a three-hour service of

music and meditations beginning at noon. I thought, surely I would have some time alone after that. But no, there were people here all day Saturday preparing for the Great Vigil that night and the three magnificent services on Easter Day. The choir sang the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah* at two of the Easter services, and it was so beautiful it made the little hairs behind my pink ears stand up.

Needless to say, when all that was over, everyone needed a rest and I got to have my wonderful church home to myself for about a week before things started happening again. Now, the pace is back to normal, but I won't forget the joy I saw on Easter. Thanks be to God!



### **Mother Daughter Red Shoe Tea May 1, 2010, 12-2 PM Gettysvue County Club**

Show your support for CASA of East Tennessee and celebrate Mother's Day in style with your mother, daughter, friend, or relative of any age. Wear your red shoes and show them off in our red shoe contest. We will have prizes and activities for all ages. We will also be honoring local adoptive and foster mothers and showing our appreciation for their contribution to our community.

*Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling (865) 329-3399 or visiting [www.casatn.org](http://www.casatn.org).*

### About CASA of East Tennessee:

CASA provides volunteer citizen advocates to conduct investigations for the court to ensure that neglected and abused children have the services and care they need. The Red Shoe Tea is one of CASA's annual fundraising events and its success is vital. CASA is currently serving only 20% of the children in Knox, Sevier, Blount, Hamblen, and Jefferson Counties who need an advocate.

## A highlight of the year: The Brotherhood of St. Andrew annual retreat

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew enjoyed another incredible weekend retreat at the Lake Logan Episcopal Center near Canton, North Carolina, from Friday afternoon, April 9, through Sunday morning, April 11. The retreat leader this year was the Rev. Charles Fels, former Ascension parishioner and current Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Knoxville. Comments and observations about the weekend from several members of the Brotherhood are included below:

*56 hours, 18 individuals speaking freely of wounds they have is a spiritual event for me. 17 individuals have, with the help of GOD and sharing with others, have started to become unwounded from wounds far more emotional than I could have imagined happening to me. I thank GOD for the retreat experience and the 17 individuals that affirm GOD's presence in each of us in our travel through life. Fr. Charles is responsible for the success of unwounding.*

Allen

Douglass

*Without a doubt this was the best of all the Lake Logan retreats that I've attended. Charles Fels did a splendid job in leading the conference. His discussions were most informative and thought-*

*provoking. Bob Wadley had things organized to a "Tee." Rick Deaderick should be commended for his handling of the Sunday morning prayer service. All participants were most candid in their discussion presentations. The facility and the meals at Lake Logan continue to be most noteworthy. I'm already looking forward to the 2011 program!*

Jim Spitzer

*The setting, accommodations, fellowship and food were outstanding but most importantly the message presented by Charles Fels and the insights and caring from my fellow retreat members raised my spirituality immeasurably. The BoSA retreat is one of the high-*

*lights of my life every year and this year's retreat was among the best.*

Norbert J. (Bert)  
Ackermann, Jr.

*I agree wholeheartedly with Bert. I found the level of sharing, honesty, participatory leadership and fellowship both inspiring and humbling. The setting could not be better and I have already 'penciled' in the dates for 2011-wouldn't miss it for the world. Special thanks to Bob Wadley for the logistics, to 'NASCAR Jim' for his driving skills and to Charles for his inspiring leadership.*

Les Hargrove

*The retreat was well organized and ran on schedule. The food and lodging, as usual, was excellent. Charles Fels was an inspirational*



Front row: Larry Crowson, the Rev. Charles Fels, Les Hargrove, Greg O'Connor, John Robertson; Second row: Jim Spitzer, Brad Peer, Leo Beale, Mike Terry-Cochran, Danny Maddox, Bob Wadley; Third row: Bob Sowell, Bert Ackermann, Ed Lester, Carl Asp, Rick Deaderick, Allen Douglass; Taking the photo: Charlie Gehres

*leader, getting all of us to think about our religious journey. Bob's leadership was excellent.*

Carl Asp.

*Lake Logan- the beautiful setting just lends itself to a weekend of reflection. Charles Fels created a program that made each of us reflect on our past, present and future lives and how that affected our spiritual journey. Every thing about the weekend was special, but most importantly, it gave us all an opportunity to know each other even better. Thanks for organizing a wonderful retreat.*

Greg O'Connor

Brotherhood Retreat 2010

Brothers in Christ

Jesus Christ among us  
Being with  
Together  
Love

Laughter  
Tears

Loneliness cast out  
Alone in God.

Talk story

Secrets

Heroes

Woundedness.

Camaraderie transcending  
Memorable moments  
Transformational Eucharist.

John Robertson

*I learned a lot about embracing the wounds we all accumulate over time as an opportunity to grow spiritually and personally. Those wounds I recall from my own experiences along with those of fellow attendees can be considered more deeply than trying solely to forget the hurt and pain. Through this time of reflection and interaction, I grew in appreciation of my fellow BoSA brothers and opened up myself to forming a more solid rapport. Charles Fels led discussions very well and he seemed to lead us to a positive outcome from the moment we arrived. I experienced a new Eucharist liturgy and had an impactful weekend in the woods.*

Brad Peer

*The retreat was the best I've been on. Charles Fels set the tone with his very personal story. It was a great weekend of male bonding and spiritual growth.*

Ed Lester

*As I experienced last year, the opportunity to gather as a group of men - as Christians looking to lead a life walking with Christ - no pretenses - I think that is what the retreat weekend is all about. It is a wonderful opportunity to have fellowship and study God's Word, but most importantly, to get to know other men, their lives, dreams, failures and disappointments. I think it is one of the best weekends of my year. This year was no exception. Fr. Fels brought us to yet another level of understanding God and one another. I think it was AWESOME. I can't wait for next year and Fr. Brett.*

Mike Terry-Cochran

*Congratulations and thanks are in order again. The retreat was absolutely great this year, as usual. The topic of sharing our stories is an important one. I know that at least for me, it is hard "let down my guard" enough to open up and talk about some of the darker times in my life. But, somehow, being around a group of men who care so much for each other and who are truly seeking God's Truth, made it seem easy. Fr. Charlie's enthusiasm about his faith and his simple, straight-forward style worked well for the topic and set the tone of honesty and forthrightness. We were lucky to have him with us. And I was lucky to have been there. Of course, Lake Logan itself is always a perfect example of God's beauty and love. Walking to and from the dining hall with the guys is one of my favorite parts of the weekend every time. And the great food is always a nice reward for the exercise. I know it takes a good bit of effort to pull the whole thing together and I want you to know that I appreciate it. I want to know when the dates for next year are nailed down so I can put it on my calendar. I am already looking forward to it.*

Leo Beale

# Passages

*Birth*

**Jack Michael Wright**, son of **Tanya and Jon Wright**; grandson of **Phil Malkovich**, on March 28, 2010  
**Lyla Elaine Hamilton**, daughter of **Courtney Nalle and Byron Hamilton**, granddaughter of **Tom and Laurie Nalle**, and great-granddaughter of **Betty Leverett** on April 14, 2010

*Baptism*

**Robert John Travis** on April 18, 2010  
**Robert Tucker Cameron** on April 25, 2010

*Marriages*

**Captain Brockton Buchanan Bosson and Julia Fragale Vigna** at St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, LA, on April 17, 2010

*Transferred from Ascension*

**Mary Horton, Michael and Blake Holt**, to St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville, TN  
**Janna Werner, Mason and Claire**, to the Church of the Good Samaritan, Knoxville, TN

*Death*

**Keith Hord**, grandfather of **Leslie Beale**, on March 28, 2010  
**Robert Eugene Hunter**, brother of **Ann Nelson**, on March 30, 2010  
**Edward D. Black**, uncle of **Jan Deaderick**, on March 31, 2010

## Financial report through March 2010

	Mar. Budget	Mar. Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
<i>Pledge, plate, &amp; unpledged contributions:</i>	\$94,858	121,175	250,475	311,720
<i>Bldg repair/youth director pledge payments</i>	8,000	25,102	38,000	86,808
<i>All other income:</i>	24,840	20,371	62,030	67,267
<i>Total Income</i>	127,698	166,648	350,505	465,795
<i>Total expenditures:</i>	113,859	147,454	351,279	377,643
<i>Net Surplus (loss):</i>	13,839	19,194	(774)	88,352

## 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 Fr. Rob Travis.*

Although he has only been at Ascension less than two years, Fr. Rob has become an integral part of our life and community. But do you really know him? Robert Paul Travis was born in Waynesville, North Carolina to the Rev. Robert Carroll Travis, an Episcopal priest, and Mrs. Karen Mathis Travis, a professor of public speaking and debate, in 1976. He was named after his two grandfathers, Robert Haskell Travis and Paul Carl Mathis.



When Fr. Rob was three years old, his father accepted a call to a church in Attleboro, Massachusetts, where they lived for five years before moving to Rochester, New York. Upon graduating from high school, Fr. Rob moved to New York City, entering Columbia University where he majored in German Studies. Including his time at Columbia, he lived in the city for ten years before entering seminary at The University of the South at Sewanee. Having entered seminary through the Diocese of Central Florida, his first assignment following ordination was at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Orlando. Subsequently, he served a one-year residency in Clinical Pastoral Education at Florida Hospital in Orlando, spending six months in general care and the cardiovascular unit, followed by six months in pediatrics and neonatal intensive care. He accepted the call to Ascension in September, 2008.

Fr. Rob is married to Jacqueline Hilary Camm Travis and they have three children, Evangeline Jane, age 5, Annalise Karen, age 4, and Robert John (Jack), 9 weeks old as of this writing. Fr. Rob's life is anything but dull. He is an accomplished cellist, enjoys studying languages and speaks German, Spanish, Norwegian and Mandarin Chinese, in

addition to English, but admits to struggling with "Good Ole Boy Southern." His sport in high school and college was fencing and he is looking for a partner, or should we say, a foil, to resume this pastime in Knoxville. He likes working and tinkering with mechanical things, especially old cars, and currently drives an old Mercedes he has converted to run on vegetable oil rather than diesel fuel. He and Jacki also enjoy making pottery. Though he plays the cello, he is a fan of nearly all types of music.

When asked to name an influence in his life, he mentioned that his mother had taught him how to debate, a quality Jackie is not always certain is entirely admirable.

### SAVE THE DATE!

THE CLERGY AND STAFF OF ASCENSION INVITE ALL OFFICE HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS TO A LUNCHEON IN THE COURTYARD AT 12 NOON ON MAY 28. PLEASE JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS AND A LIGHT LUNCH TO CELEBRATE THE PAST YEAR'S COLLECTIVE WORK IN THE OFFICE. WE HAVE ENJOYED YOUR PRESENCE WITH US. LET US COME TOGETHER SHARING OUR TIME AND A WONDERFUL MEAL. INVITATIONS WILL BE MAILED AND AN RSVP IS APPRECIATED.

SEE YOU ON FRIDAY, MAY 28!

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

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## 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 Kraski — 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  
 Lida Barrett  
 David Baumgardner  
 Leo Beale  
 Louise Conrad  
 Ben Davidson  
 Claire Eldridge  
 Ann O'Connor  
 John Pannell  
 Scott Poland  
 Culver Schmid  
 Vaiden Taylor  
 Rick Turner

Mike Terry-Cochran — Treasurer  
 Larry Jones — Clerk