

Announcements for 5 November 2017

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The Church of the Ascension is a Eucharistically-centered Christian community committed to sharing the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ through worship, teaching, fellowship, outreach, and personal example.

Today

We welcome into the body of Christ Laurel Sally Yasmeen Sanou through the sacrament of baptism. Laurel is the daughter of Ibrahim and Aliye Sanou, and sister of Sofia and Norah.

All Saints' Day All Saints' Day will be observed in the Liturgy of November 5 when we will celebrate the Saints in our midst with lighting of candles before the service, and the joys of baptism of a Laurel Sanou into the faith.

The Liturgy Committee discussed at length the prior practices and concerns of our worshipping community.

For some congregants the All Saints' observance is a fond remembrance of those who have gone before; for others it is such a sad occasion that they do not even attend the service. For some the recitation of names was heartbreaking, while others found having the names listed in the bulletin or on window placards was enough. Listing names was a formidable task to include everyone who has gone before since the question arose of whether these should be former congregants or loved ones as well.

The Collect for All Saints' Day says that God has "knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord." To celebrate the oneness of the body of Christ, and the Saints in our midst you will be invited to quietly light candles before the service begins remembering those important to you. These candles will remain lit throughout the service and foster the supplication in the second half of the Collect: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you...in glory everlasting.

The concluding portion of the Prayers for the Candidates for Baptism requests: Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory. Throughout the service we join in the great fellowship of the Saints.

During the Intercessions the names of those congregants who died during the past year will be included.

Adult Forum: We will continue Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White: Thoughts on Religion, Morality and Politics--This DVD series by Adam Hamilton seeks to help us find some common ground in an ever more polarized world. The Rev. Stewart Mason Tabb will facilitate the discussion in the Lounge at 9:30.

Bellissima is coming! *Bellissima!* (Italian for "most beautiful") is the only musical chorale of its kind in the South Hampton Roads region: an auditioned ensemble performing a wide array of music created for women's voices. They will sing here on Sunday evening, November 5 at 7:00 PM (with a reception following). Join them and Director Deborah Carr for a free concert of fine music. *Bellissima* has asked us several times to sing here, but we did not have an adequate piano for their use, so it is exciting that we now can sponsor them. Ascensionite Roni Porfert sings in the ensemble. There will be a freewill offering.

Coming Up

Joint Thanksgiving Service: This year our joint Thanksgiving service with Talbot Park Baptist and Royster Presbyterian will be held at Talbot Park on Sunday, November 19, at 11:00 AM. Stewart will be preaching. Join us as all the choirs combine to provide music, and we all come together in thanksgiving for God's bounty in our lives. You are invited to bring finger food for a reception afterwards. The Christian Education hour will not change, but after Sunday School, we will go to TPBC.

Believe it or not it's time to get serious about Christmas Pageant planning. The pageant is held on Christmas Eve at 4:30 and practices are held after church on Sundays in December. Please let Lynn Farlin lfarlin@ascension-norfolk.org know if children/youth in your family plan to participate.

Mission

Street Requiem: Presented by Freemason Street Baptist Church, the Norfolk Street Choir, the Virginia Children's Chorus, and other singers and orchestral players from across Hampton Roads, "Street Requiem" is a free, outdoor concert that will take place in the parking lot of Freemason Street Baptist Church this Saturday, November 11, at 4:30 PM. Over 150 musicians will be participating in this event. Composed by Kathleen McGuire, Andy Payne, and Jonathon Welch, "Street Requiem" is a memorial to the many who have died on the street. It is a contemporary work including English, African, and Persian lyrics alongside a modern setting of the traditional Latin texts. While at times deeply moving, it is described as essentially optimistic and uplifting. Bring your camp chairs and dress accordingly.

Christmas is coming! Ascension will also be joining other Episcopal Churches in making Christmas bright for children from the Mission of the Holy Spirit. We are collecting funds in order to sponsor Christmas shopping with children from the Mission. Each child will be given one \$50 Walmart gift card and will be accompanied by an ELF – a volunteer who will get to know the child, and help guide their choices on December 9. Volunteers will attend a breakfast and training session beginning at 8:30 on Saturday, December 9 and then will go shopping beginning at 10:30. If you would like to contribute, please mark your check ELF. We hope to raise enough to go shopping with three children, and so we will need three volunteers, but should we raise more, we'll need more ELVES. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering. If you would like to donate, please make a note that the check is for ELF. The deadline for this is November 20.

SAVE THE DATE: NEST is February 21-27. NEST (Norfolk Emergency Shelter Team) is a citywide outreach to our homeless population. Participating churches provide food and a warm dry place to spend the night out of the elements. Ascension will team with Talbot Park Baptist Church during this week. As their church is more spacious, they have graciously offered to host our guests, and we are fully teamed with them in every function needed to guarantee the success of the week.

Ascension is responsible for collecting Hats and Gloves for each guest and money in order to give each guest a \$10 card for personal needs. There will be a container in the Narthex for the hats and gloves. Please designate financial donations to "NEST gift cards."

The success of NEST depends on its many volunteers. Please save the week so you can give this important outreach your full support. The web-based scheduler will be posted mid-November for sign up. If you helped last year, you will receive an email with the link, but access will also be available to every member of the parish.

Info at a Glance

Pastoral Care is collecting small items for Thanksgiving gift baskets for our homebound. Please leave them in the office (or Donna Killmon) marked "homebound" before November 15.

Pastoral Care would like to borrow an engraving tool to engrave a radio for a nursing home resident. If anyone has an engraving tool, please let the office know. Thank you.

Pledges: Have you submitted your pledge yet? All of them are important! Please pray and send it in as soon as possible so that we may start the financial planning that we need to do for next year.

Around the Diocese and Elsewhere

Women's Advent Retreat Day: Chanco on the James will sponsor an advent retreat day (with optional overnight) on December 2. The theme is "Living the Magnificat" and will be explored through workshops and worship. An optional Friday night will include arts workshops, hospitality, and breakfast on Saturday. The event closes with Afternoon Tea. There is a flyer on the bulletin board along with registration forms. If you would like it electronically, email the office at nbeamon@ascension-norfolk.org