

Announcements for 14 January 2018

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Today

Adult Forum: Join us as we continue the seven week series based on Old Testament scholar Peter Enn's book For the Bible Tells me So. What if the Bible is fine just the way it is? Not a well behaved Bible, where everything lines up and makes sense, but the messy, troubling, and weird Bible we actually have? What if the Bible doesn't need to be protected and defended, but understood—just as it is? What if the real problem isn't the Bible but the false expectations we sometimes bring to it? Perhaps, when we let the Bible be the Bible rather than what we expect it ought to be—or need it to be—we will find a deeper faith in the process. We hope these films will stir your imagination, deepen your trust in God, and make the Bible come alive in new ways for you and your community.

Finally! Sally Todd and crew invite you to a "New Year's" lunch of black eyed peas after the service today.

Soup For Sale: \$7 per quart. We have chicken and dumplings and split pea on hand currently. See Kate Rhea or Roni Porfert. Soup is great for busy weeknights! And if there are soup makers out there who want to add to the sale larder, see the same ladies.

EYC is going ice skating at MacArthur ice rink this afternoon. If youth need a ride, let Lynn Farlin know in advance and meet at the church at 5:30. For folks meeting us at the rink, please shoot for 6 PM and meet us at the ticket booth. Cost is \$14 for entrance and skate rental (if you have a military ID they will discount the ticket). If you have your own skates the cost is only \$7. Remember to dress warmly and bring gloves.

Today we bid a short farewell to Ginny as she prepares for the birth of the baby. We send our prayers with her, James, and Ralph. Karla Robinson and Frank Whitman will be taking the musical reigns during her maternity leave.

Coming Up

Chili Cook-off: Continuing the tradition—the Chili Cook-off will be Sunday, January 21 during lunch and after the winter blood drive. Vote for the teams with your dollars; the one with the most dollars gets bragging rights, but the Food Pantry wins. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Book Study: The Talbot Park-Ascension book group will resume on Wednesday, January 17th. We will meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Parlor of Talbot Park. This time, we will be reading *Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God: The Scandalous Truth of the Very Good News* by Brian Zahnd. Taking his cue from the famous Jonathan Edwards sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," Zahnd wrestles with subjects like Old Testament genocide, the crucifixion of Jesus, eternal punishment in hell, and the final judgment in Revelation. The book explores questions like: Is seeing God primarily as wrathful towards sinners true or biblical? Is fearing God a normal expected behavior? And where might the natural implications of this theological framework lead us? If that sounds interesting to you, come join us.

Mission

Blood Drive: We are hosting the Talbot Park Blood Drive here on Saturday, January 20 from 9:00 to 1:00. We need you! You may make your appointment online at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp> or talk with Warner Coleman.

Save The Date: NEST is February 21-28. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! The collection of hats, gloves, and scarves for the upcoming NEST week has been great. We still need some more scarves and hats, adult size for the guests.

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.

Remember our week for NEST is 21 February until 28 February. There is an online signup at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2054570/false#/invitation> for all available positions. If you have any problems with the website, please contact the church office or Chuck Beers. Signup is going a little slow, so please take the time to see how you can make a meaningful contribution to our NEST guests and use the website. If there are any questions or information needed, please contact Chuck Beers or Bob Motley. THANK YOU

Laundry Love: Monday, January 22 at 6:15 PM at the Ward's Corner Soap and Suds.

Info at a Glance

The Office and Day School will be closed Monday for the Martin Luther King holiday.

Parish Items Available: We have items available for purchase on a festive table in the Narthex. –The Ascension cookbook (the best cooks of the church are well represented in the recipe collection) and the parish history, which was compiled for the centennial celebration, is right for any occasion. There are other Ascension items as well: cups, bags, and ornaments. Stop by the table and take a look or see Roni Porfert with questions or for payment.

Pledges for 2017: If you would like your gift to be credited to your 2017 pledge, it needs to be in the office by tomorrow (January 15) and dated for 2017. Thank you!

Altar Flowers 2018: There are several openings for altar flowers in 2018. They are \$50. Please let the office know (nbeamon@ascension-norfolk.org) if you would be interested in a date. The following dates are open: July 22, September 30, and December 23.

New Office Hours: The church has new office hours: Monday through Thursday 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM and Friday 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

Just for Fun and Fellowship

JULIET's (Just Us Ladies Interested In Eating Together) will meet this Friday (changed date!) at Bubba's on Shore Drive at 11:30 AM. If interested RSVP to Donna Killmon or Suzi Montagna.

Around the Diocese and Elsewhere

Evolutionary Christianity: Book study on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 at Lynnhaven Colony Christian Church in Virginia Beach. The basis for discussion will be Bruce Sanguin's book [The Way of the Wind](#). Seven weekly sessions will be offered starting Sunday, February 11. Steve Hansen will facilitate a discussion of a section of the book; we will stop in time to complete one of the spiritual practices listed in chapter 9 before our session ends at 7:30 pm.

A new spiritual practice will be tried each week and will be led by Pastor Kim Hodges. By doing this two-step process, we will engage both our mind and our heart. The grand finale on our last session will be a live, interactive video teleconference with Bruce Sanguin who will respond to your questions!

Girl Scouts: The troops that Ascension supports are now selling Girl Scout cookies. If you would be interested in buying cookies (and supporting our troops), please call leader Christine Janison at 757-469-2189. Cookies will be delivered the week of February 18.