

Announcements for 15 April 2018

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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

Adult Forum: continues using The Wired Word – a curriculum that takes headlines from the news and views them through the lens of scripture and faith. Please join us in the lounge at 9:30.

Alternate adult class: continues Rob Bell's Love Wins. This is a discussion-based group open to anyone who would like to attend. Open dialogue is a practice that promotes respect, understanding and a quest for knowledge. We will discuss through Chapter 2 (you are responsible for your own book). Join us in the rear conference room in the Christian Education wing at 9:30.

Parents: Each week a children's bulletin is available. The bulletin is tied to the lectionary and has some activities to help make kid friendly connections to the lectionary readings. If your child did not receive one as they entered the church, please see the usher to get one. You will also find assorted children's prayer books in that rack that your child is free to use during the service. Please return them to the rack after the service.

Today is Wiggly Ones: On the first and third Sunday of each month, we offer an alternative during part of the 11:00 service for your 4-7 year olds. This is a transitional time to prepare your children to be ready for church when they turn 8. If your child falls into this age bracket, meet Lynn in the Narthex after the Gospel reading. Your child will return in time for communion. We also have a nursery at both services for all children under the age of 4.

Today is Prayer & Healing: There are people available to pray with you during communion at the 11:00 service. They are located in the room off the Nave.

Today's lunch is brought to you by the Vestry in appreciation for all of Ascension's wonderful volunteers.

Coming Up

Many, many thanks to Patti Glowatsky who has agreed to be our part-time Interim Christian Education Coordinator.

Ecumenical Conversations: Based on our recent conversations with our partners at Royster Presbyterian Church and Talbot Park Baptist Church, we have come up with several common areas of interest and further discussion. These groups are:

- Congregational Gifts, specifically what gifts and resources we bring to the table
- Community Needs
- Youth Opportunities
- Worship Possibilities, including the possibility of an alternate worship experience
To reach those outside our congregations
- Technology Optimization
- Daycare Planning

The goal is for several individuals from each church to meet and talk about ways we can work together on these topics. If you are interested in being a part of one of these groups, please let Stewart know.

Book group with Talbot Park Baptist: We will start again on Wednesday, April 25 at 10:00 in the morning in the parlor at TPBC. Our book is Richard Rohr's Falling Upward. Please join us.

Mission

EYC Friends and family night at the Food Bank: April 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Space is limited, so contact Patti Glowatsky if you want to join our group. pglowatsky@ascension-norfolk.org

Can we count on you? On Saturday, April 21st from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Ascension will host its first ever potato drop to help feed those who are food insecure in our community. Many hands will be needed to unload and bag a semi-trailer full of produce. If you are willing to help, please click on the link and sign up: <http://signup.com/login/entry/10470187705870700110>. Although we do need people to commit for a full day, ANY help for any length of time is appreciated. Please spread the word and send people to this link. Lunch will be provided. THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT.

Invest in Ascension's Mission Team: You can invest in our mission trip team and become a sponsor. The cost to sponsor a missionary is \$75. Sponsors will be assigned to individual missionaries who will keep their sponsors apprised of their mission trip experience. Please place your sponsorship in an envelope marked "Attention Courtney Wheeler." Sponsors will also be invited to attend our "Dessert Night Thank You" to see photos of the trip and hear the mission trip team talk about their experiences.

Purchase a Mission Trip Work Crew: For a limited time our missionaries will be teamed up into work crews of four – five people. The work crew will complete 2 hours of work for whatever you need (within reason) for a suggested fee of \$90. That's at least eight hours of labor for \$90! If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, please contact Susan Meredith.

United Thank Offering: May 13th is UTO Sunday at Ascension this spring. Included in today's bulletin is a booklet which tells of the grants given by the Committee in 2017. This year the grants given will be announced at General Convention in Austin, Texas. The United Thank Offering was started by two women in the early 1870's to assist groups associated with an Episcopal Church to further their mission and ministries. The Diocese of Southern Virginia has benefited from three grants in recent years: St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newport News and Mission of the Holy Spirit here in Norfolk. The monies for the yearly granting are gathered from the daily coins of thanksgiving deposited in Blue Boxes around the United States and the World. This can amount to 2 ½ to 3 ½ million dollars every year. There will be UTO envelopes supplied in the May 6th bulletin. You can deposit your check or cash in them for the May 13th ingathering or simply put your name on your Blue Box and deposit it in the offering plate on that Sunday. -- Marilyn Meek, UTO coordinator

Vacation Bible School wish list:

There are several things on the VBS wish list that are available now. Please donate if you can:

- Easter grass
- Colored cellophane
- Paper towel rolls
- Toilet paper rolls
- Plastic fruit cups
- Plastic dish detergent cups
- Brown paper used in shipping boxes
- Bubble wrap
- Anything to do with the sea: fish, turtles, seagulls, etc.
- Artificial ferns, greens, large leaves

Info at a Glance

Congratulations to Robert Drake Mitchell, III, and Tiffany Ann Benzine who were married here in the chapel on April 7. Bobby is the son of Beulah and the late Bob Mitchell, Jr., and the grandson of Anita Mitchell and the late Bob Mitchell, Sr. Anita, who is an ordained minister, performed the ceremony.

Coin wrappers available: Since we no longer have a drink machine, we would be delighted to give you coin wrappers that we do not need. Please let Nellwyn in the office know if you are interested.

Oberammergau Passion Play: Would you be interested in taking a trip to Germany in 2020 to experience the once-a-decade Passion Play that has been performed by the villagers of Oberammergau every 10 years since 1634? Nellwyn Beamon would be interested in getting a group together to do this. If you would like to explore the possibility, please get in touch with her (nbeamon@ascension-norfolk.org). It is a very popular event and tours are being booked now. <http://2020-oberammergau.com/history/>

For Fun and Fellowship

JULIETs (Just Us Ladies Interested in Eating Together): will meet at Bubba's on Shore Drive on Friday, April 27 at 11:30.