



# Spires



January 2019

# Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Avenue • Lakewood, OH 44107 • [www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org)

## FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



### Beloved People of God,

We begin this year with me as your rector. Our senior warden describes the procedure of this monumental change in her address, but I would like to unpack some of the meaning and impact on our life together. I started at Ascension as priest-in-charge on September 1, 2013. After having met with your search committee and receiving an invitation from the vestry, the bishop appointed me to this position while continuing to have me on his

staff as canon for Christian formation. For several years the diocese paid for most of my compensation and slowly Ascension has assumed more of this responsibility. Bishop Mark has been thrilled with Ascension's participation in the life of the diocese and it's growth in faith and numbers. In seeing the evidence of the fruits of our ministry together he has encouraged and supported my move to become your full-time rector. Therefore, I will continue to serve as canon for Christian formation through June of 2019 even as I assume this new role as rector. Because it is in the middle of summer that I will no longer have the responsibilities of being on the bishop's staff and many will be traveling or on vacation, we will not have the celebration of new ministry until September. Also, having begun my role as priest-in-charge in September six years prior, it is appropriate to celebrate this new season of our life and ministry together in the same month.

There are many reasons to have a celebration of new ministry even though we will have already been sharing in God's mission together for six years. First is to mark a real change. A priest-in-charge does not necessarily make a long-term commitment to a parish nor a parish to a priest-in-charge. It is usually a two or three year arrangement after which the priest and congregation decide whether or not they feel called to continue ministry

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**Father Vincent encourages you to make an appointment with him to discuss anything on your mind or heart.**

**He is available on most Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.**

Please email him at [revvincentblack@yahoo.com](mailto:revvincentblack@yahoo.com) or call the office at 216.521.8727 to set up an appointment.



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Please submit all items for the January Spires by **January 19th** [danielvanah16@gmail.com](mailto:danielvanah16@gmail.com)

**Holy Eucharist**

8:00 am & 10:30 am

**Nursery**

10:15 am - 12:15 pm

**Sunday School**

10:30 am

**Website:** <http://ascension-lakewood.org>

## FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK *Continued from Page 1*

together. A rector on the other hand is a commitment of more than 2 or 3 years. The call and acceptance to become rector is to make a new commitment to Christ and to each other to continue to grow in our faith and our willingness to share that faith with others. It is a celebration that bears witness to the expectation that new things will happen as we make this new and deeper commitment to each other. It is also acknowledging that there are many people who share in ministry at this parish who were not here when I began as priest-in-charge and that we anticipate new people to be added to our congregation. The bishop comes to celebrate new ministry with us because he is our chief priest and pastor and therefore represents our connection to the Church across the country and around the world. He also embodies our shared responsibility and interconnectedness as members of the Diocese of Ohio.

So 2019 is a big year for us at Church of the Ascension. It is a year of bearing fruit, a year of promise, and a year of hope. I end with St. Paul's words to a congregation in Philippi which beautifully and truthfully state words I offer to you:

*"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion..."*

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 20**

One service at 10:30. Lunch will be served after the service, and will celebrate our calling Father Vincent Black as our full-time Rector.

**Meeting begins immediately following lunch, ending by 2 p.m.**

**We will elect two members to serve on the Vestry.**

The Nominating Committee proposes:

Corky Thacker (re-election to second term)

Susan O'Donnell (election to open position)

Nominations may be received from the floor when this action is called for.

**All Parishioners Are Encouraged to Attend**

### **IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 8AM AND 10:30AM SUNDAY SERVICES?**

Yes, there is. The 8am service is shorter because there is no music and there are less people. The language is older and more poetic with "thee, thou, takest, etc." It is quieter and more intimate. There is a simple hospitality offered afterwards of usually coffee and cookies.

The 10:30 service has music, more pageantry, and is about 15 minutes longer. There is Sunday school for children during the first part of the service from September to the end of June. There is also a nursery available for infants and toddlers for the duration of the service. After the service there is usually a more elaborate hospitality time with a range of foods and refreshments.

**Children are welcome at both services.**

### **WHAT IS EFM?**

It is an amazing opportunity for adults to explore their faith through study, prayer, theological reflection, and fellowship. A group of parishioners meets Monday evenings, from 6-9 pm, September to June to discuss and explore the Bible, church history, and many perspectives on how Christians understand God as revealed through Jesus Christ.

**PLEASE ASK FATHER VINCENT OR JOHN MOHLAR ABOUT SIGNING UP TO JOIN IN THE FALL.**

# FROM CORKY THACKER, SENIOR WARDEN



## Senior Warden's Report

Happy New Year! I am delighted to report that the Vestry voted at our Dec. 20 meeting to elect and call the Rev. Vincent Black to serve as the full-time rector of the Church of the Ascension, effective Jan. 1, 2019.

As previously planned, Father Black will spend one-quarter of his time from January through June at the Diocese to ensure a smooth transition of his duties to the incoming Canon for Christian Formation. The Diocese will pay Ascension one-fourth of his compensation package during that period (\$13,929.79).

This exciting news was announced during the Dec. 23rd Christmas Lessons and Carols service, and will be celebrated at our Annual Meeting on Sun., Jan. 20.

Bishop Hollingsworth will preside at a Celebration of New Ministry on Sat., Sept. 28 at Ascension. Please mark your calendars to attend these happy milestone events!

Thank you to all who have returned your pledge cards! We had a very positive Pledge Drive, with nine new pledges and an overall increase of 11% over 2018. However, we are \$14,000 short of our budgeted goal of \$125,000. We were able to call Father Vincent thanks to a special donation from one parishioner; however, the Finance Committee would strongly prefer to direct that gift toward upcoming masonry repairs needed to prevent on-going interior water damage.

More importantly, we as a parish need to meet our basic operating budget responsibilities together—not relying on “someone else” to come to our rescue. Regular giving is also an important spiritual action that transforms us personally, in addition to supporting our church.

The Finance Committee asks those who've pledged to please consider increasing the amount a bit, or perhaps just doubling the amount of one payment. Or, if you haven't pledged, please consider doing so!

If you think pledging is only for those who can afford to give large amounts, take a look at the ranges most of our pledges to date fall into:

- Up to \$999: 15 pledges, ranging from \$50 to \$960; average = \$534
- \$1,000–\$3,999: 25 pledges, ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,600; average = \$1,934
- \$4,000+: 9 pledges, ranging from \$4,000 to \$9,600; average = \$5,913

### The \$14,000 budget gap could be wiped out if:

- All 49 pledging households increased their pledge by \$286; or
- 49 new pledges of \$286 were made (we mailed 100 pledge cards, so it's possible)



If you need a pledge card or have any questions, please email me: [corky@corkythacker.com](mailto:corky@corkythacker.com).

Please join us in making this milestone year at Ascension a very happy and financially healthy one!

Sincerely,  
Corky Thacker  
Senior Warden

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

# January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5 pm- Trials for Hope Spaghetti Meal  <i>New Years Day</i>	2 1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry (Ascension Hall)	3	4	5
6 9:15 am-10 am Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service	7	8	9 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild (Ascension Hall)	10 5:30 pm - Community Meal	11	12
13 8 am- Service 9:15 am-10 am Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service	14 6 pm- Dinner Nite Out (A.J.'s Urban Grill Westlake)	15	16 1:30 pm - Shawl Ministry (Ascension Hall)	17 7 pm- Vestry	18	19
20 9:15 am-10 am Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service (Followed by Luncheon & Annual Meeting)	21  <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	22	23	24 The Youth Group 6:30pm - 8 pm	25	26
27 8 am- Service 9:15 am-10 am Adult Formation 10:30 am- Service	28 5 pm- Trials for Hope Spaghetti Meal	29	30	31		

# ADULT FORMATION - EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Beginning in September and continuing through Lent we are going to explore the Bible using *The Path*, a concise, abridged, and narrated version which uses the exact words of the Bible and fills in between those words to cut out the big chunks giving us a book that reads like a story. The whole parish will use this resource, adults and children alike. There is a children and family version which we will use in Sunday School. From these stories we will prepare for our Jesse Tree liturgy in Advent in a more natural and engaging manner.

On Sunday mornings we will read and discuss a chapter a week. In Sunday school they will discuss the same theme and characters and the chapters are numbered the same.

## Here is the schedule:

**January 6th** - Chapter 13

**January 13th** - Chapter 14

**January 20th** - Chapter 15

**January 27th** - Chapter 16



I highly encourage everyone connected to the parish to join in the reading and study. If you are unable to join us at 9:15-10am Sunday mornings please consider buying the book and reading along as we do. The cost of the book is \$20.00. You can get a book in the office. Never let money keep you from joining in! Just let me know you need a book but can't pay for it. If you join us Sunday mornings, we will read it together so there is no preparing for the class. We will have books available for those who join us Sunday morning so you don't need to buy your own. Come when you can!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Are you willing to assist as the second person for the nursery or Sunday School?**

**Contact David Campion: [dccampion@earthlink.net](mailto:dccampion@earthlink.net) or 440-668-4905**

**Click on the link below to access the ascension assistants for worship worksheet**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16XyLBnLM6yb\\_Ry-S5z1llkuKd2RZLJVoiYFH5Qk-GKM/edit#gid=1498723325](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16XyLBnLM6yb_Ry-S5z1llkuKd2RZLJVoiYFH5Qk-GKM/edit#gid=1498723325)

## JOIN US IN THE STUDY AND SHARING OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE EPISCOPALIAN.

Beginning in September, on the first Tuesday of each month we will gather at 6:30pm and end at 7:45pm in the Guild Room to read and discuss the living of our faith. We will be using the book, *Walk in Love*. Each week we will read a portion of the book together and then discuss its applications to our lives. All are welcome to participate. Books will be provided for the class. If you would like your own copy or cannot attend the class but would like to read the book it is available in the office for \$20.00. It is both comprehensive and comprehensible and I highly recommend that everyone read and reference this helpful text.

# ASCENSION NITE OUT

WE WILL MEET ON MONDAY, JANUARY 14TH AT 6 PM

## AJ'S URBAN GRILL

Located in Williamsburg Square

25939 DETROIT ROAD, WESTLAKE, PHONE: 440-617-7827

TAKE I-90 WEST AND EXIT SOUTH AT COLUMBIA ROAD, TURN RIGHT AT DETROIT ROAD AND TURN LEFT INTO WILLIAMSBURG SQUARE.  
(WILL BE ON THE LEFT ABOUT 1/4 MILE WEST OF COLUMBIA ON DETROIT)

HAND PRESSED BURGERS AND OTHER AMERICAN FARE SERVED IN A CONTEMPORARY  
SETTING WITH SPECIALS EVERY NIGHT INCLUDING SPECIALTY DRINKS.

NICE ATMOSPHERE, GOOD SERVICE AND REASONABLY PRICED.

**MONDAY IS "PIZZA NIGHT".  
THEY ARE DELICIOUS!**



LET'S CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER!!!  
CALL JOYCE AT 216-592-8362 WITH REGRETS ONLY.



## HOSPITALITY ROSTER

**January: Finance**



## AFTERNOON GUILD

THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9TH AT 12:30PM

**WE WILL ALL GATHER IN ASCENSION HALL FOR A  
SOCIAL HOUR AND OUR NEW YEARS POTLUCK LUNCH.  
PLEASE BRING A FAVORITE DISH.**

**THERE WILL BE A READING AND DISCUSSION FROM OUR LADIES  
DEVOTIONAL, "BE STILL AND LET YOUR NAIL POLISH DRY".**

**LET'S LOOK FORWARD TO OUR FIRST MEETING OF  
THE YEAR. BE SAFE, BE HEALTHY AND BE WITH GOD.**

*PLEASE RSVP IN THE OFFICE. ALL THE LADIES OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED.  
HOPE WE HAVE A GREAT TURNOUT.*



## Church of the Ascension Funeral Reception Guidelines

### Options:

- 1. Reception for 25 or fewer people:** Ascension Hall usage fee is \$100.00. This includes use of the space and table cloths, as well as coffee, tea, sweetener, creamer and assorted cookies, provided by the funeral reception committee. Set up and clean-up is the responsibility of the family.
- 2. Reception for 26 or more people:** Ascension Hall usage fee is \$100.00. This includes use of the space and table cloths. The family may bring food/drink in or have the reception catered, as best meets their needs. No alcoholic beverages are to be served. The family is responsible for set up and clean-up with the guidance of our reception hosts. Housekeeping services are available for \$75.00.

### Things to be considered when planning:

1. During the week parking may be limited on the east side of the church (right up against the church itself) for usage by Lakewood Montessori School, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
2. Parking on the west side of the church and the west side of the north lot is reserved for St. Edward High School parking, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
3. On Tuesdays (11:00–1:00) and Thursdays (9:30–noon) the lots are used by AA groups.
4. Contact Ann Beyer (216-226-6464) to arrange reception planning between the church and the family.

# THE TRIALS FOR HOPE SPAGHETTI MEAL

Coordinated by Jonathan Gray



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1ST &  
MONDAY, JANUARY 28TH**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM - MEAL SERVED AT 5:30 PM**

**HELPERS FOR THIS MEAL ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

*Helpers are needed for this meal. Set up is at 4:00, doors open at 5:00, meal is served at 5:30. Let the office know so Jonathan Gray can be notified.*

## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

### ANNIVERSARIES

**January 13:** Mary & George Staley  
**January 28:** Grace & David Buehler



### BIRTHDAYS

**January 07:** Anna Sutterisch  
**January 10:** Susan O'Donnell  
**January 12:** Melissa Schlosser  
**January 22:** Yolanda Harris  
**January 22:** Barbara Kutza  
**January 25:** Tyler Lewallen



## Helping to Feed Our Sheep? Please be a Good Shepherd.

It is a great blessing (and a necessity) to have so many volunteers bringing food for our various internal and external ministries and social activities! Thanks to you all, and please keep doing what you've been doing—while keeping a few practical considerations in mind:

- ❖ Bring all required items needed for people to eat your dish, including serving spoons/forks, plates, tableware and napkins (unless someone else on the team is providing them, or you have checked the inventory available for coffee hour). If you forget, please go and find the needed items yourself, rather than asking someone else to get them.
- ❖ Take everything home with you when you leave. Please do not make others responsible for things you brought.
- ❖ Nothing is to be left in the kitchens, refrigerators or freezers in Ascension Hall or Strom Hall unless someone else has expressly said they want to use it for another event in the next week or two. If you store anything, please read and abide by the instructions posted on the refrigerators or in the kitchens regarding labeling, dating and sealing.

Feeding our sheep is a major part of our mission at the Church of the Ascension, and a great part of our joy in being together.

But we don't want to feed mice or culture mold.

Thanks for all of your help!



## CLOTHING DRIVE



**The Choir are collecting clothing for St. Luke's Episcopal Church's clothing drive. This clothing will be made available to the needy free of charge. If you would like to clean out your closet— the "re-choir-ed" clothing box is located just to the right of the office. The choir will be responsible for delivering your donations. Cold weather is here, so think warm clothes too!!!**

***I was told by a reputable source that hooded sweatshirts are a plus!!!***