

*Spires* September 2023

# Church of the Ascension

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

## FROM REV. VINCENT BLACK



### From your priest September 2023

I started at Church of the Ascension on September 1, 2013, so this month we celebrate 10 years of being in ministry together with me as your priest. On vacation I thought a lot about these past ten years. I thought about where we have been and where we hope to go in 2025 and beyond. I also thought a lot about where we are right now.

On vacation I also read, *Paul*, a biography by biblical scholar and Anglican Bishop N.T. Wright. It is a very good book filled with insights and unlike any book I have read about Saint Paul. In it the author emphasizes the importance of zeal in Paul's life, in his response to God, his vocation, and his way of interacting with others. The Cambridge dictionary defines zeal as, "great enthusiasm or eagerness."

"Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." (Romans 12:11-13)



The above quote is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Church in Rome. It is a portion of our designated Epistle reading for the first Sunday in September this year. In it he is instructing members of the congregation how to live as followers of Jesus, as the Body of Christ, the Church. Paul encourages the Church to be zealous and he does so with great eagerness and enthusiasm. He can't help being enthusiastic because he is all in, fully vested. And he wants the Church to be too, so that they may know the joy and peace of Christ, which passes human understanding.

These words Paul writes to Rome are words that are alive and lived out at Church of the Ascension. That is the main reason I always am grateful to return, to come home, to be with you after vacation or sabbatical.

My prayer for us is that our zeal, our hope, our joy, our love, and our hospitality continue to grow as we ourselves continue to grow into the full stature of Christ our Lord.

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

# FROM SUSAN O'DONNELL, SENIOR WARDEN



## September 2023 Message from the Senior Warden

I have only to say thank you for all your support for the Car Show. The pictures below truly tell the story.

Thank you for keeping the east parking lot clean of weeds all summer long. Thank you to all those that work to maintain our beautiful grounds. Look at those pictures! I feel like a "proud parent". I hope you do too.

Thank you for the beautiful print materials and banner signage donated to promote and acknowledge donations for the car show.

Thank you for the delicious food prepared and donated.

Thank you to the set-up team that arrived at 8am Sunday.

Thank you for the time and donations not just from businesses but from the parish as well to create the most beautiful raffle baskets one can only imagine. Rita's team began work on the baskets a month before the car show. They built raffle baskets around gift cards received from businesses. The businesses provided \$800.00 dollars in support for our church! Some parish members even donated their own gift baskets. Wow! The raffle basket team met twice before the car show and what "bang" did those baskets provide for the car show. Thank you for the fifty-fifty raffle where half of the proceeds goes back to church.....more than \$250.00 back in our pocket! Thank you to the raffle team of ten people!!

Thank you to the popcorn team that pops popcorn for every event at church.....and raised over \$80.00 just in donations at the car show.

Thank you to my family who volunteered for the day. Special thanks to John, my husband, who supports all my ideas (even if they get a little wild).

Thank you to the best Team A and Team B volunteers on the planet that welcomed everyone with smiles and true joy. You guys made the show the fun experience it became by living into our Ascension Prayer. It doesn't get any better than that!

Thank you to Cole Spada, a highschooler, who spent the day helping me, saving me steps, over our huge property.

Thank you to all the collectors that came to show their cars, true treasures. Forty cars came to our show. We had an enormous turn-out from the community that came to experience the cars.

My husband said it best. These cars bring a nostalgia that we all feel. They activate memories which we all hold in our hearts. You don't have to be a car lover to enjoy and revisit those feelings.

The Welfley family saved their newly purchased show car just for this event. They wanted to start off their car show experiences with OUR car show. Thank you is all I can say.

Thank you to Boots who connected with Tim Lalley and Bob Gillingham who supported our show. Tim Laley sent two corvettes for the show and Bob Gillingham came to our show.

The first car that registered at 8:30am was a man I met at the Rocky River car show. He attended boy scouts at our church in the 1940's. He couldn't have been happier to have been a part of our day.

Thank you to those that helped with the final clean-up, always the last thing anyone wants to do after an exhilarating day.

Every donation, every phone call YOU made to a friend or a business to glean support for church impacts who we are as a church. Every positive cheerful interaction you had with others at the car show impacts who we are. This is how we strengthen ourselves by bringing awareness to others, which builds our parish, which stabilizes ourselves financially and most importantly brings the word of God to others around us.

Thank you to all of you!

Walking with you in faith, Susan O'Donnell








# FROM GREGORY SENT THE ARCHIVIST OF CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

## THE BEGINNING OF ASCENSION

Often people ask, when did The Church of The Ascension begin? The simple answer is 1875 but most people would agree the building and organizing of a parish is anything but simple.

If one were to go back in time to the 1870s, we would find that a man named Rev. Lewis Burton was known in Cleveland and throughout the area as the “Apostle of the West”. Rev. Burton of St. John’s of Ohio City, was known for his loving and compassionate visits to all in the area. He held the title of rector of St. John’s from 1847 until 1871 and was eager to meet the needs of communities from Cleveland to Rocky River and Parma. He would often take his daughter, Eliza Jennings Burton, with him in his buggy as he traveled the wilderness. According to the Lakewood Historical Society, “his parishioners were not only those who belonged to the church, but everyone with whom he came in contact”. It was during the 1850 cholera epidemic that Rev. Burton earned the trust and admiration of the Rockport community. He tirelessly helped families who were often affected. His descendants explained that he would help bury the victims of the epidemic “in the dark cemeteries, illuminated only by the feeble light of a torch”.

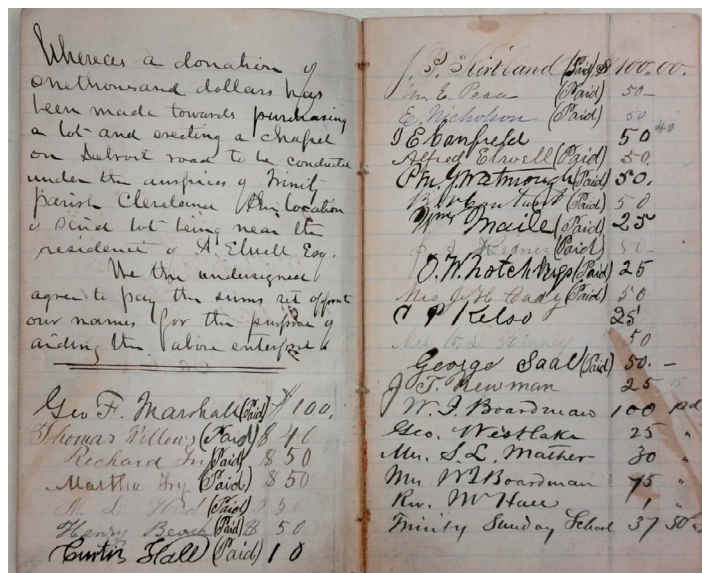
A sepia-toned portrait of Rev. Lewis Burton, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a dark suit and a white clerical collar. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a serious expression.

Rev. Burton

The image of Rev. Lewis Burton courtesy of Natalie Barker Bovey (Natalie grew up at Church of the Ascension and is the great great granddaughter of Rev. Lewis Burton)

As Rev. Burton traveled through Rockport (which later became Lakewood) where he introduced himself to and interviewed each family along the Detroit plank road. It might be hard for us to envision that Detroit had wooden planks as the road. The same road upon which James Nicholson accidentally bumped into a bear along his way home in the dark. The same road that was previously a dirt trail used for generations by native Americans. As Rev. Burton met the inhabitants, who were mostly farmers in Rockport, he discovered the need for these people to have organized religious services. After years of “cottage meetings” lead by Rev. Burton at the homes of families like the Nicholsons, the Hirds, the Frys, and the Beaches , he presented the idea to Trinity Cathedral to support the establishment of a missionary church in Rockport to meet the needs of the community.

Rev. Burton's dream of a church in Rockport became realized with the financial pledges of a list of Cleveland and Rockport citizens. A list of these people is found in our archives in a small booklet formerly owned by Rev. Burton. The same booklet had early records of baptisms, choir members, early offertory amounts and even his notes of each family he visited in Rockport. Below is a copy of the pages in this booklet with the amount pledged by each person or family.



### Rev. Burton's Booklet



## Mary Scranton Bradford

The building of the future chapel had the pledged finances needed, now the actual location needed to be secured. A wealthy and some might say eccentric woman named Mary Scranton Bradford would become the sole person to provide that land. She was the daughter of Irene and Joel Scranton, early Cleveland settlers and land owners. Mary Scranton Bradford

was known for her philanthropic work especially with the Episcopal church. The land upon which the Church of the Ascension was built was originally the farm of the Nicholson family. Mrs.

Bradford paid for this land with the promise to also cover any costs for a chapel not covered by parishioner pledges. She also insisted on having a clause that if the land was not used by a church, it would revert back to her heirs (this clause was later removed in 1932). The Image of Mary Scranton Bradford courtesy of The Galion Historical Society

In next issue of our Spires, we will look at the list of all of the pledges for the building of our original chapel in detail and see what that chapel looked like.

## OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are: 9 am – 1:30 pm, Tuesday - Thursday

## INFORMATION FOR LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP

The entire service is streamed live each Sunday at 10:30am on

The Church of the Ascension Facebook page

[facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/](https://facebook.com/pg/ascensionlakewood/videos/),

and at [www.ascension-lakewood.org/](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org/).

## THE SEATING OF THE 12TH BISHOP OF OHIO

All are invited to attend the seating of the 12th Bishop of Ohio, the Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, on Saturday, September 9 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Cathedral. A reception will follow the service. Clergy are invited to vest in choir dress and white stoles. In order to help us adequately prepare, we request that everyone [RSVP](#) for the service. The event will be livestreamed and the link will be forthcoming. Children are welcome and a “soft space” will be available during the service.

A [video](#) is now available of Bishop Jolly explaining what the seating of a bishop is.

## GARDEN & YARD CLEANUP HEDGE-TRIMMING SATURDAY

**Saturday, September 2nd at 9 am**

Hedge-Trimming beginning at 9am. As you pull into church you have probably noticed our overgrown hedges. Please come on September 2nd to help us get the hedges trimmed.

Bring your hedge trimmers and/or just yourself and join us to trim bushes in the front yard and west garden. When all of us join together we can knock this job out.

Juice, water and donuts will be provided. One hour of your time is SO appreciated.

## SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will meet on **Wednesday, September 6th & 20th** in Ascension Hall from 1 pm - 3 pm. We will continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

**Delivery Help Needed!** People wanted to help deliver shawls. This task is getting to be too much for the ladies – we need some help! Contact Mary Staley at (216) 527-4186

## AFTERNOON GUILD BEGINS OUR NEW SEASON

On the second Wednesday of each month Afternoon Guild meets at noon to set-up and eat at 12:30pm. Friends and parishioners gather in Ascension Hall for a shared meal.

### **Wednesday, September 13th at 12:30 pm**

We will have a potluck for lunch. The entree will be provided.

Please let me know what you could bring to share ASAP.

Our own Dolly Doyle, who was a paper mache artist for 41 years, from her own store to craft shows in several states, will be our presenter. She will put a Santa together for us, which will be auctioned off at the December cookie walk.

RSVP: Margie at [bach2schol@hotmail.com](mailto:bach2schol@hotmail.com), 440-331-0890 or the office - 216-521-8727

## ASCENSION NIGHT OUT

### **Wednesday, September 20th at 6pm**

I hope that you can join us for an evening of good food, fellowship and fun as we say goodbye to Summer and welcome in Autumn. Join us at the Rush Inn Bar & Grille. The Rush Inn is located at 35840 Chester Rd. Avon, located very close to the Rt. 83 exit off of I-90. You can see their menu by going to the following link: <https://www.therushinn.com/index.php/avon-menu/>.

**The Rush Inn has a covered patio so hopefully we can enjoy an evening outside.**

Please RSVP to Jim by either emailing him at [Secretary@Ascension-Lakewood.org](mailto:Secretary@Ascension-Lakewood.org) or calling the office at 216-521-8727 (leave a message if after hours) by Tuesday, September 19th.

## COLLECTING CLOTHES

Collecting Clothes for St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Box is outside the office. Please only clean and lightly worn clothing. Highly needed are seasonal men's and children's items.

## ASCENSION ALERT!

We would like to extend our Christmas Cookie Walk to include items produced by our parishioners. Think of your talent, be it woodworking, knitting, sewing or baking.

**Canning jars of all sizes are needed. If you have any to donate, please deliver to the office and label them for Gregory Sent.**

## INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHOIR

For those interested in joining the Ascension Parish Choir. New choir members are admitted twice a year, at the beginning of September and on Ash Wednesday. Anyone interested in joining the choir please contact Father Vincent who will then notify Jon and Margie that a tryout session should be scheduled.



## MONTHLY PICK-UP YOUTH CHOIR

**The KIDS will sing on Sunday, September 10th**

On the second Sunday of each month, from September through May, all children are welcome to join our monthly pick-up Youth Choir and sing a song for the 10:30 am service offertory.

Margie will prepare the kids during the first part of the service and they will then offer that song as an Offertory Anthem the same day. Please send me a note if your child is interested in joining our group! All are welcome!

**THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE!**

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Moving the contents of not one but two rooms proved to be a daunting and at times formidable undertaking. This task was made so much easier by the many hands who stayed after a worship service, and hospitality, to get the move from the choir room to the guild room done quickly and efficiently. It was really heartwarming. Truly a reassuring testament to the ardent support for our parish choir. Our new space will be safer, drier, roomier and much more comfortable than our former stage location. All those who pitched in were a blessing. God is good!

For a song,  
Margie and Jon



## DO YOU HAVE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SPIRES?

Do you have something you would like to see in an upcoming issue of the Spires?  
Please submit your items by the 18th of the month to [danielvanah16@gmail.com](mailto:danielvanah16@gmail.com)

## HOSPITALITY THANK YOU!

We want to thank all the people that have been providing hospitality after the 10:30 am service. We want to say thank you for all the time and effort it takes to prepare, serve, and clean up afterwards. The hospitalities have just been delightful. Thank you to everyone who has shared food with us. With so many new faces participating in hospitality, simple guidelines are published below. Remember we are thankful for any of the food you choose to share with us. Hospitality is a wonderful time to sit with each other and build fellowship over pastry, coffee, and other delicious delights. Rita Rozell has kindly stepped into the role of organizing hospitality. Thank you, Rita! Submitted with gratitude and thanks, Susan O'Donnell

### Hospitality Guidelines

- 1.) Paper goods, garbage supplies, serving dishes are available in the kitchen and narrow cupboard in Ascension Hall
- 2.) Clean-up
  - a. Wash dishes and put away.
  - b. Empty coffee pot and rinse out.
  - c. Combine ALL garbage into large can and close- up bag. Take to dumpster or leave in can with trash lid secured.
  - d. Take leftover food home. Or have a plan for the leftover food you leave at church.
  - e. Wipe off tables.
- 3.) The building will be locked by a church member that has a key.

**Thank you for supporting hospitality.**

## ASCENSION EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2023 FUN AND MORE FUN PLANNED FOR 2023

**September 30th** - Saturday, Pet Blessing 10am

**October 21st** - Saturday, Lakewood Suzuki Strings Fall Recital, 4:30pm

**October 29th** - Sunday, Trunk or Treat, following church

**November 23rd** - Thanksgiving Dinner, following church

**December 3rd** - Sunday AGO Organ Concert 4pm to 6pm

**December 9th** - Saturday, Cookie Walk, 9am to 3pm

**December 10th** - Sunday, Carols and Cocoa, 5pm to 7pm





# September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9 am - Yard & Garden Cleanup
3 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	4	5 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	6 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall	7 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	8	9 11 am - 1 pm - Trinity Cathedral The seating of the Bishop
10 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service Youth Pick-up Choir Children Sing	11	12 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	13 12:30pm - Afternoon Guild	14 5:30 pm - Community Meal 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	18	19 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	20 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall 6 pm - Ascension Night Out	21 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service	25 5:30 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	26 12:12 pm- Noon day prayer via conference call	27	28 7-9 pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30 10-11 am - Pet Blessing in the St Francis Garden.



## FINANCIAL OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

**USE YOUR SMART PHONE TO SCAN THE CODE BELOW**



**Or visit:** [ascension-lakewood.org](http://ascension-lakewood.org) where you can make a one time donation or set up continuing donations. Please join us in helping to keep The Church of the Ascension strong and able to meet the needs of an ever-changing world.



## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



### BIRTHDAYS

**September 06:** Alisha Conway  
**September 08:** Steve Ashby  
**September 09:** Eleanor Jones  
**September 09:** Jennifer Spada  
**September 11:** Richard Ballard  
**September 12:** Marjorie Hildebrandt  
**September 13:** Leah DeJesus  
**September 13:** Jeffry W. Knapp  
**September 13:** Gilbert Newlands  
**September 13:** Gregory Sent  
**September 14:** Hugo Hildebrandt  
**September 15:** Christina Ferraro  
**September 17:** John Mohlar  
**September 22:** Nancy Murphy

### BIRTHDAYS

**September 23:** Kent Johnson  
**September 24:** Cole Spada  
**September 26:** Mark Lewallen  
**September 27:** Codi Hildebrandt  
**September 27:** Ava-Joyce Lewallen

### ANNIVERSARIES

**September 03:** Kristen Alley & Christopher Coppock  
**September 03:** Christina Ferraro & Joseph Kidwell  
**September 11:** Michael Black & Michael Crowdes  
**September 18:** Courtney Maddocks & Raymond Semproch  
**September 26:** Rosemary & Richard Ballard