

Spires



December 2024

Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Avenue • Lakewood, OH 44107 • www.ascension-lakewood.org

REV. VINCENT BLACK



We begin December, and a new liturgical year on Sunday December 1st, the First Sunday of Advent. The word, "advent" is from the Latin word meaning, "coming" and is translated from the Greek word, "parousia." Parousia is used mostly to refer to the second or final coming of the Son of Man, Jesus, the messiah and the full manifestation of Christ's presence and kingdom. It appears 24 times in the New Testament and 4 of those times are in the 24th chapter of the gospel according to Matthew, verses 3, 27, 37, and 39. I encourage you to read chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew as part of your Advent discipline this year. Read them right now if you can and then over and over again until Christmas Day. I will be interested to hear what things "come" up for you as you do so. Please share them with me.



Although parousia/advent mostly refer to the second coming of the Son of Man in the New Testament, we focus mostly on the first coming in our current 4 week liturgical practice of Advent. We primarily use Advent as the season to prepare for Christmas, to celebrate the beginning of the fullness of time when the Word was made flesh, and was incarnate as a human being in the person of Jesus. We prepare for the embodiment of Emmanuel, God with us, in the baby born of Mary in Bethlehem. Pay attention over the next 4 weeks in our worship service and note for what it seems we are preparing.

As Anglicans, which of course we are as Episcopalians, we place a high value on the both/and rather than the either/or approach to Christian theology and practice. So let's be intentional about doing so this Advent. We can remind ourselves that we celebrate Christmas not as a remembrance of something that happened long ago in the distant past. Instead we celebrate Christmas as something that was, is, and is to come.

Emmanuel, God with us, was born of a human mother in Bethlehem. Emmanuel, God with us, is born anew today in our hearts through grace, and Emmanuel, God with us, will come again as promised.

God is not bound by human time but we are. So the Church encourages us to order and use time through the various seasons of the church year. May you use this Advent season to prepare your heart for the coming of Jesus, May you use this time to help prepare the world for the sharing the good news of the kingdom and by living into that kingdom by being Christ's hands, and feet in the world today.

ADVENT CHURCH CLEANUP

Saturday, December 7th

We are preparing the nave/church for the holiday season. We need to vacuum, mop floors, and wipe down pews. Please sign-up and help us prepare the church for the beauty of Advent and Christmas.

God loves you. No exceptions.®

JOE SGAMBELLONE, SENIOR WARDEN

The Pledge Drive has officially ended and we appreciate everyone's attention to the drive. We are a little more than 10% short on our goal with roughly 15 pledges yet to be returned. If you plan on contributing in 2025 and haven't completed a pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. With this 10% deficit, now is also an opportunity to reflect on the contribution you've already selected for 2025. If your budget allows, would you consider a small percentage increase? If the spirit leads you to do it, just fill out another pledge card and drop it in the box. We're close, and prayerful that we'll be able to close the gap. We want to move into 2025 on a strong financial footing. It promises to be an exciting year!

I hope you had a chance to visit the Holiday Market. Long time Ascension members know that this event is a reboot of a classic. I was told that the Holiday Market in previous years was very well attended and I have no trouble believing it, given the attendance at this year's market. If you've never tasted Charlotte Partlow's breads and pickles or seen Dolly Doyle's stunning paper mache works, you don't know what you're missing. The market was a great success and thank you to everyone who brought this classic back to life.

Another classic resurrected in recent years is the Cookie Walk. We'll be making cookies in our industrial kitchen on Sunday, December 8th, from 1 - 3pm. Join us to bake cookies for the walk, or feel free to join us if your kitchen is just too small and you want to make your own cookies in a group setting. It's a great way to bake with friends! If baking doesn't interest you, consider helping this great fundraiser by setting up, helping people select cookies, or cleaning-up. There are sign-up sheets in the office. The Cookie Walk will take place on Saturday, December 14th, from 9am - 2pm. Last year, cookies went fast, so get there early to get your favorites.

Continuing with events this month, we have Carols and Cocoa on Sunday, December 15th at 5p. Singing beautiful carols about the promise of Jesus and the joy of family and togetherness is a great way to open your heart to the magic of the season. And did I mention cocoa? Yum!

Our Christmas celebration takes place the Sunday before Christmas Day, on December 22nd. We start with our Lessons and Carols (with Holy Communion) at 4pm, followed by a Christmas feast at 6pm. Every year our Christmas Dinner seems to grow. It's a great time to bond with each other and with members of our church family and those who are not part of our congregation. It's always a joyous and celebratory dinner and I hope to see you there. If you're looking to celebrate on Christmas Day, we will have Holy Eucharist at 10:30am.

This is a lot of activity for a small (but mighty!) Congregation. Each one of us has a role to play in bringing these activities to life. Through them, we deepen our own understanding of how Jesus's words play out in our lives, in our interactions with each other, and the world at large. We are living into the phrase "Love God, Love Your Neighbor, Change The World".

ASCENSION DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 14th, - Cookie Walk, 9am to 2pm

Sunday, December 15th, - Carols and Cocoa, 5pm

Sunday, December 22nd, - Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 am

Sunday, December 22nd, - Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 22nd, - Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 25th, - Holy Eucharist at 10:30am.

Sunday, December 29th, - Favorite Carol Sing 10:30 am

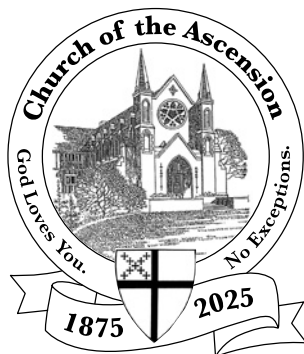
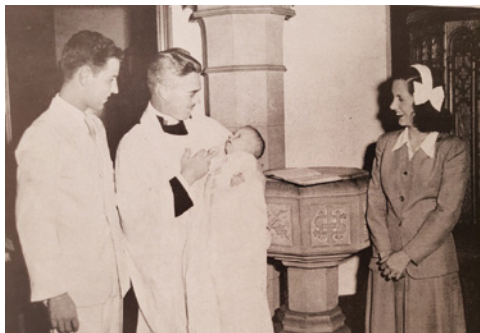
CLARKE MORTENSEN, SEMINARIAN

As you read this, I am very likely hard at work on all my final papers for this semester—one of which is a translation of and commentary on 1 Corinthians 15. This chapter is one of my favorite passages in the whole Bible, and those of you who are music lovers may easily recognize verses 51–55 from Handel’s Messiah. Most of the chapter is a detailed theological argument for the resurrection and an explanation of what the resurrection will be like, but the last few verses shift to those familiar words: “The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” It’s almost as if Paul is dangling these verses in front of composers, just begging them to set them to music!

Because of the poetic nature of verses 51–55, I decided to translate them as a poem! In this season of Advent, in which we await Christ’s arrival not only as a child born of Mary, but as the triumphant ruler, it is good to reflect on our own future resurrection, so I will share part of my translation with you.

51 Come listen, and I’ll tell a mystery:
The sleep of death shall not take over all,
But wholly changèd we shall ever be
52 In just a blink—one infinitely small,
And at the final trumpet’s mighty blast.
The trumpet’s call shall raise the dead from sleep
As ones unbreakable and meant to last,
And we ourselves shall take on change so deep.
53 For necessarily, the temporal
Must clothe itself in lasting permanence—
In immortality, also the mortal.
54 And when the temp’ral wears this countenance,
The mortal wearing immortality,
The ancient saying that was written will,
As promised, stand fulfilled and come to be:
“Of death, our victory did eat its fill.”
55 Where, O Death, is thy dominion now?
O Death, where can thy sting be? Findest thou?”

Something Olde



Something New



~Baptism~



GREGORY SENT, ARCHIVIST

All roads lead to Ascension (Part III)

This is the third of three articles about streets in Lakewood that have a connection to the families that did or do go to Church of the Ascension.

Henry and Sabrina Beach came to Lakewood in 1864 with their young daughter Emma. The Beach family was known for their prosperous fruit farm and their large home, which over time grew to be 17 rooms. Their daughter, an only-child, is forever part of Lakewood's history because she documented much about the early families of Lakewood in her diary, which is a treasured possession for all interested in the lives of our pioneer predecessors. The Beach family are remembered by Church of the Ascension for their generosity, as a family on a list of people who pledged money for the original church.



The Beach Family

Beach Avenue is a remembrance of this family, a family that supported Church of the Ascension in its beginning.



Isabelle Honam
Hotchkiss

Orville W. Hotchkiss and his wife Isabelle Honam Hotchkiss lived in a small stone house, which was built by her father John Honam, a Scottish weaver. This small house is now known in Lakewood as the Oldest Stone House and is found in Lakewood Park. O. W. Hotchkiss is found on the list for Church of the Ascension, when he and his wife pledged money towards the building of the original church. Their children and grandchildren also later had connections with Ascension.

Belle Avenue was named for Belle Honam Hotchkiss.



Charles Fries

Charles Fries (pronounced like "freeze") was the president of the Fries and Schuele Co., the first large department store on the West Side. It was started in 1868 and was on West 25th Street in Ohio City and to this day the name can be found painted on the back of the building. Charles Fries was also director of the People's Savings Bank and the president of the Prospect-Huron Realty Co. In 1914, Charles Fries passed away. His burial services are found in our parish records and were provided by Rev. William Ashton Thompson at Church of the Ascension.

The street **Fries Avenue** was named in memory of Charles Fries, who at one time lived near the intersection of Fries and Riverside Dr.

The Hird family has had many generations of connections to Church of the Ascension. From the beginning the Hird family has supported the church with the initial pledge of money for the building of the structure in 1875. Maria L. Hird is found on the list of those who donated. Her husband, Frank B. Hird, was later senior warden of the church in 1900. Their children were very connected to the parish. Their son Urbane Hird married Hattie Maile, whose family is also found among the early members of the church. Maria and her daughter Hope both were industrious as fundraisers for the new church. Their names are found often in the society pages of the newspapers of the time, describing innovative and entertaining ways they raised money with the ladies of the church. Hope was also a member of the altar guild. Descendants of the Hird family still have a connection to Church of the Ascension.



Maria L Hird

Hird Avenue is a reminder of the Hird family and the large farm they once had in the early days of Lakewood's history.

Dr. Richard Fry and his wife Martha purchased a modest farm in Lakewood in 1864. This would be their retirement estate after his retirement from the medical field and then his experience as a teacher. Dr. Fry and his wife Martha individually are found as pledging \$50 towards the building of Church of the Ascension in 1875. Because of their age, they were not members of Ascension for a long time. Dr. Richard Fry passed away before the parish had formal records. Martha Johnson Fry passed away at the age of 79 on September 10, 1884. Her burial service was provided by Rev. W. Rogers Israel.

The street **Fry Avenue**, which intersects Detroit at the location of where their home once stood, is a reminder of the loving Fry family who once was part of the parish.



Frances West Southern

The Southern and West families were united in marriage when Christopher C. Southern married Frances C. West on December 21, 1882. Together they had one child Clifton West Southern, who passed away in 1886, being one of the first burials found in the parish records of Church of the Ascension. He was buried in Riverside Cemetery on December 1, 1886 and the service was presided over by Rev. Tandy C. Rucker. Frances or "Fannie" and C.C. Southern later adopted a little boy named Harold who is found in records from the church as having perfect attendance at Sunday School for seven months. When the Southern family decided to develop land in Lakewood, they chose the name **Clifton Blvd.** to be a suitable remembrance of the child they had lost. Clifton West Blvd., which is now known as **West Clifton** was near the intersection with Detroit right near the Southern

home. Fannie West Southern was very active at Church of the Ascension and spearheaded fundraising that was needed to provide the church with a rectory in 1898. She taught Sunday school, was on the Altar Guild and held a variety of officer positions for the Ladies' Guild during her time at Ascension. In 1907, C. C. Southern passed away at the age of 67 and was buried at Riverside Cemetery. The burial service was recorded in Ascension's register and the minister who performed the burial rites was Rev. George Fredric Williams.



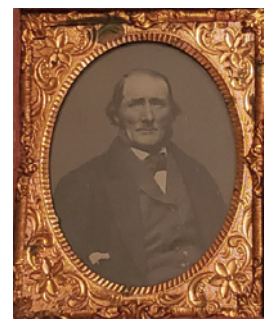
Clifton West Southern

Clifton West Southern, who was a young parishioner at Church of the Ascension will never be forgotten. His name is found in the streets of **Clifton, West Clifton** and also in the **Clifton Club, Clifton Beach** and **Clifton Park**.

Clifton West Southern's grandparents also were parishioners at Church of the Ascension. John M. West and Frances West, both immigrants from Ireland, obtained 600 acres in Rockport, Ohio around 1842. They built in 1846 a stately red brick home, which still stands today. Their farm was known for having 25 acres in front of the house that were beautified with man-made ponds and pleasing trees and flowers. This farm was known as the "West Park", which is how the Cleveland suburb and neighbor to Lakewood got its name. John M. West passed away in 1890 and in 1902 Frances Nicholson West passed away. Her burial records in the church show that her funeral service was conducted by Rev. George Frederic Williams. It was previously mentioned that their daughter Frances West Southern also went to Ascension but further research has shown that granddaughters through another daughter, Alice West Kinney, also were parishioners at Church of the Ascension.



Frances Nicholson West



John M. West

The city of **West Park** is not a street but perhaps even more significant, remembering the West family, which had a connection for many generations at Church of the Ascension.

The Oviatt family lived in what is now Bay Village. Here the Oviatt family had a large and successful lumber mill, which had been owned and operated for generations of Oviatts. The mill became especially important for making fruit baskets, which were used by the many farms on the westside of Cleveland. Almira and Dudley had six children together.



Dudley Luman Oviatt

Later in life, they left the business to the next generation and built a home on what now would be Clarence Avenue north of Detroit. Here they lived with their five younger children, all of whom had a connection to Church of the Ascension, where they were active members and are all found in church records. They were the fourth family to join the parish. Dudley was Senior Warden from 1882 until 1894. Almira passed away in 1917 and Dudley in 1923. Their records of burial, found in the church archives, show that they both were buried at Riverside Cemetery.

The Oviatt name is still found when one drives through Bay Village. The streets **West Oviatt** and **East Oviatt** are found on either side of Dover Center Road.

It should be mentioned that the Hird, West, Southern and Oviatt families will be in the cookbook in production for 2025. Pictures and biographies of these women as pioneer members of Ascension will be highlighted along with their recipes, which will be a wonderful representation of their time-period.

BIBLE STUDY

Keira will lead the Bible Study on the Book of Revelation between services November 10-December 15.
There will be no bible study on December 22nd, and December 29th.

MONTHLY PICK-UP YOUTH CHOIR

The KIDS will sing on Sunday, December 8th

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 an email at bach2schol@hotmail.com if your child is interested in joining our group! All are welcome!



THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE!

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

We create a temporary pool of funds from which to buy the plant which adorn the altars and the chancel for Christmas in memory or in honor of loved ones. Place your contributions in the envelopes provided (checks made out to the church, with "Christmas flowers" in the memo line or cash) and list those you want to remember on the form provided next to the box for the contributions. Or send your donation online and an email to secretary@ascension-lakewood.org. The amount of each gift is determined by the donor.

The deadline for making gifts to the fund and placing names on the remembrance list is December 18th.

Following the 10:30 service on Christmas Day the plants are distributed to parishioners who due to ill health or disability are unable to attend worship.



COMMUNITY MEAL

If you have ever wanted to participate in the Community Meal but can't, we need help providing TP for the clients each month. Rather than bringing in TP, we decided it would be easier to ask for a monetary donation to purchase the needed TP. Your donation can be put in an envelope and taken to the office.

Thank you in advance if you can participate.

ASCENSION NIGHT OUT

Ascension Night Out will not meet in December. We will gather on January 15, 2025. Check the January Spires, Sunday Service Bulletins, and our website for details.

We wish you a Blessed and safe Christmas Season.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Come One! Come All!

Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

Prayerfully consider participating or attending this beautiful and touching way to end your celebration of Christ's Birth.

Several of our choir members represent Church of the Ascension each year and will do so again this season. Three of our parishioners were part of the pageant and Owen Jones will be one of the Kings again this year!

This should be on your "must do" Christmas list this year.

Boar's Head Rehearsal at Trinity Cathedral: Friday, December 27th at 5:00 pm
Performances at Trinity Cathedral: Saturday, December 28th at 2:00 & 4:30

Joyfully,
 Jon and Margie

THE COOKIE WALK

Saturday, December 14th in Strom Hall from 9am - 2pm or until sold out.

In addition to a wide assortment of cookies sold by the pound, We will also have wonderful centerpieces made by our very own parishioners. There will be items from the Holiday Market also available for sale. We will accept payment with cash or credit card.

Please invite family and friends! It's a great way to try new cookies, make gift boxes, and get cookies if you don't bake..

COOKIE WALK HELP NEEDED

Please consider baking. The more cookies we have to sell the more we will raise for Church of the Ascension.

Would you like to bake in a group? Do you need more counter top to make all the fabulous cookies and your kitchen is too small? We will be baking in the Strom Hall kitchen on 12/8 after church for anyone who would like to join us.

Not a baker? We need help on the evening before and the day of the sale – setting up, helping customers choose their cookies, check out/collect payment and clean up.

Would you like to help setup? We will set up tables in Strom Hall on Friday evening (12/13 at 6pm) with table clothes and plates. The more we get done Friday the less we need to get done Saturday. We will need set up volunteers for the morning of the cookie walk – should arrive at 8 am.

Would you like to help customer get their cookies? Volunteers are needed. We will have gloves for those people giving out cookies to use. We will have bags or boxes for the customers to use. Scales will be available to check quantity and to weigh out at the end of their purchase in two locations.

Would you like to help clean up? We will need help cleaning up after the event around 2pm.

CENTERING PRAYER

We meet every Thursday at noon from 12-12:45 in Ascension Hall.
For more information ask Father Vincent or call Jim in the office.

ASCENSION YOUNGISH ADULT FELLOWSHIP

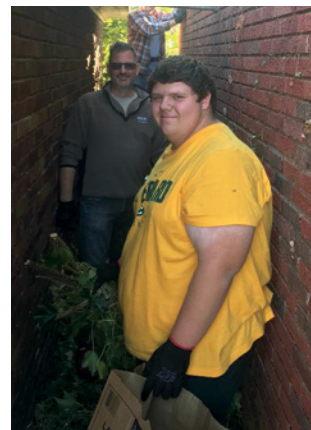
Meets in Ascension Hall Every First and Third Sunday 5pm-7pm.

Just like the group name says, this is all about fellowship. Come get together to spend time in community with your fellow parishioners aged 18+. We will play board games, watch movies, engage in conversation, and more as we grow closer together and strengthen our bonds as friends and siblings in Christ.



MANY HANDS

... beautify our grounds and gardens.



CAROLS AND COCOA

Sunday, December 15th, 5pm

We will have outdoor caroling and cocoa on the front lawn. Please invite family and friends!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 22nd, 6pm

We will have our Christmas Dinner following the 4pm Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion Service

CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 22nd, 4pm

We will have our service of Lessons and Carols with a Children's Living Nativity. Please call Stephanie at 440-724-5092 if your children would like to participate.

There will be no 8am service on December 22th.

FAVORITE CAROL SING AFTER COMMUNION

Sunday, December 29th, 10:30am

We will sing your favorite Christmas Carols after communion

OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are: 9am – 1:30pm, Tuesday - Thursday
The Church office will close at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, December 24th
and will not open again till Thursday, January 2, 2025.

THE AFTERNOON GUILD

The Afternoon Guild will gather on **December, 11th at 12:30**. We will have a luncheon TBD
and a presentation by Melissa Krecic on the Use and Understanding of crystals.

Please RSVP as soon as possible. 440-476-8450

SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will meet on **Wednesday, December 4th & 18th** 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

SACRED MOMENTS

A COLLECTION OF 150 YEARS OF WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS

In June and July of 2025, Church of the Ascension will have an exhibit of wedding and
baptismal gowns on display for our parishioners and the community to enjoy. Do you have a
gown you would be willing to have part of the exhibit?

You might be part of Church of the Ascension but you have your mother's or grandmother's gown. Could
it also be part of the exhibit? Absolutely! Share your family's history and sacred moments with us.

We are also looking for pictures for a slideshow during the exhibit. Please let us scan your
wedding or baptisms for a show that represents 150 years!

Please contact Gregory Sent at deutschmeister@hotmail.com
or at 216-570-4424.

The picture of the bride is that of Jean Howson Conrad who married Charles P.
Enston on October 22, 1936 at Church of the Ascension. The bride wore her mother's
wedding dress and although the dress is no longer in existence, the images of
this wedding and so many more will be on display along with dozens of wedding
dresses, baptismal gown and even our own bishop's ordination robes at our exhibit
in June and July here at Ascension.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 am- Service 10:30 am- st Jesse Tree Service 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship	2	3 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call 5 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	4 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall	5 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	6	7 9 am - Advent Church Cleanup
8 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Bible Study 10:30 am- Service Children Sing	9	10 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	11 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild Ascension Hall	12 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 5 pm - Community meal 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	13 6 pm - Cookie Walk Set up	14 8 am - Cookie Walk Set up 9 am - 2 pm Cookie Walk
15 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship 5pm - Carols & Cocoa	16	17 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	18 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall	19 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 10:30 am- Fourth Sunday of Advent 4 pm - Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion 6 pm - Christmas Dinner	23 5 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	24 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 10:30 am- Service <i>Christmas</i>	26 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 10:30 am- Favorite Carol Sing	30	31 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call <i>New Year's Eve</i>				

INFORMATION FOR LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP

The service is streamed live each Sunday at 10:30am on The Church of the Ascension website:

<https://ascension-lakewood.org/> and on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/4rs872e2>.

Previous services and featured choir videos on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/3c336j6n>.

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.

SCAN THE CODE BELOW



Or visit: 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.

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.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

December 23: Julia & Nicholas Masola



BIRTHDAYS

December 08: Alexander DeJesus
December 09: William Rice
December 12: Parker Knapp
December 18: Courtney Semproch
December 19: Beverly Kliber
December 23: Terrie Schade
December 30: David Campion
December 31: Perry Mason

DANIEL VANAH, EDITOR

Do you have something you would like in an upcoming issue of the Spires?

Please submit your items by the 18th of the month to danielvanah16@gmail.com