



*Spires* January 2025

# Church of the Ascension

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

## REV. VINCENT BLACK



Wow, here we are, 2025! We have been preparing for our sesquicentennial year for quite some time and as the oldest continuing congregation in Lakewood, we have a lot to celebrate. 150 years of ministry and going strong. Please plan on attending our annual meeting on Sunday January 19th to hear more about all that has been accomplished and all that is planned for the coming year. There will be one service at 10:30 am on January 19th followed by lunch and the meeting. The meeting will end no later than 2:30pm.



It is important not only look to the past as we celebrate, but to grow in the here and now in our faith and spiritual life. In the prayer for the Church of the Ascension we pray, "Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge and love of you..." We will begin the year with several opportunities to grow in our knowledge and love of God and to grow in our faith as followers of Jesus who are Episcopalians.

We will resume viewing and discussing *The Chosen*, the drama series about Jesus and his movement. We will begin season 3 episode 1 on Thursday January 16th at 6pm. Our discussions include analyzing and dissecting each episode and also referring to the scriptures to see what is actually contained in the Bible and what is the author's use of imagination and poetic license. All are welcome to join. If you can watch the first two seasons before starting the class that will be helpful to you, but if not, you can dive right in with us into season 3.

Beginning on Sunday January 26th Keira Dodd will lead a 9 week Bible class on an overview of Wisdom Literature and a closer study of Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and Sirach. The study will take place in Ascension Hall between services from 9:15-10am. Further details will be available in the weekly bulletins.

Father Vincent and Aaron Beatty will lead a book study of *Inwardly Digest* by Derek Olsen 6:30-8pm for 9 weeks on Wednesdays beginning February 5th and ending April 16th. Although we don't begin until February, I wanted to encourage you to review or read the book, *Walk in Love* and (re)acquaint yourself with *The Book of Common Prayer* during the month of January. Both are available for purchase in the office for \$20.00. Please see Jim Weiss, our parish administrator. Also available for purchase in the office for \$20.00 is *Inwardly Digest*. You can get a head start on reading as we will move through the book a chapter or two a week once the class begins. Please sign up in the office if you intend on joining the class.

I am excited to begin our celebration year with ample opportunities to go deeper in our knowledge of who we are and what we believe as we celebrate the ministry we do in the name of Jesus Christ. And as a way to help us faithfully pave the way for the next 50 years of ministry as the Church of the Ascension.

## OFFICE HOURS

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

**God loves you. No exceptions.®**

## JOE SGAMBELLONE, SENIOR WARDEN

Happy New Year! This year marks our Sesquicentennial Anniversary (150 Years!) and we have a lot of events to commemorate it. But first, we should quickly look back at the year that was.

We continued serving food for anyone who came to our community meals, Frankfurter Fridays, and parish dinners. Food is a bedrock material to Church of the Ascension and we continue to build community by opening our arms and hearts to anyone who steps in. We also continued our traditional events, including Ascension Market, the Car Show, Frankfurter Friday and the Cookie Walk, while beginning another with the Winter Market. We also welcomed another musical "voice" at our Lessons and Carols service with an Aaron Beatty trumpet accompaniment.

Not that we needed it, but Mother Nature reminded us of our fragility with a powerful storm that tore down several trees on our grounds. We were also given a glimpse of divine beauty with a total solar eclipse.

Looking forward, this anniversary year promises to be exciting. We have many events lined up. You can see a list of the events and dates at <https://www.150years.org/>. Stay tuned to Spires and the bulletin for reminders of activities as those times grow near.

We are working in conjunction with many groups, including the Lakewood Historical Society, to bring a wide variety of programming and events. We start the events with fresh look at an old favorite: a Valentine's Tea. This tea takes place February 15th. Contact Dolly Doyle for information.

In March, two speakers have agreed to offer guest lectures, and one will conclude with a supper; June marks our Sacred Moments exhibit, which will display gowns and other clothing items with links to Ascension in the undercroft. The exhibit runs through July.

We're inviting former parishioners, including those who are out of state and any others with a connection to COTA, to join us in July. In a very special weekend (July 26,27), we'll be taking a tour of the Oldest Stone House, having a History luncheon at the Nicholson House, a banquet, and a Festive Eucharist with Bishop Anne Jolly. While we celebrate the history of the Church of the Ascension, it's only natural that our celebrations include Lakewood. Our congregation makes up the oldest practicing church in the city and the history of COTA is literally written in the streets of Lakewood.

Another special event will hosting Evensong for our mother church, Trinity Cathedral. Evensong, also known as vespers, focuses on singing psalms and other biblical canticles. This event starts at 4pm. We are grateful that Trinity Cathedral is holding this special service in our church.

Our final special event is a costume party (adults only, please) on Saturday, October 25, from 6-11pm in the Hildebrandt Building. We will kick up our heels at this fundraiser, drawing in people from our congregation and beyond to relax with a Halloween Party.

All this, plus our "normal" routine of Frankfurter Fridays, markets, Car Show, holiday dinners, and Christmas activities. It truly will be a year to remember. Of course, to make these events successful, we need YOU. We need everyone to show up to help celebrate our year. There are a lot of different things to do so there is bound to be events that are appealing. For many of these events, we'll also need people to help. The only way these events can be successful is through the commitment of the congregation. As these events draw closer, please consider either joining in the fun and/or volunteering your talents. This is a once in a generation celebration year. Let's make Church of the Ascension shine!

## CLARKE MORTENSEN, SEMINARIAN

This summer, I will be taking part in Clinical Pastoral Education at Norwalk Hospital here in Connecticut. CPE, which is required as part of the ordination process, is an internship where students train in hospital chaplaincy. I will be spending one day a week in classes, and the rest doing rounds in whichever departments I'm placed.

CPE is known for being pretty intense, because you spend all day walking into rooms where you don't know if the patient even wants you to be there. It is sure to be a deeply formative experience, and I look forward to reporting more about it this summer!

## WINTER CONVOCATION

Jan 31st - Feb 1st, 2025 at Sawmill Cree



## GREGORY SENT, ARCHIVIST

### A Firm Foundation

#### In Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus states that those who hear His words AND do them are wise builders. They have built their homes on rock-solid foundations.

When we look at Church of the Ascension, we see beautiful lawns, brick and stonework, stained glass windows and the amazing artistry of carved wood that comprises our pews, pulpit and much more. Who were the people or companies that created the parts that now are (or once were) Church of the Ascension? We often forget the huge sacrifices that previous generations made to provide the amazing works of art. We forget the time that was spent saving funds or fundraising to provide what we see every week. In today's world, would any of us be able to recreate these items?

### *Builder of wooden chapel and later brick church*



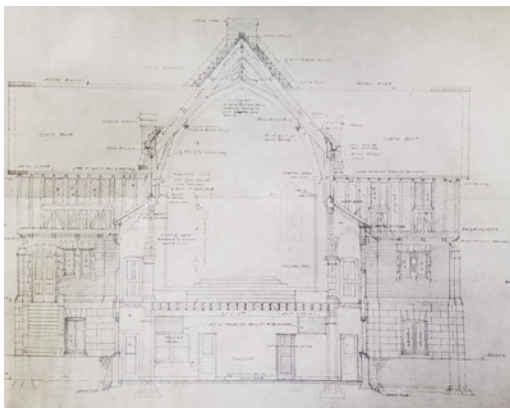
Wooden Chapel

In 1875 after years of having church meetings in the homes of various parishioners like the Nicholson family and Hird family, a list of people was comprised that would pledge money for the building of the original church. The builder of the original church was George Chrisford. He was born in Sussex, England in 1824 and came to this country in the 1870s. After the building of the wooden chapel, which would become Church of the Ascension, there are no more records of him. His son, James, came to this country in 1884 and served his country in the Spanish American War. He was a very active member of the Lakewood Community, being a member of City Council and for a time the Director of public works. James W. Chrisford was later hired to build (not design) during WWI the new church building for Church of the Ascension. He was known as an architect and builder of many large structures in Lakewood including the Masonic Temple and St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He took much interest in the building of the Masonic temple, where he was a member for many years along with Knights Templar. In 1929, James Chrisford passed away suddenly after a fall while at a construction site. He was survived by his wife Augusta and daughter, Charlotte

Chrisford. Both Augusta and Charlotte were very involved with helping to sell items made by individuals that were blind and selling them as fundraisers to help the Society for the Blind. Charlotte who was a dedicated parishioner at Church of the Ascension, passed away in 1975 and donated half of her estate to the parish.

### *Architect*

John William Creswell Corbusier was chosen by the building committee to design the new church building, which was begun in 1916. In our collections, we have the architectural drawings of



Architectural Drawings from 1916

the building. J. W. C. Corbusier was born in 1878 in Rochester, NY. After his marriage to Katherine LaMura Lyman, he studied in Paris at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts. He was especially passionate about gothic architecture. In 1905, he moved to Cleveland where he had a successful life as an architect. His designs are found in over thirty churches throughout the United States. He and his family moved to Hudson, Ohio, where they were involved with the First Congregational Church. It was in this church that Corbusier, who was a talented singer, was in charge of the choir. John William Creswell Corbusier died at the young age of 49 in 1928. He was survived by his wife and four children.



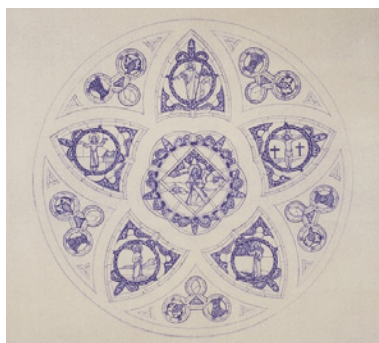
J. W. C. Corbusie

## *Stained Glass Windows in the nave of the church:*

Originally, Church of the Ascension had only amber-colored glass throughout the nave. These can be seen still in the doors going from the nave to the narthex. Reynolds, Francis and Rohnstock are responsible for the beautiful stained-glass windows that were added to the church. Throughout Europe, one can find plenty of examples of amazing gothic architecture, which was popular from the late 12th to the 16th century. In Europe and in America, gothic architecture had a gothic revival in the mid 19th century and a second gothic revival in the 20th century. It was this second revival that influenced the work of Reynolds, Francis and Rohnstock. Many of the gothic windows found in Europe from the 13th Century became inspiration for this company. They used colors of windows in ancient churches as a guide for their new creations. Their windows are found in Paris, France and throughout the country in: Boston, at Princeton University, New York City, Pittsburgh, and Lakewood, Ohio.

### *Windows in the narthex, rose window above the altar and columbarium*

Winterich is a company that was founded in 1913 by John W. Winterich, whose father was a sculptor in Germany. John Winterich showed his artistic ability in the production of stained glass, carved wood and marble. It was later taken over by his son, Otto Winterich. Otto served in WWII and married Ruth. Together they had six children. While being active



**Drawings for Rose window**

in the company, Winterich produced artforms for the Justice Center in Cleveland, Great Northern Mall, the AirForce Academy in Colorado, for the Seattle World's Fair and for Church of the Ascension in Lakewood, Ohio. In the early years of the 1970s, Winterich was approached to create panels for the front doors of Ascension. An entirely different technique and look was used because of the need for stability and the possible wear the windows might endure from use. Winterich was then asked to help design and create windows for the narthex or "porch" of the church. The Women of the Bible windows were created and dedicated in 1986. A rood beam was designed by The Winterich Company and installed in 1964. It was later removed so that the view of an added rose window over the altar in the 1980s would not be obstructed. The rood beam with the carved inscription of "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE" was moved to the back of the church where it is enjoyed today. In 1987 Winterich created the large Rose window for over the high altar. They created an artificial

window that had electric light, creating the illusion of a true window, which for structural reasons was not feasible. Finally, Winterich was hired to create the columbarium which is found in the chapel and the narthex.

### *Wood-workings, carvings, handcrafted artistry*



**Theodor Kundtz**

Theodor Kundtz was born July 1, 1852 in Metzenseifen, a town in what was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a young man he learned woodworking from his father before immigrating to America in 1873. Five years later, Theodor Kundtz created The Theodor Kundtz Company. His company was known for creating wooden bodies for early automobiles, the bodies for White Sewing machines, seating for theaters, desks and seats for schools and creating pews and altars for churches. When Church of the Ascension was building their new structure in 1916, they ordered pews and much more from the Kundtz company. The hand-carved artistry found on the chapel altar, altar rails, sedilia, bishop's chair, lectern and pulpit are wonderful examples of the quality of work that churches throughout the country now boast of having. Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, cathedral of the diocese of Ohio, also has pews from the Kundtz company.

Theodor married Maria Ballash and had ten children together. Theodor was known for being involved with not only his companies but being on the boards of several banks in the Cleveland area. His wife, Maria, was active in Lakewood Society helping with philanthropic endeavors and often hosted events at the Kundtz home. Around 1900, Theodor and his wife had a magnificent house built in Lakewood on the lake. Their land went from Lake Ave. to Lake Erie. In 1902, Theodor Kundtz was knighted by Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary. The Kundtz Castle, as it was known in Lakewood, was torn down in 1961. Some older parishioners remember seeing the Kundtz Castle from the outside or touring the inside before it was demolished.



**Kundtz Castle**

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 19th**

There will be one service at 10:30. Lunch will be served after the service.

Meeting begins after lunch, ending by 2:30 p.m.

We will elect two members to serve on the Vestry.

Joe Sgambellone and Alex DeJesus have been nominated.

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

**All Parishioners Are Expected to Attend**

## GO DEEPER IN YOUR FAITH

**Wednesday evenings 6:30-8pm, February 5th - April 16th.**

Father Vincent and Aaron Beatty will lead a book study of "*Inwardly Digest*" by Derek Olsen

6:30-8pm for 9 weeks on Wednesdays beginning February 5 and ending April 16.

We will not meet on Ash Wednesday (3/5) or when the president of historical society is presenting (3/26).

We will discuss a chapter a week except on 2/5 we will discuss the forward and chapter 1  
and on 2/12 we will discuss chapters 2 and 3.

Books are available for purchase in the office for \$20.00.

**Please sign up for the class in the office as well.**

## VIEWING AND DISCUSSING *THE CHOSEN*, DRAMA SERIES

**Thursdays, 6-8pm January - May**

We will resume viewing and discussing *The Chosen*, the drama series about Jesus and his movement.

We will begin season 3 episode 1 on Thursday January 16th at 6pm.

### January and February: Chosen Season 3

Jan 16th - 1  
Jan 23rd - 2  
Jan 30th - 3  
Feb 6th - 4 and 5  
Feb 13th - 6  
Feb 20th - 7  
Feb 27th - 8

### March, April, and May: Chosen Season 4

March 6th - 1  
March 13th - 2  
March 20th - 3  
March 27th - 4  
April 3rd - 5  
April 10th - 6  
April 24th - 7  
May 1st - 8

## MONTHLY PICK-UP YOUTH CHOIR

**The KIDS will sing on Sunday, January 12th**

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](mailto:bach2schol@hotmail.com) if your child is interested in joining our group! All are welcome!



**THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE!**

## ASCENSION NIGHT OUT

**Wednesday, January 15th at 6pm**

Join us as we ring in the New Year at Carrabbas Italian Grill, Westlake Carrabbas is located at 25054 Sperry Drive and you can check out the menu at [Menu | Carrabba's Italian Grill](#).

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).

**I hope you are able to come out for a evening of fellowship, food and fun.**

**Something Olde**



**Something New**



**~Pageant~**

## 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.

## BIBLE STUDY

**Sunday Bible study beginning January 26th.**

Beginning January 26th and ending March 23rd Keira Dodd will lead a Bible Study of the Wisdom Books.

## IT'S TEA TIME

**Saturday, February 15th at 3pm**

Come join us for some tea in celebration of our 150th Anniversary. Tickets are \$30.00 and go on sale by reservation only after the New Year. Call Rosalie Ferline at 216-401-0729

We are also looking for people to set tables, serve those tables and bake scones.

**We are planning a meeting on Sunday January 12th after church in Ascension Hall.  
I will have all the info you need to do these jobs.**

**If you need me to answer any questions please feel free to call Dolly Doyle at 216- 262 -2285**

## ASCENSION YOUNGISH ADULT FELLOWSHIP

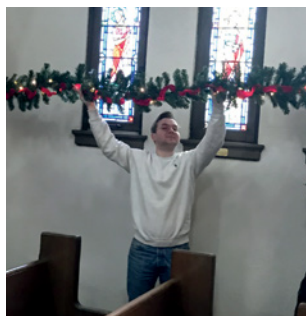
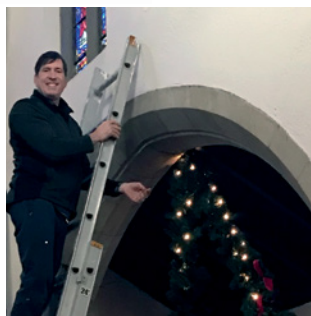
**Meets in Ascension Hall Every First and Third Sunday 5pm-7pm.**

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

..... deck the Halls.



## THE AFTERNOON GUILD

**Wednesday, January, 8th at 12:30pm**

The Afternoon Guild will gather at The Burntwood Tavern in Rocky River will be served the good food that we order and we will enjoy conversation to start 2025 off!

Then in February, save the date, February 12th, as we invite all to hear a Lakewood Police officer talk about Internet safety. With scams around the corner, she will remind us how to be safe. Lunch will be provided for (\$4.00). All Ascensionites will be welcome and we are also extending an invitation to St. Peter's, too.

**An RSVP is helpful and expected! Hope to see you at both!!!  
Please call or text Margie at 440-476-8450!**

## SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will meet on **Wednesday, January 15th** 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](mailto:deutschmeister@hotmail.com) or 216-570-4424.

Mary Ann Stubbs married John A. Brownrigg at Church of the Ascension on September 3, 1952. Her wedding dress will be part of the exhibit in 2025 during June and July to celebrate Ascension's 150 years!



# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	3	4
			<i>New Year's Day</i>			
5 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Three Kings Service 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship	6	7 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call 5 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	8 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild Ascension Hall	9 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 5 pm - Community meal 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 8 am- Service 10:30 am- Service Children Sing	13	14 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	15 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall 6 pm - Ascension Night Out Carrabbas Italian Grill, Westlake	16 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 6 pm - <i>The Chosen</i> view & discuss 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 10:30 am- Service followed by lunch and our Annual Meeting 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship	20	21 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	22	23 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 6 pm - <i>The Chosen</i> view & discuss 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Bible Study 10:30 am- Service	27 5 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	28 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	29	30 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 6 pm - <i>The Chosen</i> view & discuss 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	31	

## 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](https://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.

## 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.**



## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

### ANNIVERSARIES

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

<b>January 03:</b>	Dom Sgambellone	<b>January 12:</b>	Melissa Schlosser
<b>January 07:</b>	Anna Sutterisch	<b>January 18:</b>	Raymond Semproch
<b>January 08:</b>	Zander Gillies	<b>January 22:</b>	Yolanda Harris
<b>January 10:</b>	Nicholas Masola	<b>January 26:</b>	Kathleen Sanow
<b>January 10:</b>	Susan O'Donnell		

## 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](mailto:danielvanah16@gmail.com)