



Spires February 2025

Church of the Ascension

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

REV. VINCENT BLACK



Beloved People of God,

As Christians, we are never without hope! We need to remind ourselves and each other of that when we gather, sing, pray, worship, rehearse, meet, eat, etc! All things are possible with God. Look at this parish! (More about that in the reports which follow.)

We also need to claim joy. We have countless blessings, and we need to count them daily. And again, share them with each other.

We are not helpless. We need to stay informed through unbiased sources. We need to speak out and show up at the polls and in voicemails and inboxes. We need to focus on what matters most to us individually and get involved with our time and our money. We need to hold our elected officials accountable and ask our loved ones to do the same.

The call for unity is not easy. It's not passive and it certainly doesn't mean uniformity or blind compliance. We are to live our values out loud in word and action. We are to love as Christ loves us and respect the dignity of every human being.

Again and again, throughout the scriptures we are told to "fear not" to "be not afraid." We are not admonished to "fear not" because things aren't scary, but rather because when they are, we walk through our fears with God and each other.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..." we pray in psalm 23.

As followers of Jesus, we are not Polyannas. We are not naive. And we do not always agree with each other. We are called to use our God-given reason and to seek out and share truth. Therefore, we cannot be uninformed or ignorant. Nor can we give up and succumb to hopelessness and fear.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)*



BIBLE STUDY

9:15 am Sunday Bible Study ending March 23rd.

In between services, Keira Dodd will lead a Bible Study of three Wisdom Books: *Ecclesiastes*, *Song of Songs*, and *Psalms*. Learn how these books are different from the rest of the Bible and explore how God's wisdom applies to our lives today!

God loves you. No exceptions.®

REV. VINCENT BLACK

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024

I remember walking the halls toward the end of 2018 and pausing to gaze at the banner marking the 125th celebration of Church of the Ascension that hangs above the staircase on the way up to the church office. Roger and I had recently moved into the newly renovated rectory, overseen by Corky Thacker and Jeff Sommer, and Ascension was poised to call me as their next rector in a couple of months. I reflected on the past six years as Priest-in-Charge and all that the parish had accomplished during that time. Some of the most significant were the renewed commitment to growing in the spiritual life through EfM and other offerings, participating in the Planting for Tomorrow capital campaign, (which raised funds for the building of Bellwether Farm, our diocesan camp and retreat center, and for needed updates here including a new HVAC system and energy efficient windows) completing a second campaign to raise funds to renovate the rectory, entering into lease agreements with the Messianic congregation, Lakewood Montessori School, and St. Edward's High School, and getting to the financial position to be able to call a full time rector. Reflecting also on the numerous marriages, baptisms, confirmations, retreats, young adults who had lived in the rectory and those who Ascension had sent to seminary, and so many other things bore witness to God working mightily through this parish. With all this in mind and heart it occurred to me that setting our communal focus on 2025 and the sesquicentennial celebration that lies ahead would be the perfect impetus to drive our common life moving forward.

Over the next couple years, I began talking about the upcoming 150th anniversary to various congregants and vestry members in numerous different contexts. One of the people I repeatedly talked to about it was Gregory Sent. Why did I repeatedly talk about it with Greg in particular? For two main reasons, he is active in the Lakewood Historical Society, and he is a fifth generational member of Church of the Ascension and raising his three children here. Also, because since becoming Priest-in-Charge Greg was one of several parishioners who repeatedly expressed concerns to me about the lack of organization and missing historical record and elements that should be contained in the archives of Church of the Ascension. In turn I encouraged Greg to prayerfully consider joining the vestry, then to become our church historian and archivist, and finally to organize and chair our 2025 celebration of 150 years of ministry. I thank God for the power of prayer and for Greg's generous spirit, tireless dedication, and sacrificial love for this parish. Included in this year's annual report is a report from Greg which summarizes just some of the many things done in 2024 to prepare for 2025. I cannot stress enough how much he has done and continues to do to ensure that Church of the Ascension's history and legacy are preserved and shared with each of you, with the city of Lakewood, the Diocese of Ohio, and beyond. I ask that we all signify to him the depth of our gratitude.

I remember also planting the seeds with Bill Rice and Jan Bednarski in 2022 as they were looking to get more active in parish life. I said that Greg would need help with 2025. I didn't know exactly what that would entail and was rather vague for quite a while. However, the end result was amazing. Bill designed and printed our beautiful 2025 banner hanging over the front doors of the church, the save the date bookmarks, and the corresponding webpage to access all those events. You can see the link in the senior warden's report. Jan has spent hours helping prepare the sesquicentennial cookbook as well as getting us organized in many ways. The cookbooks will be available for purchase later this year.

I also asked Keira Dodd if she would write the last 25 years of Ascension History using our annual reports as the source for information. She graciously agreed to do so and to help with the publishing of a book containing what she wrote as well as the first 125 years written by Albert E. Fowerbaugh Sr, and the historical pieces Greg has written for the Spires.

Four years ago, Susan O'Donnel had the inspiration to start a car show. Under her leadership and hard work and the help and support of her husband John, her family, and many others the car show in 2024 was a huge success. Preparation is underway to make our fifth car show to be our best and biggest as part of our 2025 celebration. Be prepared to say yes to Susan.

Charlotte (Honey) Partlow organized a group to embroider squares that she is sewing into a quilt honoring the 150 years of ministry at Church of the Ascension. And to be sure it is carefully and prominently displayed she purchased and refinished a display case to showcase the quilt in the main hallway across from the church office.

Also, in preparation for 2025 Dan Vanah has spent hours formatting, printing, and enlarging documents, photos, and posters, for display and publication. John Mohlar has done lots of behind the scenes work as he has faithfully done for years. Jon Peterson sent out numerous invitations to all Ascension choir members, past and present, to join in singing for two very special services this year, Ascension Day and Sunday July 27th. And so many others have been working, and dreaming, and preparing in 2024 for the big year that lies ahead. I am so grateful to each and every one of you.

REV. VINCENT BLACK

In addition to planning specifically for 2025 we have had a very fruitful year. You just heard about many of those things in our senior warden's report. I want to mention a few others.

I would like to draw your attention to the hard and faithful work done by the finance committee under the leadership of the chair, Nick Ciarniello and the treasurer, Rincy Isaacs as well as the continued support from our treasurer emeritus, Suzanne Foster. We are so blessed by the dedication and commitment of the entire finance committee. They offer their time, professional expertise, and guidance to equip the vestry to make sound financial decisions.

It has been a long-term goal to hire a part time parish administrator. Since I began in 2013 we have not had a parish administrator. We have had faithful volunteers in the office who have served primarily as receptionists. But as the parish is growing so is the need for a person accountable for various administrative tasks. A job description has been written, and a letter of agreement has been signed. Jim Weiss will serve as our parish administrator beginning this year, 2025. Without the generous financial support of this parish, it would not have been able to take this monumental step. I thank all of you for making this possible and I thank Jim for accepting the position. Jim, you are a true blessing to this whole parish, but you are especially a blessing to me.

So many other things have been accomplished. Week after week we are able to worship God in the beauty of holiness thanks to the dedication of all those who prepare, lead, and clean-up after services. A special thank you to Kathleen Sanow and Greg Sent for the flowers, Jon Peterson, Marjorie Hildebrandt, and the choir for the music, Derek Lewallen and the entire altar guild and all those who serve in any liturgical capacity or spend time teaching Sunday school or adult formation classes. Without each one of you we could not be who we are.

I also need to thank our vestry. They are incredibly hard working and faithful and truly show to us what it means to take responsibility for being the Church. They serve and they lead by word and example and dedicate hours of service to make this parish run. With Joe Sgambellone as Senior Warden and Rob Theibert as Junior Warden we are in competent hands to set our sights on the next 50 years of ministry. We thank Rita Rozell as she completes her time on Vestry. You are deeply appreciated.

Many things will go unlisted or undescribed in this report. There is simply not enough time to cover everything you do and everything you are in this one report. You are a whole year of faithfully following our Lord Jesus Christ. You are a whole year of walking the talk, doing the work, serving those in need. You are truly the Body of Christ, and it continues to be a deep joy and great privilege to serve with you as your priest.

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.

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

SAFE-CHURCH TRAINING.

Everyone who works with kids, has keys to the building, or serves in a leadership position, must complete training every 3 years.

In-person training is on Sunday February 23rd, 1-4pm in Ascension Hall

On-line training also available. To register for in-person or on-line training call Jim in the office or email him at jim.weiss@ascension-lakewood.org

GREGORY SENT, ARCHIVIST

ARCHIVIST'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024

- Digitized and organized hundreds of images from our collection (still much more to be done)
- Collected images from current and former families at Ascension.
- Created Ascension's Archive Room (former Library) – much work still to be done.
- Visited (older) current and former Ascension families in hopes of labeling older images.
- Made connections with current and former families to collect baptismal gowns and wedding dresses spanning from the 1870s to today (exhibit to happen in June and July 2025)
- Created weekly articles for the bulletin to remember former parishioners “upon whose shoulders we now stand”
- When possible, created family trees for each person who was in our weekly bulletins in order to contact living descendants.
- Wrote Spires articles covering a variety of historical topics.
- Cultivated connections with the Lakewood Historical Society. In 2024, Church of the Ascension was on the Historic Home Tour, which brought hundreds of people through our church and rectory. In 2025, we will be giving original, historic images (daguerreotypes) of the Hotchkiss family from our archives for the Lakewood Historical Society. The Hotchkiss family had major connections to the church and lived in the Oldest Stone Museum- found in Lakewood Park. Until now, the historical society has not had any images of the Hotchkiss family (We gave enlarged copies in December).
- Cultivated connections with The West Park Historical Society. Shared digital images of Mr. and Mrs. John M. West, for whom West Park was named. Previously, they only had images of Mrs. West.
- Organized a field trip for parishioners to see Brownella, an amazing historically significant house, which is now a museum. Brownella was paid for by Mary Scranton Bradford, who donated land for Ascension and was for a time a parishioner. A second trip to Brownella in 2025 can be arranged.
- Multiple visits to the Diocese Archive at Trinity Cathedral. Collected information and copied images as well as shared information from our archives. “Journal of the Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Ohio” had the names of vestry members in their collections from 1882-1909. Our vestry church minutes exist only from 1909-present.
- Created Heritage Hallway, which is from the Archive Library to the chapel.
- Contacted the National Episcopal Archives in Texas to find an image of one of our early ministers. Also contacted a variety of churches nationally to find images or information about ministers from Ascension (I researched which churches they served before or after Ascension in order to hunt down more information)
- Contacted museums, churches, universities and even the National Hockey Hall of Fame (Toronto, Canada) to find images of former parishioners.
- Restored and copied document of list of soldiers from WWI, for whom the chapel was dedicated.
- Made arrangements for speakers for 2025 during year of celebration: Head Archivist of the Diocese (Rev. Brian Wilbert), John Kundtz (whose illustrious family created the pews, wooden altar, altar rails, etc.), Dr. Robert Shimp (Director of the Lakewood Historical Society), and 2 other speakers about the Hutchinson and Elliott families- both who were part of Ascension and had fascinating connections to our city's history (or in the case of the Elliott family – our nation's history)
- Created multiple collages: 1. Ministers and wooden church (1875-1916), 2. Rectors and church (1916-present), 3. Ministry of Music, 4. Women of Ascension (early years)
- Organized recipes and cookbooks from 1880s to the present, along with pictures and biographies (of pioneer Ascensionites) for the creation of a cookbook for 2025. (Work was done with Jan Bednarski and Bill Rice)
- Annual reports were used to write the church history from 2000-2025. This was written by Kiera Dodd. This will be added to the histories for the first 125 years, which were written by Albert E. Fowerbaugh Sr.

JOE SGAMBELLONE, SENIOR WARDEN

SENIOR WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Introduction

The Church of the Ascension remains a vibrant and loving community centered around the words and works of Jesus Christ. We are a community of people who wrestle with the difficulty of walking in God's grace while living with modern complexities and working toward justice while being thankful for our personal blessings.

We have been gifted a large church and grounds, and this gift has been put to good use. Our mission calls us to invite everyone to share our space, and we do that with a variety of programs, large and small. Such a valuable and large gift, however, takes resources to maintain; we work the grounds and make repairs. Many hands are in constant use to keep the buildings and grounds in working order. Our dedicated volunteers truly make this a community and Christ-centered space. Thank you to everyone who puts their time and love into the church.

Borrowing from the prayer for the Church of the Ascension, we are continuing to grow in our own knowledge and love of Christ, and in doing so, making the world a better place.

Growth & Ministry

Church of the Ascension is growing! In 2024, we averaged 78 in person attendees, up from 73 in 2023. In an age of declining participation in organized religion, this is reason to celebrate. In both years, our largest service was Easter, which was attended by 162 people last year (and 135 in 2023). We continue to offer services at 8am (Rite I) and 10:30am (Rite II) as well as other services throughout the year, such as our 4pm Lessons and Carols.

If you know anyone who is looking to attend a church, please invite them for a visit. There is nothing like a personal invitation, so reach out to see if you can spark interest. We also have any number of activities in 2025, which we'll get into soon, which could be a good introduction to the community we're building.

Our livestream is also active, with an online community that checks in and says "hi" virtually during every service. We added a new camera this year, bringing the total number of cameras to four. We changed platforms from Facebook to YouTube, and under Dave Champion's capable stewardship, the change was seamless. Bill Rice has been active on our YouTube page as well, creating snippets of selected services (like special choir presentations) and creating videos of our myriad activities. Please visit our YouTube page to see these wonderful videos and subscribe to it. Subscribing will help people find us. <https://www.youtube.com/@churchoftheascensionlakewo6245> You can also catch the service live stream on our website. Thank you to everyone involved in creating and maintaining our digital presence.

Every week, there is a roster of dedicated parishioners who are part of the service. Thank you to Altar Guild, readers, lay preachers, choir members, acolytes, ushers, altar flower arrangers, and videographers for making the services look and sound beautiful and run smoothly. Every fifth Sunday is Leadership Sunday, when church youth take the lead and fulfill most of these roles. We are blessed to be led by our children.

We bid farewell to our intern Clarke Valencia-Mortensen, who is now studying at Yale Divinity School. We miss Clarke's smiling presence and conscientious efforts around the church. We also had the pleasure of meeting her wife Dani after their wedding and wish them both well. We continue to support and pray for her as our seminarian.

We continued providing support to those who need it with our community meal programs. We have an ongoing program that provides three meals per month. The Cleveland Food Bank has repeatedly recognized our efforts by giving us grants big and small and this year was no different, awarding several grants of food for our programs. Our program relies on these grants and we are grateful for their continuing support. Along with community meals, we provide support and companionship to our congregation and our neighbors with Frankfurter Fridays as well as with holiday meals. We will continue to nourish our bodies and souls with these meals in the new year.

Our AA meetings continue to draw a crowd of people looking to change their lives for the better. We host six meetings a week. The AA groups are also diligent about taking care of Strom Hall and help set up tables and chairs for our events and we are grateful for their help.

We are increasingly relying on the young men from our neighbor, St. Ed's High School, to help with any number of activities, principally for community meals and grounds clean-up. These young men never fail to impress, with diligence, conscientiousness, and a willing spirit. It seems that whenever we ask for help, Edsmen answer the call. They truly live into their service and have given us hundreds of hours every year. We're lucky to have them as our neighbor.

Every week we are treated to the sounds of a beautiful Holtkamp organ (played wonderfully by Music Director Jon Peterson). This fine piece of machinery needed some relatively minor repair this year to prevent a small problem from becoming a much bigger issue. The organ still needs some repairs on higher pitched pipes, which we will handle as resources allow.

JOE SGAMBELLONE, SENIOR WARDEN

Community Engagement

As you probably know, the church hosts several businesses. We continue our relationship with Suzuki Strings, a children's violin class. If you'd like to hear the fruits of their labor, they will be hosting a free public recital on April 5th in the nave. We also rent the former nursery in the undercroft to our neighbor at Lakewood Garden Center and the undercroft itself holds martial arts classes. We have two more businesses starting in the near future. Say Grace Services will be using our kitchen on Sundays to prepare meals for sale. The business is owned by Devan Demery, who you might know from several hospitalities and holiday meals that she cooked, including the soup at the Annual Meeting. Check the bulletin and Spires for more information on how to find the weekly menu and prices. Also starting soon is a spirit-based yoga class hosted by Gigi Evans, who you might have met after a 10:30 service and who recently made chili for hospitality. The class is open to all fitness levels and is focused on uniting mind and body with a grounding in the Holy Spirit. Again, more information will be available in the service bullet and Spires.

We continued to draw strong crowds to our public facing events. Ascension Market and Bike Rodeo / Repair clinic added a new Craft Show this year, which was very well received. A special thanks to Ryan Sheldon from Beat Cycles for providing free repairs and inspections for a dozen bicycles. Most of the crafters were from outside our congregation, allowing us to open our doors and be seen again by a new group of people. The crafters even held a 50/50 raffle and offered the proceeds to the church. This event continues to grow in new and different directions. It's a fun day with something for everything.

Due to an unexpectedly warm spring, the Rose Show was cancelled when the roses bloomed before the show took place. A disappointment for sure, but we'll try again next year. The Car Show went on despite forecasted rains and still had a strong showing, with more than 30 cars braving the weather. We revived an old favorite with the restoration of the Holiday Market (a very successful comeback), while the annual Cookie Walk saw a steady stream of people stocking up on cookies.

These events have become part of the fabric of our church, and remain important pieces in our mission to reach out to the community and love our neighbors.

2025

This year, we celebrate our sesquicentennial (150 years!) anniversary. As we begin 2025, we can look forward to all the regular events listed above, plus many more to celebrate our anniversary. Please pick up the 2025 Events calendar or visit <https://www.150years.org/> to view dates and times of these events. Stay tuned to Spires and the bulletin for reminders of activities as those times grow near.

We start the events with a Valentine's Tea, another event dear to COTA's past and now resurrected. In March, two speakers have agreed to offer guest lectures. Dr. Robert Shimp will speak on March 26th at 6:30pm, and includes a supper and Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert will speak on March 30 at noon. Both events take place in Ascension Hall.

In May, we'll celebrate Ascension Day with a Eucharist and dinner as normal, but this year we'll welcome home many of the young adults who lived in the rectory and/or went on to be ordained. We will also welcome former choir members to join us for a spirited and joyful celebration. This is one of two dates we're inviting former choirs members to join us in song.

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. If anyone has a gown or item linked to church or the people of COTA, please contact Greg Sent.

We're inviting former parishioners, including those who are out of state and any others with a connection to our church, 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. This celebration also marks the second invitation for former choir members to join us.

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. The work done by Greg Sent in uncovering the history of the church, including its ties the city, will be bound in an attractive book available for purchase during our special year. A cook book featuring recipes from current members as well as historical recipes from members who have passed will also be available in the coming months.

Another special event will hosting Evensong for our mother church, Trinity Cathedral. Church of the Ascension began as a mission of Trinity. 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.

JOE SGAMBELLONE, SENIOR WARDEN

Our final special event is a costume party (adults only, please) on Saturday, October 25, from 6-11p 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.

We've spent a lot of time investigating our elevator, which is nearing its end of life. Our elevator is central to our church, allowing access to both the church nave for worship, as well as Strom Hall for community meals, AA meetings, parish dinners, markets, etc. Stay tuned for updates once we hone in on a solution.

Other News

The year, however good, wasn't without some trouble. Professional check forgers applied their trade against our checking account, but were thwarted by our Treasurer, Rincy Isaacs, whose careful and timely review of our checks and accounts uncovered the attempt. We have since moved to an automated system on the advice of our bank. The new system isn't as convenient but offers much greater security. It also costs a little more, but the level of security is much higher and the cost increase is worth protecting our accounts.

We had another extreme weather event when a micro-burst storm or mini-tornado downed or damaged several trees and damaged the fence on the north lot. One of the trees blocked the driveway in the north lot. Due to a lackluster response from the tree company we normally used, we found a more responsive arborist who will be tending to our larger tree needs. Unfortunately, it's safe to assume we can expect more extreme weather events to affect us in the future and pray they aren't too damaging. As we touch on nature, it feels important to remember how we were treated to a total eclipse of the sun, something anyone who experienced it will not soon forget.

This year, our pledged amounts didn't reach the amount we have budgeted 2025. Our shortfall, about \$8,000, will need to be made up by either reducing or cutting some expenses or drawing on our reserve fund.

Vestry meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7pm and are open to the congregation. Fr. Vincent Black, Robert Theibert (Junior Warden), and I (Senior Warden) meet once a month on the Wednesday before Vestry meets. All members of Ascension are welcome to attend these meetings. This year, we were fortunate to have Aaron Beatty take over as Clerk of Vestry.

Conclusion

For a church our size, we put on a lot of activities every year. In 2025, we've added even more. While the church has made strides in terms of congregation size and completing deferred maintenance, we have ongoing demands that we need to address. But things are definitely looking up at CotA!

It's the people of Ascension that makes this church what it is. If not for you, we would not be able to build community while we grow in love. Thank you, Church of the Ascension, for being a community that walks to the best of our ability in path of Jesus. It's an important year for the church and I look forward to celebrating this special year with all of you.

CLARKE MORTENSEN, SEMINARIAN

In my Introduction to Theology class last semester, one of the major points that the professor made sure we took away is that "God is not a thing like other things." Of all the diverse theologians we read, this was the one common thread. There's not some kind of scale with us near the bottom and God at the top: God isn't even on the scale.

That can make God seem distant or alien, but I think it's comforting to know that we have a God who is that powerful—and who STILL wants a relationship with us! We can talk to the God who is not a thing like other things, and that God hears us!

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.

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.

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

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

ASCENSION NIGHT OUT

**We will not be getting together in February.
We hope you can join us in March.**

BREATHE YOGA MINISTRY RESTORATIVE YOGA WITH MEDITATION

A serene practice designed to foster connection with your mind, body, and the Holy Spirit. This restorative yoga class gently guides participants through calming postures and meditative moments, allowing for deep relaxation and spiritual renewal. It offers a sacred space to release tension, quiet the mind, and experience the divine presence within. Ideal for those seeking peace, healing, and a deeper spiritual connection. Classes start in the near future.

Stayed tuned to the service bulletin and future Spires.

PLEASE BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

DO NOT PAY FOR CHURCH EVENTS OR SIGN UP FOR THEM VIA EMAIL.

Please be careful and check that all events for 2025 are listed on the save the date bookmarks or on the webpage <http://www.150years.org>

If you are not sure call Jim in the office 216-521-8727.

MONTHLY PICK-UP YOUTH CHOIR

The KIDS will sing on Sunday, February 9th

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!

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.

Something Olde



~The Magi~

Something New



THE AFTERNOON GUILD

Wednesday, February, 12th at 12:30pm

The Afternoon Guild is extending an invitation for church members to attend our WEDNESDAY, February 12th meeting. At this 12:30 pm meeting we will have lunch (\$4.00 per person,) and at 1:15 pm a talk by the Lakewood Police on INTERNET SAFETY Strategies. A reservation is necessary by February 5th.

**An RSVP is helpful and expected! Hope to see you at both!!!
Please email or text Margie at bach2schol@hotmail.com or 440-476-8450!**

SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawl ministry will meet on **Wednesday, February 5th and 19th** 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 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!

The Canterbury Tea

will be held on
Saturday

**February 15,
2025**

3:00 pm

Tickets

\$30.00

by reservation only.

Call Rosalie

216-401-0729



Church of the Ascension

13216 Detroit Ave

Lakewood, Ohio

Get your reservation in soon, they close February 7th. Hope you can join us.

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

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Bible Study 10:30 am- Service 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship	3	4 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call 5 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	5 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall 6:30-8 pm - <i>Inwardly Digest</i> by Derek Olsen	6 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 6 pm - <i>The Chosen</i> view & discuss 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Bible Study 10:30 am- Service Children Sing	10	11 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	12 12:30 pm - Afternoon Guild Ascension Hal 6:30-8 pm - <i>Inwardly Digest</i> by Derek Olsen	13 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 5 pm - Community meal 6 pm - <i>The Chosen</i> view & discuss 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 3 pm - The Canterbury Tea in Strom Hall
16 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Bible Study 10:30 am- Service 5-7pm - Youngish Adult Fellowship	17 <i>Presidents Day</i>	18 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	19 1-3 pm - Shawl Ministry in Ascension Hall 6:30-8 pm - <i>Inwardly Digest</i> by Derek Olsen	20 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 6 pm - <i>The Chosen</i> view & discuss 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 8 am- Service 9:15 am- Bible Study 10:30 am- Service 1-4 pm - Safe-church Training in Ascension Hall	24 5 pm - Trials for Hope Meal	25 12:12 pm - Noon day prayer via conference call	26 6:30-8 pm - <i>Inwardly Digest</i> by Derek Olsen	27 12 - 12:45 pm Centering Prayer 6 pm - <i>The Chosen</i> view & discuss 7-9 pm - Choir Rehearsal	28	

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.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS



BIRTHDAYS

February 06: Mara Ashby

February 08: Bruno Sgambellone

February 15: Alexandra Mills

February 16: Martha Hartman

February 19: Bret Schlosser

February 20: Rincy Isaacs

February 20: Robert Theibert

February 22: William Spada

February 23: Andrew Joseph (AJ) Kidwell

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