

# Ascension

March 2019



Ascension's Friday Lenten Series will take a Workshop format, focusing on practices that deepen our lives of prayer. The evenings begin at 7pm with Evening Prayer in the Parish Hall, followed by two Workshops to choose from, concluding at 8:30pm. Childcare and children's programming will run concurrently. On the final evening, all are invited to a Fish Fry with a Workshop to follow.

## Friday, March 15

Workshop 1: **Praying with Scripture**  
(Jonathan Millard and Ann Paton)

Workshop 2: **Journaling Prayer**  
(Petra Tomcik and Chris Massa)

## Friday, March 22

Workshop 1: **Praying Creatively**  
(Andrea Millard and Mark Stevenson)

Workshop 2: **Contemplative Prayer**  
(Rachel Kornfield Becker and  
Bp. Grant LeMarquand)

## Friday, March 29

Workshop 1: **Praying with Silence**  
(Tish Warren and Brian Janaszek)

Workshop 2: **Praying with the  
Ignatian Exercises**  
(Hannah Halfhill and Nate Twichell)

## Friday, April 5

Workshop 1: **Praying with Icons**  
(Jonathan Warren and Becca Chapman)

Workshop 2: **Praying with your body**  
(Joanne and Doug Spence)

## Fish Fry in the Parish Hall

Friday, April 12 (6:30 – 8:30pm)

Workshop: **Singing our Prayers**  
(Ascension Songwriter's Collaborative)

There will be a \$5/adult and \$3/child charge for the fish fry with a \$20 family cap.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

March 6 Noon and 7pm

Please consider keeping 'a holy Lent' and join us on Ash Wednesday. We will have services at Noon and 7pm. Childcare will be provided at both services.

**Ash Wednesday** derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches and placing them on the heads of participants with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

According to the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. Lent originated as a mirroring of this, fasting 40 days as preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting, is the first day of Lent. It occurs 46 days before Easter (40 fasting days and 6 Sundays which are non-fasting days).

# Annual Meeting

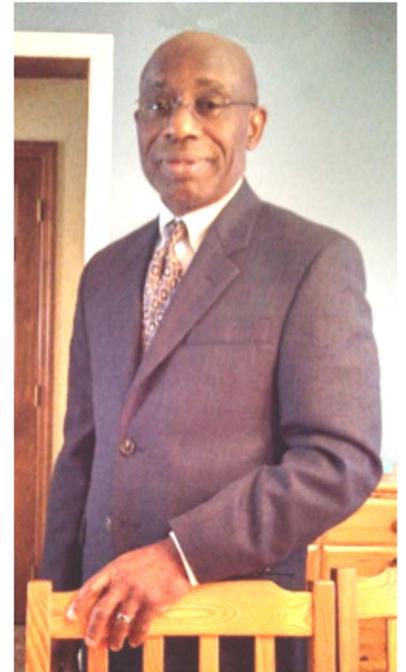
**Sunday, March 3 after the 11am service; lunch and childcare provided**

*The Annual Meeting is a fantastic way to engage with Ascension, to learn more about challenges and opportunities, and to hear directly from the Sr. Warden and Rector about our corporate vision. Please plan on coming. Brief bios of this year's vestry candidates follow:*

## **Babatunde Fapohunda**

Babatunde (Baba) Fapohunda is the fourth child of the late Reverend Festus and Mrs. Dorcas Fapohunda. An electrical engineer, Baba came to the United States for graduate studies in engineering in 1980. Baba married the lovely Abimbola (Abi) in London in 1984 and the couple are blessed with two beautiful children—Ayobami and Omowunmi Fapohunda. Baba and Abi became members of the Church of Ascension in 2014. Prior to that, they were members of St. Martin's Church in Monroeville, PA, where Baba served as usher, treasurer, member of the Vestry, including two terms on the Pittsburgh Diocese Board of Trustees. Since becoming a member of Ascension, Baba has taught PreK, assisted in teaching ESL, and currently serves as Usher at the 11am service.

*"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"- Joshua 24:15*



## **Mandy Jabbour**

Mandy Jabbour spent the majority of her childhood in Minneapolis and met her husband, Noel, her freshman year at Wheaton College. A year after graduating, they moved to Pittsburgh as a young married couple and attended Ascension from 2003-2007. Fun fact: the first time they visited Ascension was Father Doug's very last Sunday! Noel's job took them elsewhere for six years and when they returned to Pittsburgh in August 2013, they were thrilled to come home to Ascension.

Mandy holds a BA in Psychology from Wheaton College and an MSW from Pitt. She spends most of her time making a home with Noel and their two sons, Micah and Nathan. Her volunteer interests include *Side By Side* (a national outreach to women in healthcare marriages) and *Moms In Prayer* (a worldwide community of

moms praying for their kids and their schools). Mandy also works part-time as a licensed social worker at *Anchorpoint Counseling Ministry* facilitating therapeutic support groups for single moms and healing care groups for individuals with deep emotional pain.

At Ascension, Noel and Mandy helped start and lead a community group in the North Hills aimed to intentionally incorporate children. They know first-hand the vital importance of community group participation, having been carried through difficult seasons by the prayerful and practical support of their community group and the church at large. They are currently taking a break to participate in a one-year St Barnabas group. Mandy also serves on the missions committee. In her free time, Mandy enjoys a good bar of dark chocolate, running outside, hosting family & friends in their home, cheering for the West Virginia Mountaineers, getting lost in a book, and occasionally beating her boys in a family game of soccer.



## Doug Spence



Ascension since 2004. Their three awesome children, Merryn (23), Jacob (21), and Lucca (17), round out the family as loves of Doug's life, as well as frequent victims of his Dad Jokes.

After 28-ish years of practicing law, Doug is now a recovering attorney and works as a staff member for the Office of the Provost at Pitt. Throughout his career, he has served as a board member for a number of non-profit organizations, including the Garfield Jubilee Association, the Oakland Girls Choir (pre-name change), and Yoga in Schools, and was a founding volunteer for Hosanna House, Inc. At Ascension, he serves on the Security Team and as a cheerleader for the Youth Group.

# A Marriage Enrichment Class



Marriage is hard and we need each other. This course, which will run for 6 weeks, is an opportunity to press into the challenges of our marriages together, and grow in learning how to love well.

Designed by Milan and Kay Yerkovich, *How We Love* looks at marital patterns through the lens of a theory that suggests that our relational styles are formed (for good or for ill) through our early life experiences. This course looks at how these styles impact our marriages, and offers insights and practices to help shift unhealthy patterns and grow in intimacy.

As the Yerkovich's put it: "For 14 years, our marriage was stuck in the same old frustrating patterns. When we looked at our first lessons in love from our families, we immediately recognized the unseen forces governing how we loved. For the first time, we understood the source of our frustrations and why we were stuck. Deep change was possible at last. The insight we offer comes from making many mistakes, and years of praying for wisdom. Our prayer is that soon you will discover what we have—the relief that comes from resolution, deep understanding and comfort."

-Milan and Kay Yerkovich

**Course facilitators:** Jim and Mari Stout

### Course dates:

7 Friday evenings  
from April 26  
through June 7

### Time:

6:30 to 9pm

### Childcare:

Childcare will be provided for Infants through 5<sup>th</sup> grade; we hope

to organize supervised gatherings for youth as well



### Questions?

Feel free to contact

Mari: [macstout@gmail.com](mailto:macstout@gmail.com) or Jim: [jmstouts@gmail.com](mailto:jmstouts@gmail.com)

### Registration:

Please sign up by March 31<sup>st</sup> at [www.ascensionpittsburgh.org](http://www.ascensionpittsburgh.org).

### Course Fee:

\$100 per couple to cover the cost of the course materials (checks payable to Church of the Ascension with 'How we Love' on the memo line)

Due to the nature of the material, this course will be limited to 20 couples, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

# Financial Peace University



## Do you have any of these concerns about your finances?

- The balances on the credit cards are growing
- Student loan debt feels crippling
- Every time you start to get some traction with the finances, an emergency comes along and knocks you down again.
- You know you should be saving for your kids' education, but you don't know how to get started
- You want to plan for the future, but you never seem to have any money left when all the bills are paid
- You feel that you aren't free to do the things that God has planned for you because you are weighed down by money problems

Ascension will offer Financial Peace University (FPU) beginning this May. FPU is a course that provides tremendous help and guidance with household finances. Those who have taken the course have come to understand budgeting, saving, insurance, mortgages, retirement, college planning, investing, giving and other practical financial matters with excellent results. Some members of our own congregation have dug out of significant and debilitating debt by practicing the principles taught in the course.

### Course facilitators:

Kelsey and Aaron Sams



### Course dates:

7 Friday evenings from April 26 through June 7.

### Time:

6:30 to 9pm

### Childcare:

Childcare will be provided for Infants through 5<sup>th</sup> grade; we hope to have supervised gatherings for the youth also

### Questions?

Feel free to contact Aaron at [chemicalsams@gmail.com](mailto:chemicalsams@gmail.com) or Kelsey at [kelseysams@gmail.com](mailto:kelseysams@gmail.com).

**Registration:** Please sign up by March 31st at [www.ascensionpittsburgh.org](http://www.ascensionpittsburgh.org).

**Course Fee:** \$100 to cover the cost of the course kit (one kit needed per household). Checks are payable to Church of the Ascension with 'FPU' on the memo line.

# Leadership Transition: Special Needs Ministry

We are thankful that Keira Fuener has agreed to take up the position of Director of Special Needs Ministry at Ascension. The provision of leadership after the death of a most beloved member of our congregation, Christina Carlucci, is something for which we are tremendously grateful. Keira brings with her heaps of talent as an organized and cheerful presence, loads of experience teaching hands-on lessons with kids, and comes with a deep love for God and those who are vulnerable. She is looking forward to working alongside our special needs friends and their families. Keira and her family regularly attend the 9am service. Welcome Keira!

We also want to take this opportunity to say ‘thank you’ to Dana Kaasik who partnered with Christina Carlucci in leadership of our Special Needs Ministry, and who has bridged the program and ministered to participants during the past few months of sadness. Dana will continue to participate in the program and is delighted to pass along the mantle of leadership to Keira.



Keira Fuener



Dana Kaasik



## Special Needs Valentine's Day Party!

Our special needs friends put on their dancing shoes for a Valentines Day Party in February. After doing the twist to some fun tunes provided by a couple of disc jockeys who donated their time, they enjoyed learning about the love of God, *"We love because He first loved us."* 1 John 4:19.

Spending time alongside our special needs families is a delight. We have a strong team but would like a couple more teachers and a few more ‘buddies’ to attend class on Sundays at 9am (on a rotation) or the monthly Saturday Club. If you would like to check out this opportunity, please email Keira Fuener at [keirafuener@gmail.com](mailto:keirafuener@gmail.com).



# Thailand Partnership: SHALEM HOUSE



*Ascension hopes to grow a deep partnership with our brothers and sisters from the Anglican Church in Thailand, and with that in mind, over the course of the next few months introductions will be made to many of the people and ministries that our team had the opportunity to visit this past January. Members of Ascension's team that visited Thailand in January include Marilyn Chislaghi, Denise Cox, Andrea and Jonathan Millard, and Joel Scandrett.*

Shalem House, a narrow 4-story cement building situated in the heart of Bangkok, began in 1998 as a shelter for mothers of children with illnesses. Here's just one story of thousands...



On a rainy night, a woman slowly dragged her weary legs into a convenience store with a little toddler trailing behind her. The woman pleaded for hot water to prepare milk for her daughter but was chased out of the store. This episode did not escape the notice of Miss Jarin, a social worker from Shalem House who was providentially present in the store at the same time. She spoke to the woman and found out that her elder daughter was admitted into Bangkok Hospital with heart problems. The woman and her younger daughter were staying overnight in a public park as she could not afford the cost of accommodation in Bangkok city. Jarin took the mother and daughter to Shalem House.



Twenty years after its founding, and after expansion to an identical building next door, Shalem House can accommodate up to 60 people at one time. Those who stay as guests are now male and female, young and old, patients, family of patients. The accommodations are modest, but all those who stay are offered a simple roll out mattress and sheet, a safe environment, a shared kitchen, and most importantly, a second home when weeks turn into months of hospital treatment. The guiding concept of Shalem House is 'family'.

Ascension's team was privileged to meet Miss Jarin, who remains the sole caretaker and manager of Shalem House. She advises all who stay of house routines and responsibilities, makes sure the facility has basic upkeep, and manages conflicts and relational problems that arise when people from various backgrounds live in close quarters together.

Shalem House is a ministry of Christ Church Bangkok (which hosts both English and Thai congregations) and also receives funding from Church of Our Saviour in Singapore. Church members regularly provide dinners, organize group games or activities for occupants, and offer prayer ministry which is widely received by lodgers, most of whom come from Buddhist backgrounds. The purpose of Shalem House is to hold out hope in God for people whose lives have been full of hardship. As a result, all have experienced deep love and compassion and over the years many have also come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Ascension's team visited Shalem House on a late afternoon in January. We prayed for all patients and their families, several of whom suffered from brain tumors and other forms of cancer, and even offered prayer for a young man who was recovering from a heart transplant.

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**. The Ascension Thailand team will bring a full report back to the congregation at an **11 & Lunch** gathering and will lay out ways forward for our partnership with the good work of the

# Occasional Prayers: Praying with the Church

“When I am praying Prayer Book prayers I am not alone; I am joining my voice with the voice of Christians – past, present and future – who also pray these prayers for the church, for society, for families, for personal lives and more.”

Have you ever wanted to pray for someone, but just didn't have words to express your heart's desires? I know I have.

One of the things that I value about being a Christian in the Anglican tradition is that we have a Book of Common Prayer that provides well crafted, theologically sound, and historically patterned prayers that address a wide range of life situations. When I am praying Prayer Book prayers I am not alone; I am joining my voice with the voice of Christians – past, present and future – who also pray these prayers for the church, for society, for families, for personal lives and more.

This June the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) will release a hard copy of the 2019 ACNA Book of Common Prayer – something that's been in process since the founding of the Province in 2009. This is an exciting development in the history of our church! But we don't have to wait until June to begin praying “Occasional Prayers” since they are available online now. You can check them out by going to the ACNA's website, and searching under the “Text for Common Prayer” tab ([http://anglicanchurch.net/?/main/texts\\_for\\_common\\_prayer](http://anglicanchurch.net/?/main/texts_for_common_prayer)). Once there, look for the section titled “Occasional Prayers.”

## Here are a few ways I have prayed using Occasional Prayers taken from the Prayer Book:

When I am writing a birthday card to a friend or family member, I often handwrite on the inside of the card a prayer “For a Birthday” (prayer number 66 under the *Family and Personal Life* section). I write the person's name where indicated by the “N.” and change the pronoun to fit the person.

### 66. For a Birthday

*O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as he begins another year. Grant that he may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his trust in your goodness all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Or if I am praying for someone who has lost a job I turn to pray prayer number 46 in the *Society* section and say the prayer “For the Unemployed”:

### 46. For the Unemployed

*Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive a just reward for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

I often pray for those in our communities, workplaces, schools and families who are caught in the fierce grip of addiction. Prayer 62, “For Those in Bondage to Addiction,” found under the *Intercessions for Those in Need* section is particularly compassionate, supportive and hopeful:

### 62. For Those in Bondage to Addiction

*O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon those who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who minister to them, give patient understanding and persevering love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Beginning in Lent we will be introducing Occasional Prayers each week by inserting one of them into Sunday's bulletin (near the back on the same page as the information about the Altar Flowers). My hope is that together we will find these to be a rich source of encouragement. Perhaps your family or community group will find ways to incorporate them into your times of prayer together.

May the Lord accept our prayers as we join our voices, saying:

### 97. For the Acceptance of Prayer

*O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Rev. Dr. Andrea M. Millard  
Director of Prayer Ministries



# Missions FOCUS

**Jewel Anita Hendrix** is a long-time missionary of Ascension, who started in Central America where she worked with an orphanage and then with *Food for the Hungry* for 18 years. Her ministry now is out of Tauranga, NZ, and aimed at the restoration of ALL to God's original intentions for the world. She works with two partners: *Reconciled World* and *Youth With a Mission (YWAM)*.

For *Reconciled World*, Jewel Anita's role is to pray, create tools for others to pray more effectively, and to raise up others to pray. She is part of several intercessory groups in Tauranga, and runs prayer times called "Justice Prayer," where people take time to talk about justice issues in depth (trafficking, refugees, abortion, genocide, etc.), and then pray for those issues, as well as doing prayer walks. Her *Reconciled World* work fits nicely with her role with a program called *YWAM Furnace*, in which Jewel Anita works to raise up students and staff in prayer and teaching. She teaches courses in Tauranga and internationally (last year, in Fiji, Cambodia, Uganda, Solomon Islands, and Tonga).

In July, Jewel Anita took up leadership of *Justice Reach*, another YWAM ministry, and has been integrating her work *YWAM Furnace* work with the work of *YWAM Justice Reach* to create partnerships with local ministries such as the following:

**Ahi Toi Toi Manawa** (a support network for kids in foster care, camps, activities, etc.),

**Street Help** (a ministry to those in the bar/brothel scene)

**Koha Shop** (like a clothing closet for the needy)

**Good Neighbor** (practical help for random needs)

**Pregnancy Choice** (crisis pregnancy center)

Jewel Anita works with these partners building relationships and encouraging the Church to become more kingdom minded, creating spaces for YWAM staff and students to serve and support those they are working with, and encouraging people in the local churches to become involved with each of these ministries. Justice Reach also offers courses (3-6 month) for young adults (18-25yrs.) and trainings for churches. Jewel Anita oversees a full staff team in order to accomplish all this.

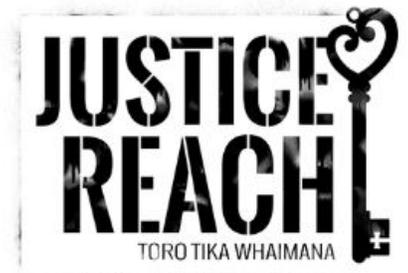
## Jewel Anita asks for prayer for:

1. For wisdom and boldness from God to do or say the right thing in the situations she is faced with.
2. For long term staff for Justice Reach
3. For her prayer time - before leading Justice Reach, Jewel Anita took 4 hours a day for prayer, what she felt God had told her to do. She's finding it hard to do that in her new role with Justice Reach. Pray that she could find and protect this sacred time with God.
4. For health, sleep, refreshment, logistics of travel.
5. For full fruit to come from Jewel Anita's ministry.
6. For perseverance - especially in prayer. Often as an intercessor, you don't see the direct impact of your work.

Jewel Anita Hendrix



A missional community in New Zealand, centered around prayer, worship, and love for God's presence. We train and equip disciples to be sent into the nations. We offer several Discipleship Training Schools (DTS) as well as several different secondary YWAM schools for further training. The Furnace Prayer Room offers a place where individuals can unite through music-led prayer meetings.



Our focus as a ministry is the vulnerable in our neighborhoods: The poor, the neglected, the persecuted, the exploited and the abused. We agree with Edmund Burke that "All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." We are called to do our bit, however small. We can't stay silent, we must add our voice to the many others around the world speaking into situations of injustice, saying "we will not let evil triumph but will fight and speak up for good to triumph."

We believe we all can make a difference whoever we are with and wherever we are.

# Owls Seniors Ministry

Join Ascension's Seniors on Thursday, March 14 from 12:30 – 2:30pm. Enjoy a delicious lunch as well as fun and fellowship. Ascension's Junior Warden, Susan Bailey, will give a special presentation on the plants of the Bible.

From Genesis to Revelation plants play an important role in the biblical narrative. Beginning with creation, God filled our world with plants for pleasure, for tending and for food to eat. We still need seeds and plants and harvests to survive. We all relate to trees and flowers and grapes and wheat.

Botanists have identified more than 80 plants mentioned in the Bible text. There is barely a book in Scripture that doesn't have some mention of plants. Some plants, like the grape vine, are referenced more than 300 times while others like the onion or dill are only named once.

No matter how ancient the text, plants are universal and comprehensible; they illustrate the commonality between biblical times and ours. Enjoy a pictorial journey through the Holy Land.

There is a \$10 charge for lunch, but first-time friends are free! RSVPs are necessary to Rev. Ann Tefft: 412-526-1107 or [tefft.ann@gmail.com](mailto:tefft.ann@gmail.com). Parking restrictions will be lifted for people to park on the streets, and the Neville Street lot will be reserved for seniors. We will meet in the Hunt Rooms which are reached through the Neville Street entrance to the church.

Susan Bailey



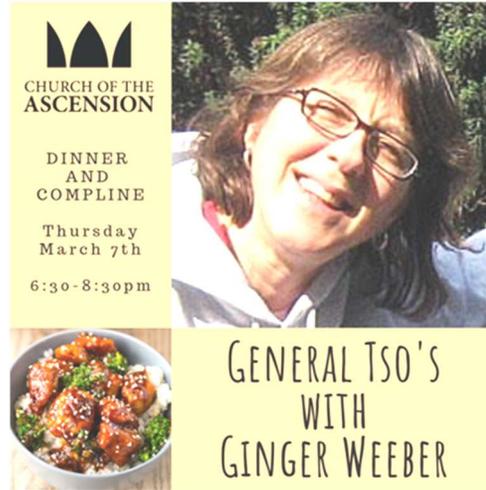
## International Ministry

Our international ministry teachers will take a break for three weeks around Holy Week and Easter. However, we would love to host special presentations for internationals. Do you have a talent you would like to share for an hour on a Wednesday evening? Several internationals recently enjoyed cooking and conversation in Ascension's kitchen, creating a delicious chicken soup with a strong lemon tang! If you have a talent to share and an evening to spare, reach out to LuAnn at [PittsburghEnglish4U@gmail.com](mailto:PittsburghEnglish4U@gmail.com). Thanks!



# Young Adult Ministry

A goal of our young adult ministry at Ascension is to encourage young adults so that we can faithfully live out our lives as Christians. One of the ways we do this is through a monthly gathering called *Dinner & Compline* where we eat, pray, listen, and sing together. Join us for our March gathering on Thursday the 7th from 6:30-8:30pm in the Ascension Hunt Rooms. Great speaker! Great food! Great friendships!



# College Ministry:

## What Happens at Jubilee...



by Leah Hornfeck

This past month Ascension's college ministry, *Venite*, had 11 students attend the CCO's Jubilee conference. The weekend consisted of superb speakers (featuring our very own Tish Warren), invigorating worship, thought-provoking workshops, and profound community building. However, all weekend we kept hearing the **phrase "What happens at Jubilee doesn't stay at Jubilee"** reminding us that our lives are not meant for the mountain tops—though those experiences play an important role in our growth and motivation—but that we were meant for the valleys.

As we were driving back to campus—back to the valley—on Sunday afternoon, the tone of enthusiasm and eagerness in the conversations being had assured me that the students were taking Jubilee with them for the long haul. Joshua, a CMU student, was saying, "I learned about how the restoration of all things isn't just something to look forward to in the future, but it's happening in the here and now, and we are called to play a role in it." Emily went on to share about specific ways we can do this and talked about what she had learned in workshops on honoring God and loving our neighbors through government and politics. She said, "Christians are called and have a moral duty to bridge the divide in these areas," and this is something she wants to pursue back on campus.

I continued to be encouraged on Sunday evening when I walked into the Old Catacombs for Youth Group and heard Gabbie, one of our Pitt students who attended Jubilee, sharing what she had learned over the weekend with several of our high schoolers. She was talking about a workshop she had attended where she learned about the role hospitality has to play in undoing the effects of colonialism. Another workshop speaker challenged her by saying that if we aren't practicing hospitality, we aren't truly practicing Christianity. And here Gabbie was sharing, equipping, and calling these high schoolers to the same standard of living that she was called to at Jubilee. Later in the evening, Austin shared about how a speaker convicted him by reminding him that because of sin he is also a victimizer, not just a victim. He then challenged the high schoolers to reflect on this truth in their lives.

These students give me so much joy and hope. They are already bringing back the Jubilee vision to their campuses and to their churches. I ask that you would pray with me for them, that the ripple effect from this conference would continue to broaden into every one of their spheres of influence and into every square inch of their lives.

# Youth Ministry

## Two by Two: A Lenten Opportunity

I was very moved by a story shared by Bishop Bill Murdoch at CCO's Jubilee. As a newly-converted teenager, he met a couple of seminary students who had been fasting and praying, once a week, for months, for a young man to disciple who showed great leadership potential. They knew Bill was the answer to their prayers when he walked into the room. Did I mention he is now a Bishop?

Do we have a hunger for young people to be called from darkness into light, from sin to Christ, and to become leaders who please God and bless many for decades to come? I do, which is why I invite you to join me this Lent in praying and fasting from breakfast and lunch once a week. And as we hunger through **two meals**, we are praying for **two students** to come to Christ, with a clear hunger for God, who will then spur each other on to love and good deeds for the rest of their lives. I can't wait to write about these two in a future edition of *Ascent!* I'd love to be encouraged by knowing that YOU are fasting too, so send me an email to let me know! [alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org](mailto:alex.banfieldhicks@ascensionpittsburgh.org)

## Haiti

The 17-member team (including 11 high schoolers, pictured below) going to Haiti with *Haiti H20* this summer have now met for two of our seven training sessions. I am really pleased to see the team gelling well, growing deeper in our understanding of the insightful 'helping without hurting' model of international development, and beginning to translate Haitian creole proverbs! Do pray for us as we prepare to raise funds, both for the trip and to help rebuild a school in the village of Meloniere. Most of us are pictured here, in the cold, longing for warmer days...

## Gimme 5

Three years ago, we would have expected around 30 involved in a normal weekend of youth group activity. Last weekend we had 87 and have been averaging about 80 since last summer. This growth is largely thanks to the prayers, kindness and courage of the CAYG volunteer team, which has similarly grown. However, a fair few of these will be moving on this summer as they graduate from college or are moving to take up new positions elsewhere. So, I am praying for 5 more volunteers to be regularly involved by May. Maybe 5 by 5.5! In particular I am praying for a RANGE of ages, ideally one new person from five different decades (in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s).

And I am looking for more prayerful, kind and courageous Christians! The two evenings to be involved are Friday nights (with Middle Schoolers) and Sunday nights (with High Schoolers). The Friday night experience begins with a cooked dinner for volunteers at 5.30pm, after which we set up and welcome middle schoolers at 6.30pm. Following songs and prayers and a short talk, we transition into small groups for a Bible study and 'share and prayer.' Leading these small groups is often the most demanding and rewarding of the various parts of the evening. Small group time is followed by a big game or other fun options, before we conclude all together for news, interviews, and a final prayer and song. Sunday night is similar, with the exception that we eat with the high schoolers who arrive at 6pm, and the dinner is usually pizza! To find out more, please contact Alex (email above).



# For Your Calendar

## The Drama of Scripture

### a teaching by Jonathan Warren

Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 11am in the Hunt Rooms

In the first half of 2019, we are exploring our Christian story by reading together Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen's *The Drama of Scripture*. Jonathan Warren, our Associate Rector, is teaching several sessions between January and June on the narrative arc of Scripture, corresponding to the six 'acts' of the drama of redemption that Bartholomew and Goheen highlight.

The first session of the class is recorded and available on the 'sermon' page of our website. The next session is coming up on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. All welcome, even if you haven't been before and even if you don't have the book!

## Epiphany Prayer Series #3

### Spiritual Healing

Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> after the 11am service

All are welcome to the final luncheon and teaching in our Epiphany Prayer Series. The series is co-taught by Bishop Grant and Wendy LeMarquand, as well as Jonathan and Andrea Millard. On this Sunday the focus will be on spiritual healing. A one-hour presentation will follow a light lunch in the Parish Hall.

## Four Classes to deepen your faith - May of 2019

The Wednesday classes listed below will be held from 6:30 – 8:30pm with child-care provided. The classes are open to all and will be taught by Associate Rector, Jonathan Warren. Folks are welcome to pick and choose any that interest them. These 4 classes are compulsory for any who wish to be confirmed at Ascension. For an article on Ascension's confirmation process, see the February Ascent, available at [www.ascensionpittsburgh.org](http://www.ascensionpittsburgh.org).

### May 8: Understanding Anglicanism (Part I)

This class will outline the nature of confirmation in the Anglican church and will do a quick run through of Anglican history from Jesus to the formation of the Anglican Church in North America

### May 15: Understanding Anglicanism (Part II)

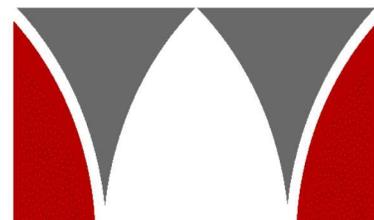
We will take a closer look at the Prayer Book and Sacraments of the Anglican Church. The class will include an Instructed Eucharist.

### May 22: Understanding Ascension (Part I): The Local Church and You

This class will take a look at Ascension's Ethos - Evangelical, Catholic, Reformed, Charismatic, Hospitable. We will also examine Ascension Ministries and Community Groups and offer a Spiritual Gifts inventory.

### May 29: Understanding Ascension (Part II): The Local Church and You

We will examine how we honor God in our vocations and will also examine a spirituality of everyday life.



## CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

A Worshipping Community;  
Equipping God's People;

Sharing Christ's Healing With a Broken World

## Worship Services

### Sunday

9:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist

11:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday

Noon  
Holy Eucharist  
in the Gordon Chapel

## Address

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## Website

[www.ascensionpittsburgh.org](http://www.ascensionpittsburgh.org)

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## Ascent Deadline

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The publication will be  
available March 31.