

Spring 2010

Message From Father James



THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, DENVER, CO

THE PARISH POST

Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
(Matthew 25:40, NRSV)

Both Ascension and the Diocese have stated that outreach is one of our core values or strategic goals. I thought it would be good to clarify what exactly outreach means for the church. Most of us do “good” work in the various spheres of our life. As Christians we commit ourselves “to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever [we] may be” (from the Catechism in the *Book of Common Prayer*). So in all of our life and work—as parents, as volunteers, as professionals—we embody Christ’s love for the world.

What we call *outreach* is a more specific aspect of this baptismal call to represent Christ. In the passage cited above, Jesus gives his hearers a vision of the nations gathered before him, and then he invites the “sheep” into his kingdom. He says, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” This verse gives the framework for what our Outreach Committee seeks to support with our time and talent.

Actively caring for the “least of these” is essential to our life of faith, both as individuals and as a community. While all our volunteer work can be a means to represent Christ, we as Christians seek to embody our Lord’s compassion particularly for those in need. Our Outreach Committee works to provide all our members with meaningful opportunities to engage in Christian outreach. Our support of ministries that feed the hungry and shelter the homeless and carry out other works of mercy is integral to our health and vibrancy as a community. Outreach, in other words, is not optional or just a nice thing to do, it’s necessary.

Now, I want to be clear, our outreach as individuals is not limited to our participation in our parish’s outreach programs, but nonetheless, we all need to actively support our communal outreach at least as much as we wish to support our Sunday School, our music programs, our building projects, or any other worthy ministry in which we are engaged. In other words, these other programs and ministries are only valid when they are lived out right alongside our faithful outreach to people in need.

So, how will you engage in these essential ministries? Now is the time. Ascension is the place. You can jump in, by God’s grace, and help “the least of these” in Christ’s name. Our Outreach Committee is waiting to hear from you and ready for you to come alongside them in our ministries of service and compassion.

Peace.

Father James+

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News you can use

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Pam Mathews and **Kat Benes** are looking for volunteers to assist with the two events surrounding the dedication in May of the New Organ. May 16th will be the dedication, formal blessing by **Bishop O'Neill** and dedicatory Evensong. May 23rd is a secular concert co-sponsored with the **Denver Chapter of the American Guild of Organists** and performed by the pre-eminent Canadian organist, **Ken Cowan**. Both events will be followed by a reception. Volunteers are needed in the following capacities:

- planning and writing the Program for both events (work with Celeste)
- Sending out publicity and contacting newspapers and TV and radio media
- Invitations to the broader community (other churches in the first case and music groups and general public for the second group.
- Planning receptions with a caterer (depending on underwriting we receive), set-up, food preparation (non-catered)

If you can help in the above areas or just giving moral support by being on the Committee, please email Pam Mathews at pammath@msn.com or phone 303 868 7249.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Emily Howell Warner, the first woman to become a commercial airline pilot, was recently introduced at a Living Legends of Aviation awards ceremony in Los Angeles. The ceremony is billed as the Academy Awards of the aviation industry. Emily and her husband Julius (Jay) Warner have been members of Ascension for a long time.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

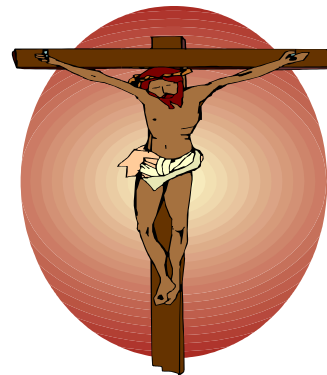
The Adult Christian Education Committee will be hosting a St. Paul Night at the Movies in both April and May. The dates and films will be announced as the time gets closer.

CHURCH HISTORY

From **Joanie Mackay**: The beautiful Chapel doors, the window across from it, and the window on the second floor with sky and mountains were designed by artist and former Ascension member **Laurence N. Rickards, Jr.** Larry now attends the Cathedral where he also has designed two windows for them. Originally, there were slanting outside steps going up each side of the building that met at the second floor and that is how we entered the Church.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday	8:00 am & 10:00 am
Wednesday service:	12:15 pm
Maundy Thursday:	8:00 pm
Maundy prayer:	9:00 pm – 9:00 am
Good Friday:	noon & 8:00 pm
Easter Vigil	8:00 pm
Easter Sunday:	8:00 am & 10:00 am followed by coffee hour and Easter Egg Hunt



Message From Father Tom

We have embarked upon the season of Lent and this season, more than any other represents an extraordinary time to deepen our spiritual lives, to strengthen and enliven our walk with our God.

Lent is as powerful a time as any in the Christian year inviting us to attend to the work of transformation. There is a significant difference between change and transformation. For my purposes, change is about an external shift, it would be like taking off a brown jacket and putting on a red jacket. Transformation, on the other hand, is the work of the soul, a fundamental shift in the way one thinks and believes which leads to a fundamental shift in how one lives, and transformation is available to us when we open ourselves up to a close encounter with God.

The journey through a holy Lent opens for us an opportunity to experience the transforming presence of God in our lives when we commit to the disciplines that Lent provides. Prayer, study, fasting, reflection, meditation and contemplation, all of these and many other disciplines provide the ingredients that nurtures a soulful life.

The beginning place on this journey of transformation is highlighted in the Ash Wednesday service when we are called to repentance, forgiveness and compassion. Repentance is the first step on the road to transformation, and it is the key for forgiveness and compassion. Until we face our own broken self we will not be in a place to offer or accept true forgiveness, and until we face our broken self and step into forgiveness, we will not be able to know and live a compassionate life. Each builds on and is dependent on the other.

Repentance is stepping into an honest relationship with one's self, with others AND with God. It all begins with this step. It is this honesty with self and with God that sets us free from judgment of others, and it is the freedom that we find in this honesty that opens the door to forgiveness. It is the dance between these two spiritual disciplines that lead us toward that deepest of all spiritual gifts, compassion. The more compassion we have for the brokenness of others the more we will be open to our own brokenness and so the journey goes, each building on and supporting the other.

I want to have a life-changing encounter with God and I know that that does not happen because I try harder. It happens through openness, not effort. It happens by grace, not by being good enough. It is grace that makes us good enough. I want to have a life-changing encounter with God because I want to love more and listen more, I want to be less fearful and more faithful. This is what transformation looks like. It means moving from being a passive follower of a great teacher to becoming fishers of people, proclaimers of a new word and a new order. We will find courage to speak truth to those who wielded great power, we will find compassion to speak hope to the hopeless, to speak love to the unloved, to speak humility to the proud and to speak faith to the fearful.

These are the marks of transformation and the journey begins with repentance and living more fully the disciplines of a holy life.

I invite you to step onto that path and I hope for you a blessed Lent.

Father Tom+



Youth News

Children's' Ministry 1st – 5th Grades

Upcoming Rehearsals Wednesdays 5:30 – 7:00 PM
5:30 Rehearsal
6:10 Dinner
6:30 Youth Group Activates

March 10 – Veggie Tales Movie Night
March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Celebration
March 24 – Easter Devotional
March 31 – **NO PROGRAM TONIGHT**
April 7 – Indoor Game Night -
Singing on Sunday, April 11
April 21 – Craft Night
April 28 – Veggie Tales Movie Night
Singing on Sunday, May 2
May 5 – Outdoor Game Night – Weather permitting
May 12 – Craft Night
Singing on Sunday, May 16
May 19 – Closing Celebration Party



Friday April 16th – Saturday April 17th - 4th – 12th grade Lock In – Details in the shared ministry section.

Shared Ministry Opportunities

Upcoming Sunday School Lessons 4th – 8th Grades
Sunday's 10-10:50am Youth Room (The Episcopal Children's Curriculum)

Continuing Unit 3 - Worship

- Session 5 – Reconciliation and Healing
- Session 6 – Observing Lent
- Session 7 – Jesus Was Condemned to Die
- Session 8 – Resurrection
- Session 9 – Ascension

Unit 4 - Church History

- Session 1 – Creeds: Defining Our Beliefs
- Session 2 – The Church's Worship Takes Form
- Session 3 – The Church's Reformation
- Session 4 – The Bible is For All
- Session 5 – The Church Came To America
- Session 6 – Missionaries Are Sent Out
- Session 7 – The Church Acts in Society
- Session 8 – Christian's Struggle for Unity
- Session 9 – We Celebrate Pentecost

Friday April 16th – Saturday April 17th

4th – 12 grades Lock – In; at The Church of the Ascension! We will gather at 5 pm on Friday and finish Saturday morning at 7am. This night will include a progressive dinner, bowling, laser tag, skits in a bag; a team comes up with a silly skit using everything provided in a bag, sardines; a hide go seek type game, and Napoleon Dynamite movie and more! The senior high youth will lead this memorable event!



Youth News—Continued

Youth Ministry 6th - 12th Grades

Tuesday March 9

Come serve at Metro Care Ring! We meet at 18th & Downing and enter in the volunteer entrance on 18th. We serve from 5:45 – 8pm. Come and share the love of Christ with those less fortunate as we share food from Metro's food bank.

Sunday March 28

Lunch at the Cherry Cricket in Cherry Cricket followed by Laser Tag at Laser Quest on E. Hampden! Cost is \$10 and the cost of lunch. We will meet there at noon and will discuss upcoming opportunities and happenings in your lives! We appreciate the love of Christ of Diana and Eric Hammerberg is demonstrating in helping to sponsor this event financially. Thank – you, Thank – you! We should be finished around 4 pm.

Tuesday April 13th

Come serve at Metro Care Ring! We meet at 18th & Downing and enter in the volunteer entrance on 18th. We serve from 5:45 – 8 pm. Come and share the love of Christ with those less fortunate as we share food from Metro's food bank.

Friday April 16th – Saturday April 17th • Sunday April 25th

Games, Devotional, Movies and Lunch in youth room at church 12 – 3 pm!

Sunday May 2nd

Lunch and hang at a youth family's house! Place TBA. We will meet at the house around noon for lunch, play games, and a devotional until 4 pm.

Tuesday May 11th

Come serve at Metro Care Ring!

Sunday May 16th

Lunch and a Movie! We will meet at Ling Louise's Restaurant at Noon on 16th and Larimer and then go to a movie at United Artist Theatres also on 16th! Cost will be approximately \$18, \$10 for lunch and \$8.00 for the movie.



SUMMER 2010 MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

Dates: July 9 – 16, 2010

Where: Salt Lake City, UT

Cost: \$400 - \$500 (Will be substantially less thanks to the grant from our Outreach Committee and depending on final numbers)

Who: About 100 youth from all over the Colorado Diocese who are entering 6th grade – leaving 12th grade

What: We will be ministering to former polygamist families, serving migrant workers, helping in building, and serving kids at the Boys and Girls Club.

Please see the mission trip pamphlet on the entrance table to the Parish Hall for more information.



Mission Trip Meeting—After Church— Sunday, March 14th!

Hearts Ascending Dedication Events

May 2010

Sunday, May 16, 2010 – 4:00 PM

Dedicatory Choral Evensong and Hymn Festival

A *Choral Evensong and Hymn Festival* will frame the formal dedication of the worship space, narthex, and organ at Church of the Ascension. It will include participation by choirs from four parishes in the High Plains region of the Diocese of Colorado:

- Church of the Ascension, Denver
- St. Luke's Episcopal, Denver
- St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Denver
- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Centennial

The Rt. Rev. Robert O J. O'Neill, Bishop of Colorado, and clergy from the participating parishes will also preside in this service.

Evening Prayer is a liturgy celebrated in the late afternoon or evening. When most of this service is sung it is called *Choral Evensong* and has been in continual use since the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. It is made up of the following elements:

- A series of verses and responses called *Preces*.
- A sung *Psalm*.
- Two readings from Scripture; the first is usually taken from the Old Testament and the second from the New Testament. Each lesson is traditionally followed by two canticles, usually the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc dimittis*.
- The *Apostles Creed*, often chanted on a monotone.
- Several prayers and responses, often chanted. These are followed by several verses and responses, called *Suffrages*, the Collect of the Day, and two additional collects.
- An *Anthem* following the last collect or, in the quaint phrasing of the 1662 edition of the Prayer Book, "In quires and places where they sing, here followeth the anthem."
- Additional spoken prayers.

The service will conclude with a Hymn Festival of several congregational hymns suggested, in part, through a survey of parishioners from the four participating churches. A Reception will follow.



Choral Evensong presented at St. Philip's-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson, AZ.



Hearts Ascending Dedication Events Continued

Sunday, May 23, 2010 – 7:30 PM

Dedicatory Organ Recital: Ken Cowan

An Inaugural Recital featuring Ken Cowan, one of the most sought-after organists in North America, and Assistant Professor of Organ and Coordinator of Organ and Sacred Music at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. Mr. Cowan will be performing on the recently-installed Patrick J. Murphy & Associates organ at Church of the Ascension. This recital is co-sponsored by Church of the Ascension and the Denver Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Mr. Cowan maintains an active recital schedule in the United States, Canada, and has additionally performed in France, Germany and Hungary. He is regularly featured at conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Organ Historical Society, and the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Mr. Cowan has won numerous awards, including first prizes at the Royal Canadian College of Organists' National Competition and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music National Competition.

A native of Thorold, Ontario, Canada, Mr. Cowan received the Master of Music degree and Artist Diploma from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. Prior to attending Yale, he graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Church music positions have included associate organist at St. Bartholomew's Church, as well as assistant organist posts at St. James Episcopal Church, The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in New York City, and St. Clement's Church in Philadelphia.

Many of Mr. Cowan's recordings and live performances are regularly featured on the nationally distributed radio show PIPEDREAMS from American Public Media.

A Reception will follow the Recital.



Ascension Family Profile

The Hazel and Douglas Stevens Price Family has grown up in the Ascension Family. Both Alexander (23) and Margaret (22) were baptized and confirmed here. In May Alexander graduated from Claremont McKenna College in Claremont CA. There are quite a few other members of the Ascension Family with ties to Claremont McKenna. He is now working for the Denver District Attorney 2 days a week and the Mayor of Denver 5 days a week! Yes, that means 7 days a week! It is good for him! That will only last until after the election in November. At some point he plans to continue his education but is not sure which advanced degree to pursue. He lives nearby with 2 friends. We see him at least once a week for "family dinner".

Margaret is in her senior year at DU. She will be graduating in June with a degree in Business Management. She is a member of a sorority, which she has enjoyed very much. Margaret is not sure what her plans are after college. If you have any ideas for her let me know! Margaret also lives nearby and shows up for most family dinners. We are blessed to have these two great children.

A year ago, Douglas took over the job of President and CEO of Rocky Mountain PBS (KRMA—Channel 6). He is enjoying this challenge. This year, Hazel has been an intern in the Teacher Preparation Program at the Stanley British Primary School. First semester she was in a K-1-2 classroom and this semester she is working in a 3-4-5 classroom. While in the classroom, Hazel is also taking Master's Degree courses through UC-Denver. She will be done with the program in June and will look forward to a restful summer!

Outreach Committee

Many of us are currently spending hours planning our Spring and Summer vacations. We travel across Colorado and the country to spend quality time with family and friends. The vacations help us strengthen those relationships and escape our daily routine for a short period of time. As Christians we are taught to have empathy for those less fortunate than ourselves. I was recently reminded of passages from Matthew 25

Vers 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

Vers 35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Vers 36 "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me".

Vers 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' 38 "When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you"? 39 "When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

Vers 40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

The Outreach Committee would like to invite you to join us and donate time to a ministry for the Last, the Least and the Lost. A few of the ministries currently in need of our time are Metro Care Ring, The Colorado Haiti Project, St. Francis Center and St. Clare's supper. Ascension currently has parishioners volunteering time at the above ministries each month. If you desire to join them, or find another time convenient for your schedule, please contact a committee member. We also want to hear about the ministry you support outside of Church.

There will regular communication describing our efforts in supporting the ministries. Please continue to check the Parish News, Parish Post, Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall and the Church website for regular updates

Jack Moore, Chair

DVD's entitled "Where Two May Meet, Building the Future in Haiti" are available by contacting

Jane Medina at 720-365-8073.



The Parish Angel

For those of you who do not know me, my name is **Celeste**, and I am your parish administrator. I was born and raised in Denver Colorado. I have 2 children. Noel is my beautiful 12 year old daughter, and Roman is my 9 year old. Our newest blessing is due in June. My husband is a probation officer for juveniles in Denver. We attend Park Hill United Methodist church, and have for about 8 years.

I have been here for almost 3 years now. I have Sarah Alijani to thank for this blessing. If it had not been for our sons going to school together, and the chats we'd have at pick up, I would have never found Ascension. I had been a stay-at-home mom for 5 years when I decided I wanted to go back to work. When the opportunity arose, I jumped. The work that I do every week for the Ascension family is so rewarding. Who, besides Father James, gets to come to work at church every day! I couldn't be happier. I am truly blessed to have such warm and nurturing people around me. I feel confident that I will successfully continue to fulfill my administrative responsibilities when my newest blessing arrives.

On any given Tuesday thru Friday, you'll find me here in the office, buzzing around. Right now, we're in the midst of Lent, and awaiting a very exciting time known as Holy Week. I'm also here to answer any of your questions you may have, make an appointment for you with Father James, or simply have a nice chat. If you need anything during the week, give me a call, and I'll be happy to talk.

God Bless,
Celeste DeLeon
Parish Administrator



Care Committee

ASCENSION'S VERY OWN "CARE COMMITTEE"

Members of Church of the Ascension should be aware that several of your fellow parishioners serve as a CARE COMMITTEE, chaired by Glenda Winker. The Care Committee stands at the ready to address physical and spiritual needs which may arise within our church community by:

1. Visiting shut-ins at home, in nursing facilities, or the hospital. This ministry includes the Eucharistic visitors who take the Lord's Supper to those who cannot be present at worship services. Contact: Glenda Winker (303) 733-9292 or Celeste at the church office.
2. Preparing and delivering dinners for those who need them whether due to illness, surgery, death in the family or birth of a baby. Contact: Diane Ipsen (303) 517-3355 or Celeste at church.
3. Offering intercessory prayers through our "Prayer Chain." Contact: Jane Medina (720) 365-8073 or Celeste at church.
4. Making and sending cards which extend condolences from the church family or express celebratory wishes for birth-days, marriages, and births. Contact: Elinor Davis (303) 355-2903

The committee desires to serve the congregation through these offerings of help and assistance, but we *cannot fulfill a need unless we are aware the need exists.*

As the church office (Celeste) or the clergy become aware of a need, they can pass that information on to us if a parishioner requests it, but those desiring assistance can also contact the Care Committee members directly. We encourage you to ask for prayers and assistance.

The Care Committee: Glenda Winker, Paul Abdoo, Palma Chambers, Elinor Davis, Bobbie Girardin, Diane Ipsen, and Jane Medina

If there is a committee you would be interested in knowing more about, please contact Father James or Celeste

the *A Communion of Faith in the Episcopal Church* CHURCH of the ASCENSION

THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, DENVER, CO

600 Gilpin Street
Denver, Co. 80218
Church Services
Sunday - 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM
Wednesday - 12:15 PM

Phone: (303) 388-5978
E-mail us from the website
under Contact Us

The Church of the Ascension is a communion of faith, bound together in our worship, fellowship, and ministry; uplifted by the Holy Spirit; and committed to sharing and growing in Christ's love.

On the Web
www.AscensionDenver.org

News from Bright Star Early Learning Center

Bright Star is an independent non-profit organization. Our home is here at Ascension which allows us to draw families from all of the neighborhoods surrounding us. We provide quality child care and early childhood education to Denver families. The Center does not advocate for any religion, but does espouse Judeo-Christian Principles.

We began this year with about 42 students. We have room for more in almost every class. If you or anyone you know wants more information, call 303-393-8648. You can also visit our website at www.brightstardenver.com.

We also have 5 students that are CCAP (Colorado Children's Assistance Program) students. This number varies throughout the year. We have been known to have as many as 9.

This year we initiated a Scholarship Fund to help those children needing financial assistance. We are always looking for ways to help any child in need.

Bright Star Early Learning Center has seen many successes these last two years and I credit Gillian Lucas, current president of the Bright Star board, for her loving guidance and support making all of this possible!!

If any of you want to see lots of happy faces that are learning every day any day of the week, just visit us at Bright Star. Contact me to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Thank you,
Molly Martin
Vice president, Bright Star Early Learning Center Board

