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# Parish Post

Newsletter of Church of the Ascension, Denver, CO

## Back to Sunday School!!

By Sue Richardson  
The full calendar has been sent out via e-mail and published here on page 5. Sunday school will have some opportunities to have activities and conversations both as a larger group and in smaller age oriented categories. We will be learning quite a bit about worship this first month, in order to prepare for the expanded version of the family service on the first Sunday of the month.

See more details on Page 5.

## Great Things are in Store for 2013

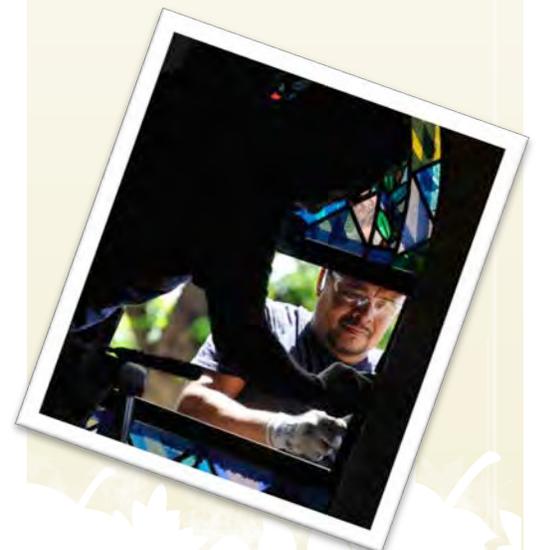


## Repairs are Underway

Since the May 13<sup>th</sup> fire, parishioners have been kept informed by weekly updates from Father Lucas and the Fire Task Force. Most of this article comes from those weekly updates written by Father Lucas. Our sincere thanks go to him for keeping us informed.

He encourages everyone to take advantage of every line of communication with him, the Wardens and Vestry and the Fire Task Force.

**Continued on page 12.**



## Save the Date!

### OctoberFest

**Sept 27, 6:00 pm**

Music, fellowship, beer and more!

### Bishop's Visit

**Oct 6, 8 and 10 am**

The return to the Sanctuary.

### Blessing of the Animals

**Oct 19, 5:00 pm**

Bring your special friend!

See more details on [the church website.](#)

# Outreach Update

## Loaves and Fishes Sunday, July 14

Metro CareRing once again led this hunger relief campaign. Church of the Ascension Outreach Committee collected over 500 pounds of food items from lists provided and checks totaling \$694. Thank you all for helping to stomp out hunger! Consider Metro CareRing when you are thinking of being a volunteer.

**Consider volunteering at the several ministries that the Outreach Committee Supports. Contact a committee member.**

## The Colorado Haiti Project



*Lunch delivered daily*

The Colorado Haiti Project reports all 6th graders and all 9th graders at St. Paul's School in Petite Tru passed the Haiti National Standardized Achievement Test at 100%. This certainly tells us that these students are truly dedicated to the task of learning, and, of course, their teachers deserve kudos also.

Of particular interest is that a recent study of youngsters completing the sixth grade has shown they will live an additional 7 years in their lifetimes. How about that? Also of note is that there have been any number of St. Paul's graduates who have continued their educations on through high school, and who have then attended colleges and universities in Haiti (the Episcopal University of Haiti in Port Au Prince being among them), in other Caribbean countries, and in the United States. Further, a number of these graduates have returned to St. Paul's as teachers.

Last, the Colorado Haiti Project is happy to accept contributions throughout the year. Ascension Parishioners have done their part this summer by sponsoring 4 Konbit Scholars at \$300 each for a total of \$1200. This money benefits the children and their families. For more information on the Colorado Haiti Project, see their website at:

<http://www.coloradohaitproject.org/>



## St Francis Gala

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the St. Francis Center. It has come a long way from handing our toothbrushes in the waiting area of the Diocesan Center. Save the date of Saturday, October 12 at 5:00 pm for a great evening for a great cause. Ascension will again have tables, maybe two this year. The silent and live auctions as well as the dinner will be held at the Marriot City Center Downtown. Contact Roz Dudden if you are planning on coming. Scholarships are also available.



30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER

*The Giving In Thanks campaign will be starting soon. Watch for your packets to pick up.*



CHURCH  
of the ASCENSION  
*giving in thanks*

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Church of the Ascension,

What I experience of this place is nothing short of beautiful. worship, music, youth and children, Christian witness, hospitality, and spiritual formation. This autumn, life offers us its inevitable changes and challenges, we turn once again to the care of our parish home. We give our time and our money to Ascension because each of us has already been given so much. We want to give back to God out of our own abundance, as the theme of our 2014 stewardship campaign says so succinctly. We are Giving In Thanks.

The goal of our Giving In Thanks campaign is twofold. First, we are asking each and every individual or household to make a financial pledge to Ascension. Our primary goal is 100% participation in the form of a committed and defined annual pledge for the coming budget year. We are less concerned with the amount you give—though the Christian principle of the tithe is always great to strive for. Rather, we are more focused on having a reliable financial commitment from everyone. Secondly, we hope to increase the total amount pledged by \$25,000 over last year's stewardship campaign. This additional \$25,000 will help cover the \$8,000 operating budget shortfall we had this year as well as anticipated increases in our 2014 operating budget for music, children and adult education programs, and outreach.

Defined annual pledges benefit the church body in several ways. The Budget Committee can plan with confidence for the coming year. Stable finances offer the parish some security when unexpected needs arise. Parishioners know that we aren't merely paying bills and salaries but are sustaining and even growing the ministries we now enjoy. Your pledge reflects in real and reliable numbers the commitment you have made to your parish family.

Explore the contents of this personalized Giving In Thanks pledge packet. You will find testimonials from parishioners, dreams and goals for the future, and a 2014 pledge card. Please take time to think, pray, and discuss your pledge with your family. You may return your pledge card in several different ways: Drop it in the offering plate on any Sunday morning. Mail it to the church office. Submit it online via the Ascension website. Just make your gift with a spirit of joy and gratitude.

Meredith and I have already made our pledge commitment for the coming year, along with each and every Vestry member. Please join your whole parish family by Giving In Thanks for the abundance of God's goodness toward us.

Your faithful servant in Christ,

Lucas Grubbs+

600 Gilpin Street, Denver, CO 80218  
303.388.5978

# Youth Ministry and Sunday School

By Sue Richardson

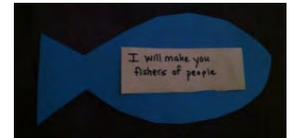
## Great Things are in Store for 2013 (Cont.)

We are going to expand the breadth of the monthly, first Sunday, family service to include children and youth in various roles according to their abilities. You may see a young lector, or a very young usher handing you the bulletin. You'll have a sneak preview in September, but the full picture in October - keep your eyes open!



## Summertime, Sum-Sum-Summertime, Summer Ti-i-i-i-i-me

Summertime was indeed the "time for fun" for the Ascension kiddos with **Destination Holy Land**. We had a blast meeting in the park, playing water games, painting, baking bread and even "fishing." We had between 3 and 10 children on any given day, and considered the first time summer program a success! Below are some of the highlights.



## Standing There...

I took a class called "Experiencing God" many years ago and although many things were discussed and learned, one thing that stuck with me was:

"DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING.... STAND THERE"

In **Destination Holy Land**, we visited the house of Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. We learned that it is hard to really listen when you are so busy "doing". Sometimes you need to just "stand there". Mary chose the path of setting aside her work, sitting at the feet of Jesus, so she could hear his teachings, which Jesus said was the "better" choice of that day. (Luke 10: 42)

We need to remember that in our Martha world, we still need to set aside time to be Mary. To "stand there" and spend time with God, to listen! But we did paly the role of Martha and baked bread. Then Fr. Lucas encouraged the kids to "just stand" behind him at the altar, as he offered up the bread they baked as the communion bread for the service.



## Reflections of Love

In the wrap up lesson of **Destination Holy Land**, we talked about how each of our lessons reflected love. Joseph loved and cared for Jesus and taught him carpentry skills, and John the Baptist loved Jesus and did what he asked - baptized him. The Sower and the Seed represented our willingness and ability through God's love, to hear His word and learn. We learned at the pool of Bethesda that people are cured by faith, based in love, not by magical waters. We found that Jesus loved His friends and was welcomed to their home, like we should be welcoming and loving to others. We "fished" for words of God, and learned that in sharing those words, we share His love and "fish" for people. May we always remember that God loves us, no matter what, no matter where... and that He commands us to love one another!

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (I Corinthians 13)

## Thanks to All

Let me express my sincere thanks for all the loving support that you, the community, offered for **Destination Holy Land**. I especially want to thank the volunteers for spending time with our children. It really does take a village (or in our case, a Parish community) to raise a child. Having people of all ages come together to help them is truly memorable, and although you may not see the fruits immediately, the seeds of caring are planted every time you interact with the children.

Special thanks to Ann Collier, Bill Howard, Meredith Grubbs, Mary Jo Pollman, Laura Osborne, Holly Butler, Barb Watson, Hazel Stevens Price, Natalie Blumenthal, Lucille and Charles Riley, Melissa and Brent Engle (guest teachers) and my daughter Becca for their help with supervising, teaching and supporting our children.

## Children and Youth at ASCENSION



Join us every Sunday this fall for learning, fun, and games at Ascension Sunday School. Make new friends as we explore the different dimensions of our Christian faith.

*New this year:* On the first Sunday of the month, we invite all families - parents and kids alike - to help lead Family Worship. This is your chance to participate as ushers, readers, or in other worship roles, and to gather for a special Children's Sermon. You might even sing in the choir or play the handbells. Come to Sunday School to get the scoop!

**WHERE:** Church of the Ascension, 600 Gilpin St, Denver, CO

*Meet outside the worship space around 9:50 am each Sunday.*

*Refreshments and snacks to follow at Coffee Hour!*

### Fall 2013

Welcome Games, Ascension Poster Making, Spider Web	September 8
What Do We Do In Church	September 15
Special Project -- Making Treat Bags	September 22
Practice for Family Worship	September 29
Family Worship (with the Bishop!)	October 6
Using Art and Music to Pray	October 13
Can You Pray with Your Body?	October 20
Halloween/ Family Worship Practice	October 27
Family Worship	November 3
Fall Games	November 10
Ascension Scavenger Hunt	November 17
Thanksgiving & Family Worship Practice	November 24
Family Worship and Advent Wreath Lighting	December 1
St. Nicholas Celebration	December 8
Christmas Traditions and Activities	December 15
Pageant Rehearsal with Choir ♦Please arrive at 5:30 pm	December 18
Annual Christmas Pageant ♦Please arrive at 9:30 am	December 22
No Sunday School	December 29

Contact Ms. Sue with questions and ideas - at 303-522-8029 or [youth@ascensiondenver.org](mailto:youth@ascensiondenver.org)!



## Robin's Bike Trip to Bruges and Amsterdam in May

By Robin McDougal

Bruges is a fantastic Medieval City! I had always wanted to go there, so when I saw a bike trip on [tripsite.com](http://tripsite.com), I signed up for the bike trip from Bruges to Amsterdam. With my friend Eileen, we toured the city and its historic churches. The church of Our Lady was very impressive because Michelangelo's beautiful sculpture of the Madonna and Child was there.

After that we visited The Hospital Museum that held Hans Memling's St. Ursula's shrine and his altarpiece. We went to a free harp concert where Luc Vanlaere played 5 different harps! One day we rode to another medieval town of Tempse.

There were 18 of us on the barge; half were Germans and the other half Americans. We enjoyed each other's company. Our leader,

Tom, was a real cool dude with long curly hair and an easy-going manner. He refused to wear a helmet. Only when he needed a cigarette did he stop and give us a rest. The weather was rainy and cold.

In the historic town of Ghent, we loved the medieval harbor and Saint Bavo Cathedral where we viewed the famous triptych, the *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* by Hubert and Jan van Eyck. When we finally reached Amsterdam after 8 days of riding we were able to visit the newly renovated Rijks Museum. Even though we had cold weather, we met many people who had warm hearts. That is what makes the journeys interesting.

I also visited my two sons in San Jose and Santa Cruz this summer, John and Neil Schaefer. They are pictured above.



## Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 19

5:00 pm

You will finally get to bring your best friend to church! That's you furry or feathered best friend, however, because you can, of course, bring your best human friend any time!

See you there!



## Need a Free Book?

By Joann Cole

The Cole family has a new Little Free Library in their yard! The library is located on the northwest corner of 6th and Elm, by the bus stop on 6th Avenue. Take a book or leave a book any time. Check it out!

This is part of a nationwide movement whose mission is to “promote literacy and the love of reading by building free book exchanges worldwide and build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations.” See more about it at: <http://www.littlefreelibrary.org/>.

## The Copper Triangle

Cynthia Shannon and Jeff Dykes biked the Copper Triangle for charity. This means they biked from Copper Mountain to Leadville to Minturn to Vail and back to Copper Mountain. Get out your atlas and figure out how many mountain passes that is!

## Responsibility Lesson

By Jedeane Macdonald

In a sermon about twenty-five years ago, Fr. Bruce Youngquist, who was Associate Rector at Ascension, talked about the difference between being responsible *to* someone and being responsible *for* someone. Through the years, that sermon stuck with me, and I recently wrote a middle-grade book (readers age 8-12) called *Nobody's Home*. It was a finalist in *The Sandy* for 2013, a writing contest that draws entries from around the country.

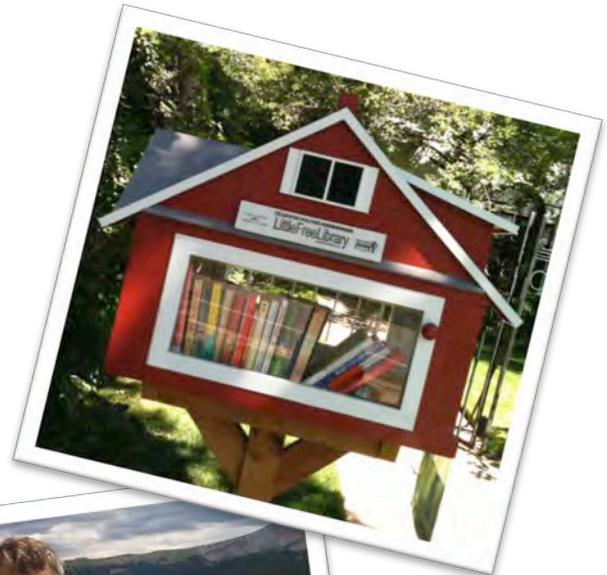
Set in a small Midwest town in 1944, it's the story of a ten-year-old girl whose father's B-17 goes down in Yugoslavia after a bombing mission over Germany. When he's reported as missing in action, her mother can't handle the news and shuts out everyone, including her daughter, who then tries to make everything perfect.

Encouraged by a quirky woman who is edging into Alzheimer's and a sixth-grade boy who has problems of his own, the girl learns the difference between being responsible *to* and being responsible *for* someone, and she doesn't have to be in charge of everything, not just yet.

Father Youngquist has passed away, but his thoughts that day have served me well through the years.

## Parish News

Who's doing What and Where!



## Report from the Music Director

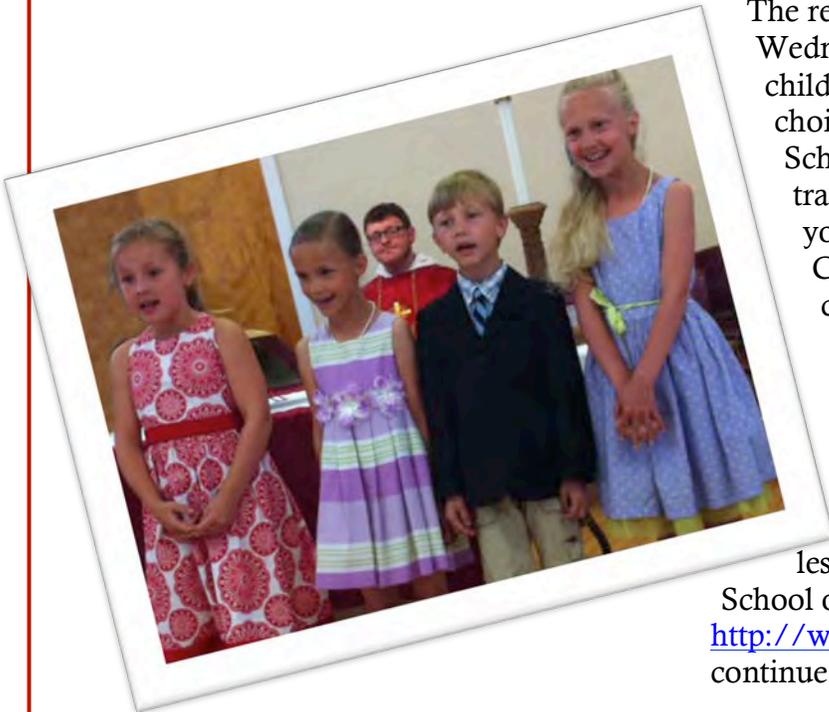
### Evensong at Ascension

On Sunday, October 27 at 4:30 pm and again on Sunday, November 24 at 4:30 pm we will have Evensong, which is the traditional Anglican sung service of Evening Prayer. Father Lucas and our Parish Choir will lead it. The service consists of psalms, readings, sung canticles, hymns, and anthems. This service is a beautiful way to end the weekend and prepare for the week ahead. Please join us for this musical worship opportunity.



### Children's Choir

The rehearsals for Children's Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 4, at 5:30 p.m. I invite all children and youth to participate. This year our choir is going to be affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). The RSCM training program is based on the training of young choristers to sing in the English Cathedrals. The participants in our children's choir will learn about good singing technique, reading music, learning about composers, and learning about the liturgy and worship of the church. This program is an excellent program for teaching kids music and it can help prepare kids for learning to play musical instruments and formal music lessons. For more information about the Royal School of Church Music please follow this link: <http://www.rscmamerica.org/>. The kids will also continue playing handbells and chimes, as we began



### Parish Choir

Our parish choir for adults will begin having rehearsals on Thursday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m. We will be exploring a wide variety of the great sacred music of the church. I invite everyone to participate. Just give it a try sometime and I'm sure that you will have a good time. All of us in the choir have a great time. Please come and join us!



## Report from the Music Director (Cont.)

### Summer Music Adventure for Kids

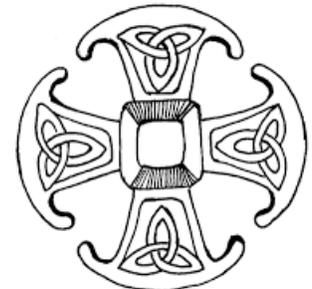
From August 19 to 25 Church of the Ascension held a Summer Music Adventure for Kids on Monday through Friday and on Sunday Morning. It was a fun and educational program for kids to learn about music, have fun, and make new friends. Kids who will be in the third grade or higher are encouraged to participate. The participants are going to learn about singing and singing in a choir, playing handbells, playing games, learning about different musical instruments, singing folk songs, and many other fun activities. It is our hope that this event will be a great way of reaching out to children and families beyond our parish and even beyond our neighborhood.

On August 25th at our 10:00 service we had some of our children playing hand bells. These were the participants in our Summer Music Adventure. This was Ascension's first Music Adventure and the attendance was small, however the kids who participated did a great job. The participants were Julia Cole, Christine Cole, and Sarah Caulkins. These three were able to learn music for hand bells in just a few days and I commend them for a job well done.



### Association of Anglican Musicians Conference Met Last Summer in Denver

The annual conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM) was held here in Denver during the first week of July. Musicians who serve Episcopal Churches from all around the country gathered here for a week of great music, worship, and fellowship. I was honored to attend this great conference. Each day consisted of workshops, church services, and concerts. Our very own Father Lucas was an officiant for one of the services. Events were held at various places around the region including St. John's Cathedral, Christ Church in Denver, the University of Denver, the Air Force Academy Chapel, and Grace and St. Stephen's Church in Colorado Springs. I enjoyed meeting many colleagues from all around the United States, including musicians serving large cathedrals to musicians serving very small congregations. The meeting and discussing of ideas among these musicians alone was well worth the experience. It is was also great for me to see a great many young musicians active in AAM and it is reassuring that the church will continue to have great music for years to come.



## “Whenever I die, I intend to die living.”

By Jeedanne Mcdonald, Roz Dudden, and Father Lucas.

Last summer, I preached a sermon at Ascension that stirred up some profound memories and emotions in long time parishioner Jeedane Macdonald. Specifically, I used a quote from the philosopher Horace Kallen that follows: *"There are persons who shape their lives by the fear of death. And there are persons who shape their lives by the joy of life. The former live dying. The latter die living. Whenever I die, I intend to die living."* The sermon and quote inspired Jeedane to write me an e-mail sharing a very moving story that I knew I in turn had to share with the congregation. My reasons are two fold. First, the story that follows is just plain beautiful. Secondly, and most importantly for all of us here at Ascension, it encapsulates the kind of love that abundantly flows at our beloved parish. As we dive deeper into the project of fire repair and restoration, this story came at a very good time for me. It reminds me, and all of us, the true blessing we have at this parish and in the end, what some of the fundamental characteristics are of a Christian community like ours. Ascension is your parish. You play a role in it much like the people in this true story. Even as we are displaced by the fire, and even in the slower paced dog days of summer, know that you are a beloved part of this place. And a big thanks you to Jeedane for allowing me to share this story with the whole congregation.

Ever in Christ, Lucas+

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### On Dying, Living

From Jeedanne...

After your sermon June 30 about dying living, if I'd had the courage, I'd have stood up and told this story.

In 1976, my husband, Ranald, and I wanted to have our son baptized. The rector at the time, Fr. Bob Burrows, said he would, but he would prefer that we become active members. We took him seriously.

In 1981, the Diocesan convention dealt with alcoholism, and Ranald and I were delegates. The keynote speaker was Vernon Johnson, the author of "I'll Quit Tomorrow." An Episcopal priest and a recovering alcoholic, he focused on intervention. The breakout sessions offered discussions about AA, Al-Anon, rehab programs, and the intervention process.

For two years, I'd been in denial about Ranald's drinking. Bob Bosworth, the wonderful white-haired man who makes it to church Sundays, was Ranald's doctor. He told him he needed to stop

drinking. But Ranald ignored him. To be honest, he didn't want to believe him.

By the end of that convention, I knew I had to do something. The following Monday, I called the rehab facility at St. Luke's hospital and made an appointment to learn how to do an intervention. On Tuesday, Ascension's rector, Fr. Jim Short, called me and asked if we could talk. After polite chit chat, he said, "Ranald is an alcoholic." I said, "I know, and I've called St. Luke's."

Several weeks later, we staged an intervention. Fr. Short was there, and I read a letter from Bob Bosworth. That day, Ranald went into treatment and turned his life around.

In the years that followed, Ranald was instrumental in negotiations for purchase of the St. Francis Center's facility at 2323 Curtis. He organized the fund-raising effort at Ascension for the area that would serve as storage space for bags and backpacks at the Center. He helped found the Colorado Episcopal Foundation. He spent two months

## “Whenever I die, I intend to die living.” (cont.)

in Africa with the Denver-based Kenya Children's Foundation. He may have been the reason we have the AA archives in the undercroft and the AA meetings on Saturdays. He and several other parishioners played music in nursing homes. Called "The Insufferables," what they lacked in ability, they made up for in enthusiasm. He taught Sunday School, he trained acolytes.

AA was a vital part of his life. He went to a meeting every morning at 7:00 am. (The 7:00 a.m. group is still going strong and many remember Ranald.)

On July 2, 1996, Ranald decided to trim a high branch on a tree. Yale English majors have no business trimming branches. The ladder slipped. He fell. He was 72. At 8 that evening at Denver Health, they told my son and I that they couldn't save him. It was over. My son, who was nineteen, said, "Well, dad died living."

Indeed he did because of his incredible community of faith at Ascension, AA and his fifteen years of sobriety, and his love of the Lord.

But the story didn't end there.

After the doctor told my son and I that Ranald had died, a Hispanic family surrounded us and embraced us. A nurse approached and asked if we wanted to see Ranald. My son felt he couldn't, but I didn't want to leave him alone in the waiting area. At that moment, two Ascension members stepped off the elevator. When they got word that Ranald had been injured, they felt they had to come. They stayed with my son while I went to see Ranald.

At 10 o'clock that night, Nancy Yeaman was at my front door. Her husband, Ron Reeves, had died suddenly in February. She was still grieving, but there she was.

The next morning, Nancy Dorn showed up with ham. Diane Ipsen brought gazpacho. More people came. The Ascension community embraced us. We got notes from acolytes Ranald had trained.

Again, because of the incredible community of faith at Ascension, AA and his fifteen years of sobriety, and his love of the Lord, Ranald truly lived. . .

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### A Corollary Story – Pass it along

From Roz Dudden

In 1986 I knew something had to change in my life. I had joined Ascension in 1980. I knew I had friends there. My husband was drinking heavily. I had been to Al-Anon but it didn't take. So I confronted him, rehab or get out. So he went to an 8-week evening program at St. Luke's. I was counseled also and they determined I needed to go as well, as an Al-Anon person, Monday through Thursday from 5 to 9 a night. How could I ever do that with a nine-year-old daughter?

I had dinner with the McDonalds. With their experience with the program, they supported me all the way and we came up with a plan. Church families in the neighborhood including the McDonalds and the Lanes and a couple of other friends of mine would pick up my daughter at daycare and care for her through dinner until 9 pm. For eight weeks! Eight different families helped us out with our need.

Going to rehab and Al-Anon changed my life and made me partly who I am today. I chose Jesus as my higher power. My life is certainly shaped by joy and faith and will be until I die. I am sure of this because of the community at Ascension.

## May 13<sup>th</sup> Fire Update

### Continued from Page 1.

You can communicate with them via e-mail: rector@ascensiondenver.org for any and all questions or concerns about any of this.

A Fire Restoration Task Force was formed immediately in May. This leadership task force is made up of former Junior Wardens, the current Vestry Wardens, some long time parishioners with great knowledge of the building and Fr. Lucas. They will be spearheading all aspects of the recovery. This means interfacing with the insurance adjusters, contractors, cleanup and restoration crews etc. This team is diligent, experienced and motivated by a deep love for our parish home.

The first time line looked at a minimum of four to five months of clean up and restoration in the sanctuary. Windows will need restoration, the pews will need deep cleaning as will the organ, a new roof will need to be installed and the entire space will need a new paint job. That is a lot of work to do and there will inevitably be surprises. This means that we will continue to worship outside of the sanctuary until full restoration is complete.



expenses. To that end, every donation that we have thus far received is being placed into a designated account specifically for fire restoration.

Because we are unable to use the sanctuary during this time, all of us will need to be flexible and creative with our Sunday worship. Dan Romero and Father Lucas are examining many possibilities from continuing in the parish hall, to using the chapel and even a couple of Sundays this summer of worship in Little Cheesman Park.

In his Pentecost sermon, Father Lucas gave us some perspective. He said, "This fire, though a fairly significant event, is a mere bump in the road in the 107 year history of this parish home of ours. The outpouring of love, prayer and support of all kinds has been overwhelmingly good. We are coming together in new and exiting ways that truly mirror the love of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. What I ask of each and every one of us is your regular presence at worship, your daily offering of prayer for Ascension and her leaders and your willingness to grow into this new season of resurrection. The life of Jesus Christ and his Gospel teaches us that through darkness and hardship, God's love always rises to the surface and embraces us in new a new kind of life; one of new hopes, new being, and a new reality that is God's Kingdom here on Earth. Let the life and love of Church of the Ascension continue to flourish in our day and time."

So started the church building's journey of recovery. It was very slow at first but in September accelerated. Here are some highlights of activity.

In late May, we had a personal visit from our organ builder Patrick Murphy. The condition

As to costs, the adjuster estimated somewhere in the neighborhood of \$150,000. It could also be much higher. The good news that that we carry very fine insurance and that this should cover any and all costs. However, there will most likely be some unknown and hidden



## May 13<sup>th</sup> Fire Update (Cont.)

of our organ is very, very good all things considered. Once the major work of reconstruction in the church is finished, the organ will need a deep cleaning, including the removing of some pipes. This will be the final work that gets done as the organ will need to be cleaned in an environment that is already free and clear of smoke damage and restoration work.

The Fire Task Force met in May with two very accomplished and reputable general contractors who have specific experience with church fire restoration. They also received a bid from very trusted and reputable stained glass restoration company. These bids will let us know more as to how we will proceed with any timeline.



In late June it was reported that six of our stained glass windows that were damaged in the fire were removed from the sanctuary.

Watkins Stained Glass of Englewood has taken the windows for repairs and restoration. They were replaced with plain glass windows for weather protection. Watkins, a firm that has been in operation in the Denver area since the late 1800's, has a collection of vintage stained glass that can be used to repair our windows. Their commitment to excellent quality stained glass restoration is well known throughout the region. It turned out that they actually made the windows in the 1930s. See the following article from the *Denver Post* article about Watkins.

The Fire Restoration Task Force met in late June to decide among a number of bids from general contractors to begin the work of full repair and restoration. One general contractor was decided upon and then there were negotiations with them

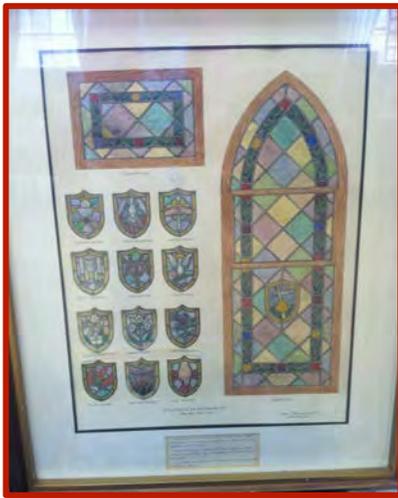


and with our insurance company. Long-time parishioner David Arkell, who specializes in construction law, has been working on behalf of Ascension pro bono in order to make sure all goes smoothly with the contractors. Thank you, David, for your valuable and generous work and expertise.

In August, the Fire Restoration Task Force recommended Barclay Davis LLC as the general contractor for the scope of the repairs and restoration and contracts were signed. Barclay Davis assisted the parish during the remodeling a number of years ago and has great familiarity with our building. Starting the week of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we saw the beginning of "boots on the ground" with painters,



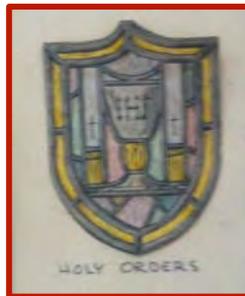
## May 13<sup>th</sup> Fire Update (Cont.)



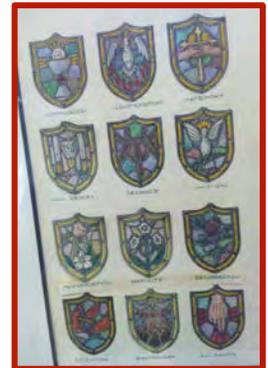
smoke mitigation crews, roofers and more. The various sub-contractors are currently coordinating the work that needs to be done and deciding on a schedule of repairs as certain areas need work before others can begin. At this time, each kind of

repair team is making final assessments as to how they will tackle each individual project as part of the entire scope of work. Please keep the good work of the Fire Restoration Task Force in your prayers as this work begins in earnest!

Scaffolding went up the week of August 8<sup>th</sup> all along the 6th Ave. side of the church. The scaffolding is there for a subcontractor to begin work on restoring the window frames that were badly burned.



of our windows has been handed over to Watkins and Co. who is painstakingly restoring them back to their original beauty! This discovery also allowed Watkins to restore the window that was completely destroyed. Each window has a different center medallion. The one destroyed turned out to be “Holy Orders,” as pictured here.



The week of August 23<sup>rd</sup>, demolition of the badly damaged undercroft (basement) began in full. The fire caused the most damage there and currently, walls are being torn out, flooring removed and replaced and deep cleaning is happening. The delicate process of replacing the stained glass window frames on the side of the church is also currently underway.

With a great deal of optimism and faith, plans have been made to worship in our newly restored sanctuary on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. That day marks the Sunday of Bishop Rob O'Neil's visitation to Ascension and the goal of the Fire Restoration Task Force is to have the space ready enough to welcome his presence among us.

Please continue to keep the good work of restoration and repair in your prayers!



*Hazel Stevens Price showing the design at coffee hour.*

And speaking of windows, a great discovery was made in the undercroft (basement) of the church by the Altar Guild. The original artistic rendering by the artist who designed our stained glass windows was discovered! This detailed illustration of all



## May 13<sup>th</sup> Fire Update (Cont.)

### From the Denver Post, June 16, 2013

By Colleen O'Connor: 303-954-1083, [coconnor@denverpost.com](mailto:coconnor@denverpost.com) or [twitter.com/coconnordp](https://twitter.com/coconnordp)

Phil Watkins from Watkins Stained Glass Studio carefully removes the Holy Penance window on Friday to be taken to his Englewood studio for restoration. The process to restore the stained glass in the Church of the Ascension is expected to take about four months after a fire in May damaged the historic windows in the 107-year-old church.



Phil Watkins estimates it will take about four months of painstaking labor to restore the six historic stained glass windows damaged last month in the fire at the Church of the Ascension. "They have to be totally taken apart," Watkins said Friday morning, as he and his workers

removed six windows from the sanctuary to transport them to the Watkins Stained Glass Studio in Englewood.

The century-old windows were heavily damaged in the fire. One was almost shattered, and the others were badly cracked or broken. His wife, Jane, gathered up three small bags filled with fragments of glass that the firefighters carefully collected after putting out the fire. "We will try to piece this back together," she said.

Sitting over a light table, they will study the colors and the pattern, slowly piecing it together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. It's not the first time they've restored these windows. About 25 years ago, they worked on them after they were damaged by stones thrown by a vandal. "But this is much worse," said Phil.

Luckily, the Watkins Stained Glass Studio still has a large supply of the same rare glass that was used to make those windows, back when the 107-year-old church was built. It's very rare Blenko stained glass, "handmade and mouth-blown," said Jane, "made the same way as European antique glass." This jewel-toned stained glass represents a crossroads of American history, one that blends



master craftsmen with early church history.

William Blenko, born in London, apprenticed himself to an English glass craftsman trained in old-world traditions of stained glass, then emigrated in 1893 to the U.S., where he opened his first stained glass window factory.



By that time, Watkins' ancestors had already established themselves making stained glass windows in Denver. They'd worked as master craftsmen since 1761 in London and Liverpool, following the same stained-glass traditions used in the Middle Ages. Like William Blenko, Clarence Watkins left England and sailed to America with the tools of his trade. He studied further in New York and Boston, and in 1868 left St. Louis in a covered wagon bound for Denver.

By 1881, he had his own shop, making stained glass windows in the old-world style for Denver's mansions and grand churches. By the early 20th century, when builders erected the Church of the Ascension in Denver, they made sure to use Blenko stained glass for the windows — which may have been made by Watkins' grandfather, Frank Watkins.

"It looks like his style," said Phil, sitting in a pew Friday and gazing up at the windows that were not harmed. While restoring the windows, Phil and Jane hope to determine whether his grandfather made them. They'll also take apart each window, piece by piece, and find the exact shade of glass to replace it — which isn't easy because handblown glass varies in thickness, creating different shades of the same color.

Phil, who made his first stained glass windows at age 12 for a church in Boulder, uses his vintage supply of antique glass only when absolutely necessary. "I'm a squirrel," said Phil, who has worked on more than 380 church windows over his career. "I waited 40 years to use a piece of red that was just perfect for the robe of Jesus in the Last Supper."

Read more: [Stained glass windows at burned Denver church get artisan treatment - The Denver Post](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_23470286/stained-glass-windows-at-burned-church-get-artisan#ixzz2WP484pep)

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_23470286/stained-glass-windows-at-burned-church-get-artisan#ixzz2WP484pep](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_23470286/stained-glass-windows-at-burned-church-get-artisan#ixzz2WP484pep)

# Who is our Audience?

By Dan Romero... Being a church musician is, perhaps, an interesting paradox. As musicians we are required to perform music (usually in front of other people who may or may not respond favorably to the music played or the quality of performance as in a concert). As musicians in church we must remember who our real audience is, that is, of course, God. Because of our calling as performers we must remember that we are not performing for the congregation, but we are making an offering to the Triune God of all creation, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Eucharist. So I leave you here with the Chorister's Prayer of the Royal School of Church Music.

Bless, O Lord, us Thy servants,  
who minister in Thy temple.  
Grant that what we sing with our lips,  
we may believe in our hearts,  
and what we believe in our hearts,  
we may show forth in our lives.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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