

✠ *Mission Work at home and abroad*

Contact: Church Office, 447-3469

Most summers we are sending a group of people somewhere their help is needed. We have an on-going commitment to San Matias Church in Bani, a Mission Church in the Dominican Republic and to a mission in Wyoming; we have also traveled to Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming and an Indian reservation in Arizona.

SOME AVENUES FOR OUTREACH ARE:

RCS- Religious Community Services, originally founded at Ascension, is a non-profit, non-denominational organization that provides housing, food and safety for the homeless, hungry, or victims of domestic violence

Baby Food Jars - collect your change to pay for baby food at the Food Bank run by RCS

Food Bank - donate cans of food that is collected in the church Narthex (entrance) and picked up by RCS

Undies Sunday - twice a year we collect underwear for homeless and needy people served by FLASH and RCS

Clothes-to-Kids - gently used and new clothes are collected for distribution to get children ready for back-to-school

Backpack Sunday - money is donated to purchase back-to-school supplies and backpacks for children

Angel Tree - At Christmas time, needy families are given the opportunity to have a special Christmas through our generosity

Clean-Out-Your-Closet - At Christmas time, an opportunity to provide gently used toys and other items for families who are needy

Haven Domestic Violence program - A shelter for women and their children seeking refuge from abusive situations, sponsored by the RCS

Cold Night Shelter - We provide support for those churches and businesses who provide shelter for the homeless when the weather is very cold during the winter by preparing sandwiches and providing blankets and volunteers

PARISH LIFE

✠ *Calendar*

Contact: Alyce Goldsmith, 447-3469, x.213

To avoid conflicts in the use of our space, please call with any and all space needs at Ascension. Alyce will be happy to assist you in scheduling your event/meeting.

✠ *Communications*

Contact: Maggie Talbot or Drina Meyer, 447-3469

Our parish newsletter is generally published monthly. Call Maggie to get information out to the parish - the deadline is one month prior to publishing (e.g. to publish in the October Angelos, it must be submitted by September 1st). Maggie

updates our website (www.churchofascension.org) regularly. Call the office one week in advance to place announcements in Sunday's bulletin.

✠ *Fellowship Committee*

Contact: Jane Myers, 593-0315 &

Patricia Slaughter, 443-7276

Responsible for planning social events for our parish family, especially the Fish Fry in November, the Progressive Dinner in December, the Annual Meeting in January and the Parish Picnic in May.

✠ *Foyer Groups*

Contact: Jeff Jennings, 585-0558 &

Robin Wright, 449-0373

Small groups gather for dinner and fellowship. This is a great way for you to meet new friends and enjoy great food. Each group meets four times over a period of six months after which new groups are formed. Join us!

✠ *Gadabouts*

Contact: Audrey Davis, 581-1269

Day-trip excursions for our retirees, filled with fun and fellowship.

✠ *Glorious Gatherings*

Contact: Alyce Goldsmith, 447-3469

For exciting fellowship and fun, join us at the special social events we schedule during the year to raise funds for our **Property and Preservation** fund. In 2004-2005, we raised funds to “Park-the-Debt” and pay for our new parking lot; and during 2005-2007 we began raising funds to provide for the future of our beautiful church and properties. Some of the events hosted were, wine-tastings, art auctions, a champagne brunch, “Par for Preservation” golf tournament, Italian dinners, Sunset dinners, card parties, and English tea parties. If you are looking for a great way to meet people, find special fellowship, and provide for the future of Ascension, join us in 2008-2009. Some of the events planned for this year include, a new Ascension Cookbook, our 2nd annual Golf Tournament “Par for Preservation”, our annual Christmas Tea, and more!

✠ *New Member Incorporation*

Contact: Linda Amidei or Alyce Goldsmith, 447-3469

For all members of Ascension, especially if you are new, who would like to know more about the church and the opportunities to become involved.

✠ *Breakfast*

Contact: Carey deMoustes, 725-1084

Between the 8am and 10am Sunday services, parishioners and visitors gather for a full American breakfast! All are welcome, “1st timers” are free! (The charge is nominal)

This is a work in progress! If there is something you believe should be listed and is not or an item that needs to be edited, please call Alyce Goldsmith, 447-3469.

Service, Talents, and Gifts:

There is a Fun-tastic Ministry with a place just for you!

✠ Do you know what is happening at Ascension?

✠ Are you looking for a place to volunteer your time and energy?

✠ Do you know some one who would be a great asset to one of these ministries?

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

✠ *Christian Education*

Contact: Alyce Goldsmith, 447-3469, x. 213

For Adults: The opportunities that encourage spiritual growth for adults are Sunday mornings after both services and during the week.

For Youth: The classes for youth are on Sunday morning beginning at 10:20am with *Godly Play* for 3 years – K and *God Squad* for 1st-3rd grade, and at 11am for Kindergarten through High School.

✠ *Tuesday Morning ALPHA/BETA/Emmaus classes*

Contact: Linda Amidei, 447-3469

Explore in 10 weeks topics such as: Who is Jesus? How can I be sure of my faith? How does God guide us? Why & how do I pray? . . . And so much more! BETA is the follow-on course to ALPHA. There are several Emmaus courses to choose from! Join us!!

✠ *Wednesday Evening ALPHA/BETA/Emmaus classes*

Contact: Linda Amidei, 447-3469

Same as Tuesday morning except we include dinner and child-care. There are several Emmaus groups to choose from as follow-on courses to ALPHA and BETA.

✠ *The Prayer Group*

Contact: Ginger Phillips, 447-1616

This group meets every Thursday, 10:30am for prayer and Bible study. They lift up the needs of parishioners and others in the community.

✠ *Men's Bible Study*

Contact: Church Office, 447-3469

Men from various churches meet at 6:30am Thursdays to share and pray together.

✠ *Small Group Ministry*

Contact: Linda Amidei or Alyce Goldsmith, 447-3469

Small group ministry forms the heart of life at Ascension. Small groups provide an opportunity for each member to experience service, prayer, and topical studies (e.g. men and women of the Bible, books of the Bible, healing), and support from each other as they travel on their spiritual journey. Groups change members regularly.

✠ *Education For Ministry*

Contact: Alyce Goldsmith, Mentor, 447-3469

EFM is a theological education program of the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee,

Tennessee. EFM is for all lay people and provides the basics of a theological education in order to develop knowledge and confidence about the ministry we all share.

YOUTH

✠ *Ascension Day School*

Contact: Pam Rilling, 447-3469, x. 209

Ascension Day School has been a respected preschool in the community for more than 35 years. We provide a nurturing, Christian environment in a small school setting. Offering your time in various ways, including reading to children or helping with arts and crafts, or providing school supplies is greatly appreciated. In January of 2009, the Day School will host its major fund-raiser, *Bella Luna*.

✠ *Mom's Morning Out*

Contact: Pam Rilling, 447-3469

On Tuesdays and Thursday from 9am to noon our smallest members (0 - 2 years old) are cared for by a wonderful staff as a ministry to parents during the school year. A small charge applies.

✠ *Nursery*

Contact: Alyce Goldsmith, 447-3469

On Sundays during all services and on Wednesday evenings during our Christian Formation events, we have loving and committed staff caring for your children. This is a free service for our guests and parishioners.

✠ *Youth Programs*

Contact: Father Mike Branscombe, 447-3469, x. 211 or Susan Katte, 447-3469, x. 204

An exciting opportunity for youth, grades 6 –12, to grow spiritually and exercise their spiritual gifts. The **Middle School** group meets on Sunday morning for Sunday School and at Noon for youth group. The **High School** group meets on Sunday Morning for Sunday School and on Wednesday evening for youth group. Some of the mission/pilgrimage experiences our young people have enjoyed include trips to Orlando, river rafting on the Ocoee River, Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, Tennessee, Taizé, France and Iona, Scotland (monastic communities), as well as service to the church and the community. Join them now!

✠ *Choristers/Handbells*

Contact: Beth Hunter, 447-3469 x. 210

Youth choirs, singers and handbell ringers, from 3rd grade and up meet on Wednesday afternoon and evening. This is a

fantastic opportunity for children to receive professional training in small groups (free), to develop their musical skills and provide leadership in worship at 10am using the Royal School of Church Music curriculum. Committed choristers are invited to the national Royal School of Church Music week-long summer camp.

✠ *Acolytes*

Contact: Father Mike Branscombe, 447-3469 Youth, starting in elementary grades, learn to serve at the altar, assisting the clergy during worship and other services.

✠ *Scouting*

Contact: Roth Neller, 443-2580

For more than 50 years, Ascension has enjoyed a strong tradition supporting scouting in our community. Call for information.

OFFICE HELP

✠ *St. Gabe's Guild (Office Volunteer)*

Contact: Audrey Davis, 581-1269

This dedicated group assists the staff at Ascension by answering phones and assisting in other office tasks including assembling the mailings of the church.

✠ *McCune Library*

Contact: Ann Neller, 443-2580

Outstanding collection of books, periodicals and videos; good food for the Christian journey! Volunteers assist the parish librarian.

✠ *Music Library*

Contact: Beth Hunter, 447-3469, x. 210

Assist Beth with filing and sorting the music we enjoy every Sunday! If you have computer skills, you can help update our Music library files.

MUSIC

✠ *Schola Cantorum (Parish Choir)*

Contact: Beth Hunter, 447-3469, x. 210

The **Schola Cantorum** singers learn musical skills, and carefully prepare for singing the Church's liturgy. The name **Schola** was given in the fourth century to the group of singers who provided musical leadership for the congregation. **Cantorei** (or Cantors) take on the leadership role for the **Schola** singers, as well as for all gathered for worship. With dedication, commitment, and diligent rehearsal the **Schola** seek to sing their best music as an offering to God. Rehearsals are open to those with an ability to read music and a blending tone. Rehearsals are Thursday evening, 7pm

✠ *Handbells*

Contact: Beth Hunter, 447-3469

All ages - a great family opportunity! Learn something new and provide wonderful music for our church services and special events too. Rehearsals are Wednesday evening, 7:15pm from October to April.

✠ *Carillon*

Contact: Beth Hunter, 447-3469

Learn to play the "big bells" in our Betty Jane Dimmitt Memorial Bell Tower, one of only four in Florida. Some piano experience is helpful. Phyllis Webb, a master teacher from Michigan, is here from January to March.

✠ *Choral Scholars*

Contact: Beth Hunter, 447-3469

Advanced choir of community singers perform for special events and concerts. Call for an audition time.

✠ *Létourneau Pipe Organ and Choral Concert Series*

Contact: Beth Hunter, 447-3469

Every year several concerts are conducted for our parish family and our community. Our Létourneau Pipe Organ is a beautiful instrument and its sound unmatched in the Tampa Bay area. Christmas and Epiphany concerts, Bach's Birthday concert, and a St. Patrick's Day concert are a few of the offerings everyone enjoys. Organists from around the world come to play and offer concerts every year; some of the countries represented are Ireland, Poland, Germany, Italy and the United States. Organ lessons are available

✠ *Concert Ushers*

Contact: Beth Hunter, 447-3469

Men and women who assist during the Organ concerts, choral concerts and special musical events, by handing out bulletins and lighting candles.

✠ *S@5 Band*

Contact: Rev. Mike Branscombe, 447-3469

Anyone who loves to praise God through music, and has musical talent to share, is invited to contact Father Mike about assisting in leading worship at the 5pm Sunday service.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

✠ *Altar Guild*

Contact: Judy Sauers, 581-6470

Men and women who ensure that each worship service runs smoothly by caring for the many items needed during worship at the altar. New members are always welcomed.

✠ *Flower Guild*

Contact: Chris Nodine, 446-3774; or
Patricia Slaughter, 443-7276

Members creatively design and arrange flowers for worship and special services in and around the church.

✠ *Welcomers*

Contact: Susan Scott, 442-5877

Welcomers provide a friendly face and helping hand for visitors and newcomers at Sunday services.

✠ *Ushers*

Contact: Bob Cottrell, 585-8664

These men and women assist at Sunday services and special events by welcoming parishioners and visitors and by handing out bulletins and assisting the treasurer.

✠ *Vergers*

Contact: Larry Clem, 447-3469 x.220

Supervise acolytes and Layreaders to ensure smooth flow of liturgy during services.

✠ *Acolytes*

Contact: Father Mike Branscombe, 447-3469, x.211

Adult Acolytes are invited to serve at the altar (especially during the 8am Sunday service), assisting clergy during worship.

✠ *Layreaders*

Contact: Father John Hiers, 447-3469, x.206

Layreaders serve at the altar during services, reading the lessons and administering the wine during Holy Communion.

SERVING GOD IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

✠ *Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors*

Contact: Father John Hiers, 447-3469

These men and women take the Eucharist to shut-ins and those who are sick or in the hospital.

✠ *St. Teresa's Guild*

Contact: Ginger Phillips, 447-1616

They pray for our shut-ins, contact them regularly, and visit them on birthdays and holidays to let them know their church family cares.

✠ *Parish Rakes*

Contact: Chris Nodine, 446-3774

THE GREAT OUTDOORS IS CALLING YOU!! The Parish Rakes, Ascension's new gardening group, invites all men & women interested in gardening, fellowship and being outdoors. Vevie Dimmitt and Chris Nodine plan to meet monthly to tend the needs of our Parish landscape. No hard work or lifting; just pruning or raking. Bring lots of ideas & energy for beautifying Ascension's grounds. The group plans to meet monthly.

✠ *St. Joseph's Guild*

Contact: Dan Mettee, 587-7722

St. Joseph's Guild is a newly formed group charged with taking care of the "honey-do" jobs around the church. This summer Dan and Neil Frederiksen have re-finished much of the church floors and are working on the backs of the pews. Call to volunteer!

✠ *Wedding Belles*

Contact: Drina Meyer, 712-8478

Coordinates the weddings and facilitates a smooth experience for the families and friends of the bride and groom.

✠ *Funeral Receptions*

Contact: Ginger Phillips, 447-1616; or
Judy Sauers, 581-6470

Coordinates the receptions following the funeral for the family and friends.

✠ *The Thrift Shop (The Shed)*

Contact: Audrey Scheidenhelm, 595-2344

A major fundraiser for the parish, the Shed also provides low cost "gently used" merchandise for the bargain-conscious shoppers in our community. Donations are received during regular hours: Thursday, 9am-Noon, Friday, 9am-Noon, and Saturday, 9am-1pm.

✠ *Peacemakers Quilt Guild*

Contact: Molly Womble, 799-1255

They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the Parish Hall to work on group and individual projects.

✠ *Kitchen Committee*

Contact: Judy McSwine, 447-5493

Every kitchen needs a good cleaning! This team makes sure our commercial-size kitchen is always tidy and sanitary.

✠ *Book Forum*

Contact: Patricia Slaughter, 443-7276

Between September and May, the Book Forum meets monthly to discuss a variety of books. Discussion led by Dr. Betty Tutton

✠ *Church Periodical Club*

Contact: Norma Wright, 398-1880

The Church Periodical Club (CPC) which provides books for college students and seminarians.

SERVING GOD IN OUR SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

✠ *United Thank Offering/Ingathering*

Contact: Alyce Goldsmith, 447-3469

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a twice yearly offering used to help spread God's word to those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

✠ *SHARE and FLASH Programs*

Contact: Michael Amidei, 403-7683

SHARE is a low-cost, food co-op distribution program or our community. FLASH is a ministry with and for families affected by homelessness and HIV/AIDS. The FLASH program also coordinates Undies Sunday, Backpack Sunday, the Angel Tree and Cold Night Shelter. Call to volunteer!

✠ *FAST (Faith in Action for Strength Together)*

Contact: Deacon Linda Barley or
the Church office, 447-3469

This is a consortium of churches joined together for the common cause of making improvements in our community. This organization tackles safety problems, low-income needs, and health concerns for the whole community by empowering the local communities to speak to the governmental authorities with one voice.

✠ *Habitat For Humanity*

Contact: Father Mike Branscombe, 447-3469

Helping build affordable homes for families who qualify.