

# The Tidings

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Phone: 337-232-2732 www.ascensionlafayette.com

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension will convene on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 9:45am in Coughlin Hall. Election of the new vestry members, delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Convention, presentation of the 2020 parish budget and an update regarding the Ascension Foundation will all take place during the meeting.

In keeping with the parish bylaws, qualified electors shall be communicants in good standing who have attained the age of seventeen years, have been members of the parish for at least one year and contributors of record during the previous year.

Written reports from both the Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer and Ascension Episcopal School Headmaster will be available at the beginning of the meeting and they will all be present to answer any questions pertaining to their reports.

There are four vacancies for the 2020 vestry. Many thanks to Connie Lavergne, Bryce Godwin, Rae Robinson-Brodnax and Chris Taulbee for their service.

Three qualified parishioners have been nominated for election to the vestry. Mr. Anthony Adams, Mr. Stuart Burgess and Mr. Louis Simon.

See their pictures and bios below.

## 2019 Nominees for Election to the Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension

The nomination period for vestry members was opened in November and closed on December 2, 2019. The following parishioners have been nominated to stand for election.



*Anthony Adams* is from Lafayette. He, his wife, Angelle and their four children, Austin, Abigail, Anna-Grace and Amelia have been attending church at Ascension for over fifteen years. Anthony serves as an usher at the 11AM service on Sundays. His children currently attend Ascension Episcopal School in grades 5, 3, 2 and pre-k 4. Anthony is a graduate of LSU and has made his career in the oil and gas industry for over a decade.



*Stuart Burgess*. Church of the Ascension has been Stuart's spiritual home since he moved to Lafayette in the early 1980's. In addition to being a member of the adult choir during this time, he has also served on the Vestry as Clerk in the past. He is excited to see all of the growth in the parish and wants to do his part to help Ascension stay on that positive course so he would be honored to serve again if elected.



*Louis Simon* is from Rayne, Louisiana and has lived in Lafayette since 1986. He is an attorney with the Jones Walker law firm. Prior to that he served as the Administrator and General Counsel for the Louisiana Board of Ethics. Louis' legal practice has primarily dealt with commercial litigation and business and contract matters. He and his wife, Susan, are parents of three children, Caroline, John and Lizzie, and one grandson, Finn. Louis is an avid reader and enjoys travel and bird watching. Louis and Susan attend the 8:30 service.

The Episcopal Church  
of the Ascension  
1030 Johnston Street  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501  
Address correction requested

Non-Profit Organization

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**Rector**

The Rev. Joseph E. Daly  
church.rector@ascensionlafayette.com

**Chaplain**

The Rev. Lauren R. E. Larkin  
llarkin@ascensionbluegators.org

«FamilyLabelName»

**Chaplain**

The Rev. Palmer B. Kennedy  
pkennedy@ascensionbluegators.org

«Address1»

«City», «State» «ZIPCode»

**Deacon**

The Rev. C. S. Honey Becker  
deacon@ascensionlafayette.com

**Tidings Deadline—January 20**



**YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:** Our Vestry and Clergy, Pit Hesterly, Julian Christopher Buuck, Stephen, Sandie Jordan, Barbara Myers, Joyce McClellan, Janet Tessier, Christopher Anglin, Lynn, Charles Lutes, Gerald Delaunay, Lila, Bob King, Mary McIntosh, Nancy, Frank Parratt, Karen Gallet, Lisa Bordelon, Maggie Patin, Richard, Janet, Jamie, Ken Wade, Nita, Ryan Green, Billy Hall, Mary Vosloh and family, Hazel, Marvin, Ainsleigh, Katie, Mary Fay Freshley, Michael Reed, Nicholas Blonski, Margret DeLarue, Catherine Elizabeth, Henry, Tim and Sarah, Emily Taylor, Lee, Alison Higginbotham, Renee Reina, Tammy Carpenter, Dr Kerri Rimmel, Rebecca Jayne, Gwen Bernard, James Alan Vaughn, Sawyer Billeaud, Paul, Benita, Marie Julie, Jimmy, Erich Dahne, William and Ann Shower, Laura, Maddox, Curtis Melancon, Charlene, Faye V. Turner, Hedy Stevens, Louise Haddock, Virginia Bercegeay, Lisa Karre, Yvonne Aitken, Carl Braithwaite, Father Gary Schexnayder, Miller, Howard, Ann Dobie, Nagham El Karhili, Pam Capell, Kasey, Jack Larmier, George Arceneaux, , David, Judy Roberts, Carlin Craig, Kasey, Sharon, Kristen, Carolyn Barker, Melissa Barker, Jonathan Barker, James Haygood, Catherine McGowen, Linda Weems, Jim, Carol Baker, Jan and Charles, Charles McGowen, Angela Roy, Sally Sensat, John Bateman, Colette House, Arthur White, The Daly Family, The Duplantis Family, Sammy, Albert Davis, Lou Ann St. Julien, Thomas, Phyllis Huval, Katherine Attrep, Michael Blevins, Mike Blevins, Maty Blevins, Carli Blevins, Mike and Shirley Godwin, Jan and Charles, Le-ann Driscal Meaux, David, Thomas Rowe, Theresa, Connie Priest, Pat Olson, Corrine, Marci Lecky, Angie Touchet, Dr. Jim Rotchford, Hammy Davis, Lou Oliver, Martha Green, Rodney Ledoux, Sarah Beacham, Ronnie Pendergraft, Mary and Irby Olivier, Farin Gougierrez, Beck B., Ann Patin, Nick Georges, Emily Kean, Ashley Alexander, Kennedy Shuler, Carol Dore, Josh Menard, Ernie Clooney, The Turner Family, friends and family serving in the armed services. (Names stay on the prayers list for three weeks unless otherwise requested.)



A Note from the Rector:

Epiphany is not just the kickoff for Mardi Gras balls, parades and king cakes. It is the Christian celebration that the light of the good news of Christ shines upon God's people from every corner of the earth. "Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn," prophesied Isaiah.

"In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind," Paul explained, "as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

At Church of the Ascension, the stained glass depicts the ascending Christ who commissions his followers to make disciples of every nation. This is the mandate for every generation of believers, that is, to share God's mission and message of reconciling grace with everyone everywhere. As inheritors of an Eternal Hope, we are all called to share it with the world. When we do, the local church thrives. When we don't, it dies.

In 1901, Ascension laid the cornerstone of its first church nave which can now be seen as we enter the narthex. 120 years later, Ascension has impacted generations in Acadiana and across the world. At the beginning of 2020, it is important for the parish to consider its future, not simply for the next year but for years to come. That is why we seek to call a new member of the clergy dedicated to ministering to new members. This 2020 Vision is a combined

role with a part time chaplain position on the school's downtown campus.

But we're sometimes asked, is it necessary? Don't we have enough clergy already? Actually, no. Church of the Ascension has only one full time staff member (clerical, or non clerical): your rector. The pastoral and administrative responsibilities of a parish of 700 members and a school of 750 students with 165 combined staff. The high school campus has two clergy who serve as full time teaching and pastoral chaplains and, as ordained clergy, they share in regular worship leadership in weekly services in the parish. These full time positions are paid by the school, not the parish. Our deacon serves the parish part time, overseeing pastoral care concerns and community outreach. So, there is a real need for an ordained assistant to both build ministries for new members and serve grades 1-7 part time (which would be supported by the school).

Throughout the Fall stewardship campaign, we asked all of Ascension's 300 parish families to make or increase their pledge by \$100, approximately \$2 per week, to enable the parish to fulfill its mission for generations to come. Many families responded to this effort generously but most did not. We are not alarmed because we cannot escape the economic realities of our community. This only demonstrates the need for increased pastoral care as well as strengthened efforts to build parish membership to ensure that Church of the Ascension, its ministries to our community, and our witness to the light of the world continues to shine for the next generation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A Note from the Treasurer:

*For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Have you ever asked yourself what the best gift you ever received was? Was it the new bicycle when you were ten? Those wheels gave you a new freedom, expanding the world you knew. Maybe it was that first lovely piece of jewelry that made you feel so grand. What about that one wrapped in cloth? No, not a book and certainly not a cheese, though a good cloth wrapped cheddar is a fine thing. No, I mean the gift that came wrapped in rags; the one that took years to begin to appreciate, the one you may think about, although you've never actually seen it. It's a truly wonderful gift, but how do you respond to something like that? How do you say "thank you" for the gift of forgiveness, of eternal life that we have all been offered through the birth and ultimate sacrifice of Jesus?

A 'thank you' note just doesn't sound quite right (and where would you send it anyway?), but actually our prayers are well

received. When we are given a gift we are all used to giving in return, but what do you give to God who created everything? (now there's an existential question that would stump even Santa). The only solution I can suggest is the dreaded 're-gift': let's give God back something he gave us a while ago and hope he does(n't) notice. Let's all pledge to support His church.

We have many new and many more increased pledges for our 2020 Stewardship Campaign, but we are still short of our goal. We have all been given so much, but the greatest gift is the one we turn to when we are at our worst, when we are broken, when we are lost; but through it we are healed. By the time you read this, we will have begun our Every Member Canvass, hoping to encourage more of our members to respond to God's gracious love. I pray that you will prayerfully consider your response, and add your name to that list.

Merry Christmas,  
Frank F. Limouze,  
Treasurer



RECTOR'S FORUM  
WINTER/SPRING 2020

Jan 5 CHRISTMAS BREAK

Jan 12 TRANSITIONS- 5 Wishes – A presentation of a living will that addresses personal, emotional and spiritual needs as well as medical wishes.

Jan 19 TRANSITIONS – Christian Burial Guide – A directed walk through of Ascension's burial directive led by Rev. Joseph Daly

Jan 26 ANNUAL MEETING

Feb 2 TRANSITIONS – Grief and Loss - Presentation on healthy relationships and information on navigating through life's changes through Joyce Rupp's book *Praying Our Goodbyes*.

Feb 9 TRANSITIONS - Alzheimer's, Dementia and Depression – Informative presentation by a local professional which will include important data regarding those with the diseases and their loved ones and caregivers.

Feb 16 TRANSITIONS – Presentation on healthy aging including some of the latest dietary and nutritional information.

Feb 23 MARDI GRAS BREAK

Mar 1 MARDI GRAS BREAK (For the next 3 Sunday's each, a one hour DVD presentation by author Simon Sebag Montefiore will be shown. This fascinating series chronicles Montefiore's best-seller book, *JERUSALEM THE BIOGRAPHY*.)

Mar 8 JERUSALEM – THE MAKING OF A HOLY CITY

Mar 15 JERUSALEM – THE MAKING OF A HOLY CITY

Mar 22 JERUSALEM – THE MAKING OF A HOLY CITY

Mar 29 – THR HOLY LAND— Christmas and Easter celebrations – Rev Honey Becker will share her experiences of these amazing feasts days as they are observed in The Holy Land.

April 5 – THE HOLY LAND - Overview of Rev Becker's 4 ½ years of ministry serving the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East



EPIPHANY SUNDAY  
JANUARY 5

JOIN US FOR THE PROCESSION  
OF THE WISE MEN


KING CAKE WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING  
THE SERVICE

Coffee with  
a Cleric


Every Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock you are invited to meet and share a cup of joe and casual conversation with your parish clergy at Community Coffee House on the corner of Johnston Street and South College Road.

January 7	The Rev Honey Becker
January 14	The Rev Joseph Daly
January 21	The Rev Honey Becker
January 28	The Rev Joseph Daly





**SOFA is Proud  
to Announce**



Texas Aggie's Singing Cadets will perform at Ascension on Saturday, January 4 at 7:00pm in Coughlin Hall. This famed group has toured world-wide performing for presidents and other dignitaries. You will hear selections from spirituals and classics to popular music. Come and join us for this family event. A donation of \$20 per adult and \$10 per student under 12 will be appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Jan Hamilton at 337-451-0226.