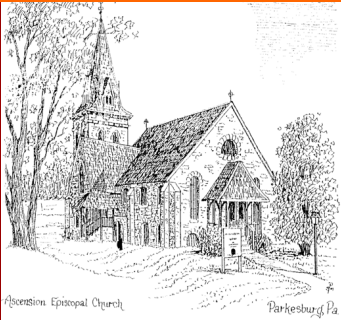
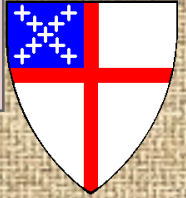


Fall
2023

Our Mission: 'To be a loving community in relationship with God, serving Christ and respecting the dignity of every human being.'



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

News & Views

Our Time in Parkesburg

This summer Mary Chris and I traveled to Altoona with our son and his two children. We had a marvelous time. One of the lasting memories is Mary Chris and I riding the "World's Oldest Roller Coaster – Leap the Dips." It was a bumping and exhilarating ride on that old wooden roller coaster. As you can see in the picture both of us enjoyed it. It was quite the ride.

We are approaching my 2nd anniversary as "Clergy in charge" of the Church of the

Ascension. It has been a wonderful experience. We have enjoyed our time here and learned so much about ourselves and our ministry together. We realized that the only way the Ascension was to be served was to come and live here. We love our home, our neighborhood, and the Borough of Parkesburg. We've enjoyed getting to



know the back roads of Chester and Lancaster counties. What beauty surrounds us! Being life-long Pennsylvanians, it is great to know there is a place near Paradise called Parkesburg.

(Con't. on pg. 2)



They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:8

Stewardship is defined as "the job of supervising or taking care of something." In our

case, it is our care of the Church of the Ascension, which is the people who call it their spiritual home. We care for each other by providing portions of our time, talent, and treasure.

Each of us spends time with this community. We learn to love one another as Jesus has called us. We spend time together in worship, study, and work. We work at supporting those in Parkesburg

and the surrounding communities, caring for our buildings and property, and supporting people in the parish. This is how we put our faith into action. Through our investment of time, this community grows in numbers and spiritual depth.

Each of us provides our talents to support all. One might make food, another might make phone calls, one might

(Con't. on pg. 7)

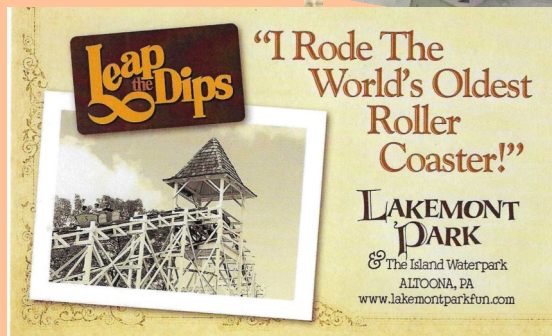
Our Time in Parkesburg (Con't. from pg. 1)

Our parish community is about to launch into another academic year. There will be ups and downs, successes, and failures, through it all God will be with us accompanying us and cheering us on. This church is ready for growth both in numbers and Spiritual depth. I believe the Holy Spirit is guiding us to be a Spiritual Center for Parkesburg. We are called to respect everyone, take them where they are, and show them that they are loved. As we love, we are loved in return. Our mission statement calls us saying we are, "A loving community in relationship with God serving Christ and re-

specting the dignity of all." It is time for us to set up and set out. Together, let's see in the coming months where God leads us.

Thank you for your generosity and support in my ministry in this place. Mary Chris and I are living the dream and Leaping the Dips!

Faithfully,
Steve+



HARD-WIRED!!

Tyler Mitchell, Rob Gallagher and Randy Frantz were the men of the hour or make that EIGHT HOURS, as they worked together to hard-wire the sound system from the sacristy at the front of the church to the opposite corner of the back of the church. The goal was to have control of audio and video at one location for both within the church and for what goes out on Facebook.

The guys ran wires down through the ceiling in St. Joseph's Hall, fed it across, and brought it up at the stairway. New wires were run for audio for both microphones, speakers and internet. With planning, purchasing some new equipment, lots of climbing of ladders and stairs, making a big mess and cleaning it up, the new and old were successfully combined. Controls of sound and video are now centralized and the tech team are happy campers!





BBH Scholarship More Than A Single Night's Award

The Beloved Community, a group that spawned in our church and endeavors to learn about and then act upon ways to respect the dignity of every human being, sponsors the annual Bishop Barbara Harris Scholarship. The money for the scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating senior from Octorara High School who self-identifies as a black woman and is going on for further schooling after high school. The scholarship amount is \$1,000. We have given the award for three years now.

Members of the Beloved Community want to be more supportive of the scholarship recipients than for the single evening when the award is given. Our viewpoint is that being in continued contact with the recipients and opening opportunities or offering support during their post high school schooling period will help each young woman to realize her potential. Late this summer we were fortunate to have a lunch, hosted by

Beth Davis, with the two past recipients of the scholarship. Happily, each young woman is headed back to school this fall.



Allura Trammel

Allura Trammel will return to HACC and is involved in the nursing program. Allura is following her mother into the nursing arena. Layla Cooper is a Temple undergraduate student and is working hard to be able to get into medical school with a goal to be a pulmonologist.

This year's recipient, Madelyn Rodriguez, will be studying Music/Sound Production online at Full Sail University, Florida.

Supportive activities provided by the Beloved Community beyond staying in touch and sharing a meal with the past recipients have included introductions to a practicing black female physician, shadowing a nurse working with an oncologist to gain exposure to real-life experiences, sharing

ideas and stories about schooling or employment, and sending "care packages" during the school year.

Our recipients each take on multiple jobs during the school year and summer to supplement their income and meet financial needs related to schooling. They expect to get certified as health aides and/or nursing assistants so that they can gain relevant experiences while still

in school and boost the pay rate per hour at the same time. Each of them has more than one job. These women are not just going to school, they need to tack on a regular basis as the winds change and in order to have sufficient



Layla Cooper

funds to remain an actively enrolled student. The Beloved Community is more than delighted to be able to give each of the past recipients additional monies that will be used to continue their schooling. We are glad to ease their burden, even a little bit.

Organ Concert

It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon May 21st, made all the more special by the Organ Concert performed by Gordon Turk. Dr. Turk played for us in 2012, when we celebrated the 100th anniversary of our Felgelmaker pipe organ. Happily, he returned and those in attendance were not only entertained by classical and secular music, but Dr. Turk educated the audience with a short item about each piece, at times pointing out musical phrases to listen for, points of historical interest or details about the composer. The icing on the cake was a duet

with the piano, played by our Music Director, Melissa Kennedy! Thank you to Melissa for arranging this lovely musical event!



Special Olympic Track And Field Competition

On Saturday, April 29th, was my Special Olympic track and field competition. It was held at William Penn Charter School in Philadelphia. Despite the unfavorable weather all of us athletes did our very best in competing in a variety of different sports in track, field and also basketball.



My day kicked off to a great start with the Opening Ceremony which was held in the gym. I was in for a big surprise when one of my coaches asked me to carry our team's banner. I accepted the request with a smile on my face with great honor. I was the first one to lead the parade of about 10 to 20 other



people representing their teams. Our team is called "The Chester County Chargers". What a fantastic and very

memorable way to start off my very first track competition!

The day just kept on getting better as the day went on! After the opening ceremony it was time to "Put our game faces on" and head outside to the track and field area where the events took place! My very first event was a 4 -100 Baton Team Relay where I had to wait for the baton to get handed off to me.

Then run as fast as I could with it to the finish line. Then it was time to head directly to the awards table. Where I received a second-place medal. After that it was time to do the javelin

throw which has been a challenge for me, but I really surprised myself! I ended up throwing it 5 yards. and took first place. I ended my day with 100- and 200-meter races where I came in Third and second place. I was even timed for the 200



meters where I actually beat my time from practice last week by under a minute which was 59.18 seconds. To make my day even better, my Step-mom Judy came to cheer me on in my races for both 100 and 200 meters. It



was such a great day, and I am looking forward to my next one on May twentieth in Montgomery County!

Here's to a fantastic rest of the track season!

Lauren Mazzotta

(Thank you Lauren for submitting this back in the spring!)



Each month Vestry ends their meetings by nominating folks for Affirmations. These are people who step up and work behind the scenes to help our parish and the surrounding community. If you would like to nominate someone, please let any vestry member know!

--Fr. Steve for all he does!

--Melissa Kennedy for the Organ concert, along with Carol Taylor, Barb Ammon, Beth Davis!

--Church School Team for a year of caring education for our youth.

--Barb Ammon (the Swiss Army Knife of Senior Wardens, the glue of Ascension!)

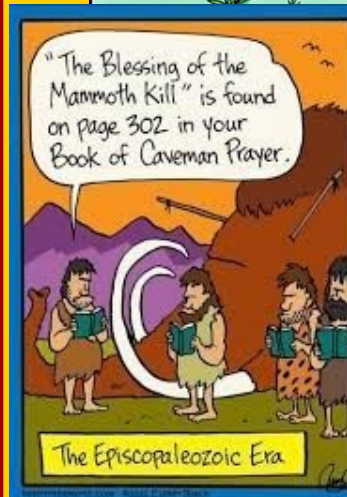
--Jay Kennedy for serving at the altar, many times at both services and organizing the acolyte training!

--Randy Frantz, Tyler Mitchell & Rob Gallaher for tech team!

--Marilyn Robbins for Finance & filling in as interim bookkeeper!

—Altar Guild is small, but mighty! Thanks to Patti Smith, Lauren Mazzotta, Mavis Smith, and Paula & Jack Shelton!

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



MCHUMOR.com by T. McCracken



Recognition Sunday



Recognition Sunday was held May 21st to honor our students, teachers and helpers!

Special thanks to Church School Director, Allison Thaler, teachers Adrienne Walburn, Gail & Cal Hess and Patti Smith.

Thank you for guiding our young folks throughout the year in this most important ministry!



Save the Date!! Christmas Musical Event

On **December 9** we will be hosting a musical group called "Seasons". They are a group of very talented siblings that perform on lovely acoustic instruments. They have a cool Celtic vibe and use mostly stringed instruments such as a harp, hammered dulcimer, guitar and more. They performed once before at Ascension in 2018 and it was such a unique, soul-stirring atmosphere of musical poetry. The acoustics in our church are superb for this type of performance.

The exact time of day will be announced at a later date.

Mark your calendars for this special event!



Faith X VIP Team: Update on Progress

Our diocese invited small parishes to join with a team called Faith X in order to explore ways to make the parish more vital. Our parish is involved with Faith X and will be for the next three years, which may permit us to benefit from what they bring to the table. One of the primary gains from Faith X so far is access to some data about the make-up of demographics near our church. Within a five-minute drive of the church the neighborhood is primarily made up of folks that live a Parks and Rec lifestyle. Some of what that lifestyle commonly includes is a household median age of 40.9 with 2.5 children and people prefer some sort of socially-oriented fellowship. The median household income is \$60 K and the people are likely to be interested in hands-on, or people-related ministries. Change the scope of the demographic data to 15 minutes and the predominate lifestyle is termed Workday Drive. A lifestyle that is more grounded in internet use for connections and information is a characteristic of the lifestyle. The household education level is a bit higher than for Parks and Rec, the median age is a bit younger and the household income grows a little too. Children's ministries are likely to be of interest and these families prefer a

strong hospitality program. We have far more data than this short article can share. Please ask team members about their impressions and thoughts based on the data.

Your parish team includes Dene and Tyler Mitchell, John Betts, Marilyn Robbins, Jule Ann Wakeman, Beth Davis, Jay Kennedy and Barb Ammon – along with Father Steve. When the team did an initial dive into our preferences and what insights the data gives us, we concluded that:

Our parish mission statement is still a useful one and will apply as we work with Faith X.

Our hospitality and welcoming nature are among our assets – anyone can join in our worship and faith activities.

Children that attend our Sunday school are learning that we are to care for everyone and that acting out of love is what we want to do.

One need that we observed in the neighborhood is the proportion of lower income

households (more so relative to Chester County than to the nation as a whole). The team sees a match with that need and the generosity of our parish in making our parish a more vital part of our community. Being vital – as the team understands it – means that if our parish did not exist then a “hole” would be left behind that the community would take notice of. During the next few years, the team and our parish want to become more vital to our community and do so by acting with love and through our faith.

Please take time to check in with a Faith X team member sometime and wonder along with the team how Ascension can be more vital. Be sure to make your insights about community needs and our parish strengths known to the team because many viewpoints will make our efforts more relevant and successful.

Barb Ammon



Parish Picnic!

A lovely afternoon was had by all who attended our annual Parish Picnic in August! Only a few braved jumping off the rock into the creek, but an added treat this year were rides in Rob's restored Army Jeep!



Many, many thanks once again to Rob & Rachel Gallagher for hosting this annual event. It was a lovely day in a gorgeous venue, with lots of fabulous food and fellowship!



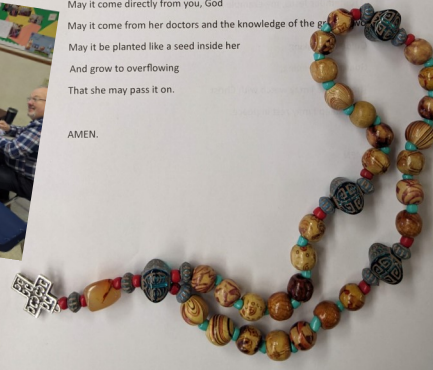
Anglican Prayer Bead Workshop



Many thanks to Marilyn Robins & Beth Davis for not only organizing and leading the Anglican Prayer Beads Workshop—but for providing all the materials & instruction!! It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship!



Praying for Someone
 Cross: God, be with me
 Invitatory: Hear me as I pray for _____
 Cruciform Beads: May she find healing
 May she find strength
 May she feel close to you
 May she feel hope
 (Other options: patience, rest, relief from pain, energy, peace, inspiration, help with _____)
 For the Weeks: May it come from deep inside her
 May it come from her close circle of friends and family
 May it come directly from you, God
 May it come from her doctors and the knowledge of the good
 May it be planted like a seed inside her
 And grow to overflowing
 That she may pass it on.
 AMEN.



A Celtic Prayer.....(adapted)

Cross: In the Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.
 Invitatory: O God make speed to save me,
 O Lord make haste to help me,
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
 Cruciforms: May the sight of God dwell in me,
 May the steps of Christ guide me,
 May the Holy Spirit inspire my soul.
 The Weeks: I remember the Father who made me in his image.
 I remember Jesus, my example and teacher.
 I welcome the Holy Spirit, my help.
 Guide me waking
 Guard me sleeping;
 That awake I may watch with Christ
 And asleep I may rest in peace.
 AMEN.

Rooted (Con't. from pg. 1)

provide rides, another might serve on the Vestry, one might reach out to those who need support, etc. The list goes on and on.

Each of us provides a portion of our treasure. We give to the church each year on a regular basis. These funds allow us to support our staff, take care of our buildings and our property, and provide for people who are in need in our community. The Vestry directs how this money is spent through our annual budget.

Each year each of us is asked to fill out a pledge card. This is our prom-

ise to give money to the support of our parish. This allows the Vestry to estimate the income for the next year. It allows them to make decisions about how the money is being spent.

Please fill out a 2023 pledge card. On the front, you will be directed to pledge a dollar amount and how you plan to fulfill it. To protect your privacy, only the pledge accountant will know our individual pledges. On the back, you will see some questions on how you can use your time and talent to support the community.

Thank you for all you do for our par-

ish and for keeping it strong. Through the spiritual discipline of giving, we are rooted in our community and support each other.



Generous and loving God, we offer you thanks and praise as we recognize that all we receive comes from you. Guide us as stewards of your abundance, and caretakers of all you have entrusted to us, that with thankful hearts our faithful stewardship will bear witness to your glory. In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

The Samaritan Woman in My Life

A bible story in Adult Formation class was taken from the Gospel of John 4: 5-30. It tells the story of The Samaritan Woman and how she asks Jesus for a drink of water from the well. It is a story that teaches us about God's love, truth, redemption, and acceptance. These things don't only apply to this story but should be practiced in our own lives every-day.

In this gospel reading a woman from Samaria came to Jacob's Well to draw water. It was right about noon, and she saw Jesus sitting near the well looking very tired from his long journey from Judea. He was passing through on his way back to Galilee. Then Jesus asks her for a drink from the well. She replied by telling him that she was a Samaritan woman, and he was a Jew. 'Why are you asking me for a drink?' Jews do not usually associate with Samaritans. Jesus said to her that if she knew his gift and who she was asking for a drink from. That she would have asked him for one in the same way. It would be living water. Then the woman noticed that Jesus did not have a bucket to fill with water and it was too deep. 'How does one get living water?', the woman asked. Jesus answered, 'Anyone who drinks from this well will be thirsty again. But those who drink living water will never be thirsty.' Jesus shows this woman nothing but acceptance and spoke the truth. And shows her love in the same way as we should give others in our own lives.

During that Adult Bible study class, Father Steve started off our Bible

discussion by asking us to choose one woman that has been a hero, mentor. Or someone that has made a great impact on our lives. Many of you might have thought that I would have chosen my mom, but I decided to go with my theater teacher.

My teacher and I met when I started at North Penn Senior High School in fall of 2005, which happened to be her very first year of teaching. I had her for drama class which was basically a theater class which was geared toward special education students.

In her class, I learned a variety of things about Theater such as reading a script, memorizing lines, learning how to warm up the voice and body, voice projection, learning the different parts of the stage, and last but not least, how to meditate or as she would call it a "quiet place". I could still picture her turning out the lights and asking all of us to close our eyes and think of a beautiful picture, a place that you visited, or something that you can create in your own mind and just go to that place for a few minutes. This was how we would get into character before going on-stage to perform.

In her class everyone was encouraged, for a grade, to take part in a play which taught us about working together, communication, building confidence, and being dedicated.

All are very important skills that I use in my life today. As the years went by at North Penn, my passion and love for theater grew. This individual was a great role model to all of us and continues to touch the lives of her students each day.

She also continues to be one of my favorite people in my life. She is just such a kind, caring and lovable woman both inside and out. She helped me to grow into the confident person you see before you today and never once judged me because of my disabilities and always helped me with any accommodations that I needed. Today she helps me out with coming to see shows at North Penn by helping me out with front row seats and tickets. I can never thank her enough for everything that she has taught me and continues to do for me even now.

I encourage all of us to take a minute and seek out these fantastic women in our lives because it is through these relationships that make our lives much more fulfilling, and we gain wisdom and knowledge from these individual women that have shaped our lives in ways far from our own imagination. I just told you a story about mine. Who are the Women Samaritans in your life? Only you can determine who they are and how you define them.

Based on a True Story about my North Penn Theater Teacher

By Lauren Mazzotta 3/14/2023

'...seek out these fantastic women in our lives because it is through these relationships that make our lives much more fulfilling, and we gain wisdom and knowledge...'



It has become an Ascension Tradition...

Celebrating Advent and our Christmas season with joining together for wreath making in St. Joseph's Hall. This year it will be **Sunday, December 3**, in the afternoon. Watch for the exact time in future announcements. All needed supplies will be provided, but if you have your wreath frame from last year, please bring it. Also, feel free to bring your own ornaments if they will make your wreath more festive for you.

All are welcome! Please invite your family and friends.
Refreshments will be provided.
It is a wonderful time of fellowship.





In Memoriam



Ruth E. "Sis" McEwing, 85, of Parkesburg, PA, passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 in Christiana, PA. She was the wife of the late W. James McEwing Sr. who passed away in 2010. Born in Parkesburg, she was the daughter of the late Walter and Anna McNally Mowrey. Ruth was a life-long member of the Church of the Ascension.

She will be remembered for her never-ending support for the church. She loved her dog "Baby". She and Baby would pray every day.



Let us pray

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of the Catholic Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a religious and holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with all those who mourn in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



William S. Fisher, 84, of New Holland, passed away at Garden Spot Village on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. He was the beloved husband of Judith L. McIntire Fisher with whom he shared 63 years of marriage. Born in Parkesburg, he was the son of the late Harry L. Fisher and Dorothy Mullen Fisher. Bill was a faithful member of the Ascension in Parkesburg where he served as Treasurer and Senior Warden. He was employed by Acme Markets where he worked for more than 35 years and

retired as Senior Vice President at just 53 years of age. An avid hunter and golfer, Bill enjoyed spending time outdoors in the Pennsylvania mountains.



George Douglas Rogers, 38, of Parkesburg, PA, passed away suddenly on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, as the result of an automobile accident. He was the beloved husband of Andrea Sullivan Rogers of Parkesburg. Born in Wilmington, DE, he was the son of George Francis Rogers of Parkesburg and Carolyn Slay Grigsby of King of Prussia, PA.

George, Andrea and Wyatt, their son, began attending the Ascension this year. Wyatt is a regular member of the Sunday School.

Through George's career as a musician, he played at many local venues, numerous locations at the NJ shore and DE and MD beaches, casinos, and as far as Key West, FL. Anyone who met George immediately remembered him for his phenomenal talent. He also enjoyed writing and recording his own music with close

friends, of which he was immensely proud. Many of George's closest friendships were formed through music. No matter the time passed or distance, when George ran into a friend, it was as if no time had passed at all. He greatly valued his music buddies, his fishing buddies, old friends from school, and friends who came to his gigs. He loved them all.

The only love George had that was greater than his love of music was the love he had for his family. George wouldn't get off the phone without saying "I love you." George dearly loved his family and cherished any chance he had to spend time with them. Whether it was relaxing at a family party, teaching his children to fish or fix something, or just a random visit to his mom, aunts, cousins, or mom mom, George absolutely loved being with his family. He always said that love is the most important thing. The loss of George's presence will be felt deeply by his family and loved ones.

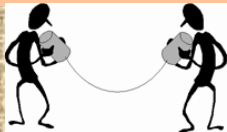
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
THE ASCENSION**

P.O. Box 193
406 West Second Ave.



**We're on the
Web!**

**www.ascension
parkesburg.org**



Autumn Months

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,
may the earlier setting of the sun
remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves
remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of
life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have
been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that
death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

- Author Unknown



Services

Sundays

**8:00am: Rite I Contemplative
Service**

9-10:00am: Adult Bible Study

**10:30am: Rite II Festive
Service with Music & Church
School**

Monday thru Friday*

8:30pm: Compline

*Shorter Compline T/Th/Sat
This service via FB Live,
[www.facebook.com/
ascensionparkesburg](http://www.facebook.com/ascensionparkesburg)

Every other Tuesday

**10am: Women's Bible Study, in
St. Joseph's Hall**

See our Webpage:

www.ascensionparkesburg.org

**for all Zoom & Facebook infor-
mation to connect to services &
discussions (& more)!**

Our Mission Statement:

'To Be a Loving

Community in

Relationship with God,

servng Christ and

**Respecting the Dignity of
Every**

Human Being.'



**Thank you to all who have
contributed to this issue!**

If you would like to con-
tribute to a future
newsletter (articles &/or
photos!), please send all
items to

Carol Taylor at
carolcjp1960@aol.com

*Please use 'Newsletter' in
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