

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension Webletter

Mid July 2016

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216-1799
(205) 822-3480 . www.ascensionepiscopal.org
902-1535 Pastoral Care



Adult Education

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." John 14:27

Please join us for the first session of Melanie Atha's three week series "Bringing Peace Into the Room" on Sunday afternoon at 3:45 in the Narthex. This first class will focus on our call as baptized Christians to accept Jesus' gift of peace and to work for the mission of the Church to restore all people to unity with God and one another. We will look at scripture, the catechism, and our baptismal covenant, as well as Thomas Keating's Open Mind, Open Heart. What practices, prayers and actions can welcome the peace of Christ into our hearts? How did Jesus model cultivation of peace? Bring a friend and plan to stay afterward for the 5:00 p.m. Eucharist.

Destination devotions

Planning a summer trip? Take along a Scripture passage befitting your vacation to use for devotions and prayer time (all NIV below):

- In the mountains: "The mountains and hills will burst into song before you" (Isaiah 55:12).
- At a lake, perhaps on a fishing trip: "They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people'" (Matthew 4:18-19).
- Near an ocean or river: "Let the sea resound ... let the rivers clap their hands" (Psalm 98:7-8).
- In the desert: "They looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud" (Exodus 16:10).
- In the woods: "Blessed is the one ... whose delight is in the law of the LORD That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season" (Psalm 1:1-3).
- In the flatlands: "'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest'" (John 4:34-35).
- On a "staycation" close to home: "Love the LORD your God These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ... Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

Newsletter Newsletter July 2016

*Reminders before you leave: unplug the iron and coffee pot; stop the mail and newspaper and
Please drop your church pledge in the mail.*

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Established 1953
Vestavia Hills, Alabama
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The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan
Bishop of Alabama

The Rt. Rev. Santosh K. Marray
Assistant Bishop of Alabama

Help needed

When I've taken sacred vows — confirmation, marriage, ordination or as part of a congregation committing to support the just-baptized or new teachers — I've felt genuine gratitude for words such as these in the ceremony: "May God, who gives you the will to make these promises, also give you the power to perform them." I'm relieved God doesn't leave me on my own to fulfill what is easier said than done.

Adults who guide youngsters can follow God's lead by committing to this kind of help. For example, my young son often declares, "I *promise!*" about a requested behavior. He means it, but when distractions arise or energy sags, when he's hungry or tired or frustrated, when the task feels overwhelming ... he needs help obeying or delivering on his promise. As a parent, I can say, "Let's do it together," or "How about setting the timer and doing the job in 10 minutes?" or "Afterward, we can play."

God doesn't leave us to rely on our own power. Likewise, adults can pledge inwardly to children: "May I, who have motivated you to promise this, also help you perform it."

—Heidi Mann



CHILDREN'S ASCENSION COLORING BOOK -

we are accepting children's drawings for a coloring book July 3-July 31! Submit a 8.5"X11 black and white drawing featuring a favorite part of church or Bible story.

Examples include Jesus and His life and ministry, a cross, acolytes, worship, music, Sunday School, church friends, Noah, Moses; the possibilities are endless! Please include child's name and place in the Church School mailbox in the office.

Congratulations to Elaine and Richard Graham on completing Cursillo #203 weekend!
Welcome to the Cursillo community!



Cursillo is a movement within the Episcopal Church that enables the essential qualities of Christianity to come to life in the uniqueness, originality, and creativity of each person.

Next weekends will be September 8-11, October 6-9. To find out more contact Sharon Linton, slinton@otelco.net or any Cursillo member.

2016 Liturgical Arts Conference
Renewing the spirit. Enriching the mind.
Inspiring hands and voices
Aug. 21 - 26, 2016
Kanuga Conference Center

www.kanuga.org/liturgicalarts

Introduction to Centering Prayer
Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center
Cullman, AL
Sept. 2-4, 2016

This workshop is designed for those new to Centering Prayer, a form of Christian Prayer rooted in the ancient Christian contemplative tradition. Its purpose is to foster a deeper intimacy with Christ through the silence and stillness of contemplative prayer.

<http://shmon.org/documents/Registrationform2.pdf>

"God's Welcome
The Spirituality of Hospitality"
Camp McDowell
Oct. 16 – Oct. 21, 2016
<https://na-reg.brapp.com/5-DayAcademy201571>

Church of the Ascension

Ascension Welcomes You!



To the Ascension
Website
Ctrl [Click Here](#)

Reminders

- Deadline for July newsletter will be **Sunday, July 24th.**
- Please observe quiet in the Nave and narthex preceding the service so as not to disturb prayer and quiet reflection in preparation for worship. Also, please silence cell phones before and during the service.
- Would you like your **membership** letter transferred **to the Ascension**? Please contact the parish office, 822-3480. We will be happy to send you a form to fill in with the information we will need to contact your former church home.
- **Before** booking any event for the church or parish house **please** check the master calendar in the church office.

SUNDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION AT ASCENSION

Sunday School 9:15am. Preschool –5th grade. Meet in their classrooms and then come together for Chapel. From chapel they join their parents for communion.

The Youth (grades 6-12) meet in the EYC loft in Ware Hall until time for acolytes to vest.

WEEKLY ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Mondays-Brown Bag Bible Study, 11:00am; Bring your Bible and a sandwich for lunch at noon. Beverages and dessert provided.

Mondays - EfM. If you are interested in knowing more about this class please contact: Fr. Stephen at fathersdhood@gmail.com or Dick Lounsbury rlounsbury6506@bellsouth.net.

Wednesday. Noon Day Holy Communion service.

Wednesday. 5:30pm. EYC/Youth

Wednesday. Rehearsal at 7:00 P.M.. with warm-up on Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M.

Thursday. Bible Class led by the Rector meets at 8:00am except on holidays.

EYC

July 24 – Birmingham Museum of Art! Meet at Church to car-pool at 2 pm. Admission is free.

Wednesday night fellowship each week at 5:30pm, and formation on Sunday mornings at 9:15am.

Contacts:

Mary Beth, mbhmann@gmail.com

Olivia, pres877@aol.com

Jane-Ellen, janesherrod86@hotmail.com



Senior Warden
John Thompson
215-3724

Junior Warden
Michael Eike
991-7287

Organist-Choir Director
Michael G. Sparks ... 870-8103

Christian Formation Director
Amanda Austin 822-3480

Youth Ministries 822-3480
Olivia Thompson, Jane-Ellen Shu-
mate and Mary Beth Mann.

Nursery 822-3480
Samantha Baldwin
Givonni Symonette

Treasurer
Len Skelton ... 541-0741

Assistant Treasurers
Laurie Tanner ... 982-1116
Jeff Lees. 410-6212

Members of Vestry
Kathryn Bringman, Mary Beth
Mann, John Wilson, Jeannie Duke,
Eileen Epstein,
Chris Lambert, John Thompson,
Michael Eike, Elaine Graham,
Jeff Lees, David Snow
Clerk of the Vestry
Lee Ann Fieselman

“if we love one another, God lives
in us and his love is made complete
in us” (1 John 4:12).



Ctrl Click Heading to keep
up with current and upcom-
ing events in our Diocese

WORSHIP SERVICE CD . Cop-
ies of our worship services are provided
by request. The Sunday 10:00 service
and other special services during the
year are usually recorded. Please con-
tact Elizabeth Tanner, 982-1831 or the
church office 822-3480.

**Please share this information with your friends
and neighbors**

!!! RUMMAGE SALE !!!

Episcopal Church of the Ascension

(Canyon Road, off of S 31 in Vestavia, behind Publix)

Friday, July 15, 2016

8 am till 3 pm

Saturday, July 16, 2016

8 am till 3 pm

Bargains galore - furniture, clothes, shoes, purses,
household items, books, children's toys and lots of
everything else!!

Please join us for a fun filled day !!