

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 for 3 –5 year olds and at 11am for Kindergarten through High School.

✠ *Tuesday Morning ALPHA/BETA/Emmaus classes*

Contact: Alyce Goldsmith or 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. New this year: Three (3) Emmaus courses to choose from! Join us!!

✠ *Wednesday Evening ALPHA/BETA/Emmaus classes*

Contact: Alyce Goldsmith or Linda Amidei, 447-3469

Same as Tuesday morning except we include dinner and child-care. There will be several Emmaus groups forming 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.

YOUTH

✠ *Ascension DaySchool*

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

Ascension DaySchool 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.

✠ *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 and the **High School** group meet separately for Christian education and fun activities. 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, 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 singers & handbell ringers, 3-12 grades, meet Wed. afternoon/evening. Fantastic opportunity to receive free professional training in small groups, develop musical skills & provide leadership at 10am worship, using Royal School of Church Music curriculum. Committed choristers attend week-long summer camp at a national RSCM event.

YOUTH

✠ *Acolytes*

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

MUSIC

✠ *Carillon*

Contact: Beth Hunter, 447-3469
Learn to play the "big bells" in our Mary 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: Anne Phillips, 447-1616
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.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

✠ *Ushers*

Contact: Maggie Talbot, 447-3469

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 THE 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: Verna Daniel, 443-3139

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

✠ *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 October and May, the Book Forum meets monthly to discuss a variety of books. Discussion led by Dr. Jean Tuttle.

✠ *United Thank Offering/Ingathering*

Contact: Talma Pilato, 515-8388

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.

✠ *Church Periodical Club*

Contact, Norma Wright, 398-1880

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

✠ *SHARE and FLASH Programs*

Contact: Michael Amidei, 403-7683

SHARE is a low-cost, food co-op distribution program for our community. FLASH is a ministry with and for families affected by HIV/AIDS.

✠ *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, x.211

Helping build affordable homes for families who qualify.

✠ *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; we have also traveled to Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming and an Indian reservation in Arizona.

✠ *Outreach at home*

Contact: Church Office, 447-3469

Ascension is proud of its commitment to share God's love through a little hard work. There are all kinds of opportunities at Ascension to offer assistance to those who need it most in our community.

↳ Some of these opportunities are:

- Ascension DaySchool - Every year we host a special service for our DaySchool. During this service the children ride in on their tricycles and we let our parish family know the many ways they can support the DaySchool - from supplies to scholarships
- RCS - Religious Community Services, originally founded at Ascension, is a non-profit, non-denominational organization that meets the needs of those in our community who do not have access to basic commodities
- Baby Food Jars - collect your change to pay for baby food at the Food Pantry run by RCS
- Food Pantry - 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 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 House - A shelter for women and their children seeking refuge from abusive situations, sponsored by the RCS
- SouthWard tutors - Anyone can volunteer to help tutor the children at our neighborhood elementary school.
Contact Judy McSwine for information (447-5493)
- 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

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.

PARISH LIFE

✠ *Communications*

Contact: Maggie Talbot, 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 Progressive Dinner in December. Fall and Spring events are also on the calendar.

✠ *Gadabouts*

Contact: Audrey Davis, 581-1269

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

✠ *Glorious Gatherings for Gifts*

Contact: Celia Kottmeier, 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, a mountain condominium vacation raffle, 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 at the events coming up in 2007-2008.

✠ *New Member Incorporation*

Contact: 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)

✠ *Block Party*

Contact: Larry Clem, 447-3469

In late spring, Ascension hosts an antique and custom car show to raise money for mission work. Great fun for the whole family!