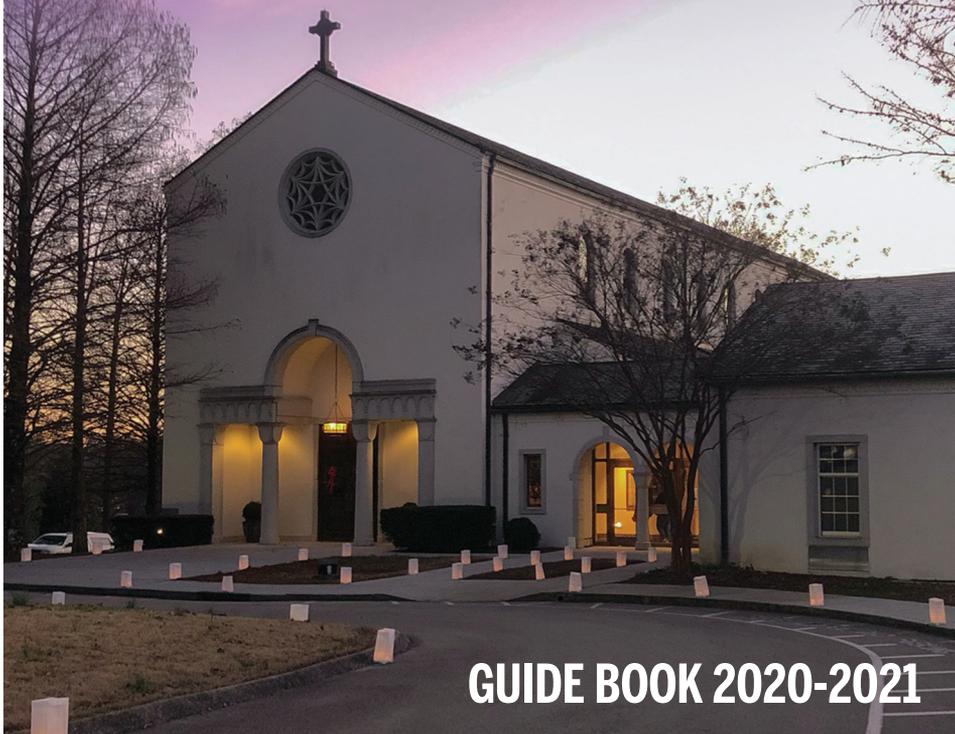




THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION



GUIDE BOOK 2020-2021

800 S. Northshore Dr., Knoxville, TN 37919 | 865-588-0589 | www.knoxvilleascension.org



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CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

800 S. Northshore Dr., Knoxville, TN 37919

865-588-0589 Office

www.knoxvilleascension.org

Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

“Rich in liturgy-Diverse in personality-United in faith”

This Guide Book is designed to introduce you to the life of our parish and provide you with a current listing of members' addresses and telephone numbers. Our Mission is “to enable ourselves and others to experience God in Christ, and to seek and serve Christ in others.”

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension is a vibrant community, diverse in viewpoint and united by faith. Offering a middle path in a divided world. Ascension encourages Christians to pursue their understanding of God in ways meaningful to them and guided by grace.

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension began as a mission of St. John's Cathedral of the Diocese of East Tennessee. When the original church building was dedicated in 1957, the congregation numbered 225. The church outgrew its facilities, and in 1986, expanded the worship space to its present site, with seating of 650. Membership is now approximately 1,100 baptized members.

Ascension is served by two full-time priests, and twelve full or part-time lay staff.

Worship

“Worship is at the heart of our life as a community”

Gathering together for prayer and worship is at the heart of our life as a community. From the glorious celebrations of Easter and Christmas to the intimate practice of the Daily Office, worship takes many forms. In addition to daily Morning and Evening Prayer at 7:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., respectively, you can experience a traditional Holy Eucharist at two services every Sunday morning: Rite I at 8:00, Rite II service at 10:30. A Healing Service with Eucharist is offered every Wednesday at Noon.

**Summer service times are 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Music

“Our music programs offer many opportunities, both for worship and service”

At Church of the Ascension, music is for everyone! Led by director Jim Garvey, the music department offers many opportunities for both worship and service.

The choral groups, the Parish Choir and the Boys’ and Girls’ Choir, sing each Sunday morning at the 10:30 a.m. service. In addition to Sunday services, the Parish Choir also sings for a number of liturgical programs or feast days throughout the year, such as All Hallows’ Eve, Advent Lessons and Carols, and the Epiphany. Parish Choir rehearsals take place Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The Boys’ and Girls’ Choir, comprised of children ages seven and older, also sings for special events in addition to the Sunday morning service. Rehearsals are offered on Wednesdays from 4:45 to 6:00 p.m.

The Ascension Handbell Choir plays for Sunday services once every six weeks. Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m.

Additionally, Friends of Music and the Arts (FOMA) offers a series of events each year to showcase Ascension’s resources and fine acoustic space to best advantage. Performers and ensembles who have appeared under FOMA’s auspices range from local and regional artists to those of national and international renown.

Health concerns have modified the scope of the music department’s offerings this year. The Parish Choir and Handbell Choir are on hiatus while services are being live-streamed, and FOMA’s offerings will be held in abeyance through at least the fall of 2020. Please consult the Ascension website, www.knoxvilleascension.org, for up-to-date information.

Adult Spiritual Formation

“A full range of opportunities for spiritual formation and service”

Ascension offers a full range of opportunities for adult faith formation through small groups and classes, worship and service opportunities. These classes and opportunities are ever-growing and changing, so always check the website at www.knoxvilleascension.org or email The Rev. Christopher Hogin at christopher@knoxvilleascension.org.

Sunday School

Sunday school for all ages is a terrific way to begin your week. Our Sunday morning adult classes are offered from 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m., from September through May, and offer a range of large and small group topics. You’re sure to find a place in one of them!

Adult Education

Wednesday Evening Classes are held from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. during the fall and spring, with multiple topics offered, from Scripture studies, to prayer, parenting, and special seasonal studies. Dinner is served from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, for a nominal cost, during the fall and spring offerings of adult education.

Lectionary Study

Every Wednesday morning during the program year at 10:45 a.m. there is a lectionary/Bible study group that meets in the Library.

EfM

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year program of intensive study of Scripture, theology and church history led by mentors through the University of the South School of Theology.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is for men to come together to strengthen their prayer life, study the Bible and other Christian writings, and to join with other men in serving God through service to the parish and the community. In addition to weekly meetings each Thursday at 7:00 a.m. for prayer, study and sharing, there are a variety of fellowship and service opportunities. The Brotherhood also gets together bi-monthly for food, fellowship and conversation. The Brotherhood hosts an annual weekend retreat for the men of the parish during the spring.

Young Families

Young Families is an active and vibrant group which meets to provide fellowship, community, and spiritual formation for Ascension's Young Families. They enjoy monthly activities, such as Date Night and a quarterly social gathering. Within Young Families, there are several weekly small group meetings for men and women, as well as a monthly men's night out.

For more information on any of these programs or opportunities, please contact the church office at 588-0589, or look on our Ascension website, www.knoxvilleascension.org for persons to contact for more information.

Youth Ministries

“A safe place to ask the big questions, Ascension Youth Group (AYG) focuses on growing our teens into people of God by allowing space for fun, faith, and friendship.”

The teens at Ascension are a passionate, faithful, welcoming and exuberant community that love God and love each other.

During the program year, our AYG (Ascension Youth Group) meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for WAY (Wednesday Ascension Youth) and we welcome teens in grades 6 thru 12. Dinner Angels from our parish provide weekly meals for our teens and meals are followed by age appropriate faith formation programming and time for prayer and fellowship. On Sunday mornings we offer Sunday School for all our youth from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the Prayer Room, Room 104.

For questions or more information about our youth ministry program, contact our Director of Youth Ministries, GiGi Logan at gigi@knoxvilleascension.org.

Family Ministries

“Ascension receives, nurtures and treasures each child as a gift from God”

Our Family ministry is ever-growing to meet the needs of families through the stages of their lives. We offer programming from birth to Grade 5. You'll find a nurturing, fun and disciple-building home for your family here at Ascension.

Children's Church and Junior Children's Church

We offer a special service for children age four to grade five during our 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service (our 10:00 a.m. service during summer months). Children follow the Crucifer and Cross to our Christian Education Wing and engage in a fun time of fellowship and learning. Our lessons attempt to follow the lectionary so that families can have discussions about what they all learned in service together! Children will also learn a “child sized” version of church tradition, such as, reciting a creed, standing for the Gospel reading, and more.

- Children's Church – 2nd-5th Grade in Room 213
- Jr. Children's Church – Pre-K-1st Grade in Room 211
- Sunday School
- We offer Sunday morning opportunities for all children from 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
- Godly Play I – PreK in Room 202
- Godly Play II – Kindergarten-2nd Grade in Room 203
- Tweens – 3rd-5th Grade in Room 105 (Downstairs)



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Nursery

Children ages 4 and under are welcome to attend our church nursery, Room 206. You will find experienced, trained caregivers for your children, in our newly remodeled rooms, on Sunday mornings and other special events. Hours during the school year on Sundays are 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and in the summer 9:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Tweens

Along with a designated Sunday School, our third through fifth graders can enjoy fellowship together twice a month in a youth group style setting! We gather for crafts, treats, and games while also focusing on growing a Christ-like character. Our Tweens go on several outing adventures during the year to share God's love and to have a great time!

Special Events

During the year, many opportunities arise for families to gather together! Some events include:

Date Night – a time where the children hang out at church while parents can go out together.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt – gather together for our annual Egg Hunt and Children's Easter Message.

Vacation Bible School – enjoy a high energy time of learning and playing together.

Annual Christmas Pageant and Cookie Reception – come watch the children perform at Christmas time and fellowship as a family afterward.

Keep watch in the Sunday Bulletin for updates, as well as, our Ascension Children and Family Ministry Facebook Page.

For questions about our Family Ministries, contact Rachel Thomas, Interim Christian Formation Coordinator, at rachel@knoxvilleascension.org

Newcomers' Ministry

“Greeting and orienting people new to Ascension”

The Newcomers' Ministry oversees greeting and orienting people, including those who are new, transferred or returning to The Episcopal Church of the Ascension. The needs of newcomers are met in several ways. A series of Inquirers/Confirmation classes are offered during the year. Newcomers are invited to a series of events specifically focused on helping them explore the church and learn about the variety of ways they can become a part of our dynamic church family. The events include: “Welcome Gatherings”, Inquirers/Confirmation classes and Lay Ministry opportunities.

Greeters are the warm and friendly faces you see as you walk through our doors on Sunday morning and at other worship services. We seek to greet those who worship here with the extended arms of the Christian family. If you would like to be a part of this welcoming ministry, please contact the church office.

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Inreach

“Gatherings with the church community”

Ascension’s Inreach activities bring parishioners together through various groups that offer opportunities for gathering with the church community, outside of worship. Some examples are: Young Families Fellowship, Labyrinth, Pet Ministry (LAMBS), Icon Guild, Garden Helpers, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, Foyer Groups, Lunch Bunch, The Sisterhood, DOK (Daughters of the King) and ECW (Episcopal Church Women).

Outreach

*“As you did it to one of the least of these
my brethren, you did it to me”*

FISH Hospitality Pantries

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension’s Hunger Ministry, also known as FISH Hospitality Pantries, has been providing food assistance to families in Knoxville for more than 26 years to people who are low on food and low on money to buy their own food.

Currently, we operate four food relief pantries in Knoxville, including a pantry located at The Episcopal Church of the Ascension. Together, these pantries distribute more than 11,000 grocery bags filled with food each month.

Over 70 volunteers from Ascension have been joined by volunteers from many other churches making this Ascension led ministry a truly inter-faith effort. At the Ascension pantry, volunteers who can give two hours monthly are needed to (1) help answer the FISH hotline the third and fourth Thursdays of each month, or (2) go out in teams of two persons to deliver bags of food to the homes of callers who are unable to come to one of our Hospitality Pantries to pick up their food.

For those parishioners who can volunteer three hours weekly or more occasionally, we have three neighborhood based Hospitality Pantries in East, South and Northwest Knoxville. Volunteers at this facility help with a number of things, including greeting guests coming for food, helping guests select food items, helping repack bulk food items, etc. Hundreds of families come to our pickup pantries for food each day they operate.

If you are willing to offer yourself to be part of this work of God, please call Jim Wright, Director of Hunger Ministries, at the church office, 588-0589, ext. 224.



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Community Chest

The Knoxville Community Chest is a non-profit organization supported by The Episcopal Church of the Ascension. It offers food, clothing and household items to people in distressed situations and to those with low incomes. Many people with limited incomes cannot feed or clothe their families at the prices charged by most non-profit thrift stores. We are not trying to raise funds for other worthwhile purposes. Our aim is to get needed items to people at the lowest possible cost while covering our operating expenses. Any surplus funds benefit our FISH Hospitality Pantries. All merchandise is for personal and family use only and may not be purchased for resale.

Your donations of used clothing and small household items can be made 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday at our 122 W. Scott Ave., Knoxville, TN 37917 location. (Inside the FISH Hospitality Pantry Building.)

Family Promise of Knoxville

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension is a supporting church in Family Promise of Knoxville, formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Knoxville. It is one of 96 networks in operation across the United States that provide lodging, meals and hospitality to homeless families one week at a time. This program requires a great number of parishioners to serve as hosts, meal preparers, drivers, and in other capacities, to make Ascension's week a success. Volunteers are always needed. For more information, please call the church office at 865-588-0589.

Other Local Outreach

In addition to the Hospitality Pantries (FISH) program, the Community Chest and Family Promise of Knoxville, Ascension supports a wide range of community activities such as the Choose Some Shoes and White Oak School events. For more information, call the church office.

Parish Life

***“Parish events provide frequent occasions
to celebrate life together”***

Seasonal celebrations and special parish events provide frequent occasions to celebrate our life together. Events vary and include an Epiphany concert and dinner in January, a children's Easter Egg Hunt in the spring, Rally Day in September, the Blessing of the Animals in October, a fundraiser for the Brotherhood in the fall, usually in late October or November, an All Hallows Eve Service and Boo Bash, and a concert of Advent Lessons and Carols, in December. Foyer Groups meet to share a simple meal in others' homes monthly. Groups are shuffled every six months to provide everyone an opportunity to get to know others in the parish.

Library

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension Library contains an extensive collection of books, magazines and video and cassette tapes for adults and children. In addition to the many spiritual and religious titles, the collection includes fiction, biography and psychology. The reference section includes several Bible translations, atlases and concordances. The library is open weekdays during office hours and on Sundays.

Publications

In addition to the Sunday Services Program, we publish programs for all other services, weddings and funerals, a weekly e-Newsletter, and a monthly Parish Paper. More information is available on our website, www.knoxvilleascension.org. You can also check us out on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. All publication questions can be sent to olivia@knoxvilleascension.org.

Ministry Opportunities

Please visit our Web sites at www.knoxvilleascension.org

Parish Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Patrick J. Wingo.....	Interim Rector
The Rev. Christopher W. Hogin.....	Sr. Associate Rector
The Rev. Caroline Vogel.....	Priest Associate
The Rev. SuZanne Seavey.....	Associate Priest, Retired
The Rev. Deacon Larry Beach.....	Associate Deacon, Retired
Rachel Thomas.....	Interim Christian Formation Coordinator
Virginia Branum.....	Office Assistant
Tristen DeAngelo-Hicks.....	Executive Assistant to the Clergy
James Garvey.....	Music Director
Linda Hawley.....	Parish Administrator
Olivia Johnson.....	Communications Coordinator
GiGi Logan.....	Director of Youth Ministries
Sabra Martin.....	Program Secretary
Donnie Moore.....	Night Sexton
Beverly Sutton.....	Senior Bookkeeper
Tara Geracitano.....	Day Sexton
Jim Wright.....	Director of Hunger Ministries

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Internet Directory

The Rev. Patrick J. Wingo.....	pat@knoxvilleascension.org
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Nursery Requests.....	nursery16@knoxvilleascension.org

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