

the steeple

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

February 2012

Mission Statement

Disciples of Christ called to serve neighbors near
and far

In the Quiet of the Moment

Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.

I recently made a trip to that “holy mountain” in Tennessee known as Sewanee: The University of the South-Sewanee and my alma mater-The School of Theology.

I was there for a “called” Trustees’ meeting and the Opening Convocation for the Easter semester. It was raining for most of the 4 and half hour trip there on Sunday afternoon and evening and by the time I arrived the wind was gusting and creating quite a stir all around that small village on the mountain. Remarkably, the next day the sun broke through and evolved into a beautiful, clear day. The rain had finally dissipated and the fog had lifted. That Monday evening just before sunset I drove to the edge of the mountain, only a half mile from the inn on campus where I was staying. Standing in the clearing, looking down into the valley was a breathtaking end to the day as the sun slowly seemed to fade away. The sun’s setting left the sky with a myriad of colors. I took photographs with my phone camera. While standing in one location, the pictures were each different and distinct. Three snapshots each unique: one presenting an array of colors from pale yellows developing into lighter blue, another projecting layered deep turquoise blues, and another giving way to the pinks of a cool, calm evening. All captured at the same location, same horizon, resulting in three different perspectives.

I can draw a parallel here to the way we read and interpret scripture. Three of us can sit at the table,



Sewanee Sunset — January 2012

read together one passage from scripture, and offer three unique, different perspectives in regard to those same verses. None of the three is wrong or right. Take for instance a portion of the gospel reading for Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6:19-21) which we will read and hear on February 22, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Lent begins February 22 with the service for the Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon and 6 PM in the church. This is how we begin a holy Lent. For each one of us, every year we enter Lent the same way with this special service of devotion. We are the same person and we stand in the same place of Lent, but each year offers us new perspectives, new understandings of what Lent means in our lives, and new ways to observe a holy and faithful Lent.

I recently met with our Senior Warden and one of our diocesan delegates in my office for more than three hours to discuss our Lenten program for this year. We then met with the co-chairs for the Christian Formation Committee in order to plan and offer to you, the beloved people of Ascension and others, a worthwhile and meaningful Lenten program

series. This Lenten series will include Open Forums each Sunday from 9:15 until 10:15. You will only need to have a Book of Common Prayer and the willingness to share, listen, and eat in an Open Forum setting. An Open Forum is just that! Open discussion on aspects of our faith that really matter, all grounded in our Episcopal/Anglican traditions and energized by prayer. During his recent visit to our parish, Bishop Waldo set an example for us of the importance of valuing each other's ideas. The Open Forum format is designed to provide that opportunity and our desire is to continue that fresh and spontaneous conversation...with God's help. You will also be fed breakfast!! When: 9:15-10:15; February 26, March 4, 11,18, 25, and April 1.

Where: The Parish Hall

What to bring: The Book of Common Prayer and inquiring minds.

A tasty, Episcopal breakfast will be served!!

See you in church,
Deedie+

ECW News

Thanks to all who brought food, served in the kitchen, and helped clean-up when Bishop Andrew Waldo visited on Sunday, January 15th. All agreed that it was an uplifting day for our whole church.

During our February 14 meeting, we will be making more "Christmons" for decorating our Christmas tree, next December. We will also be planning the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to take place on February 21st from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Watch for the sign-up sheet, tickets are \$6.00 for all you can eat.

On December 6, 134 Christmas Shoeboxes were delivered to DEHEC Home Health. The nurses can't believe how beautiful each box looked and how they were filled with such love by caring people. A total of 74 boxes were from Ascension and 60 boxes were from the ladies of the Giving Circle in Ginger Tidman's neighborhood. Start saving for next year's effort.

By Nancy Andrews



Bishop Waldo and Vestry gather in St. Clare's Chapel January 15,2012.



Bishop Waldo at Parish Forum

The Steeple

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
214 Northampton Road
Seneca, SC 29672
864-882-2006

email: ascensionworship@bellsouth.net
web address: <http://www.ascension-seneca.org>

The Rev. Carol Anne Phillips Marshall, Rector
Editors:
Sid Bryson, Dee Smith, Bruce Marshall
+++++

Schedule of Services
Sunday - 8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite I
Sunday - 10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II
1st & 3rd Wednesday - 9:30 AM- Holy Eucharist healing
MP Monday & Wednesday 9:00AM
EP Tuesday 5:00PM

VESTRY VOICES

From the Senior Warden

The 2012 Sunday flower list is now available for anyone who wishes to put flowers on the Altar. Whenever there is a Sunday without a specific request, the Church must absorb the cost of these flowers. This can become quite expensive and as everyone is aware our goal is to cut expenses wherever possible. So, with that thought in mind, would it be possible for each of our Committees to select a Sunday sometime during this year? The ECW has already chosen to pay for the flowers for Sunday Jan. 29th. If DOK, Outreach, Good News, Sunday Breakfast Club, Choir, Ushers, EM's would also take a Sunday this would make a huge difference in how often our Church would have to pay Shaw's Florist, and it would be a nominal amount from each person in that particular group. If you would like to do this simply tell our secretary, Connie Murphy, to put your Committees' name on any open Sunday. Thank you.

By Dee Mango

From the Junior Warden

At its January 2012 meeting our Vestry approved a motion to form a *Green Committee* that will be responsible to the Vestry for stewardship of Ascension buildings and grounds.

"Green" can be interpreted in several ways, including: Care of all our land; Efficiency in the use of our resources; Saving dollars; and, perhaps with a little interpretation, Maintenance of our buildings and equipment.

The Ascension Green Committee is not envisioned as a small group that sits around a table to discuss issues, but rather an active body in which EVERYONE participates in the doing. Several Parishioners have expressed interest in this, and we truly seek everyone. That does not mean that everyone will help with lawn mowing or gardening or interior maintenance. What we seek is to use

our own abilities as we know them and so desire. We seek those interested in specific facets to assume some ownership with backups.

Therefore, we seek your interest and we will gather in early February to make a list of basic tasks, and to gather your ideas about how to make the Green Project a reality. All ideas are welcome; the Green Committee will be a committee of the whole, and suggestions will be provided to the Vestry as we move forward.

Please let me know of your interest:
lgleffler@bellsouth.net
864-710-7608

By Lou Leffler

Christian Formation Committee

The recent viewing of The Star of Bethlehem was enjoyed by all. If you missed this most interesting presentation, check out the website at www.bethlehemstar.com.

On Thursday, February 9th, Dr. Leslie Williams, Assistant Professor of Japanese and Anthropology at Clemson University, will speak from 7:00 to 8:30pm on the Shinto religion. This will be Ascension's fifth program on the major religions of the world.

As always, dessert and beverage will be served at 6:30pm.

By Pam Whitaker and Bob Andrews

The Steeple is published most months; the **deadline is the 15th** of the month. Please submit articles to the Steeple mailbox, or email to

Sid Bryson——sdryson@bellsouth.net
Dee Smith——chuckandee@bellsouth.net
Bruce Marshall _____bmars52@gmail.com

NOTE: March and April issues will be combined and the editor will be Dee Smith.

MUSIC NOTES

THREE RENAISSANCE COMPOSERS

To continue looking at music of the Renaissance period (1450-1600), I have selected three composers not only as representatives of the period but as examples of recent anthems the choir has sung or will be singing. These composers are: Michael Praetorius, Heinrich Schütz, and Thomas Tallis.



Michael Praetorius was born in 1571 in Creuzburg on the Werra in Thuringia and died February 15, 1621 in Wolfenbüttel, near Hanover. He first served as organist in the service of Duke Heinrich-Julius of Brunswick-Lüneburg. Following Julius' death, he traveled widely playing the organ with many famous conductors and composers. He published prolifically - nine volumes of chorale collections, twenty volumes of motets as well as Mass settings, hymns, polychoral settings and liturgical works. He wrote a three volume work, the *Syntagmamusium*, an important source of musical information of the period. He earned the title of "conservator of the chorale". Recently, the choir sang his 4 part canon, "Alleluia".

Heinrich Schütz (born 1585 in Köstritz, Saxony, and died 1672 in Dresden) was the most important German musician prior to J.S. Bach. He was a chorister in the chapel of the Landgrave Maurice of Hesse-Kassel, who sent him to Venice to study under Giovanni Gabrieli. He returned to Germany to study law and was again sponsored by the Landgrave as an organist. In 1617 he became the director of chapel music to the Elector Johann-Georg of Saxony. In his later years, he spent a great deal of time in the study of Scripture and wrote his three Passion settings of Matthew, Luke, and John as his final masterpieces. Heinrich Schütz brought new musical ideas from Italy to Germany, and as such had a large influence on German music. Over 500 individual pieces of his music have survived, but very few secular compositions and none of his instrumental music, despite his standing as one of the finest organists of his day. The choir soon will be singing his anthem, "Rejoice in God".



Thomas Tallis was born about 1505 and died in Kent, England in 1585. Although he is often called the "father of English church music," very little is known about his early years until 1532, when he was appointed organist of Benedictine Priory in Dover. In 1537 he became the organist at St. Mary-le-Hill in Billingsgate, London and later at Walton Abbey in London, until it was dissolved by King Henry VIII in 1540. In 1543 he was appointed Gentleman of the Chapel Royal, where he sang, helped to direct the choir, played the organ and composed. He remained with the Chapel

Royal until his death in 1585, serving under for four Tudor monarchs. Under Queen Elizabeth I he was granted a monopoly in music printing along with William Byrd. His most famous music was choral music for the church. He was a master of polyphony and wrote masses, motets, Magnificats, Lamentations, office hymns for the Latin service, as well as anthems and service music for the liturgies of the reformed Church of England. Recently, the choir sang the polyphonic "All Praise to Thee," which ends with the very familiar Doxology sung in unison.

(Source: Oxford Grove Music Encyclopedia and internet sites)

By Marsha Cabbage

Here are some links to hear a sample of the music of these composers :

Praetorius *Christmas Vespers*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cb1cZYLVDVGk&feature=fvwrel>

Schütz, *Deutsches Magnificat* (1671): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myY5pif1Ty0&feature=related>

Tallis, *If ye love me*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq9iH2t2OOA>



Valentine Charity Dance

Friday - Feb 10, 2012 - 7:30 until 11:00 pm
 Dance Lesson from 6:30 until 7:30 pm
 Admission \$10 per Person

100% of Proceeds will go to Local Charities

A Silent Auction will include: Services, Outings, and Tangible Items. Bids can be placed from Feb 5th thru 10pm the night of the Dance. For Information on the Silent Auction call 882-2006.

- * Smart Casual Dress * Snacks provided*
- *You may bring a Bottle of Wine to Share*
- *Must be 21 Years of Age*



LENTEN EVENTS

Shrove Tuesday
 February 21

5:00 PM Evening Prayer
 5:30 PM Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday
 February 22

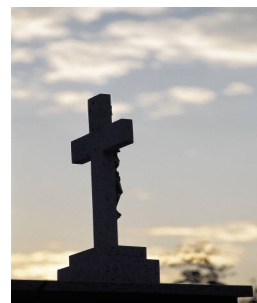
12:00 Noon and 6:00 PM
 Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Monday and Wednesday 9:00AM
 Morning Prayer

Tuesday at 5:00 PM
 Evening Prayer

Sundays in Lent
 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM
 LENTEN FORUMS

Fridays in Lent
 12:00 Noon
 STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Helping Hands News

Ten Children from the Helping Hands home went to see Santa and his sugar plum elves at the Hospice Christmas Tree Festival.

Please greet the children that come to our Sunday School every other week. They love coming because they feel "so loved."

Helping Hands Store-Yes, your donations do help support the home. Donations as of the beginning of December amounted to \$262,413.45; an increase of over \$12,000. from last year. What a great mission to support!

By Nancy Andrews

Information submitted to *The Steeple* for publication must be dated and signed with the submitter's full contact information. If the information/article is a reprint, please so note the information on that publication and be certain that we need not get permission from the original publisher. All submissions will be reviewed and approved by the Rector prior to publication in *The Steeple*.



Remember Those on our Prayer List

Immediate Concerns:

Emily, Jim, Kim M, Sean, Pete, Bob, Donnie, Kim P, Gloria, Randy, Danny, Karen, Bruce H, Rita A, John, Joni, Rachel, Kathie, Sayra, Faith, Linda, the People of Haiti, The New Republic of South Sudan, and for the missionaries there: Rachel, Mary, And Ellen+.

Our Servicemen and Servicewomen:

Deborah, Ben, Thomas, Jeremy, Brandon, Andrew, Patrick, Mike, James, Robert

On-Going Prayer Requests:

Geri, Julia, Fred, Flora K, Joan, Connie A, Maria, Jean, Children at the Helping Hands Home, Families at Our Daily Rest

Prayers for the Dead: Jeanne Bross died Tuesday Dec. 27th in Huntsville, AL; a close life long friend of Leila Walker.

Parishioner, Camilla Mabry, died Monday January 30th in Seneca, SC. Funeral arrangements at Oconee Memorial Park are pending.

Respectfully Submitted, Reta Miskov (ECW Sunshine Committee)

“Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.”

Clergy Contact Information:

Our Rector, The Rev. Marshall (Deedie) can be reached:

Church Office: 882-2006
 Pastoral Phone: 985-8758
 Email: deediem@bellsouth.net
 Or: ascensionworship@bellsouth.net

Adult Bible Class News

The Adult Bible Class continues with the book "The Gospel of Mark" by Marcus Borg. In February, the following questions and statements, as well as others, will be discussed; "Whoever wants to be the first must be the last of all and servant of all". What words and images do you associate with "servant-hood"? Why do you think that Jesus continues to tell the disciples what was ahead, and why did they continue to ignore his words? What changes are we asked to make in our lives in order to follow the teaching of Jesus? Jesus says, "He ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead". Why do you suppose that He asked this of them?

You are welcome to attend the class as an auditor or participant. The class meets every Sunday morning in Room 9 from 9:15 until 10:15 am. For information see or call Bob Andrews at 944-2882.

*Discussion of Shinto
 Dr. Leslie Williams,
 Prof. of Japanese and Anthropology*

*Thursday, February 9
 6:30 –dessert
 7:00—presentation
 Parish Hall*

New Church Office Hours

Starting February 6th
 Monday through Thursday
 9:00 AM to 3:15 PM

Friday: Office Closed



Birthdays

February 2012

- February 5 Jacqui Dunn
- February 11 Lyle Shoot
- February 12 Kathy Padgett
- February 15 Fiona Neill
- February 16 Gil Huggins
- February 25 Doug Young

Note:

Diocesan Convention recommends that each person contribute \$10 in thanksgiving for a birthday to the Diocese to provide support for new missions. Send checks to:

“Builders for Mission”, Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, 1115 Marion St., Columbia, SC .

Anniversaries

February 2012

4 Sam and Dee Mango
17 Millard and Jean Pollock

A Prayer Table is located by the side entrance to the nave. Your personal prayer intentions may also be made at any time during the week as well as on Sunday.

Please note: Candles will be extinguished and not left unattended.



Budget Box	
December 2011	
<u>Income</u>	
Actual	Budget
\$\$174,933.40	\$174,250
\$7,844.40	Investment income (annual)
<u>Operating Expense*</u>	
\$194,814.02	\$194,387
<u>Outreach</u>	
December Year To Date	
Budget	Distributions
\$ 000	\$000

ALL THINGS POSSIBLE (The Challenge Fund)

Gifts and pledges to the Challenge Fund have reached more than \$14,000. The amount needed to win the matching funds that will erase the deficit for the past year is \$18,000.

There are blue pledge cards on the table in the Foyer, next to the bulletin board for contributions to the Challenge Fund. The completed cards can be put in the offering plate, placed in Connie Spencer's mail box or returned to the Church Office. Many thanks to everyone who has committed to this important project.

Your Wardens and Vestry!

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
214 Northampton Road, Seneca, SC 29672

February 2012

Return Service Requested

The Steeple
The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
214 Northampton Road
Seneca, SC 29672
864-882-2006
email: ascensionworship@bellsouth.net
<http://www.ascension-seneca.org>

The Rector responds to concern that Lent is a downer

