



THE VOICE

FOR THE FULLER LIFE OF OUR ASCENSION FAMILY

2006-07 WOMEN OF THE YEAR

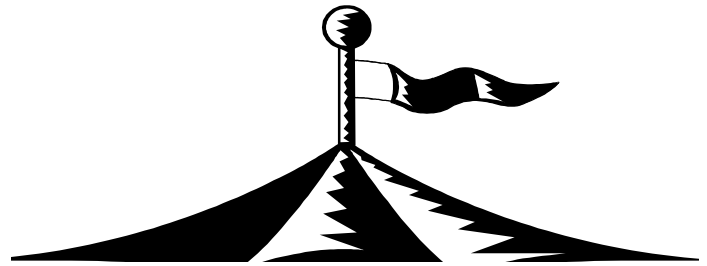
Ascension congratulates the 2006-07 Women of the Year who were honored by the Women's Guild at the Mother Daughter dinner in May.

Amy Petrie – Husband, Frank. Daughters, Alyssa, Jessica and Victoria (Tori). Members since 1997

Amy has been involved with Ascension Parish and School since her oldest started attending in 2000 and has remained involved ever since - starting out as a Homeroom Mom and becoming more active as the years flew by. She enjoys being with the students and currently helps out in the school cafeteria once a week – assisting however needed and encouraging good nutrition among the students. Along with that, she is also a Girl Scout troop leader – and a firm believer in incorporating the spirituality of our Catholic faith into their instructions regarding the many activities and programs they are involved in. She and her fellow leaders are fine role models for these young women. In this capacity she has coordinated the cookie sale booths both at church and within the community to help with the financial support needed for the troops. Most recognized for helping out in the school when the need arises, she has volunteered as a chaperone on field trips, helped during the Fun Day activities and then Fr. Stretch relays and most recently with the March Madness event. Along with all of this, she still finds time to help with Children's Liturgy of the Word offered on Sunday mornings, the Baptismal Preparation program with her husband – often assisting at baptisms - and the Parish Festival. A few years back she attended one of the Christ Renews His Parish weekends and is still involved by helping to make meals for the current parishioners going through the weekend or helping to clean up afterwards. She and her prayer group have remained active by maintaining the Prayer Garden outside of the church.

Amy is a wonderful person who has been

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SUMMER FESTIVAL JUNE 22 - 24

The weather is becoming hot and sultry, and we all know what else that means. The 2007 Ascension Summer Festival is also in the air! Our annual event held June 22-24 will kick off with a couple of cool new features:

This year's main prize raffle is for the choice between \$10,000 or a 2007 Saturn Ion. Pre-sales activities are showing quite a bit of interest. Tickets can be turned in anytime and will be available for sale after Masses June 9-10. YOU could be a winner-it only takes one!

Bingo will be Friday night only this year with Texas Hold 'Em Saturday and Sunday in the PAC. Blackjack will be relocated to the PAC for the last two days as well. The air conditioning is better for the "cards"!

I believe I can already smell the calzones. And for you ice cream lovers, a new attraction called *Dippin' Dots* will be here. You may have heard of them before.

Many parishioners have already signed up to help this year. Our service teams will be contacting you for your assignments by June 13. They are still looking for a few folks to help. Areas needed are in the youth games along Woodman Drive, Instant Bingo, set up June 16, and tear down June 25. Volunteering is a great way to earn service hours! Books, prizes, and donations are also a welcome way to help our various booths.

Send your inquiries to Dan Accrocco, 429-9943, accord@aol.com.

- Dan Accrocco

described as patient and positive when interacting with others and always with a genuine smile or warm hug to offer.

Jeannette Niedgodski – Husband, Mark; Children, Zachary and Megan.

Jeannette has also served Ascension Parish and School since joining in 2003. She too has attended one of the Christ Renews His Parish weekends here at Ascension and remains involved as a team member helping to plan and present future retreats. She helps out in the school cafeteria – and has even taken it one step further by becoming employed with St. Albert's Kitchen and serving not only at Ascension, but with other catering jobs when the need arises. One of her many activities at the Church is her involvement with Youth Ministry. It is largely because of her that Ascension has an active Junior High Youth Ministry program. She attended the founding meeting and soon became coordinator of the planning team, which plans monthly activities for parish youth in Grades 6-8. She has been active in taking diocesan training classes for youth ministry and has collaborated with the youth ministry program at St. Helen's parish in the recent 24 Hour Food Fast. She continues to foster relationships with other parishes as a result of her participation with youth in the Summer Work Camp. Most recognizable however, is her involvement with the yearly trips to Washington, DC for the Right-to-Life March. She is responsible for the planning, the coordination, the advertising, the recruitment and the participation of parish youth and their parents each January in what has become a highly anticipated and truly life-altering experience for many of our youth.

Sondra Gibbons – Husband, Owen; Children – grown and out of the house

Sondra may not have been involved in a multitude of facets here at Ascension, but the one she has focused on has most certainly garnered a huge impact! Joining the parish in 1996, she saw the need for Ascension to reach out to those who were grieving at the recent loss of a family member. Through concern, determination and a strong belief in helping others as Jesus calls us to do, she came forth with an idea; and, backed by a large number of fellow parishioners willing to join in her efforts, founded the Funeral Luncheon Ministry. From the beginning she has had more than enough help in this endeavor. Part of the bereavement ministry, the Funeral Luncheon Ministry has taken on a life of its own. Rotating through the list of members, this group prepares and serves luncheons in the

Witzman Center following the funeral service. They provide not only the food and service, but support and concern during this often difficult time for families and loved ones. Providing a hospitable and caring environment helps to put these families at ease during this often overwhelming time for them. On top of shopping, preparing, phone calls and hostessing, she still finds time to help occasionally at Grand Court Nursing Home as well as visiting her own elderly and ill friends – sticking by them and providing the support they need. As one proud friend said, "she is truly a good person!"

EVENING OF REFLECTION WITH ARCHBISHOP KELLY



**Friday, August 10, 2007
Witzman Center**

- Gather 6:45 p.m.
- Program and Prayer 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Most Reverend Patrick A. Kelly, Archbishop of Liverpool, England

"Living justly with one

another and the whole of Creation... that there may be Peace in Jerusalem and the world"

- Refreshments and Fellowship - 8:30 p.m.
- Child care provided for children age 12 and under by reservation only – call 254-0622 or e-mail ascensionre@juno.com

Archbishop Kelly presides at Ascension Sunday Masses each August while visiting relatives in the local area. He has graciously accepted an invitation to share with us his international perspective on living as Christian peacemakers.

RE REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2007-08 school year can be accomplished by calling the Religious Education Office (254-0622). Fees are: one child, \$85; two children, \$170; each additional child, \$40. Fees are due at the time of registration. Families experiencing financial difficulty may request a full or partial waiver of fees. Children who will be entering the first grade in the fall should be registered now in order to receive First Communion in the second grade. Parents of school-age children who have never been baptized or received First Communion are encouraged to contact the RE Office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Many of the RE students celebrated sacraments of initiation during April and May. Three students were baptized, confirmed, and received First Communion at the Easter Vigil; thirty children received the Eucharist for the first time at weekend Masses; and eighteen students were confirmed by Archbishop Pilarczyk. Sixth grade students and their parents met to begin the two years of preparation to receive Confirmation in 2009.

Religious education classes observed the end of the school year with closing liturgies, presentation of certificates, and catechist recognition. Early Childhood students ended their year with a short program in the PAC, followed by a family picnic. The final session for Children's RCIA took place on the Feast of the Ascension.

Congratulations to the Peacemaker of the Month for March: Trace Jordan (Gr. 1); for April-May: Kayla Petrick (Gr. 1).

Perfect Attendance awards were earned by the following students: *Early Childhood* –Emma Meyer, Brandon Brown, Dustin Walling, Hannah Jansen, Rachel Rose, James DeWall, Sarah Graham, Madison Jansen, Cami Copeland; *Grade 1* – David Abrams, Jacob Berry, Justin Shiverdecker; *Grade 2*: Maeve Curliss, Haley Hart, McKenzie Cummings, Ashton Dicke, Riley Myszka (2nd yr.); *Grade 3* - Ashlyn Ivan; *Grade 4* – Michael Curliss, Joel Shiverdecker (3rd yr.), Gabrielle Abrams, Staci Deis (2nd yr.); *Grade 5* – Cecelia Deis (2nd yr.), Madeline McKenna, Payton Myszka (3rd yr.), Paul Stewart (2nd yr.), Bertrand Neyhouse (2nd yr.), Anna Petrick; *Grade 6* –Jessica Bertke, Kevin Ivan; *Grade 7* – Stacey Honious, Matt Howland (3rd yr.), Emily Stewart (2nd yr.); *Grade 8* – Scott Schwenker, Hannah Koenig. *Congratulations to these students and their parents!*

Changes will be taking place in the RE Office this summer as Mrs. Maryellen Fargey steps down after 12 ½ years as Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE). Mrs. Sue Graham, who has been the Early Childhood Coordinator and RE Programs Assistant, will become the new CRE. Mrs. Fargey will assume a new part-time role as Sacramental Preparation Coordinator. Mrs. Cyndy Pellegrino will take over as the new Early Childhood Coordinator, and a new office assistant will be hired.

To the Grade 1-5 students: *Thank you for the beautiful plants which you gave me at the closing Mass. I have them all planted and will enjoy them all summer long!* **To the Grade 6-8 students:** *thank*

you for the cards and good wishes. Stay close to Jesus and remember the Pledge of Nonviolence!
Mrs. Fargey

CONFIRMATION

Rebecca Abrams	Caitlin Minnix
Ashley Baldwin	Jacob Mix
Jennifer Barbadora	Darren Nash
Lindsay Becker	Meagan Niezgodski
Claire Bergman	Katie Ollier
Stephanie Berrie	Mary Kate O'Neill
Caroline Bletzinger	Lindsey Overberg
Emily Brun	Alyssa Petrie
Emily Burch	Sean Phillips
Lily Clarkson	Ryan Phillips
Miriam Cleary	Shaun Prestel
Mitchell Cron	Meghan Raiff
Lauren Crutchfield	Drew Schneider
Katelyn DiNapoli	Scott Schwenker
Steven Foreman	Nicholas Sobieski
Sarah Foreman	Andrew Stein
Joshua Fortener	Joel Stewart
Brandon Fritsch	Andrew Sullenbarger
Eric Fritz	Kristen Townsend
Alie Gaeke	Ciara Triplett
Jordan Gibson	Kayla Turner
Amanda Hall	Joel Wager
Caroline Heider	Taylor Walsh
Nick Hemmert	Nicole Warner
Catherine Hoover	Samantha Wilhelm
Chelsy Kackley	Randall Williams
Kaitlin Kinney	Sarah Willin
Monica Knight	
Hannah Koenig	
Wesley Kohler	<i>Previously confirmed</i>
Caroline Kowal	<i>through RCIA</i>
Katelyn Kundert	Jason Honan
Joe Londergan	Kelsey Kussman
Whitney Manfreda	Jacob Mix
Ben Matheson	Chelsea Peters
Molly McGloin	Kayla Turner
Danny McLaughlin	

WHY CATHOLIC?

"One, holy, catholic, apostolic Church." We say we believe in it every week. *Why Catholic?* is a unique adult faith formation program that is solidly based on Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Through a 6-week, 90 minute small group setting *Why Catholic?* offers a concrete approach to help adults deepen their Catholic faith and connect its teachings to their everyday lives. Learn more about *Why Catholic?* coming to Ascension this fall at: www.ascensionkettering.org

FIRST COMMUNION

Mackenzie Achs	Josh Koogler
Miguel Antija	Sonja Kosir
Nate Arrowood	Gabi Kreinbrink
Austin Bain	Declan McFadden
Abbey Baldwin	Devin McLaughlin
Annalise Boston	TJ McManus
Patrick Breitenstein	Sarah Meyer
Rachael Breitenstein	Mark Minardi
Hannah Channell	Riley Myszka
Austin Cogliano	Connor Newman
McKenzie Cummings	Robert Noss
Maeve Curliss	Maria Perez
Alexis Davis	Matthew Pietrantonio
Kesla DeWall	Kiersten Rhone
Ashton Dicke	Daniela Rivera
Marie Docken	David Saurine
Hannah Eberly	Maddie Sheppard
Mackenzie Eckley	Haley Sliper
Amanda Fanz	Benjamin Smith
Jacob Fecher	Jacob Sniezek
Raleigh Green	Anne Stefanek
Nicholas Gross	Alex Templin
Haley Hart	Matthew Templin
Kacie Heflin	Jacob Thompson
Natalie Heindl	Anna Voskuhl
Meg Hemmert	Renae Vulgamore
Laura Jacobs	Tyler Walker
Adam Johnson	Olyvia Weimer
Hannah Keller	Mitchell Weitz
Luke Kleinfelder	Richard Weiser, III
Justin Koesel	Grant Wolff
Dana Koesters	Megan Wonderly

FALL RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN:

September 15/16, 2007, offers a time to participate in Christ Renews His Parish; a two-day Ascension retreat where women parishioners share with one another the ways they have found meaning, hope, peace, and love in their lives. It is the ideal way to form a stronger bond with God and your fellow parishioners. The experience is personal, inspirational, and fulfilling. Look for more information in our bulletin, on our Ascension website, www.ascensionkettering.org, or call Vita Eonta at 429-5642.

The following month offers the "Ascension Led by the Light" women's retreat. This retreat is participant funded and is being held at Bergamo Center on October 13/14, 2007. The presenter for the weekend is Sister Madonna Hoying, SFP, and Father Bert Buby, SM, will celebrate the sacraments with us. A vision of the retreat is to provide an environment of prayer, a time to listen and share, a chance to build community, and to have fun in the process. Call Diane Borchers at 299-5148 for more information. Watch for the information flyer/registration in the narthex.

So mark your calendars for the fall. Both experiences call us to get in touch with our awesome God . . . to experience a touch of God's love in our busy lives . . . to grow together in our faith.

EIGHTH GRADE SCHOOL GRADUATION

Eighth Graders of Ascension School celebrated their graduation Tuesday night, June 5. We thank all the teachers through the years who have prepared these students to this point. We thank especially our teachers **Mrs. Brun & Mrs. Melvin** and parent's their role in preparing the students. We congratulate the following graduates:

Ashley Baldwin	Brandon Fritsch	Ben Matheson	Meghan Raiff
Jennifer Barbadora	Alie Gaeke	Molly McGloin	Nicholas Sobieski
Lindsay Becker	Jordan Gibson	Danny McLaughlin	Andrew Sullenbarger
Claire Bergman	Amanda Hall	Caitlin Minnix	Kristen Townsend
Emily Brun	Caroline Heider	Jacob Mix	Ciara Triplett
Lily Clarkson	Nick Hemmert	Darren Nash	Kayla Turner
Miriam Cleary	Chelsy Kackley	Meagan Niezgodski	Taylor Walsh
Mitchell Cron	Monica Knight	Katie Ollier	Nicole Warner
Lauren Crutchfield	Wesley Kohler	Mary Kate O'Neill	Samantha Wilhelm
Steven Foreman	Caroline Kowal	Lindsey Overberg	Sarah Willin
Sarah Foreman	Joe Londergan	Alyssa Petrie	
Joshua Fortener	Whitney Manfreda	Shaun Prestel	

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Fr. Chris was pastor-napped on May 15 by parish youth preparing to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) this fall in Columbus. After his 'kidnapping' the youth made phone calls to parishioners for his ransom. Suggested donations of \$10 or more were requested for his freedom. Over \$900 in ransom money was raised for this unique fund-raiser to offset the cost of the conference (\$290 per youth). Ascension hopes to send 30 or more teens to NCYC. NCYC is a once in a lifetime experience for high school youth to grow in their Catholic identity and as young disciples of Christ with over 20,000 other peers in faith. To view the pastor-napping video and learn more about attending NCYC, visit www.ascensionkettering.org/youth-ministry.

SUCCESS!!!

The Twinning Committee will have two celebrations in August. Johnson Romero will have successfully completed his course of studies here and graduate from the University of Dayton with a Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry. Then, a prayer service and social will take place on August 29 for the Feast of the Queenship of Mary.

Johnson finished his practicum requirement for his Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry. He created and implemented a catechetical program to train teachers within the Catholic Hispanic Community here in Dayton. His original plan was to train 10 to 15 participants to be teachers in religious education programs. Approximately 55 people began the course (between the ages of 16 to 52) and 95% completed it. The classes were held four Sundays in a row and were taught in Spanish. This is a remarkable success story. Obviously the need for this catechetical work is great, especially as the Hispanic Community in Dayton grows. Johnson has proposed in his final report that a Part II is needed.

Johnson is completing his Degree requirements this summer. Also, during his academic career here, he has been working at U.D. for Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, MSHS, D.Min., Director of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives and the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation. She has kept him very busy with work in several areas of Hispanic Catechetical Ministry, giving him experiences and opportunities in many facets of that ministry. She has given him a good evaluation based on all that he has done for her.

Mary, Queen of Heaven, is the patroness of our twinning parish, Nuestra Senora de la Luz. The feast day at the end of August is the anniversary date for the founding of NSL. The spiritual connection between our parishes is an important element of the Twinning relationship. Ascension has, therefore, celebrated this feast annually in conjunction with the people of Nuestra Senora de la Luz. This year the prayer service and social will take place on August 29. Watch the bulletin for reminders and further information later in the summer.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Some folks attending Ascension Bingo might sometimes wonder just what is going on there these days. Oh sure, there is still the usual sale of the instant bingo tear-offs; and there is the mad rush to the kitchen window to buy something good to eat before the games begin; but there has been something different in the air lately.

Maybe it started with the idea that to promote sales, bingo must give the customers something to lure them in. So, we saw the attraction of "free food nights". On these nights, "Bingo Ralph" put together a new package for the customers. This package included chips, cookies, snacks, and perhaps hot dogs, or hamburgers, or some other type of sandwich to nibble on while preparing for the games to begin. Ralph used these occasions to urge the people to give something back to their neighbors via the Food Pantry located next door at Greenmont Church. So now, "free food night" means receiving free food and in return giving food back to the pantry to help out their neighbors.

Over the past couple of years of these evenings, the people have been assisted in "what to bring" by Ralph's recitation of a "top 10" list of items needed. This has not only made the free food more pertinent, but has enriched the coffers of the pantry with basic needs.

A couple of weeks ago, the generous disciples of Ascension Bingo hit the jackpot. We use carryall boxes with handles to move the food from bingo to the pantry. On this big night, the bingo players contributed a total of 23 plus boxes of foodstuffs to help their neighbors. This is a great burst of generosity from all of these folks. It shows that people are willing to help others if they are given some ideas of what they can do.

As a wise old man recently told me, "there is a lot more than just bingo going on over there in the PAC these days"

CATCH THE BUILDING SPIRIT THIS SUMMER!

“Our love should not be just words and talk, it must be true love which shows itself in action.” John 3:18

“Catch the Building Spirit” is one of the long-term activities sponsored by Ascension’s Outreach & Care Commission. CTBS is a collaboration between Miami Valley Catholics and Presbyterians to build houses for low income families working with Habitat for Humanity. Families moving into the homes must complete 350 hours of work on their own, and other, houses. In addition, they need full-time employment, good credit history and attendance at financial management workshops held by Habitat.

Construction on this year’s house at 1977 Tennyson Avenue in North Dayton began in April and will be completed by the end of September.

Ascension has provided volunteers (minimum age 14) and financial support for the project for the past six years, but new energy is always needed. Enthusiasm is more important than skill! Volunteers are needed for everything from general construction

tasks to painting, planting, or providing lunch for workers. General work hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 8:00-4:00 and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5:30 – dark. Volunteer forms are available at the display in the Witzman Center, or you can find them on line on the Ascension website at the Outreach & Care link.

Raising the money for each year’s house is as big a job as actually building it. Approximate cost for this year’s house is \$60,000. Presbyterians and Catholics have each pledged to raise \$30,000. A display board in the Witzman Center provides an opportunity for you to support this effort. By selecting an envelope listing the cost of a particular building material, parishioners can experience a real sense of involvement with the project. A tax-deductible donation is a great gift that helps increase the quality and quantity of housing for low income families.

Contributions may be sent to: Catch the Building Spirit, Catholic Social Action Office, 266 Bainbridge Street, Dayton, OH 45402. For additional information, contact Ascension’s liaison, Sue Koverman, at 439-1202 or skoverman@core.com.

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