

P E N T E C O S T 2 0 1 7

Church of the Ascension

Light in the City

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4



Baptism & Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, Confirmation & Adult Formation

Christian formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, ourselves, others, and all creation. Every experience in our lives can provide us with the opportunity to express our faith; the challenge we face is recognizing these opportunities and learning ways to live a sometimes countercultural life in a secular world. Beginning in September, Fr. Nick will be offering sessions for children and adults. If you are interested for yourself or a child, please sign up at the information table or contact Fr. Nick directly.

We have just celebrated the Feast of Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. The Early Church Paul tells us in the Book of Acts “held all things in common; they sold their possessions and goods and distributed the proceeds to those in need. Each day, they spent much of their time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” Indeed there cannot be a better recipe for evangelism than this. Those early followers of Jesus quickly realized that when they relied upon the strength and power of the Holy Spirit, and not upon their own, they had within themselves a great capacity for care and compassion. Soon they were taking care of each other, and the love of God which they had first experienced with Jesus, they now shared with one another, which in turn drew others to them. Today there is so much that divides us. Indeed it is rare to find people who share the same opinions, ideas and beliefs as we do, even amongst our neighbours, yet innately we know what love looks, and we know what hate looks like. Jesus embodied love, reaching out to the powerless and the powerful, the lost and those who were searching, the sick and the poor and all those society shunned. God sent Jesus into the world to save us from our self-destructive ways, to show us how to love, forgive and hope again. God sent the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and that same Spirit is nudging us, empowering us, challenging us, encouraging us to be Christ’s loving hands and feet in our world, to be a Light in the City, for by this “everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” May the grace and peace of the Lord be always with you now, and through out the summer.

Café 65
Resumes Wednesday,
September 6th 12 – 2 pm



Save the Date!

ACW Corporate Communion & Luncheon
Wednesday, September 27th
11 am – 2 pm

Welcome Back Sunday: 9 am breakfast & Pizza Lunch
Sunday, September 17th

Thanksgiving Luncheon
Sunday, October 15th
Tickets \$10

Anne Provart sharing her gifts...

Anne Provart has been volunteering with ESL for over 15 years. Although she is a member of St. Bonaventure RC Church, Fr. Philip encouraged her to use her gifts and talents to help new immigrants transition to Canadian Society. "I like to help others" she said, "my only wish is that my parents, who were immigrants from Slovakia, had access to the same kind of care & support". Anne loves meeting people and enjoys the interaction, for her it is "a two way street", she says "I help them develop their English skills and I get to meet interesting people and learn about other cultures".

Seneca Hill Private School...

A family vision -

For nearly 10 years Seneca Hill Private School has occupied the lower part of the Ascension. Nicolas Esper follows in the footsteps of his grandmother, Leila Esper, as Principal of the school; Leila will remain its Director. In 1988 Leila founded the school with the vision to provide a strong curriculum in which students could grow into skilled and capable young men and women. Nicolas has continued that vision by working to provide Seneca Hill students with the education to help them reach their goals, support their growth and develop their skills and talents as future leaders of our community. As Principal, Nicolas' job is to leverage the strengths of his students, support their weaknesses and nurture this vision for a 21st century education.

Lydia Adams & The Amadeus Choir

The Amadeus Choir has been part of the Toronto choral scene for 42 years. They have used the Ascension's Parish Hall on Tuesday nights for their rehearsals for over 15 years and in fact the grand piano in the hall belongs to them. Under the direction of conductor and artistic director Lydia Adams, the Choir has become known for its professionalism, exceptional musicality, and diverse, high-quality programming, premiering many works by Canadian composers over the years. The choir often performs with the Toronto Symphony and other professional groups and artists. Their next concert entitled "United in Song – Celebrating Canada 150" will be at Eglinton St. George's United Church, Sunday, October 29, 4:00 pm



Paran Kulasingham

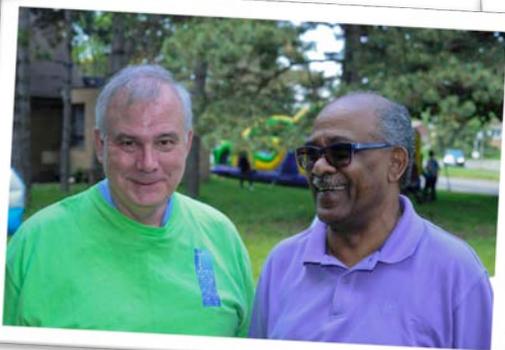
Paran has been our custodian for over 9 years. He began working for the Ascension the same year Fr. Nick arrived. He comes from Sir Lanka and has been in Canada 30 years. He is married to Geetha, and they have two gifted and



Community Festival

Another Great Day in the Life of Our Church!

Thank you to all who volunteered and gave so generously of their time, talent and treasure! We raised over **\$3000** that will all go toward financing our new steam boiler, but we still have to raise **\$28,000** before the work of installing the boiler ends in September! If you have not yet made a donation, please make a donation today, and make it the best you can. Thank you to all who have already donated.



Congratulations to our Graduates!

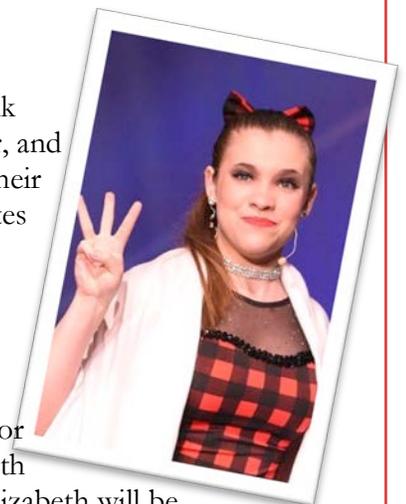


Cathy Nabukalu:

As I graduate from high school, I have already experienced God's mercy to have been admitted by four universities including the University of Windsor that I have now chosen to pursue a degree in Forensic Psychology and Criminology. Having worked during the last summer holiday with the Toronto Police Service under the "Youth in Policing Program", I developed a keen interest to promote justice for the benefit of us all in our communities. I believe that my studies will enable me to play a more meaningful role touching the lives of many people in need of a loud Christian voice. I will always be grateful to my community at the church of the Ascension in Don Mills for all your support and guidance.

Elizabeth Kellas:

She would like to thank Larry Green, the choir, and the congregation for their support as she graduates from Wexford Collegiate School For The Arts. She will be attending York University in the fall and pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with Honours in Music. Elizabeth will be adding this to her experience as a counsellor at Camp Cherith in hope of achieving a career in music performance and education. While at York she will also be continuing her two other passions: French and Dance. Elizabeth will remain a member of the choir during her studies at York.



GROWING HEALTHY STEWARDS

Participate

There is a place for everyone at the Ascension. We have many opportunities for service, education, and fellowship. God has gifted us each with at least one spiritual gift. *"We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."* Romans 12:6-8.

As a community of Christ's followers we have spiritual gifts in the abundance, we all need to put them to use.

Good stewardship involves returning to God a generous portion of ALL God has bestowed upon us. Our time, energy, and our spiritual gifts count among the bounty we receive from the Lord. In addition to these gifts God grants us, we have a wide range of interests and passions. Wherever your interests lead, we have a place for you. Beginning in the Fall, prayerfully reflect where you can join in serving God and enriching our community. Whether you choose leadership, children's and youth ministry, hospitality, outreach, Bible Study, or the Choir the Ascension can use you! Heed God's call to be Good Stewards. Challenge yourself and have a great time doing it.

Invite

It's strange isn't it? Most of us feel more comfortable inviting friends and coworkers to a dinner or a show than to church. It's a little out of our comfort zone. Thinking about invitations biblically might give us some courage. God instructs us to "go into all the world and make disciples." God wants to have a relationship with the people God created and for them to be in relationship with each other. So, our invitation to Church is an invitation for them to discover God, and



to discover the life that is possible in a community of believers. Wow, that's a lot of pressure. But God offers us some help. God says "Surely, I am with you always" The Lord is with us, guiding us, and if we can listen to the still small voice prompting our invitation to a friend, we may give someone the best gift they will ever receive. As good stewards of our relationships, we should look for opportunities to extend the warmth and welcome that is Church of Ascension. By sharing the warmth, we are also planting the seeds of growth in our spiritual community. Each new person who enters our doors brings unique gifts to increase our capacity to do Gods work.

Give

Talking about financial giving does not have to be uncomfortable. We should view Financial Stewardship as a spiritual discipline which allows us to grow closer to God. The Hebrew Bible recommends practice of tithing --giving 10% of your income to God through your place of worship. There are various giving guidelines in the Bible but there is a consistent message that giving to God and the community is essential for a strong relationship with God. At the Ascension we encourage everyone to participate in the stewardship campaign and to give within their means. There is no amount too small. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving over time by putting a generous portion of your treasure in Gods hands for that is where our hearts belong.

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Contact Newsletter: Audrey Leadbitter & Boa Burns, Editors; The Rev. Nicholas Morkel, Rector

We are a caring Anglican Church joyously seeking to grow God's love and to demonstrate the greatness of Jesus by meeting the needs of the diverse community through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.