



Episcopal Church of  
**ALL SAINTS AND  
ASCENSION**

Episcopal Church of  
**All Saints and Ascension**

4520 Lucas and Hunt Rd.  
Northwoods, Mo. 63121  
314-367-2314  
314-361-0105  
[allsaintsascension.com](http://allsaintsascension.com)  
allsaintsadminasst@sbcglobal.net

**The Rev. Michael G Dunnington**  
*Priest in Charge*  
Karen Mosley-Admn. Assistant  
Chrissy Bellizzi-Music Director

**Administrative Asst. Office Hours:**  
9am-3pm Monday thru Wednesday  
**Priest In Charge Office Hours:**  
8:30am-4pm Monday thru Wednesday



## Getting To Know You

Freetown where she became a high school biology and geography teacher. This is where she married fellow parishioner, **Prince Thomas**, and started a family. Fortunately, God has taken her on a divine journey that has led her to us.

In the early 80s, the Thomas family decided to move to the United States. Based on a recommendation from a friend, they ended up in Jefferson City, MO for 25 years where Sylvia continued her education at Lincoln University.

She began by earning an Associates in Nursing Science, and followed that up by graduating from the first class at Lincoln to bestow the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing. And to top that, Sylvia later earned a Master of Science in Nursing from St. Louis University and became a Board Certified Nurse Practitioner, specializing in

Oncology. While she was pursuing college degrees, she ran a seamstress business.

In Jefferson City, she worked at St. Mary's Hospital and was

### GUESS WHO?

This photo was taken in the mid 1950s.

Answer page 4.



Life started for **Sylvia Grace Thomas** in the country of Sierra Leone. She grew up in the capital city of

nominated for "Oncology Nurse of the Year". She attended Grace Episcopal Church where she was the parish nurse, a Vestry member, an Altar Guild member, and served on the Commission for Ministry.

In 2011, Sylvia moved to St. Louis where she took a job at Barnes Jewish Hospital, and joined the Ascension Episcopal Church family. Since then, she has served on the Diocesan Council and continues to be active with the Altar Guild.

She says she enjoys her hobbies such as sewing, crafts and gardening "BIG TIME"! She loves spending time with her two daughters (Cindy and Leizel) and her two grandchildren. How blessed these kids are to have Sylvia as an inspirational role model!



In happy moments.....**PRAISE GOD**  
In difficult moments.....**SEEK GOD**  
In quiet moments.....**TRUST GOD**  
In every moment.....**THANK GOD**

**Free Sunday Shuttle Service...Call**  
**Harold Briggs**, 314-585-6855, or  
**Tony Vick**, 314-601-1171



January 2019

1st Quarter

**Year in Review** Can you believe it? A year has past since the first *Messenger* newsletter was published. During that time, we also introduced a new parish website and visitor packets. Email blasts and Facebook where added to our automated phone messages to keep you up to date. Organizations began to regroup, and their marketing efforts were supported by enhanced flyers, forms, and a new logo. So in behalf of the Communications Committee, I would like to thank all who provided feedback and encouragement.

More importantly, lots of info was reported as we witnessed two parishes formally merge into one. The Men's Club, Altar Guild, St. Margaret's Guild, and ECW began to re-group in spite of limited resources. They breathed life back into several legacy events and activities, and introduced a few new ones. Our outreach remains strong as our youth music programs and food pantry continue to serve. Vacation bible school was revived, and the Gospel Jubilee survived the death of its founder. Also, the Architectural Committee presented a building renovation plan. Funding for it is being sought.

2019 presents new challenges, but there seems to be a spirit that God has called us to continue. So I will continue to stand by to assist with media and communications support.

*Sanford Hamilton, Communications Coordinator*



**Sylvia Thomas**



## A Message from the Priest In Charge



First of all, I want to extend to each of you my wish that 2019 will be a new year full of blessings and personal peace! All Saints and Ascension will be encountering new and exciting challenges during 2019, and by working together under God's guidance, we will meet and conquer those challenges.

I guess that one of the biggest questions in your minds right now is

when your Priest in Charge will be retiring, and what are the plans for a successor?

Recently, the Vestry and I met with Canon to the Ordinary, **Joe Chambers**, to discuss this topic. From that meeting, I can share the following things with you.

My time with you will end sometime after Easter, depending on how quickly the search process for my successor moves.

A number of options for that search process (Rector, Priest in Charge, Interim) are being discussed with Canon Chambers and the Bishop.

More specific details should be ready for sharing with you at the time of our Annual Parish Meeting on January 27.

Meanwhile, I will continue to serve you and care for you to the best of my ability. Please begin praying for a successful search process, and for me as I move towards retirement.



## Gospel Jubilee

For 22 years, our church has hosted the annual Gospel Jubilee. This is our biggest outreach event whereby we collaborate with other area churches from multiple denominations. Unfortunately the event creator and organizer, **Georgia Harrell**, recently passed away. But you could not tell because others picked up the baton and her spirit filled the sanctuary on Oct. 21st. As they say "The show must go on". And indeed, it did!

Senior Warden, **Michael Griffin**, welcomed everyone and promised the audience that they were in for a treat. It was an emotional challenge for **Valeska Hill**, Ms. Harrell's daughter, to perform her annual duty as mistress of ceremonies. But with the support of her sibling, family, friends, and the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), she kept the event on track.

For two hours, we heard selections from several area church choirs, including the All Saints and Ascension choir. It was a treat indeed.

The audience included a diversity of ages, ethnicities, and faiths. Admission was free, but donations exceeded \$350 to support the All Saints Ascension food pantry in making the holidays a little more merrier for those in need.



Fresh Start Bible Church Choir

After the musical program, everyone was invited to the Jean Harrell Fellowship Hall for a delicious soul food dinner. There was an abundance of comfort food to eat, so seconds were encouraged. The event was a great success and was pulled off just like Georgia planned it before she passed. She was definitely smiling from heaven that day. Her spirit lives on!

## Something New—MEN'S DAY!



The history of Men's Day covers over 100 years and represents a heritage rooted in the traditions of many African American congregations. It is planned and led by the men of the church to highlight their ministry in a joyous way.

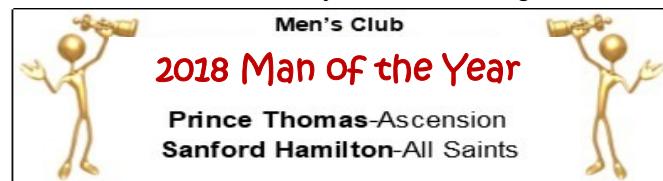
On December 16th, the first annual Men's Day Celebration was introduced to our parish by the Men's Club. With the men adorned in bow ties, the theme was "Men on the Move for Unity". The Sunday service and celebration was led by **Father Dunnington** with assistance from **Michael Watson**.

The inspiring keynote message was delivered by **Dorian Mabry**, son of parishioners **Rickey and Laura Mabry**. Dorian's message centered on his personal experiences as a youth at All Saints. This includes many lessons that he learned from our male leaders who helped with "building up" the young men in our

parish. Lessons that he will never forget.

This special service also featured praise dancers, a solo musical selection, harmonies from the men's chorus, poetry readings, and concluded with a special presentations for *Man of the Year*. Following the service, a delicious breakfast was served in the parish fellowship hall.

During the celebration, **Charles Hughes** announced that this was the last event that he would coordinate, and he announced his retirement as president of the Men's Club after serving 10 years. He expressed his thanks to many who have assisted him over the years, and to ECW, the cooks, and parishioners for making the event a success. Many thanks Mr. Hughes !!!



**Event Schedule** (visit [allsaintsascension.com/schedule](http://allsaintsascension.com/schedule) for calendar updates)

Jan 1-6	Closed	Church Office Closed	HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Jan 21	Closed	Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday - Church Office Closed	
Jan 27	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist and <b>Annual Parish Meeting</b>	
Feb 24	10:00 am	Black History Month Eucharist and Celebration (tentative)	
Mar 6	12 & 6 pm	Ash Wednesday Services	
Mar 10	2:00 am	Daylight Saving Time Starts (Advance your clocks FORWARD one hour)	
Mar 15	11:00 am	Men's Club FISH FRY (Eat in or carry-out until 7pm or until the food runs out)	

**RECURRING SCHEDULE:**

Holy Eucharist Service	10:00 am	Every Sunday
Sunday Morning Prayer	8:00 am	Every 1st & 3rd Sunday (Jan 6 & 20; Feb 3 & 17; Mar 3 & 17)
Healing Service	11:15 am	Every 4th Sunday (Immediately following the Holy Eucharist Service)
Daily Morning Prayer	8:30 am	Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Noonday Prayer	12:00 pm	Every Tuesday
Food Pantry	10am-1pm	Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday (Deaconess nurse will check vital signs)
Men's Club Meeting	9:00 am	Every 2nd Sunday
ECW Meeting	9:00 am	Every 4th Sunday

**Thanksgiving Sweet Tooth**

The St. Margaret's Guild re-emerged this past November and pulled off a very successful bake sale and mini-bazaar.

The guild had few funds, but they had a lot of cooperation



from guild members who worked very hard on this event. Annie White was able to coordinate several volunteers to donate baked goods, create an order form, and

staff the event to deliver the goods to many who ordered from a variety of cakes, pies, cookies, and other goodies.

Among the treats featured on the menu were **Stanley Merridith's** sweet potato pie and brownies, **Mildred Lewis'** sweet potato pie, **Annie White's** coconut cake, and **Nancy Hamilton's** caramel cake.

Guild publicist, Mildred Lewis, reported that the fundraiser made over \$600 in sales. That translates to a lot of servings of dessert for which to be thankful on turkey day!

**91 Year Old Girl Scout Honored**

2018 marks the monumental 100-year anniversary of the Girls Scouts of Eastern Missouri. On October 27th, **Sallie Simmons** attended a celebration where the Girl Scouts recognized her for extraordinary leadership, and her inspiration to girls to be confident, strong women. Sallie started as a leader for All Saints Troop 1526 in 1965 and became a passionate volunteer for 30 years. Congratulations Sallie!

**Spotlight On Youth**

What a blessing! Over the past few months, we have seen some new young faces in our church at Sunday services. Occasionally we are blessed with parents trying to restrain their children from over-speaking **Father Dunnington** as he conducts service. We have seen **Will Young** serving as a youth usher and helping in the kitchen.

One of the most heart-warming things that we have had the pleasure of experiencing these past two years is the baptism performed for a new baby.

On November 25th, we welcomed through baptism into the Body of Christ young Isaya Igarashi, son of Hiroyuki and Niaya Harper Igarashil. He is the grandson of the late **Dr. Alphonza V. Harper, III**, who passed away on February 4th. Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church. God establishes an indissoluble bond with each person in baptism. God adopts us, making us members of the Church and inheritors of the Kingdom of God. Baptism is the foundation for all future Church participation and ministry.

Isaya, incidentally, is the name Isaiah in the Swahili language, and it also "works" in Japanese.

**Trunk Or Treat**

Thanks to your generosity, we did not run out of candy on Halloween! Again in 2018, this outreach event served

about 140 children from the neighborhood in spite of the tough competition from nearby municipal events. Kudos to **Carla Banks**, who once again coordinated the efforts of ECW, the Men's Club, the City of Northwoods, parishioners, and other volunteers to get the word out and staff the event.





## Announcements



**PARISHIONERS!** Remember that our pledges will demonstrate to the Diocese that we are serious about our campaign to expand and renovate our church.

You are asked to remain committed to that support. There is still time! Prayerfully complete a PLEDGE SHEET FORM for 2019, and return it to the parish office. Forms are available in the narthex, in the office, or can be downloaded from the parish website.

### Stewardship is **HEART** work!

Everything we have is a gift from God. Let's be good stewards and share our time, talent, and treasures with others.

### Contribution Envelopes 2019

- Pick up your box in the fellowship hall
- Start using them on Jan. 6, 2019
- Note your new account number
- Please donate an additional \$5 to offset printing costs
- Routine contributions-use Weekly/Monthly envelopes
- Other occasions-use other envelopes as marked
- Make checks payable to: *Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension* or *All Saints and Ascension*
- Write your check number and date on the envelope



### Not All Heroes Wear Capes!

People **LIKE YOU!** And because of your generosity, our holiday food pantry collected almost \$800 for those less fortunate!



*Thank You*

### Caring Reminders



Cleo Anderson  
Kimberley Baker  
Harriett Barrett  
Juanita Carroll  
Bessie Clemons  
Suzanne Harris  
Jack Ingrum  
Jay Lucas Johnson  
Virgil Lucas  
Louise McElroy  
Alice Okrafosmart  
Mary Stafford  
Thelma Stephens

(Note: Listing as of 12/16/18 Check the weekly bulletin for updates)

### A New Years Prayer

Lord. You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our spirits to be born again. Thank you for this New Year and for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us an almighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live

forever to praise your glorious name.



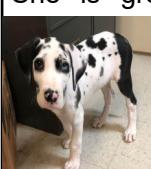
### In Memoriam

(4th Quarter 2018)  
Erma Brasfield  
Katrina Hughes



### Miss Dorothy

Meet the Dunnington's adorable new pet dog. She is growing fast, but maybe you will get to greet her in person on a future visit to the church.



Answer to "Guess Who?" on page 1.

Margarett Williams (worship leader, vestry, St. Margarets Guild)

### Motivations by Mildred



I always like to preface my motivations with scripture verses. For this edition, I have chosen scripture lessons from chapter 40 of the Book of Isaiah, verses 29-31:

**He gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted. But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.**

It is difficult for us as a community of faith not to be weary as we reflect on the hatred exhibited in the horrible events of the past year such as: pipe bombs being mailed to our leaders; a shooting at a Kroger store in Kentucky; and a gunman's brutal attack at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

But if we keep our faith and deep love for one another, we can (and we will) prevail if we wait on the Lord to renew and revive us. So let us keep the faith. And allow love to conquer hate!

### God's Left Hand

Little Ebomi was spending the weekend with her grandpa. He decided to take her to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was so beautiful. He remarked "It looks like an artist painted this scenery. Did you know God painted this scene just for you?"



Ebomi said, "Yes God did it. And he did it left-handed." This confused her grandpa a bit, and he asked her "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?" Ebomi said "Well, we learned in Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"



### Inclement Weather

If there is inclement weather on a Sunday morning that might cause church to be cancelled, please tune in to KMOV-TV, Channel 4, where our closing information will be posted. There should also be an email blast and phone call message.

### Annual Meeting-January 27th

Get a report on finances, activities, architectural plans, status of search for a new rector, etc. at the annual meeting. There are 5 Vestry nominees up for election:

- ◆ Stanley Johnson
- ◆ Rickey Mabry
- ◆ Michael Watson
- ◆ Machelle West
- ◆ Rebecca Bond Williams



Currently scheduled for **10am Sunday, January 27, 2019**. Note: Date subject to change due to weather.