



Episcopal Church of  
**All Saints and Ascension**

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**The Rev. Renee L. Fenner**  
*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:**  
9am-5pm Tuesday thru Friday



## Getting To Know You

Starkville, Mississippi. He and his parents lived with his maternal grandparents. His grandmother was his babysitter and caretaker because his mother taught school in another county where no one was aware she was married.

Charles' grandmother took him everywhere and instilled in him strong Christian values. They attended First Church of Christ Holiness almost daily. As he developed a sense of humor, he noticed that some of the women would laugh at him and would include him in their conversations.

At 5 years old, Charles' world was turned upside down. His grandfather died, several uncles moved away, and his mother remarried and left. He and his grandmother, whom he calls "Mama", grew even closer until she passed. While in high school, he worked at Mississippi State College. When he graduated in 1956, he enrolled in Mary Holmes Junior College. But after the first semester, he moved to St. Louis.

Charles was drafted and served as a Documentation Clerk

### GUESS WHO?

This photo was taken at 7 years old.

Answer page 4.



July 2019

3rd Quarter

### Our New Priest In Charge Has Arrived!



Sunday, May 26, 2019 finally arrived. The **Rev. Renee L. Fenner** had already answered the call to be the new Priest in Charge at the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension. This was the Sunday that she would celebrate her first Eucharist with her new parish family. Despite being a holiday weekend, attendance was up! The pews were occupied with devoted parishioners, former members, guests from Christ Church Cathedral, visitors from St. Barnabas, family and friends of Rev. Renee, and a few other unfamiliar faces.

It was obvious when she began her sermon that Rev. Fenner was very excited about being our new church leader. Her message was motivational and uplifting, and many of us found ourselves hanging onto her every word. She asked us to think back and recall what moment in our lives we were the most afraid. She said that in times of trouble, we should seek spiritual "peace". It was the right message of hope needed to face the future as we move forward together. Her spirit of excitement and encouragement seemed infectious, and this spirit was exhibited as the congregation exchanged the peace.

During announcements, Senior Warden **Bill Young** presented Rev. Renee with a welcoming gift before moving to the parish hall for the ECW Coffee Hour. The reception gave everyone an opportunity to mingle and get to know some our visitors and guests. More importantly, it allowed us to get to know Rev. Fenner better. Hopefully, we can harness the enthusiasm of this day as our church continues its historic journey.

**Charles Hughes** is very humble and counts his many blessings daily. He was born during the Great Depression in October 1937 in 1962. He returned to St. Louis and married Stella Fleming. For 2 years, he served in the Army Reserves as a Medic Tech and was discharged as SP4. Next, Charles worked as a copper wire enameler at General Cable for 8 years until they closed in 1974. In 1975, he began working several positions at Monsanto before becoming a Lab Assistant. Before he retired in 1994, he received several awards for improving job safety.



Charles Hughes

In 1964, Charles and **Stella Hughes** joined Historic All Saints. Charles joined the Men's Club where he and the late Milton Patton became friends. He became a member of the "Biscuit Burners" cooking crew and assisted with the picnic. He eventually became president where he started the "Man of the Year" award, and accomplished many improvement projects. Charles reactivated the Men's Club after the merger with Ascension, but had to step down last year due to failing health.

Mr. Hughes enjoys gardening, fishing, and cooking. He and Stella have one son, Craig, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Charles believes no human is perfect. He feels that the way we handle our imperfections is as important as acknowledging they exist. He has no patience with dishonesty. Yet his motto is "treat others as you want to be treated". "Mama" would be proud!





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## A Message from the Priest In Charge



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is a joy to write my first article as your new Priest in Charge! Thank you so much for your warm welcome and words of encouragement!

In the Gospel for the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Jesus prayed, *“I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they all may be one.”*

I remember saying in my sermon that Jesus recognized that there are boundaries and differences that can and will divide humanity. Still, he prayed that humankind would come to know and to live the same kind of relationship that he shared with his Father—a relationship built on the total giving of themselves to one another and in love. This same prayer applies to us as we move forward striving to live out our oneness as a fairly newly-merged parish family that honors histories, yet is open to being and creating something new.

The oneness that Jesus spoke of will be realized as we, the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension, continue to seek ways to comfort our brothers and sisters who are hurting, and as we continue to break down barriers and set aside egos. It will happen as we acknowledge and celebrate and share the gifts and talents that each one brings to the table. It will happen as together we vision and dream and make things happen. Remember, it is not enough to just talk the talk—we've got to walk the walk! Our oneness will happen when we remember to take one another by the hand as we walk this journey through times of joy and sorrow, and in times of uncertainty and new discoveries. Our oneness will happen when we remember that we are to be as St. Paul wrote to the Church of Corinth: *“united in the same mind and the same purpose”* (1Cor. 1:10). The oneness that Jesus spoke of will only happen when we remember to love one another as Jesus loves us.

There is a lot of hope, faith, and belief that we will be who we want to be, who we are meant to be—that beacon on

the hill where people of every walk are invited and welcomed; and a special place of worship, prayer, and service here in Northwoods, the greater St. Louis area, and in our diocese.

God has brought us together for a reason. And I am looking forward to sharing life with all of you! There is a lot to be done and to plan. Right now, we are in the midst of forming a Worship Team, and planning Vacation Bible School! In the midst of it all, I promise to love you and to listen to you. Please pray for me and I promise to pray for you.

May God continue to bless and keep you and those you love!

Your sister in the Redeemer,

**Reverend Renee+**

## They Came Wearing Red

The color of Pentecost is red. So our priest wore red vestments on that day. Red decorations are also appropriate, so the sanctuary was adorned with red balloons. A big red and white bouquet of flowers



Marion  
“Shookie”  
Robinson

rested at the foot of our altar. Parishioners were also encouraged to wear red on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th, and many of us answered the call by wearing red dresses, neckties, shirts, blouses, shawls, hats, etc.

Rev. Renee has explained that the Feast of Pentecost is just as important as the other Feasts that we celebrate (such as Easter and Christmas). It looks like we have a new tradition! In the future, we'll be REDdy!

## Bittersweet Retirement

**Father Michael Dunnington** celebrated his final Eucharist as our Priest in Charge on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. With the first lady by his side, he and Leslie used the sermon time to reflect on their past 16 years with us. Father started by saying “It has been quite a journey” as he shared how they have learned from us about the African American experience. He added how difficult it was to endure the pain of the merger process of Ascension with All Saints. But he is happy that we were all able to get through it, and looks forward to seeing us grow and thrive under our new Priest in Charge.

The sermon continued with Leslie addressing the congregation. She reiterated that, in the beginning, she and Michael had no way of knowing that they were about to “embark on a journey that was life-changing”. She expressed how much they are going to miss our friendship, our stories, soul food, teaching Sunday school, children performances, and the Gospel Jubilee. But the blessing from all this is that she discovered that we are all alike, more so than we are different.

After Leslie’s address, Father fought back the tears as he tried to wrap up the sermon by expressing his personal

thanks for everything the past 16 years have meant. He ended by encouraging us to grow and be strong.

Following the sermon, **Bill Young**, our Senior Warden, took the podium for a special presentation. In recognition of Leslie’s hard work, she was presented with a bouquet of red roses. Afterwards, Bill read and presented a proclamation to Father Dunnington from the city of Northwoods. Then a monetary gift was presented to him. But to top that, a portrait of the All Saints building interlaced with the Ascension building was also presented to him. The portrait was specially commissioned from a talented artist in San Francisco.

During service, the choir sang “Order My Steps” which is one of Dunnington’s favorites. Following the Eucharist and presentation, everyone gathered outside for a group photo. The event ended with a gourmet dinner prepared for over 100 guests with waited tables.



Bill Young & Fr. Dunnington



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

July 4	n/a	Independence Day (Church Office Closed)	 <b>Mark Your Calendars!</b>
July 22-26	9:00 am-1:30 pm	Vacation Bible School	
Aug 11	10:00 am	Milton J Patton Parish Picnic (City of Vinita Park county park)	
Sept 2	n/a	Labor Day (Church Office Closed)	
Sept 15	10:00 am	Back-To Sunday	

### RECURRING SCHEDULE:

Holy Eucharist Service	10:00 am	Every Sunday
Sunday Morning Prayer	8:00 am	Every 1st & 3rd Sunday (July 7 & 21; Aug. 4 & 18; Sept. 1 & 15)
Healing Service	11:15 am	Every 4th Sunday (Immediately following the Holy Eucharist Service)
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

### What is ECW Anyway?

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) organization was first established in 1872. It was originally called "The Woman's Auxiliary", but the name was changed in 1958. Today, ECW includes Episcopal church women who hold a variety of views. They come from all ages, ethnic origins, and socio-economic backgrounds. However, their common thread is the love of God and the wish and desire to do His work.

The national ECW board states that as the eyes, ears, hands, and heart of Christ in the world, their vision is to persist in the work of healing, justice, and peace. They strive to promote educational, spiritual, leadership, stewardship, and social programs. They do this by providing opportunities and tools to grow relationships with God and others through spirituality, prayer, and worship.

The national ECW organization is divided into nine provinces. The Diocese of Missouri is one of 14 Episcopal dioceses that comprise Province V. Our Diocese ECW board is made up of 12 members of which we are proud to claim that our very own **Rebecca (Rica) Bond-Williams** serves as



Rebecca Bond-Williams

secretary. This board supports church-level ECW chapters and guilds, and their ministries. Churches may publicize their activities on ECW's Facebook page. Their outreach supports other local ministries in a volunteer capacity. They promote United Thank Offering (UTO) by working with parishes to encourage, support, and to teach an attitude of gratitude. ECW sponsors an annual retreat, allowing women to come together to share spiritual teachings. And every year, they award a young lady in the Diocese with a college scholarship.

The All Saints and Ascension ECW chapter has been very productive lately, and is probably our most active parish organization. It is led by **Carla Banks**, president. To support the ECW mission, our chapter is actively involved with many events, fundraisers, and community outreach such as: Quiet Day, Chicken Dinner Sales, Father's Day Brunch, Juvenile Detention Support, Back-To Sunday, Gospel Jubilee, Episcopal City Mission, Trunk-or-Treat, UTO In-Gathering, and Breakfast With Santa. It takes a lot of hard work and coordination to pull off these events successfully. All women of the parish are considered members of ECW, and we appreciate all that they do!



### Spotlight On Youth

Easter Sunday has always been a glorious day for our parish. Again this year, the altar was adorned with lilies, and the church was filled with the spirit. After Easter Eucharist, the Sunday School hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Over 100 Easter eggs were hidden for several enthusiastic children. And within a matter of minutes, they were all found! Afterwards, the children were also treated to some sweet Easter treats. As you can tell, **Ayah** (pictured to the right wearing her Easter outfit) found the candy to be finger licking good!



### Class of 2019

The St. Margaret's Guild honored our 2019 graduates with a reception on May 9th. Each grad was given a gift bag and certificate.

Seated left to right:

- Camille Moore**-Christ the King Catholic School  
Entering 9th grade-Incarnate Word Academy
- Adrienne Dillon**-Episcopal School of Ministry  
Completing a 3-yr course of theology study
- Heather Smith-Harris** Stowe State University  
Bachelors Degree in Urban Affairs
- Collins Robinson** V-Parkway West High School  
Entering Univ. of Kansas (double scholarship)



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



## Announcements

### What's Online? [allsaintsascension.com](http://allsaintsascension.com)

Our parish website has experienced increased activity in the last year. There is a lot of information about our church that can be retrieved online for those of you that have access to the internet via a computer, tablet, or smart phone. Here is a partial list:

[Event Announcements](#)  
[Schedule Changes](#)  
[Parish Calendar](#)  
[Archived Newsletters](#)  
[Annual Meeting Report](#)  
[Layreader's Schedule](#)  
[Event Flyers](#)  
[Event Order Forms](#)  
[Funerals/Obituaries](#)  
[Diocese Info](#)  
[Episcopal Church Info](#)  
[Worship Schedule](#)

[News](#)  
[FAQ](#)  
[Vestry Info](#)  
[Facebook link](#)  
[Our History](#)  
[Photo Gallery](#)  
[Event Videos](#)  
[Church Closures](#)  
[Contact Information](#)  
[Day-by-Day Audio](#)  
[Guild Activity](#)  
[Outreach Programs](#)



### Our New Outdoor Sign

We continue to expand in the world of wireless-controlled digital media! Thanks goes to Fr. Dunnington who pushed for a new digital sign. In the past, he had to brave the weather to manually change the message.

### Ascension Thursday

On May 30, 2019, we celebrated the *Feast of Ascension*. After Eucharist, we gathered for a delicious repast dinner. Previously, Ascension Church would launch balloons on this day with messages attached. One year, a balloon and message landed in a farmer's field in Tennessee. Now, since our church is so close to the airport, the balloons present a risk to aircraft. However, they are still available to those who wish to take them home.



### Caring Reminders



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

(Note: Listing as of 6/23/19 Check the weekly bulletin for updates)

### Answer to "Guess Who?" on page 1: Will Young

He is Sr. Warden Bill Young's son, youth ambassador, and junior usher. Will is currently 12 years old. We are so blessed to watch him grow right before our very eyes!



#### Administrative Assistant

Monday thru Wednesday  
 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

#### Priest in Charge

Tuesday thru Friday  
 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

### Coffee Talks with Rev. Renee

During the summer months, Rev. Renee is hosting a series of coffee chats following Sunday service so that we can get to know one another. Stay tuned for dates.



### Motivations by Mildred

Webster's Dictionary defines wisdom as accumulated learning; good sense. Proverbs chapter 2 verses 4-5 recommends seeking the treasures of wisdom as follows: **"Search for wisdom as you would search for silver or hidden treasure. Then you will understand what it means to respect and to know the Lord God."**



I have chosen the topic of wisdom for this edition because it appears that at this time in our country's history, wisdom and good sense is not being practiced enough. My assessment of the government shutdown earlier this year was that there was no rhyme or reason for the way it was being handled.

Some of the leaders involved in the dialog were very vague in their discussions. They went back and forth and refused to give truthful and clear answers to questions. In other words, they simply did not answer the question being asked.

One of the early lessons that I learned in school was answer what is asked. For example, if asked "Where were you born?". I would answer "Mason, Tennessee". Does that seem complicated?

As people of faith, let us not be influenced by the current events around us. Let us choose who we will serve....God, and not man. And maybe others will be influenced by our behavior and follow our lead.

Speaking of wisdom, my cousin in Texas always says "Why tell a lie when the truth will do!" God bless.

**"Hello Jesus? I am ready to come home. People on earth be trippin'!"**



Our new online Kid's Corner is still under construction and will include faith-related activities for children of all ages. Direct access will be offered on our parish website to the public.

For children that are related to registered parishioners, but do not have access to the internet, arrangements can be made for activity sheets to be shipped to them via US mail. Children love to receive mail at home! When plans are completed, details for signing up for this free service will be announced in the bulletin, online, and in email blasts.

**When you are going through something hard and wonder where God is, remember the teacher is always quiet during a test.**

**Worship with us every Sunday at 10:00 am.**

