

Ascension Episcopal Church

Pueblo, CO

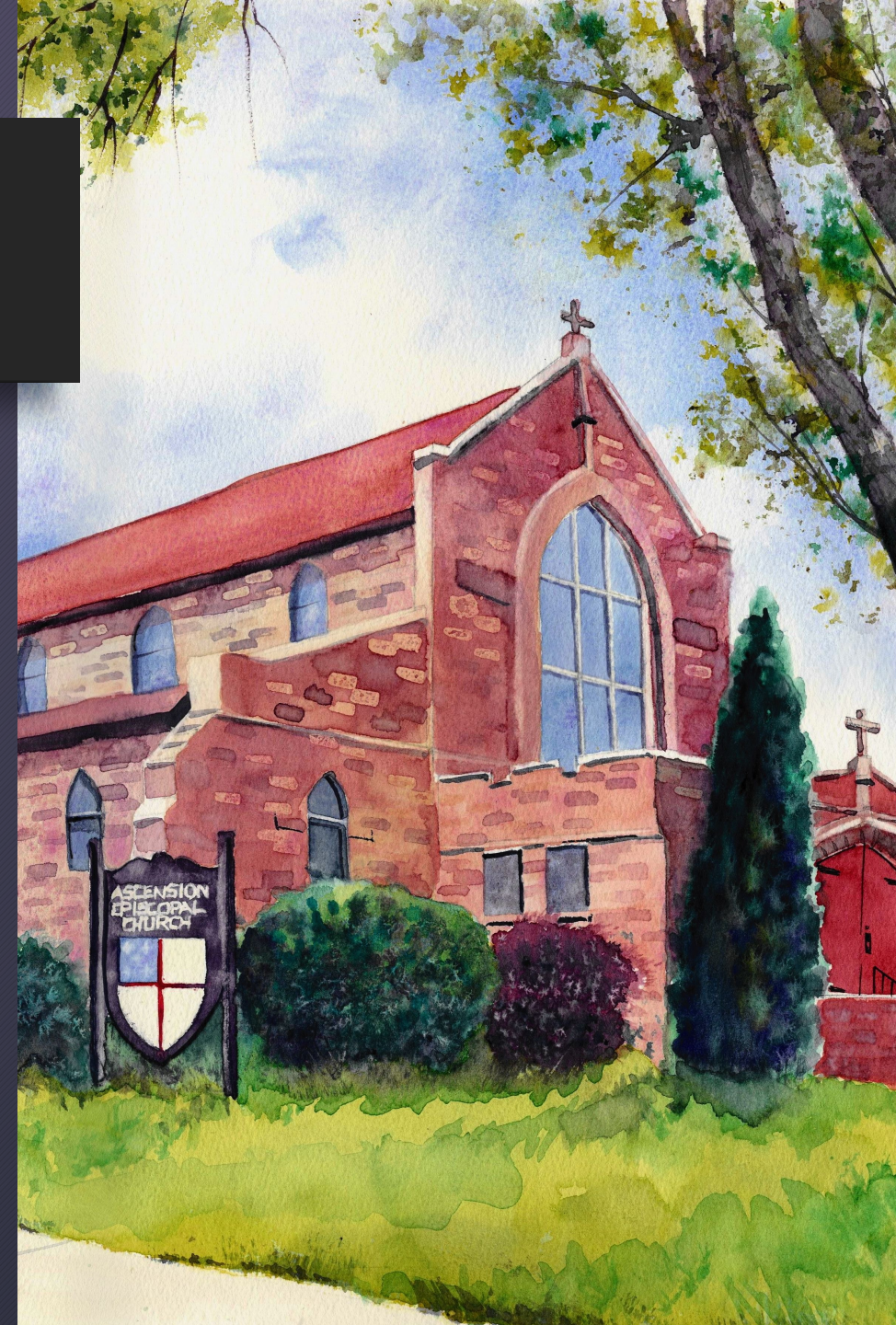
PARISH PROFILE

2021

“A haven for all and a blessing to our community.”

To Our New Rector, Ascension Episcopal Church's prayer for you:

"Almighty God, giver of every gift we receive: Look graciously on your Church, and guide those who shall discern whom God is calling to be rector for this parish. Grace us with patience, trust and hope through the interim times of doubt and uncertainty. We pray that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us to continue, improve, expand and reach out with our ministries to all whom we can touch; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."



OUR VISION FOR A NEW PRIEST

We are searching for a Rector who is outgoing, charismatic and who will be active in the Pueblo community. A pastor who inspires us to identify and fulfill areas of need and outreach including the following:

- Shepherds our congregation in renewing and restoring our church community
- Effective preacher, speaker and teacher
- Interacts comfortably with both adults and children
- Plans and leads worship sensitive to the needs of the congregation
- Partners with laity in planning and leading church programs and new member recruitment
- Energetic, collaborative and creative
- Effective in balancing work, leisure and family time
- Blessed with a good sense of humor
- Pragmatic and able to manage church and preschool administration

“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,” Ephesians 4:11-12 ESV

WHO WE ARE

Ascension Episcopal Church

We were founded as a mission of the first church in Pueblo in 1891 and have been located at the corner of 18th Street and Grand Avenue since 1909. The present church building was completed in 1914 and together with the parish hall is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church merged with The Church of the Ascension in 1946 to form the parish we know today. Our campus consists of the sanctuary, parish hall, rectory, an education building and a columbarium. Our facilities provide meeting space for area clubs and organizations in addition to interfaith services and musical performances.

Ascension serves a large geographic area with parishioners coming from numerous surrounding communities. We are generally older and have some younger families with children. We are traditional Episcopalians who enjoy a worship style with music that deepens our experience with God. We believe that all who come here are loved, welcomed and encouraged.

For more information, please visit our website: www.ascensionpueblo.org



WHO WE ARE (Continued)

Historic Pueblo

Located in the heart of southern Colorado at the confluence of the Arkansas and Fountain Rivers, Pueblo enjoys 300 days of sunshine annually with little snow. Our city of 112,000 is called Colorado's most historic and culturally diverse and it boasts many outstanding amenities. Lake Pueblo is located 7 miles west of the city and provides a variety of water sports, fishing, picnicking and a wildlife preserve. The beautiful Rocky Mountains are at our doorstep and give access to world-class skiing, climbing, hiking, whitewater rafting, kayaking, fishing, camping and sightseeing. Pueblo is also a hub for health care and higher education and is enriched with museums, live music, galleries, parks, public sculpture, a convention center, zoo, fountains, frequent festivals and community events.

For more information, please visit: www.pueblo.us or <https://visitpueblo.org>

Or watch the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcLDSEHvqrc>



WHO WE ARE (Continued)

The Episcopal Church in Colorado

Our diocese is made up of 95 worshiping communities and 9 institutions located across 104,000 square miles of mountains, valleys and plains. These congregations are as diverse as the landscape, comprising all sizes, theological perspectives, and liturgical approaches. The diocese is divided into five regions, each overseen by a Regional Missioner who reports to the Bishop and facilitates and strengthens participation and communication. We are in communion with other Anglican Churches and with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our Bishop is The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas.

Please visit the website: www.episcopalcolorado.org



HOW WE PARTICIPATE

Worship and Music

Numerous lay ministers participate on the team that facilitates worship. These include acolytes, lectors, chalice bearers, ushers, greeters, the altar guild, videographers, Eucharistic Visitors, choirs and choral scholars. Our current worship schedule includes two in-person services of Holy Eucharist on Sunday, one of which is live streamed and available on YouTube, and Morning Prayer on Wednesday via Zoom. Integral to weekly worship, the parish is renowned for its high-quality music program that provides inspiration to worshippers and an opportunity to educate children and adults in music as well as in faith development.



HOW WE PARTICIPATE (Continued)



Faith Formation

Meaningful faith formation from birth to death deepens our relationship to God and each other. Our faith and faith families guide us through the many challenges we confront. We find strength not only from God but the teaching and fellowship we share. We are beginning to strengthen and grow this core purpose and practice disrupted by the pandemic.

Current offerings include Monday School Book Study meeting twice a month via Zoom. Centering Prayer and Fierce Love Soul Journeys meet weekly in the parish hall. Future programs include children's sermons and family programs for children and youth.

HOW WE PARTICIPATE (Continued)

Serving our Community and Beyond

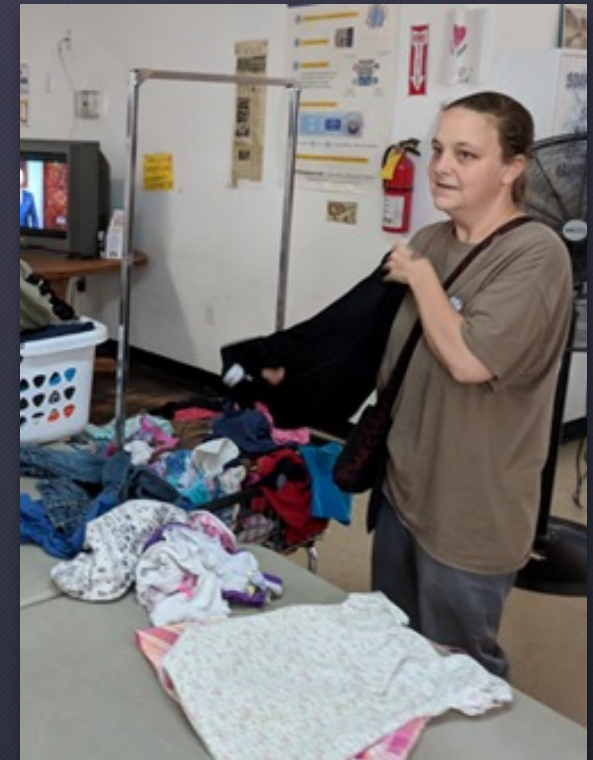
Ascension Preschool Academy was founded in 1952 as a mission to the community and that objective has not waived. This accessible learning environment has allowed the preschool to become more reflective of Pueblo's racial, cultural and economic diversity. Our preschool has a strong reputation and is deeply connected to the larger community with enrollment extending into neighboring counties.



HOW WE PARTICIPATE (Continued)

Other parish-supported outreach programs extend from local programs to regional and national church concerns. Some of our current programs include:

- Laundry Love for the indigent and homeless
- Pueblo Cooperative Care Center and Shower Trailer Program
- Angel Tree Ministries
- African Team Ministries
- St. Luke's Navajo Mission
- Ascension Pastoral Care Committee



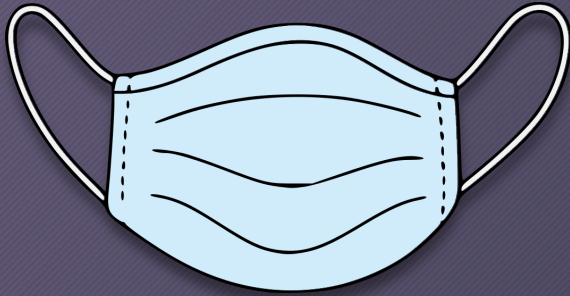
HOW WE PARTICIPATE (Continued)

Fun and Fellowship

Ascension has enjoyed enduring friendships over the years. Our faith family, like most families, thrives not only on worship but also fun and fellowship. Ascension has traditionally offered opportunities for community building and fellowship within the parish. Coffee Hour after Sunday services is one of our favorites. Coffee with the Rector meets weekly via Zoom, concerts have recently resumed, and Octoberfest is scheduled.



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THE PANDEMIC



Closing our church to worship was devastating and affected our parishioners in many ways. People felt isolated and we came to understand that personal contact was very important to everyone in our parish. We reached out to our elderly and infirm by telephone and later learned that many who were not shut-ins would have appreciated receiving phone calls. Electronic transmission gained importance but did not replace the need for fellowship and face to face interaction. We learned how to provide greater access to our members through technology and recognized how valuable lay pastoral care is to individuals. We use several forms of communication including the Sunday Bulletin, weekly email updates, bulletin boards, our website and Facebook. Our survey indicated that most of our parishioners prefer email as their primary source for information.

WHAT GOD IS CALLING US TO BE

Survey responses indicated that our members wish to be more engaged in outreach and community as a church and as individuals. We believe God is calling us to be:

- A parish whose members find Christ both inside and outside our doors
- A parish where people feel loved and welcomed for who they are
- A parish where attracting youth is a priority
- A parish where all people are encouraged and welcomed
- A parish where there is a strong message of support for diversity
- A parish where laity and clergy are partnering in key roles of ministry
- A parish where we are open to a new reality



HOW WE SEE THE FUTURE

Our key opportunities lie in using technology to enhance and inform outreach ministries and community service. Technology can also help us bridge the gap between generations. We recognize that solutions may need to come from outside the church's walls and current congregation. In addition to offering alternative worship services and inviting others to join us, we need:

- Restoration of full in-person services
- Growth of our parish with greater diversity
- More religious education for children and adults
- Youth and community outreach
- Participation with other churches in worship and fellowship
- Expanded opportunities for everyone to be involved with the church
- To be the reflection of Christian values in our community



WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER A NEW RECTOR

The Parish

Ascension is a congregation that looks forward to seeing our faith family of the present and of the future grow both in numbers and in love of God and neighbor. We have:

- A core of devoted, involved parishioners who care deeply about the church community
- A centrally located historic church campus
- A well-respected preschool with an environment of learning that is individualized and adapted to meet the needs of all students
- A longstanding music program directed by an internationally recognized pianist/organist, a full professor of music at Colorado State University Pueblo



WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER A NEW RECTOR (Continued)

Stewardship

We encourage proportional giving. Our stewardship campaign funds our annual budget and throughout the pandemic our members continued their pledges to support the church. We see Stewardship as:

- The prioritization of our “time, talent and treasure” in our relationship to God and each other
- A responsibility of our individual and corporate relationships with God
- An ongoing process
- Encompassing all ages
- Based on Biblical concepts
- Having meaning in our everyday lives
- A demonstration of our thankfulness

WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER A NEW RECTOR (Continued)

Finance

Ascension has an established Finance Committee to prepare and review budgets and to recommend fiscal policies to the Vestry. Prior to the pandemic we reached our goal of a balanced budget. We have received positive feedback regarding our accounting methods as well as the transparent way in which our financial matters are shared with the congregation.

Staff

A dedicated staff keeps Ascension running smoothly and efficiently. Included are the Parish Administrator, Financial Administrator, Music Director and Director of Ascension Preschool Academy.

ENTER OUR SEARCH

Please email a cover letter, resume, and OTM Portfolio to:
The Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler Glass, Canon for Transition Ministry,
vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org

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Stan Goodin, Junior Warden
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