

St. Andrew's Anglican Church  
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**MAY 2016**

The Very Reverend  
**Frank M. Levi, M.A.**  
*Rector*

**Rev. Derrick Hassert, Ph.D.**  
*Curate*

**Rev. Phil Tjoelker,**  
*Assisting Minister*

**William Nash, Yemi Onayemi,**  
**Dr. Richard Oni**  
*Lay Readers*

**Michael Adeofe, Cheryl Yapp**  
*Lectors*

**Mark Levi, Webmaster**  
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## THE ASCENSION By Bishop J.C. Ryle

“And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and He lifted up His hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.” Luke 24:50-53

These verses are the winding up of St. Luke's history of our Lord's ministry. They form a suitable conclusion to a Gospel, which in touching tenderness and full exhibition of Christ's grace, stands first among the four records of the things which Jesus did and taught (Acts 1:1).

Let us notice, firstly, in the passage the remarkable manner in which our Lord left His disciples. We read that ‘he lifted up His hands and blessed them. And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them.’ In one word, He left them when in the very act of blessing.

We cannot for a moment doubt that there was a meaning in this circumstance. It was intended to remind the disciples of all that Jesus had brought with Him when He came into the world. It was intended to assure them of what He would yet do, after He left the world. He came on earth to bless and not to curse, and blessing He departed. He came in love and not in anger, and in love He went away. He came not as a

condemning judge, but as a compassionate Friend, and as a Friend He returned to His Father. He had been a Saviour full of blessings to His little flock while He had been with them. He would be a Saviour full of blessings to them, He would have them know, even after He was taken away.

For ever let our souls lean on the gracious heart of Christ, if we know anything of true religion. We shall never find a heart more tender, more loving, more patient, more compassionate, and more kind. To talk of the Virgin Mary as being more compassionate than Christ is proof of miserable ignorance. To flee to the saints for comfort, when we may flee to Christ, is an act of mingled stupidity and blasphemy, and a robbery of Christ's crown. Gracious was our Lord Jesus while He lived among His weak disciples, gracious in the very season of His agony on the cross, gracious when He rose again and gathered His scattered sheep around Him, gracious in the manner of His departure from this world. It was a departure in the very act of blessing! Gracious, we may be assured, He is at the right hand of God. He is the same yesterday, today, and for ever, a Saviour ever ready to bless, abounding in blessings.

Let us notice, secondly, in this passage, the place to which our Lord went when He left the world. We read that He was ‘carried up into heaven.’

The full meaning of these words we cannot of course comprehend. It would be easy to ask questions about the exact residence of Christ's glorified body, which the wisest



## A Parish of The Reformed Episcopal Church

theologian could never answer. We must not waste our time in unedifying speculations, or 'intrude into things unseen' (Col. 2:18). Let it suffice us to know that our Lord Jesus Christ is gone into the presence of God on behalf of all who believe on Him, as a Forerunner and a High Priest (Heb. 6:20; John 14:2).

As a Forerunner, Jesus has gone into heaven to prepare a place for all his members. Our great Head has taken possession of a glorious inheritance in behalf of His mystical body, and holds it as an elder brother and trustee, until the day comes when His body shall be perfected. As a High Priest, Jesus has gone into heaven to intercede for all who believe on Him. There in the holy of holies He presents on their behalf the merit of His own sacrifice, and obtains for them daily supplies of mercy and grace. The grand secret of the perseverance of saints is Christ's appearance for them in heaven. They have an everlasting Advocate with the Father, and therefore they are never cast away (Heb. 9:24; 1 Jn 2:1).

A day will come when Jesus shall return from heaven, in like manner as he went. He will not always abide within the holy of holies. He will come forth, like the Jewish high priest, to bless the people, to gather his saints together, and to restore all things (Lev. 9:21; Acts 3:21). For that day let us wait, and long, and pray. Christ dying on the cross for sinners, Christ living in heaven to intercede, Christ coming again in glory, are three great objects which ought to stand out prominently before the eyes of every true Christian.

### PARISH NEWS



*IN MEMORY of  
Rev. Robert Frank Novak  
Bob went to be with the  
Lord April 28, 2016 at age  
75. Our prayers are with his  
wife Dorothy, his daughters,  
Janet, Deborah, Cheryl, and  
the rest of the family. The  
funeral was Tuesday, May  
3rd, at Palos Heights  
Christian Reformed Church.*

### THANK YOU

to all who came to the Mother/Daughter Salad Supper and who fixed food or helped in any way. We appreciate our Guild President, Tutu Balogun, and Sue Horosinski for the lovely decorations, and to Cheryl Yapp for the beautiful flowers and homemade flower treats!!!



### IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to Uche & Chin at the birth of their son, Nicholas Chibuikem Okpara, born April 28, 2016.



**Hope you had a  
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
*to Jessie & Ike Nwosu, Jr.*  
As both graduated in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois Chicago and Purdue University Calumet. A reception was held at the church, Sat., May 14, 2016.

### COMING EVENTS



#### Youth

**Rock-A-Thon May  
20-21 from**

**8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Please pledge** the youth for rocking all night. Pledge form is posted on the bulletin board or see one of the youth! They will need rocking chairs (rockers or gliders). If you have one the youth can use, tell Will Garrison.

# More Parishioners



Steve & Sue Horosinski



Henry Leenstra



Michael & Lola  
Agunloye



Barb Rozanski

Baby Shower  
for Chin & Uche  
Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>

# MAY 2016 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rogation Sunday <b>1</b> MP & SS 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m.	<b>2</b> St. Philip & St. James Apostles	<b>3</b> Rogation Tuesday	<b>4</b> Rogation Wednesday	<b>5</b> Ascension Day	<b>6</b> Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.	<b>7</b>
Sunday after <b>8</b> Ascension MP & SS 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m. Happy Mother's Day	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.	<b>14</b> Graduation Reception - Ike & Jessie Nwosu 6 pm to midnight
Feast of Pentecost <b>15</b> (Whitsunday) MP & SS 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m. Vestry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. Rock-a-thon 8pm Ember Day	<b>21</b> Work Day 9 am to noon Youth rock till 8am Ember Day
Trinity Sunday <b>22</b> MP & SS 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m. Guild Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Ember Day Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.	<b>28</b>
1st Sunday <b>29</b> after Trinity MP & SS 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m. Pot Luck Meal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				