



# The Ascendant

A Newsletter by and for Members and Friends of Church of the Ascension

April 2017

## "One Ascension/ Youth Sunday"



One of the things the Vestry talked about at its recent annual retreat was creating events that would enhance our experience of community. While we are proud of offering 6 services on a Sunday, we also realize that people don't see who Ascension really is! Going to the same service as someone else does not of course guarantee that you will get acquainted, but the potential exists. So we are going to try an experiment. On fifth Sundays, starting with April 30, we will celebrate a "One Ascension Sunday" with one liturgy, at 10:00 a.m., in the main church. Sometimes the style of service will be a bilingual hybrid, and at other times the style of a particular service will be "showcased." April 30 just happens to be Youth Sunday, which means that the Youth Group designs and leads the service. The Ascension Choir will be part of the service on this first One Ascension Sunday, and the 11:15 ensemble will be as well. Afterward, we will feast! Save the date and watch for more details as the weeks progress!

## Holy Week and Easter at Ascension



### Palm Sunday, April 9

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms—Main Church
- 8:45 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist—Entrance to High School
- 10:15 a.m. Service for Children—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist- Entrance to the High School
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Dramatic Reading of the Passion—Chapel

### Wednesday, April 12

- 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae, a "Service of Darkness" - Main Church

### Maundy Thursday, April 13

- 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar—Main Church

### Good Friday, April 14

- 12:00 p.m. "Stations to Go" - Main Church and Various Locations in Old Towne Gaithersburg
- 7:30 p.m. Prayer Book Liturgy—Main Church

### Easter Eve, Saturday, April 15

- 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil—Main Church

### Easter Day, Sunday, April 16

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 9:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist—Main Church
- 11:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist—Main Church
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish—Chapel
- 12:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist for Families with Young Children, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt—Chapel

# LIFE LONG LEARNING

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## Godly Play

### April 2: Faces of Easter VII

This week's Godly Play lesson, Faces of Easter VII, continues to help us prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We continue to move toward the Mystery of Easter by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on Christ's face on the cross and Christ's face on Easter.

**April 9:** In observance of Palm Sunday, Godly play will not meet.

**April 16:** In observance of Easter, Godly play will not meet.

**April 23:** Good Shepherd and World Communion.

In this week's lesson, the Good Shepherd knows all of the sheep, and the sheep know how the sound of His voice. The people of the world come to the table of the Good Shepherd to share the bread and the wine. We will use images of the Good Shepherd and World Communion to explore our own experiences.

### April 30: The Well

This week's in Godly Play we will study the Parable of the Deep Well. This parable is not a parable of Jesus but has its roots in the traditions of the rabbis. From time to time we wonder what parables really are. The parable of the Deep Well helps us find our own interpretation of what a parable really is. The parable tells the story of a person who crossed the desert and came to a deep well where she took her time to look at the well and to learn how to draw out the refreshing water.

## A Joyful Path

The Members of *A Joyful Path* will be studying how we are a part of the community of life that includes all people. Lesson topics will be: What is family?; People in the Neighborhood; The New Tribe and No Boundaries. Please come and join us downstairs in Room 11 during the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services

## New Book for Wednesday Morning Book Group

Starting on Wednesday, April 26, we will be reading Parker Palmer's *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. From Amazon: "With wisdom, compassion, and gentle humor, Parker J. Palmer invites us to listen to the inner teacher and follow its leadings toward a sense of meaning and purpose. Telling stories from his own life and the lives of others who have made a difference, he shares insights gained from darkness and depression as well as fulfillment and joy, illuminating a pathway toward vocation for all who seek the true calling of their lives."

## Yoga Classes

Randy's yoga class is every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Church.

These are gentle, entry level classes anyone may enjoy. No props are needed. There are some mats, blocks and blankets

for those who want them. If you have your own mat, bring it. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

## Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Ascension House. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

## Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi classes are offered at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel; a good time of peace and balance in a lovely place at sunset. Please come and join us.

Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or [Cjrosser@aol.com](mailto:Cjrosser@aol.com) if you have any questions.

## Present Moment, Wonderful Moment: Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group

New and experienced practitioners are welcome on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Additional resources and program announcements are available via our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/stillwatermpc>

For more information, contact Lori Perine at [swgathersburg@gmail.com](mailto:swgathersburg@gmail.com).

## The Listening Heart Community



The Listening Heart Community is Ascension's "monastery of the heart", an intentional group for seekers in all stages of their spiritual journey to explore Benedictine and other contemplative spirituality in community. We meet the first and third Monday of each month. Contact Lori Perine at [lperine@gmail.com](mailto:lperine@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

## Small Group for Families with Small Children

The small group for families with young children meets on the first Sunday of the month at 11:15 am in the church library. We are currently discussing Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road by Walking*. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Yours, Brian, Sarah, Leo, and Jane Annear  
([sarahannear@gmail.com](mailto:sarahannear@gmail.com))

# LIFE LONG LEARNING

## Sunday Morning Small Group for Small Group Leaders

If you are interested in growing your faith and connecting with other Ascensitonites, then join me for a Small groups leader training. Small groups are a great way to develop your faith in the context of relationship. We will talk about how to form, participate and facilitate a small group. We will address best practices and a structure to start your group off with. Join me on Sunday either after the 9:00 or 11:15 services in the Library, Jason Cutshall, jascut@me.com .

## Youth Group Schedule Spring 2017

- April 9 - No Youth Group due to Spring Break
- April 23 - Regular Meeting in Undercroft Commons
- April 30 - Youth Sunday: NO YOUTH GROUP BUT LOTS OF CHURCH TIME
- May 21 - Picnic at Hight Walkers'
- June 25—Philly Work Camp



Congratulations, Beth! Our old friend and former Assistant Rector, the Rev. Beth O'Callaghan, has accepted a call to become the next Rector of St. Nicholas' Church in Darnestown! Her first Sunday is May 7. If you haven't heard the news and want to reach out to Beth, her e-mail address is revbethoc@gmail.com.

Seminarian Jason Cutshall will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 10, at Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Herndon, VA. Details to follow soon. Save the date!

The Rev. Kate Siberine has just accepted a call as Curate of Church of the Good Shepherd in Nashua, NH. Congratulations, Kate!

## April-June Worship Rosters

The April, May, and June worship rosters have been emailed out. There are also hard copies available on the desk outside the office and in the Chapel. It can also be downloaded from our website: <http://bit.ly/2ogIdsx>

# LIFE AT ASCENSION

## Sing' at Movie Night on Friday, April 7



Everyone is welcome to meet up in the Undercroft Commons on Friday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. to watch Sing (rated PG).

From Amazon: "From Illumination Entertainment, the studio that brought you The Secret Life of Pets comes an animated comedy about finding the music that lives inside all of us. Sing stars Academy Award winner Matthew McConaughey as Buster Moon, an eternally optimistic koala who puts on the world's greatest singing competition to save his crumbling theater; Academy Award winner Reese Witherspoon as Rosita, an overworked and underappreciated mother of 25 piglets desperate to unleash her inner diva; Scarlett Johansson as Ash, a punk rock porcupine with a beautiful voice behind her prickly exterior; and Taron Egerton as Johnny, a young gangster gorilla looking to break free of his family's felonies. Sing is the musical comedy event of the year!"

We'll start off with pizza and whatever else people want to bring (for specific suggestions, follow this sign-up). We do ask for a donation of \$5 per person with a \$15 per family maximum toward the cost of the pizza. We'll start the movie at 6:45 and we'll most likely be out and off to bed by 8:30 p.m.

You need not be a child, or have one, to attend! Dolls, favorite toys, sleeping bags and pillows are also welcome!

Please RSVP by Midnight Thursday, April 6. We need 10 confirmations to make Movie Night happen...

To sign up, go here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4caba82da75-seeing>

# LIFE AT ASCENSION

## Cristian Dohler



Cristian Dohler, who has been playing flute at Ascension since May of 2016, taught himself how to play the flute when he was 15 years old. Since then, he studied flute performance and music management with Keith Hanlon from 2014-2016 where he played as principal flutist and piccolo with the FSU Wind Ensemble, marched piccolo with the FSU Marching Bobcats, performed on flute and piccolo with the FSU Flute Choir

"Flood by the Foot", and also performed regularly as a soloist for student recital series and "Student for a Day" events hosted by the department. Cristian also presented master classes on articulation, warm-up and tone development techniques for high school flutists participating in the FSU Tri-State Honor Band Festivals in 2015 and 2016. As a sophomore, Cristian formed the Augmented Second flute duo with his good friend Susan Zoller, and the pair presented a joint recital of significant solo and duo flute works in March of 2016. Augmented Second joined forces again in February of 2017 and had the honor of presenting a recital of flute duets and quartets in collaboration with Keith Hanlon and Amara Guitry of the io Ensemble at the Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention in Reston, VA.

Cristian currently studies with Carolyn Oh at Montgomery College and performs with the MC Orchestra. Outside of school, Cristian is an active church musician, performs regularly with the Prince George's Philharmonic as a substitute and is on sub lists for the Symphony of the Potomac and Columbia Orchestra. Honors and awards include a featured performance in the FSU Department of Music Honors Recital 2016, and first prize in the Flute Society of Washington's Collegiate Soloist Competition 2017. Upcoming performances include the Flute Society of Washington's Spring Membership Recital on May 13, 2017, 7:30 pm at Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, VA and "Why Not?" a recital of German, French and American flute classics, accompanied by Jerrold Tildwell, here at Ascension on August 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

## 2017 Ascension Cookbook Update

Many, many thanks to everyone who has generously shared a recipe for the new Ascension cookbook. What started as a trickle has become a deluge! We know that the community's tremendous response is due to everyone who tapped someone's shoulder, stood up to speak in church or otherwise helped spread the word and drum up enthusiasm for our project. Nothing works like the personal touch, and we are so grateful for everyone's help!

Although we have moved on to cataloging all of the submissions, we are still accepting recipes. So if you have a treasured recipe you'd like to share, just send it our way. You can also send us recipes in Spanish. Our goal is to produce a bilingual cookbook that reflects who we are as a community. Feel free to contact Zadinga Ogada at [z\\_zulu@msn.com](mailto:z_zulu@msn.com) with any questions or to forward a recipe.

Don't forget to mark your calendars with our next tasting event, taking place at the luncheon immediately following our "One Ascension Sunday Service" at 10:00 a.m. on April 30th, which this year is also Youth Sunday. We are very eager to actually taste your proffered creations and would be so pleased and honored if you would bring a dish to the luncheon. Just email Zadinga beforehand so we know what to expect.

We are very lucky to belong to such a dynamic community. Keep an eye out for more updates, and we'll see you April 30th!

Your Cookbook Committee, Janet, Rachel, Sari, Susan and Zadinga

## Ascension's Adventurers to Walk in Seneca Creek State Park



All parishioners and friends are invited to join us for a morning walk through the woods in Seneca Creek State Park on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> (rain date = April 29<sup>th</sup>).

Starting at the Park's boat house, we will divide ourselves into two groups. One group will walk completely around Lake Clopper (distance = 3.7 miles, walking time = 1.5 hours, not including rest stops). The second group will walk for approximately 1.0 hours around part of the lake and back.

Participants can meet us at 9:30 a.m. in Ascension House's parking lot to carpool. Alternatively, participants can meet us at 10:00 a.m. at the Park's boat house. Entrance to the Park is \$3 per person.

People are also invited to join us for lunch at the Dogfish Head Alehouse located at 800 West Diamond Avenue in Gaithersburg. The carpools will be organized to allow people to return directly to Ascension if they are unable to join us for lunch.

If walking through the woods is not your thing, then you may want to forego the trip to the Park and simply join us at the restaurant around 12:30 p.m. for lunch! For information about Seneca

Creek State Park, see <http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/seneca.aspx>

For information about Dogfish Head Alehouse, see <https://dogfishalehouse.com>

For additional information, including driving directions, contact Richard Snay by phone (301-977-5259) or by email ([rssnay@aol.com](mailto:rssnay@aol.com)).

# CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

## DMV Sanctuary Congregations: SIGN UP to Join the Network

We are being invited as a congregation to join the Sanctuary Movement in our area. To do so we would need the support of our congregation. Below is a simple pledge we would be asked to support and then there is a survey to determine how involved we as a congregation wish to become Sanctuary DMV Congregations.

We are a network of congregations in the DC/MD/VA region that are providing support and sanctuary to our neighbors, friends, and family who fear being detained and deported, or profiled because of their religion, race or political beliefs. Our faith will not allow us to permit the criminalization and scapegoating of immigrants and people of color. In the face of hate and discrimination we are committed to showing love, compassion and hospitality.

### Ways to Participate

Identify your faith community as part of our network.

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ MAYBE \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

Organize Know Your Rights and Active Bystander trainings for congregation members and neighbors

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ MAYBE \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

Create a rapid response system for your congregation/neighborhood

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ MAYBE \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

Accompany people to their ICE check-ins and other legal hearings

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ MAYBE \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

Host an individual or family

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ MAYBE \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

Support another congregation that is hosting

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ MAYBE \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

With grassroots groups, meet with your city and state officials to press them to cut ties with ICE and stop aggressive policing and over-incarceration.

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ MAYBE \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

### Comments or questions

On March 21st Randy and 4 other member of our church attended the Launch of the Sanctuary Network in the DMV area. It was attended by 60 other congregations, who wish to be a part of this Movement. There will be additional training for those who wish to support this important work in supporting Sanctuary for those in our community.

### Ministerio Felicidad

Every 4th Saturday Ascension members and prepare lunches and send love and prayers to day laborers in the neighborhood of the church. Join Javier at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 25 in the church kitchen.

## Men's Shelter Lunch Program



The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft Commons once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month.

Sign-up for contributions are through an online system and assembly occurs by those present after the 9:00 am service on the third Sunday of the month. We will put lunches together on March 19th at 10:15 am. Contact Edith at [esekasi@gmail.com](mailto:esekasi@gmail.com) if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

### Mobile Med

We host the MobileMed van every Tuesday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are assigned a 2 ½ hour shift each month. Duties include collecting basic patient information, answering questions and ensuring a safe, comfortable waiting area. Our contact for Mobile Med is Jean Cohn at [spangle1@comcast.net](mailto:spangle1@comcast.net) or 240.372.3652.

### Gaithersburg HELP

This organization provides emergency food and other support to needy families in Gaithersburg. Non-perishable food collected at Ascension every week, and during specific holiday in-gatherings, helps to stock the pantry. Donations may be brought to church at any time and left in the narthex. For more information, contact Melanie Mitchell at 301.519.1074 or [melanie.mitchell@verizon.net](mailto:melanie.mitchell@verizon.net).

### Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

There is an opportunity to serve at the soup kitchen on the first Saturday or third Monday each month at 1:00 pm (prep work) or 3:00 p.m. (serving) across the street at St. Martin's Church. Contact one of our experienced team leaders, Page Salazar (Saturdays, [pagesalazar@ymail.com](mailto:pagesalazar@ymail.com)) or Jean Cohn (Mondays, [spangle1@comcast.net](mailto:spangle1@comcast.net)). We can always use more volunteers!

# VESTRY DIGEST: FEBRUARY 2017

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**PRESENT:** The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Betsy Hasegawa, Janet King, Rose Buck, Avin Lalmansingh, Denise Lionetti, Gary McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez, Najma Stubblefield and Paul Whitmore. Guests: Joey Rick/Canon for Congregational Vitality in the Diocese, Bob Waters and Roy Bevington from the Reshaping Ascension Committee, Howard Holland/Treasurer, The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Jason Cutshall/Seminarian, and Meredith Horan and Gordon Donnelly/Vestry Candidates.

The meeting opened at 1:30 with a Lambeth Bible Study, concluding at 2:07.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** At 2:10 Avin moved that the consent agenda be adopted as presented; Denise seconded the motion, and it passed.

**Reshaping Ascension.** With Joey Rick present for a limited time, the first topic addressed was Ascension's future. She, Howard, and Bob and Roy from the Committee to Reshape Ascension, led the discussion. Our situation is that continuing depleting our Endowment to pay our bills will put us out of business in about 18 months. The deficit is significant - for 2017 it's projected at just under \$116,000. The committee presented three potential ways to lower the rate at which we deplete the endowment; one was immediately eliminated, and the other two didn't come close to making a difference. Joey mentioned that there were ways we could lower our costs through using some available diocesan processes, but again, not enough could be saved.

Joey then told the meeting that, based on her wide experience in this area, we are not looking at the big picture. First, it's very highly unlikely that we can find any way to significantly increase our income. Secondly, we need to stop looking for ways to save a bit here and there - that approach will not be enough to make a difference in the long run. We would need to make drastic reductions to save enough. She said that other than praying for a miracle, we really have only three options:

1. Decide to live within our means.
2. Create enough in savings; see her two thoughts below.
3. Agree to continue as is and prepare to shut down within the next year or so when the endowment runs out.

Option 1 would mean drastic cutbacks in virtually every area. In Option 2, the only areas where it would be significant enough are (a) selling property (for instance, Ascension House would bring in around \$400,000), but this only postpones the close-down date (and we'd lose our parking lot), and (b) salaries. As a possibility, Joey said that we could replace Randy and Javier with a young bi-lingual priest and also reduce the number of services. Randy suggested that he could become a bi-vocational priest - being at Ascension half-time only, at half the salary, and spending the other half of his working time as a teacher, speaker, or something along those lines. Option 3 needs no explanation.

Joey ended the discussion by recommending that the Vestry think about what we want to do, and to present the situation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting for a decision.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Sanctuary church issue.** Janet attended a meeting of the Sanctuary church committee. The committee would like Ascension to join the network of churches in the Sanctuary movement, but the first requirement would be that the full congregation supports our joining. In order to get feedback, information will be placed in the Ascendant and the weekly colored bulletin requesting input as to what level of engagement, if any, respondents support. Janet will also be available in the narthex weekly to inform congregants about the movement. Gary suggested that we tell people that the Vestry supports this. An online survey will ultimately decide where we stand. John made a motion that the Vestry go forward with the survey to gauge congregational support. Gary seconded the motion and it passed.

**Annual Giving Campaign/Facilities Reserve Fund.** Avin thanked all Vestry members for help given, especially to those who wrote letters, made phone calls, and provided the stickers. The Pledgers' lunch will take place later in the spring.

**Cookbook report.** Zadinga reported that two meetings of the committee have been held. The cookbook request for recipes has been and will continue to be in the colored bulletin each Sunday. The deadline for submitting them has been extended by two weeks, and recipes can now be submitted online as well as by using the recipe box. More recipes are needed.

**Tee shirts.** Berenice brought samples in each size. The logistics of sales and money collection were discussed. The Vestry agreed to have order forms available at the Shrove Tuesday dinner.

**New Vestry discernment update.** Three excellent candidates for the three open positions on the Vestry were discerned - Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, and Luis Pedron; they all accepted the call. The three Convention Delegates affected all agreed to run again, and Janet had been elected to a full term as Junior Warden at the January meeting.

**Javier's status.** Randy reported that Javier's attorney has requested a statement on church letterhead stating that we will support him for the next year (7/1/17-6/30/18). To qualify for renewal of the diocesan grant that supports Javier, Ascension must increase our diocesan pledge by 1%, or about \$5,000. Janet made a motion that we increase our diocesan pledge by 1% for the coming year. Paul seconded and the motion passed.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Request for Use of Parking Lot by City of Gaithersburg for July 4.** Randy got a request from the City of Gaithersburg to make our parking lot available to them on Independence Day. The Vestry agreed to the request and Gary made the motion that we authorize use of the parking lot to the City of Gaithersburg for 7/4/17. The motion was seconded by John and passed unanimously.

**Annual Meeting.** The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 12th. It will include a presentation and discussion on the future of Ascension.

**OPEN MIC:**

Reports from the Diocesan Workshops.

Gary went to the Administrative session, led by Paul Cooney and Kathleen Hall. Half of the session was spent on HR issues relating specifically to DC and Montgomery County, such as employees leave, paid and unpaid time off, and more; the other half day covered a variety of admin topics. Among things discussed was training for Vestries; the Diocese might be willing to take this on.

Betsy took the Diocesan Grants seminar, which touched on how to apply for grants, not just from and within the Diocese, but also from other sources.

Najma went to the Social Media and Marketing seminar. The need for a great and inviting website was stressed, especially to draw in church searchers who may not be familiar with Episcopal theology. It's also important to keep the website updated.

Berenice was recently in AZ where she met with Laura Kennedy of the Sanctuary movement. Laura gave her information about deportations, including that although 60% of those deported are considered criminals, many of them have committed very minor offenses. Putting those who have been stopped for speeding in the same "criminal" category as those who have committed serious felonies leads to erroneous conclusions. She also related that the backup of Visas being issued is so severe that Mexicans who applied in 1996 are just now getting them.

As Senior Warden, Betsy thanked the three outgoing members of the Vestry, Denise Lionetti, Najma Stubblefield and Paul Whitmore, for their service, and they were roundly applauded.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 4:43, Paul made a motion that the meeting be adjourned; Denise seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard  
Clerk of the Vestry

## CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS

Financial Update March 29, 2017  
Budget Development and Implementation



### Budget Development and Implementation

With the annual parish meeting now concluded, we are working with the Wardens, Vestry members, and others to help address the budget issues that have been identified. In particular, we are re-examining all expense categories, except for the ones representing fixed expenses such as the

mortgage, to determine where additional savings can be found.

In addition, we are working with Ascension's accounting team to set up the budget reporting system for this year. Because many of our budget assumptions remain up in the air, we have not yet completed the process of producing monthly projections of our income and expenses. We expect that process to be completed in the next several weeks.

### February Financials

Total income for February was \$39,928. Ascension received \$3,952 in plate receipts and \$29,189 in pledge income. Our rental income was \$2,060, which is the usual amount that we receive from Sandy Ridge Academy and Light Balance Ministries. Our Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income was \$4,727.

For February, our total expenses were \$40,824. Our expenses for February were much lower than January, which is typical. We generally have fewer fixed expenses that need to be paid in February, such as quarterly payments for maintenance agreements, and it's obviously a shorter month! Our costs for Salaries and Benefits were proportionately lower along with other areas, such as General Office expenses. However, utilities for the month seemed high, at \$4,013.

We had negative net income for February of \$896 based on the income and expenses figures just described. As with any other months when we run a deficit, we made up the difference between our income and expenses using unrestricted cash reserves drawn from the Endowment.

Year-to-date, we have received \$83,415 in income, against total expenses of \$95,878, for a total net operating deficit of \$12,463 thus far. That deficit largely reflects the large deficit we incurred in January, given the deficit in February was very modest.

Finally, the balance in the Endowment Fund stands at \$271,564 as of February 28. In addition, with continuing donations received, we now have \$30,044 in the new Facilities Reserve Fund. For any future capital improvement or building repair expenses, the Vestry will need to consider whether to begin using that fund or some other source to cover those costs.

### **May Ascendant**

Please email Eleni Hailu by Wednesday, April 26, if you have anything for the March Ascendant at [comm@ascensionmd.org](mailto:comm@ascensionmd.org). Thank you!



## *The Ascendant*

*A Newsletter by and for Members and Friends of Church of the Ascension*

April 2017

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
205 South Summit Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2315

*Address Service Requested*

*"We are ambassadors who represent Christ." - 2 Corinthians 5:20*

### Contact Us

Phone: 301.948.0122 Fax: 301.926.9012  
eca@ascensionmd.org www.ascensionmd.org

### Parish Staff

|                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rector                  | Randy Lord-Wilkinson              |
| Assistant to the Rector | Javier García Ocampo              |
| Seminarian              | Jason Cutshall                    |
| Minister of Music       | Jerrold Tidwell                   |
| Parish Administrator    | Kathy Van Arnum                   |
| Media Specialist        | Eleni Hailu                       |
| Children's Music Leader | Howard Hanson                     |
| Chapel Musicians        | Eric O'Loughlin<br>Samuel Munguia |

### Sunday Services

7:45 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
*"Meditative" service, no music - Main Church*  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
*Classic sacred music of the Church accompanied by Choir and Organ—Main Church*  
10:15 a.m.—Eucharist for Young Children and Families  
*Storytelling of the Gospel with children's songs—Chapel*  
11:00 a.m.—Eucharist in Spanish  
*Songs and prayers in Spanish—Chapel*  
11:15 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
*Modern Music and liturgy accompanied by instrumental ensemble—Main Church*  
5:00 p.m.—"Last Chance Church" Eucharist  
*Informal service with music blending Gospel and jazz influences—Chapel*