



# The Ascendant

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

February 2018

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



This fun annual event will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Undercroft Commons.

Come join us to celebrate Mardi Gras, Carnival, Fat Tuesday...or a good excuse to have pancakes and sausage! Vegetarian sausage, gluten free pancakes and sugar-free syrup are included on the traditional menu as well as a gluten free option...there will be something for everyone. This fun event needs lots of helpers AND lots of attendees, 'the more, the merrier!' Cost (s); \$5.00 per adult; \$3.00 per children 4 to 10 years; and children under 4 are free. N.B. We DO take debit and credit cards. If you have an instrument you would like to play, contact Randy at [ral@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ral@ascensionmd.org). Sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4caba82da75-shrove1>

## Ash Wednesday is February 14



We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and offer the Im-

position of Ashes at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The evening service will be bilingual. The Labyrinth will be available for meditation in the Chapel from 10:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. "Ashes to Go" will be offered again this year for morning commuters at the Shady Grove Metro Station between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

## Palm Sunday is a 1A Sunday!

There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. Afterward will be Randy's farewell celebration. Save the date: March 25.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE VESTRY

Many thanks to everyone who attended Sunday's Town Hall meeting about Randy's departure from Ascension and our journey forward as a church. We appreciate all of the questions, comments and suggestions offered and are especially thankful that so many of you care so much about the church's future. We are glad to have started this journey together and know that we have a chance for real growth as a congregation.

Several members asked for a timeline explaining key steps in the transition process and how we can prepare for those milestones. We are working to develop the timeline and will update you as it evolves.

In the meantime, we are asking that each of you begin thinking about your top priorities for Ascension. What do you want the Bishop and an incoming rector to know about us? We will soon send out an online survey to collect your ideas. You can also write your thoughts down and leave them in the suggestion basket located in the back of the church on the Welcome Table. Please respond by Sunday, February 18th.

### The Transition Process

Although we know that many of you have been through a transition process before, we want to take a moment to explain the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's (EDOW) process for everyone. This way, we will all have the most current information.

On January 17th, members of the Vestry met with Paula Clark, the Diocese's Canon for Clergy Development and Multicultural Ministries, who manages the recruitment of clergy within the Diocese. Ms. Clarke explained the transition process in four stages:

Separation and Planning covers the process of notifying the Bishop that the current rector is leaving and creating opportunities for the rector and the congregation to say good-bye. We are currently in this stage.

The Congregational Assessment stage involves some form of self-study by the congregation. This process helps to understand where the church is at that moment, what challenges and opportunities lie ahead, and what kind of gifts and skills an incoming rector will need. At the end of that process, the church creates a Parish Profile which is used to match the congregation with potential candidates.

During the Search, the church works closely with the Bishop to find candidates and move them through the recruitment process. Eventually, a final candidate is chosen.

During the last stage of the process, the Start-Up, the successful candidate is formally elected and with the Bishop's approval, the Vestry issues a call to the nominee.

Ms. Clarke was very clear that the Diocesan transition process is meant to be slow and thoughtful. In fact, Stage Two--the Congregational Assessment--is not meant to begin until the departing rector has left. This allows for a proper good-bye and lays the groundwork for a positive relationship with the incoming rector.

Several people at the meeting wondered what we will do on April 8th when Randy is no longer at Ascension, and we want to assure you that we will have clergy in place. As you will see immediately below, the Episcopal Church builds a space into the process that is meant to be filled by an interim or supply priest.

### Full Search or Priest-In-Charge

It is during the Search stage that two options emerge.

#### Option One: Full Search

In the first option, the church begins a full search, usually lasting between twelve and eighteen months. A church may start with as many as 20 to 30 candidates who move through

## Yoga

Randy's yoga class is every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Chapel. 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 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ascension House. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and practice. For more information contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

## Godly Play

The Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Leaven at 10:15 a.m. in Room 6. The Parable of the Sower, which is found in all three synoptic gospels, describes Jesus' promise of abundant harvest.

## A Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will explore the meaning of being of service to others. I John 3:18 "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Also the meaning of this Mexican proverb: "A good deed is the best prayer." Come and join us in Room 2 after the 9:00 a.m. service (10:15).

## 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.

## Spirituality and Dementia workshop: February 8

This workshop, led by Janice Hicks (candidate in the deacon formation process in the diocese), is designed to provide information to clergy and all who are interested about spirituality related to dementia along with resources for congregations and families dealing the effects of dementia. \$10 registration fee includes workshop, coffee, lunch and CEU certificate. Thursday, February 8 from 10:00 - 11:30, a.m. at The Village at Rockville (map). Please contact Alice Benson with any questions. To register: <http://bit.ly/2DC0sgx>

## Interfaith Class on "Abraham's Children"

This class, to have been offered in March as a Lenten study for local Jews, Christians, and Muslims, has been cancelled. For details, see Randy.

## 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. This fall and winter, we will be praying with the writings and teachings of Thomas Merton, the American mystic and Trappist monk, in observance of the centennial of his birth.

We meet again on Monday December 4. Contact Lori Perine at [lperine@gmail.com](mailto:lperine@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

## New Book for Wednesday Morning Book Group

Beginning Wednesday, March 7, the Wednesday morning group will begin to discuss Brian McLaren's latest book entitled *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian*. Watch the Sunday announcements and weekly e-mails for reading assignments. Here's a description from Amazon.com (<http://amzn.to/2nGabwg>): "Brian McLaren, a leading voice in contemporary religion, argues that— notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance— Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun."

## Room 4: A Place of "Sanctuary"

At the most recent meeting of Ascension's teachers with the Rector, it was clear that the "nursery" has not been utilized as originally intended for toddlers and infants up to age 3. This has been the case for some time. Parents with infants and toddlers attend the 10:15 service (often with a child on the way!) or one of our other services. Starting January 7, 2018, Room 2 became the Joyful Path classroom (for kids in 3rd to 5th grade), and Room 4 became a comfortable place for parents with children who need a "break" from sitting in church. There will be comfortable furniture, a bathroom, and in time a monitor so that the service can be seen and heard there.

## Lenten Bible Study: Contemplating Colossians

Contemplation is entering into the realm of spiritual mystery. In the New Testament, the mysterious letter to the Colossians takes up that theme with its claim that we have the mystery of Christ. Over the first five Sundays in Lent, Sister Elena will lead an encounter with this mysterious short text and its theologies of the pre-existence of Christ, invisibility (Harry Potter's not the only one with a cloak!), spiritual power and resurrection. We'll also engage the apparent contradiction with these theologies and their manifestation within an unjust social order. Meets from 10:15 to 10:45 am on five Sundays, February 18 through March 18, in the Undercroft.

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*Continued from P. 1*

the recruitment process until a final candidate is chosen. We know that many of you have been through this process in the past and most likely expected something similar this time.

During the full search, the day-to-day work of the church is overseen by an interim rector who is experienced with the ministry of transition. The interim fulfills all of the duties of the departing clergy and prepares the church for its new rector. Once a new rector is called, the interim moves on to a new parish.

## **Option Two: Priest-In-Charge**

The Episcopal Church has recently begun promoting an additional way of recruiting clergy that is designed for churches in special circumstances. In this second option, the Bishop proposes a handful of candidates to serve as Priest-In-Charge (PIC) and fulfill the duties of a rector. After a candidate is chosen, the PIC and the parish usually sign a three year agreement with evaluations at six, 12 and 18 months, when a decision is made whether to confirm the PIC. If the decision is to confirm, the PIC is called to be the rector. If not, a search committee is set up, and the PIC finishes the rest of his or her term as an interim. The Church recommends the PIC model to churches that are in financial difficulties for the reasons discussed further below.

If the PIC is not in place when a departing rector leaves, the church engages supply clergy. A good analogy for a supply priest is a substitute teacher. She or he may be on hand for one week, several weeks or several months. The only difference between interim priests and supply priests is that supply priests are not charged with transition ministry. Nevertheless, they can skillfully serve until a PIC comes aboard. A number of supply priests have served as interims in the past. A few are bilingual. Some are retired priests. Many are experienced with multicultural ministry and education. Their skills and experience range widely.

## **Why the Priest-In-Charge Option is Best for Ascension**

The Diocese has advised us, and we agree, that the PIC model is the best choice for Ascension at this time.

## **Reduced Timeframe**

First, the PIC model reduces the transition timeline. Rather than taking a year or more, the transition to a PIC can be completed in a matter of months. Because the number of candidates presented by the Bishop is much smaller, the process moves faster, and Paula Clarke will work hard to find the best candidates from which we can choose.

## **Greater Flexibility**

In addition, the PIC model can also work in a situation where a strong candidate has been identified from the outset. This can further streamline the process and provide even more certainty for everyone involved.

## **Congregational Involvement**

The PIC option still provides many ways for a congregation to help choose the new rector. The congregation will play a role, not only at the beginning of the process as we create a Parish Profile, but also during the evaluations at six, 12, and 18 months when the PIC is in place. The Diocese is committed to our growth and success, and we will take advantage of every resource it offers.

## **Financial Considerations**

Finally, the PIC model makes the most financial sense at this time. An interim rector is paid at the level of a long-term rector. In contrast, compensation for a PIC is negotiated, just as for any candidate, based upon qualifications and experience. This, frankly, allows us more control. We are not in the same financial position as we were during our last rector search. Over the past year, Ascension has worked hard to raise more and spend less, and many of our cost-cutting measures are now bearing fruit. That said, we must remain careful stewards of our finances as we look ahead to the future.

## **In Summary**

### **What we are doing:**

We are continuing our discussions with Paul Cooney, EDOW's Canon for the Ordinary & Chief Operating Officer, to put together a budget for 2018 so that we know what we can offer a PIC.

We are developing a transition timeline that will cover a number of issues such as gathering input from the congregation, analyzing the input with the congregation, creating a Parish Profile and embarking on our search.

At the same time, we are working with Paula Clarke to find supply clergy who have the skills necessary to minister to our congregation, should the need arise.

### **What you can do:**

Begin thinking about three to five top priorities that you want the Bishop and an incoming rector to know about Ascension and share your ideas in writing or electronically by February 18th.

Reach out to the Vestry with any additional questions, comments or suggestions.

Open communication will be key in this process. We will share as much information with you as possible and look forward to hearing your thoughts along the way.

Blessings,  
Your Vestry

## **March Ascendant**

Please e-mail Eleni Hailu by Friday, February 23, if you have anything for the December Ascendant at [comm@ascensionmd.org](mailto:comm@ascensionmd.org). Thank you!

# LIFE AT ASCENSION

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## Ascension's Adventurers to Tour the Surratt House Museum



All parishioners and friends are invited to participate in a docent-led tour of the Surratt House Museum in Clinton, Maryland on Saturday, February 10th.

Do you like a good murder mystery? We have a great one for you at the Surratt House Museum. It's a "history mystery," where the intrigue of the Civil War led to the assassination of President Lincoln and the sad fate of the first woman executed by the U.S. Government - Mary E. Surratt.

Participants can meet with us at 12:40 p.m. in Ascension House's parking lot to carpool. Alternatively, participants can meet us at 1:50 p.m. at the Surratt House Visitors Center.

The cost for the tour is \$5 per adult and \$4 per (60+) senior.

People are also invited to join us for a late afternoon meal (around 4:30 p.m.) at El Mariachi Restaurant in Rockville. The carpools will be organized to allow people to return directly to Ascension if they are unable to join us at the restaurant.

For more information about this museum, see <https://www.surrattmuseum.org>.

For information about the restaurant, see [elmariachirockville.com/](http://elmariachirockville.com/)

Also, feel free to contact Richard Snay (tel: 301-977-5259; email: [rssnay@aol.com](mailto:rssnay@aol.com)) for additional information.

If you are planning to join us, please let Richard know by Thursday, February 8th, so that he may make appropriate arrangements.

### Driving Direction's from Ascension to the Surratt House

**\*\*\*\*Please note that the drive may take an hour or more.**

Surratt House's Address: 9110 Brandywine Road, Clinton, MD

Go south on I-270, then merge onto the Capital Beltway (I-495) eastward toward Silver Spring.

From the Capital Beltway (I-495/95) take Exit 7A, Branch Avenue/Route 5 South. Follow Branch Avenue for 3.5 miles and then bear right onto Woodyard Road (Route 223). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right and go one mile to the second traffic light. Turn left onto Brandywine Road. Surratt House will be immediately on your left. Follow the fence line to the Visitors Center's parking lot. Our tour begins inside the Visitors Center.

### Driving Direction's from I-495 to El Mariachi Restaurant

El Mariachi Restaurant's Address: 765 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

From I-495, travel north on I-270

At Exit 4A, take ramp on right toward Tower Oaks Blvd.

After driving 0.4 miles, turn left onto Tower Oaks Blvd.

After driving 0.7 miles, turn right onto Wooton Parkway

After driving 1.3 miles, turn left onto Route 355N/Rockville Pike

After 0.2 miles, make a U-turn onto Route 355S/Rockville Pike

## Special Christmas Offering

Ascension members raised \$705.00 toward Latino youth Henry Sanchez's bond, as he has been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This will be forwarded to parish member Lucelia Justiniano, an attorney at the law firm representing his family.

From Lucelia,

That is wonderful. If you'd like I can invite the family to come to our Sunday service. I am happy to report that Henry Sanchez has been released. Unfortunately, his family had to use a bond company because it was impossible to come up with the full \$40,000. The financial struggle will continue for this family, but we will continue to fight for Henry to remain in the U.S.

"Thank you all for getting this together.

"Here's a Post article about bond companies:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/this-company-is-making-millions-from-americas-broken-immigration-system/2017/03/08/43abce9e-f881-11e6-be05-1a3817ac21a5\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.948b370a4c6a](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/this-company-is-making-millions-from-americas-broken-immigration-system/2017/03/08/43abce9e-f881-11e6-be05-1a3817ac21a5_story.html?utm_term=.948b370a4c6a)

Lucelia R. Justiniano, Esq.  
(301) 788-1630 | lucelia0408@gmail.com  
<http://www.jezicfirm.com/maryland-criminal-attorneys/attorney-lucelia-justiniano/>

## Pledge Envelopes

Please don't forget to pickup your pledge envelopes located on the table outside the Parish Office if you haven't done so. If your pledge envelope is not there and you did not pick it up please contact Lin by e-mail at office@ascensionmd.org.

## Zumba

We have Zumba classes at Ascension every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Undercroft. Zumba is a dance fitness program created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez during the 1990s. Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The choreography incorporates hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, meringue and mambo.

## Annual Meeting

Our annual parish meeting will take place at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 4 in the Undercroft Commons. We'll begin with a potluck lunch. Our primary business will be to elect new Vestry members and to have a time for shared reflection on the ministry and mission of Ascension. The Vestry candidates will be available for dialog on the preceding Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00/11:15 a.m. services in the Undercroft .

## 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. The next program is on February 18 at 10:15 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8> .

## Ministerio Felicidad

Ascension members 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, February 24 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact him at ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

## 2018 Lenten Rice Bowl Recipient

A Lenten tradition since the tenure of Rector Bill Smalley (1970-1980), your offering, placed in the wooden bowl in the font as you come forward for Communion, goes toward an outreach ministry. Typically, we alternate between local and domestic or international causes. This year the Rice Bowl offering goes to Gaithersburg HELP, an agency that provides material support to struggling residents of all kinds. Ascension's food offering goes to the HELP food pantry on Muddy Branch Rd. Parish member Melanie Mitchell has been heavily involved with HELP board for many years. Former Rector Joe Clark served two terms as president of the HELP board.

## Movie Night: *Spirited Away* March 3rd at 6:30 p.m.



Everyone is welcome to meet up in the Undercroft on Friday, February 2nd at 6:30 p.m. to watch *Spirited Away* (rated PG).

During her family's move to the suburbs, a sullen 10-year-old girl wanders into a world ruled by gods, witches, and spirits, and where humans are changed into beasts.

Chihiro and her parents are moving to a small Japanese town in the countryside, much to Chihiro's dismay. On the way to their new home, Chihiro's father makes a wrong turn and drives down a lonely one-lane road which dead-ends in front of a tunnel. Her parents decide to stop the car and explore the area. They go through the tunnel and find an abandoned amusement park on the other side, with its own little town. When her parents see a restaurant with great-smelling food but no staff, they decide to eat and pay later. However, Chihiro refuses to eat and decides to explore the theme park a bit more. She meets a boy named Haku who tells her that Chihiro and her parents are in danger, and they must leave immediately. She runs to the restaurant and finds that her parents have turned into pigs. In addition, the theme park turns out to be a town inhabited by demons, spirits, and evil gods. At the center of the town is a bathhouse where these creatures go to relax

# VESTRY MINUTES

December 17, 2017

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**PRESENT:** The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Junior Warden Janet King, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Gary McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, Luis Pedron, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez. **Absent:** Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Rose Buck, Avin Lalmansingh.

The meeting opened at 1:30 with Bible study; the business meeting began at 2:00.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Gary moved that the consent agenda be adopted as presented. Zadinga seconded the motion, and it passed.

## OLD BUSINESS

Selection of Vestry Liaison to Minister of Music Search Committee. The Vestry elected John to be the Vestry representative to the committee.

Vestry candidates. The Vestry took preliminary steps toward getting candidates for the three new vestrypersons to be elected at the Annual Meeting in March.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Furniture for atrium.** Lin had researched furniture for the lower atrium, specifically high tables and a coffee cart. After discussion, the vestry was in favor of purchasing the items. Gary moved to approve the purchase, Zadinga seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The cost of the furniture was \$1,316.86 as quoted by Lin.

**Supply clergy.** Until such time as we have an interim clergy-person, we will use supply clergy. Decisions have to be made about the number of services to be covered, specifics of the coverage, and other responsibilities. Gary suggested that an Ad Hoc committee to address these things be established; he volunteered as did Gordon and Zadinga. Nan Hildebrand will return to Ascension as a pastoral associate, with only occasional preaching.

**Historiographer.** This position had been let fall to the way-side in recent years, but the vestry agreed to reinstate it. Much has happened in the last ten years, and it needs to be documented. Instead of a single person, it could become a Small Group activity. The clerk agreed to write something for the bulletin and ascendant asking for those interested; Meredith agreed to be point of contact.

**Emergency security response.** With churches becoming targets of attacks, the vestry discussed what Ascension could or should do. The combination on the doors was recently changed, and was given out to fewer people. Gary suggested we might invest in cameras at the three entrances, so that Lin could see who is at the door when the doorbell rings. Randy suggested the matter be referred to Ted Bedell, Facilities Committee chair. John, as liaison, will contact Ted.

**The Giving Tree.** Due to our very late start on this annual outreach project, it was proposed that instead of collecting a variety of hats, gift cards, food, etc., that we choose a

single recipient of a special Christmas collection, as is done for the Lenten rice bowl. The proposed recipient is Henry Sanchez, who was falsely accused of a crime. That brought him, as an undocumented immigrant, to the attention of ICE, which then put him in deportation custody. He needs \$40,000 to be released, which will delay his deportation hearings. Need pic of him. Janet moved that Ascension hold a Christmas-tide special offering for Henry Sanchez in lieu of the customary Giving Tree. Luis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## OPEN MIC

Gordon asked about the reorganization of the classrooms; Randy said it would be complete and ready on 1/7/18.

Gordon reported that our interim choir-master/organist Clarice Snyder is working out very well and giving the choir some challenging music to work with. He also reported there would be a pageant rehearsal upcoming.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 3:45 p.m., Meredith moved that the meeting be adjourned. Gary seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard  
Clerk of the Vestry

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## PARISH FINANCES

### Budget Development and Implementation



We have completed our initial review of Ascension's 2017 financial information, and in particular, our parish's year-end figures. In short, we finished the year with a much smaller deficit than the one projected when the budget was adopted for 2017. For 2017, we show income of \$555,372, against total expenses of \$573,871, resulting in a net operating deficit for the year of \$18,499.

We have prepared a very preliminary budget based on projected expenses for 2018, along with projected income based on the results of the pledge campaign. Our goal is to complete a final version of the budget in February, together with the other materials needed for the parish annual meeting.

The budget will include estimates for basic operating costs, including upkeep of our facilities. We expect our normal operating costs to be very similar to 2017. The budget will also include estimates for personnel costs reflecting Randy's retirement on April 1, 2018, and support for other clergy for the balance of the year.

### December and Preliminary Year-End Financials

Total income for December was \$48,401. Ascension received \$4,780 in plate receipts and \$35,337 in pledge income. Both are less than we might have expected given that we had 5 Sundays

# PARISH FINANCES

in December. However, our Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income was \$5,738, helping to bolster our income totals, along with higher than expected Rental Income.

For December, our total expenses were \$44,084. Most expense categories were at or below expected levels for the month. Our Salary & Benefits costs continue to reflect the changes in staffing we made earlier in 2017. Our General Office Expenses returned to more usual amounts; our Facilities expenses were consistent with December figures, although high at \$5,708.

We had positive net income for December of \$4,317 based on the income and expenses figures just described.

As noted above, for 2017, we show income of \$555,372, against total expenses of \$573,871, resulting in a net operating deficit for the year of \$18,499. These figures include both mortgage principal and interest.

Finally, at year's end, the balance in the Endowment Fund stood at \$308,599. Our Unrestricted Cash Reserves were at \$56,685. In addition, with the continued donations that we have received, we now have \$43,401 in the Facilities Reserve Fund.

Additional information on Ascension's income and expenses for 2017, together with information on the budget for 2018, will be shared at the parish's annual meeting.

## PLEDGE UPDATE



As of January 25, we have 164 Pledges for \$368,728

Thanks to those below who have pledged to the annual giving campaign:

- ◆ Abraham & Christine Kroma
- ◆ Adeline Hedd-Williams
- ◆ Alfredia W Freeman
- ◆ Algernon Thomas
- ◆ Alice Benson
- ◆ Alice Padmore
- ◆ Aloysius & Francis Farrah
- ◆ Amy Duncan
- ◆ Amy Van Dalinda
- ◆ Andrew & Venice Greene
- ◆ Andrew Bvumbe
- ◆ Anne Brink
- ◆ Arturo & Maria Rodriguez
- ◆ Avin & Anika Lalmansingh
- ◆ Barbara Mansfield
- ◆ Bendu Toee
- ◆ Bernice Rodriguez
- ◆ Betsy Hasegawa
- ◆ Betty B Knight
- ◆ Beverly Stennett
- ◆ Brad Clark
- ◆ Brenda Gumula
- ◆ Bubba Pflantzbaums
- ◆ Carleton MacDonald
- ◆ Carolyn Dowling & John Bjerke
- ◆ Ceda & Zadinga Ogada
- ◆ Charles Ofori Dickson
- ◆ Chikezie Nwankwo
- ◆ Chris & Rachel Ruggieri
- ◆ Christian Simpson
- ◆ Christopher & Susan Ahalt
- ◆ Claire Rosser
- ◆ Curt Lindsay
- ◆ Cynthia Perley
- ◆ Daisy & Kemal Okudo
- ◆ David & Stephanie Mitchell
- ◆ David J Burton
- ◆ Don & Jean Cohn
- ◆ Donald & Martha Marks
- ◆ Dotty & Jerry Pfadenhauer

- ◆ Elaine T Dunn-Johnson
- ◆ Elizabeth Lennon
- ◆ Enid Cole
- ◆ Erin Martinko
- ◆ Escobar Vergel
- ◆ Esther & Archie Sawyer
- ◆ Esther & Robert Taylor
- ◆ Esther Tellu
- ◆ Fayemi & Christina Johnson
- ◆ Fe Wlotzko
- ◆ Florence Sasu
- ◆ Fran Spina
- ◆ Francisco Balicao
- ◆ Frank & Leslie Sanya
- ◆ Gary & Susan McLaughlin
- ◆ Georgana Maines
- ◆ George Eng
- ◆ Georgette Dennis
- ◆ Gerald FitzPatrick
- ◆ Geraldine Gil
- ◆ Gerlinda Somerville
- ◆ Gina Fera
- ◆ Gordon L Donnelly
- ◆ Gretchen Horlacher
- ◆ Hallie Porter
- ◆ Howard & Margaret Holland
- ◆ Isaac & Josephine Clarke
- ◆ Ivan Flores
- ◆ Jake & Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro
- ◆ James & Antoinette Babcock
- ◆ James A Black
- ◆ Janet King
- ◆ Janet M Rhoads
- ◆ Jemima Carr
- ◆ Jennie B Cargill
- ◆ John & Kelly Ten Hagen
- ◆ John Pruessner
- ◆ Johnetta Mars-Gibson
- ◆ Jonathan Black
- ◆ Joyce Thompson
- ◆ Karen Olsen
- ◆ Kathleen Bain-bridge
- ◆ Kathleen Foley
- ◆ Kathryn Froelich
- ◆ Kevin Conway
- ◆ Kirk Davies
- ◆ Kristen Keating
- ◆ Laura Ann Whirley
- ◆ Laura Shay
- ◆ Lauren Kingsland
- ◆ Laurie Yelle
- ◆ Lavina & Stewart Williams
- ◆ Leslie Pool
- ◆ Levin B Broughton
- ◆ Linda G Sye
- ◆ Linda Yankie
- ◆ Lisa Murdock & Herald Douglas
- ◆ Lovetta F Willie
- ◆ Luccille Roberson
- ◆ Lucia R Pires
- ◆ Luis Pedron & Ruth Anna Skowronski
- ◆ M Mackert
- ◆ Mabel Olivera
- ◆ Major & Hawa Clemens
- ◆ Margaret Donnellon
- ◆ Margaret Mirin
- ◆ Margaret Tellu
- ◆ Maria E Rodriguez
- ◆ Marion Dossen-Rice
- ◆ Martha Lubet
- ◆ Martha Page Beach
- ◆ Mary (Kay) & Clay Kolle
- ◆ Mary H Waldron
- ◆ Mary Thorpe
- ◆ Marybeth Daucher
- ◆ Matilda Chimbela Muyangwa
- ◆ Maura Ryan
- ◆ Megan Didavi
- ◆ Melanie Mitchell
- ◆ Melody Bell
- ◆ Meredith Louise Horan
- ◆ Monica Koenig Caphart
- ◆ Monteath Petersen
- ◆ Nancy Carman
- ◆ Natalie Lois Wilson
- ◆ Neil & Nathalie Scott
- ◆ Pamela Irons-Forth
- ◆ Paul Boynton
- ◆ Paul Whitmore
- ◆ Peggy Ruppel
- ◆ Pete & Ellen Minderman
- ◆ Peter Maroulis
- ◆ Phyllis Eddy & Joseph Deffenbaugh
- ◆ Randall Lord-Wilkinson
- ◆ Raymond & Doris Chin
- ◆ Richard & Susan Snay
- ◆ Ricky Babcock
- ◆ Robert & Cynthia Bonsib
- ◆ Robert & Linda Waters
- ◆ Robert A Wilkinson
- ◆ Ron & Jan Hauber
- ◆ Ronald & Sharon Hayden
- ◆ Rose Buck
- ◆ Roy Bevington/Connie Finch
- ◆ Ruby King
- ◆ Russell E Weber
- ◆ Sarah Gallagher
- ◆ Sari Stoddard
- ◆ Sciou & Jacob Broderick
- ◆ Steve Heinig & Michelle Wood
- ◆ Suzanne E Hood
- ◆ Swithin & Ama Kwamena-Poh
- ◆ Ted & Kelly Bedell
- ◆ Terry & Kristin Johnsen
- ◆ Thomas F & Dorothy D Thiele
- ◆ Thomas Hall
- ◆ Todd & Jennifer
- ◆ Tom & Denise Lionetti
- ◆ Tony & Florence Chukwurah
- ◆ Trevor & Angela Walker
- ◆ Troyce Holland
- ◆ Wadai Dennis
- ◆ William & Delore Finister
- ◆ Winsome J Palmer



# The Ascendant

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

February 2018

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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*

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## Contact Us

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

## Parish Staff

Rector  
Assistant to the Rector  
Interim Organist & Choir Director  
Interim Ensemble Accompanist  
Parish Administrator  
Media Specialist

Randy Lord-Wilkinson  
Javier Gracia Ocampo  
Clarice Snyder  
Karina Gomez McCarty  
Lin Keene  
Eleni Hailu

## 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.—Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel