



# The Ascendant

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

July 2018

## One Ascension Sunday/ Picnic— July 29

The time is near when we will again celebrate as one Ascension, at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 29. There will be no other services that day. We will have the picnic as well. Come one, come all, to join the fun!

## Thank You for Volunteers for Grounds Maintenance



A simple thank you doesn't convey the gratitude we have to all who came out and served at this past Saturday's Garden Party. The grounds look amazing! Thank you for your hard work and dedication to this project. Thank you for supplying your labor, tools, supplies, food and drinks.

## Are you interested in helping someone in need of transportation get to church?

We have members at Ascension that are looking for a ride to Sunday service. Are you available, are you interested in giving them a lift? If you live in Gaithersburg and would like to assist please contact the parish administrator Lin Keene at [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org)

## Time Out for Christians?

Jesus was always trying to have “time outs”, but it often seemed that the crowds or the needs of the sick or even a sudden need to feed 5000 people would interfere. No matter what Jesus’ intentions for “time outs” with the disciples, the pressing needs of the people were precedent. Jesus himself was never overwhelmed, but, sometimes he was a little irritable when the disciples did not yet seem able to carry out the tasks for which Jesus had prepared them. He was occasionally sorrowful when those he loved disappointed him and he was also occasionally really angry, i.e. when he shouted at Peter, “get behind me Satan” on the occasion of Peter daring to contest Jesus’ last mission to Jerusalem. Most often, he seemed in need of communion with Abba...Abba was his rest.

The issue of rest and time-outs, surfs through the Gospels even though regular retreat did not seem possible. However, there are signs of Jesus’ retreat in prayer and in ways that renewed him and his followers. He enjoyed the company of friends and even foes. He sat at many a table which often resulted in an amazing story or miracle. Wherever Jesus was, he himself became the extraordinary “time out” for all around him. I love it : miracles following a good party.

Jesus took Peter, James and John up the Mountain, and was transfigured there. In this “time-out”, the disciples knew Jesus in a different way, but as soon as they came down the mountain, the normal challenges of ministry boomeranged all around them. Their lives were changed in this revealing rest with Christ. From then on, they knew that God surged through Jesus, and that their time with him was “time -out” and was true rest.

On another occasion, at The Last Supper, Jesus said, unless you let me wash your feet, you will have no share in me. So, of course, they sat down and offered their feet to his offered hands and basin. When they received a share of Christ, they knew that this “time-out” was rest.

When, in the last chapter of The Gospel of John, Jesus appeared on a Galilee Beach grilling fish for the despondent and dispirited disciples who did not know where to go or what to do....a classic sign of burn out. Jesus fed them and nurtured them in body, mind and spirit and much of their unfinished business was completed. They fully knew Jesus, knew that they were his beloved and they then knew what they were to do with their lives. This beach “time-out” with Jesus was true rest.

These instances of “time-out” with Jesus instruct us on an effective, “time-out”. Not only are we to get a break from our normal drudgeries or beloved challenges, we are to be spiritually refreshed in closeness to Christ. From this, we are able to take the normal pace of getting on with our lives knowing more about what God’s dreams are for us. From this, healing in all ways possible comes through a restful encounter with the living Lord. Our faith lives in the fertile ground of human failure and divine success. From the furrows of disappointment and confusion, comes the yield brought about by the grace of divine relationship. May your “time-out” this summer, bring you close to Jesus. May you be nurtured and challenged. May you bear divine fruit which bears many gifts to yourself and to all you encounter.

Amen.

# LIFE LONG LEARNING

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## Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 AM, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.



Lucia Pires is from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She is a 500-hour Pranakriya Yoga School of Healing Arts certified yoga teacher. Her training focuses on cultivating and enhancing the relationship of the student with his or her life force through yoga postures, breath work and meditation, in order to create change in awareness and help the student move towards wholeness and greater aliveness. She completed her professional training in 2015.

Lucia is the mother of two boys, ages 14 and 10, and when they give her a little break she enjoys reading, writing, long walks in nature and dancing.

**Yoga class has been temporarily moved to Room 6 in the main church Form July 12th through August 30th. This classroom is located on the lower level of the main building. Classes will resume in the Chapel on September 6, 2018.**

**There will be no yoga class on 8/16 and 8/23.**

## Spanish Class

There will be no Spanish Class until September 10.

For more information contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

## Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi on Thursdays in the Chapel will be cancelled for July and August, and resume in September. During the summer, we will meet in Washington Grove on Saturday mornings at 9 am. Directions are Woodland Park, on Grove Road, near the tennis courts. Cancelled if rainy.

For information, contact Claire at [cjrosser@aol.com](mailto:cjrosser@aol.com) (301-275-0617).

## 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.

## Wednesday Morning Book Group

Starting in mid-August, our group will start reading "Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion" by Sara Miles. This book presents the story of its author's journey to faith and how she took Jesus' call to feed others by establishing food pantries. Our group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. All are welcome to participate. Please read Chapter 9 of "A Magical World" by Derek Wilson for this coming Wednesday.

## Summer Sunday School

Children and Families are welcome! We are offering Summer Sunday School, in room 4 (also called the "Place of Peace", during the 10:00 service. Similar to the Families with Young Children Service, we sing, have a simple lesson, pray and play and then go to church for communion. Parents may come to Sunday school with their little ones or leave their children to us while they enjoy the church service. Over the past few weeks we have seen some beautiful interactions between older and younger children. Come hang out with us sometime!

Questions? text or call: Megan Didavi at 703-626-7199

# LIFE AT ASCENSION

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## Overtone Singing at Ascension!

On Friday, July 27th at 7:30pm, join Harmonic Introductions for a concert of overtone singing in the Chapel!

Harmonic Introductions is a small non profit, community vocal ensemble, dedicated to expanding the awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the art of overtone singing.

### What is Overtone Singing?

Overtone singing is a technique that enables 1 vocalist to produce and, with a bit of practice, control 2 or more notes simultaneously. When multiple voices come together to sound in this medium, a surreal soundscape and relaxing, glowing atmosphere settle and swirl throughout the space!

Link to Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1570313249764904/?ti=icl>

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MEDITATION AND IMPROVISATIONS

HARMONIC INTRODUCTIONS  
OVERTONE SINGING CONCERT  
*at Ascension*  
FRIDAY, JULY 27TH, 2018 | 7:30PM

IN THE CHAPEL AT  
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION  
205 S SUMMIT AVE. GAITHERSBURG, MD

FREE TO ATTEND BUT DONATIONS  
ARE EXCITABLY ENCOURAGED!

LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK

## The University of Liberia Alumni Chorus

The University of Liberia is located in Monrovia, Liberia on the West Coast of Africa and is the flagship center of higher learning in Liberia. The University Chorus is a nonprofit Organization in the United States consisting of alumni of The University of Liberia. The Choir has a concert once each year and all proceeds go towards a scholarship fund to continuously sponsor forty students enrolled in full-time studies at the University and the construction of a Fine Arts Center on the University's Fendell Campus in Liberia. The Choir has committed to singing two songs on Sunday, July 22nd at the 10:00 AM service as an offering of thanks and appreciation for your kindness.

1. The Lord bless you and keep you
2. A traditional Liberian tribal song

## Kitchen Closed

Until repairs are completed, the kitchen will be closed. We are sorry for the inconvenience and thank you for your support during this time.

## Events Schedule Update

We are in the process of updating "Together We Shine" and if you have any event that is scheduled between now and December 2018, Please email all the event's name and date to Eleni at [Comm@ascensionmd.org](mailto:Comm@ascensionmd.org)

### August Ascendant

Please e-mail Eleni Hailu by Friday, July 27, if you have anything for the August Ascendant at [comm@ascensionmd.org](mailto:comm@ascensionmd.org). Thank you!

# LIFE AT ASCENSION

## Katie Beth Miksa Moves to Ohio



People at Ascension might recognize Katie Beth from preaching, assisting with pastoral care, or sharing about her time at the World Council of Churches which Ascension helped facilitate. Starting August 1st, Katie Beth will be the Director of Campus Ministry and Office Administrator for Christ Lutheran Church in Athens, OH. She will largely be working with students from Ohio University, though there are several colleges nearby. Katie Beth has been at Ascension nearly four years, all throughout her time at Wesley Theological Seminary. Please join us for a coffee break celebrating her new job after the 10 AM service July 22.

## WE HAVE GONE DIGITAL

In this day and age we must keep up with technology. We have update Servant Keeper (Ascension's Membership database) to allow parishioners to update their own information on the church's database. The link below will allow you to access it by entering your email address and creating a password. You will be able to not only update your current information, but also view your contributions and print your own statements. Of course those whom wish us to provide them with their statements, we will be happy to do so. You will be able to share your interests in severing and tell us where you are serving now.

<https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ECOTA/registration/email>

## Personnel Committee Seeks Volunteers!

Do you have Human Resource Management or Managerial experience? Do you have a keen eye for detail? Are you gifted at conflict resolution? Well if so, then the personnel Committee is looking for volunteers. We are looking for help with the following areas of personnel: reviewing the personnel policies and guidelines, establishing salary structures, creating and performing annual reviews, and reviewing benefits packages for the staff and clergy. If any of the above sounds interesting, Ascension could use your help. Please contact the Vestry Liaison, Rose Buck, at [rose.buck2@gmail.com](mailto:rose.buck2@gmail.com) or at 301.325.6291 or email Lin Keene at [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org).

## The Fredy Diaz Martinez Fund

Friends, most of you know that our fellow parishioner and friend, Fredy, was arrested by ICE last month. Fredy's wife and three children are also active and faithful members of Ascension. They primarily worship at the Noon service, but are always participants in the One Ascension services. Their daughter Jazmin is a reader of the Psalms at that service and reads beautifully from the lectern. Fredy and his family are always there for others in need. Present to serve when Ascension needs him. Our lawns and gardens testify to his care. In my support letter to the immigration judge, I described Fredy as a man of merit and spirit.

Well, now Fredy needs us. Because of his detention, he will have massive legal bills so that he can be reunited with his family, his church and his job. At this time, his family is deprived of the much needed second income provided by Fredy to his family. Last time, we let you all know what had happened to Fredy and invited you to help Fredy and his family. We also asked you to write letters of support for Fredy to the immigration judge. Many of you have provided wonderful letters. Thank you. Many of you have already made financial donations as well. Thank you. To further support the Fredy and his family, we are formally setting up a Fredy Diaz fund. If you have not yet donated, we invite you to do so as you are able by going here: <http://ascensionmd.org/know-about-fredy-and-his-family/>.

If you would like to send him a letter of encouragement and/or support, he may receive correspondence at:

**Fredy A Diaz JID 1483728**  
600 E. Ordnance Road  
Glen Burnie, MD 21060

I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from you. Thank you in advance for your caring and support of Fredy and his family.

May God's Blessings be upon you!  
Javier and Nan

## Know a Grad?

Help us celebrate their rites of passage. E-mail Eleni ([comm@ascensionmd.org](mailto:comm@ascensionmd.org)), if you know of someone graduating from high, middle, or elementary school, or finishing a degree.

# LIFE AT ASCENSION

## Help Select Ascension's Future Adventures

The following list identifies many activities for Ascension's Adventurer to possibly undertake during the upcoming 12 months or so.

Please help identify the most popular among these activities by sending an email to Richard Snay (rssnay@aol.com) identifying up to ten of these activities, each being of interest to you.

It would be helpful if you would number your suggested activities in the order of your preference from one to ten with the number 1 designating your most preferred activity.

Alternatively, you can simply hit the forward button for this email and then place the numbers in the first column of the following table before hitting the send button.

Please provide Richard your selections by Tuesday, July 17. He will then compile everyone's input and prepare a tentative schedule of our preferred activities. (Please vote for what you, yourself would like to do; not what you think others would like.)

Richard thanks all of the people who suggested these potential adventures, especially Laurie Yelle who suggested more than half of these options.

P.S.: The following list of activities is not intended to be in any specific order except that they are divided into two groups. The first group contains half-day excursions, and the second group contains full-day excursions.

Choice in order of preference	Activity (category)	Location	Comments
<b>The following would probably be half-day excursions.</b>			
	Museum of the Bible (inside visit)	D.C.	<a href="https://www.museumofthebible.org/">https://www.museumofthebible.org/</a> Admission = \$15/adult
	U.S. Botanic Garden (inside visit)	D.C.	<a href="https://www.usbg.gov">https://www.usbg.gov</a> Admission = free
	Arlington National Cemetery (outside visit)	Across the Potomac River from D.C.	<a href="https://arlingtoncemetery.mil/">https://arlingtoncemetery.mil/</a> Admission = free
	National Zoo (outside tour)	D.C.	Tour provided by veteran zoo tour guide, Sue Snay. -Best if done in spring or fall. Admission = free
	Smithsonian's Udvar-Hazy Center (inside visit) (docent-led tour)	Chantilly, VA	Associated with the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum ( <a href="https://airandspace.si.edu/udvar-hazy-center">https://airandspace.si.edu/udvar-hazy-center</a> ) Admission: free; Parking: \$15/car
	Peony Garden in Seneca Creek State Park (outside visit)	Gaithersburg, MD	Peony's bloom during the month of May. We would probably also walk (~ 1 mile total) to and from Clopper Lake. <a href="https://patch.com/maryland/gaithersburg/ev--peony-walking-tours-at-seneca-creek-state-park-1971a68c">https://patch.com/maryland/gaithersburg/ev--peony-walking-tours-at-seneca-creek-state-park-1971a68c</a>
	National Museum of African American History and Culture (inside visit)	D.C.	<a href="https://nmaahc.si.edu">https://nmaahc.si.edu</a> Admission = free Reservations must be made approximately 3 months in advance.
	Beall-Dawson House (inside visit)	Rockville, MD	The Beall-Dawson House was built circa 1815 for Upton Beall and his wife and daughters. Beall, from a prominent Georgetown family, was Clerk of the Court for the county, and he wanted a home that would reflect his wealth and status. In 1815 Rockville was a small rural community, despite being the county seat and an important cross-roads town. Beall's large brick Federal-style home, built overlooking Commerce Lane (now West Montgomery Avenue), was designed to impress both inside and out. Admission = ??

## Adventures ...

	Heurich House Museum (inside visit)	DC (near Dupont Circle)	This museum preserves the legacy of Christian Heurich and enriches the cultural life of Washington, DC. At the turn of the 20th century, Dupont Circle and its grand avenues became a “place of wealth and fashion” – the center for great mansions and castles. Only a few of those homes have survived until today, and none are as intact as the Heurich House Museum. (admission = \$10/person)
	National Gallery of Art (inside visit)	D.C.	<a href="https://www.ngs.gov">https://www.ngs.gov</a> Admission = free
	National Portrait Gallery (inside visit)	D.C.	<a href="http://npg.si.edu/">npg.si.edu/</a> Admission = free
	International Spy Museum (inside visit)	D.C.	<a href="https://www.spymuseum.org/">https://www.spymuseum.org/</a> Admission = \$22.95/adult \$16.95/senior (65+)
	Crystal Grotto Caverns (“inside” tour)	Boonesboro, MD	Guided tour, like Luray Cavern, but smaller. The only commercial caverns in the state of Maryland. Admission: \$20/adult. <a href="http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com">http://www.crystalgrottoescaverns.com</a>
	Theodore Roosevelt Island (walk)	D.C.	In the 1930s, landscape architects transformed Mason’s Island from neglected, overgrown farmland into Theodore Roosevelt Island, a memorial to America’s 26th president. They conceived a “real forest” designed to mimic the natural forest that once covered the island. Today, miles of trails through wooded uplands and swampy bottomlands honor the legacy of a great outdoorsman and conservationist.  Admission = free
	National Building Museum (inside visit)	D.C.	<a href="https://www.nbm.org">https://www.nbm.org</a> Admission = \$16/adult \$13/senior (60+)
	Baltimore’s Catholic Cathedral (inside tour)	Baltimore, MD	First Catholic Cathedral in U.S. Also known as the “green church” <a href="http://americasfirstcathedral.org/">http://americasfirstcathedral.org/</a>
	Black Hill Regional Park (visit nature center and walk along lakeshore)	Boyd, MD	<a href="https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/black-hill-regional-park/">https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/black-hill-regional-park/</a> Admission = free
	U.S. National Arboretum (outside visit)	D.C.	<a href="http://www.usna.usda.gov">www.usna.usda.gov</a> Admission = free
	Franciscan Monastery (inside visit)	DC	Contains replications of sacred sites found in the Holy Land. Guided tour (donations appreciated) <a href="http://www.myfranciscan.org/monastery/tours/">http://www.myfranciscan.org/monastery/tours/</a>
	National Capital Trolley Museum (inside & outside visit)	Colesville, MD	<a href="http://www.dctrolley.org">www.dctrolley.org</a> Admission = \$7/adult Admission includes a short trolley ride.
	Newseum (inside visit)	D.C.	<a href="http://www.newseum.org">www.newseum.org</a> Admission = \$24.95/adult
	Kennedy Center (inside tour)	D.C.	<a href="http://www.kennedy-center.org/Pages/Visitor/Tours">http://www.kennedy-center.org/Pages/Visitor/Tours</a> Admission = free
	45-minute sight-seeing cruise on the Potomac River	D.C.	<a href="https://www.capitolrivercruises.com/">https://www.capitolrivercruises.com/</a> Admission = \$15/adult Tour starts at Washington Harbour

# LIFE AT ASCENSION

## Adventures ...

The following would probably be full-day excursions			
	Mount Vernon (outside & inside visit)	Mount Vernon, VA	Home of George Washington. Museum, outside exhibits, & guided tour of mansion. Admission: \$20/adult <a href="http://www.mountvernon.org/">http://www.mountvernon.org/</a>
	Harper's Ferry (outside & inside visit)	West Virginia	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/hafe">https://www.nps.gov/hafe</a> Admission = \$10/vehicle
	Annapolis (inside & outside visit)	Annapolis, MD	Tour of US Naval Academy plus boat tour of Annapolis harbor or tour of MD State House.
	Gettysburg National Park (inside & outside visit)	Gettysburg, PA	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/gett/index.htm</a>
	Maryland Science Center (inside visit)	Baltimore, MD	<a href="http://www.mdsci.org/">http://www.mdsci.org/</a> Admission: \$24.95/adult; \$18.95/child(ages 3- 12)

## CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

### Prison Ministry

Bubba Pflantzbaum has been writing to an inmate in Cumberland for about 10 years, providing friendship and access to information. His name is Jim, and he may be released in the next year or so. Jim is always looking for people to correspond with, so if you are interested in getting involved with this ministry, please email Bubba at [bubbashalom@gmail.com](mailto:bubbashalom@gmail.com)

### Montgomery Hospice

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit hospice that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. Our team (of doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, spiritual counselors, social workers, hospice aides, bereavement counselors and volunteers) works with patients and their families to provide quality end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities and at Casey House, our acute care facility. We are looking for new volunteers. Our greatest need is for volunteers to visit patients. These volunteers provide companionship for patients, respite for family members, lavender oil hand massages, music by the bedside or help with practical matters. Many provide the gift of "presence" by simply being with a patient. All volunteers go through an application process and a three-day training. For more information, call 301-921-4400 or visit [www.montgomeryhospice.org/volunteer](http://www.montgomeryhospice.org/volunteer)

### 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 July 15 at 11:15 a.m. Contact Edith at [esekasi@gmail.com](mailto: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, July 28 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact him at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)



## JOIN THE FIGHT FOR ALZHEIMER'S FIRST SURVIVOR.

Washington, DC - Walk to End Alzheimer's  
Join the newest \$1 Million Walk!  
Saturday, October 13th - National Mall  
Check in 8AM. Ceremony 9:30AM. Walk 10AM  
Visit [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk) or call 703.359.4400

2018 NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSOR

**Edward Jones**

[alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk)

**WALK TO  
END  
ALZHEIMER'S**  
alzheimer's association



# VESTRY MINUTES

## May, 2018

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**PRESENT:** The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Senior Warden Betsy Hasegawa, Junior Warden Janet King, Vestrypersons Rose Buck, Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Susan McLaughlin, Luis Pedron, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez and Bob Waters. Absent: Zadinga Ogada. Guest: Avin Lalmansingh, Church Treasurer and Operations and Finance Committee Chair.

The meeting opened at 1:43 p.m. with a short prayer and check in around the table.

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

### OLD BUSINESS

**Music Minister Committee Report.** Gordon and John reported that the committee had reopened the searching. Rose noted that we will need to present a Letter of Agreement, and that it must include the salary. John pointed out that the choir would like a director talented enough to help them grow. Janet proposed that a salary be offered to Jesse Velazquez to provide the music at the Spanish language service, as well as the music minister for the 10:00 service. Both salaries not to exceed the amount that is in the budget.

**Worship Committee Report.** Meredith reported that committee co-chairs Gary McLaughlin and Curt Lindsay are doing a great job. A shortened, combined -service bulletin has been developed and is undergoing review. A presentation on security (location of fire alarms and extinguishers, location and use of our AED, active shooter training) is in the works. It was noted that parishioner and choir member David Mitchell is certified in CPR.

Comments from parishioners on our current services include someone distracted by a crying child (vestry agreed that the Welcome Team should be tasked with approaching the parent and noting that we have a "place of refuge" for unhappy youngsters); and a comment that the new service at 10:00 is too long (this comment will be passed to the committee).

**Facilities Committee Report.** John met with Ted Bedell/Facilities Committee Chair to discuss concerns. Luis has dealt with current mold situation, preventing a major problem in the future. Luis noted that it had rained into the church building this week, and that it is difficult to find a leak in a flat roof like ours. There are three AC units in the chapel that need to be replaced; we are waiting for one more estimate for the work. We have received a proposal from Barry Herpst at T&B Quality Services to address the grease trap problem in the kitchen. Ted recommends approval of the bid. Janet made a motion to accept that proposal (for \$1,518), specifying that it must also include the cost of the permit and include a warranty, for an amount up to \$2,000. John seconded the motion and it was carried. In order to have better control over use of the

kitchen, the vestry recommended that a lock be purchased and installed on the door.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Treasurer report.** Avin reported that he has been working with Lin Keene in the church office; she is taking on financial activity previously performed by and paid separately for to Melissa Burgos. Melissa is now only being used on call. Avin asked for comments on the new format and information in the monthly financial report. Vestry members would like to see more everyday language and less of the formal financial language, to better understand what's presented.

**Twelve-step groups; use of the church.** Javier told the vestry that we currently have three 12-step groups per day using our facilities, and many of the people have the combination to our doors. This is a service we provide to the wider community; however, we need to re-look at it. Betsy said that church members needing a space for a meeting or activity must be considered first, and that in that case the groups must make different arrangements. Javier proposed the vestry identify the various groups, with the times and locations they use. Once that's done, the vestry needs to come up with ideas on future use of our facilities.

**Change of vestry meeting dates.** As of the next meeting (7/1) the vestry will change from meeting on the 4th Sunday of each month to meeting on the first Sunday.

**Review of contracts.** Javier reported that Sandy Ridge Academy (who rents our downstairs area) has not had the rent raised in many years, and they're now using more of our space. In addition, although the rent is defined for the two rented-out offices on the main floor, we don't have a contract with either renter. Berenice noted that we should have a Certificate of Liability for each of them, at a cost to each of about \$250 annually for \$1M coverage. An ad hoc committee to review what contracts we have and the rates we charge should be set up, with Berenice and Zadinga included.

### OPEN MIC

Susan described an event at a recent service wherein a presumed service-dog was biting at its leash, tugging at its owner, and then rushed toward some children on the floor. The parents were terrified. The vestry discussed what to do about the situation and how to handle it. Under federal law, service animals must be under control at all times. Susan volunteered to research the situation and report back.

Javier asked about the one-on-one talks vestry members have been having with parishioners and asked the vestry to keep talking. All reports to date are positive.

Susan was concerned that people considering planned giving are not feeling that they can trust the church to

## VESTRY MINUTES

May, 2018

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honor their requests as to what to do with their donations. There appears to be a loss of trust following the abortive capital campaign of a few years past. In response, we need to build confidence, especially by inviting people to join in church activities and have a say in what goes on. In conversations, vestry members need to be proactive in asking parishioners to become part of the church social structure. Ask people which committee they would like to join, with assurances that they won't have to be there forever, but that we need to get everyone's input. We need to impart the feeling that the church has turned around, we are excited and on a new path with a new vision, and that we need each of them to be part of this new era.

Luis addressed fund raisers held by the Spanish language community. A yard sale and car wash will be held next week. Where should the income be put? That community has held some funds back in the past to pay for social events based on Spanish heritage. After discussion on use of the money, Berenice made a motion that a new line item for music ministry be created and that income from the upcoming fund raiser be put in that category. The motion was seconded by Rose and passed by the vestry.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:45 Gordon moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard  
Clerk of the Vestry  
Respectfully submitted,  
Sari Stoddard  
Clerk of the Vestry



# Vestry Minutes

# PARISH FINANCES

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## Budget Development and Implementation



The parish administrator and treasurer, in collaboration with the Vestry and Priest, have continued to monitor month-to-month income and expense figures and to compare these with the projected amounts for the year.

### May Financials

May income and expense figures were for the most part in line with projected amounts.

Total income for May was \$43,936. Ascension received \$2,922 in plate receipts and \$32,161 in pledge income. These income values were close to budgeted amounts. Building use donations were higher than expected at \$5,920.

For May, our total expenses were \$38,469. Most expense categories were near the budgeted amounts. Salary & Benefits were \$20,593. May expenses include the projected monthly Diocesan Pledge of \$2,214. Facilities expenses were \$4,188. Utilities expenses were \$3,898.

We had net positive income for May of \$5,467 based on income and expense figures just described.

Finally, the Treasurer's Report shows that the balance in the Endowment Fund stands at \$309,673. Our Unrestricted Cash Reserves are at \$119, 933. The Facilities Reserve Fund is at \$49, 125.

## CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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<http://bit.ly/2tC0Ysa>



<http://bit.ly/2sYC8UV>



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**idant**

*letter by and for Members and Friends of Church of the Ascension*

**July 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**

Priest in Charge  
Interim Organist & Choir Director  
Parish Administrator  
Media Specialist

Javier Garcia Ocampo  
Clarice Snyder  
Lin Keene  
Eleni Hailu

**Sunday Services**

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist  
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist  
12:00 a.m. – Eucaristia en Espanol

Office Hours  
Monday–Thursday : 9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.  
Friday : 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.