

# The Ascendant

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

March 2017

## Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 12 at 2:00 am



Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 11.

### **Annual Reports Due**

There are still some outstanding reports. We want to put a complete report into everyone's hand next Sunday at the Annual Meeting. E-mail your reports to Eleni at comm@ascensiond.org.

## Candidates Forum: Sunday, March 5

The candidates for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates will be available for dialog on Sunday, March 5 after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00/11:15 a.m. services in the Undercroft Commons.

#### **Call for Confirmation**

If you are in the 9th grade or older (including adults up to 99 years old) and want to confirm your baptismal vows at the Cathedral in May, drop Randy a line. You should have been an active participant in the life of Ascension for at least the last couple of years, and be willing to participate in a group made up of people who are deciding if this the right time to do this.

## "God Did This for Me"

Relaxing with a free weekly neighborhood tabloid one morning I browsed a story about a local beauty pageant. The victor was a young Christian woman who thanked God for helping her win. Naturally I pondered that very sincere statement of gratitude, and asked myself the usual litany of questions about how God relates to us and the world. Why or how did God help this woman win the pageant?

Is God involved in such affairs? How does God decide when and where to alter the course of events? Is there a "divine plan?" If there is, is it a big, general plan for the universe, or are details scripted as well? Do my prayers make a difference? If they do, why are some of the things I ask of God realized, and others not? What happens to people who have no one to pray for them?

One compelling answer to the problem of prayers "fulfilled" and "ignored" came to me quite by accident. I was sitting in a parking lot trying to find a certain radio station, when I mistuned to what must have been a Christian broadcast because a man was preaching a sermon about prayer. He was really good, even if he wasn't an Episcopalian. He said that prayer is not about getting God to comply with my desires, but moving me toward a "place" of closer accord with God's desire for me and for the planet. I'm paraphrasing this of course but this was the essence of the preacher's message.

It reminded me of what Jesus says in John 14 about God doing whatever we ask if we pray "in Jesus' name," which means we pray as Jesus would and for the things that he would pray for, were he in our place and time. That's what it means to act and speak in anyone's name. We act as their representative.

This was in part what Jesus meant when he said - also in chapter 14 - that we will do greater works than he did because he returned to God. He didn't mean that we would be doing bigger and better miracles than he did, but that in our lives, if we let him live in us and conspired with him to bring God's love and justice to this world of ours, we would carry on his work in ways and places unforeseen and envisioned by God alone.

How remarkably different might this planet be if we all opened ourselves to God this way! Even if my prayers are colored by my egoistic dreams and desires, they are still openings into my heart and soul for the love that continually creates, dreams and sustains all that is. So the young woman gives God the credit for winning the beauty pageant. Well, it's a beginning! Why not thank God for everything? I hope she finds reason to be as grateful to God for the harder lessons of life that will come her way when she doesn't win something, or when her heart is broken in love or she loses someone dear to her when, in the course of time, they die. May she find God in all things.

We humans, at least we *homo sapiens*, have real difficulty imaging God as personal if she, he, or it doesn't look like us. How can God be in relationship with creation and creatures if God is "simply" (!) Being, or the "Ground of Being," like the "Force" in Star Wars or Brahman in Hinduism? Are our only choices for creating an image of God "humanity writ large" or an impersonal, omnipresent energy? I believe this is simply a failure of the human heart and mind - a form of spiritual bigotry - to feel and believe that unless God is somehow human like us God can't be in a personal relationship. God simply can't be personal without being a "person," we think.

Yet the energy that flared forth in the Big Bang also manifests in this cosmos as beings like you and me who are capable of life and consciousness and love and relationship... and probably so much more than we can possibly begin to imagine! It is all right, I think, to imagine God "like us" as long as we know that our pictures - like our prayers - are opportunities for communion with the Real Thing (who is a Who and not a Thing). To believe otherwise would of course be idolatrous, pure and simple. Even the notorious idol worshipers against whom the prophets of the Hebrew Bible preached knew that their statues were not the gods themselves. Images and words and doctrines are the way we are enabled to connect to the reality that inspires them. But idolatry is so much more insidious when we say that God must look or act like us to qualify as a person. "My thoughts," says the Lord, "are not like yours, and my ways are different from yours. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways and thoughts above yours." - Isaiah 55:8-9

Peace, Randy

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### **Godly Play**

This current *Godly Play* lessons, the Faces of Easter I and II, help Children prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week we focus of Christ as a Newborn child and the face of Christ as the One who was lost and found.

## 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

## **Wednesday Morning Book Group**

The Wednesday morning book discussion group is reading Krista Tippett's Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living. From the author: "The discourse of our common life inclines towards despair. In my field of journalism, where we presume to write the first draft of history, we summon our deepest critical capacities for investigating what is inadequate, corrupt, catastrophic, and failing. The 'news' is defined as the extraordinary events of the day, but it is most often translated as the extraordinarily terrible events of the day. And in an immersive 24/7 news cycle, we internalize the deluge of bad news as the norm-the real truth of who we are and what we're up against as a species. But my work has shown me that spiritual geniuses of the everyday are everywhere. They are in the margins and do not have publicists. They are below the radar, which is broken."

### **Yoga Classes**

New Yoga Time: Randy is part of an interfaith team teaching comparative religion at Osher for Lifelong Learning at Johns Hopkins University on Thursday mornings, so yoga moved to Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the 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 6:30 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 ocampoj@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 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 swgaithers-burg@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 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)

# 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 .

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

## Youth Group Schedule Spring 2017



- March 12 Regular Meeting in Undercroft Commons
- NEW March 19: Northern Montgomery County Regional Youth Consortium at Ascension-making blessing baggies
- March 26 Regular Meeting in Undercroft Commons
- 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

### Wednesday Nights in Lent

Wednesday evening yoga is back. Meet Randy in the Chapel at 6:00 p.m. for half an hour of gentle yoga. There are plenty of extra mats and blocks for those who need them.

Then there will be 20 minutes of Centering Prayer (instruction provided for those new to the practice).

Then at 7:00 p.m. follow Randy to the Library for a 5 session class on how to read the Bible called *Who Says So?* 

From the Introduction: This adult education curriculum is designed to lead participants into an encounter with scripture as a source of authority for the Church and in their own lives. Its purpose is:

- To overcome common fears of discussing scriptural authority shared by many Episcopalians
- To give participants an awareness of the existence, strengths and limitations of a diversity of positions in relation to the authority of scripture, together with tools to understand the ways in which scriptural authority can be invoked by different groups
- To give participants an understanding of changing views of scriptural authority throughout history, including the uniquely Anglican perspective
- To enable participants to experience a diversity of methods of exploring and interpreting the scriptures
- To encourage participants to reflect upon the authoritative claims that they allow scripture to make on their own lives

Lenten formation starts this Wednesday, March 8.

## **Annual Meeting 2017**

The 2017 Ascension Annual Meeting will be Sunday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the main church. Note the new time. This year, more than ever, it is vital for all able members to attend. There is an important message that must be heard.

As Vestry members have been sharing with you, the budget at Ascension has not been balanced. To repeat, in order to pay our bills we have been using approximately \$8000 every MONTH from our endowment. In addition to that, in order to cover the HVAC repairs and replacements we had to withdraw about \$60,000 more.

The vestry accepted this deficit budget knowing we could not continue doing so and planned a vigorous pledge campaign for 2016 while still supporting the missions that we all love. Based on results so far, however, it is clear that Ascension as we know it must change.

The goal of our Annual Giving Campaign remains \$500,000. Starting a pledge now or increasing what you are giving will help, but expenses have to be cut and the cuts must be significant.

COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BE HEARD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 12, BETWEEN THE 9:00 A.M. AND 11:00/11:15 A.M. SERVICES IN THE MAIN CHURCH.

THE 11:00/11:15 SERVICES WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

#### Visitors' Welcome Kits Are Available

If you are visiting Ascension today, Welcome! To learn more about the community that is Church of the Ascension, please take home with you a welcome packet, located on the Chapel counter and on the table next to the Office. A Welcome Team member will be glad to assist you!

# Celebrate Girl Scout Sunday at Ascension: March 12

Ascension invites all girls and adult volunteers active in the Girl Scouts to wear their uniforms to church on March 12, Girl Scout Sunday, for a special recognition and blessing at the morning English-language services. Members of the congregation can support our Scouts with a purchase of Girl Scout cookies or a contribution for a "Gift of Caring" to benefit U.S. military and their families. Cookie purchases or contributions can be made after each morning service.

Girl Scout Sunday is the kickoff of national Girl Scout Week 2017. Girls from various religious traditions are encouraged to honor their commitment via the Girl Scout promise "to serve God" by celebrating the rich diversity of belonging and religious observance

of Girl Scout Sunday, Girl Scout Sabbath and Girl Scout Shabbat.

## Calling All Current Girl Scouts: Help Sell Cookies at Ascension!

Girl Scout Troop 3243 is hosting its 5th annual "Cookie Booth at Ascension" on Girl Scout Sunday. Any and all registered Girl Scouts who attend Ascension is invited to participate. We will sell cookies after each morning service. If you want to receive credit for your sales, please contact Lori Perine at gstroop3243@gmail.com no later than Tuesday March 7.

### Ascension 2017 Cookbook

We are very excited to be in the creative process of producing the church of the Ascension Community Cookbook! We know Our members (and their family and friends) are blazing good cooks! This is the time to share some delicious recipes, and give credit to those Mothers and Fathers, and Aunties who gave us the recipe in the first place. We are gathering the recipes right now, and would love to have you take a moment to give us those wonderful directions on paper (forms in the Narthex) or electronically from the website: <a href="http://ascensionmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Recipe-Card-English.pdf">http://ascensionmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Recipe-Card-English.pdf</a> Please complete your submission by March 12. And, in case you have not heard, the Ladies Cookbook Committee will pump up your enthusiasm for our cookbook endeavor in a unique way!

If you have any question about the content or process, please contact Zadinga @Z\_Zulu@msn.com

# Attention, Worship Leaders and would-be Worship Leaders!

I'm just starting the worship rosters for April, May and June 2017. We would love to have you join the roster as a worship leader (chalicist, reader, acolyte, healing prayer minister), if so, please email or phone me. You'll get training. Current worship leaders - please let me know if you have any black-out dates for the above months. If so, I'll need them by March 17 or I won't be able to schedule around you. Thanks to all of you who give your time as a worship leader - we are blessed to have you.

Sari Stoddard, sari.stoddard@verizon.net, 301-972-0914.

## Ascension's Adventurers to Visit NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center



All parishioners and friends are invited to join us for a visit to the Visitor Center at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Parents may want to bring future astronauts and/or space scientists living in their homes.

Our group will meet at noon in Ascension House's parking lot to carpool. Alternatively, people can meet us at 1:00 p.m. at the Goddard Visitor Center.

Our visit will entail self-paced viewings of the various exhibits on display at the Goddard Visitor Center. For descriptions of these exhibits, see

https://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/visitor/exhibits/index.html .

Admission and parking at the Goddard Visitor Center are free, and this facility will be open from noon until 4:00 p.m. on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Participants are also invited to join us for a late afternoon meal at a yet-to-be-selected restaurant located somewhere between Greenbelt and Gaithersburg. The carpool will be organized to allow some people to return directly to Ascension if they are unable to join us for this meal.

For more information (including driving directions), please contact Richard Snay via email (<a href="resnay@aol.com">resnay@aol.com</a>) or phone (301.977.5259).

## **CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES**

## 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 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 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.

#### 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) or Jean Cohn (Mondays, spangle1@comcast.net). We can always use more volunteers!

# DMV Sanctuary Congregations: SIGN UP to Join the Network

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who attended the sanctuary congregation meeting last week. Every day we're seeing more news about the growing threat of mass raids and deportations, which makes our work over the coming months all the more important.

At our last meeting, 29 faith communities committed to being part of a regional network of sanctuary congregations in the DC/MD/VA region. We'd like to have 100 faith communities on board by the time we publicly launch the network on March 20.

By March 10, we'd like to know if your congregation is joining our network. Here is the language we're asking your synagogue, church, mosque or temple to sign on to:

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.

The Link to sign up your congregation is https://goo.gl/forms/bKRwUDkEShDLbuA72 and indicate which specific activities you are interested in or participating in.

Our next meeting will be on March 13, 6-9pm, at All Souls Church, 1500 Harvard Street, Washington, DC. In the meantime, people are planning local events and trainings. Please stay alert for announcements of those events.

As always, feel free to contact Julia Paley at <a href="mailto:jfpaley@gmail.com">jfpaley@gmail.com</a> or Rich Morales at <a href="mailto:rmorales@piconetwork.org">rmorales@piconetwork.org</a> with any questions.

Thank you for all of the work you are doing at this very difficult moment in our region and country.

Sincerely,

Julia Paley on behalf of Sanctuary-DMV and PICO

## VESTRY DIGEST: FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT: The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Betsy Hasegawa, Janet King, Rose Buck, Avin Lalmansingh, Gary McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez, and Paul Whitmore. Absent: Denise Lionetti and Najma Stubblefield; Guests: Bob Waters, Megan Didavi, Anika Lalmansingh, Dorett Sutherland and Lovetta Willie.

The meeting opened at 1:30 with a Lambeth Bible Study, concluding at 2:00.

At that time, prior to opening the meeting, the four guests who had volunteered to join in taking care of Parish Life activities were introduced - Megan Didavi, Anika Lalmansingh, Dorett Sutherland and Lovetta Willie. Betsy gave a brief description of what Parish Life does and why it's important. The four agreed that they could handle the responsibilities together, and that they, with Janet as Vestry Liaison, would not need a chairperson.

Shortly thereafter, Betsy, Janet and Randy introduced Bob Waters, who was at the meeting as a member of the Reshaping Ascension committee, charged with considering possibilities regarding our large budget shortfall. Bob reported on the brainstorming session the committee had held, and handed out a first cut. The committee, including Randy, Betsy and Janet, will meet again on January 29.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** At 3:05 Rose moved that the consent agenda be adopted as presented; Janet seconded the motion, and it passed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

<u>Sanctuary church status.</u> Janet reported that there are two ways to become a sanctuary church; first, as a physical sanctuary, and second, as a supportive church that helps provide food and other necessities. A major requirement is that the congregation supports it. Another meeting is coming up, and in addition to Janet, Javier and some of the Spanish language congregation will attend.

Annual Giving Campaign (AGC). Avin is setting up a "phonathon", where Vestry members will telephone church members who have not pledged, and ask them to do so. The Vestry agreed that calling from the church is more effective than calling from home.

RenewalWorks status. Randy will scan the Renewal-Works survey report and send it to the Vestry. Per the review, we are a healthy congregation. Recommendations include doing instructed Eucharists, have a designated greeter as each service, and developing Lenten small groups.

<u>Ghanaian church rental request.</u> Betsy has tried to contact the church numerous times without success. However, they contacted Randy directly who went over

Ascension's concerns with renting to them. At this point, we are awaiting a reply from the Ghanaian church to Betsv.

<u>Fund raising - cookbook.</u> Zadinga reported that the six-member committee will hold its first meeting on January 28 and decide how to proceed.

Fund raising - tee shirts. Berenice brought in a sample of the proposed tee shirt. Everyone was in favor of pursuing this fund raiser. She said that they could probably be sold for \$10 each. The Vestry recommended that she get them in several sizes to be displayed in the narthex, where people would be able to sign up for a shirt. Various colors were discussed, as were children's sizes. Berenice will talk with her supplier and email results.

Tri-State service contract quotation. Kathy has contacted two other companies to bid on the work for which Tri-State has already provided a bid. The Vestry had previously questioned the cost. The bids are due in next week.

<u>Discernment for new Vestry.</u> The vestry further examined who God might be calling as a candidate. Vestry members volunteered to contact them. Janet's term as Junior Warden will end as of the Annual Meeting. She indicated that she would be willing to continue serving, and the Vestry approved her having another term by acclamation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

<u>"Adopt a Space".</u> Randy suggested that groups in the church be asked to adopt certain areas no one is taking care of. The Vestry like the idea, and Randy said he would draw up a "list of areas, looking for groups to adopt" for dissemination throughout the congregation.

#### OPEN MIC:

<u>Berenice</u> - <u>kitchen cleaning</u>. Berenice reported this has not yet been done due to several issues, but it will be done this week.

**Rose - bulletin.** Rose would like to see a better graphical illustration of our financial status in the weekly bulletin. She spoke with Howard about creating a one. In the meantime, she is open to suggestions for presenting the information

<u>Office staff.</u> Office administrator Kathy van Arnum needs knee surgery, which will mean 5-6 weeks off; various approaches to coverage were discussed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard Clerk of the Vestry

## **CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS**

Financial Update February 27, 2017
Budget Development and Implementation



#### **Budget Development and Implementation**

With 2016 of course concluded, we continue to assess income and expenses for the year, as well as taking additional steps to finalize the budget for 2017.

After further review by our accounting team, we made a number of adjustments to income and expenses following the initial report and the figures in the last Ascendant. Total income for 2016 was \$524,165, with expenses of \$600,213. That translates to a net operating deficit of \$76,048.

However, in thinking about our total operating deficit, it is critical to note that \$40,000 was transferred from the Endowment Fund at the beginning of the year as part of adopting the budget for 2016. Thus, Ascension's total operating deficit was \$116,048. That represents what we needed to use from the Endowment to meeting our operating needs for last year.

As we consider the budget for 2017, we are facing an increasingly serious situation. We will again need to use the Endowment Fund to meet operating expenses, but we will not be able to continue withdrawing money at the rate we have done so. As a result, we will have to make a number of difficult and challenging decisions ones that will be discussed in detail at the upcoming parish annual meeting.

#### January Financials

Because the Vestry has not yet formally adopted a budget for 2017, we do not have the regular monthly reports used to gauge income and expenses against projections for the month and year. Once a budget has been adopted, we will finish the process of projecting the income we expect to receive each month as well, as the expenses we will incur.

At this point, we can simply relay our actual income and expense figures for the month. Again, once the budget is

adopted, we will have monthly and year-to-date projections to use as the basis for making comparisons.

Total income for January was \$43,487. Ascension received \$4,369 in plate receipts and \$29,697 in pledge income. Both are somewhat less than we might have expected given there were 5 Sundays in January. However, Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income was \$7,360, helping to bolster our income totals.

For January, our total expenses were \$55,055. As noted in previous reports, January is one of our most expensive months, along with April, July, and October. We incur a number of regular quarterly payments in January, including ones in Salaries & Benefits and Facilities. That said, due to timing of bills, it appears that we made several regular payments in January that we will not need to pay in February. Thus, we hope that our February expenses will be proportionately lower.

We had negative net income for January of \$11,568 based on the income and expenses figures just described. We made up the difference between our income and expenses using the Unrestricted Reserves, which are taken from the Endowment Fund.

Finally, speaking of the Endowment Fund, the balance stands at \$266,580 as of January 31. In addition, with endof-year donations, we now have \$27,801 in the new Facilities Reserve Fund.

## **April Ascendant**

Please email Eleni Hailu by Wednesday, March 29, if you have anything for the March Ascendant at comm@ascensionmd.org. Thank you!

March 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
Assistant to the Rector
Seminarian
Minister of Music
Parish Administrator
Media Specialist
Children's Music Leader
Chapel Musicians

Randy Lord-Wilkinson Javier García Ocampo Jason Cutshall Jerrold Tidwell Kathy Van Arnum Eleni Hailu Howard Hanson Eric O'Loughlin 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