



The Ascendant

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

October 2017

Autumn Party!

On October 7 at 6:00 p.m., we will held a party in the Undercroft as a fundraiser for Ascension. Tickets are on sale and the price is \$15. If you need more information ask Vestry members Bernice Rodriguez (Berenice.rodriguez.84@gmail.com) or Luis Pedron (lrpedron@gmail.com), or Javier (ocampo@ascensionmd.org).

One Ascension Sunday October 29

It is that time again to celebrate together. The theme for this luncheon after the 10:00 o'clock service is Fall Celebration. There will be a parade of Children dressed in their Halloween costumes to start off the celebration. Since it is also near All Saints Day, we are asking all who would like to bring a picture of a loved one who is deceased and share their story with those gathered. The Cookbooks should be available for sale, at \$10.00 each, they make an excellent holiday gift. Also one can purchase the Ascension t-shirt and/or sweatshirt, for yourself or as a gift. Please plan on bringing a fall dish to share. The committee will be making several Chili Dishes as a main course. Come one come all to join the fun.

Movie Night: October 13

Everyone is welcome to meet up in the Undercroft on Friday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. to watch *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. A SignUp Genius will be circulated in advance.

Día de los Muertos

November 5, at the 11:00 a.m. Spanish Eucharist in the Chapel we will be observing a Latin American tradition called the festival of "Día de los Muertos." As is customary we will adorn the altar with pictures of departed loved ones, and offer our memories of them and their spiritual legacies to the Lord.

How Many Episcopalians Does It Take to Change a Light Bulb?

You probably know how these kinds of jokes go... they usually ask how many of a particular group of people it takes to change a light bulb. Then along comes the punch line, making the point that more people think about changing the bulb or support the idea in principle or are willing to cheer on the person standing on the ladder than there are people who will actually screw the bulb in the socket!

Sometimes making a financial pledge to Ascension can be a little bit like the joke about the light bulb. More than likely, we are all in favor of pledging, and none of us would have a bad thing to say about it, per se. Certainly we recognize that it's important for the Vestry to know how much income we might have so they can plan for the year ahead and build a budget accordingly.

However, in some instances, we may find ourselves more in favor of pledging in theory than we are in reality. If that sentiment becomes widespread, our church community can become dependent on the faithfulness of a few to meet the needs of everyone - or we may not have the resources we need to maintain the ministries and mission that makes Ascension the parish it is.

We officially kicked off our stewardship campaign for 2018 on October 1, and if you were in church you heard Randy's articulation of Ascension's unique mission. You can hear his sermon here: <http://bit.ly/2yGDcLp>. Even after laying off three part time musicians and absorbing accounting services into a new Parish Administrator staff position, it is critical that all of us think prayerfully about how we can support Ascension in the coming year. Our goal is to balance the budget by the middle of 2018 if not sooner.

Pledging may seem like a scary prospect. Perhaps your financial circumstances have changed or you are concerned about the future. It's important to remember that a pledge isn't a contract; it's simply a statement of what you think you will be able to give over the coming year. If for any reason you need to make a change to your pledge, you can do so with just a call or e-mail to the Parish Administrator (office@ascensionmd.org).

So, how many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb? Well, it might depend on how bright we want the light to be! We want the light to shine pretty brightly here at the corner of 355 and Summit Avenue because we want the light of the God's love to shine into as many peoples' lives as possible.

If you haven't yet made a pledge commitment for 2018, please consider doing so. By now you will have received one in the mail. If not, you can download and print one using this link <http://bit.ly/2xQBudH>. Then bring it to church with you and place it in the baptismal font on your way to Communion.

And there is always the electronic option; go here to complete an Electronic Fund Transfer authorization form: <http://ascensionmd.org/authorization-form>. It's near the bottom of the home page: www.ascensionmd.org.

We need everyone involved, no matter what the level of commitment. And, if you are among the people who have already made a pledge, thank you for your support!

With gratitude,
The Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Ascension

LIFE LONG LEARNING

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.

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/or practice. For more information contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Christian Formation

Christian Formation (Sunday School) for children age 3 (and potty trained) through 5th grade will be held immediately after the 9:00 a.m. service on the lower level of the main church annex. Teachers will be stationed in the narthex to greet and assist newcomers. Classes will end before the start of the 11:00 a.m. service. Adult classes are also offered during this time in the Library. These sessions will help us deepen our knowledge of the stories of the people of God and reflect on the meaning of these stories in our lives.

Wednesday Book Group: Christ Actually: Reimagining Faith in the Modern Age

Read through the end of Chapter 3, "The Jewish Christ," in preparation for Wednesday's discussion. The book group meets in the Library from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

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 in Library at 7:00 p.m. Contact Lori Perine at lperine@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Calm Mind and Joyful Heart: Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group

Mindfulness is our capacity to be fully present in our own lives, to be aware of what we are doing as we are doing it. As we develop our awareness, an inner stillness naturally grows. We are better able to embrace the world, better able to experience the Kingdom of God in the present moment. Our weekly program of meditation and mindfulness practices in the tradition of zen monk and peace activist Thich Nhat Hahn will continue on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the chapel.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

WASHINGTON COMMUNITY: GRACIOUS AND COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS: DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING ABOUT RACE, COMMUNITY, AND COUNTRY



You are invited to join an evening of guided conversation about our nation's long struggle with race and racism. We invite you to come and listen deeply and speak truthfully to each other, so that we may understand our shared history. We will not blame others or minimize anyone's experiences, nor expect "right" answers. In this sacred space, we will listen, learn, sing and pray together and continue forward on the journey toward freedom and justice for all.

Monday, October 16
6:15-9:15pm
Washington National Cathedral

Register here : <http://bit.ly/2xQN06g>

Light dinner provided.

Recent events in our country and the Cathedral's recent removal of the Lee-Jackson windows are the catalyst for this dialogue, which will be supported by the Kaleidoscope Institute. Although we do not expect to achieve racial reconciliation in this one event, this moment calls the Cathedral, our community, and our country to reflection and renewal of our commitment to respect the dignity of every person, and to end racism. Your presence will help the Cathedral discern our next steps for the windows, and for our role in this collective effort.

Contact Michelle Dibblee, Cathedral Program Director, with questions at mdibblee@cathedral.org.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Ascension Youth Group Fall 2017

Ascension's Youth Group typically meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Undercroft of the church, unless otherwise noted.

We will not meet on November 26th due to Thanksgiving.

Youth Group is open to anyone in 6th grade and beyond. They need not be members of Ascension.

A typical Youth Group meeting includes dinner, provided by two families, some spiritual formation, and fun games. "Food, Fellowship, and Fun" is our motto.

A new group has been formed for youth from northern Montgomery county (NoMoCo) Episcopal churches. NoMoCo Youth will meet monthly hosted by each church in turn month to month.

Date	Details	Food	Sign up for Dinner
October 8 th	Ascension YG in Undercroft	Two Families Needed*	1. 2.
October 22 nd	Ascension YG in Undercroft	Two Families Needed*	1. 2.
November 5 th	NoMoCo Youth Gathering Location TBD		X
November 12 th	Ascension YG in Undercroft	Two Families Needed*	1. 2.
December 3 rd	NoMoCo Youth Gathering at St. Anne's	Advent Wreath Making, \$15 per wreath	X
December 10 th	Ascension YG Christmas Party	Location to be determined	X

*Two families typically share the responsibility for providing dinner. One family brings the meal and the other provides beverages and dessert, although the two families can divide as they wish. We have plates, napkins, silverware and cups. Plan for 20 Youth for dinner.

Angela Walker
angela.hightwalker@gmail.com

Zumba Classes at Ascension!

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.

A Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will learn about the importance of the Bible to our faith and in our lives. We will discuss the differences between the Old and New Testament. We will discover the different versions of the Bible and their uses today. If you are in grades 3-5, come and join us in Room 11 after the 9:00 a.m. service.

Godly Play

In the coming week in Godly Play examine the story of the great flood and the ark that Noah built. We move beyond the creating on the world to its re-creation and begin to see the gift of water as a symbol of cleansing, redemption and forgiveness. We also learn about God's promise, through Noah, to all of us.

Yoga

Randy's teaches a yoga class every Thursday 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.

November Ascendant

Please email Eleni Hailu by Wednesday, October 25, if you have anything for the October Ascendant at comm@ascensionmd.org. Thank you!

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Planning Ahead

Planning for our passing is often not done and put off to another day. Our death is inevitable. Thought of what our personal wishes are at the time of our passing (funeral and final resting place) are something to think about now. If cremation is an option for you; we at Church of the Ascension have a place to be considered. The structure to the left of the main church building is the Grey Harman Froehlich Memorial Columbarium. Church of the Ascension members and/or their immediate families may subscribe and be interred there. Nonmembers may subscribe and be interred at the discretion of the Rector.

For more information please feel free to contact Randy, or Gordon Donnelly at 571-275-6637, vagordon1@yahoo.com.

Gordon Donnelly, *Columbarium Steward*

Open Bethlehem—October 15

Christ of the Servant Lutheran Church presents a series of four films this autumn on Sunday afternoons. The first film is titled Open Bethlehem (90 minutes) on October 15 at 2:30 p.m. at 9801 Centerway Road, Montgomery Village, MD, 20879.

Open Bethlehem spans seven momentous years in the life of Bethlehem, revealing a city of astonishing beauty and political strife under occupation. The documentary follows the story of director Leila Sansour as she returns to her hometown as it is soon to be encircled by The Wall. Chronicling Sansour's campaign to stop occupying Israeli forces encircling Bethlehem, this fierce and poignant story maps a determined and ongoing effort to unite Christians, Muslims and Jews in the desire for free access to the Holy City. Sansour, who lives in Bethlehem and London, plans to participate in the moderated discussion.

Cookbook Committee Update

We did it! We made the August 31st deadline to submit our recipes to Morris Press Cookbooks! Our original plan was to have the company upload our recipes into their online program, but they wouldn't guarantee the Spanish language recipes. So, we decided that the only way to get the cookbook we wanted was to do it ourselves. Many, many thanks to everyone who helped with all of the editing, translating and uploading of recipes. We now have the bilingual cookbook we wanted. We are especially indebted to Ruth Anna Skowronski who uploaded all of the Spanish language recipes and Sari Stoddard whose unflappable demeanor and first-rate editing and project management skills kept us on course and on schedule. Morris Press has confirmed that Ascension Cooks! Many Recipes, One Ascension is now in production. We are on track to have the cookbooks on hand by October 29th, the date of the final One Ascension Luncheon of the year--just in time for holiday gift-giving!

Adopt-a-Space at Ascension

Our worship and common spaces are sacramental in the sense that we rendezvous with God and one another in them. It is therefore meet and right that we tend them as the gift that they are. This sign-up lists most of the spaces we inhabit from week to week. They do get cleaned, but there's a lot of traffic in and out of our building and there are plenty of unclaimed artifacts to prove it!

This is an invitation for groups or individuals to "adopt-a-space" to declutter and re-order (where there is furniture).

I have assigned some groups to care for spaces with which they have a special relationship, such as the main church's sacristy, where the Altar Guild lives out its mission to prepare the holy of holies for each of to encounter at every service. Some spaces got claimed immediately, such as the Chapel nave and sacristy, by "regulars" at the 11:00 o'clock service.

Only the Undercroft and Kitchen remain.

Sign up by clicking this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4caba82da75-adoptaspace>

Blood Pressure Screening

The Blood pressure will aim to start in the last week of this month.

Lector Training

Seasoned lector Andrew Greene and Randy will hold a lector training after the 9:00 o'clock service on Sunday, October 22 in the main church. This is for current and new lectors.

Acolyte Training

Ray Chin will be offering a training for new and current acolytes after the 9 o'clock service on Sunday, October 15, in the main church.

Movie Night: The Nightmare Before Christmas October 13



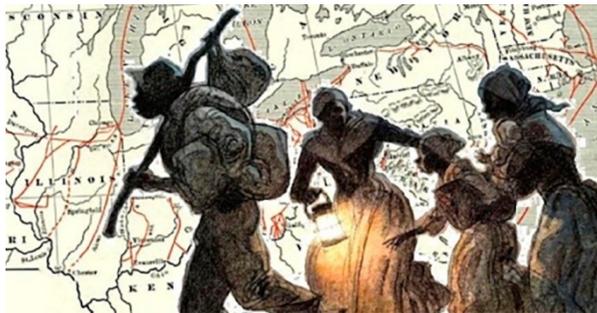
Everyone is welcome to meet up in the Undercroft on Friday, October 6th at 6:30 p.m. to watch The Nightmare Before Christmas (rated PG).

From an Amazon review: "Only Tim Burton could produce a holiday musical about Halloween's grotesqueries taking over Christmas.

"And in fact he did. Burton wrote and produced a charming stop-motion musical called 'The Nightmare Before Christmas', which is as close as we'll ever get to a Burton Christmas film. And there's rarely a dull moment in this town called Halloween -- from start to finish, it's a quirky, macabre, vintage-flavoured ride through the darker side of everybody's favorite holidays. Signup at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4CABA82DA75-seethe1>. We need 10 to make this happen.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension's Adventurers to Experience the Underground Railroad



All parishioners and friends are invited to join us in experiencing the Underground Railroad in Sandy Spring, MD on Saturday, October 14th (rain date = October 21st).

The Underground Railroad was a system of people and places organized to help slaves escape to freedom in the 1850s. During those times, the Quaker community living in Sandy Spring assisted escaping slaves in defiance to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

Recently, Montgomery County established a walking trail and a museum in the Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park to commemorate the involvement of

county residents in supporting the Underground Railroad and to celebrate the Quaker heritage and traditions of Sandy Spring.

Starting at this park's Visitor Center, we will divide ourselves into two groups. One group will walk along the "Underground Railroad Experience Trail" and back (total walking distance = 2.0 miles through both woodland terrain and open fields; cost = free). The other group will visit the museum (cost = \$5/person for people between 18 and 54 years of age; and \$4/person for people below or above this age range).

Participants can meet us at 9:45 a.m. in Ascension House's parking lot to carpool. Alternatively, participants can meet us at 10:30 a.m. at the Visitor Center of Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park.

People are also invited to join us for lunch at The Olney Ale House which features an extremely diverse menu. The carpools will be organized to allow people to return directly to Ascension if they are unable to join us for lunch.

For additional information about the Underground Railroad Experience Trail, see

<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/woodlawn-manor-cultural-park/underground-railroad-experience-trail-hikes/>

For additional information about the museum, see

<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/woodlawn-manor-cultural-park/woodlawn-museum/>

For additional information about The Olney Ale House, see <http://olneyalehouse.com/>

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

If you are planning to join us, please let Richard know by noon on Friday, October 13th, so that he may make appropriate arrangements.

Driving directions from Ascension to the Woodland Manor Cultural Park

Park's Address: 16501 Norwood Road, Sandy Spring, MD

Drive south 2.9 miles on Frederick Road (Route 355), then turn left onto East Gude Drive

Drive 2.1 miles on East Gude Drive, then turn left onto Norbeck Road (Route 28)

Drive 5.7 miles on Norbeck Road, then turn left onto Layhill Road (Route 182)

Drive 0.5 miles on Layhill Road, then turn left onto Norwood Road (Route 182)

Drive 0.2 miles on Norwood Road, then turn right onto the Park's access road

Follow signs to the area designated "Visitor Parking"

Driving directions from Woodland Manor Cultural Park to The Olney Ale House

Ale House's address: 2000 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, MD

From the Visitor Parking Lot, follow signs to exit the Park

At the Park's exit, turn right onto Ednor Road, then drive 0.2 miles to the first traffic light

At this traffic light, turn right onto Norwood Road (Route 182), then drive approximately 1.0 miles to the next traffic light

At this traffic light, drive straight through onto Doctor Bird Road (do NOT turn right onto the continuation of Norwood Road)

Now drive approximately 0.5 miles to The Olney Ale House which will be on your right just before the intersection of Doctor Bird Road and Olney-Sandy Spring Road (Route 108)

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 October 15 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>.

Mobile Med

Every Tuesday, Mobile Med has agreed that we can close the waiting room at 1:00 p.m. We will still list a person for the 1p shift in case the day is particularly hot or rainy and we need to keep the waiting room open until 3:00 p.m. I will notify the "on call" 1:00 p.m. person that morning if they need to be there.

The 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. person will now close the Chapel at 1:00 p.m. I have put instructions for closing in the volunteer folder; you can also contact Jean Cohn if there are questions 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

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, October 28 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact him at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Walk Maryland Day Connection--Rockville

Marjorie Madikoto is affiliated with the Diabetes Self Care Management Institute in Rockville and supports Diabetes Self Management Education and Diabetes Prevention Program classes around this community. Adriana Hochberg is an America Walks fellow examining walkability in Rockville and has organized an Aspen Hill community walk for Sunday, October 1st at 4:00 p.m. at Aspen Hill Library (meeting spot) 4407 Aspen Hill Rd, Rockville, MD 20854. For more information, please contact Adriana at: adriana_hochberg@yahoo.com or Marjorie at mmadikoto@yahoo.com

Hurricane Relief: What Can I Do?

Episcopal Relief and Development asks your prayers for communities recovering from the impact of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, especially Puerto Rico. Please donate to the Hurricane Relief Fund and visit the organization's website for more information about relief and recovery efforts. <http://bit.ly/2xiQwJ3>

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

The meeting opened at 1:30 with a Lambeth Bible Study, concluding at 1:53.

CONSENT AGENDA: Rose moved that the consent agenda be adopted as presented. Berenice seconded the motion, and it passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposal about streaming on our website. Before discussing this, an itemized proposal is needed. Topic was tabled until one or more proposals are received.

Children's Formation. After the second Sunday of this program year's Sunday school, Gordon said things are going well, and all the children from the first Sunday returned for the second session. He noted that no children from the Spanish-language congregation have attended. Javier will be asked to encourage their participation. The nursery is staffed by a paid nursery aide; adult non-staff volunteers should also be there. Randy reported that the physical situation in the nursery room is being upgraded. Furniture from the commons area has replaced the old stuff. For his Eagle Scout project, Matt Watson will paint the room, refurnish the cabinets, and conduct a toy drive.

Adult formation; the rector's role. There is a parallel (with children's formation) adult formation class that meets in library while the children are in their formation. Randy would like to see another new track for adults, with speakers from other cultures and religions.

Annual Giving update. Avin reported that we will kick the 8-week campaign off next Sunday, 10/1. All the cards, letters and envelopes should be ready to go tomorrow; then the vestry will hold an "envelope stuffing" party. Randy will preach on Stewardship on Sunday. There will be a Sign-up Genius online for people to sign up to speak throughout the campaign. Vestry members agreed to directly contact others and ask them to speak. Betsy will do a visual of a vine for collecting both pledges and comment cards on "why I come to Ascension".

Treasurer discernment. The person selected to replace retiring treasurer Howard Holland must be properly qualified. The vestry was asked to discern who that person might be. The job will have changed by the end of the year, with Lin prepared to take over much of the work.

One Ascension (1A) Sunday October 29; options for celebration. Janet has contacted previous 1A helpers to make plans. A possible theme is Halloween theme, with kids in costume, a parade, possibly a "trunk or treat", where the candy would be given out by attendees from their cars (giving the workers more time to prepare for the feast). Randy suggested an All Saints theme; a Day of the Dead theme was also proposed.

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS

The helper-group will decide on a main dish to be purchased.

The final 1A Sunday in 2017, December 31 will be on New Year's Eve; the theme will be a New Year's Eve party.

Final cookbook update. The cookbook went to the printers on August 31st. The finished cookbooks will be available for sale at the 10/29 1A luncheon.

Ascension House, other property rental. The rental of the first floor of Ascension House (AH) has been dropped from \$2,000/month to \$1,750. Other thoughts for AH included selling it, renting the entire house and/or renting parking spaces. Janet, John and Meredith will convene a small group to consider the sale possibility. If we did so, Javier would be given a rental subsidy. It was pointed out that since the building has been designated historical, a renter or buyer wouldn't be able to change or demolish it.

A draft of Lauren Kingsland's brochure about renting the church or chapel for weddings was passed around. Kentlands is having a bridal exposition in October; the brochures will be there and will also be put on Ascension's online sites.

OPEN MIC

Luis brought up the subject of accounting for the many fundraisers that are being held and planned for at Ascension. Further discussions will address how to add these funds to Ascension's accounting; one possibility is adding a line item in our budget to account for these and future funds.

Rose spoke about her concern about poor communications within the church. She brought up a couple of examples and said that we really need do better job of communicating events, assignments and other things. We need to start disseminating news, events, and reminders earlier and more carefully; we need to get information to Eleni earlier, and perhaps work up a reminder system. Randy said that we'd had a communication committee in the past, which could be re-established.

Gary touched on the financial town hall meeting held between the 9:00 and 11:15 services earlier in the day. He said the meeting went well, gave a true picture of our financial status, and that people are comfortable with Randy's becoming a bi-vocational priest. Betsy noted that we won't have saved enough by the end of 2017 to balance the budget, but said that further planned changes will make 2018 a better year financially, with no deficit. It was noted that in 2018, the diocese will only contribute \$10K toward Javier's income (it was \$20K for 2017). Betsy said she will have Howard come next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:02 p.m., Avin moved that the meeting be adjourned. Gary seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard
Clerk of the Vestry



Financial Update October 2, 2017
Budget Development and Implementation

We continue to work with the Rector and Wardens to implement changes to 2017 budget to reduce operating expenses and bring our income and expenses more closely into alignment. Our goal remains to narrow the gap between income and expenses during 2017 and achieve a balanced budget by mid-2018, if not sooner.

For the September 24, 2017, town hall meeting on the budget, we prepared a summary of Ascension's monthly income and expenses thus far in 2017. In addition, we prepared projections of income and expenses through the end of the year. Currently, we think that Ascension will have an operating deficit of approximately \$25,000 for the year.

August Financials

Total income for August was \$40,362. Ascension received \$3,163 in plate receipts and \$30,875 in pledge income. Both are consistent with levels we usually see in August. Our Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income was \$2,730, and together with rental income of \$3,594, our income was higher overall as a result.

For August, our total expenses were \$42,374. Most expense categories were at or below expected levels for the month. Our Salary & Benefits costs reflect the changes made in the staffing of musicians for our Sunday services. General Office Expenses were much lower, and may reflect that billing and payment for services incurred will be proportionately higher in future months. Our Facilities expenses were consistent with budgeted amounts for this time of year.

We had negative net income for August of \$2,012 based on the income and expenses figures just described. Year to date, we have income of \$383,998, against total expenses of \$385,606, creating a deficit of \$1,608 thus far for the year. Ascension's total income includes the gift we received earlier this year from the estate of Kathryn Brooke.

Finally, the Endowment Fund stands at \$293,920 as of August 31. The balance in the Fund continues to benefit from the largely positive trends in the stock market. Our Unrestricted Cash Reserves were at \$74,729 as of month's end. In addition, with the continued donations that we have received, we now have \$33,855 in the new Facilities Reserve Fund.



The Ascendant

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October 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

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Parish Staff

Rector	Randy Lord-Wilkinson
Assistant to the Rector	Javier García Ocampo
Minister of Music	Jerrold Tidwell
Parish Administrator	Lin Keene
Media Specialist	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.—"Last Chance Church"—Chapel