



The Ascendant

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

December 2016

“What’s Happening” in Children’s Formation

Besides the usual intriguing stories and insightful discussions in Godly Play (preschool - 2nd grade) and Joyful Path (3rd-5th grade), we have three new “happenings” to celebrate! The first, which has already been announced, is “Music Sunday”, when both classes join our children’s music director, Howard Hanson, for a short music lesson on the last Sunday of the month. Second, we are making Christmas cards and ornaments for the residents of Sunrise retirement community who receive communion from Ascension’s lay ministers. Last, but perhaps most important for you to know right now, is that we will be meeting on December 11 after the 9:00 and 11:00 services to get ready for the Epiphany pageant on January 8. We hope to have even more participants than we had for last year’s outstanding performance!

Megan Didavi

The King’s Birthday

The Children’s Formation team are planning to present “The King’s Birthday” on Sunday, January 8th at 5:00 p.m. There are opportunities for all our young people to participate. There are both speaking and non speaking parts. Most will be in costumes. If you’re interested please sign up on the door of Room 11 or see me after the 9:00 and 11:11:15 services. Adult volunteers are needed to help with costumes and production details.

I can also be contacted via e-mail at vagordon1@yahoo.com. We look forward to making this a fun and educational activity to share with the Parish at large.

Thanks and Peace,

Gordon

The Meaning of Sacrifice

I’ve always had a lot of difficulty reconciling my belief in the biblical idea that “God is love” with the most prevalent interpretation of the death, or “sacrifice,” of Jesus. The language of the liturgy reminds us of the purpose of his Passion every week. In the Creed: “for our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate...” In the words of Prayer A: “He stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself in obedience to your will, a *perfect sacrifice* for the whole world...” (italics mine, of course).

There are quite a number of well established interpretations for the meaning of the Passion of the Christ, but most Christians will tell you that Jesus dying “for us” means that he took God’s punishment that was intended for us sinners so that we wouldn’t have to. And that this is how he expressed his love for all humankind.

We have St. Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) to thank for this interpretation. It helps to recall - or be informed about - the root meaning of the word ‘sacrifice’. Literally, from the Latin, it means to ‘make sacred’. Rooted in the Jewish tradition of understanding sacrifice, Jesus’ offering of himself to God all of his life, even “unto death,” was his way of modeling for us what a life “made sacred,” or holy, looked like. It is God centered, and brimming over with selfless love. It may or may not result in a literal death, but it always connotes an offering of self, or surrender, to the loving God who gave us this life as a gift.

May your life this Advent become more deeply a living sacrifice.

In God’s love,
Randy

New Website Launched



We’ve just launched our new website.
What’s new:

- A responsive design automatically adapts itself to a particular viewing environment such as desktop, tablet or mobile.
- Online electronic giving
- Sign up to different subscription directly from our website
- Analytic tools to track the traffic to the website which helps to analyze the engagement of the site visitors.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Wednesday Book Group

The Wednesday Morning Book Group continues exploration of *Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found it Again Through Science*, by Mike McHargue. From Amazon.com: "From the host of the popular podcasts, The Liturgists Podcast and Ask Science Mike, a story of having faith, losing it, and finding it again through science—revealing how the latest in neuroscience, physics, and biology help us understand God, faith, and ourselves." For a fuller description and to purchase, go to <http://amzn.to/2ecQ9DC>

Yoga at Ascension

Randy teaches a class each week in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings. This is an entry level class in which anybody can participate. Randy teaches for about 45 minutes. Wear comfortable clothing, and bring your own mat if you have one. There are several here if you don't



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 swgaithersburg@gmail.com.

Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi is an ancient tradition that helps us feel healthy and relaxed. It is a moving meditation. Claire Rosser proposes to lead a group through the 88 steps in the Yang Long Form on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm in the chapel.

She will teach some steps each time we meet, and start with standing meditation. But mostly you would be following her as she does the form in silence. It is difficult to teach and learn tai chi, just as all complicated things are challenging, and the masters who do it perfectly have been practicing for decades. But you can begin and she will help you learn. Tai Chi improves your balance, relieves stress and restores your mind and spirit. There will be no charge for the class. A donation to the church is of course welcome.

Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

Spanish Bible Study

Rev. Javier offers a Spanish Bible Study every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at Ascension House.

Spanish Class

The Spanish Class with Rev. Javier Ocampo meets each Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. at Ascension House.

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.

Meeting dates this month are Monday November 7 and 21. Contact Lori Perine at lperine@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Mind-Body Skills Workshop

Dr. Tina Lightner-Morris will offer workshops on holistic health using research based healing therapies for 8 Mondays from November 14, 2016 to January 9, 2017 between 7pm and 9pm to help you deal with life changes, stress and illness. Participants have experienced a decrease in depression and anxiety, renewed sense of wellbeing, better coping skills to manage pain, increased energy and stamina, enhanced immune system, greater self-awareness and more. The fee is \$65 per session, \$520 for the series or \$500 if paid in full by the first session.

For more information or if you have question, contact Dr. Lightner-Morris, at 301.524.0808 or tina@lightbalncecounseling.org

Cell Group for Families with Small Children

We have been discussing possible times to try to get together outside of the regular Sunday service, in the format of an informal Bible study or book reading. Because we all have small children, we would also like to include snacks and a play space. Weeknights are difficult for most of us, so we are proposing the following times to get together, once a month: Sundays, before or after the 10:15 service (something like 9:30 or 11:15 am). Saturday or Sundays post-nap time (something like 4 or 5:00 pm). What would everyone prefer? If we meet before or after the 10:15 Sunday service, we could find a space at the church. If we meet in the afternoon on Saturday or Sunday, we could meet at individual homes. We are happy to host the first meeting or two.

Yours, Brian, Sarah, Leo, and Jane (sarahanear@gmail.com)

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Annual Health and Wellness Fair

We had our annual Health and Wellness Fair on October 29, 2016.

Life is short let us enjoy it—optimizing our health social and spiritual wellbeing by investing value and quality in ourselves. Information is key to empowering ourselves.

The US Census showed a 74% increase in the elderly population from 1990 to 2010. With longevity, more people will be living with age related illness or other social inadequacies. “The span of our life is seventy years—eighty for those who are strong—but their whole extent is anxiety and trouble, they are over in a moment and we are gone.” Psalm 90 v.10 The New Jerusalem Bible.

On October 29, 2016 volunteers gathered to share health and wellness strategies:

1. The Diabetes Self Care Management Institute shared the Prevention and Management of Diabetes
2. Claire Rosser Tai Chi Chinese exercise to help maintain strength flexibility and balance
3. Dr. Laura Jenkins from the African American Health program discussed the promotion of the African American Health Program
4. Sarah Rubin shared about obesity an underlying factor for most illness
5. Mercy Health, a Community based health center provides culturally competent health services.
6. Camille Johnson from Medi-spa talked about Jade, a Chinese therapy that resolves inflammatory conditions of the body
7. Joy Will from Howard University Allied Health taught about back care from childhood with tips on back packs for youth.
8. by using the frequency of light.
9. Human Touch Home Health shared available home health services for people living with disabilities.
10. Tamara Haskins from AARP New York Life shared financial planning and building wealth for the future.
11. Arthur Murray Dance Company demonstrated and invited people to learn social dance that promotes movement and fosters interpersonal interaction.
12. The Montgomery County Fire Department shared important information on fire safety.
13. I thank everyone who made the Fair possible including our Rector Randy who is always open to ideas and our members Claire Morin, Dorett, Elian Dunn, Megan Didavi, Javier Campos, Freddie Martinez, Janine Marin, Marion Sanchez, Veneta and our youth group members (Gloria Nwankwo, Nuelle Johnson, Josha Decosier, Clark Divadi, Samantha Lord-Wilkinson, Emmanuel Nwankwo and Jeanpaul Garmes). Our students were able to earn community hours for school.

We hope to improve publicity for our fair next year in 2017 and welcome your participation and support!!



LIFE AT ASCENSION

Lady of Guadalupe Day

Join us on December 10 to celebrate Lady of Guadalupe Day at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Church. After the service we will have a Mariachi Band sing "Las Mañanitas" to the Virgin. If you want to experience Latino religious traditions, this would be a great opportunity to do so. After the service we would continue the celebration in the Undercroft with more Mariachi songs and Latin-American food.

Winter Weather Policy

At Ascension, we always TRY to have church even when the weather is bad. We realize that travelling may be very difficult for some, so please make the best decision for you and your family about Sunday church attendance. Even if we have Sunday services during inclement weather, we may cancel all other activities, such as Christian Formation for Children, Youth and Adults. Volunteer leaders, likewise, should use personal judgment about the safety of their travel that day. Cancellations will be announced by way of e-mail, website, and on the outgoing message line at 301.948.0122.



As a rule, we will follow Montgomery County Public Schools for closing and cancellation decisions. If there is a delayed opening our morning activities are cancelled. If schools are closed, morning and afternoon activities are cancelled. In this event, evening activities still may be scheduled, so check in with the committee chair or call the outgoing message line at the church to check the status of your meeting or activity.

Vestry Nominations Welcome

Vestry Nominations

It is that time of year when the Vestry is in discernment around who may be called to the ministry of leadership at Ascension. If you'd like to nominate someone simply approach any Vestry member, or e-mail one of the Wardens: Betsy Hasegawa (grhasegawa@verizon.net) or Janet King (bkmechanical@aol.com).

Ascension's Cookbook Committee Needs You!

Do you love to cook and bake? Are you wiz at organization and planning? Are you a stickler for good punctuation? Well, come and join us! It has been 22 years since Keeping the Feast, Ascension's last community cookbook, was published under Father Joe Clark. Much has changed at Ascension. We have new leadership and many new members, along with new programs and initiatives. What hasn't changed are the feelings of cohesion and welcome that set us apart, and we can't think of a better way to celebrate everything that's great about our community than with a new cookbook!

We are looking for a mix of skills and perspectives to help collect and organize recipes, as well as oversee production and sales. If you are interested in helping craft Ascension's next community cookbook, please contact Zadinga Ogada (z_zulu@msn.com or 202-256-7237) by December 31st. We anticipate holding our first planning meeting in the early part of next year.

Let's get cooking!

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to donate Christmas flowers, please use an envelope from the table outside the office and give it to a Welcome Team Member with your check. Suggested amount is \$25.



Youth Group Christmas Party at Rockin Jump

We are having the Ascension Youth Group Christmas party at Rockin' Jump near the Montgomery County Airport on Sunday December 11th. <http://mdm.rockinjump.com/> Please arrive at 5:45 pm so we can get settled in before our jump time starts at 6 pm start. We will jump for 90 minutes and then have dinner and fellowship until 8 pm. The cost is \$20 per person and that includes everything. Scholarships are available. Everyone MUST have a signed waiver in the system to jump. Please bring an unwrapped gift (~\$10) for a person in grades 5-8 that we will donate to the St. James-the school we support in Philadelphia and where we will go to Work Camp.

Online Giving

Church of the Ascension is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option on our new website for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or saving account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for the congregation. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending the services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.



An Authorization form and a "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer are available from the church office.

You can also find the electronic Authorization form by clicking the "Give to the Church of Ascension" button on the home page of our new website.

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 **December 18** at 10:15 am. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

Memorial to the Lost

On December 17th the Ascension Youth Group will lead the congregation in establishing a "Memorial to the Lost", which is a moving display to increase public awareness of the toll on our region of gun violence. T-shirts will be hung on the Ascension campus facing 355 to honor each life lost. Please join us at 2:00 pm. <http://heedinggodscall.org/content/heeding-gods-call-memorials-lost>

Ascension's Giving Tree

This Advent season through Sunday, January 8, you will find Ascension's "Giving Tree" adorning the Narthex. A sign near the tree will identify crucially needed items for refugees and recent immigrants from the Middle East or Latin America, who are now living in the D.C. area. In a box near the tree, you will find a collection of pairs of color-coded cards, each labeled with possible gift options (gift card, metro card, or check). One card in each pair will have an attached string, and the box will contain several pairs of cards for each gift option. Select a pair representing the gift of your choice. Put the card containing a string on the tree immediately, and take the other card with you. After you have obtained your gift, place it in the designated box located near the tree. Your gift may also be placed in the offering plate as long as it is clearly marked "Giving Tree". Eventually, we hope the tree will be covered with many brightly colored cards. If you have any questions, feel free to contact fellow parishioners Sue and/or Richard Snay at 301.977.5259 or subarsy@aol.com.

CHRISTMASTIDE SERVICES

Come let us
Adore
Him

5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m.



10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

Holy Eucharist for Families and Children: Main Church
Festival Eucharist with the Great Choir of Ascension: Main Church
Holy Eucharist in Spanish: Chapel
Festival Eucharist with the Great Choir of Ascension: Main Church

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

Holy Eucharist with Organ and Instrumental Ensemble:
Main Church

The First Sunday After Christmas, Sunday, January 1

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Main Church
9:00 a.m. Traditional Lessons and Carol: Main Church
10:15 a.m. Service for Families with Young Children: Main Church
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish: Chapel
11:15 a.m. Modern Lessons and Carols: Main Church
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Chapel

There will be No Christian Formation on Sunday, December 25 or January 1.

VESTRY DIGEST: OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT: The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Betsy Hasegawa, Janet King, Rose Buck, Avin Lalmansingh, Denise Lionetti, Gary McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner, Najma Stubblefield (at 2:05), Paul Whitmore. **Absent:** Maria Estela Rodriguez

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

REPORTS: Betsy handed out a report from Kristen Keating regarding the Diocesan Northern Region meeting held at Ascension on October 19th. Also distributed was information about the Montgomery County Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Neighbors program for aid to Syrians escaping the violence in their country.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Giving Campaign (AGC) / Facilities Reserve Fund (FRF). As previously agreed, AGF donors are being named in the Sunday bulletin. Vestry members concurred that only new donors from the previous week will be listed. In discussing how to present the FRF pledges, it was agreed that the total amount of the 3-year pledge be given. Since the pledge results are already being published, John made a motion that the previously discussed levels of giving (e.g., “seraphim”, “cherubim”) not be used this year; the motion was seconded by Paul and passed. Rose proposed that the Vestry start now with the annual thank-you notes from the Vestry to pledgers. She had designed stickers to be given to all those in families who had pledged; she gave them out to Vestry members to include in the thank-you notes. Pledgers are listed in Jake Yalley-Ogunru’s weekly report; Vestry members signed-up for thank you notes as follows:

Avin volunteered to write the first batch of thank-you’s for the FRF. He also volunteered to create a Sign-Up Genius site for AGC/FRF speakers at the weekly services, and asked that Vestry members not only speak but also ask people who have already pledged if they would speak.

Kitchen cleaning. The Vestry agreed last month that professional help should be hired for a one-time deep cleaning. Kathy has contacted two companies for bids. There is a cleaning company selected to do a deep cleaning. Also the dishwasher was creating a problem with standing water and will be removed.

Shape of Things to Come Committee. Randy spoke to the three parish members who had been chosen by the Vestry to be on this committee (Roy Bevington, Richard McFarland, and Bob Waters); all said yes. The committee will meet with Joey Rick from the Diocese to discuss the situation and possible paths to follow. The meeting will be held on January 8th 2017.

Website. Ascension’s new website is ready to launch. It includes a PayPal account for easier on-line payments and donations. Using our Media Specialist Eleni’s skills, the website might even include videotapes of our services. Another

possibility is having Javier translate website items into Spanish, so that a click on the site would provide a translation. Randy asked the Vestry to be thinking about the website and to pass any thoughts/ideas/recommendations to our Wardens. Hopefully our new site will be operational by the end of November.

Fund raising ideas. Rose suggested a Parents’ Night Out program; a nominal fee could be charged and donated to the church and a larger amount might be charged if dinner were included. Other suggestions included selling Ascension tee-shirts or hats; holding a flower mart in the spring; selling Annie’s Pretzels and/or Krispy Kreme doughnuts; creating and selling an Ascension cookbook; and holding a concert in the sanctuary and charging a fee. Vestry members were asked to brainstorm / research / think about fund raising possibilities.

Nursery / Sexton update. Nursery: we are “trying on for size” a local college student as our Nursery Attendant from 8:30 to 12:30 on Sundays. So far she is working out well. Sexton: the vestry previously agreed to try using volunteers from the parish for Sunday morning coffee. Randy passed his clipboard asking for volunteers during Sunday services and many people signed up.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to rent space. The Presbyterian Church of Ghana enquired about renting worship space from Ascension. Their worship times mesh with our space availability, but Vestry members questioned how much storage space they would need (we have none available) and how many parking spaces they would need. Gary agreed to call them with these questions and report back.

We are in need of a **Housekeeping Day** for the interior of the buildings (see reference to storage space in previous paragraph!). It was mentioned that Chris Ruggeri has a truck if we have items to be taken to the Solid Waste Transfer Station.

Randy will be had a **surgical procedure** and all went well. Thanks for your prayers.

OPEN MIC

Photo Directory. In response to a question, Randy stated that the new directory is at the printers now and will be available soon.

Vestry Liaisons. Randy outlined the duties of a Vestry liaison to a committee - to attend meetings and to provide any support needed; he emphasized that the liaison is not responsible for writing committee reports. Randy is considering inviting individual chairs to Vestry meetings when relevant.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:35 p.m., Gary moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rose seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard
Clerk of the Vestry

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS

Financial Update November 30, 2016
Budget Development and Implementation



Budget Development and Implementation

We remain focused on our month-to-month income and expense figures, comparing these numbers to projections for the year based on the budget the Vestry adopted for 2016. We also continue to monitor use of the Endowment Fund to help operating expenses. In general, we have needed to use between \$6,000 - \$8,000 per month from the Endowment, together with the money from the Fund that the Vestry approved using when the 2016 budget was adopted. In addition, we now actively planning for 2017, looking carefully at personnel and others costs for the year ahead.

October Financials and Year-to-Date Summary

Ascension's total income for October was slightly higher than we projected. However, October is generally a very expensive month due to fixed quarterly costs that we pay, and this October lived up to its billing.

Total income for October was \$40,760. Ascension received \$3,578 in plate receipts and \$28,748 in pledge income. We were below projections for plate receipts by just \$262 and higher than projected for pledge income by \$1,648. Rental Income remains at expected levels, and Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income shows that we are ahead of projections because we are recording the funds from the Diocesan grant in this category.

For October, our total expenses were \$56,220. As mentioned, October is typically an expensive month, and this October proved true to form. We incurred much higher than expenses than planned in General Office expenses, pushing our total expenses in that category year-to-date to the top of the list in percent greater than projected. However, what makes October an expensive month are the quarterly personnel and maintenance costs that we pay during the month, as opposed to any expenses that may have been higher or lower than planned.

We had negative net income for October of \$15,460 based on the income and expenses figures just described. As of October 31, we have received income of \$417,925, against total expenses of \$494,053, creating negative net income for the year of \$76,127. Total income is remains roughly 3% higher than anticipated, and expenses are roughly 3% lower than projected. Thus, there is still the possibility of Ascension not incurring as great a deficit as expected when the budget was adopted for 2016.

Howard Holland, Treasurer and Chair, Operations and Finance Committee, hhollbike@verizon.net.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF 11-29-16



- 99 Pledges for the Annual Giving Campaign, total \$235,987
- 53 Pledges for the Facilities Reserve Fund, total \$73,672

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

Mary Anna Culkin, Don & Martha Marks, Jake & Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro, Christopher & Susan Ahalt, Levin B Broughton, Jemima Carr, Cynthia Perley, Neil & Nathalie Scott, Carolyn Dowling & John Bjerke, Jennie B Cargill, Nancy & John Carman, Beverly Stennett, Gary & Susan McLaughlin, Mary N Waldron, Russell E Weber, Kelvin W Basier, Suzanne E Hood, Monteath B Petersen, Janet King, Betty B Knight, Marjorie Madikoto, Richard & Susan Snay, Margaret Tellu, Stewart & Lavina Williams, Carleton MacDonald, Claire Rosser, Paul Whitmore, Laura Shay & Linda MacNeil, Donna R Moss, Martha Lubet, Sari Stoddard, Avin Lalmansingh, Ceda & Zadinga Ogada, Rose & Jeff Buck, John B Pruessner, John & Kelly Ten-Hagen, Ann & Jim Utterback, Don & Jean Cohn, Kevin Conway, Johnetta Mars-Gibson, Sylvana F McIntosh, James & Antoinette Babcock, Phyllis Eddy/Joseph Defenbaugh, Betsy Hasegawa, Troyce Holland, Lauren Kingsland, Swithin & Ama Kwamena-Poh, Elizabeth Lennon, David & Stephanie Mitchell, Algernon Thomas, Roy Bevington & Constance Finch, Margaret Donnellon, Janet M Rhoads, Natalie Wilson, Laurie & David Yelle, Joyce & Andrew Bvumbe, Chris & Rachel Ruggeri, Francisco Balicao, Gina Fera, Sarah Gallagher, Gerry & Geraldine Gil, Ron & Jan Hauber, Alice Benson, Margaret Custer, Meredith Louise Horan, Lisa Murdock & Herald Douglas, Maria E Rodriguez, Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Lovetta Willie, Karyn Worthing, Ronald & Sharon Hayden, Lori Perine, Daniel & Linda Yankie, Paul Boyton, Sciou & Jacob Broderick, Monica Koenig Caphart, Raymond & Doris Chin, Charles Dickson, Kate Foley, Steve Heinig & Michelle Wood, Howard & Margaret Holland, Kristen Keating, Curt Lindsay, Barbara Mansfield, Bernice Rodriguez, Frank & Leslie Sanya, Charles & Rimie Sicard, Ruth Anna Skowronski & Luis Pedron, Fran Spina, Robert & Linda Waters, Fe Wlotzko, Chike Nwankwo, Emmanuel & Gloria Nwankwo, Melanie Mitchell, Maura Ryan & Marybeth Daucher, Kathleen Bainbridge, Ted & Kelly Bedell, Fayemi & Christina Johnson, Peggy Ruppel, Norman & Shirley Seidle

And to those who pledges to the Facilities Fund:

Carleton MacDonald, Claire Rosser, Paul Whitmore, Laura Shay & Linda MacNeil, Donna R Moss, Martha Lubet, Sari Stoddard, Avin Lalmansingh, Ceda & Zadinga Ogada, Rose & Jeff Buck, John B Pruessner, John & Kelly Ten-Hagen, Ann & Jim Utterback, Don & Jean Cohn, Johnetta Mars-Gibson, Sylvana F McIntosh, Janet King, Marjorie Madikoto, Betsy Hasegawa, Lauren Kingsland, Elizabeth Lennon, Algernon Thomas, Roy Bevington & Constance Finch, Margaret Donnellon, Joyce & Andrew Bvumbe, Chris & Rachel Ruggeri, Francisco Balicao, Ron & Jan Hauber, Alice Benson, Meredith Louise Horan, Lisa Murdock & Herald Douglas, Maria E Rodriguez, Randy Lord-Wilkinson, Lovetta Willie, Karyn Worthing, Paul Boyton, Sciou & Jacob Broderick, Raymond & Doris Chin, Howard & Margaret Holland, Kristen Keating, Curt Lindsay, Barbara Mansfield, Frank & Leslie Sanya, Charles & Rimie Sicard, Ruth Anna Skowronski & Luis Pedron, Robert & Linda Waters, Chike Nwankwo, Emmanuel & Gloria Nwankwo, Melanie Mitchell, Maura Ryan & Marybeth Daucher, Anne Brink and Gordon L Donnelly



The Ascendant

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

December 2016

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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eca@ascensionmd.org www.ascensionmd.org

Parish Staff

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