



The Ascendant

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

February 2017



Ash Wednesday is March 1. We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and offer the Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The evening service will be bilingual. The Labyrinth will be available for meditation in the Chapel from 10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. “Ashes to Go” will be offered again this year for morning commuters at the Shady Grove Metro Station.

Annual Meeting

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

It is God who clothes the wild grass - grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have! So do not start worrying. Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.

- Matthew 6:30-31a, 33

Every time I read or hear this saying of Jesus from his Sermon on the Mount it strikes me differently. Today I think of what I've read in two very different places about the average life style of a citizen of the United States of America. Matthew Fox, a well known American theologian, and a scientist whose name I cannot recall, said the same thing (years apart, too), that if each of the seven billion inhabitants of the world lived the way the average American does, it would take 3 or 4 planets to sustain us. A Seattle based columnist discovered that he was among the upper 1% of the world's wealthiest people, because he earned more than \$50,000 a year. It is not my fault that I had the good fortune to be born in such a great place and time, and like the columnist and millions of other people the world over, I am responsible in some measure for being able to earn what I do and buy what I buy.

But the larger perspective about the limitations of this island Earth are sobering. How much do I need? Or, to ask a more probing question: What is it that I really need? I've never believed that Jesus was advocating an irresponsible life style. Keep your focus on God and spiritual matters and you'll get your physical needs met. I don't think that's the point of his amazing speech. He's saying not to worry. Why would Jesus tell us not to do that?

Despite the relative affluence of North America, we suffer from an epidemic of stress and life style related ailments, both physical and psychological. Ours has even been labeled the “Age of Anxiety.” Sages and anthropologists have even observed a comparatively reduced capacity for joy in our civilization, contrasted with people residing in countries with simpler life styles and lower expectations of what they can expect of life.

This will be no surprise to most people striving to cultivate a mindful, spiritual dimension to their lives. We all know you “can't buy happiness” and that it is where your heart is that will determine the amount of joy you know. I suppose the toxic aspect of anxiety is that it can knock me out of balance so easily, and impel me to escape in ways that only deepen my desolation. Anxiety is powerful to the degree that I am unaware of being in its thrall. I do things without always realizing why I do them. One interesting example of how pervasive, unconscious anxiety can manipulate us by the millions is the changes in our culture since 9/11.

An easily observable one noted by many pundits is the kind of cars that have become more popular in the last fifteen or so years, regardless of the price of oil. The best selling cars in America are SUVs and pickup trucks. Now, a lot of people have thought this through and are making a conscious decision about what kind of car to drive. I'm not talking about them. But there are people who drive larger vehicles because in them there is a feeling of safety or power not enjoyed by drivers of mini-Coopers or vintage Pacers. I can find myself drawn to an 8 cylinder behemoth without fully realizing why.

The point is that if I am operating from a place of anxiety I am driven to do things to try to quell it that will, in the end, be ineffective. Jesus is not trying to make the comfortable feel guilty about having creature comforts. The Lord knows that guilt is not an effective force for personal transformation. I believe he is appealing to our deepest intuition to bring to the surface of our minds what we already know: that on this earthly plane nothing can give us peace, satisfy our restless yearning, but a conscious connection with the Ground of Being, the Author of All. God is what we really want.

The question then is: “What will my life look like if I am living mindfully in the presence of God?” What kinds of stuff will I have? What will I eat, and how much? Where will I live, and what will I drive? Think about it. If you're not driven to flee from a nameless, faceless fear and making decisions based on that agenda, what will you do? Jesus is saying that his wish for us is that we lead a life confident in the knowledge that the Power who put us here is near, and that the more of us who discover this the happier we'll be and the healthier and more just life on this planet will become.

“The Lord says, ‘Come, everyone who is thirsty; here is water! Come, you that have no money buy grain and eat! Come! Buy wine and milk; it will cost you nothing! Why spend money on what does not satisfy? Why spend your wages and still be hungry? Listen to me and do what I say, and you will enjoy the best food of all. Listen now, my people, and come to me; come to me, and you will have life!’” - Isaiah 55:1-2

Peace, Randy

LIFE LONG LEARNING

New Book for Wednesday Morning

Starting at the usual time (10:00 a.m.) on February 1 (in the Library), the Wednesday morning book discussion group will begin to talk about 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



Randy's yoga class is 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.

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.

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

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

Godly Play

Sunday, Feb 12, Parable of the Mustard Seed.

The week Godly Play will explore the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Jesus told this story when asked to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. In it Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to the smallest of all seeds that grows into a large bush like tree.

Sunday, Feb 19th, Parable of the Great Pearl.

This week in Godly Play we'll study the Parable of the Great Pearl from the Gospel of Matthew(13:45). In this Parable Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a merchant who goes in search of the Great Pearl, and exchanges everything for the Great Pearl when it is found. The children and teachers will explore questions about the parable after hearing the story.

Sunday, Feb 26th, Mystery of Easter.

Lent is the Season when we prepare for Easter. These six weeks are a solemn time, overflowing with meaning. This lesson gives an introduction to the relationship of Lent to the Mystery of Easter as well as how Easter overflows into the season of Easter. This lesson that introduces the Mystery of Easter will be followed by the lessons called the Faces of Easter during the weeks of Lent.

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.

Cell Group for Families with Small Children

The cell group for families with young children meets the first Sunday of every 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 sarahannear@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Cell Group for Cell Group Leaders

If you are interested in growing your faith and connecting with other Ascensionites, then join me for a cell groups leader training. Cell 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 Sunday after the 9:00 or 11:15 services in Library, starting Sunday, March 5. Blessings, Jason Cutshall, jascut@me.com

LIFE LONG LEARNING

New Cell Group

How's your family tree? For some, we have been slaving to manually accumulate the data and documents that show your lineage. For others, the new technology is hard to avoid. If you, like me, got an Ancestry.com membership for Christmas, or you're an early adopter, or just curious, let's get together to explore the technology, help one another navigate the rapids of technology, or just cheer one another onward. I would like to gather together folks that can do all that and more. If you are interested, let's meet at the Church on this coming Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Office. I will be there every other Wednesday for at least the next month to give you a chance to drop in and make your interest known. Feel free to contact me at garymclaughlin100@gmail.com, or give me a call at home 301.340.7139

Youth Group Schedule Spring 2017

- February 12 - Regular Meeting in Undercroft Commons
- NEW - February 19: Northern Montgomery County Regional Youth Consortium Laser Tag at Shadowland in Gaithersburg. Cost is \$13.50 and the first game starts at 5:00 p.m. Let Angie know if you are going.
- February 26 - Regular Meeting in Undercroft Commons
- 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 23 - Regular Meeting in Undercroft Commons
- April 30 - Youth Sunday: NO YOUTH GROUP BUT LOTS OF CHURCH TIME
- May 21* - Picnic at Hight Walkers'
- April 9 - No Youth Group due to Spring Break
- *Only one meeting in May due to Mother's Day.
- PS - Regarding Work Camp: hope to send out dates and cost shortly. **Ascension Youth Group Schedule: Spring 2017**

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 on March 8.

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

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



This fun annual event will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Undercroft Commons. Come join us to celebrate Mardi Gras, Carnival, Fat Tuesday...or a good excuse to have pancakes and sausage! Vegetarian sausage and sugar-free syrup are included on the traditional menu as well as a gluten free option...there will be something for everyone. This fun event needs lots of helpers AND lots of attendees, 'the more, the merrier!' Cost (s); \$5.00 per adult; \$3.00 per children 4 to 10 years; and children under 4 are free. N.B. We DO take debit and credit cards. If you have an instrument you would like to play, contact Randy at ral@ascensionmd.org. Sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4caba82da75-shrove1>

St. Valentine's Party

The St. Valentine's Party will be on Saturday, February 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Undercroft Commons. We will have food, drinks and music. The tickets are \$15 per person. For more information and tickets, contact Javier Ocampo at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

Tickets will also be on sale in the narthex of the main church on Sunday, February 12.

Worship Rosters

New worship rosters for January-March, 2017 have been sent out via email. There are also hard copies available on the table outside of the Office or that can be downloaded from the website: <http://ascensionmd.org/january-march-worship-rosters/>

March Ascendant

Please email Eleni Hailu by Thursday, February 27, if you have anything for the March Ascendant at comm@ascensionmd.org. Thank you!

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: <http://ascensionmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Recipe-Card-English.pdf> Please complete your submission by March 5.

And, in case you have not heard, the Ladies Cookbook Committee will pump up your enthusiasm for our cookbook endeavor in a unique way! They will be making some of their own yummy appetizers for us all to try at the Pancake Supper, February 28. Definitely put THAT on the Calendar

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

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 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.

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 **February 19** 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

The MobileMed clinic will move to the Rockville site during the months of January and February due to the van being too cold and uncomfortable for patients, providers, volunteers and staff. The Rockville site address: 981 Rollins Ave, Rockville, MD 20852

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

ACTION: Stand with Immigrants and Muslims and Expand Affordable Housing and After-School Programs In Montgomery County

There has been great concern and fear among many members of AIM congregations and schools in the wake of the recent Executive Orders.



AIM will start our February 9th action by thanking and committing to stand with the County Executive, County Council, Superintendent, and Police Chief for their bold leadership in making sure that Montgomery County residents are welcomed and treated fairly, regardless of faith or immigration status.

Thursday, February 9th, 7:00-9:00 PM
Silver Spring United Methodist Church
8900 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Childcare provided!

In addition to pushing for more affordable housing and expanding the Dream Academy after school programming in the highest-poverty schools in Montgomery County, we will also:

1. Sign people up to be part of a "Rapid Response Team" to address threats to immigrants, Muslims, and other vulnerable populations (there have been anti-Semitic and racist hate crimes in Montgomery County in the past few months) as they arise.
2. Invite people to participate in listening sessions at institutions with significant immigrant populations. These include St. Camillus Roman Catholic Church, South Lake Elementary, Burnt Mills Elementary, and Bethel World Outreach Church.

We invite the broader AIM community to participate in these listening sessions to build genuine relationships across our county. The stories from the listening sessions will lead to action on issues facing immigrants and other vulnerable groups as part of the AIM and National IAF agenda.

We have an important role to play in this political moment, and we need to start by building the real relationships so we can act quickly and powerfully on the most pressing issues facing families and individuals in our communities.

VESTRY DIGEST: DECEMBER 2016

PRESENT: The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson, The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo, Betsy Hasegawa, Rose Buck, Avin Lalmansingh, Denise Lionetti, Gary McLaughlin, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner, Berenice Rodriguez, and Paul Whitmore. Absent: Janet King and Najma Stubblefield

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

OLD BUSINESS

Javier work status update. Javier's R1 (religious worker) visa will expire in July 2017; it needs to be renewed. Additionally, he needs to get his green card. The cost for these items is approximately \$8,000. Javier offered to pay half and the Vestry discussed having the church provide the other half. Gary made a motion that Ascension contribute one half of the cost for Javier's green card and R1, and finance the other half for Javier to repay over time. The motion was seconded by Denise and carried unanimously.

Annual Giving Campaign (AGC). With only 1 week left until the official end of the campaign, we have reached only about one half of our goal. Avin put a second letter out in the past week asking everyone to consider increasing their 2017 pledge. Paul has a list of about 110 names of people who routinely give but do not pledge. There are also about 70 people who pledged in 2016 but have not yet for 2017. The Vestry agreed to announce that those who have not pledged will be getting phone calls from Vestry members. It was noted that EFTs are only counted at the end of the campaign.

Rice Bowl. Half of last year's Rice Bowl offering was slated for a Welcome Feast for local refugees from the Middle East. The Vestry discussed using it instead as cash and equivalent offerings directly to the refugees, thus benefiting more of those needy families. There are now twelve refugee families in the county. Paul made a motion that the \$1,500 set aside last year for a festive meal be converted to material assistance for Montgomery County refugees. The motion was seconded by Rose and passed.

RenewalWorks status. Randy reported that the committee's findings for Ascension are in a 60- page document. Betsy felt that the data must be made available to the congregation. Randy will create a color-coded document to hand out to the Vestry and to put on our website. The RenewalWorks next committee meeting is on January 9th. The report will be further discussed at the January Vestry meeting.

Ghanaian church rental request. Betsy will call her contact at the church and discuss what we have heard about them, specifically problems with noise, overstaying their allotted time, and storing more material than agreed to.

Fund raising - cookbook. Zadinga put an ad in the colored bulletin asking for volunteers to work on the cookbook. Four people have responded to date. A time-frame for creating the cookbook needs to be developed. She suggested that we actually cook some of the recipes and have Sunday morning tastings. The first meeting will be on Saturday January 28th..

Fund raising - tee shirts. Berenice knows of a company that will give a discount to the church. She will bring a sample to the January meeting.

Tri-State service contract quotation. Upon the Vestry request, Tri-State submitted a more detailed quotation for maintenance work in 2017. The Vestry agreed that it is vital that we avoid emergencies, but questioned whether the price quoted was fair. Gary recommended getting one or two more bids.

Discernment for new Vestry. After listening for God's guidance, a short list of candidates was created, and various Vestry members will contact them.

NEW BUSINESS

Randy's housing allowance. Randy submitted a request asking that the Vestry designate \$30K of his stipend as "parsonage allowance" for tax reasons. Gary moved that the money be designated as requested, Avin seconded and the motion was passed.

OPEN MIC:

Rose - bulletin. Rose felt that the financial reports in the weekly colored bulletin do not give a descriptive picture of not just our financial status but also the impact of the situation. Betsy suggested that it should include and specify the money we are taking from the endowment. Avin said we would need input from Howard. Rose will contact him, and she asked Vestry members to think of ways to convey information to the congregation, and contact her with any ideas.

Gary - general comnt. Gary suggested that each committee submit an annual report to the Vestry. He further recommended that the agenda for the annual Vestry retreat be discussed and developed in advance, that it be held off-campus, and that no church business be addressed at the retreat.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:37, Denise made a motion that the meeting be adjourned; Paul seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sari Stoddard
Clerk of the Vestry

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATUS



Financial
Update

Budget Development and Implementation

With 2016 now concluded, we are assessing income and expenses for the year, as well as working with the Vestry to adopt a budget for 2017

As we have reported in previous months, we have been tracking slightly higher in income and slightly lower in expenses year-to-date. See below for details on December figures and preliminary end-of-year numbers.

In considering the budget for 2017, we will again need to consider how we will use the Endowment Fund to meet operating expenses and whether we will withdraw a portion now or at a later point to make up the difference between our expenses and income from month-to-month.

Based on preliminary end-of-year figures, we are revising the 2017 budget, which will be presented in detail at Ascension's annual parish meeting.

December Financials and Preliminary 2016 Year-to-Date Summary

Ascension's total income for December was lower than we expected, particularly in the area of plate and pledge receipts. In addition, we also incurred somewhat higher expenses in several areas, resulting in a net operating deficit for the month.

Total income for December was \$51,695.

Ascension received \$5,734 in plate receipts and \$33,260 in pledge income. Both were below projections, especially given typically receive higher amounts for these categories in December. With plate and pledge, the totals may have been affected by the fact that Christmas day was on a Sunday this year. On the positive side, our Miscellaneous Unrestricted Income was again greater than usual, once more in part due to strong trust income receipts.

For December, our total expenses were \$54,355. We incurred higher than expected costs largely in Salary & Benefits, General Office Expenses, and Accounting. Our higher costs in Salary & Benefits were partially the result of how we now classify Father Javier's salary and benefits. We were over budget in General Office Expenses because of costs associated with the update to Ascension's Web site. And, finally, our Accounting expenses for the month were higher because the yearly audit was not completed until December, as opposed to earlier in the year.

We had negative net income for December of \$2,660 based on the income and expenses figures just described. Also, as of December 31, we have received income of \$524,165, against total expenses of \$600,213, creating negative net income for the year of \$76,049 (difference due to rounding). Our accounting team continues to examine whether any other costs we may have accrued need to be classified as 2016 expenses. Thus, our overall financial picture for the year may still change.

Based on these preliminary figures, our total income for the year was approximately 5% higher than anticipated and expenses were roughly 2% lower than projected. Again, we are still examining the end-of-year numbers and further changes may be made.

Finally, as a result of gifts to the new Facilities Reserve Fund, we have a preliminary balance of \$21,630 as of December 31. In addition, the balance in the Endowment Fund as of that date is at \$262,175.

Annual Giving Campaign Extension

The Annual Giving Campaign has been extended to help us reach our 2017 funding goal of \$500,000. Please help us send a clear message that we are a community that lives generously and supports Ascension's mission and outreach. Many of you have already pledged, and we thank you for your generosity. In the coming weeks, the Vestry will be calling members who have not yet turned in a pledge form to ask that they do so as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your support. Envelopes for annual giving pledges and the Facilities Reserve Fund are now available on the table outside the Church Office.

PLEDGE UPDATE : AS OF 2-7-17



155 Pledges for the Annual Giving Campaign, total \$356,339

64 Pledges for the Facilities Reserve Fund, total \$87,412

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

Adeline Hedd-Williams	Georgette Dennis/Douglas Lazano
Amy Van-Dalinda	Gerald & Kristin Fitzpatrick
Andrew & Amy Duncan	Gerry Gil
Andrew & Venice Greene	Isaac & Josephine Clarke
Brad Clark	John & Lynne Shea
Chike Nwankwo	Joyce & Andrew Bvumbe
Christian & Marissa Simpson	Joyce Thompson
Christine Mendimassa Kroma	Karen Olsen
David & Anne Scott	Kirk Davies
Edna Leake	Lucille Roberson
Eliane Dunn-Johnson	Marion Dossen-Rice
Emmanuel Nwankwo	Mary Thorpe
Enid Cole	Melody Bell
Erin Martinko	Naomi Senkeeto
Frances P Smith	Pamella Irons-Forth
Georgana Maines	Paul Boynton
George Eng/Christine Yankus-Eng	Peter & Kathy Wendolkowski

And to those who pledged to the Facility Reserve Fund:

Christopher & Vivian Rennie
David & Stephanie Mitchell
Dotty & Jerry Pfadenhauer
Enid Cole
Mary H Waldron
Peter Maroulis



The Ascendant

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

February 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	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