

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Third Sunday of Easter: 15 April A.D. 2018

Letter to Parish

Selection of the Reverend Javier Garcia Ocampo as Priest in Charge at Ascension

Hello Dear Friends. Ascension has reached a milestone. We have said farewell to Randy with our blessings, and now it's time to intentionally turn to our future. Using our dreams for the future and with inspired advice from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW), the Vestry offered the position of Priest-in-Charge of Ascension to the Reverend Javier Garcia Ocampo..Padre Javier. We are overjoyed to report that he accepted our offer.

It may appear as though we took the easiest path and did not consider the traditional profile and search committee—not true. Everything and everyone was on the table for examination. We carefully reviewed the recent survey results which revealed the top two dreams for Ascension: to love and grow our multicultural parish, and to nurture spiritual support for our church and ourselves. The budget now and in the near future was always in our minds as we reviewed what we had done, and what we had to do.

It was a little scary to realize that a person who possessed the very qualities we wished for Ascension was already a part of us, but it became obvious that this was true. With EDOW's blessing we painstakingly figured out how much we could afford, and put together a Letter of Agreement that met the EDOW requirements, the needs of Ascension, and was competitive with other offers.

As Priest-in-Charge, Javier has the responsibilities of a Rector, with opportunities for formal, two-way evaluations at six, twelve, and eighteen months from now. For a thorough description of the decision-making process, please read the excellent piece on The Transition Process by Zadinga Ogada that appeared in the February 2018 Ascendant.

Javier will follow this message with his own Pastoral Letter in the Ascendant. Please watch for it. We are a very lucky people-presented with the gift of love for each other and our church that will lead us, with Javier's help, into a grateful, bright and busy future. On behalf of the Vestry of Ascension and the EDOW, please join me in extending a joyful welcome to our Priest-in-Charge, Father and Padre, Javier.

Love!

Betsy Hasegawa, Senior Warden

One Ascension Sunday

On April 29th the Youth group will be leading the One Ascension Sunday. There will be one service for everyone at 10:00am. This will be followed by a luncheon in the undercroft. All are asked to bring a favorite salad, some fruit, or a dessert for all to share. The main dish will be a pizza party to be enjoyed by all who attend. Come one, come all, to enjoy the Youth group's One Ascension Sunday.

TO OUR VISITORS, NEWCOMERS, AND SEEKERS

We thank you for joining us today and hope you will return often.

At Ascension, our mission is to become "ambassadors of Christ," so we welcome you to this community of resident aliens. We invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: Javier Ocampo

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of refuge for parents with restless children is available all morning in the Main Building, in Room 4.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Tai Chi

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. Please come and join us. Tai Chi will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play we 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 for 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.

Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will explore the meaning of being of service to others. I John 3:18 "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Also the meaning of this Mexican proverb: "A good deed is the best prayer." Come and join us in Room 2 after the 9:00 a.m. service (10:15).

Wednesday Morning Book Group

We are reading Brian McLaren's latest book entitled The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian. Here's a description from Amazon.com (<http://amzn.to/2nGabwg>): "Brian McLaren, a leading voice in contemporary religion, argues that—notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance—Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun." The group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Read Chapter 7 for this coming Wednesday.

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 ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

Looking for Percussionists

Ascension's Ensemble is recruiting for two percussionists. For information: Meredith Horan 301-926-1054 (evenings) or horanm@hotmail.com

Thursday Morning Yoga

There is yoga class every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in 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.

Beginning April 12, Tina Lightner-Morris and Lucia Pires will be teaching this class, also at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays (except 4/19). Tina will begin with the Joint Freeing Series, move into some Sun Salutations and finish with an iRest/yoga nidra guided mindful meditation. Please join us for this amazing practice of embodied prayer!"

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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Service Schedule Beginning Sunday May 6, 2018

Beginning May 6, 2018 Ascension Church will hold three services each Sunday:

- ◆ 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
- ◆ 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
- ◆ 12:00 Noon Eucaristia en Espanol

These services are a first step to adjusting our Worship to fit our new circumstances. Additional steps, changes and adjustments will likely be made as we go forward. Please make your opinions and ideas available to Padre Javier, the Vestry or the Worship Committee.

April Service Schedule

April 22nd:

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

April 29 : 10:00 a.m. One Ascension/Youth Sunday

Lost and Found

Lost and Found items will be donated on April 16, 2018.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension Youth Group

Hello All!

I hope you had a wonderful spring break and Easter!

We have a busy April so I want to make sure you have everything in your calendars.

April 22th-Youth Group 6 pm

April 28 (Saturday)-Dry Run for Youth Sunday 4 pm

April 29th Youth Sunday ONLY ONE SERVICE @10 am with pizza luncheon immediately following.

We need dinner support for Youth Group on the 8th and 22nd . Should anyone be interested please let me know!

We need a big attendance at the two Youth Groups this month to prepare for Youth Sunday. If you wish to participate in Youth Sunday but can not make either Youth Group-please let me know immediately so I can hold a part for you.

Thank you to all four seniors for agreeing to speak! This will be a wonderful event!

Reach out with any questions!

Best- A&T

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Montgomery Hospice

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

Make a difference for someone facing the end of life

JSSA Hospice and Transitions Volunteer Training May 6 and 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rockville, MD.

JSSA, a non-sectarian community agency, is seeking volunteers over the age of 18 to help enhance the quality of life of individuals and families facing life-threatening or terminal illness. JSSA offers specialized training for prospective volunteers for its Hospice and Transitions programs. Following the training, volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of 2 hours a week visiting patients in the Hospice or Transitions programs. If you're interested please fill out the application. Or contact Carrie Myatt, Volunteer Coordinator, at 301-816-2611 or cmyatt@jssa.org

Prison Ministry

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

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Men's Shelter Lunch Program

The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month. The next program will be on April 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

Mobile Med: Ascension hosts the Mobile Med van on Tuesday at Ascension House (where the van parks) and the Chapel (where the patients wait). We have volunteers that man the waiting room from 7a-3p. You do NOT need medical knowledge or training - we act as hosts to the patients as they wait. We welcome new volunteers! Jean Cohn | spangle1@comcast.net | 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. **Please: no perishables.** 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, April 28 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Workshop on "Securing Our Places of Worship"

THE FAITH COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP PRESENTS:

SECURING PLACES OF WORSHIP
SPRING INFORMATIONAL

The Faith Community Working Group with its partners is hosting a timely workshop for faith leaders, office staff, greeters, ushers and building and grounds and worship committees.

PRESENTERS

Sgt. Brian Tupa, Special Operations, MCPD
Capt. Don "DJ" Mandeville, Bomb Squad Commander, MCFRS
Brian Johnson, Director of Security, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
James McClelland, Emergency Management Specialist, OEMHS

7-9 PM TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018
FIRE STATION 34
20633 BOLAND FARM ROAD
GERMANTOWN, MD 20876
6:30 PM OPTIONAL FIRE STATION TOUR

REGISTER
WWW.TINYURL.COM/SPRINGSECURITY

Please mark your calendar and attend the next workshop on "Securing Our Places of Worship" - Tuesday, April 24, 7-9 pm, MoCo Fire Station 34, 20633 Boland Farm Rd, Germantown, MD 20876. Tour of Fire Station is at 6:30 pm. Please register yourself and any faith community members who may have responsibility for securing your facilities.

Four guest presenters: MCPD - Active shooter expert; MCFRS - Bomb Squad;

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security - Assessing your facilities; and the Director of the Office of Security for the Jewish Federation of Washington.

Register using Constant Contact link:

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef605p0baca8154d&oseq=&c=&ch=>

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Randy's Cell: 301.801.4347
- ◆ Javier's Cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card on the table outside the office, in the Chapel or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
mebudde@edow.org, 202.537.6550

Assistant to the Rector—The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 16

Interim Ministers of Music

9:00 a.m. Clarice Snyder

11:15 a.m. Karina Gomez McCarty

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene

office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Media Specialist—Eleni Hailu

comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Mardia Dennis,

mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com

and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa

Junior Warden: Janet King

Vestry:

2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron

Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters,

Susan McLaughlin

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi ~ Christian

Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker ~

Facilities: Ted Bedell ~

Finance: Avin Lalmansingh ~ Mission: Paul Boynton ~

Pastoral Care: Nan Hildebrand ~

Personnel: Jean Cohn ~

Worship: Gary McLaughlin, Curt Lindsay

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay

Alternate: Fred Diaz

Cycles of Prayer

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for
Church of the Good Shepherd, Silver Spring
Good Shepherd Episcopal Preschool, Silver Spring

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, April 16

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library

Tuesday, April 17

- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Bible Study—Ascension House
- 7:00 p.m. Codependents Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, April 18

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

Thursday, April 19

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi —Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
- 7:30 p.m. Zumba-Undercroft

Friday, April 20

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program—Room 1

Saturday, April 21

- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Sunday, April 22

Preacher: Elena Thompson

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Latin Choir—Room 1
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Class —Library
- 10:15 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
- 10:15 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 2
- 10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children— Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist- Main Church
- 12:30 p.m. Nueva Vida Class—Undercroft
- 1:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting—Room 1
- 5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group—Undercroft

Attendance	March 25	April 1	April 8
7:45 a.m.		41	29
9:00 a.m.		167	76
10:15 a.m.	245	—	—
11:00 a.m.	—	116	
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service		53	
11:15 a.m.		—	72
12:30 p.m.	—		
5:00 p.m.		—	—
Total:	245	377	177