

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Easter Sunday : 16 April A.D. 2017

What's the Big Deal?

The consensus of many contemporary Christian theologians was that the Resurrection of Jesus may or may not have involved a literal resurrection of a corpse, and that it didn't matter in the sense that whether or not the Easter story in the Gospels is myth or history (it's both, in my view), you still have to hear what it's trying to communicate to you and really begin to live into it.

The first time I took a class on the Gospel of John (I did this twice), I wrote a paper on Jesus's bread of life discourse that he gave right after the miraculous feeding of the 5000 (which is the only miracle story found in all four gospels). Many of the eyewitnesses of (and participants in) that amazing meal didn't get it at all. They believed that Jesus ought to be made king because he'd solved the problem of famine (not unknown in first century Judea). Their misunderstanding was the occasion for his explanation of what it meant for people that he is the "bread of life," of which one may eat and never "die."

It is possible to witness a miracle and totally miss the point. You are the same person after as you were before.

The Resurrection of Jesus by God is God's 'yes' to the world's "no:" the crucifixion of the one who is the way, the truth and the life. It means that death is not the last word, but that the life of Jesus continues. We who endeavor, with God's help, to live as Jesus showed us, will also be free of the domination of the "evil powers of this world" and of the fear of death.

"So," as someone always wonders, "is that it? That we are emboldened to live as Jesus did because the Resurrection story shows us that the essence of his teaching and manner of life endures beyond his execution? What's the big deal, then?" It is a great question. Even if the Resurrection needn't involve the "miraculous" resuscitation of the body of Jesus, it isn't just the teaching and memory of the man that lived on. People then, and now, believe he lives and have encountered him. It's a pretty big deal when that happens. Hint: Jesus appears to people in the most unlikely ways and guises. No wonder his first followers had such trouble recognizing him.

And when you do catch a glimpse of him, you won't be the same.

Christ is risen!

Randy

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: Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

The Nursery is open today from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is in Room 2, in the rear hallway of the annex at the high school end of the building. Ask a welcome team member for directions.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Godly Play

In observance of Easter, Godly play will not meet.

A Joyful Path

In observance of Easter, Joyful Path will not meet.

Yoga Classes



No Yoga Class on April 18.

Randy's yoga class is every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Church.

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.

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.

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.

Youth Group Schedule Spring 2017

- April 23 - Regular Meeting in the Undercroft
- April 30 - Youth Sunday: NO YOUTH GROUP BUT LOTS OF CHURCH TIME
- May 21 - Picnic at Hight Walkers'
- June 25—Philly Work Camp

Small Group for Families with Young Children

The small group for families with young children meets today 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 at sarahannear@gmail.com

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Spanish Classes

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Ascension House. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

New Book for Wednesday Morning Group

Starting on Wednesday, April 26, we will be reading Parker Palmer's *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. From Amazon: "With wisdom, compassion, and gentle humor, Parker J. Palmer invites us to listen to the inner teacher and follow its leadings toward a sense of meaning and purpose. Telling stories from his own life and the lives of others who have made a difference, he shares insights gained from darkness and depression as well as fulfillment and joy, illuminating a pathway toward vocation for all who seek the true calling of their lives."

Music Program for Sunday School

On the last Sunday of the month please bring the 9:00 a.m. Sunday School's children to the white chapel by 9:50 a.m. and the 11/11:15 a.m. children to the choir room in the main church building at 11:30 a.m.

The music program will last no more than 10 minutes. If you have any questions, you can e-mail me at howarddhanson@gmail.com. - Howard Hanson

Town Hall Meeting on the Budget, April 23

Join Randy and members of the Vestry in the main church right after the 9:00 a.m. service (about 10:15) for an update on steps taken to resolve the budget deficit.

Thank You, Jason Cutshall!

Jason will preach his last sermon on his last Sunday at Ascension, April 23. After the 11:00/11:15 services let feast in the Undercroft and say thank you! Bring something to eat, drink, and share.

2017 Ascension Cookbook Update

Many, many thanks to everyone who has generously shared a recipe for the new Ascension cookbook. What started as a trickle has become a deluge! We know that the community's tremendous response is due to everyone who tapped someone's shoulder, stood up to speak in church or otherwise helped spread the word and drum up enthusiasm for our project. Nothing works like the personal touch, and we are so grateful for everyone's help!

Although we have moved on to cataloging all of the submissions, we are still accepting recipes. So if you have a treasured recipe you'd like to share, just send it our way. You can also send us recipes in Spanish. Our goal is to produce a bilingual cookbook that reflects who we are as a community. Feel free to contact Zadinga Ogada at z_zulu@msn.com with any questions or to forward a recipe.

Don't forget to mark your calendars with our next tasting event, taking place at the luncheon immediately following our "One Ascension Sunday Service" at 10:00 a.m. on April 30th, which this year is also Youth Sunday. We are very eager to actually taste your proffered creations and would be so pleased and honored if you would bring a dish to the luncheon. Just email Zadinga beforehand so we know what to expect.

We are very lucky to belong to such a dynamic community. Keep an eye out for more updates, and we'll see you April 30th!

Your Cookbook Committee, Janet, Rachel, Sari, Susan and Zadinga

"One Ascension/Youth Sunday"

Are you ready for April 30th, our first One Ascension Sunday? We are very fortunate to belong to a church that offers six different services each Sunday. With so many options, there is a service to fit every worship style. Nevertheless, one challenge of having so many services is that we sometimes do not know each other. We have the 7:45 early birds, the 9:00 regulars, the 10:15 families, and so forth.

We want to affirm that although we offer many services, we are one community. And that is why we are going to gather at 10 am on April 30th as One Ascension for one service in the main church. April 30th happens to be Youth Sunday, so the service will be designed and led by our Youth Group and accompanied by the Ascension Choir and 11:15 am ensemble! We will conclude with fellowship and feasting in the Undercroft. The luncheon will also mark the second tasting opportunity for the Ascension Cookbook project, so be sure to bring your appetite!

Let us know each other and see each other by coming together as One Ascension. See you April 30th at 10 am.

Acolyte Training

At 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 7 in the main church veteran acolyte Ray Chin (who serves at the 7:45 service nearly weekly) will conduct a training for both old and new acolytes. No age limits!

Easter Egg Hunt



Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt following 12:30 p.m. Service.

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 Commons once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month.

Mobile Med

We host the MobileMed van every Tuesday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are assigned a 2 ½ hour shift each month. Duties include collecting basic patient information, answering questions and ensuring a safe, comfortable waiting area.

Our contact for Mobile Med is Jean Cohn at spangle1@comcast.net or 240.372.3652.

Gaithersburg HELP

This organization provides emergency food and other support to needy families in Gaithersburg. Non-perishable food collected at Ascension every week, and during specific holiday in-gatherings, helps to stock the pantry. Donations may be brought to church at any time and left in the narthex. For more information, contact Melanie Mitchell at 301.519.1074 or melanie.mitchell@verizon.net

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

There is an opportunity to serve at the soup kitchen on the first Saturday or third Monday each month at 1:00 pm (prep work) or 3:00 p.m. (serving) across the street at St. Martin's Church. Contact one of our experienced team leaders, Page Salazar (Saturdays, pagesalazar@ymail.com) or Jean Cohn (Mondays, spangle1@comcast.net). We can always use more volunteers!

Ministerio Felicidad

Every 4th Saturday Ascension members and 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 29 in the church kitchen.

May Ascendant

Please email Eleni Hailu by Wednesday, April 26, if you have anything for the March Ascendant at comm@ascensionmd.org. Thank you!

CONTACT US

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- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. -4:00 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.

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LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Janet King

Vestry:

2018: Berenice Rodriguez, Avin Lalmansingh,
Gary McLaughlin
2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner
2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Howard Holland, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi ~ Christian
Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker ~ Facilities: Ted Be-
dell Finance: Howard Holland ~ Mission: Paul Boynton ~ Pas-
toral Care: Randy Lord-Wilkinson Personnel: Jean Cohn ~
Worship: Carleton MacDonald

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Kristen Keating, Carleton MacDonald, Sue Snay
Alternate: Mardia Dennis

Cycles of Prayer

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for
All the Parishes in the Diocese of Washington
Diocesan Altar Guild and all the Parish
Altar Guilds of the Diocese
Pray for the Good Stewardship of the Earth (International
Earth Day - April 22)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, APRIL 17

OFFICE CLOSED

1 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
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 19

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1
6:30 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program—Room 1

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Preacher: Jason Cutshall
7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 11
10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children—Chapel
10:15 a.m. Men's Shelter Lunches
10:15 a.m. Town Hall Budget Meeting—Main Church
11:00 a.m. Misa en Espanol—Chapel
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
12:30 p.m. Party for Jason Cutshall
1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Undercroft Commons
1:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting—Room 1
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Chapel
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Mtg. & Spiritual Formation—
Undercroft Commons

| Church Attendance | Mar. 26 | Apr. 2 | Apr. 9 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 7:45 a.m. | 30 | 29 | 22 |
| 9:00 a.m. | 92 | 103 | 106 |
| 10:15 a.m. | 17 | 18 | 13 |
| 11:00 a.m. Spanish Service | 60 | — | 60 |
| 11:15 am | 51 | 97 | 13 |
| 11:30 a.m. At Sunrise | 10 | — | 9 |
| 5:00 p.m. | 12 | 13 | 17 |
| Total: | 263 | 260 | 240 |