

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Fifth Sunday in Lent: 2 April A.D. 2017

Holy Week and Easter at Ascension



Palm Sunday, April 9

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms—Main Church
- 8:45 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist—Entrance to High School
- 10:15 a.m. Service for Children—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist- Entrance to the High School
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Dramatic Reading of the Passion—Chapel

Wednesday, April 12

- 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae, a “Service of Darkness” - Main Church

Maundy Thursday, April 13

- 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar—Main Church

Good Friday, April 14

- 12:00 p.m. “Stations to Go” - Main Church and Various Locations in Old Towne Gaithersburg
- 7:30 p.m. Prayer Book Liturgy—Main Church

Easter Eve, Saturday, April 15

- 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil—Main Church

Easter Day, Sunday, April 16

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 9:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist—Main Church
- 11:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist—Main Church
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish—Chapel
- 12:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist for Families with Young Children, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt—Chapel

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: Barb Mansfield

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

Faces of Easter VII

This week's Godly Play lesson, Faces of Easter VII, continues to help us prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We continue to move toward the Mystery of Easter by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on Christ's face on the cross and Christ's face on Easter.

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

Yoga Classes

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.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

The Wednesday morning book discussion group is reading 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." Read through Page 251 for next Wednesday.

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.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Youth Group Schedule Spring 2017

- April 9 - No Youth Group due to Spring Break
- 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

Sunday Morning Small Group for Small Group Leaders

If you are interested in growing your faith and connecting with other Ascensionites, then join me for a small groups leader training. Small 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 either after the 9:00 or 11:15 services in the Library, this morning, Jason Cutshall, jascut@me.com

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 sarahan-near@gmail.com

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."

"One Ascension/Youth Sunday"

One of the things the Vestry talked about at its recent annual retreat was creating events that would enhance our experience of community. While we are proud of offering 6 services on a Sunday, we also realize that people don't see who Ascension really is! Going to the same service as someone else does not of course guarantee that you will get acquainted, but the potential exists. So we are going to try an experiment. On fifth Sundays, starting with April 30, we will celebrate a "One Ascension Sunday" with one liturgy, at 10:00 a.m., in the main church. Sometimes the style of service will be a bilingual hybrid, and at other times the style of a particular service will be "showcased." April 30 just happens to be Youth Sunday, which means that the Youth Group designs and leads the service. The Ascension Choir will be part of the service on this first One Ascension Sunday, and the 11:15 ensemble will be as well. Afterward, we will feast! Save the date and watch for more details as the weeks progress!

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Wednesday Nights in Lent

Next Wednesday evening yoga is the last session. 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 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

LIFE AT ASCENSION

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

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Parent/Teacher Meeting: Today at 12:30 p.m.

Ascension's Children's Formation Leaders want to meet with parents over a potluck lunch at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, to talk about some possible changes in the 2017-2018 program year. This will be held in Room One. A multi-age children's craft activity will also be offered, so bring your kids!

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.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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, March 25 in the church kitchen.

Congratulations, Beth! Our old friend and former Assistant Rector, the Rev. Beth O'Callaghan, has accepted a call to become the next Rector of St. Nicholas' Church in Darnestown! Her first Sunday is May 7. If you haven't heard the news and want to

Seminarian Jason Cutshall will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 10, at Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Herndon, VA. Details to follow soon. Save the date!

Congratulations, Beth! Our old friend and former Assistant Rector The Rev. Kate Siberine has just accepted a call as Curate of Church of the Good Shepherd in Nashua, NH. Congratulations, Kate!

CONTACT US

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- ◆ 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 Pedmore
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
Grace Church, Georgetown
Grace Church, Silver Spring Parish
Pray in thanksgiving for the life and
witness of Martin Luther King, Jr.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, APRIL 3

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
6:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
6:30 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library
7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
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
7:30 p.m. Identity Play Rehearsal—Undercroft
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
6:00 p.m. Yoga—Chapel
6:30 p.m. Centering Prayer—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Who Says So—Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

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

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson
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
11:00 a.m. Misa en Espanol—Chapel
11:15 a.m. Small Group for Small Group Leaders
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
1:00 p.m. Pastoral Care Team Meeting— Library
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist— Chapel
6:00 p.m. NO Youth Group Mtg. & Spiritual Formation

| Church Attendance | Mar. 12 | Mar. 19 | Mar. 26 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 7:45 a.m. | 23 | 25 | 30 |
| 9:00 a.m. | 99 | 92 | 92 |
| 10:15 a.m. | 19 | 10 | 17 |
| 11:00 a.m. Spanish Service | 41 | 62 | 60 |
| 11:15 am | 47 | 49 | 51 |
| 11:30 a.m. At Sunrise | 4 | 10 | 10 |
| 5:00 p.m. | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Total: | 245 | 260 | 263 |