

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Third Sunday of Easter : 30 April A.D. 2017

Albert Schweitzer in, "The Quest of the Historical Jesus", offers these words about knowing Christ.

"He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is."

"Yes, we do meet and learn about Christ in our toils and labors, but first we must have learned about Him in the fellowship of Church. Participation in worship, study and mission with a community is the way we come to know and understand why Christ came to us and how we are saved by his life, death and resurrection.

"Seekers of God seem to know instinctively that they must enter into fellowship with people who know God in order to know God too. Joy in worship is the foundational experience that opens hearts to know God through toils and sufferings. Knowing and loving God means knowing and loving each other in what Martin Luther King called the beloved community. Jesus' Great Commandment to love God with our whole hearts and minds and to love our neighbors as ourselves was given to us in one piece. We must love God and love each other in order to know God. When we all gather on Sundays, and during the week for our groups and our mission work, we enter into the space of church, no matter what we are doing as a holy and sacred space. It is where Jesus promised us in Matthew, that where two or three are gathered in my name, I will be there. Jesus did not promise that we would find perfection when we gather in his name. He promised that he would be there.

"Jesus also told the disciples in the Gospel of John that the community at large would know whom he was and is by the way that they loved each other. That again, did not mean, a love without disagreement or conflict. It meant the way they treated each other in the midst of conflict. So, the fellowship of Church of Christ, is the college of Christ and the incubator of love. It is the place that provides the foundation for those who chose to follow and to obey Christ so that they may come into full knowledge of Him. Church offers the foundation for faith, that allows Christians to learn personally about Christ as Albert Schweitzer described above. It is the foundation that encourages us and strengthens us to endure through all our toils and sufferings. Joy in the fellowship of Christ is the beginning and the end. May we enter the coming year of study, mission and worship with open and joyous hearts knowing that Christ is here, now and forever, no matter what."

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: Alfred Wasikye

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

The Well

This week in Godly Play we will study the Parable of the Deep Well. This parable is not a parable of Jesus but has its roots in the traditions of the rabbis. From time to time we wonder what parables really are. The parable of the Deep Well helps us find our own interpretation of what a parable really is. The parable tells the story of a person who crossed the desert and came to a deep well where she took her time to look at the well and to learn how to draw out the refreshing water.

A Joyful Path

Join us today at 10 a.m. during the One Ascension service.

Starting to next week, the members of A Joyful Path will continue studying important world figures and their contributions to all humanity in room 11 during the 9:00 a.m., 11:00 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.

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.

We are grateful to the Kathryn Brooke Trust for the generous gift to Ascension of \$50,000.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Youth Group Schedule Spring 2017

- Today - 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 the first Sunday of every month at 11:15 a.m. 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

Spanish Classes

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. 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

Parker Palmer's *Let Your Life Speak* is the next book in the queue for the Wednesday Morning Book Group. In preparation for next Wednesday's discussion, read through chapter 3. The group meets in the Library from 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Jason's Ordination

Ascension I would like to thank you for a wonderful year with you all. You are a gift.

I also want to let you know what I am doing next. First, we move to Minneapolis in May. I begin work at "The Dignity Center" (a center that works to assist people from homelessness to stability), I will be a pastoral presence there for the summer. I will keep you posted as a more permanent placement develops.

On June 10th I would invite you to join me in person or prayer for my ordination to the transitional diaconate. The service will be held at "Episcopal Church of the Epiphany" (3301 Hidden Meadow Dr. Herndon, VA 20171) at 10:30 a.m. As is our motto: All are welcome.

Blessings to you all from Cecily, Jason, Soren and Henning Cutshall.

Staff Changes

As we move toward a (more) balanced budget we will regrettably discontinue the three chapel musician positions. Sunday, June 4 will be the last Sunday for Howard Hanson, Samuel Munguia, and Eric O'Laughlin. The three services they accompanied faithfully and beautifully for so many years will continue, however. Watch for more announcements about how we will

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" today at 10:00 a.m., 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 SUNDAY - Today at 10 a.m. in the Main Church

This is the first "One Ascension Sunday", when we have one service and celebrate as one community. This is also Youth Sunday, so the Youth Group will be leading a Spanish and English service that showcases the age and linguistic diversity of our community. The 9:00 choir and 11:15 ensemble have been tuning their voices and instruments and will lead us in a musical program that demonstrates the diversity of worship styles at Ascension. Children are always welcome in the sanctuary, but Christian formation will be offered during the service: Godly Play (for children ages 3 through 2nd grade) in Room 6, and Joyful Path (for children in 3rd through 5th grades) in Room 11. The Nursery in Room 2 is ready to welcome infants and children up to age 3.

Please bring the Sunday School's children to the choir room today by 10:15 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

All of this will be followed by a luncheon in the Undercroft, an opportunity to chat with someone new and a time to participate in the 11:00 a.m. community's Children's Day celebration of our youngest members. The luncheon is a potluck and another tasting opportunity for our cookbook project, so please bring your appetites and a dish or two to share. Recipes submitted to the cookbook are especially welcome. Please let Zadinga Ogada (z_zulu@msn.com) know what you plan to bring, so we can be ready for you.

Acolyte Training

At 12:30 p.m, Next 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!

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. The next program is on May 21 at 10:15 a.m.

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 p.m. (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

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 29 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

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.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
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Children's Music Leader - Howard Hanson,
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Chapel Musicians - Eric O'Loughlin, ericsmelody@gmail.com,
Samuel Munguia, pianoconclave@verizon.net

Nursery Attendant—Brenda Alvarez,
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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
The Parish of St. Monica and St. James
St. Philip's Church, Laurel
St. Philip the Evangelist Church
St. Philip's Church, Baden
St. Philip's Child Development Center
National Day of Prayer (May 4)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, MAY 1

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
6:30 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
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

TUESDAY, MAY 2

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
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

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

THURSDAY, MAY 4

4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel

FRIDAY, MAY 5

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

SATURDAY, MAY 6

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

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Preacher: Enid Cole

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. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
11:15 a.m. Family with Young Children Small Group—
Library
12:30 p.m. Acolyte Training—Main Church
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	Apr. 9	Apr. 16	Apr. 23
7:45 a.m.	22	42	21
9:00 a.m.	106	167	85
10:15 a.m.	13		23
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	60	213	28
11:15 am	59		57
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	9	57	—
5:00 p.m.	17		19
Total:	286	479	233