

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Second Sunday of Advent: 10 December A.D. 2017

“Altar in the World”

As I contemplate moving my altar from Ascension’s chancel to a classroom, I find a great deal of guidance in Barbara Brown Taylor’s Altar in the World. I highly recommend it to you. Here are some of my favorite quotes:

“To make bread or love, to dig in the earth, to feed an animal or cook for a stranger—these activities require no extensive commentary, no lucid theology. All they require is someone willing to bend, reach, chop, stir. Most of these tasks are so full of pleasure that there is no need to complicate things by calling them holy. And yet these are the same activities that change lives, sometimes all at once and sometimes more slowly, the way dripping water changes stone. In a world where faith is often construed as a way of thinking, bodily practices remind the willing that faith is a way of life.”

“People encounter God under shady oak trees, on riverbanks, at the tops of mountains, and in long stretches of barren wilderness. God shows up in whirlwinds, starry skies, burning bushes, and perfect strangers. When people want to know more about God, the son of God tells them to pay attention to the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, to women kneading bread and workers lining up for their pay. Whoever wrote this stuff believed that people could learn as much about the ways of God from paying attention to the world as they could from paying attention to scripture. What is true is what happens, even if what happens is not always right. People can learn as much about the ways of God from business deals gone bad or sparrows falling to the ground as they can from reciting the books of the Bible in order. They can learn as much from a love affair or a wildflower as they can from knowing the Ten Commandments by heart.”

“No one longs for what he or she already has, and yet the accumulated insight of those wise about the spiritual life suggests that the reason so many of us cannot see the red X that marks the spot is because we are standing on it. The treasure we seek requires no lengthy expedition, no expensive equipment, no superior aptitude or special company. All we lack is the willingness to imagine that we already have everything we need. The only thing missing is our consent to be where we are.”

“What is saving my life now is the conviction that there is no spiritual treasure to be found apart from the bodily experiences of human life on earth. My life depends on engaging the most ordinary physical activities with the most exquisite attention I can give them. My life depends on ignoring all touted distinctions between the secular and the sacred, the physical and the spiritual, the body and the soul. What is saving my life now is becoming more fully human, trusting that there is no way to God apart from real life in the real world.”

Peace, Randy

Christmas Service Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with the 11:15 Ensemble: Main Church

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist for Families and Children: Main Church

7:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist with the Great Choir of Ascension: Main Church

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish: Chapel

9:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist with the Great Choir of Ascension: Main Church

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Organ and Ensemble: Main Church

The First Sunday After Christmas, Sunday, December 31—“One Ascension Sunday”

10:00 a.m. Bilingual Lessons & Carols: Main Church

*There will be no Christian Formation on Sunday,
December 24 or December 31.*

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.

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

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.

There will be no Tai Chi on December 21st and 28th. We will resume in January. 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

We are now in the Advent season. The Godly Play Advent lessons help us prepare for the Mystery of Christmas. We move toward Bethlehem, guided by the pointing prophets, with the Holy Family, the shepherds and the Magi. We arrive at the birth of Jesus and the lighting of the Christ Candle in the church. This week's presentation focuses on the Shepherds.

Joyful Path

Members of A Joyful Path will be learning that the whole world is home and we are a divine family.. We use the following passage from Galatians to start: *"Galatians 3:26-28 - For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."*

A craft project and a great seasonal story will complete our lesson for the day, Please come and join us in Room 11 downstairs after the 9:00 a.m. service. See you there.

Spanish Class

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

Thursday Morning Yoga

It will be on hiatus for the season and will resume at 10:00 a.m. on January 11, 2018.

90 Minutes of Advent Mindfulness

Join Randy next Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel for some gentle yoga, followed by an hour of instruction and practice of "Centering Prayer," a form of Christian meditation. if you want to do the meditation alone it will be in the Library from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Lady of Guadalupe Day

Join us on Saturday, December 16th to celebrate the Lady of Guadalupe Day at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Church. After the service we will have a Mariachi Band to sing "Las Mañanitas" to the Virgin. If you want to experience more about the Latino Traditions, this would be a great opportunity to do it. After the service we would continue the celebration in the Undercroft with more Mariachi songs and Latin-American food.

Master the Calendar!

Did you know that Ascension keeps a master calendar, managed by our Parish Administrator Lin Keene, that organizes and displays all uses of all our space all the time? It's true. As you and your group decide to meet, reach out to Lin or check the calendar on the website to find a room you can use on the date you prefer. To book the room, contact Lin by phone: 301-948-0122 or by e-mail: office@ascensionmd.org. and she will add you to the calendar. If there's a conflict, she will let you know and help you find an alternative space, day, or time.

It makes meeting easy. If you have any questions, please contact Lin.

Thanks all,
Betsy Hasegawa

One Ascension Sunday—December 31st

One Ascension Sunday is fast approaching. We are going to celebrate the end of one year and the start of another. Please join us after the service and bring a dish to share. The main course will be spiral cut ham. We need side dishes such as mac and cheese, potatoes, green beans, salads, desserts or your favorite dish. Please plan on joining in on the fun. A clipboard will again be passed around in the church so that we can have a rough idea of who is coming and what people are bringing.

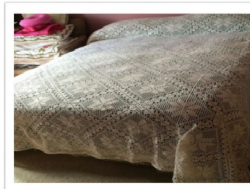
Janet King, for the Parish Life Committee

Ascension Youth Group Holiday Party—Today!!

It will be at Rockin Jump from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will jump from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm and then pizza will be served. For Youth who do not want to jump-please consider coming at least for the dinner and fellowship. The cost is \$20.

We will be collecting NEW Winter hats, gloves, scarves, and coats for the youth at St. James. Even if you can not come to the party please consider donating these items for mailing on December 18th.

Raffle



Crochet Queen Size Bed Cover

Donation will be used for the sound equipment for the Chapel.

Handmade and donated by Maria Estela Rodriguez

Tickets \$10

Raffle ends on Dec 16, 2017 - drawing will be done after the Virgin de Guadalupe celebration on December 16, 2017.

If you want a ticket, please ask Berenice or Javier. Berenice 240-281-3736
or berenice.rodriguez.84@gmail.com /
ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

Blessing of the Cars

As we celebrate the beginning of the Christian year we pray that God be with us wherever we go. For that reason we will have the blessing of the cars today after the 11:00 a.m. services in the parking lot. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.

Pledge

The Pledge Campaign has been extended into December 2017 to reach all congregation members who have not yet pledged for funding year 2018. For tax planning purposes, please be aware that the last day to fulfill a 2017 pledge commitment or to make a donation/gift for calendar year 2017 will be Tuesday, December 26h, 2017.

Epiphany Pageant - The King's Birthday

Wanted - Participants young and old; for speaking and non-speaking parts in our Epiphany Pageant. Needed-Assistant Director(s), Piano Accompanist, Greeter, 4 Narrators, Innkeeper, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Inn Workers, Stars, Angels, Kings, and Stable Animals. We have the scripts and the costumes we just need you. The pageant will tentatively be on Sunday January 7th. at the 5:00 p.m. service. Rehearsals on Saturday December 23, 30th and January 6th. from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Please contact Gordon Donnelly. I sing in the choir at 9:00 a.m., teach in Room 11 at 10:15 a.m., in the instrumental ensemble for the 11:15 a.m. My e-mail is vagordon1@yahoo.com

Thanks, Gordon

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 is December 17 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>.

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

Mobile Med

Every Tuesday, Mobile Med will be open for the service until 3:00 p.m. If there are questions, contact us at spangle1@comcast.net or 240.372.3652.

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, December 23 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 05, 2017

102 Pledges for a total of \$261,016

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◆ Ron & Jan Hauber | ◆ Fran Spina | ◆ Robert & Linda Waters | ◆ Swithin & Ama Kwamena-Poh |
| ◆ Mary H Waldron | ◆ Sari Stoddard | ◆ Russell E Weber | ◆ Melanie Mitchell |
| ◆ Jake & Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro | ◆ John & Kelly Ten Hagen | ◆ Natalie Lois Wilson | ◆ Claire Rosser |
| ◆ Christopher & Susan Ahalt | ◆ Thomas & Dorothy Thiele | ◆ Fe Wlotzko | ◆ Beverly Stennett |
| ◆ James & Antoinette Babcock | ◆ Paul Whitmore | ◆ Sarah Gallagher | ◆ Esther & Robert Taylor |
| ◆ Roy Bevington & Connie Finch | ◆ William & Delores Finister | ◆ Kristen Keating | ◆ Anne Brink |
| ◆ Levin B Broughton | ◆ Betty Knight | ◆ Lauren Kingsland | ◆ Monica Koenig Caphart |
| ◆ Jennie B Cargill | ◆ Luis Pedron & Ruth Skowronski | ◆ Carleton MacDonald | ◆ Andrew & Venice Greene |
| ◆ Nancy Carman | ◆ Monteath Petersen | ◆ Arturo & Maria Rodriguez | ◆ Pete & Ellen Minderman |
| ◆ Jemima Carr | ◆ Hallie Porter | ◆ David & Stephanie Mitchell | ◆ Ceda & Zadinga Ogada |
| ◆ Raymond & Doris Chin | ◆ Lavina & Stewart Williams | ◆ Frank & Leslie Sanya | ◆ Esther & Archie Sawyer |
| ◆ Don & Jean Cohn | ◆ Rose Buck | ◆ Florence Sasu | ◆ Lovetta F Willie |
| ◆ Wadia Dennis | ◆ Phyllis Eddy & Joseph Defenbaugh | ◆ Michelle Wood & Steve Heinig | ◆ Martha Page Beach |
| ◆ Margaret Donnellon | ◆ Gordon L Donnelly | ◆ Alice Benson | ◆ James A Black |
| ◆ Elaine T Dunn-Johnson | ◆ Lisa Murdock & Herald Douglas | ◆ Georgana Maines | ◆ Mary (Kay) & Clay Kolle |
| ◆ Betsy Hasegawa | ◆ Thomas Hall + FRF | ◆ Johnetta Mars-Gibson | ◆ Donald & Martha Marks |
| ◆ Meredith Louise Horan | ◆ Howard & Margaret Holland | ◆ Laurie Yelle | ◆ Dotty & Jerry Pfadenhauer |
| ◆ Janet King + FRF | ◆ Curt Lindsay | ◆ Arturo & Maria Rodriguez | ◆ John Pruessner |
| ◆ Avin & Anika Lalmansingh | ◆ M Mackert | ◆ Francisco Balicao | ◆ Esther Tellu |
| ◆ Elizabeth Lennon | ◆ Cynthia Perley | ◆ Sciou & Jacob Broderick | ◆ Margaret Tellu |
| ◆ Gary & Susan McLaughlin | ◆ Bernice Rodriguez | ◆ Enid Cole | ◆ Isaac & Josephine Clarke |
| ◆ Janet M Rhoads | ◆ Maria E Rodriguez | ◆ Kirk Davies | ◆ Gina Fera |
| ◆ Peggy Ruppel | ◆ Chris & Rachel Ruggeri | ◆ Charles Ofori Dickson | ◆ Tom & Denise Lionetti |
| ◆ Laura Shay | ◆ Richard & Susan Snay | ◆ Kathleen Foley | ◆ Winsome J Palmer |
| ◆ Gerlinda Somerville + FRF | ◆ Escobar Vergel | ◆ Ronald & Sharon Hayden | ◆ Algernon Thomas |
| | | ◆ Adeline Hedd-Williams | ◆ Bendu B Toe |
| | | ◆ Suzanne E Hood | |

CONTACT US

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

- ◆ 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
mebudde@edow.org, 202.537.6550

Rector - (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson
ral@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

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, 301.540.4499
mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com
and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

Nursery Attendant—Brenda Alvarez,
brendaalvarezduque@hotmail.com

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
Episcopal Church Women
Memorial Scholarship of the Episcopal Church Women
United Thank Offering
Bishop John Bryson Chane Scholarship for Social Justice

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, December 11

- 11:30 a.m. Living with a Chronic Illness—Room 1
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library

Tuesday, December 12

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
- 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, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

- 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
- 7:30 p.m. Zumba—Undercroft

Friday, December 15

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

Saturday, December 16

- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 5:00 p.m. Virgen de Guadalupe - Undercroft

Sunday, December 17

Preacher: Tina Lightner

- 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 10
- 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
- 1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Undercroft
- 1:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting—Room 1

5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel

Attendance	November 19	November 26	December 3
7:45 a.m.	35	25	30
9:00 a.m.	76	71	87
10:15 a.m.	10	9	9
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	53	36	43
11:15 am	69	36	42
5:00 p.m.	8	5	12
Total:	251	187	223