

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Letter to the Parish: Facilities Reserve Fund

2018 was an important time for Ascension, for both people and our buildings itself. I think it is fair to say that people here have witnessed a renewal of energy and spirit, and what a blessing it has been. As for our buildings, they need renewal too and I'd like to communicate what is being done and the general costs involved.

The Facilities Reserve Fund was established in late 2016 after facilities expenses hit us hard. The purpose of the fund was to have money put aside just for the sometimes urgent needs of a large, 40 year old, lovely and meaningful building. Thank you all for supporting that fund and continuing your pledged contributions to it.

As a result of those contributions we are now able to address some pressing issues. The Ascension Facilities Committee led by Ted Bedell, along with John Pruessner, Luis Pedrón, Ed Neal, Chris Ruggeri and Florence Chukwurah (thank you, all) did a lot of work behind the scenes to examine, evaluate, prioritize, gather estimates, and then make strong recommendations to the Vestry on what to do.

The biggest expense is replacing the flat sections of the roof. This is a very high priority because of the incredible leaks showing up in the front hallway, but in other areas as well. This work has begun and explains the dumpster in the side parking lot. The climate control in the undercroft and other areas will get new equipment to become efficient and functional. Together these projects run approximately \$40,000. The climate control in the chapel will be addressed in the spring; thanks especially to Gordon Donnelly and Luis Pedrón for emptying dehumidifiers in there on a daily basis.

A more visible need is the kitchen and much work has been done. After awaited inspections, our kitchen will be usable and odor-free! Thank you to Berenice Rodriguez, Luis Pedrón, Jose Luis and Lucelia Rodriguez, Melissa Bruno, Jesse and Jason Velazquez, Julio and Ivan Flores, Nora Campo, and Gary McLaughlin for all your help.

Other projects include regulatory issues including fire extinguisher inspections, the fire alarm system, and exit lighting throughout the church. Finally, none of this would get done without the attention of our Parish Administrator, Lin Keene. Thank you, Lin for your detail-oriented organization.

As always, bring your questions, comments and suggestions to a Vestry or Facilities Committee member.

Merry Christmas!

With much gratitude for you all,

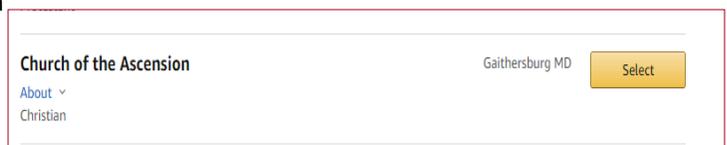
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The screenshot shows a search result for "Church of the Ascension" in Gaithersburg MD. The text "Church of the Ascension" is displayed in a blue font, with "Gaithersburg MD" in a smaller grey font to its right. Below the main text, there are two links: "About" with a downward arrow and "Christian". To the right of the search results is a yellow "Select" button.

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 "Represent Jesus Christ wherever we may be." We welcome you to our church family and invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: The Rev. Javier García

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of peace for parents and a beginners Sunday School is available in Room 4.
Please feel free to bring your child.

One Ascension Sunday



Today is One Ascension Sunday, where we all join together as one. We will celebrate the end of one year and the start of another with a single service at 10 a.m. followed by a celebratory meal. Please join us after the service.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The members of A Joyful Path are making discoveries about Vietnamese peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh. He believed sharing his beliefs in practicing inner peace and mindfulness would bring peace to others and the world. Come join us in Room 2 during the 10 a.m. service.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.— *(this class will resume in 2 weeks)*

Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s. The members of A Joyful Path are learning how to concentrate our energy. We use memory games and our story of the week. Come join us in Room 2 during the 12noon service.

Godly Play

At the 10:00 a.m. service, members of Godly Play meet in room 4, the "place of peace"

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is discussing the book, "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humanity", by Yuval Noah Harari. This book explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be human. Our next meeting will be in Ascension's library at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 9th. All are welcome to participate. Please read Chapters 13 and 14 for this meeting.

Spanish Class

Spanish Classes will restart after January 21st. Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 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 Fr. Javier at ocampoj@ascensionmd.org.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 6, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is 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 is 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.

What? No Angels?

It is again the holiday season and time to think about the Epiphany Pageant. Epiphany is Sunday, January 6th and the pageant will be presented at 1:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The pageant this year (new) is titled "What? No Angels?" The story is about a flamboyant TV producer who returns home to produce a flashy Christmas pageant and show off how talented s/he is. The members of the cast teach the producer things that are more important. There are parts for ages 3 and up. There are 12 speaking parts that include Lisa, a young girl; Paula/Paul Powers, a top NY TV executive; a character named Trouble; a church pastor; Mary and Joseph; shepherds; 3 wise folk; stable animals; and angels.

Rehearsal reminder: Important! Full rehearsal is on Saturday, January 5th from 10 a.m. to noon in room 2. Plan to be there. A final rehearsal will be held on Sunday, January 6 at 10:30. Contact is Gordon Donnelly at vagordon1@yahoo.com and 571-275-6637. See you there!

Send Your Photos!

Have you taken pictures of any events held here at Ascension? Please share them with us! We are compiling a collection of photos taken throughout 2018 for a digital Album. We will continue collecting photos throughout the coming years. Email your photos to office@ascensionmd.org.

Ascension's Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will remain in the Narthex through Sunday, January 6, in support of the wonderful work done by Comfort Cases, Inc. The organization provides support and dignity to all children entering a foster home. To participate, take a paper card from the Giving Tree box. Each one consists of two cards, color-coded by age group and item. Separate the cards, hang one on the tree and take the other card with you as a reminder of what to purchase. When you have purchased your item, place the unwrapped item in the collection box located in the Narthex. The tree is already covered with many brightly colored cards from gifts already received, but there are more cards still in the box. If you have any questions, contact Sue or Richard Snay at 301-977-5259 or email subarsy@aol.com.

Coffee Supplies

During one of my Colleague Group meetings, I shared with the others the success of our coffee hour at Ascension. We have had an average of 50 to 60 people per Sunday. In light of the popularity of the coffee hour, I am asking people to volunteer to bring coffee cups, dessert plates, and cream for coffee. Please bring your donation on Sunday or during the week during office hours. Thank you! Padre Javier

Baptism Day is January 13th

Are you interested in receiving the Sacrament of Baptism for yourself or for your baby or other family members young or old? Speak with Fr. Javier during coffee hour, or contact him at the office at 301-948-0122.

Three Kings Day (Dia de los Reyes) is January 6th

Everyone is invited for this special gathering after the 12 o'clock service on January 6th. Traditional treats will be served including the King's cake which contains tiny figures of the baby Jesus. Tradition says that anyone who gets a slice with the baby Jesus inside must bring food to the next big celebration! That will be Candlemas (Dia de la Candelaria), which we will observe on Sunday, February 3rd after the 12 o'clock service.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 26, 2018

119 pledges for a total of \$277,300.00, plus 9 Facilities Reserve Fund donations of \$5,848.00, and 1 Music Ministry donation of \$500.00 have been received to date.

Thanks to those below who pledged last week to the annual giving campaign:

- ◆ 1. Mardia Dennis
- ◆ 2. Andrew Kullberg
- ◆ 3. Jesse Velazquez

Men's Shelter Lunch Program



The Men's Shelter lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men. Lunches are assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Generous Ascension members donate the supplies. Depending on the season, we provide 40 to 80 lunches each month. The next program is January 20th at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/>

Ministerio Felicidad



Once a month, Ascension members prepare lunches and send love and prayers to day laborers in the neighborhood of the church. Join Fr. Javier at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 26 in the church kitchen. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

Montgomery Hospice

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. They provide professional end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities, and at Casey House, their acute care facility. They are looking for new volunteers. The 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.

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<http://bit.ly/2sYC8UV>



<http://bit.ly/2tC0Ysa>



<http://bit.ly/2paseJO>

CONTACT US

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

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Fr. Javier's cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a prayer request card (pink or yellow, on the table in the narthex) or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

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

Priest in Charge —The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

Pastoral Associate—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand
hildebrandnan@gmail.com, voice mailbox 13

Deacon—Eugene Wright

Minister of Music—Andrew Kullberg
music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Media Specialists—John Pruessner and Jesse Velazquez
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Sari Stoddard *sari.stoddard@verizon.net*;
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: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2019: Rose Buck, Janet King, John Pruessner
2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters,
Susan McLaughlin
Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi
Christian Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker
Facilities: Ted Bedell & John Pruessner
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: Fredy Diaz

Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with ours:
St. John's Church, Georgetown
St. John's Preschool, Georgetown
St. John's Church, Lafayette Square
St. John's Church, Norwood
St. John's Church, Olney
St. John's Episcopal School, Olney

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, December 31, 2018

OFFICE CLOSED

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

OFFICE CLOSED

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, January 3, 2019

7:00 p.m. Al-Anon-Room 1

Friday, January 4, 2019

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program-Library

Saturday, January 5, 2019

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, January 6, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas —Chapel
10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3 year olds & under — Room 4
10:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
10:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 2
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Spanish—Main Church

Attendance	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 25
8:00 am	30	30	37	5:00 pm: 70	
10:00 am	111	113	137	9:00 pm: 135	41
12:00 pm	50	65	39		
Total:	190	208	213	205	41