

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany : February 10, A.D. 2019

Time to Prepare for the Annual Meeting on March 10, 2019

When Javier and I were talking about preparing for the Annual Meeting, I realized I was engaging as if I knew nothing about Church of the Ascension's Annual Meeting Process. In fact, I was correct. So, we did a little research to discover that last year, we had no official Annual Meeting. If you do not remember last year's Annual Meeting, like myself "you have a darn good reason". Comedian Steve Martin used to twist those words around for someone caught with their hands in the cookie jar. He got the phrase from Cab Calloway's 1930 recording of "I have a darn good reason for being happy now". And, so do we. Visit U-tube and listen to the song. It is delightful.

Our darn good reason that there was no Annual Meeting last year was that all of our community meetings last year were about our transition. We are happy now that we are now past our year + of transition and have entered into the joy of more normal operations. We can have our Annual meeting. Our spirits are high, our spiritual lives are fruitful and our ministries are going well. We are now settled into a phase of enjoying some routine, but also attending to those things which need attention and leaving alone what is not broken.

So here are: Operational and Ministry reports are on their way to you, so that you can study them, write down questions about your concerns and offer strategic input at the Annual Meeting on March 10th. There will be one service at 10am. The Vestry will be hosting the coffee hour. All I care about is those glazed doughnuts. Thank you very much. Appointments will be announced for the Vestry and delegates to The Diocesan Convention. New vestry members will be sworn in. There will be an open mic for you to give your input on the "state of the church", to ask questions from the operational and ministry reports and to hear from Fr. Javier, the Vestry and the Ministry Chairs and our Music Director. We hope that the early information we send you will inspire a creative and meaningful discussion about the direction of our marvelous church community.

Now, a final word about the seriousness of Church Annual Meetings. We are a democratic polity. Each of us is important to the wellbeing of the church. All of us financially support the church as best we can. All of us give our time and energy to operationalizing our ministries. The Society of Friends lays out the importance of the congregation's participation in the business and ministries of the church by referring to business meetings as meetings for worship. Business is a sacramental activity. We conduct our business in daylight; we conduct our business democratically with strong leadership; we pray every step of the way. Prayerful participation by a full congregation is the key to a strong church. We prayerfully invite and encourage you strongly to attend. May God bless the way we do business and the business of the church. God cares for us and guides us!

Blessings,
Rev. Nan Hildebrand

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: Peggy Ruppel

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.**

Simon is caught by surprise. In the midst of his ordinary daily grind, and in fact, after a particularly lousy night at work, he is encountered by one who changes everything. Amazed by the power of God displayed in the abundant catch of fish, Simon is immediately aware of his sinfulness and unworthiness. He sees the overwhelming disparity between God's power manifest in Jesus and his own mortal, compromised life.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

The 10:00 Joyful path will learn about Mildred Norman Ryder who answered Jesus's call to leave family and friends and follow him by becoming a "peace Pilgrim". She walked across the United States several times in the 1950's, 60's and 70's teaching people about peace. For this service, all children will meet in the place of peace located in room 4 each week, and then separate by age groups.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

Feb. 10 Touching the Moon We will take on the topic of humility. Read a story about a King who wanted to Touch the Moon. And discover God can do great and small things through each of us.

Godly Play

The Parable of the Sower and the Parable of the Leaven. The Parable of the Sower, which is found in all three synoptic gospels, describes Jesus' promise of abundant harvest. Come and join us!

For the 10:00 service, all children will meet in the place of peace located in room 4 each week, and then separate by age groups.

Spanish Class

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 ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

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". We meet weekly at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library on Wednesdays. All are welcome to participate. Please read Chapter 18 for this coming Wednesday.

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.

Envelopes are ready for pickup.

Please find your envelopes located in the Narthex

Ash Wednesday is March 06

We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and offer the Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The evening service will be bilingual. The Labyrinth will be available for meditation in the Chapel from 10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. "Ashes to Go" will be offered again this year for morning commuters at the Shady Grove Metro Station between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. We need volunteers to come and help with prayers and administering the Ashes.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

This fun annual event will be held on Tuesday, March 05, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Undercroft Commons. Come join us to celebrate Mardi Gras, Carnival, Fat Tuesday or Martes Gordo...or a good excuse to have pancakes and sausage! This fun event needs lots of helpers AND lots of attendees, 'the more, the merrier!' If you have an instrument you would like to play or if you have a fun activity or games, contact Padre Javier at frjavier@ascensionmd.org or Andrew at music@ascensionmd.org.

Kitchen is now open

Some rules to follow:

- Keep all surfaces clean and clear after use.
- Do not leave any dirty dishes in the sink.
- Any food left in the fridge must have a date on in and will be thrown away after three (3) days of date.

If it isn't dated it will be thrown away immediately.

- Someone with a Food Handler's certificate must be present when food is being prepared and/or served.

- Please use gloves when serving.

If you have taken the Food Handler's course, would you please give a copy of your certificate to the office to be filed, thank you.

Annual Meeting

Our annual parish meeting will take place at 11:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 10 in the Parish Hall. We'll begin with a potluck lunch. Our primary business will be to elect new Vestry members and to have a time for shared reflection on the ministry and mission of Ascension. The Vestry candidates will be available for dialog on the preceding Sunday after the each service in the Parish Hall.

Immigration Consultations

Lucelia R. Justiniano worked at several immigration law firms as a law clerk assisting clients in removal defense cases and family-based applications before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Lucelia interned at the Executive Office of Immigration Review in Baltimore, Maryland drafting decisions for three of the immigration judges. She also interned at the Board of Immigration Appeals in Falls Church, Virginia where she worked alongside Board Attorney Advisors in drafting Board decisions. She has been part of Ascension for a long time. She is exceptionally dedicated to giving back to the community. Now, she is offering immigration consultations every first Sunday of the month. If you have question or know anybody who would need some legal advice she will be at the Library on February 03, from 10:30 to 11:45 AM Contact Lucelia Justiniano at lucelia@jezicfirm.com or Cell phone (240)565-5590

Midweek Eucharistic Service

During Lent, we will have a Holy Eucharist in the Chapel every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. It would be a Contemplative Eucharist featuring alternative Eucharistic prayers, Taizé music and from a variety of sources. During these services we will have conversations about some of the important and famous women in the Bible. If you have questions feel free to contact Padre Javier at frjavier@asceionmd.org

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. Money contributions are also welcome. Thank you! Padre Javier.

One Ascension Sunday

On March 31, 2019 the Youth group will be leading the One Ascension Sunday. There will be one service for everyone at 10:00am. This will be followed by a luncheon in the undercroft. All are asked to bring a favorite salad, some fruit, or a dessert for all to share. Come one, come all, to enjoy the Youth group's One Ascension Sunday.

Classical Violin Concert at Ascension

Come enjoy a free classical violin concert in the main church on Sunday, March 10, at 2:00 p.m. The musician is Vijeta Sathyaraj (PRONOUNCED Vee-Jet-Ah Sah-Tah-Rahj), a violinist in the National Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Sathyaraj is a highly accomplished performer who has given solo recitals in Denmark, India, Hong Kong, and the United States. A reception will follow the concert.

This concert is a gift from Julie Yelle to Ascension in honor of the 75th birthday of her mother, Laurie Yelle. Ms. Sathyaraj donated the concert as a silent auction item for the Family & Youth Initiative, a Washington DC nonprofit organization that creates community and lasting relationships for teen and young adults in foster care.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF FEBRUARY 7, 2019

152 pledges for a total of \$355,240.00, as well as 11 Facilities Reserve Fund donations of \$7,648.00, and one Music Ministry donation of \$500.00 have been received to date. Thanks to those below who pledged last week to the annual giving campaign:

- Jack & Mary Rouse
- Claudia Ruiz

2019 Lenten Rice Bowl Recipient

A Lenten tradition since the tenure of Rector Harry Dalzell (1970-1980), your offering, placed in the wooden bowl in the font as you come forward for Communion, goes toward an outreach ministry. Typically, we alternate between local and domestic or international causes.

Vestry Candidates Forum

We have a complete slate of three excellent candidates for next year's Vestry class. Please join us Sunday, March 3rd for a Vestry Candidate Forum after each service.

Ascension's Room 2 Renovation

Dear members of Ascension,
My name is Matthew Watson. I am a Boy Scout in Troop 207 in Gaithersburg. I am currently working on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting. For my service project, I will be renovating Ascension's Room 2 (also known as the Classroom) in March with brand new wooden shelving, building new cubby storage units, and painting the walls. I am seeking donations to pay for my supplies for the renovation. Your donation can help make Ascension's Room 2 a more calm, warm, and welcoming environment for both youths and adults. Thank you for your consideration and have a blessed day!

Sincerely, Matthew Watson

2018 Contribution Statements

New contribution statements were mailed out on Thursday, February 7, 2019. We apologize for any confusion due to the statements mailed on February 1, 2019. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we corrected the statements. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Lin at office@ascensionmd.org or call 301-948-0122.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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, February 23 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.

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 February 17th at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help.

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
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Deacon—Eugene Wright
Minister of Music—Andrew Kullberg
music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11
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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
Christian Formation for Adults: Peg Ruppel
Facilities: Ted Bedell & John Pruessner
Finance: Avin Lalmansingh
Mission: Paul Boynton
Pastoral Care: The Rev. Javier Garcia
The Rev. 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:

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
World Mission Sunday
Diocesan Commission on Ministry
All Seminaries, Seminarians, and Seminary Professors;
Postulants and Candidates
Pray in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Absalom
Jones (February 13)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, February 11, 2019

- 11:30 a.m. Living with a Chronic Illness—Room 1
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class- AH
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
- 6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Spanish Bible Study—Library
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. Book Club- Library
- 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, February 14, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Room 6
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1

Friday, February 15, 2019

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

Saturday, February 16, 2019

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

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Eugene

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
- 9:00 a.m. Mens Shelter Lunches
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist —Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas —Chapel
- 10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3 year old's & 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
- 12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical para Niñ@s- Room 2
- 12:30 p.m. Pastoral Care—Library
- 1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam Chapple

Attendance	Jan. 20	Jan 27	Feb. 3
8:00 am	32	37	34
10:00 am	111	130	116
12:00 pm	73	32	55
Total:	216	199	205