

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Jesus in Nazareth: February 3, A.D. 2019

The Episcopal Convention(s)

Last week, some of you heard a very brief description of the proceedings of the 124th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Washington. I don't think this has been much discussed in the past, because there seems to be little awareness of the purpose of these assemblies, or the sort of issues they typically address. In fact, as I talked with people afterward, it seems that few parishioners really understand how the Episcopal Church is organized and governed. Perhaps some of this is my fault, since so many in my family were involved in the church that the intricacies of theology, policies, and procedures were part of our daily lives. The geography has changed for me, but not the Church.

It is impossible to condense five centuries of Episcopal history into a simple paragraph; any more than a sentence or two can give you a sense of the importance of our participation in the Annual Diocesan Convention. What I think you want to know is that The Episcopal Church (TEC) is governed according to its own system of canon law. The Church is organized into dioceses led by bishops in consultation with representative bodies. Each diocese meets annually to consider legislation (such as revisions to the canons, or diocesan constitution). The language in these resolutions are typically quite dense, as they have been crafted by committees composed heavily of lawyers striving over several years to get the statement exactly right. Other resolutions arise from single congregations or groups of Episcopalians who believe passionately in a particular matter that they wish to expose to a large deliberative body.

Consequently, from the Committee on the Constitution and Canons there were three amendments to the canons, to bring things into conformity with the Constitution. Secondly there was language to delete a reference to a particular position on the Diocesan Council. Thirdly, the canons proposed to reassign St. Barnabas' Church of the Deaf from one Montgomery County region to another. All three resolutions passed. In addition, there were three resolutions were brought up for consideration by the convention last week.

Resolution #1 On Creation Care

This resolution is intended to encourage all church-related organizations within the Diocese of Washington to recognize in their worship and prayer the biblical mandate to care for God's creation.

Resolution #2 Toward full Communion with the United Methodist Church

In 2018, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church formally approved a report made by the Episcopal Church-United Methodist Dialogue. The resolution encourages prayerful consideration by all Episcopalians of this step forward.

Resolution # 3 On Responsible Governance and Politics

This resolution exhorts the U.S. Congress and the current administration to pay the wages of furloughed employees as quickly as possible.

All three resolutions passed. Resolution #2 provoked spirited, but respectful discussion.

As opposed to local conventions like ours, the General Convention is held every three years. The power of the General Convention is not limited by the individual dioceses, though there is consideration for their concerns. In this way, it has the characteristics of a confederation. The next General Convention is scheduled for July, 2021, in Baltimore, Md.

Being a delegate to the Annual Diocesan Convention is a serious, important duty. Understanding the issues, as well as their history, really requires a multi-year commitment in order to be effective.

Javier

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. Nan Hildebrand

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.

Jesus in Nazareth

Some turned against Jesus, the one who spoke gracious words, or the one who spoke challenging words, and a mixture. He was liked and not liked. There were people who were very religious and liked him, who were the backbone of Judaism, and others who went off him when he said what they didn't like or agree with. He started with the Scripture - but then went on to point out bits of the scripture they didn't like to hear - about foreigners. And later they would say - sure we knew him

Día de la Candelaria

Today is a religious holiday known as Día de la Candelaria (or Candlemas in English). Throughout Mexico on this date, people dress up figures of the Christ Child in special outfits and take them to the church to be blessed, and they also get together with family and friends to eat tamales, as a continuation of the festivities of Three Kings' Day on January 6. Come and join us to celebrate

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.

Escuela Dominical Para Nin@s. The members of A Joyful Path at 12:00 are learning how to concentrate energy. We use memory games and the story of the week. Come join us in room 2 during the noon service.

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we study the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which Jesus tells in answer to the question of how to inherit eternal life. Though the story we remember that everyone is a neighbor, and, more over, that the Kingdom of God consist of action not, just talk. 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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

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 17 for this coming Wednesday.

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

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.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 29, 2019

150 pledges for a total of \$352,380.00 , 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:

- Anne Brink
- Lucia Pires

We have Gone Digital

In this day and age we must keep up with technology. We have updated Servant Keeper (Ascension's database) to allow parishioners to update their own information on the church's database. The link below will allow you to access it by entering your email address and creating a password. You will be able to upload your own photo, update your current information, and also view your contributions and print your own statements. Of course those who wish us to provide them with their statements, we will be happy to do so. You will be able to share your interests or would like to serve. If you have any difficulties logging in, please contact Lin Keene at office@ascensionmd.org

<https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ECOTA/registration/email>

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.

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 Garcia 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

Communications —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

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:

St. Timothy's Parish, DC

St. Timothy's Child Development Center, DC

Episcopal Relief and Development

Theological Education Sunday

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, February 4, 2019

- 9:00 a.m. ECD Board—Room 1
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class- AH
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

- 9:00 a.m. ECD Board-Room1
- 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 6, 2019

- 9:00 a.m. ECD Board-Room1
- 10:00 a.m. Book Club- Library
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:30 p.m. Worship Committee—Library
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, February 7, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Room 6
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1

Friday, February 8, 2019

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, February 9, 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, February 10, 2019

Preacher: Peggy Ruppel

- 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 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 Niños- Room 2
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Undercroft

Attendance	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan 27
8:00 am	5	32	37
10:00 am	11	111	130
12:00 pm		73	32
Total:	16	216	199