

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany : 28 January A.D. 2018

Frederick Buechner

Quote of the Day



Apologists

C.S. LEWIS once said something to the effect that no Christian doctrine ever looked so threadbare to him as when he had just finished successfully defending it. The reason is not hard to find.

In order to defend the faith successfully—which is the business of apologists—they need to reduce it to a defensible size. It is easier to hold a fortress against the enemy than to hold a landscape. They try to make each doctrine as it comes along sound as logical and plausible as they can. The trouble, of course, is that by and large logic and plausibility are not the heart of the matter, and therefore apologists are apt to end up proclaiming a faith that may be quite persuasive on paper, but is difficult to imagine either them or anyone else getting very excited about.

The other danger is that apologists put so much effort into what they do that they may end up not so much defending the faith because they believe it is true as believing the faith is true because they have worked so hard and long to defend it.

- Originally published in *Whistling in the Dark* and later in *Beyond Words*

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: Tina Lightner

We welcome Tina to Ascension's pulpit today. She describes herself as a "grateful pastoral psychotherapist, yogi, herbalist, wife, mother, and follower of Jesus - the One whom I am helplessly in love - that continues, defying all logic, to relentlessly pursue me."

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of refuge for parents with restless children is available all morning in the Main Building, in Room 4.

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.

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.

Children's Formation

The members of A Joyful Path will explore the meaning of being of service to others. I John 3:18 "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Also the meaning of this Mexican proverb: "A good deed is the best prayer." Come and join us in Room 2 after the 9:00 a.m. service (10:15).

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 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 ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Thursday Morning Yoga

Randy's yoga class is every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Chapel. 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.

New Book for Wednesday Morning: *Is Christ God?*

We will begin study and discussion of Michael Morwood's book *Is Christ God? Finding Our Faith From Amazon*: "In the new millennium, the most central question is how to understand God and Jesus. This book is an invitation to Christians—and non-Christians—to challenge their inherited notions of how and why Jesus is to be thought of as divine." You can order the book by following this link: <http://amzn.to/2CRGzCs>. Read chapters 3 and 4 for this week's discussion.

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. Through the story we remember that everyone is a neighbor, and, moreover, that the Kingdom of God consists of action, not just talk.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Parish Town Hall Meeting a 10:15 on Sunday, February 4

Meet with Randy and Vestry members for updates and a Q&A session about Ascension's transition.

February 13 is Shrove Tuesday!

That's right, Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year! We need a team of people to organize this annual event. Sign the clipboard Randy will be passing around in church if you want to be part of creating this fun event!

Palm Sunday is a 1A Sunday!

There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. Afterward will be Randy's farewell celebration. Save the date: March 25.

Ascension Youth Group

Just a reminder we have Youth Group today at 6 pm. Please come and participate in the food, formation and fun!! Also we need to select the best Sunday for Youth Sunday this Spring. To do so we really need to hear from my Seniors who provide the homilies. Please shot us a text or email that Sunday dates that are out for you...or better yet-come to Youth Group today and tell us!

Thank you to the Douglas Family for offering to supply Dinner this Sunday!

Best- Angie and Trevor

Winter Weather Policy

At Ascension, we always TRY to have church even when the weather is bad. We realize that travelling may be very difficult for some, so please make the best decision for you and your family about Sunday church attendance. Even if we have Sunday services during inclement weather, we may cancel all other activities, such as Christian Formation for Children, Youth and Adults. Volunteer leaders, likewise, should use personal judgment about the safety of their travel that day. Cancellations will be announced by way of e-mail and on the outgoing message line at 301.948.0122.



As a rule, we will follow Montgomery County Public Schools for closing and cancellation decisions. If there is a delayed opening our morning activities are cancelled. If schools are closed, morning and afternoon activities are cancelled. In this event, evening activities still may be scheduled, so check in with the committee chair or call the outgoing message line at the church to check the status of your meeting or activity.

Spirituality and Dementia workshop: February 8

This workshop, led by Janice Hicks (candidate in the deacon formation process in the diocese), is designed to provide information to clergy and all who are interested about spirituality related to dementia along with resources for congregations and families dealing the effects of dementia. \$10 registration fee includes workshop, coffee, lunch and CEU certificate. Thursday, February 8 from 10:00 - 11:30, a.m. at The Village at Rockville (map). Please contact Alice Benson with any questions. To register: <http://bit.ly/2DC0sgx>

Interfaith Dialogue and Reflection Series



Church of the Ascension will be one of the hosts of a four-part program series of interfaith dialogue and reflection titled "Abraham's Children."

The four sessions will be held in March on Wednesday evenings, 7-9 PM as follows:

- ◆ March 7 at Church of the Ascension (205 S Summit Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877)
- ◆ March 14 at Kehilat Shalom (9915 Apple Ridge Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20886)
- ◆ March 21 at Islamic Center of Maryland (19411 Woodfield Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879)
- ◆ March 28 at Tikvat Israel Congregation (2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD 20851)

Developed by the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies in Baltimore, Abraham's Children offers text study and dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths in an effort to engage "the complexities of what is shared and what is unique in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions."

The Faith Community Working Group of Montgomery County and the Greater Gaithersburg Interfaith Alliance is teaming up with Church of the Ascension, the Islamic Center of Maryland, Kehilat Shalom and Tikvat Israel Congregation as co-sponsors if the series.

For more information or to sign up, write Richard Lederman at ledermanrc@gmail.com or call him at 240-441-8074.

Movie Night: *Spirited Away* February 2nd at 6:30 p.m.



Everyone is welcome to meet up in the Undercroft on Friday, February 2nd at 6:30 p.m. to watch *Spirited Away* (rated PG).

During her family's move to the suburbs, a sullen 10-year-old girl wanders into a world ruled by gods, witches, and spirits, and where humans are changed into beasts.

Chihiro and her parents are moving to a small Japanese town in the countryside, much to Chihiro's dismay. On the way to their new home, Chihiro's father makes a wrong turn and drives down a lonely one-lane road which dead-ends in front of a tunnel. Her parents decide to stop the car and explore the area. They go through the tunnel and find an abandoned amusement park on the other side, with its own little town. When her parents see a restaurant with great-smelling food but no staff, they decide to eat and pay later. However, Chihiro refuses to eat and decides to explore the theme park a bit more. She meets a boy named Haku who tells her that Chihiro and her parents are in danger, and they must leave immediately. She runs to the restaurant and finds that her parents have turned into pigs. In addition, the theme park turns out to be a town inhabited by demons, spirits, and evil gods. At the center of the town is a bathhouse where these creatures go to relax.

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 operate on February 18 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. **Please: no perishables.** For more information, contact Melanie Mitchell at 301.519.1074 or melanie.mitchell@verizon.net

Mobile Med

Mobile Med will not be at Ascension House starting tomorrow January 2nd (until the beginning of March). I have posted signs on the Ascension House bulletin board and on the door to the chapel. Signs list the alternate location as well as a number to contact for more information.

Jean Cohn
spangle1@comcast.net
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, February 24 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2018



164 Pledges for a total of \$368,728

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ◆ Bubba Pflantzbaum | ◆ Abraham & Christine Kroma |
| ◆ Leonard & Erin Martinko | ◆ Margaret Mirin |
| ◆ Maura Ryan & Marybeth Daucher | ◆ Ivan Flores |
| ◆ Karen Olsen | ◆ Alfredia W Freeman |
| ◆ Christian & Marissa Simpson | ◆ Matilda Chimbela Muyangwa |
| ◆ Joyce Thompson | ◆ Lucia Pires |
| ◆ Mary Thorpe | ◆ Gretchen Horlacher |
| ◆ Amy Van Dalinda | ◆ Marybeth Daucher |
| ◆ Trevor & Angela Walker | ◆ Troyce Holland |
| ◆ Paul Boynton | ◆ Lucille Roberson |
| ◆ Daniel & Linda Yankie | ◆ Christian Simpson |
| ◆ Paul Boynton | ◆ Christian Nwankwo |
| ◆ David Burton | ◆ Victoria Nwankwo |
| ◆ Major & Hawa Clemens | ◆ Emmanuel Nwankwo |

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 Garcia 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

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*
Avin Lalmansingh, *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
Finance and Investment Committees
Standing Committee

Pray for the Mission and Ministry of the Episcopal Church
Theological Education Sunday (February 2)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, January 29

- 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. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, January 30

- 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, January 31

- 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
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

Thursday, February 1

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi —Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
- 7:30 p.m. Zumba—Undercroft

Friday, February 2

- 1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. 12-Step Program—Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. Movie Night-Spirited Away

Saturday, February 3

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

Sunday, February 4

- Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson
- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 8:00 a.m. Immigration Consults—Library
- 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 2
- 10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children— Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. Town Hall Meeting
- 11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel

Attendance	January 7	January 14	January 21
7:45 a.m.	26	20	26
9:00 a.m.	80	84	81
10:15 a.m.	6	6	14
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	40	42	45
11:15 am	31	44	50
5:00 p.m.	33	6	6
Total:	216	202	222