

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost: July 21 A.D. 2019

Summer Camp at St. James—Who Benefits Most?

Today, thirteen of the youth from the Church of the Ascension, plus others from St Paul's—Ivy, take off for a transformative experience at St. James, Philadelphia. I say transformative with confidence, for the youth who participate are changed; they say so themselves, and they repeat this assurance summer after summer. I have been thinking about how these youth benefit from such an experience, and it seems to me that the blessings are manifold, for them, and for us.

Think back to your very first time away from home. Most of us were a little scared, wavering between wanting to jump into the wider world, and wanting to hang back, where things are safe and predictable. Whether it was summer camp, scouting, skills camp, or service project, the participant had to take the risk to gain the benefit. Our youth group is in this position today, but they know from their peers that they will have their eyes opened in Philadelphia. They know, intellectually, that this neighborhood of Philadelphia is desperately poor; but as kids from Montgomery County, they generally don't know what that means. After a week's service in Philly with people from the neighborhood, they will know what real poverty means. Is that not a lasting benefit to them? The Episcopal Middle School where they will serve receives the benefit of their labor, and the St. James students with whom they work, get to see that they have much in common with more "resourced" kids their age. I think this is valuable for all of them.

I'm guessing that the parents of these fortunate kids are a little nervous, too. After all, they know that though supervised, not every risk in a potentially risky venue can be eliminated. But if history is a guide, after an anxious week they will greet their children, amazed at their ability to navigate a new scene, and seeing a glimmer of maturity. Apparently, they're going to succeed in life! Thank the Lord! Isn't this a benefit and comfort for all the parents among us?

Many of you in the congregation have marveled at the vigor and enthusiasm that the youth leaders, Angie and Trevor Hight-Walker have given to this project for the last seven years. I'm sure there have been times when they wanted to fade out of the picture, but they have not. Instead, their service has been inspirational, joyous, faithful. And I know for a certainty that this model of love and service has quietly motivated members of the congregation to support their efforts, both financially and with service to the youth group. It seems to me that drawing in adult members of the Church of the Ascension benefits the youth in a direct way, and the Church as a whole as we participate in a growth experience for the youth.

It is my fervent hope that what the kids learn this coming week is the power of love to make a difference. Perhaps they will learn that the Episcopal Churches of the Ascension, St. Paul's—Ivy and St. James, Philadelphia have helped them realize a vision of the kind of men and women that they can become. This may be the biggest benefit of all.

If you are curious about St. James Philadelphia, and the remarkable Middle School they support, I hope you will take a look at this link: <https://stjamesphila.org/about-us/neighborhood/> And during the coming week, pray for the health, safety, and spiritual growth of everyone involved.

Blessings,
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 -8:00 AM

The Rev. Justin M. McIntosh-10:00 AM

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.

All children are welcome!



The main focus of the story is the encounter between Jesus and Martha. Martha is described as distracted and worried. This prompts her to accuse her sister of abandoning her and leads her to try to use Jesus to satisfy her demands. Jesus does not admonish Martha for the kind of service and hospitality

she offers. Indeed, elsewhere in Luke and Acts service of this sort is strongly praised. He cites, instead, her anxiety. Her desire to serve is laudable; her worry is not, for anxiety causes service to take its focus off of the guest and become jealous. Both of the women in this scene participate in activities that are consistent with Christian discipleship. What Jesus insists is that any expressions of discipleship should focus on Jesus himself.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Sunday School Classes

We offer an infant/toddler through 3rd grade Sunday School class each week during the 10:00 service. We play, sing, pray and read a bible story together.

We always have two adults working with the children and may, on occasion, need a parent to help if our usual teachers are on vacation. Please email Children's Formation chair Megan Didavi at mdidavi@gmail.com or talk with Megan or Michelle Wood, the infant/toddler lead teacher, at church to volunteer to help with a class.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

We are discussing the book, "The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe", by Richard Rohr. For this coming Wednesday please read the Introduction and Chapters 2 and 3. We meet at 10 am on Wednesdays in Ascension's library. All people are welcome to participate.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in room 2, 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 time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Contact Claire Rosser at cjrosser@aol.com or 301-275-0617 for more information.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Education for Ministry (EFM)

We are heartened to hear from so many people who are interested in participating in Education for Ministry. We would like to have an informational meeting soon with everyone who expressed interest. Look for either Peg Ruppel or David Mitchell after the service on Sunday. We will continue collecting names and contact information so we can let everyone know when and where the meeting will be.

HeartSong Workshop

Registration is open for the Saturday, Oct. 26, 2:00-4:00 p.m. HeartSong Workshop in our sanctuary with Ana Hernandez of Kingston, NY. This regional workshop, co-sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, promises to enrich the imagination, develop listening skills, lift singing confidence, and broaden spiritual practices. Adults: \$25, under 18 free. Bring a bag lunch. For a sample of Ana's music: <http://anahernandez.org> Info on the workshop: Meredith Horan 301-926-1054 evenings.

Confirmation Classes

Are you interested in being confirmed by the Bishop during her visit to Ascension on September 22? You must be 12 years or older and you must register on our website at <http://ascensionmd.org/confirmation-registration-form/>

This six-week class starts on August 4 after the 10:00 a.m. service in Room 1. Classes are weekly and will last for no more than 1 1/2 hours each. Three of the classes will be held here at Church of the Ascension, and three will be held at St Anne's, Damascus. Prior to the first class, please purchase the book "My Faith, My Life", by Jenifer Gamber, available on multiple sites online. For further information, call Deacon Eugene Wright at (301) 675-9958 or genatwright@gmail.com.

Summer Bible Study: Parables

Some of Jesus's most picturesque but curious teachings are found in the Parables. Please join us in for a friendly discussion and reflection upon some of Jesus's most valuable lessons. We meet in room 2 Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Come join us for some or all of the meetings!

Men's Shelter Lunches

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 on July 21 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Yard Sale & Car Wash - August 3

Put our Annual Summer Yard Sale and Car Wash on your calendar for Saturday, August 3, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you have furniture or clothes to donate, bring them to the office. Come find treasure and have your car washed too! We also need help. If you are available, come join us. Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org or at (202) 903-6426 or in the Ascension Office.

Tutors needed

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County needs English tutors to help adult learners gain a better understanding of the English language and improve their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Volunteers are asked to commit to two hours of tutoring each week and should plan on two hours of preparation each week as well. No experience is necessary. For more information, visit <http://www.literacycouncilmcmd.org/>

Join in the Lunch Bunch

The third Tuesday of every month, St. Nicholas sponsors a potluck lunch from 11:30 to 1:00. They have invited any and all interested Ascension parishioners to join in! Good food and great conversation, and a chance to get to know our brothers and sisters at St Nicks. Put it on your calendar and come. The next lunch is on August 20.



Ascension is collecting supplies and financial donations to provide backpacks for students (kindergarten through 5th grade) at Summit Hall Elementary School in Gaithersburg as part of the Linkages to Learning program. The purpose of this program is to improve the well-being of children and their families through collaborative delivery of school based services that address social, economic, health and emotional issues that interfere with the academic success of the child. The lists of supplies are available in the narthex. You are not obligated to supply all of the items on the list. All donations are welcome. If you would like to make a financial donation, please make the check payable to the church and write "For Backpacks" on the memo line. Please put the check in the plate on Sunday. On Sunday, August 18, the backpacks will be assembled in Room 1 following the 10 a.m. service. Any and all help will be appreciated. We can have fun working together and getting to know each other. Thank you in advance for your support of this project.

Pick-up Choir on July 28th

Do you like to sing? Have you ever thought about singing in a choir? If you answered yes to either question, you should consider singing with the Ascension Pick-up Choir- no strings attached, no commitment, no audition required.

When does it take place? Sunday, July 28th at 9:00 a.m.

Where do we meet? Singers will meet in the Choir room

What will we do? Learn a simple introit and anthem to sing in the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Questions? Contact the minister of music, Andrew Kullberg at music@ascensionmd.org

Immigration Consultations

Lucelia R. Justiniano is offering immigration consultations the first Sunday of every month. Lucelia has 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. She 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, VA, where she worked alongside Board Attorney Advisors in drafting Board decisions. Lucelia has been part of Ascension for a long time; she is exceptionally dedicated to giving back to the community. If you have questions or know anybody who needs some legal advice she will be in our library on August 4, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Contact her at lucelia@jezicfirm.com or cell phone (240) 565-5590

Deadlines

The church office is a busy, scheduled place every day. The service bulletin and this, the announcements bulletin, are created and printed on Thursdays. Please make sure anything for either bulletin is in the church office by Wednesday evening.

Picnic

The noon service is planning a picnic on Saturday July 27. More information will be coming; check back here in the coming weeks

Help our Senior Neighbors:

What if you had to give up your car keys and depend on someone else to get you where you needed to go? This is happening to more and more of our senior neighbors. Consider volunteering with the Senior Connection to drive seniors to medical appointments or to help with grocery shopping. Training and liability coverage are provided, and you can set your own volunteering schedule. Contact susan.girard@seniorconnectionmc.org or at (301) 962-0820 or visit www.seniorconnectionmc.org

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, MD, 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

Deacon—The Rev. 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 — Jesse Velazquez
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Sari Stoddard, sari.stoddard@verizon.net;
8 a.m. director Mardia Dennis, mard908@gmail.com; 10 a.m. directors Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com and Georgana Maines, mainsesgnh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa

Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedrón
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters, Susan McLaughlin
2022: James Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis
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 Ocampo &
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:

Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Wheaton and Misa Magdalena
St. Christopher's Church, New Carrollton

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, July 22, 2019

Youth Work Camp

- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 6:00 PM Spanish Class - Cancelled
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Youth Work Camp

- 7:00 AM Mobile Med
- 11:00 AM Staff Meeting—Library
- 3:00 PM Tutor English Class—RM 1
- 7:00 AM Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 AM Al-Anon—RM 1

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Youth Work Camp

- 10:00 AM Book club— Library
- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1
- 7:30 PM Spanish Bible Study
- 8:00 PM Gamblers' Anonymous—RM 2

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Youth Work Camp

- 10:00 AM Yoga- RM 2
- 4:00 AM Tai Chi—Chapel
- 7:00 AM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1

Friday, July 26, 2019

Youth Work Camp

Javier's Day Off

- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, July 27, 2019

- 7:00 AM Latino Picnic
- 9:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 2
- 11:00 AM Al-Anon—Parish Hall
- 11:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1
- 7:00 PM Al-Anon/Spanish- RM 1

Sunday, July 28, 2019

The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo

- 8:00 PM HE - Main Church
- 10:00 AM Bible School for 3 year olds and under -RM 4
- 10:00 AM HE - Main Church
- 10:00 AM St. Barnabas - Chapel
- 12:00 PM Escuela Dominical Para Niños - RM 2
- 12:00 PM Eucaristia en Espanol - Main Church
- 6:00 PM Youth Group - Parish Hall

Attendance	June 30	July 7	July 14
8:00 am		35	31
10:00 am	141	105	101
12:00 pm		30	33
Total:	141	170	167