

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Trinity Sunday : 11 June A.D. 2017

A Circle Dance

You become the God you worship. In other words, *your image of God creates you*. If you get the image of God wrong, everything else that builds on it is going to be rather inadequate. That might seem like an overstatement, but let's recognize how that's been true in Western Christianity in particular.

The operative image of God for most Christians (except for the mystics) is a powerful monarch, usually an old white man sitting on a throne. It's no accident that the Latin word for God, *Deus*, came from the same root as Zeus. At the risk of shocking you, let me say that Christianity hasn't moved much beyond the mythological image of Zeus. Yet this is not the image of God revealed to us by Jesus—a vulnerable baby born in an occupied and oppressed land; a refugee; a humble carpenter whose friends were fishermen, prostitutes, and tax-collectors; a political criminal executed on a cross. In other words, Jesus shows a vulnerable God much more than the *almighty* one Christians often assume.

God's "continually renewed immediacy," [1] as Thomas Kelly put it, is too intimate and subtle for our dualistic and rational minds to grasp. Two thousand years after the revelation of God in Christ most of Christianity is still quite immature in terms of its ability to process what Jesus taught and demonstrated.

The Creation story in Genesis gives us a wonderful insight into God's character by using plural pronouns: "Let *us* create in *our* image" (Genesis 1:26-27). Of course, this is problematic for monotheistic Judaism and Christianity. It took centuries to develop the doctrine of the Trinity. The Cappadocian Fathers (including Gregory of Nyssa, Basil of Caesarea, and Gregory Nazianzen) of fourth century eastern Turkey finally turned to a word from Greek theater, *perichoresis*—circle dance—to describe the foundational quality of God's character: relationship and communion. In the beginning was relationship.

God is not the dancer but the dance itself! God is much more a dynamic verb than a static noun. God is constant flow. You don't even need to understand it intellectually or theologically to participate in the flow of God. You are already there. *Within your heart, body, and mind is an implanted flow toward life, goodness, love, communion, and connection. "Sin" is quite simply any resistance to that flow.*

Trinity is saying, "In the beginning is the relationship." When we start with God as relationship, we begin the spiritual journey on a very different foundation. This foundation is not static but continually evolving and creating new forms of communion and interdependence.

- Richard Rohr

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: Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the downstairs in lower atrium.

The Nursery is open today from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is in Room 2, in the rear hallway of the annex at the high school end of the building. Ask a welcome team member for directions.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Godly Play & A Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will explore the three reasons to read, explore and be familiar with the Bible. We will use

Opportunities for the Practice of Yoga and Centering Prayer in June

In addition to the Thursday morning yoga class at 10:00 a.m., I'll be offering a reprise of my Lenten offering on Wednesday evenings in June: gentle yoga at 6:00-6:30 p.m. and Centering Prayer at 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. -Randy

Tai Chi Class

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.

Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

New Books for the Wednesday Morning Group

This popular discussion group meets in the Library every Wednesday at 10:00 until 11:30 p.m. It is perhaps a quarter century old and at times threatens to burst out of the Library, where it has met for years.

On Wednesday, June 14 you are invited to opt in on reading and discussing Neil deGrasse Tyson's *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*. The book is already a best seller after about a month. The hardcover is only \$11.37 from Amazon or you can absorb it via Kindle (\$8.91).

Here's what Amazon says about the book: "What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? How does the universe fit within us? There's no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than acclaimed astrophysicist and best-selling author Neil deGrasse Tyson. But today, few of us have time to contemplate the cosmos. So Tyson brings the universe down to Earth succinctly and clearly, with sparkling wit, in tasty chapters consumable anytime and anywhere in your busy day." Read the preface and Chapter 1 for Wednesday

Education for Ministry (EFM) 2017-2018

In order for Ascension's Education for Ministry class to begin on or about September 12th, we need six people to have their registrations completed by August 25th. Peg Ruppel and David Mitchell renewed their mentor training in May, and now it's time to get the class registered. The \$375 tuition covers all books and materials.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

If you want to explore your faith, the Bible, and the church more deeply, this is your chance. EFM is a distance learning program from the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee, visit <http://efm.sewanee.edu>). Questions? Concerns? Please contact Peg Ruppel (ph.301.377.0728; email plr301@gmail.com) or David Mitchell (ph. 240.454.1904; email newlywed98@comcast.net) for more information.

Thanks, everyone! Peg

Small Group for Families with Young Children

The small group for families with young children meets the first Sunday of every month at 11:15 a.m. in the church library. We are currently discussing Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road by Walking*. If you have any questions, feel free to contact at sarahanear@gmail.com

Spanish Classes

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 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

The Listening Heart Community

The Listening Heart Community is Ascension's "monastery of the heart", an intentional group for seekers in all stages of their spiritual journey to explore Benedictine and other contemplative spirituality in community. We meet the first and third Monday of each month. Contact Lori Perine at lperine@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Sermons' Video on our Website/ YouTube



Check out our sermons Video :
<http://ascensionmd.org/videos/>
Or
Our Youtube Page:
<http://bit.ly/2paseJO>

Work Camp 2017

Saturday, June 25- Friday, June 30

Fourteen Ascension Youth, joined by 6 youth from the dioceses in Virginia, will head to inner city Philadelphia for a one week Work Camp on Sunday June 25th. Currently, Philly's poverty rate is 25% (adult poverty rate) and 38% (child poverty rate), giving the unwanted distinction of having the highest rate in the nation among the 25 most populous U.S. counties. The Youth will work specifically at the St. James School <https://stjamesphila.org/> with which Ascension has a long and rewarding relationship. St. James is a faith-based middle school in the Episcopal tradition, committed to educating traditionally underresourced students in a nurturing environment. This school is located in northern Philadelphia where the poverty rate is nearly double the city's rate, surpassing 44%. The importance of education for these students can not be overstated considering that only 50% of Philadelphia high school students graduate on time and more than 40% drop out altogether. Please keep the Youth in your prayers and consider donating their cause."

Yard Sale & Car Wash

There will be Yard Sale and Car Wash on Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you have furniture or clothes that you want to donate, bring them to the office. Remember that you can bring your car to be washed. We also need help. If you are available, you are welcome to join us! For more information, please contact Javier at ocampoj@ascensionmd.org or 202-903-6426

Father's Day Food Drive

Honor your dads, living and departed, while helping others. Bring a bag of groceries to church before or on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18, for the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. Forms for dedication information are found in the bulletin, on the table outside the Office, and in the Chapel. Letters of appreciation will be written to living fathers, and a list of all paternal honorees will be published. As always, we will give thanks for the ministry of fatherhood in the Prayers of the People at all services on the 18th.

Listening Session

On Sunday 25th Action in Montgomery and Ascension Members would lead a Listening Session. AIM builds power through our relationships. Rooted in relationship and our collective power we act together to create change. The first step to building real relationships across diverse communities starts with hearing and relating to each others' stories and finding what we hold in common. Join us, so your word can be listened, after the 11 services, in the Undercroft .

Zumba classes at Ascension!

Summer is here and is always a good opportunity to get in shape. For that reason, we will have Zumba classes at Ascension every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. beginning on June 22nd. Zumba is a dance fitness program created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez during the 1990s. Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The choreography incorporates hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, merengue and mambo.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Men's Shelter Lunch Program

The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft Commons once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month. The next program is on June 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>.

Mobile Med

Every Tuesday, for (at least) the summer months, Mobile Med has agreed that we can close the waiting room at 1:00 p.m. We will still list a person for the 1p shift in case the day is particularly hot or rainy and we need to keep the waiting room open until 3:00 p.m. I will notify the "on call" 1p person that morning if they need to be there.

The 11am-1:00 p.m. person will now close the Chapel at 1:00 p.m. I have put instructions for closing in the volunteer folder; you can also contact Jean Cohn if there are questions at spangle1@comcast.net or 240.372.3652.

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. For more information, contact Melanie Mitchell at 301.519.1074 or melanie.mitchell@verizon.net

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

There is an opportunity to serve at the soup kitchen on the first Saturday or third Monday each month at 1:00 p.m. (prep work) or 3:00 p.m. (serving) across the street at St. Martin's Church. Contact one of our experienced team leaders, Page Salazar (Saturdays, pagesalazar@ymail.com) or Jean Cohn (Mondays, spangle1@comcast.net). We can always use more volunteers!

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, July 22 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

Bible Treasure Hunt

Hi All!

Over the summer, I'm offering a bible treasure hunt series - basically a scavenger hunt for 7 boxes about one of the fruits of the spirit in a local park. I'm doing it in Olney because I have a core group of people who are interested here, so it's a good test location, plus parks are parks. So making a 20 minute drive to play at a park that has friends and good shade, isn't such a big deal. Here is the flyer. I would love if you would let your people know. Thanks so much!

In Christ,
Shivaun+

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

Minister of Music—Jerrold Tidwell,
tidwellj@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Kathy Van Arnum
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

Nursery Attendant—Brenda Alvarez,
brendaalvarezduque@hotmail.com

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*
Howard Holland, *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
Holy Trinity, Collington
Trinity Church, DC

Trinity Church, Newport & Hughesville and Old Fields
Chapel, Trinity Church, St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's
Chapel, Trinity Church, Upper Marlboro
St. Barnabas' Church of the Deaf
St. Barnabas' Church, Leeland
St. Barnabas' Church, Temple Hills
Ordination Service (June 17) Pray for those who are being
ordained

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, JUNE 12

11:30 p.m. LIVING WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS—Room 1
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
6:30 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
6:30 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

11:00 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, JUNE 14

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1
6:30 p.m. Couples 12 Step Program—Room 1

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

Preacher: Barb Mansfield
Father's Day

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children— Chapel
10:15 a.m. Men's Shelter Lunches
11:00 a.m. Misa en Espanol—Chapel
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Undercroft Commons
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist— Chapel

Church Attendance	May 21	May 28	June 4
7:45 a.m.	16	24	22
9:00 a.m.	82	71	93
10:15 a.m.	9	39	22
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	34	32	33
11:15 am	41	42	43
5:00 p.m.	15	10	37
Total:	197	218	250