

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*Seventh Sunday of Easter : June 2, A.D. 2019*

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## What The Vestry Will Be Doing This Summer?

Do you recall the events of the Annual Meeting that we had back in mid-March? Among other things, we presented the candidates for the vestry, and went over the highlights of the budget and the results of the Annual Giving Campaign. For quite a few years this annual event had been lightly attended, and the vestry candidates had been received with little comment.

I am very happy to say that I believe that things have changed! It seems we are in a new season of active community participation and thoughtful review about how we can do things. The vestry and I have thought about your suggestions, in particular surrounding the election of new vestry members, as well as the reorganization of the Church Year to a Calendar Year. Once we gave it serious consideration, it became obvious that the By-Laws will have to be amended, since they have not been addressed since 2007. Nothing stands still that long. We found ourselves saying, "Well, the By-Laws say ....but what we really do is..."

Although we are an especially agreeable congregation and vestry, disregarding formal procedures can eventually result in confusion and conflict. We want to avoid this, while continuing to evolve and grow the many facets of the Church of the Ascension.

I have asked a subset of the vestry to work together this summer to look carefully over the existing By-Laws, noting all of the things that are no longer pertinent, or were never considered in previous versions of the document. The group will be tasked with setting out in clear language the agreed upon roles, responsibilities, policies and procedures that govern the operation of the church. Note that this is an effort that may be creative and spiritual, but it **MUST** be in concordance with the governing documents of the Diocese and the general Church. By Labor Day, I expect that we will have a draft of the amended By-Laws. They will be presented to you for discussion and eventual adoption.

This is a big job, and an important effort. But of course, unless you're a very special sort of person, it is not the sort of thing that sets the heart racing, or brings an immediate smile to the face. So, when you see vestry members this summer, offer them hope and encouragement that their labors in hot and humid weather will bear wondrous fruit! I am thoroughly appreciative of all of your efforts to strengthen and preserve the Church of the Ascension.

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: Ms. Peg 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.

All children are welcome!

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

Since we have had such a small group of children attending Sunday School at 10:00 this year, we have been keeping everyone (preschool-5th grade) together in the Godly Play class, rather than offering both Joyful Path and Godly Play. We always meet in Room 4, the Place of Peace which is also our infant/toddler class. Our last day of 10:00 Sunday school will be June 9th. We're hoping all the kids can join us as we celebrate our year of learning together.

### A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

Using the story of Harriet Tubman's life, we are continuing to learn about willpower. She overcame many obstacles in her life and world and prospered and succeeded.

### Godly Play

This Sunday, we study the Mystery of Pentecost. In this lesson we will explore something strange that happened on Pentecost that had to do with speaking so that no matter what languages or tongues others spoke, they could understand what was meant.

### Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Room 2. You don't need to know Spanish to come, we get together to learn and practice. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org).

### Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is discussing the book, "Enlightenment Now" by Steven Pinker. This book claims that reason, science, and humanism have brought progress in the sense that health, prosperity, safety, peace, and happiness have tended to rise worldwide. We invite you to participate in our discussions. We meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read chapter 19 for this coming Wednesday.

### 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](mailto:cjrosser@aol.com) or 301-275-0617 for more information.

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### Youth Group Announcements

Contact: Angie Hight-Walker

### June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Last Day to commit to Work Camp

Because of housing limitations, this Sunday is the last day to commit to attend Ascension's Work Camp trip to St. James School in Philly on July 21-26. Please send a check of at least \$150 to Lin in the church office. Also, please reach out to us if you need a scholarship. We would really like to have the largest group yet for this trip so please consider coming along—it is life changing!

### June 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1:30 pm - 3:30 p.m. Diocesan Strategic Planning

The Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministries Focus Group is asking for your help identify challenges, opportunities, and dreams for the future of these ministries in our diocese. As we are the largest Youth Group in Montgomery County it is important as many of our youth attend as possible. This invitation is for youth, young adults, and those that work with them. Trevor and I plan to attend and will take anyone interested in attending. You **MUST** register at the below website and reach out if you need a ride!

**Location:** Grace Episcopal Church - 1607 Grace Church Rd, Silver Spring, MD [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUsjTSTNw\\_ljy8wHG\\_NGdmQAZQ\\_RmDzbt4gWn\\_vYfqCwCSjFQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUsjTSTNw_ljy8wHG_NGdmQAZQ_RmDzbt4gWn_vYfqCwCSjFQ/viewform)

### June 9<sup>th</sup>: Service Project—Rise Against Hunger Event at Ascension

We need Youth volunteers to help with setup, the actual packing and the tear down/clean up. Set up starts at 3:30 p.m., packing is from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and clean up is from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. We will provide pizza at 7 p.m. This is also a great opportunity for our college students home on break to attend and catch up!

You **MUST** sign up here:

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/churchofascension> to participate and email/text us if you help with setup or clean up.

## Fill out our 2019 Survey on Service Satisfaction

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension has a long and storied past, with our white steeple chapel as a monument to the love and effort of those who have gone before. This past year has seen significant changes to the Sunday services of Ascension. Our goal is to expand the number of members of our Church, while staying in touch and in tune with the current congregation. As we approach the first-year anniversary of our three-service Sundays, we need clear, concrete input from our members to ascertain how well we might be achieving that goal. So, take a moment to look over this survey form and give us the benefit of your assessment of our progress. Be as frank as you can and help us shore up the foundation of this wonderful house of worship. The survey will be totally anonymous, but if you would like to speak personally with Father Javier, or any member of the vestry or the Worship Committee, say so, and we will get in touch with you. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6MKNHRW>. Thank you and God bless you for being at Ascension.

**SAVE THE DATE: June 9th**

### Let's Rise Up Against Hunger!

Our men's shelter lunch program and work with Gaithersburg HELP are just two examples of Ascension's commitment to ending hunger in our local community. Now, with an eye toward broadening our reach even further, we are joining an effort to end global hunger as well. On Sunday, June 9th from 4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m., we are gathering in the Parish Hall (Undercroft) for a meal packaging event with the organization Rise Against Hunger. Founded in 1998, Rise Against Hunger recruits volunteers to produce millions of nutritious meals annually that are then distributed to partners in countries around the world. These partners, best able to address the causes and effects of hunger based on their local presence and expertise, use these meals to change lives by promoting education, improving students' health and nutrition, addressing gender inequalities, stimulating economic growth and fighting child labor. To accomplish our goal of packing 10,000 meals in just two hours on the 9th we need at least 40 volunteers. Please know that this is a family friendly event where everyone can contribute (see page 2 for Youth information). There is a job for everyone! So please mark your calendars and take a moment to register as a volunteer at <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/churchofascension>. The link will also take you to a short video that gives you an idea of what to expect at a meal packaging event.

## 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 16, for the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. Forms for dedication information are found in the Narthex. As always, we will give thanks for the ministry of fatherhood in the Prayers of the People at all services on the 16th.

## One Ascension Sunday/Picnic— June 30

The time is near when we will again celebrate as One Ascension - at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 30, this time as our annual Parish Picnic, as well as a celebration of summer. There will be no other services that day. The main dish will be provided by our Parish Life group. Bring a dish to share! A summer salad, fruit, and/or a dessert are always welcome. There will be a sign up sheet to help us know who is coming and what you might bring to share.

### Worship Leaders! Now is the time...

...to submit your black-out dates for the July, August and September quarter. Contact Sari Stoddard before June 15 at [sari.stoddard@verizon.net](mailto:sari.stoddard@verizon.net) or 301-325-8791.

### Help Wanted - expanded version

We are accepting applications to serve in any of our Worship Leader positions, at 8:00 or 10:00. Not sure what the positions are? Take a look at the back of the Sunday service bulletin. We will reveal everything you need to know, and you will work with practiced parishioners who enjoy their duties. Most positions serve 2-5 times in each 13-week quarter. Speak to a Welcome Team or Worship Committee member or contact Sari Stoddard - and join in!

### The Literacy Council of Montgomery County

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/>

### Pentecost is next Sunday, 6/9—Wear red! Hear other languages!

Can you speak another language? Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, giving them the ability to speak in tongues, or many languages. We will be celebrating Pentecost next week on Sunday June 9 and will hear the Gospel in any language that there are volunteer readers for. Contact Fr. Javier if you speak another language. Wear something red (*a tie? shorts? shirt? socks?*), the color of the Pentecost celebration!

### Summer Bible Study: Parables

Some of Jesus's most picturesque but curious teachings are found in the Parables. Please join us in June and July for a friendly discussion and reflection upon some of Jesus's most valuable lessons. We will be meeting in room 2 at 6:30 p.m. on June 11, 18, 25, and July 2, 9, 16. Come join us for some or all of the meetings! Contact Fr. Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org) to obtain a discussion guide or further questions.

## 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](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org).

**Bishop of Washington** - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde  
[mebudde@edow.org](mailto:mebudde@edow.org), 202-537-6550

**Priest in Charge** —The Rev. Javier García Ocampo  
[ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org), voice mailbox 12

**Pastoral Associate**—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand  
[hildebrandnan@gmail.com](mailto:hildebrandnan@gmail.com), voice mailbox 13

**Deacon**—Eugene Wright

**Minister of Music**—Andrew Kullberg  
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**Parish Administrator** - Lin Keene  
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**Communications** — Jesse Velazquez  
[comm@ascensionmd.org](mailto:comm@ascensionmd.org), voice mailbox 14

**Altar Guild Directors**, Sari Stoddard, [sari.stoddard@verizon.net](mailto:sari.stoddard@verizon.net);  
8 a.m. director Mardia Dennis, [mard908@gmail.com](mailto:mard908@gmail.com); 10 a.m. directors Dotty Pfadenhauer, [dottypfa@aol.com](mailto:dottypfa@aol.com) and Georgana  
Maines, [mainsesnh@verizon.net](mailto:mainsesnh@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:

Holy Trinity, Collington

Trinity Church, DC

Trinity Church, Newport & Hughesville and Old Fields Chapel

Trinity Church, St. Mary's City and St. Mary's Chapel

Trinity Church, Upper Marlboro

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, June 3, 2019

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Room 2
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Heart Community—Library
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

### Tuesday, June 4, 2019

- 7:00 a.m. Mobile Med
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

### Wednesday, June 5, 2019

- 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. Spanish Bible Study
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

### Thursday, June 6, 2019

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Room 2
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, June 7, 2019

#### Javier's Day Off

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Couple 12-Step Program- Library
- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Parish Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

### Sunday, June 9, 2019

#### Rise Against Hunger

Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Eugene Wright

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3 years old and under - Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Godly Play and Joyful Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
- 12:00 p.m. St. Barnabas - Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2
- 12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist in Spanish - Main Church
- 1:00 p.m. St. Barnabas- Parish Hall
- 3:30 p.m. Rise Against Hunger—Parish Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group—Parish Hall

Attendance	May 12	May 19	May 26
8:00 am	32	30	31
10:00 am	136	108	126
12:00 pm	55	26	15
Total:	223	164	172