

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*The Day of Pentecost : 4 June A.D. 2017*

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## Pentecost

The term means "the fiftieth day." It is used in both the OT and the NT. In the OT it refers to a feast of seven weeks known as the Feast of Weeks. It was apparently an agricultural event that focused on the harvesting of first fruits. Josephus referred to Pentecost as the fiftieth day after the first day of Passover. The term is used in the NT to refer to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), shortly after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Christians came to understand the meaning of Pentecost in terms of the gift of the Spirit. The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of a promise which Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues, which was a major effect of having received the Spirit, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church's worldwide preaching. In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is now the seventh Sunday after Easter. It emphasizes that the church is understood as the body of Christ which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit. Some understand Pentecost to be the origin and sending out of the church into the world. The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year in the Episcopal Church (BCP, p. 15). The Day of Pentecost is identified by the BCP as one of the feasts that is "especially appropriate" for baptism (p. 312). The liturgical color for the feast is red. Pentecost has also been known as Whitsun or Whitsunday, a corruption of "White Sunday." This term reflects the custom by which those who were baptized at the Vigil of Pentecost would wear their white baptismal garments to church on the Day of Pentecost. -

[http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/109399\\_15013\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/109399_15013_ENG_HTM.htm)

## 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 [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org) or 202-903-6426

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**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."

Watch for reading assignments in the weekly announcements. Next in line, toward the end of summer, is James Carroll's learned, extended, and beautifully written *Christ Actually: The Son of God for the Secular Age*. This is actually [sic] cheapest in hard cover from Amazon at \$6.98.

The Amazon synopsis: "A New York Times bestselling and widely admired Catholic writer explores how we can retrieve transcendent faith in modern times. Critically acclaimed and bestselling author James Carroll has explored every aspect of Christianity, faith, and Jesus Christ except this central one: What can we believe about—and how can we believe in—Jesus in the twenty-first century in light of the Holocaust and other

### LIFE LONG LEARNING

atrocities of the twentieth century and the drift from religion that followed?

"What Carroll has discovered through decades of writing and lecturing is that he is far from alone in clinging to a received memory of Jesus that separates him from his crucial identity as a Jew, and therefore as a human. Yet if Jesus was not taken as divine, he would be of no interest to us. What can that mean now? Paradoxically, the key is his permanent Jewishness. No Christian himself, Jesus actually transcends Christianity. "Drawing on both a wide range of scholarship as well as his own acute searching as a believer, Carroll takes a fresh look at the most familiar narratives of all—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Far from another book about the "historical Jesus," he takes the challenges of science and contemporary philosophy seriously. He retrieves the power of Jesus' profound ordinariness, as an answer to his own last question—what is the future of Jesus Christ?—as the key to a renewal of faith."

Join me and a room full of other seekers!

Randy

#### 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.

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 Peggy Ruppel (ph.301.377.0728; email [plr301@gmail.com](mailto:plr301@gmail.com)) or David Mitchell (ph. 240.454.1904; email [newlywed98@comcast.net](mailto:newlywed98@comcast.net)) for more information.

Thanks, everyone! Peg

### From Jason Cutshall

Dear Ascension Friends - I would like to thank you for a wonderful year. You are a gift.

I also want to let you know what I am doing next. First, we move to Minneapolis in May. I begin work at "The Dignity Center" (a center that works to assist people transition from homelessness to stability). I will be a pastoral presence there for the summer. I will keep you posted as a more permanent placement develops.

On June 10th I would like to invite you to join me in person or prayer for my ordination to the transitional diaconate. The service will be held at Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, located at 3301 Hidden Meadow Dr., Herndon, VA 20171, at 10:30 a.m. As is our motto: All are welcome.

Blessings to you all from Cecily, Jason, Soren and Henning Cutshall.

**2017 Ascension Cookbook Update**

Last Sunday's joint One Ascension luncheon/Cookbook tasting event was a resounding success! We counted more than 30 samples of recipes that had been submitted for the cookbook project. With all of the other wonderful dishes at the luncheon, we were hard-pressed to find space to lay everything out on the serving tables...a great problem to have!

So, many thanks to everyone who participated by attending and/or bringing a dish to share, and by getting into the spirit of the event and meeting someone new. Many thanks, as well, to the Parish Life Committee for making it so easy for us to collaborate. Like One Ascension Sundays, the cookbook project is all about community-building, and we are off to a great start!

Stay tuned for more updates on the cookbook project, and be sure to mark your calendars for the next One Ascension luncheon and Cookbook tasting event. It's scheduled for Sunday, July 30th.

Warmly, Your Ascension Cookbook Committee

**"One Ascension/Youth Sunday" was a Hit!**

I think we were all over the moon after seeing a good portion of the total Ascension community assemble to worship (and feast) in two languages, ably led by members of the Youth Group. There are simply too many people to thank! But we have to acknowledge yet again the dynamic presence of Ascension youth under the devoted, loving leadership of Angie and Trevor Hight Walker. Kudos also to Alfred Wasikye for a sermon he hit out of the park. And who can we thank for the miraculous feeding of the 5000? The next One Ascension Sunday is July 30. - RAL

**The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday**

Whitsun (also Whitsunday, Whit Sunday or Whit) is the name used in Britain and Ireland, and among Anglicans and Methodists throughout the world, for the Christian festival of Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples (Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2). The name is a contraction of "White Sunday", attested in "the Holy Ghost, whom thou didst send on Whit-sunday." It is the second most important festival of the Church year. It is considered the birthday of the Church.

**Hands (and Feet) Needed**

It is said that after German bombers destroyed an English cathedral during the Second World War, dedicated volunteers worked to repair one of the church's broken statues of Christ. Rather than restore the figure's missing hands, the artisans left Christ handless - replacing the artwork's "Come unto Me" inscription with "Christ has no hands but ours." While the authenticity of that popular story is a matter for debate, the message it conveys is not: Christians are called to be Christ's presence in the world today.

Ascension is in need of your hands (and feet). We need of volunteers of all kinds to fill the gaps in service to each other and to the community. Our parish administrator, Kathy Van Arnum, is preparing to have knee replacement surgery and needs volunteers to fill in at the office one day a week while she is out (about 6-8 weeks) or you can volunteer to be a substitute. Office hours are 10-4 Monday-Friday. Training will be provided before she has her surgery.

If you can be Christ's hands and help in the office, or would like to volunteer somewhere else there is a need, please contact the church office, 301-948-0122 or email [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org).

**Attention all Worship Leaders (and those interested in becoming a worship leader)**

I will be preparing the new worship roster for the months of July, August and September shortly; if there you have any black-out dates for that period, or any changes specific to those months, please let me know as soon as possible. I won't be able to make any changes to the roster after June 9th.

Thanks,  
Sari Stoddard

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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@gmail.com](mailto:pagesalazar@gmail.com)) or Jean Cohn (Mondays, [spangle1@comcast.net](mailto: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 [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

## CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877  
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- ◆ 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 García Ocampo  
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**Altar Guild Directors**, Mardia Dennis, 301.540.4499  
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and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

**Children's Music Leader** - Howard Hanson,  
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**Chapel Musicians** - Eric O'Loughlin, ericsmelody@gmail.com,  
Samuel Munguia, pianoconclave@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  
St. Columba's Church  
St. Columba's Nursery School

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### MONDAY, JUNE 5

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 6

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 7

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 8

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

### FRIDAY, JUNE 9

1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1  
6:30 p.m. Wave-Sayeh—Main Church

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

9:00 a.m. Funeral-Sayeh—Main Church  
9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel  
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft Commons  
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1  
8:00 p.m. Hawa Clemens—Graduation Party—UC

### SUNDAY, JUNE 11

**Preacher:** Randy Lord-Wilkinson  
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  
11:00 a.m. Misa en Espanol—Chapel  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church  
1:00 p.m. Pastoral Care Team Meeting—Library  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist— Chapel

Church Attendance	May 14	May 21	May 28
7:45 a.m.	35	16	24
9:00 a.m.	91	82	71
10:15 a.m.	21	9	39
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	72	34	32
11:15 am	40	41	42
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	—	—	—
5:00 p.m.	7	15	10
Total:	266	197	218