

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Fourth Sunday in Lent : 11 March A.D. 2018

Henry Nouwen on the "Wounded Healer"

"One day a young fugitive, trying to hide himself from the enemy, entered a small village. The people were kind to him and offered him a place to stay. But when the soldiers who sought the fugitive asked where he was hiding, everyone became very fearful. The soldiers threatened to burn the village and kill every man in it unless the young man were handed over to them before dawn. The people went to the minister and asked him what to do. The minister, torn between handing over the boy to the enemy or having his people killed, withdrew to his room and read his Bible, hoping to find an answer before dawn. After many hours, in the early morning his eyes fell on these words: "It is better that one man dies than that the whole people be lost." Then the minister closed the Bible, called the soldiers and told them where the boy was hidden. And after the soldiers led the fugitive away to be killed, there was a feast in the village because the minister had saved the lives of the people. But the minister did not celebrate. Overcome with a deep sadness, he remained in his room. That night an angel came to him, and asked, "What have you done?" He said: "I handed over the fugitive to the enemy." Then the angel said: "But don't you know that you have handed over the Messiah?" "How could I know?" the minister replied anxiously. Then the angel said: "If, instead of reading your Bible, you had visited this young man just once and looked into his eyes, you would have known." While versions of this story are very old, it seems the most modern of tales. Like that minister, who might have recognized the Messiah if he had raised his eyes from his Bible to look into the youth's eyes, we are challenged to look into the eyes of the young men and women of today, who are running away from our cruel ways. Perhaps that will be enough to prevent us from handing them over to the enemy and enable us to lead them out of their hidden places into the middle of their people where they can redeem us from our fears."

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES SIGNUP

Holy Week Worship Roster Sign up

Current Sign-up Sheets

Title	Date	Open Spots	
Palm Sunday	March 24, 2018	11	View & sign-up >
Maundy Thursday	March 29, 2018	14	View & sign-up >
Good Friday	March 30, 2018	4	View & sign-up >
Great Vigil of Easter	March 31, 2018	13	View & sign-up >
Easter Day: 7:45 a.m. Service	April 1, 2018	13	View & sign-up >
Easter Day: 11:00 am Service	April 1, 2018	14	View & sign-up >
Easter Day: 9:00 a.m. Service	April 1, 2018	14	View & sign-up >
Easter Day: 12:30 pm Service for Families	April 1, 2018	6	View & sign-up >

Please sign up for Holy Week and Easter Services here:

<http://ascensionmd.org/holy-week-worship-roster-sign-up/>

AIM GOTV Training

March 13, 2018 7-8:30PM

Learn how YOU can engage voters in proven, effective ways.
Help people make their votes **more powerful** by voting with the AIM Agenda:

1. **Protection for immigrant families** facing separation by deportation.
2. **Quality after school programs** and buildings for students in high poverty elementary schools, and ensuring that Muslim students are welcome in our schools.
3. **HOUSING** that is affordable and dignified for all.



Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Gaithersburg
205 S Summit Ave, Gaithersburg
PLEASE PARK ACROSS THE STREET (202 S Summit Ave)

This will be the biggest local election for a generation.

Invite friends, neighbors, or family to be part of the AIM Team to meaningfully engage in our democracy and the upcoming election.

DEMOCRACY IS A VERB, AND WE MUST ACT!

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 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.

A Joyful Path

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 ocampoj@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.

Starting April 12, 2018, Tina Lightner-Morris will be teaching this class.

New Book for Wednesday Morning Book Group

Beginning Wednesday, March 7, the Wednesday morning group will begin to discuss Brian McLaren's latest book entitled *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian*. Watch the Sunday announcements and weekly e-mails for reading assignments. Here's a description from Amazon.com (<http://amzn.to/2nGawwg>): "Brian McLaren, a leading voice in contemporary religion, argues that— notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance—Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun." Read through Chapter 3 for Wednesday.

Godly Play

This week's Godly Play lesson, The Faces of Easter VI, continues to help us prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery of Easter by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on the face of Christ as he enters Jerusalem and offers the Twelve--and us--the bread and wine.

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. This fall and winter, we will be praying with the writings and teachings of Thomas Merton, the American mystic and Trappist monk, in observance of the centennial of his birth.

We meet again on Monday December 4. Contact Lori Perine at lperine@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Lenten Bible Study: Contemplating Colossians

Contemplation is entering into the realm of spiritual mystery. In the New Testament, the mysterious letter to the Colossians takes up that theme with its claim that we have the mystery of Christ. Over the first five Sundays in Lent, Sister Elena will lead an encounter with this mysterious short text and its theologies of the pre-existence of Christ, invisibility (Harry Potter's not the only one with a cloak!), spiritual power and resurrection. We'll also engage the apparent contradiction with these theologies and their manifestation within an unjust social order. The class meets from 10:15 to 10:45 am on five Sundays, February 18 through March 18, in the Undercroft with the Rev. Sr. Elena Thompson.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

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.

Worship Committee News

Our singlehanded stellar Worship Committee Chairman Carleton MacDonald is moving to Orangevale, California. His last Sunday at Ascension is April 8. If you would like to serve as chair or committee member, please let me know.

Meredith Horan

eve 301-926-1054 horanm@hotmail.com

Interfaith Class on "Abraham's Children"

This class, to have been offered in March as a Lenten study for local Jews, Christians, and Muslims, has been cancelled. For details, see Randy.

Pledge Envelopes

Please don't forget to pickup your pledge envelopes located on the table outside the Parish Office if you haven't done so. If your pledge envelope is not there and you did not pick it up please contact Lin by e-mail at office@ascensionmd.org.

Christian Formation

Christian Formation teachers will meet with parents and grand parents on Sunday, March 18th at 10:15 a.m. in the Library for parents who would like to discuss the Sunday School situation (the best time to hold Sunday School classes).

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension Youth Group

Our dioceses is planning to participate in the "March for Our Lives" on March 24th. More info here: <https://www.thecut.com/2018/02/march-for-our-lives-for-gun-control-will-be-on-march-24.html>

We plan to talk with the Youth about whether we want to participate as a group. Obviously based on their Memorial to the Lost project last year, there may be some interest.

Look forward to seeing you this Sunday evening!!!
Best-
Angie & Trevor

#MarchForOurLives



On Saturday, March 24, the students and families of March For Our Lives will take to the streets of Washington, D.C. to demand that their lives and safety become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools today. Members of

the Diocese of Washington are invited to march in solidarity with the young people that day, to provide ministries of hospitality, and to participate in a vigil at Washington National Cathedral (map) the evening before (no charge, but ticket required: <http://bit.ly/2HjkAp2>).

GET INVOLVED!

RSVP for the march in DC at the March for Our Lives website: <http://bit.ly/2tt7jlp>. This will ensure you get the most up-to-date information from the organizers of the march.

If you will be attending March for our Lives and would like us to email you with details on local Episcopal Church involvement closer to the date, please complete the form here: <http://bit.ly/2Hkl66l>.

If you are interested in being part of EDOW's ministry of solidarity and hospitality, please let us know here: <http://bit.ly/2HlahRE>. We will respond with information on those seeking hospitality as we receive them.

If you are visiting from out of town and in need of hospitality, please complete this form here: <http://bit.ly/2FuUzml> with your request, and we will do our best to match you with a volunteer host.

Register to attend (or volunteer for) the Friday vigil at Washington National Cathedral here: <http://bit.ly/2HjkAp2>. This event is free, but a ticket is required.

Questions? Please visit our FAQ page (<http://bit.ly/2Dae1mr>) for more information, articles and resources or email us at raceandjustice@edow.org with a specific concern.

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 once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month.

The program is today 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, March 24 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

2018 Lenten Rice Bowl Recipient

A Lenten tradition since the tenure of Rector Harry Dalzell (1970-1980), your offering, placed in the wooden bowl in the font as you come forward for Communion, goes toward an outreach ministry. Typically, we alternate between local and domestic or international causes. This year the Rice Bowl offering goes to Gaithersburg HELP, an agency that provides material support to struggling residents of all kinds. Ascension's food offering goes to the HELP food pantry on Muddy Branch Rd. Parish member Melanie Mitchell has been heavily involved with HELP board for many years. Former Rector Joe Clark served two terms as president of the HELP board.

Prison Ministry

Bubba Pflantzbaum has been writing to an inmate in Cumberland for about 10 years, providing friendship and access to information. His name is Jim, and he may be released in the next year or so. Jim is always looking for people to correspond with, so if you are interested in getting involved with this ministry, please email Bubba at bubbashalom@gmail.com

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 ~
Pastoral Care: Nan Hildebrand
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. Patrick's Church, DC
St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, DC

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, March 12

11:30 a.m. Living with a Chronic Illness—Room 1
1:00 p.m. AL-Anon—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, March 13

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
6:00 p.m. Spanish Bible Study—Ascension House
6:30 p.m. Action in Montgomery—Main Church/Undercroft
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, March 14

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
1:00 p.m. AL-Anon—Room 1
6:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

Thursday, March 15

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, March 16

1:00 p.m. AL Anon—Room 1
6:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program —Room 1

Saturday, March 17

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

Sunday, March 18

Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson
7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
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. Lenten Study—Undercroft
10:15 a.m. Men's Shelter Lunches
11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Chapel
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
12:30 p.m. Nueva Vida Class—Undercroft
1:30 p.m. Maryland Ike Jam—Chapel
5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel

Attendance	February 18	February 25	March 4
7:45 a.m.	24	22	28
9:00 a.m.	59	73	65
10:15 a.m.	12	13	9
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	30	35	40
11:15 am	39	41	42
5:00 p.m.	9	13	3
Total:	173	197	187