

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*The Third Sunday in Lent : 4 March A.D. 2018*

## Frederick Buechner *Quote of the Day*



### Coincidence

I THINK OF A PERSON I haven't seen or thought of for years, and ten minutes later I see her crossing the street. I turn on the radio to hear a voice reading the biblical story of Jael, which is the story that I have spent the morning writing about. A car passes me on the road, and its license plate consists of my wife's and my initials side by side. When you tell people stories like that, their usual reaction is to laugh. One wonders why.

I believe that people laugh at coincidence as a way of relegating it to the realm of the absurd and of therefore not having to take seriously the possibility that there is a lot more going on in our lives than we either know or care to know. Who can say what it is that's going on? But I suspect that part of it, anyway, is that every once and so often we hear a whisper from the wings that goes something like this: "You've turned up in the right place at the right time. You're doing fine. Don't ever think that you've been forgotten."

- Originally published in *Wishful Thinking* and later in *Beyond Words*

### Annual Meeting

Our annual parish meeting will take place at 10:15 a.m. today in the Main Church. Our primary business will be to elect new Vestry members and to have a time for shared reflection on the ministry and mission of Ascension.

### Worship Roster

The next worship roster is underway, for the second three months of 2018. If you have any dates you are not available, please let Sari know by e-mail at [sari.stoddard@verizon.net](mailto:sari.stoddard@verizon.net). Thank you to all who

# 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/2nGbwg>): "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 1 for Wednesday.

#### Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we will study the Faces of Easter V. This lesson continues to help us prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week we focus on the face of Christ as healer and parable-maker.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 diocese 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.

Finally, on Sunday March 4th at 4:00 p.m., we will do another service project with Comfort Cases. We will need an approximate head count by noon on March 2nd. <https://www.comfortcases.org/>

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

### Message from Cris

Hi, everyone!

Sorry I've been so M.I.A since I left Ascension, they've really kept me busy over here at UMD! I've met some great friends and amazing musicians here, my professor is amazing, and I'm playing a bunch of great music in my ensembles! This first concert cycle of the semester is kind of insane since I'm splitting my time between the two upper rotation ensembles: wind orchestra and symphony orchestra because



there aren't enough flutes to cover parts for both ensembles (we're doing Mahler 1 in symphony orchestra which calls for four flute parts, three of which double on piccolo!) I'm also part of a wind quintet which has been a great experience, and I'm getting more involved with our new music ensemble, TEMPO. I've grown so much in just the course of a semester and a half and I'm so glad that I'm finally in a place where I can grow more as a musician. In other news, I recently performed in a master class for Valerie Coleman, flutist and composer, at the Mid-Atlantic Flute Convention! She was amazing and has been such an inspiration to me as a flutist and person of color in classical music since high school. Her compositions are also super cool, you should check them out!

In other, other news, I'm finally giving my official junior recital at UMD! It's March 5th at 8pm in Gildenhorn Recital Hall in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center (at the base of the grand staircase when you walk through the front doors). This is the hardest I've ever had to work to prepare for a recital and I'm so excited to share it with everyone! There'll be the standard works for flute and piano, BUT I've also programmed a piece for my quintet and a piece for flute and harp! I've attached my recital poster to this email and I would appreciate it so much if you all could help spread the word! Hope to see you there!

Best,  
Cris

## 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 next program will be on March 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>

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
Non-Parochial Clergy of the Diocese  
Washington Episcopal Clergy Association (WECA)  
Network of National Episcopal Clergy Associations (NNECA)

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, March 5

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1  
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House  
6:45 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 3243—Room 6  
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community-Library  
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

### Tuesday, March 6

10:30 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, March 7

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 8

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 9

1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1  
6:00 p.m. Vestry Retreat—Room 1  
7:00 p.m. Vestry Retreat—Library

### Saturday, March 10

8:00 a.m. Vestry Retreat  
9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel  
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft  
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

### Sunday, March 11

**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  
11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Chapel  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church  
5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Youth Group—Undercroft

Attendance	February 11	February 18	February 25
7:45 a.m.	27	24	22
9:00 a.m.	79	59	73
10:15 a.m.	17	12	13
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	49	30	35
11:15 am	52	39	41
5:00 p.m.	9	9	13
<b>Total:</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>197</b>