

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

First Sunday in Lent: 5 March A.D. 2017

Annual Meeting 2017

The 2017 Ascension Annual Meeting will be Sunday, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the main church. Note the new time. This year, more than ever, it is vital for all able members to attend. There is an important message that must be heard.

As Vestry members have been sharing with you, the budget at Ascension has not been balanced. To repeat, in order to pay our bills we have been using approximately \$8000 every MONTH from our endowment. In addition to that, in order to cover the HVAC repairs and replacements we had to withdraw about \$60,000 more.

The vestry accepted this deficit budget knowing we could not continue doing so and planned a vigorous pledge campaign for 2016 while still supporting the missions that we all love. Based on results so far, however, it is clear that Ascension as we know it must change.

The goal of our Annual Giving Campaign remains \$500,000. Starting a pledge now or increasing what you are giving will help, but expenses have to be cut and the cuts must be significant.

COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BE HEARD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 12, BETWEEN THE 9:00 A.M. AND 11:00/11:15 A.M. SERVICES IN THE MAIN CHURCH.

THE 11:00/11:15 SERVICES WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL THE MEETING IS OVER.

Wednesday Nights in Lent

Wednesday evening yoga is back. Meet Randy in the Chapel at 6:00 p.m. for half an hour of gentle yoga. There are plenty of extra mats and blocks for those who need them.

Then there will be 20 minutes of Centering Prayer (instruction provided for those new to the practice).

Then at 7:00 p.m. follow Randy to the Library for a 5 session class on how to read the Bible called *Who Says So?*

From the Introduction: This adult education curriculum is designed to lead participants into an encounter with scripture as a source of authority for the Church and in their own lives. Its purpose is:

- To overcome common fears of discussing scriptural authority shared by many Episcopalians
- To give participants an awareness of the existence, strengths and limitations of a diversity of positions in relation to the authority of scripture, together with tools to understand the ways in which scriptural authority can be invoked by different groups
- To give participants an understanding of changing views of scriptural authority throughout history, including the uniquely Anglican perspective
- To enable participants to experience a diversity of methods of exploring and interpreting the scriptures
- To encourage participants to reflect upon the authoritative claims that they allow scripture to make on their own lives

Lenten formation starts this coming Wednesday evening.

Thanks, Everyone who helped out with the Shrove Tuesday bash! About 60 celebrants gathered for a final feast before the rigors of Lent set in.

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 Narthex.

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

This week's God Play lessons, the Faces of Easter I and II, help Children 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 Christ as a Newborn child and the face of Christ as the One who was lost and found.

A Joyful Path

The Members of a Joyful Path will be studying how we are a part of the community of life that includes all people. Lesson topics will be: What is family?; People in the Neighborhood; The New Tribe and No Boundaries. Please come and join us downstairs in Room 11 during the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services

Yoga Classes



New Yoga Time: Randy is part of an interfaith team teaching comparative religion at Osher for Lifelong Learning at Johns Hopkins University on Thursday mornings, so yoga moved to Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the 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.

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 at sunset. Please come and join us.

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

Wednesday Morning Book Group

The Wednesday morning book discussion group is reading Krista Tippett's *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*. From the author: "The discourse of our common life inclines towards despair. In my field of journalism, where we presume to write the first draft of history, we summon our deepest critical capacities for investigating what is inadequate, corrupt, catastrophic, and failing. The 'news' is defined as the extraordinary events of the day, but it is most often translated as the extraordinarily terrible events of the day. And in an immersive 24/7 news cycle, we internalize the deluge of bad news as the norm—the real truth of who we are and what we're up against as a species. But my work has shown me that spiritual geniuses of the everyday are everywhere. They are in the margins and do not have publicists. They are below the radar, which is broken." Read to the bottom of page 130 for Wednesday's discussion.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

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.

Youth Group Schedule Spring 2017

- March 12 - Regular Meeting in Undercroft Commons
- NEW - March 19: Northern Montgomery County Regional Youth Consortium at Ascension-making blessing baggies
- March 26 - Regular Meeting in Undercroft Commons
- April 9 - No Youth Group due to Spring Break
- April 23 - Regular Meeting in Undercroft Commons
- April 30 - Youth Sunday: NO YOUTH GROUP BUT LOTS OF CHURCH TIME
- May 21 - Picnic at Hight Walkers'
- June 25—Philly Work Camps

Sunday Morning Small Group for Small Group Leaders

If you are interested in growing your faith and connecting with other Ascensionites, then join me for a small groups leader training. Small groups are a great way to develop your faith in the context of relationship. We will talk about how to form, participate and facilitate a small group. We will address best practices and a structure to start your group off with. Join me either after the 9:00 or 11:15 services in the Library, this morning, Jason Cutshall, jascut@me.com

Call for Confirmation

If you are in the 9th grade or older (including adults up to 99 years old) and want to confirm your baptismal vows at the Cathedral in May, drop Randy a line. You should have been an active participant in the life of Ascension for at least the last couple of years, and be willing to participate in a group made up of people who are deciding if this the right time to do this.

Small Group for Families with Young Children

The small group for families with young children meets today at 11:15 am 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 Thursdays from 6:30 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

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Calling All Current Girl Scouts: Help Sell Cookies at Ascension!

Girl Scout Troop 3243 is hosting its 5th annual "Cookie Booth at Ascension" on Girl Scout Sunday. Any and all registered Girl Scouts who attend Ascension is invited to participate. We will sell cookies after each morning service. If you want to receive credit for your sales, please contact Lori Perine at gstroop3243@gmail.com no later than Tuesday March 7.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Candidates Forum Today

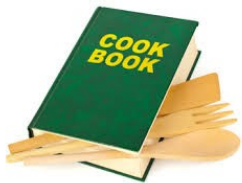
The candidates for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates will be available for dialog today after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00/11:15 a.m. services in the Undercroft Commons.

Celebrate Girl Scout Sunday at Ascension: March 12

Ascension invites all girls and adult volunteers active in the Girl Scouts to wear their uniforms to church on March 12, Girl Scout Sunday, for a special recognition and blessing at the morning English-language services. Members of the congregation can support our Scouts with a purchase of Girl Scout cookies or a contribution for a "Gift of Caring" to benefit U.S. military and their families. Cookie purchases or contributions can be made after each morning service.

Girl Scout Sunday is the kickoff of national Girl Scout Week 2017. Girls from various religious traditions are encouraged to honor their commitment via the Girl Scout promise "to serve God" by celebrating the rich diversity of belonging and religious observance of Girl Scout Sunday, Girl Scout Sabbath and Girl Scout Shabbat.

Ascension 2017 Cookbook



We are very excited to be in the creative process of producing the church of the Ascension Community Cookbook! We know Our members (and their family and friends) are blazing good cooks! This is the time to share some delicious recipes, and give credit to those Mothers and Fathers, and Aunties who gave us the recipe in the first place. We are gathering the recipes right now, and would love to have you take a moment to give us those wonderful directions on paper (forms in the Narthex) or electronically from the website: <http://ascensionmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Recipe-Card-English.pdf> Please complete your submission by March 12. And, in case you have not heard, the Ladies Cookbook Committee will pump up your enthusiasm for our cookbook endeavor in a unique way!

If you have any question about the content or process, please contact Zadinga @Z_Zulu@msn.com

Attention, Worship Leaders and would-be Worship Leaders!

I'm just starting the worship rosters for April, May and June 2017. We would love to have you join the roster as a worship leader (chalcist, reader, acolyte, healing prayer minister), if so, please email or phone me. You'll get training. Current worship leaders - please let me know if you have any black-out dates for the above months. If so, I'll need them by March 17 or I won't be able to schedule around you. Thanks to all of you who give your time as a worship leader - we are blessed to have you.

Sari Stoddard, sari.stoddard@verizon.net, 301-972-0914.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 12 at 2:00 am



Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 11.

Annual Reports Due Yesterday: There are still some outstanding reports. We want to put a complete report into everyone's hand next Sunday at the Annual Meeting. E-mail your reports to Eleni at comm@ascensiond.org.

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.

Sign-up for contributions are through an online system and assembly occurs by those present after the 9:00 am service on the third Sunday of the month. We will put lunches together on March 26th at 10:15 am. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

Mobile Med

We host the MobileMed van every Tuesday from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are assigned a 2 ½ hour shift each month. Duties include collecting basic patient information, answering questions and ensuring a safe, comfortable waiting area.

Our contact for Mobile Med is Jean Cohn 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 pm (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!

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 García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 16

Seminarian—Jason Cutshall
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Minister of Music—Jerrold Tidwell,
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Parish Administrator - Kathy Van Arnum
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Media Specialist—Eleni Hailu
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Interim Altar Guild Directors, Mardia Dennis, 301.540.4499
mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfdenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com
and Georgana Maines, *mainesgnh@verizon.net*

Children's Music Leader - Howard Hanson,
howarddhanson@gmail.com

Chapel Musicians - Eric O'Loughlin, *ericmelody@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:

2017: Denise Lionetti, Najma Stubblefield, Paul Whitmore
2018: Berenice Rodriguez, Avin Lalmansingh,
Gary McLaughlin
2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner
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
Non-Parochial Clergy of the Diocese
Washington Episcopal Clergy Association (WECA)
Network of National Episcopal Clergy Associations (NNECA)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, MARCH 6

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
6:30 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:00 p.m. 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 8

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
6:00 p.m. Yoga—Chapel
6:30 p.m. Centering Prayer—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Who Says So—Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Preacher: Javier Ocampo

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 11
10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children—Chapel
10:15 a.m. Sunday Morning Small Group for Small Group
Leaders—Library
10:30 a.m. Annual Meeting—Main Church
11:00 a.m. Misa en Espanol—Chapel
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
12:30 p.m. Sunday Morning Small Group for Small Group
Leaders—Library
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Chapel
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting & Spiritual Formation—

Church Attendance	Feb. 12	Feb. 19	Feb. 26
7:45 a.m.	23	25	30
9:00 a.m.	87	70	101
10:15 a.m.	10	15	13
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	38	41	40
11:15 am	45	36	56
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	9	10	--
5:00 p.m.	21	14	8
Total:	233	211	248