

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Fifth Sunday of Easter : 14 May A.D. 2017

"The Way, the Truth, and the Life"

“In the first century, what did Christians mean when they proclaimed that Jesus is ‘the way, the truth, and the life’? Or, in words attributed to Peter in Acts 4: 12: ‘There is salvation in no one else [other than Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved’? These words testify to the experience of Jesus’s followers. They had experienced salvation— liberation, deliverance, healing and wholeness, return from exile, light in their darkness, new creation, being born again— through Jesus. From this experience came the exclamation ‘He is the way!’ It is also the language of love, like the words lovers use for their beloved. When we say to our beloved, ‘You’re the most beautiful person in the world,’ we are not making a factual statement that everybody should agree with. Somebody overhearing us might think, ‘The most beautiful person in the world? Attractive maybe— but not the most beautiful person in the world.’ But that would miss the point. This is the language of love, devotion, delight, commitment. This is also is part of what it means to say ‘Jesus is the only way.’

“The language is also about more than experience and love. It does make a claim. It affirms that what we see in Jesus is ‘the way, and the truth, and the life’ and that ‘there is salvation in no one else.’ How are we to understand this claim? One way of understanding it, probably the most common way, is that you have to know about and believe in Jesus— that you must know about and believe in the Christian message. Note that this means that you can be saved only by knowing and believing the right language, namely, Christian language. This virtually amounts to salvation by words— by believing the right words instead of other words.

“Though many American Christians believe this, many do not, because they cannot. The claim that the creator of the universe is known in only one religious tradition has become increasingly unpersuasive to many millions, in part because many of us know people of other religions and also know that all religions, including Christianity, are particular historical responses to the experience of God, the sacred, in the cultures in which they originated. How, then, can any one of them truthfully proclaim itself to be ‘the only way’?

“There is a way of understanding the claim of John 14: 6 that does not involve Christian exclusivism. The key is the realization that John is the incarnational Gospel; in it Jesus incarnates, embodies, enfleshes what can be seen of God in a human life. To say, ‘Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life,’ is to say, ‘What we see in Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.’ It is not about knowing the word Jesus and believing in what is said about him that is ‘the way.’ Rather, the way is what we see in his life; we see a life of loving God and loving others, a life of challenging the powers that oppress this world, a life radically centered in the God to whom he bore witness.”

Borg, Marcus J.. *Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—And How They Can Be Restored* (pp. 172-173). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

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: Room 6

Today: Jesus and the Twelve

This week in Godly Play, we remember Jesus' last hours in the story of "Jesus and the Twelve". We learn about the Last Supper, the final meal Christ shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. We also discuss the lives of the disciples and their transformation into apostles.

A Joyful Path: Room 11

The members of A Joyful Path will explore the three reasons to read, explore and be familiar with the Bible. We will use the following quote as our starting point: "The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Oresence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts." A.W. Tozer. Come and join us in Rm 11 during the 9 and the 11:15. See you there.

Yoga Classes Return to Thursdays on June 1

Randy's yoga class is in recess until Thursday, June 1, when it resumes in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

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, 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. Please come and join us.

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

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

- May 21 - Picnic at Hight Walkers'
- June 25—Philly Work Camp

Small Group for Families with Young Children

The small group for families with young children meets the first Sunday of every month at 11:15 a.m. 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

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Spanish Classes

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:30 p.m. 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 ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

Wednesday Morning Book Group in Recess until May 31

The "WAM" book group will reconvene after Randy returns from clergy conference (next Monday-Wednesday), and two weeks of his annual leave. In preparation for the next discussion on the 31st, read chapters IV-VI. The group meets in the Library from 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Education for Ministry 2017-2018

After a year's sabbatical, Education for Ministry is going to return to Ascension! 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). The four-year program explores the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament), the New Testament, church history, theology, and the church in the world. Tuition covers all books and materials.

In order for the class to begin in September, six people need to commit to the class before the end of August. Please contact Peggy Ruppel (at 301.377.0728 or plr301@gmail.com) or David Mitchell (at 240.454.1904 or newlywed98@comcast.net) for more information.

We welcome Sr. Elena Thompson back to Ascension today! She is the celebrant at the 11:15 service.

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

Congregational Grant for Growth 2017-2018

I received word from Canon Joey Rick that the Diocesan Council voted at its last meeting on Tuesday the 2nd to renew our Grant for Growth for \$20,000 to help us fund Javier's ministry in and through Ascension, from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018! - RAL

Randy on Leave

I will be at clergy conference (with my colleague Javier and many others) at the Claggett Conference Center from Monday through Wednesday of next week. Then I will be taking 2 weeks of my annual leave from Sunday, May 14th through Saturday, May 27th. Javier, whose contact info is on page 4 of this bulletin, will be on call for emergencies.

"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

Baptisms on the Day of Pentecost

June 4 is the Day of Pentecost. If you want to schedule a baptism contact Javier or Randy. Note that this is also the Sunday of the annual Parish Picnic, when the 11:00 and 11:15 services worship jointly at Bohrer Park.

Mothers Day Celebration

There will be a Mothers Day Celebration on Sunday after the 11:00 service. Everyone is welcome!!

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 May 21 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>.

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 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@ymail.com) or Jean Cohn (Mondays, 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, April 29 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Mother's Day Food Drive: Today

In honor or in memory of our mothers on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, we invite you to donate a bag of groceries to replenish the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. There are forms available on the welcome desk, in the Undercroft Commons, and in the Chapel, where you can designate your contribution "in honor of" a loved one. That person will receive a letter notifying them of your gift. For donations "in memory of" loved ones, we will add those names to a list for special prayers.

**Sermons' Video on our Website/
YouTube**

Check out our sermons Video :
[http://ascensionmd.org/
videos/](http://ascensionmd.org/videos/)
Or
Our Youtube Page:
<http://bit.ly/2paseJO>

CONTACT US

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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
mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com
and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

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

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. Dunstan's Church

Pray for all mothers and those who have been
as mothers to us

Pray in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Thurgood
Marshall (May 17)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, MAY 15

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
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

TUESDAY, MAY 16

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, MAY 17

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, MAY 18

4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel

FRIDAY, MAY 19

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

SATURDAY, MAY 20

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

SUNDAY, MAY 21

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. Men's Shelter Lunches
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
1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Undercroft Commons
2:00 p.m. Christian Counselors Networking Meeting—
Library
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Chapel
6:00 p.m. Picnic at Hight Walkers

Church Attendance	Apr.23	Apr.30	May 7
7:45 a.m.	21	—	21
9:00 a.m.	85	—	73
10:15 a.m.	23	206	25
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	28	—	41
11:15 am	57	—	56
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	—	—	—
5:00 p.m.	19	—	18
Total:	233	206	234