

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Sixth Sunday of Easter : May 26, A.D. 2019

Birthdays and Anniversaries

When I was a child, my mother would always wake me early on my birthday by singing the Mexican birthday song “Las Mananitas” song by Cepillin (a singer clown) to get me in the mood for the celebration. (Check this out on YouTube to get the flavor). My mother loved birthdays, possibly because of the happy coincidence that both she and my father shared the very same year and day. My dad always joked that Mom was the old lady—by a good two hours!

So, what’s the point of birthdays and anniversaries, anyway? Certainly we can’t remember our own birth, though we have probably been told some interesting details about it. (In fact, I hope some of you will tell me these stories). I have come to think that the first year of anything—a child’s life, a marriage, a new business, a new church—are all very fragile enterprises. We recognize that reaching the one-year mark has taken strength, endurance, a measure of good luck, and God’s grace. Only the actors themselves know what may have gone awry, and how they fixed it. One full year of a new venture is truly time for a celebration!

As the years pass, there is purpose in reflection as well as celebration about birthdays and anniversaries. We recall events with pleasure or chagrin, and we express hope for the future. Most of us draw our family and friends into our continuing story, celebrating together, and supporting each other when the hard times come.

Institutions grow and change, too, although sometimes at so stately a pace that it is hard for us to perceive accurately. I realized this recently when I came across a dusty historical file about the history of the Church of the Ascension. It’s labeled “Ascension History”, and begins in 1955 and continues through 2005.

Each year is a set of facts—staff, services, average Sunday attendance, budget, property, and significant events—all on one page! Reading quickly through the file was like watching a flickery old-time movie. Sunday attendance rose from 64 to 84, to 100, surged to 147, then 160; with the unexpected death of the Rector it declined to 130, then 123, then back to 163. In 1987 parish growth really took off, rising to a peak of 500 in 2005. Budgets and pledges showed a parallel movement, and the buildings and grounds changed more slowly, but more dramatically with the addition of the church building. Where history really revealed itself was in the “significant events” section of the form. Sometimes, nothing was recorded; sometimes the event(s) recorded were mysterious. But in 1965, it was recorded that Ascension changed from mission status to parish status. In 1966 the Diocesan Convention voted “to give ladies the right to vote and hold office.” Imagine!

I could go on and on, but of course quite a few of you lived this history and know it intimately. I rely on you to tell me more, so that I can be better able to fully celebrate both the milestones we have achieved, and the ones that are to come. A wise person has noted that we give materially to commemorate the things that we value. So, if you are able to express this love and value of the Church of the Ascension in a material way, I have included a special Birthday/Anniversary envelope along with the normal pledge envelopes. If you pledge electronically, just use a plain envelope—and perhaps include an important memory of something that happened at Ascension!

Blessings,
Javier

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 represent Jesus Christ wherever we may be. We welcome you to our church family and invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of peace for parents and a beginners Sunday School is available in Room 4.

All children are welcome!

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path—10:00 a.m.

Since we have had such a small group of children attending Sunday School at 10:00 this year, we have been keeping everyone (preschool-5th grade) together in the Godly Play class, rather than offering both Joyful Path and Godly Play. We always meet in Room 4, the Place of Peace which is also our infant/toddler class. Our last day of 10:00 Sunday school will be June 9th. Hoping all the kids can join us as we celebrate our year of learning together.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

Using the story of Harriet Tubman's life, we are learning about willpower. She overcame many obstacles in her life and world and prospered and succeeded.

Godly Play

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.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Room 2. You don't need to know Spanish to come, we get together to learn and practice. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is discussing the book, "Enlightenment Now" by Steven Pinker. This book claims that reason, science, and humanism have brought progress in the sense that health, prosperity, safety, peace, and happiness have tended to rise worldwide. We invite you to participate in our discussions. We meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read chapter 18 for this coming Wednesday.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in room 2, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel, a time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Contact Claire Rosser at cjrosser@aol.com or 301-275-0617 for more information.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Summer Work Camp for Youth

Work camp is from July 21st to 26th in Philadelphia, PA. Transportation, food and materials are provided in the \$350 fee. Scholarships are available. We need commitments to attend ASAP!

We need to Update your Information

2019 Church Directories are available on the table in the narthex. Have you moved? Had an addition to your family? Please check your information and if there is any change let the church office know so our records can be updated.

Yard Sale & Car Wash - June 1

Put our Annual Summer Yard Sale and Car Wash on your calendar for Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you have furniture or clothes to donate, bring them to the office. Come find treasure and have your car washed too! We also need help. If you are available, come join us. Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org or at 202-903-6426 or at the Ascension office.

Bus "Tour of Beauty" Sunday June 2, 3:00-5:00p.m.

Travel with members of other congregations on an inspirational Bus Tour of Beauty on Sunday June 2 to learn about what other congregations have accomplished to "green" their sacred grounds; what various faith traditions teach about stewardship, and the connections between environmental stewardship and care for your neighbors—and witness solutions that heal the land and waters of our shared Potomac watershed. Contact Kolya Braun-Greiner at kolya@interfaithchesapeake.org or 301-909-8943. Register at <https://www.interfaithchesapeake.org/gaithersburgbustour>

Ideas needed! Help at Diocesan Youth Focus Group

The Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministries Focus Group needs your help identify challenges, opportunities and dreams for the future of these ministries in our diocese. As we are the largest Youth Group in Montgomery County it is very important that as many of our Youth attend as possible. This event takes place on Sunday June 2nd from 1:30p.m. to 3:30p.m. at Grace Church, Silver Spring. Please come let your voice be heard and be part of the process! This invitation is for youth, young adults, and those that work with them. Trevor and I plan to attend and could take anyone interested in attending. Register at the below website and reach out to us if you need a ride! https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUsjTSTNw_ljy8wHG_NGdmQAZQ_RmDzbt4gWn_vYfqCwCSjFQ/viewform

2019 Survey of the Congregation regarding Service Satisfaction

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension has a long and storied past, with our white steeple chapel as a monument to the love and effort of those who have gone before. This past year has seen significant changes to the Sunday services of Ascension. Our goal is to expand the number of members of our Church, while staying in touch and in tune with the current congregation. As we approach the first-year anniversary of our three-service Sundays, we need clear, concrete input from our members to ascertain how well we might be achieving that goal. So, take a moment to look over this survey form and give us the benefit of your assessment of our progress. Be as frank as you can be and help us shore up the foundation of this wonderful house of worship. The survey will be totally anonymous, but if you would like to speak personally with Father Javier, or any member of the Vestry or Worship Committee, say so, and we will get in touch with you. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6MKNHRW>. Thank you and God bless you for being at Ascension.

SAVE THE DATE: June 9th, 2019

Let's Rise Up Against Hunger!

Our men's shelter lunch program and work with Gaithersburg HELP are just two examples of Ascension's commitment to ending hunger in our local community. Now, with an eye toward broadening our reach even further, we are joining an effort to end global hunger as well.

On Sunday, June 9th from 4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m., we are gathering in the Parish Hall (Undercroft) for a meal packaging event with the organization Rise Against Hunger. Founded in 1998, Rise Against Hunger recruits volunteers to produce millions of nutritious meals annually that are then distributed to partners in countries around the world. These partners, best able to address the causes and effects of hunger based on their local presence and expertise, use these meals to change lives by promoting education, improving students' health and nutrition, addressing gender inequalities, stimulating economic growth and fighting child labor.

To accomplish our goal of packing 10,000 meals in just two hours on the 9th we need at least 40 volunteers. Please know that this is a family friendly event where everyone can contribute. There is a job for everyone! So please mark your calendars and take a moment to register as a volunteer at <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/churchofascension>. The link will also take you to a short video that gives you an idea of what to expect at a meal packaging event.

Creation Care in the Episcopal Church

Presiding Bishop Curry's Creation Care project includes resources for expanding our awareness of and engagement with environmental issues, and an opportunity to pledge to greater service in environmental stewardship. Please consider taking the pledge. If the suggested responses don't seem to fit your vision, consider using local projects as a starting point. The online address for Presiding Bishop Curry's Creation Care project is <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care>.

Are you already a Worship Leader? Would you like to Become One?

The schedule for July, August and September is under development. Now is a great time to explore offering your services on an occasional Sunday morning. Training included!

For those currently on the service list, please *submit your black-out dates for the quarter before June 15*. Contact Sari Stoddard at sari.stoddard@verizon.net or 301-325-8791.

Help Wanted!

We are accepting applications from friendly folks to serve on the Welcome Teams at the 10:00 a.m. service. We will reveal everything you need to know, and you will work with practiced parishioners who enjoy their duties. The teams serve twice in each 13-week quarter. Speak to a current Welcome Team member and join in!

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County

The Literacy Council of Montgomery County needs English tutors to help adult learners gain a better understanding of the English language and improve their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Volunteers are asked to commit to two hours of tutoring each week and should plan on two hours of preparation each week as well. No experience is necessary. For more information, visit <http://www.literacycouncilmcmd.org/>.

Pentecost Day Sunday June 9th—Wear red!

The Christian holiday of Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles. Many believe this is the birth of the Church. We will be celebrating Pentecost on Sunday June 9. Wear something red, the color of the celebration! We need Gospel Readers in different languages.

Summer Bible Study: Parables

Some of Jesus's most picturesque but curious teachings are found in the Parables. Please join us in June and July for a friendly discussion and reflection upon some of Jesus's most valuable lessons. We will be meeting in room 2 at 6:30 on June 11, 18, 25, and July 2, 9, 16. Come join us for some or all of the meetings! Contact Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org to obtain a discussion guide or further questions.

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301-948-0122 ☒ Fax: 301-926-9012
- ◆ Fr. Javier's cell: 202-903-6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a prayer request card (pink or yellow, on the table in the narthex) or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
mebudde@edow.org, 202-537-6550

Priest in Charge —The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

Pastoral Associate—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand
hildebrandnan@gmail.com, voice mailbox 13

Deacon—Eugene Wright

Minister of Music—Andrew Kullberg
music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Communications — Jesse Velazquez
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Sari Stoddard, sari.stoddard@verizon.net; 8 a.m. director Mardia Dennis, mard908@gmail.com, 10 a.m. directors Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedrón
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters, Susan McLaughlin
2022: James Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis
Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi
Christian Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker
Christian Formation for Adults: Peg Ruppel
Facilities: Ted Bedell & John Pruessner
Finance: Avin Lalmansingh
Mission: Paul Boynton
Pastoral Care: The Rev. Javier Garcia &
The Rev. Nan Hildebrand
Personnel: Jean Cohn
Worship: Gary McLaughlin & Curt Lindsay

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:
Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay
Alternate: Fredy Diaz

Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with ours:

St. Augustine's Church, DC
Church of the Ascension, Gaithersburg and Iglesia La Ascencion
Church of the Ascension, Silver Spring
Church of the Ascension, Lexington Park
Ascension Day (May 30)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, May 27, 2019

Memorial Day Office Closed

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Room 2
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

7:00 a.m. **Mobile Med**
11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting—Library**
7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

10:00 a.m. **Book club— Library**
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
7:30 p.m. **Spanish Bible Study-**
7:30 p.m. **Worship Committee - Library**
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, May 30, 2019

10:00 a.m. **Yoga—Room 2**
4:00 p.m. **Tai Chi—Chapel**
6:30 p.m. **Ensemble—Main Church**
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1
7:30 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**

Friday, May 31, 2019

Javier's Day Off

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, June 1, 2019

7:00 a.m. **Yard Sale/Car Wash Ascension Parking lot**
9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Parish Hall
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, June 2, 2019

Preacher: Ms. Peggy Ruppel

8:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist - Main Church**
10:00 a.m. **Bible School for 3 years old and under - Room 4**
10:00 a.m. **Godly Play and Joyful Room 4**
10:00 a.m. **Joyful Path Room 4**
10:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist - Main Church**
10:00 a.m. **St. Barnabas - Chapel**
10:30 a.m. **Immigration Consultations - Library**
12:00 p.m. **Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2**
12:00 p.m. **Holy Eucharist in Spanish - Main Church**
2:00 p.m. **Vestry Meeting - Room 2**

Attendance	May 5	May 12	May 19
8:00 am	35	32	30
10:00 am	109	136	108
12:00 pm	32	55	26
Total:	176	223	164