

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost: 12 November A.D. 2017*

## Journey of Generosity Joining in God's 'ever-rollingness'

There is a never-failing ever rolling-ness to God. That's what Amos said, "Let justice be like a rolling river and righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24)

Stewardship isn't first and foremost about money. Stewardship is first and foremost about the nature of God... never failing and ever rolling. This must be understood and lived out if you and I are to be called faithful stewards.

When we give, we are participating in the personhood of God. We are participating in what is most real in the universe – God's inexhaustibility! We are making God real in the world by lending God our flesh through partnership.

When we give, you might say, we are rolling the dice in a game, the outcome of which we are already certain. God is love. And, loving is giving. Read along in the bible, Old or New Testament, and you will see the most stern rebukes by God through the prophets are reserved for the people who claim God but fail to enact God. Rebuke is reserved for those who would dam the flow of God's never-failing ever rolling-ness, either in word, deeds or both.

But that is not who we are. We are those who understand and incarnate God's generosity. We are the people who appreciate at a deep personal level that all we have is gift. And that anything we could offer to God is simply the act of returning resources to its author and true owner.

But not only that, there is a never-failing, ever rolling-ness to be experienced personally in this giving business. Let's call it the experience of freedom born of fidelity. Freedom too often these days is defined as the absence of restraint or regulation. This definition of freedom is little more than the idolatry of the self or the market. The freedom that we were made for is the freedom that comes from faithfulness. This freedom births spiritual maturity and a robust sense of neighborliness and common well-being.

It's no wonder that one of the 100 most influential people in the world, as I write this article, is Marie Kondo, author of "The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up." While on the face of it her goal appears to be decluttering the world one closet and home at a time, she's teaching the world that clutter and greed are bondage.

I believe her work is deeply spiritual. I believe her work is about removing the barriers to our experience of never failing and ever rolling-ness. What hinders us in trusting and replicating God's never-failingness and ever rolling-ness? Maybe we could begin again by thinking of God's raging, persistent, goodness toward us. Maybe that could unlock the flow.

THE RT. REV. ROB WRIGHT

## Raffle



### Crochet Queen Size Bed Cover

Donation will be used for the sound equipment for the Chapel.

Handmade and donated by Maria Estela Rodriguez

**Tickets \$10**

Raffle ends on Dec 16, 2017 - drawing will be done after the Virgen de Guadalupe celebration on December 16, 2017.

If you want a ticket, please ask Berenice or Javier. Berenice 240-281-3736

**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.

### Town Hall Meeting at 10:15 in the Main Church Today

Bring your beverage and snack into the nave for some Q&A with Randy and Vestry members about his retirement next Spring and what's next for Ascension.

**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

### 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.

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

### Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:30 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 [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

### Wednesday Book Group: Christ Actually: Reimagining Faith in the Modern Age

Read Chapter 7, "Paul" in preparation for Wednesday's discussion. The book group meets in the Library from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

### A Joyful Path

The members of a Joyful Path will study how we learn from all experiences. If we look honestly at our mistakes and listen within for guidance, we will discover our true identity as an unlimited spirit. While we want each child to have a positive self-image, we do a great disservice if we focus so much effort on building up self-esteem that we forget to teach the power of honest self-examination and introspection. Looking at our mistakes is a difficult but necessary step for change. After introspection, however, don't leave out the next step – going within for help in understanding. "Learn to get in touch with silence within yourself, and know that everything in this life has purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences. All events are blessings, given to us to learn from."  
– Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

If you are in grades 3-5 come and join us on the path after the 9:00 a.m. service in Room 11.

### Godly Play

Abraham and Sarah traveled away from their home, a land where people thought that gods were in each thing-such as the sky, in a river, or in a tree. The understanding that all of God might be everywhere sustained Abraham and Sarah and they finally made their way to Canaan, where Isaac was born.

In this lesson, nearly the same arching journey is taken by God's people, but this time in the opposite direction. Even though this journey is forced onto God's people, the same as-

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

tounding discovery is made. God was not just in one place, in the temple in Jerusalem. God was also in a foreign and strange land. God's presence is not here or there but everywhere, waiting. To be found. To find us.

### Zumba

We have Zumba classes at Ascension every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Undercroft. Zumba is a dance fitness program created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez during the 1990s. Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The choreography incorporates hip-hop, soca, samba, salsa, meringue and mambo.

### The Montgomery County VOICES from the Holy Land film series—*"Where Should the Birds Fly"*

"Montgomery County Voices from the Holy Land Film Series will show "Where Should the Birds Fly" which is the story of Israel's years long siege of Gaza and its 2008-2009 attack, told through the eyes of two young women, 11-year-old Mona Samouni (whose family was killed by Israeli rockets during Operation Cast Lead) and the filmmaker and educator Fida Qishta on Sunday afternoon, November 12 at 2:30 p.m. at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Montgomery Village (9801 Centerway Rd). A panel discussion will be held following the film.

### Pledge Cards

Remember to bring Your Pledge Cards to Church, and place them in the baptismal font as you come forward to receive Communion.

### Cookbook Committee Update



Online ordering for the cookbook is now closed due to low stock. Please email the church administrator at [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org) if you would like to purchase a book, and she will forward your inquiry to the Cookbook Committee.

### Contemplative Eucharist at 5:00 p.m. Tonight in the Chapel

The service features beautiful a cappella Taize (and other) chants, readings and intercessions, punctuated by moments of silent meditation.

### Youth Group

Youth Group will meet today at 6:00 p.m. in the undercroft!

We have schedule our volunteer service project with Comfort Cases for SUNDAY November 19th from 4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. Many more details will be shared this Sunday at Youth Group. Please get this on your calendar! We can take up to 25 Youth-and I would really like to see us fill every slot!! I will need people to sign up by Wednesday November 15th.

Also the Northern Montgomery County (NoMoCo) Episcopal Churches will have a bowling activity on Sunday December 3rd from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 with unlimited cheese pizza and soda, shoe rental and 1.5 hours of bowling included. We must give a head count by November 20th.

**Epiphany Pageant - The King's Birthday**

Wanted - Participants young and old; for speaking and non-speaking parts in our Epiphany Pageant. Needed-Assistant Director(s), Piano Accompanist, Greeter, 4 Narrators, Innkeeper, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Inn Workers, Stars, Angels, Kings, and Stable Animals. We have the scripts and the costumes we just need you. The pageant will tentatively be on Sunday January 7th. at the 5:00 p.m. service. Rehearsals on Saturday December 23, 30th and January 6th. from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Please contact Gordon Donnelly. I sing in the choir at 9:00 a.m. , teach in Room 11 at 10:15 a.m., in the instrumental ensemble for the 11:15 a.m. My email is vagordon1@yahoo.com

Thanks,  
Gordon

**Thanksgiving Day Eucharist**



We will celebrate Thanksgiving in the spirit of gratitude for creation and how the earth God has given us supports our lives. Join us Thanksgiving Day in the main church at 10:00 a.m. for a Eucharist that will reconnect us to a sense of the goodness of creation, and creation as the body of God.

**Blessing of the Cars**



As we celebrate the beginning of the Christian year we pray that God be with us wherever we go. For that reason we will have the blessing of the cars on December 3 after the 11:00 am services in the parking lot. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.

**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 is November 19 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 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](mailto:melanie.mitchell@verizon.net)

**Mobile Med**

Starting from Tuesday November 14, Mobile Med will resume the service and with the cooler weather, we will again remain open until 3:00 p.m. If there are questions, contact us at [spangle1@comcast.net](mailto:spangle1@comcast.net) or 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, December 23 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

**Blood Pressure Screening**

Blood pressure Screening will be offered on November 26 after each services in Room 1.

**PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

64 Pledges for the total of \$185,386

Thanks to those below who have pledged to the annual giving campaign:

- ◆ Ron & Jan Hauber
- ◆ Mary H Waldron
- ◆ Jake & Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro
- ◆ Christopher & Susan Ahalt
- ◆ James & Antoinette Babcock
- ◆ Roy Bevington & Connie Finch
- ◆ Levin B Broughton
- ◆ Jennie B Cargill
- ◆ Nancy Carman
- ◆ Jemima Carr
- ◆ Raymond & Doris Chin
- ◆ Don & Jean Cohn
- ◆ Wadia Dennis
- ◆ Margaret Donnellon
- ◆ Elaine T Dunn-Johnson
- ◆ Betsy Hasegawa
- ◆ Meredith Louise Horan
- ◆ Janet King + FRF
- ◆ Avin & Anika Lalmansingh
- ◆ Elizabeth Lennon
- ◆ Gary & Susan McLaughlin
- ◆ Janet M Rhoads
- ◆ Peggy Ruppel
- ◆ Laura Shay
- ◆ Gerlinda Somerville + FRF
- ◆ Fran Spina
- ◆ Sari Stoddard
- ◆ John & Kelly Ten Hagen
- ◆ Thomas & Dorothy Thiele
- ◆ Paul Whitmore
- ◆ William & Delores Finister
- ◆ Betty Knight
- ◆ Luis Pedron & Ruth Skowronski
- ◆ Monteath Petersen
- ◆ Hallie Porter
- ◆ Lavina & Stewart Williams
- ◆ Rose Buck
- ◆ Phyllis Eddy & Joseph Deffenbaugh
- ◆ Gordon L Donnelly
- ◆ Lisa Murdock & Herald Douglas
- ◆ Thomas Hall + FRF
- ◆ Howard & Margaret Holland
- ◆ Curt Lindsay
- ◆ M Mackert
- ◆ Cynthia Perley
- ◆ Bernice Rodriguez
- ◆ Maria E Rodriguez
- ◆ Chris & Rachel Ruggeri
- ◆ Richard & Susan Snay
- ◆ Escobar Vergel
- ◆ Robert & Linda Waters
- ◆ Russell E Weber
- ◆ Natalie Lois Wilson
- ◆ Fe Wlotzko
- ◆ Sarah Gallagher
- ◆ Kristen Keating
- ◆ Lauren Kingsland
- ◆ Carleton MacDonald
- ◆ Arturo & Maria Rodriguez
- ◆ David & Stephanie Mitchell
- ◆ Frank & Leslie Sanya
- ◆ Florence Sasu
- ◆ Michelle Wood & Steve Heinig

## CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877  
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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 Garcia Ocampo  
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 16

**Minister of Music**—Jerrold Tidwell,  
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**Parish Administrator** - Lin Keene  
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**Media Specialist**—Eleni Hailu  
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**Altar Guild Directors**, Mardia Dennis, 301.540.4499  
mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfaenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com  
and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@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. Margaret's Parish

Charlie's Place Feeding Program, St. Margaret's Parish  
Ordination Service (November 18) Pray for those who are  
being ordained

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

11:30 a.m. Living with Chronic Illness—Room 1  
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1  
6:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church  
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House  
6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4  
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

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, NOVEMBER 15

10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library  
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1  
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1  
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel  
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel  
7:30 p.m. Zumba —Undercroft

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

**Preacher:** Laura Shay

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church  
10:15 a.m. Adult Class —Library  
10:15 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6  
10:15 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 10  
10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children— Chapel  
10:15 a.m. Men's Shelter Lunches  
11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Chapel  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church  
1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Undercroft  
1:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting—Room 1  
5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist — Chapel

Attendance	October 22	October 29	November 5
7:45 a.m.	26		25
9:00 a.m.	83		75
10:15 a.m.	10	180	9
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	50		55
11:15 am	29		37
5:00 p.m.	18		10
Total:	216	180	211