

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: 19 November A.D. 2017

Journey of Generosity Exercising a Generous Power

They bear colorful names: Roscoe. Sweetwater. Desert Sky. Buffalo Gap. Horse Hollow. These are all vast farms in Texas. Wind farms.

Giant turbines receive the wind's power and translate it into electricity. Because it is properly channeled, the wind's energy enhances the lives of thousands of people. We take for granted reading after sunset and cooling off at the end of hot day in air-conditioned comfort, driving at night with the aid of streetlights and grabbing ice cream from the freezer.

The same wind that supports modern life can uproot trees and flatten homes. Tornadoes ravage towns every year. Joplin, Missouri, and Moore, Oklahoma, are just two locations on a long list of destruction and loss.

Wind power, like any power, can enhance well-being or deepen misery. Build up or destroy. The key is channeling that immense power for the good. Jesus had something like this in mind when he said, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5) Only, he wasn't talking about wind power. He had the power of each human life in mind.

I have to confess, until recently the meekness passage was my least favorite Beatitude. Without realizing it, I had been reading it something like this: "Blessed are the weak, for they shall inherit the earth."

Strictly speaking, I have always known that Jesus had something else in mind. But I figured the whole peacemaker thing farther down the list of Beatitudes said it much better, so I read right past the idea of meekness.

Then my friend Nick Knisely, bishop of Rhode Island, set me straight. He told me that "meek" means "power under control." If you look up the Greek word that we translate as meek, you'll see that he's exactly right.

God invests in each of us the power to transform the world. When we devote our time, our spiritual gifts, and our financial resources to God's dream of a just and peaceful creation, our energies feed the hungry, heal the sick, mend fractured relationships, and restore shattered lives. In other words, God works through our generosity to restore the world.

On All Saints' Day we remember that saints are not weak. The creator and redeemer of all things flows through them. Flows through us. We can exercise a generous power.

The Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby

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: Laura Shay

Laura Shay, PhD, MTS, is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary. She is a healthcare chaplain endorsed by the Episcopal Church who is currently working as a hospice and hospital chaplain.

Refreshments and conversation follow every service, in the 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

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

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

Read Chapter 8, "The Women, Too" 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

There will be no Godly Play on November 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

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.

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 if you would like to purchase a book, and she will forward your inquiry to the Cookbook Committee.

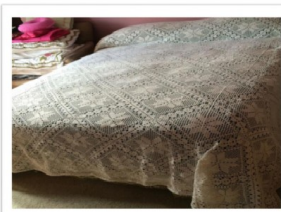
Youth Group

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.

Jerrold Tidwell's Last day

Today is Jerrold Tidwell's Last Sunday as Minister of Music. Join him for worship at 9:00 and 11:15. Party to follow! Bring food and drink to share!

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
or berenice.rodriguez.84@gmail.com /
ocampo@ascensionmd.org

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.

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 14, 2017

81 Pledges for the total of \$209,816

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

- ◆ Ron & Jan Hauber
- ◆ Gary & Susan McLaughlin
- ◆ Thomas Hall + FRF
- ◆ Heinig
- ◆ Mary H Waldron
- ◆ Janet M Rhoads
- ◆ Howard & Margaret Holland
- ◆ Alice Benson
- ◆ Jake & Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro
- ◆ Peggy Ruppel
- ◆ Curt Lindsay
- ◆ Georgana Maines
- ◆ Christopher & Susan Ahalt
- ◆ Laura Shay
- ◆ M Mackert
- ◆ Johnetta Mars-Gibson
- ◆ James & Antoinette Babcock
- ◆ Gerlinda Somerville + FRF
- ◆ Cynthia Perley
- ◆ Laurie Yelle
- ◆ Roy Bevington & Connie Finch
- ◆ Fran Spina
- ◆ Bernice Rodriguez
- ◆ Arturo & Maria Rodriguez
- ◆ Levin B Broughton
- ◆ Sari Stoddard
- ◆ Maria E Rodriguez
- ◆ Francisco Balicao
- ◆ Jennie B Cargill
- ◆ John & Kelly Ten Hagen
- ◆ Chris & Rachel Ruggeri
- ◆ Sciou & Jacob Broderick
- ◆ Nancy Carman
- ◆ Thomas & Dorothy Thiele
- ◆ Richard & Susan Snay
- ◆ Enid Cole
- ◆ Jemima Carr
- ◆ Paul Whitmore
- ◆ Escobar Vergel
- ◆ Kirk Davies
- ◆ Raymond & Doris Chin
- ◆ William & Delores Finister
- ◆ Robert & Linda Waters
- ◆ Charles Ofori Dickson
- ◆ Don & Jean Cohn
- ◆ Betty Knight
- ◆ Russell E Weber
- ◆ Kathleen Foley
- ◆ Wadia Dennis
- ◆ Luis Pedron & Ruth Skowronski
- ◆ Natalie Lois Wilson
- ◆ Ronald & Sharon Hayden
- ◆ Margaret Donnellon
- ◆ Monteath Petersen
- ◆ Fe Wlotzko
- ◆ Adeline Hedd-Williams
- ◆ Elaine T Dunn-Johnson
- ◆ Hallie Porter
- ◆ Sarah Gallagher
- ◆ Suzanne E Hood
- ◆ Betsy Hasegawa
- ◆ Lavina & Stewart Williams
- ◆ Kristen Keating
- ◆ Swithin & Ama Kwamena-Poh
- ◆ Meredith Louise Horan
- ◆ Rose Buck
- ◆ Lauren Kingsland
- ◆ Melanie Mitchell
- ◆ Janet King + FRF
- ◆ Phyllis Eddy & Joseph Defenbaugh
- ◆ Carleton MacDonald
- ◆ Claire Rosser
- ◆ Avin & Anika Lalmansingh
- ◆ Gordon L Donnelly
- ◆ Arturo & Maria Rodriguez
- ◆ Beverly Stennett
- ◆ Elizabeth Lennon
- ◆ Lisa Murdock & Herald Douglas
- ◆ David & Stephanie Mitchell
- ◆ Esther & Robert Taylor
- ◆ Frank & Leslie Sanya
- ◆ Florence Sasu
- ◆ Michelle Wood & Steve

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 December 17 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

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 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 ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

Blood Pressure Screening

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

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

Minister of Music—Jerrold Tidwell,
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Media Specialist—Eleni Hailu
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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

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
Angus Dun Committee
Pray for all travelers

Pray for our national life and all of God's blessings
(Thanksgiving Day - November 23)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- 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 22

- 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 23

THANKSGIVING DAY

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 6:00 p.m. Bariatric Support Group—Chapel

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- 1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

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 10
- 10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol—Chapel
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel

Attendance	October 29	November 5	November 12
7:45 a.m.		25	24
9:00 a.m.		75	91
10:15 a.m.	180	9	0
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service		55	25
11:15 am		37	33
5:00 p.m.		10	8
Total:	180	211	181