

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*The Last Sunday after Pentecost: 26 November A.D. 2017*

## A System of Beliefs or a Way of Life?

"For centuries, Christianity has been presented as a system of beliefs. That system of beliefs has supported a wide range of unintended consequences, from colonialism to environmental destruction, subordination of women to stigmatization of LGBT people, anti-Semitism to Islamophobia, clergy pedophilia to white privilege. What would it mean for Christians to rediscover their faith not as a problematic system of beliefs, but as a just and generous way of life, rooted in contemplation and expressed in compassion, that makes amends for its mistakes and is dedicated to beloved community for all? Could Christians migrate from defining their faith as a system of beliefs to expressing it as a loving way of life?"

"For centuries, Christians have presented God as a Supreme Being who showers blessings upon insiders who share certain beliefs and proper institutional affiliation, but who punishes outsiders with eternal conscious torment. Yet Jesus revealed God as one who "eats with sinners," welcomes outsiders in, and forgives even while being rejected, tortured, and killed. . . . He preached that God was to be found in self-giving service rather than self-asserting domination. . . . What would it mean for Christians to understand, experience, and embody God as the loving, healing, reconciling Spirit in whom all creatures live, move, and have their being?"

"For centuries, Christianity has presented itself as an "organized religion"—a change-averse institution . . . that protects and promotes a timeless system of beliefs that were handed down fully formed in the past. Yet Christianity's actual history is a story of change and adaptation. . . . What might happen if we understood the core Christian ethos as creative, constructive, and forward-leaning—as an "organizing religion" that challenges all institutions (including its own) to learn, grow, and mature toward a deepening, enduring vision of reconciliation with God, self, neighbor, enemy, and creation?"

"Many people today are leaving the belief systems of their parents and grandparents. This is a mass exodus from institutional faith that demographers are calling "the rise of the Nones." Nones comprise about twenty percent of all Americans, and one-third of Americans under thirty. Having little patience with (or appreciation for) mystery, as well as so little humility or basic love for groups other than our own, maybe Christianity in its present formulation has to die for a truly universal and love-centered spiritual path to be born. I sincerely wonder if this might be true."

- Brian McLaren, author of *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion Is Seeking a Better Way to Be Christian* (Convergent: 2016), 2-3. Please visit [brianmclaren.net](http://brianmclaren.net) to learn more about his work.

### What is a "Contemplative Eucharist?"

As you may know we are trying this out at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays in the Chapel. It features meditative easy to sing a capella chants (think 'Taize'), and moments of silence. Rather than a full length sermon the celebrant offers a reflection on the biblical readings of the day and invites a response from the congregation. Intercessions and Communion complete the service.—RAL

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### Youth Group

The Northern Montgomery Count (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. Contact Angie if you want to go at [angela.hightwalker@gmail.com](mailto:angela.hightwalker@gmail.com)

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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**

### We Welcome to Ascension Today

*Karina Gomez McCarty*, who's returned to us as interim Minister of Music at 11:15. Karina's interest in music started at a young age, noticing classical selections used in cartoons and sneaking into her older brother's room to listen to his Beatles tapes. She began formal piano lessons in her native country, Argentina, when she was 7 and continued her studies through college. A graduate of Catholic University in Washington, DC, Karina has been teaching general/choral music in Montgomery County Public Schools since 1999 and currently teaches at Gaithersburg Elementary School. Karina has served as an accompanist for several Catholic churches in the area including St. Matthews Cathedral, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Ignatius of Loyola. She is very happy to be at Church of the Ascension, where she enjoys the warmth and diversity of the community. Other interests include tennis, choral singing, travel, and spending time with her husband and daughter.

*Jason West*, who is our guest organist and choir director today. Jason is a graduate of Westminster Choir College, Princeton NJ who made his concert debut at the John F. Kennedy Center in a solo organ recital. Jason held church positions in the East Coast and California before moving to England for 13 years. Although he changed careers to become an IT trainer, he kept singing and playing at Chester and Liverpool Cathedrals and several London parish churches. Since moving back to the DC area 12 years ago, he now works as a Business Analyst and continues his music career by serving as an interim and substitute organist/director in several denominations.

**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](mailto: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 [ocampoj@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampoj@ascensionmd.org)

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

Read Chapter 9, "Imitation of Christ" in preparation for Wednesday's discussion. The book group meets in the Library from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

### Godly Play & Joyful Path

There will be no Godly Play and Joyful Path today in observance of Thanksgiving weekend.

## 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.

### Lady of Guadalupe Day

Join us on December 17 to celebrate the Lady of Guadalupe Day at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Church. After the service we will have a Mariachi Band to sing "Las Mañanitas" to the Virgin. If you want to experience more about the Latino Traditions, this would be a great opportunity to do it. After the service we would continue the celebration in the Undercroft with more Mariachi songs and Latin-American food.

### Master the Calendar!

Did you know that Ascension keeps a master calendar, managed by our Parish Administrator Lin Keene, that organizes and displays all uses of all our space all the time? It's true. As you and your group decide to meet, reach out to Lin or check the calendar on the website to find a room you can use on the date you prefer. To book the room, contact Lin by phone: 301-948-0122 or by email : [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org) and she will add you to the calendar. If there's a conflict, she will let you know and help you find an alternative space, day, or time.

It makes meeting easy. If you have any questions, please contact Lin.

Thanks all,  
Betsy Hasegawa

### Lost and Found

Lost and found is located on the shelf above the coat area by work room 5. Items found will kept for a period of three weeks.

### Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for the church office from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Lin at [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org)

### 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](mailto:berenice.rodriguez.84@gmail.com) / [ocampoj@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampoj@ascensionmd.org)

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### 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 10 after the 11:00 a.m. services in the parking lot. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.

### Latino Ministry Posada

At 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 9th, Ascension will host the Posada of the Latino Ministry of the Diocese of Washington. Members of all the Latino congregations will be visiting Ascension and everybody is welcome to join us.

### Pledge Cards

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

### Movie Night : How the Grinch Stole Christmas



Everyone is welcome to meet up in the Undercroft on Friday, December 1st at 6:30 p.m. to watch "How the Grinch Stole Christmas (rated PG).

On the outskirts of Whoville, there lives a green, revenge-seeking Grinch who plans on ruining the Christmas holiday for all of the citizens of the town.

The signup link will be emailed soon.

## 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 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](mailto: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 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](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 [ocampoj@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampoj@ascensionmd.org)

## PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017

88 Pledges for the total of \$233,296

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 Defenbaugh
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Alice Benson
- ◆ Georgana Maines
- ◆ Johnetta Mars-Gibson
- ◆ Laurie Yelle
- ◆ Arturo & Maria Rodriguez
- ◆ Francisco Balicao
- ◆ Sciou & Jacob Broderick
- ◆ Enid Cole
- ◆ Kirk Davies
- ◆ Charles Ofori Dickson
- ◆ Kathleen Foley
- ◆ Ronald & Sharon Hayden
- ◆ Adeline Hedd-Williams
- ◆ Suzanne E Hood
- ◆ Swithin & Ama Kwamena-Poh
- ◆ Melanie Mitchell
- ◆ Claire Rosser
- ◆ Beverly Stennett
- ◆ Esther & Robert Taylor
- ◆ Anne Brink
- ◆ Monica Koenig Caphart
- ◆ Andrew & Venice Greene
- ◆ Pete & Ellen Minderman
- ◆ Ceda & Zadinga Ogada
- ◆ Esther & Archie Sawyer
- ◆ Lovetta F Willie

## 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

### Interim Ministers of Music

9:00 a.m. Clarice Snyder

11:15 a.m. Karina Gomez McCarty

**Parish Administrator** - Lin Keene

office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

**Media Specialist**—Eleni Hailu

comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

**Altar Guild Directors**, Mardia Dennis, 301.540.4499

mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfoadenhauer, 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  
Christ Church, Chaptico  
Christ Church, Clinton Parish  
Christ Church, Port Tobacco Parish  
Christ Church, Prince George's Parish  
Christ Church, Wayside Parish  
Christ Episcopal School  
Daughters of the King

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, November 27

- 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 28

- 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 29

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 5:00 p.m. CPR—Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

### Thursday, November 30

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Zumba—Undercroft

### Friday, December 1

- 1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program—Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. Movie Night—Undercroft

### Saturday, December 2

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

### Sunday, December 2

**Preacher:** Enid Cole

- 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
- 12:30 p.m. Teacher's Meeting—Library
- 5:00 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist—Chapel

Attendance	November 5	November 12	November 19
7:45 a.m.	25	24	35
9:00 a.m.	75	91	76
10:15 a.m.	9	0	10
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	55	25	53
11:15 am	37	33	69
5:00 p.m.	10	8	8
<b>Total:</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>251</b>