

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: 5 November A.D. 2017

A Time for Everything

“There’s a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens...”-Ecclesiastes 3:1

My dear friends: As you know, the leadership of Ascension and I, along with you, have been observing a period of intentional discernment for well over a year. Beginning with the creation of a small focus group comprising veteran parish leaders, we’ve pondered the question of how to align our financial reality with our understanding of what we believe is integral to the core mission of Ascension. We have been open to any leading of the Spirit and have left no topic of significance outside our consideration.

The most visible consequence of those first discussions was reducing staff and creating a new parish administrator position that would absorb the function and costs of a professional accounting service. Between those measures and slightly better income figures for ’16 and ’17, we moved significantly closer to a balanced budget, but were still tens of thousands of dollars away. Even with the completely unexpected gift of a \$50,000 bequest, we were still not there.

I began to read about the increasingly common phenomenon of “bi-vocational” clergy. As there are fewer and fewer fully funded clergy positions, there are congregations with ordained leaders who have a part time position outside their church (or synagogue).

I had been bi-vocational before, in the early 90’s, starting up a part time campus ministry near my parish. I thought I might be able to do something like this here, giving Ascension a bit of a financial break while I responded to a strong sense of call to a ministry of teaching. I would be based at Ascension, half to two-thirds time, while teaching somewhere part time.

After several months of looking I had some really affirming encounters, but nothing that would compensate me adequately for what I’d be giving up at Ascension.

Ascension needs a full time rector. It took me a long time, but I finally concluded that as I am eligible to retire from parish work, that I would do so, allowing Ascension to “re-boot,” if you will. This is a special place, to put it mildly, with a unique emerging mission. It’s been exciting and transformative for me to serve as your rector for the last 10 years.

I have come to believe that it is time for us to let each other go and see what God has in store for us. I shared this with the Vestry at its October 22 meeting, and then the Office of the Bishop the next day.

April 1, 2018 - Easter Day - will be my last day as Rector of Church of the Ascension.

This is only partially a financially driven decision. I do feel a strong pull toward a teaching ministry, and I will pursue getting the credentials I need to do just that. I am still young and healthy enough that I have another career or two left in me!

I cannot begin to express my gratitude for the support of Bishop Mariann and Paul Cooney, and the Vestry of Ascension, especially Sr. Warden Betsy Hasegawa, who has been our liaison with the diocese.

And I would certainly be remiss if I did not praise those stalwart souls who must deal with me on a day to day basis: the staff of Ascension! They have been icons of Christ for me; their very presence at Ascension a frequent reminder to me that we are on a Godly path: my (younger) brother and priestly partner in mission and mayhem Javier; Jerrold (also a short timer!), whose hands evoke the presence of God on the organ and piano and who has empowered those of us privileged enough to make music with him to be better musicians than before; Eleni, my Tech Guru (i.e. uber geek); and our most recent arrival Lin, who has a passion for order and organization and the heart of a shepherd!

I will make this same announcement in church next Sunday, November 5, and then we will have a town hall meeting the following Sunday, November 12, between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00/11:15 a.m. services.

I apologize to those of you who see me often for not sharing this sooner, but the timing was fairly sensitive, as you might imagine. I believe our final months together will be a profound blessing for us all.

Love, and Peace!

Randy

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, starting today!

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 ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

Christian Formation

Christian Formation (Sunday School) for children age 3 (and potty trained) through 5th grade will be held immediately after the 9:00 a.m. service on the lower level of the main church annex. Teachers will be stationed in the narthex to greet and assist newcomers. Classes will end before the start of the 11:00 a.m. service. Adult classes are also offered during this time in the Library. These sessions will help us deepen our knowledge of the stories of the people of God and reflect on the meaning of these stories in our lives.

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

Read Chapter 6, "Thou Art Peter" 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 be affirming: I will remember God is within me and all others. Remembering that God is within us and a part of everything that ever was and ever will be is one of the most important things we can do.

As humans, we naturally forget things and occasionally forget to be present for our family and friends when they need us. That is part of being human, that is part of the learning process. We will play several memory games and hear a story about the never forgotten son. Come and join us in Room 10 after the 9:00 a.m. service. See you there.

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we will study a number of the prophets from the Old Testament at 10:15 a.m. in Room 6. Much has changed since creation. The People of God have been freed from slavery, ruled their own country, been defeated, carried off into exile, and returned to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem. God had been with them all the way—but they had not always been with God. The prophets' job was to show the people, the king and the priests when they turned away from God. We learn that prophets still exist today and continue to help all of us know the true way to live.

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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

The Montgomery County VOICES from the Holy Land film series—Today

Montgomery County Voices from the Holy Land Film Series will show "Two Blue Lines" which examines the human and political situation of the Palestinian people from the years prior to the creation of Israeli to the present day from various Israeli perspectives today at 2:30 p.m. at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Montgomery Village (9801 Centerway Rd).

Blood Pressure Screening

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

Pledge Cards

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

All Saints' Sunday Prayers

In past years we've had a list to read at the Prayers of the People, comprising your written requests made in advance. As we had some who brought pictures of departed loved ones, along with their stories, it seemed redundant to create a list, yet something needed to be done to prayerfully recall the faithful beloved departed. Therefore, today at all services, we will ask you to name your loved ones aloud at the Prayers. After each name, we will sound the gong.

Thank You

Everyone who came to Randy's aid when he called for pickup trucks to haul major clutter off the church campus and out of the main building: Ted Bedell, Kevin Blanc, Avin Lalmansingh, Doug Krause, and Christ Ruggeri.

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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Epiphany Pageant - The King's Birthday

Wanted - Participants young and old; for speaking and nonspeaking 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 Jan 7th. at the 5pm service. Rehearsals on Saturday Dec. 23, 30th and Jan 6th. from 9-10:30.

Please contact Gordon Donnelly. I sing in the choir at 9, teach in Rm 11 at 10:15, in the instrumental ensemble for the 11:15. 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 OCTOBER 29, 2017

54 Pledges for the total of \$149,568

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

- ◆ Ron & Jan Hauber
- ◆ Mary H Waldron
- ◆ Jake & Ophelia Valley-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

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 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 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

Mobile Med

For the next few weeks, the van is out for repairs and patients will be referred to the Mobile Med clinic at 981 Rollins Avenue in Rockville on Tuesdays. Questions and if you want to volunteer at our waiting room, contact Jean Cohn 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 ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Neighbori-ando in Gaithersburg

On Thursday, November 9th Javier will be at Greene Growlers bar from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. If you want to talk and meet other people from Ascension, join us! We can have a good time and talk about Ascension and its life at the same time building stronger bonds through communication and knowing each other better. The bar is located at 227 E. Diamond Ave. Gaithersburg, Maryland in front of the train station at Gaithersburg.

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,
tidwellj@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

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 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
Resolutions Committee of the Diocese
Pray for all military veterans, chaplains, personnel and
their families
(Veterans' Day - November 11)
Diocesan Confirmation Service (November 10) Pray for
those who are being confirmed

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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 7

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 8

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 9

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson
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
11:00 a.m. Misa en Espanol—Chapel
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
5:00 p.m. Last Chance Church — Chapel

Attendance	October 15	October 22	October 29
7:45 a.m.	27	26	
9:00 a.m.	78	83	
10:15 a.m.	10	10	180
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	35	50	
11:15 am	51	29	
5:00 p.m.	16	18	
Total:	217	216	180