

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: 1 October A.D. 2017

Making Room at God's Table

Today marks the beginning of Ascension's Annual Giving Campaign to raise operating funds for our 2018 budget.

Over the last 135 years, Church of the Ascension has grown from a mission of Christ Church, Rockville, and become the dynamic parish that it is today. You could say that throughout our life as a community of faith, our vision has been to expand the room at God's table so that all may gather and find a place here to be nourished in faith, serve the world around us, and share the message of God's love.

The ways that we live into that vision are almost too numerous to count. We provide an of worship services, including one for Spanish speakers. We sponsor many outreach activities, including Mobile Med and Ministerio Felicidad, in our own buildings. Our members serve in the local soup kitchen at St. Martin's Church across the street, and nearly every month of the year we engage in missional activities such as the Linkages for Learning Backpack program and participating in Action in Montgomery projects. Many of us have marched in DC for the Sanctuary Movement and in support of DACA (deferred action for childhood arrivals).

We are committed to providing the best Christian education possible for our children and youth, together with the chance for our youth to contribute to mission activities each summer like the one sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania .

These programs are but a few that we offer. All have grown and flourished because of your generosity. Your commitment has made God's table ever larger and more welcoming. You've helped make it possible not only for us here at Ascension to know God's presence in our lives, but for so many others to know of God's presence in their lives, too.

During the 8 week campaign that commences today we invite you to reflect on the role Ascension plays in your life, the life of your family, and others close to you. Members of the Vestry will be on hand after each of today's services to answer any questions you may have about the campaign, current and future activities, and how your contributions make all the difference in what we can do.

You are invited to join them as they place their pledge cards in the baptismal font at the presentation of the gifts. Or, during the coming Sundays of the campaign, you may place your pledge card in the font as you go forward to receive Communion.

If you don't currently pledge, we hope you will consider doing so. If you are already among the many who have pledged this year, we hope you will renew your pledge for 2018 and give prayerful consideration to increasing your pledge, if possible.

Faithfully,

The Clergy, Wardens and Vestry of Ascension

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: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the narthex.

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. There is no class on Columbus Day. For more information contact Javier at ocampo@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 through page 103 of Chapter 3, "The Jewish Christ," in preparation for Wednesday's discussion. The book group meets in the Library from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

The Listening Heart Community

The Listening Heart Community is Ascension's "monastery of the heart", an intentional group for seekers in all stages of their spiritual journey to explore Benedictine and other contemplative spirituality in community. We meet the first and third Monday of each month in Library at 7:00 p.m. Contact Lori Perine at lperine@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

A Joyful Path

This week the members of A Joyful Path will learn about the importance of the Bible to our faith and in our lives. We will discuss the differences between the Old and New Testament. We will discover the different versions of the Bible and their uses today. If you are in grades 3-5, come and join us in Room 11 after the 9:00 a.m. service.

Godly Play

Our Godly Play lesson this week focuses on the Holy Family--Mary, Joseph and Jesus, along with the Angels, Shepherds, Magi and animals present at Jesus' birth. The Holy Family

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holds deep significance in Godly Play as the matrix from which new life comes. Christ's incarnation changes everything, particularly the way we understand ourselves, each other, the Creator, and the world around us. We meet in Room 6 after the 9:00 a.m. service.

Coping and Resiliency Workshop for Teens:

In response to an increase in incidents of violence, discrimination and bias, the International Cultural Center, in partnership with Kehilat Shalom and Church of the Ascension, hosting an interactive workshop for teens. Participants are welcome to share their reactions to recent events and discuss various ways to support themselves, their peers and the wider community. The event will include group discussion, practicing coping skills and a creative writing activity to raise awareness of violence, discrimination and bias. After completing the workshop, participants will be able to:

- ◆ Apply coping skills to overcome adversity,
- ◆ Increase communication skills & better express themselves,
- ◆ Learn how to help others who may be struggling,
- ◆ Access resources and communities of support,
- ◆ Develop advocacy skills,
- ◆ EARN SSL HOURS

The workshop will be held this afternoon from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the Undercroft. Pizza and snacks provided.

To register, Click on the link <https://goo.gl/PWirgU>

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.

Contact info Update

The Clipboard is being circulated at all services for a few Sundays to give you a chance to inform the Church Office of any changes in your information.

Beth O'Callaghan

We give thanks for Beth's continued improvement! She is holding services at St.Nick's *today*. See her CaringBridge blog at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/bethocallaghan>

Blessing of the Beasts Today at 5:00 p.m.

In observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will be blessing your feline, avian, canine, bovine, equine, porcine, reptilian, and arachnid friends at the 5:00 p.m. service later today in the Chapel. Invite your friends to bring their pets too!

Lector Training

Seasoned lector Andrew Greene and Randy will hold a lector training after the 9:00 o'clock service on Sunday, October 22 in the main church. This is for current and new lectors.

Acolyte Training

Ray Chin will be offering a training for new and current acolytes after the 9 o'clock service on Sunday, October 15, in the main church.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Adopt-a-Space at Ascension

Our worship and common spaces are sacramental in the sense that we rendezvous with God and one another in them. It is therefore meet and right that we tend them as the gift that they are. This sign-up lists most of the spaces we inhabit from week to week. They do get cleaned, but there's a lot of traffic in and out of our building and there are plenty of unclaimed artifacts to prove it!

This is an invitation for groups or individuals to "adopt-a-space" to declutter and re-order (where there is furniture).

I have assigned some groups to care for spaces with which they have a special relationship, such as the main church's sacristy, where the Altar Guild lives out its mission to prepare the holy of holies for each of to encounter at every service. Some spaces got claimed immediately, such as the Chapel nave and sacristy, by "regulars" at the 11:00 o'clock service.

There are a few left! Won't you join in? Sign up by clicking this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4caba82da75-adoptaspace>

Open Bethlehem—October 15

Christ of the Servant Lutheran Church presents a series of four films this autumn on Sunday afternoons. The first film is titled *Open Bethlehem* (90 minutes) on October 15 at 2:30 p.m. at 9801 Centerway Road, Montgomery Village, MD, 20879.

Open Bethlehem spans seven momentous years in the life of Bethlehem, revealing a city of astonishing beauty and political strife under occupation. The documentary follows the story of director Leila Sansour as she returns to her hometown as it is soon to be encircled by The Wall. Chronicling Sansour's campaign to stop occupying Israeli forces encircling Bethlehem, this fierce and poignant story maps a determined and ongoing effort to unite Christians, Muslims and Jews in the desire for free access to the Holy City. Sansour, who lives in Bethlehem and London, plans to participate in the moderated discussion.

Cookbook Committee Update

We did it! We made the August 31st deadline to submit our recipes to Morris Press Cookbooks! Our original plan was to have the company upload our recipes into their online program, but they wouldn't guarantee the Spanish language recipes. So, we decided that the only way to get the cookbook we wanted was to do it ourselves. Many, many thanks to everyone who helped with all of the editing, translating and uploading of recipes. We now have the bilingual cookbook we wanted. We are especially indebted to Ruth Anna Skowronski who uploaded all of the Spanish language recipes and Sari Stoddard whose unflappable demeanor and first-rate editing and project management skills kept us on course and on schedule. Morris Press has confirmed that Ascension Cooks! Many Recipes, One Ascension is now in production. We are on track to have the cookbooks on hand by October 29th, the date of the final One Ascension Luncheon of the year--just in time for holiday gift-giving!

Blood Pressure Screening

There will not be Blood pressure Screening in this month. It will aim to start in the last week of October.

Movie Night: October 13

Everyone is welcome to meet up in the Undercroft on Friday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. to watch *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. A SignUp Genius will be circulated in advance.

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Autumn Party

On October 7 we will held a party in the Undercroft as a fundraiser for Ascension. Tickets are on sale and the price is \$15. If you need more information ask Vestry members Bernice Rodriguez (Berenice.rodriguez.84@gmail.com) or Luis Pedron (lrpedron@gmail.com), or Javier (ocampo@ascensionmd.org).

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 on October 15 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

Every Tuesday, for (at least) the summer months, Mobile Med has agreed that we can close the waiting room at 1:00 p.m. We will still list a person for the 1p shift in case the day is particularly hot or rainy and we need to keep the waiting room open until 3:00 p.m. I will notify the "on call" 1:00 p.m. person that morning if they need to be there.

The 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m. person will now close the Chapel at 1:00 p.m. I have put instructions for closing in the volunteer folder; you can also contact Jean Cohn if there are questions 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, October 28 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Hurricane Relief

Episcopal Relief & Development urges prayers for communities recovering from the impact of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, especially Puerto Rico. Please donate to the Hurricane Relief Fund and visit the organization's website for more information about relief and recovery efforts. <http://bit.ly/2xiQwJ3>

Walk Maryland Day Connection--Rockville

Marjorie Madikoto is affiliated with the Diabetes Self Care Management Institute in Rockville and supports Diabetes Self Management Education and Diabetes Prevention Program classes around this community. Adriana Hochberg is an America Walks fellow examining walkability in Rockville and has organized an Aspen Hill community walk for Sunday, October 1st at 4:00 p.m. at Aspen Hill Library (meeting spot) 4407 Aspen Hill Rd, Rockville, MD 20854. For more information, please contact Adriana at: adriana_hochberg@yahoo.com

CONTACT US

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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

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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. Francis Church
Pray for human treatment of all of God's creatures, espe-
cially companion, rescue, and service animals

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
6:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
7:00 p.m. Spanish Class—Ascension House
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

11:00 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, OCTOBER 4

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, OCTOBER 5

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
12:00 p.m. BP Mariann-Clergy Luncheon—Room 1
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
7:30 p.m. Zumba—Undercroft

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
6:00 p.m. Autumn Party/Fund Raiser—Undercroft

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

Preacher: The Rev. Shivaun 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
6:00 p.m. Youth Group—Undercroft

Attendance	September 10	September 17	September 24
7:45 a.m.	24	30	22
9:00 a.m.	71	93	75
10:15 a.m.	9	17	14
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	49	45	41
11:15 am	51	50	44
5:00 p.m.	10	5	10
Total:	214	240	206