

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: 22 October A.D. 2017

Teilhard for Troubled Times

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a French philosopher, paleontologist, and Jesuit priest... was accused of false optimism, of an indifference to personal suffering after World War II when people and nations—still shaken from the horrors of the Holocaust and Hiroshima—struggled with personal and collective remorse. *But Teilhard was by no means indifferent.* His life-transforming vision of the oneness of humanity came to him in the midst of serving as stretcher bearer in the bloody trenches of World War I, and his writings on human progress rose from the untold depths of personal suffering he endured in faithfulness to a Church that actively blocked his path. He knew personal suffering only too well, and he looked straight into the face of the sorrow, the horror, and named it as such.

The haunting prayer woven into Teilhard's reflection on faith in *The Divine Milieu* makes clear that it is no cheap optimism he is dispensing here, but a wrenchingly honest acknowledgement of our human predicament and an unflinching fidelity to seeing God in every aspect of the earth, even in our human suffering:

Ah, you know it yourself, Lord, through having borne the anguish of it as a man: on certain days the world seems a terrifying thing: huge, blind, and brutal. . . . At any moment the vast and horrible thing may break in through the cracks—the thing which we try hard to forget is always there, separated from us by a flimsy partition: fire, pestilence, storms, earthquakes, or the unleashing of dark moral forces—these callously sweep away in one moment what we had laboriously built up and beautified with all our intelligence and all our love. Since my human dignity, O God, forbids me to close my eyes to this . . . teach me to adore it by seeing you concealed within it. Amen.

- The Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault

One Ascension Sunday - October 29 One Service Only, at 10:00 a.m.

The time is near when we will again celebrate as one Ascension, at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 29. There will be no other services that day. The theme for the luncheon afterward is "Fall Celebration." Since it is so close to All Saints' Day, we are inviting everyone to bring a picture of a departed loved one and share their story with those gathered. There will also be a parade of children dressed in their Halloween costumes to start off the festivities. The Ascension Cookbook will be available for sale at \$10.00 each. They will make an excellent holiday gift. Ascension T-shirts and hoodies will also be on sale. Please plan on bringing a fall dish to share. The Cookbook Committee will be making several chili dishes as a main course. Come one, come all, to join the fun!

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

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 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 Chapter 5, "Jesus and John" 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

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 Rm 11 after the 9am service. See you there.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we will study the Exodus, when Moses led the People of God out of slavery in Egypt through a parting in the Red Sea. This story helps evoke the People's experience of God's elusive presence.

Youth Group

Youth Group Meets Tonight from 6:00-8:00p.m.: Hello Everyone! Thanks to all who came to the last group to hear about our Fall service project with Comfort Cases! We had a full house with 21 youth attending. We were so proud!

Just a reminder that we have Youth Group tonight. Come for Food, Formation, and Fun!! See you then! - Ang & Trev

Contemplative Eucharist"

"Contemplative Eucharist" at 5:00 p.m. Tonight in the Chapel: This is a service we actually haven't yet done at Ascension! It's been around for a few years, however. Our version tonight features Taize chants, periods of silent prayer (contemplation), and Communion, using a very 21st century prayer. Seekers welcome! - RAL

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.

Lector Training - Today

Seasoned lector Andrew Greene will hold a lector training after the 9:00 o'clock service in the main church this morning. This is for current and new lectors.

The Montgomery County VOICES from the Holy Land film series

Today, *Life in Occupied Palestine*, a primer on the situation by Anna Baltzer, a Jewish-American Columbia graduate and Fulbright scholar, will be shown at 2:30 p.m. at 9801 Centerway Road, Montgomery Village, MD, 20879.

Blood Pressure Screening

Blood pressure Screening will be offered on Sunday, October 29.

November Ascendant

Please email Eleni Hailu by Wednesday, October 25, if you have anything for the November Ascendant at comm@ascensionmd.org. Thank you!

Pledge Cards

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

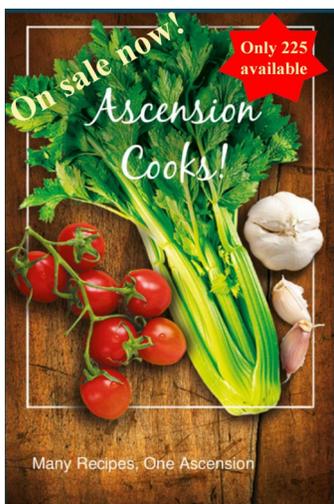
My Camino to the Field of Stars

Dear Ascension Friends,

Some of you know me because I play flute with the musical group at the 11:15 service. I came to Ascension nearly two years ago, exhausted by trying to cope with the overwhelming events unfolding in our world, most especially the refugee crisis. The Ascension community has taken me in and comforted me. And Jerrold and the musical group have nurtured my musical abilities. I've been writing music for more than a year now, music that gives me peace as I write it and play it. I feel a enormous gratitude to God for guiding me to Ascension, and to you, who have embraced me.

If you are interested go to YouTube and listen to my video "My Camino to the Field of Stars". If you want to hear more, let me know and I'll give you a CD or a free streaming of the whole album "Pilgrim's Way". You are responsible for this music, Ascension community, and I want to share it with you as much as I can. Claire. (Cjrosser@aol.com).

ASCENSION COOKS! Reserve your copy today!



The Cookbook Committee is delighted to announce that our exciting, new cookbook, Ascension Cooks! Many Recipes, One Ascension is on its way! The cookbooks will be available for distribution at the next One Ascension Feast on October 29th.

We have ordered 225 copies, and since more than 70 members of the Ascension community have contributed to the project, we suggest you reserve a cookbook for yourself and, perhaps, for a friend or relative

while they are readily available. So be sure to stop by our table in the narthex to reserve your copies (via cash or check). You can also reserve copies on the Ascension website (via PayPal). We will distribute the books to those who have preordered them on October 29th at which time books will also be available for purchase.

Not sure how many cookbooks to order? Let us tempt you: Anyone who purchases two or more cookbooks will automatically be entered into a raffle to win a special cooking themed gift. We will also giftwrap your purchase so you are ready for the holidays!

Don't miss out! At only \$10.00, the cookbook is a steal, so you know it will sell out soon!

We are unabashedly proud of our effort. We hope that you will feel the same and join us at the Feast on October 29th!

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

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, October 28 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampoj@ascensionmd.org

PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF OCTOBER 20, 2017

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

Jim Babcock	Janet King
Roy Bevington	Aaron Lalmansingh
Levin "Barney" Broughton	Janet M Rhoads
Jennie Cargill	Peggy Ruppel
Nancy Carman	Laura Shay
Raymond Chin	Sari Stoddard
Wadai Dennis	John Ten Hagen
Margaret Donnellon	Thomas Thiele
Eliane T Dunn-Johnson	Paul Whitmore
Meredith Horan	

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



<http://bit.ly/2tHzJuT>



<http://bit.ly/2sYC8UV>



<http://bit.ly/2tCOYsa>



<http://bit.ly/2paseJO>

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 Garcia 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
Pray for church musicians and choirs

Pray for international human rights and all organizations
and individuals that promote peace and justice worldwide.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23

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, OCTOBER 24

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
5:30 p.m. Regional Meeting—Main Church & Undercroft
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 25

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 26

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
11:00 a.m. Episcopal Seeking Seniors-Asbury
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
6:00 p.m. Bariatric Support Group—Chapel
7:30 p.m. Zumba—Undercroft

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

6:00 a.m. Ministerio Felicidad
9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

ONE ASCENSION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Preacher: Javier Ocampo

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
10:30 a.m. One Ascension Sunday Feast—Undercroft

Attendance	October 1	October 8	October 15
7:45 a.m.	18	23	27
9:00 a.m.	86	75	78
10:15 a.m.	5	8	10
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	51	50	35
11:15 am	38	40	51
5:00 p.m.	16	12	16
Total:	214	208	217