

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: 29 October A.D. 2017*

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## **Journey to Generosity** *A Different Sense of Prosperity*

There are people I know who live their lives very sacrificially, just like Moses and Paul did. Moses was called by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, something he was not willing to do at first; but God persisted, supporting Moses in his sacrifice doing what God wanted. The people I know do this too. They respond to God's call to care for the poor, the naked, the hungry and those in prison. In loving their neighbor, often far away from their own country, they live sacrificially to love God and their neighbor.

Paul delights in this: "So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us." (1 Thes: 2:8) Paul wants "to please God who tests our hearts." (1 Thes: 2:4)

The people I know live sacrificially; they could easily earn much more if they lived in the United States or Canada, and live much more securely; they have chosen to not follow the advice of the wicked. They really are "like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper." (Psalm 1:3)

The people I know have a different sense of how they prosper. Their currency of exchange is really not money, but how much they love their God and their neighbor. Elizabeth of the Trinity, a 19th century Carmelite nun, said, "Let us ask God to make us true in our love, to make us sacrificial beings, for it seems to me that sacrifice is only love put into action."

Christians who love God and their neighbor have the currency of the baptismal covenant to guide us. Our currency is God's love. "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad our days." (Psalm 90:1) In rejoicing and in being glad our all days, God's love is all we need to prosper.

In our baptismal covenant Christians declare their belief in God, Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit. We, with God's help, declare that we will continue in fellowship, the breaking of the bread, prayer, resisting evil and repenting, proclaiming the Good News, seeking and serving Christ in all persons and loving our neighbor, striving for justice and peace and respecting the dignity of every human being. In Canada, Anglicans also agree to strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth.

The people I know live their lives sacrificially in the way that Elizabeth of the Trinity suggested we all do. In rejecting the rampant consumerism of the age, in rejecting the disparity between the super-rich and the poor, we are called to live sacrificially as we live out our baptismal covenant, loving God and loving our neighbor just as the people I know do, as did Moses and Paul.

Glen Mitchell

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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**

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.

### 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 Room 11:00 a.m. after the 9:00 a.m. service. See you there.

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we will study the "Ten Best Ways" to live, also known as the Ten Commandments. After Moses led the People of God out of Egypt to freedom, they could live where they wanted, be who they wanted, and do what they wanted. God provided divine guidance through Moses.

## 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.

### *The Montgomery County VOICES from the Holy Land film series*

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 on Sunday aft., 11/5 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 this morning 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.

### My Camino to the Field of Stars

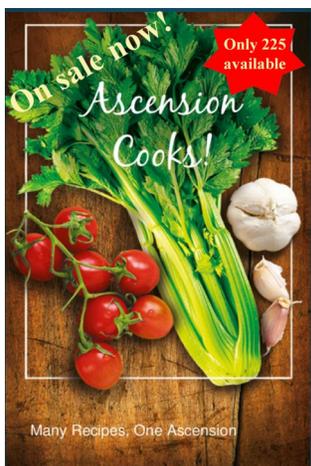
Dear Ascension Friends,

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).

If anyone has left a **needle point kit** in the Ascension office, please pick up by November 3rd. thank you.

### 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](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

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](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, October 28 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto: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.

## PLEDGE UPDATE AS OF OCTOBER 22, 2017

36 Pledges for the total of \$105,460

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

- ◆ 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

## 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  
Church of St. Michael and All Angels  
All Saints' Church, Chevy Chase Parish  
All Saints' Pre-School, Chevy Chase  
All Saints' Parish, Oakley  
All Souls' Memorial Church, All Souls' Parish  
All Saints' Day (November 1)

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

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 31

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, NOVEMBER 1

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 2

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel  
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Bariatric Support Group—Chapel  
7:30 p.m. Zumba—Undercroft

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

**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  
10:15 a.m. Men's Shelter Lunches—Undercroft  
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 8	October 15	October 22
7:45 a.m.	23	27	26
9:00 a.m.	75	78	83
10:15 a.m.	8	10	10
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	50	35	50
11:15 am	40	51	29
5:00 p.m.	12	16	18
<b>Total:</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>216</b>