

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost : 23 September A.D. 2018*

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## Why Do We Give?

Every year at this time, we begin a conversation that touches on our responsibility to give some of what we have to our church. I have been here just long enough to know that the members of the Church of the Ascension are extraordinarily generous, and that they can be counted on to support the church. But why?

In my youth, there was one reason, and as far as my father and grandfather (the bishop) were concerned, it was the only reason we needed: God had commanded it. I knew all the scriptural texts—Old and New Testaments both, in which the commands could be found. And it was enough.

But time passes; we experience more of life, of suffering, and of unearned blessings. I have heard the heartfelt personal stories from members of Ascension about why they give to the church, and I am humbled by the tremendous diversity of motivations that cause our people to respond when they are called on. I don't think one motivation is better than another, just different, as we all are.

Here are a few of the spurs to giving that I have heard:

- ◆ **Historical:** My family has given for decades; it was what I was brought up to do, and I feel good about it.
- ◆ **Practical:** The church has many needs—look at that roof! I want to help.
- ◆ **Religious.** I believe that God is calling us to be less involved in the fleeting material pleasures. This giving helps keep me centered on what really matters while it helps the church.
- ◆ **Social:** I have met wonderful friends here. The church fosters these friendships that strengthen both the church and the community.
- ◆ **Emotional:** I was lost, fearful, and confused. God saw my need, and provided the guidance I needed. I want to give back so others may be helped, too.
- ◆ **Organizational:** If you want an equal voice in the body of the church, you must participate in a meaningful way. For me, this means annual giving.

I would like you to consider what motivates YOU to share what you have with the church. Every reason that's yours is valid, and generosity is always rewarded, sometimes in surprising ways. While you are in this philosophical mood, consider all that God has given you, and resolve to give something back, in thanksgiving. I think that is what my dad and grandpa would advise, too!

We will kick off this year's Annual Giving Campaign next Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018. You should have received your packet between now and then, so if you are motivated to follow your heart with generous action, you may turn in your pledge during Bishop Mariann's visit.

Blessings,

Javier

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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 "Represent Jesus Christ Whatever We May be," so we welcome you to this family 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. Deacon Enid Cole

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of peace for parents and a beginners Sunday School is available in Room 4. Please feel free to bring your child.

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is 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. Tai Chi will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

### A Joyful Path

Today, We welcome all 3rd to 5th graders to come and join A Joyful Path in Rm2 during the 10:00 service. This week we will continue to search for understanding by using the Bible as a tool. Come join us on the path for fellowship and learning.

### Wednesday Morning Book Group

On October 10th, we will start discussing the book, "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humanity", by Yuval Noah Harari. This book explores the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be "human". For this coming Wednesday, please read Chapters 20, 21, and 22 of the book, "Take This Bread", by Sara Miles.

### Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 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

### Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 AM, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

Please note the following Yoga Schedule changes:

- ◆ 9/27/2018 class moved to 9/28/2018 at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ 10/4/2018 class canceled
- ◆ 10/11/2018 class moved to 10/12/2018 at 10:00 a.m.

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### Are you interested in helping someone in need of transportation get to church?

We have members at Ascension that are looking for a ride to Sunday service. Are you available, are you interested in giving them a lift? If you live in Gaithersburg and would like to assist please contact the parish administrator Lin Keene at office@ascensionmd.org

### WE HAVE GONE DIGITAL

In this day and age we must keep up with technology. We have updated Servant Keeper (Ascension's database) to allow parishioners to update their own information on the church's database. The link below will allow you to access it by entering your email address and creating a password. You will be able to upload your own photo, update your current information, and also view your contributions and print your own statements. Of course those who wish us to provide them with their statements, we will be happy to do so. You will be able to share your interests in severing and tell us where you are serving now. If you have any difficulties, please contact Lin Keene at office@ascensionmd.org

<https://servantkeeper.com/member-portal/ECOTA/registration/email>

### Healing Prayer Ministers

We are in desperate need of volunteers to provide this special function at our 8 o'clock service. Training and assistance will be provided to you on a one-on-one basis. Give your name to Father Javier, or call Lin at 301 948-0122.

### Parishioner with Cancer in Need of Transport to Doctors

Leslie Pool has cancer and is in need of help getting to her numerous medical appointments. Ascension is not her only source of help, but we are looking for a few people who can assist. Please contact Bubba Pflantzbaum at bubbashalom@gmail.com

### Ascension Youth Group Kicks off 2018-2019 Program—Today



Youth Group will begin today with a Cook-Out at the Hight Walkers @ 9701 Breckenridge Place in Montgomery Village. Please arrive by 6 pm for games, food and fellowship which will end at 8 pm. Meat, buns, and serving items will be provided. Please bring a dish or item to share.

All Youth in the 6th grade and older are encouraged to participate in the Ascension Youth Group Program!

The Group meets on 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of each month from 6 pm to 8 pm, and typically in the Church undercroft. There will be sign up sheet to provide dinners for Youth Group nights. We are one of the most active Youth Programs in Montgomery County—so come and see what all the excitement is about! We have fun and serve others, especially during our annual Mission Trip which occurs in the summer. As there will no longer be a morning education component for Youth in this age group, please plan to attend our Sunday evening program!

Text Angie 301.693.2399 with any questions.

### Continuing the Collection of Items for ComfortCases

The inspiring sermon last Sunday by Robert Scheer, founder of ComfortCases, has prompted many congregants to ask what more we can do to help this local non-profit organization bring dignity and hope to youth entering foster care. We will continue to have a bin in the narthex for collecting additional travel-sized toiletry items. Further information on ways to help the organization—from donating pajamas to helping pack comfort cases—can be found at [www.comfortcases.org](http://www.comfortcases.org). The organization is housed at 15825 Shady Grove Road, Suite 60, Rockville, MD 20850; phone: 202-253-0402.

**Blessing of the Animals, Sunday October 7**

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 on Sunday, October 7, in the Chapel. Please invite your friends to bring their pets too!

**Autumn Party**

On October 13 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).

**Music Potluck and Open Rehearsal**

Do you like to sing or play an instrument? If so, then come to the Ascension Music Dinner and Open Rehearsal on September 27th at 7:00pm. This is a great opportunity for you to meet our new music minister, spend some time with our choir and ensemble, and eat some delicious food together. The evening will start with a potluck dinner in the Undercroft and will continue with a short rehearsal in the sanctuary to work on our music for the Bishop's upcoming visit to Ascension. All voice parts and instruments are welcome to attend. Any questions? Contact Andrew Kullberg at music@ascensionmd.org. We can't wait to see you there!

**Fiesta de las Americas**

In some Latin American countries, in September we celebrate our Independence. For this reason, we are organizing a party in the Undercroft Commons today, after the 12:00 p.m. service. We invite everyone to attend!

**Bishop's Visit and One Ascension Sunday**

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde spends much of her time out and about in the congregations of the diocese. In addition, she makes an official visitation to each of the diocese's 88 congregations once every three years. These visits occur on Sunday mornings, and the schedule is typically announced each summer. In years in which the bishop does not visit, a member of her senior staff visits instead. This year

she will come to Ascension on Sunday September 30th, since it is also One Ascension Sunday we will have just one service at 10:00 a.m. After the service we will have a potluck. Please sign up if you want to bring any food or drink.

**Healing Prayer Ministers**

We are in desperate need of volunteers to provide this special function at our 8 o'clock service. Training and assistance will be provided to you on a one-on-one basis. Give your name to Father Javier, or call Lin at 301 948-0122.

**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 will be October 21 at 11:15 a.m. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/>

**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, September 29 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

**Montgomery Hospice**

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit hospice that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. We provide professional end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities and at Casey House, our acute care facility. We are looking for new volunteers. Our greatest need is for volunteers to visit patients. These volunteers provide companionship for patients, respite for family members, lavender oil hand massages, music by the bedside or help with practical matters. Many provide the gift of "presence" by simply being with a patient. All volunteers go through an application process.

**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

### Request for Updating your Email Address

We are in the process of updating your information in our system. Please make sure we have your correct email address.

## CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877  
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.  
Friday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Javier’s Cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card on the table in the Narthex or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

**Bishop of Washington** - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde  
mebudde@edow.org, 202.537.6550

**Priest in Charge** –The Rev. Javier García Ocampo  
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

**Minister of Music**–Andrew Kullberg  
music@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,  
mard908@gmail.com, Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com  
and Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

## LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

**Senior Warden:** Betsy Hasegawa  
**Junior Warden:** Janet King

### Vestry:

2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner  
2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron  
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters,  
Susan McLaughlin  
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi ~ Christian  
Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker ~  
Facilities: Ted Bedell ~ John Prussener  
Finance: Avin Lalmansingh ~ Mission: Paul Boynton ~  
Pastoral Care: Nan Hildebrand ~  
Personnel: Jean Cohn ~  
Worship: Gary McLaughlin, Curt Lindsay

### Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay  
Alternate: Fredy Diaz

## Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with  
ours: The Church of the Holy Communion,  
Congress Heights Parish  
Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Adelphi

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### Monday, September 24

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon–Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Spanish Class–Ascension House
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous–Room 1

### Tuesday, September 25

- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group–Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Spanish Bible Study–Library
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon–Room 1

### Wednesday, September 26

- 10:00 a.m. Wednesday 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–Room 2

### Thursday, September 27

- 10:00 am. Yoga–Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi–Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Al Anon/Spanish–Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. Ensemble–Main Church
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, September 28

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon–Room 1

### Saturday, September 29

- 5:00 a.m. Ministerio Felicidad
- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous–Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon–Undercroft
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous–Room 1
- 6:30 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

### Sunday, September 30

Preacher: Bishop Mariann

- 10:00 a.m. One Ascension Sunday–Main Church
- 10:00 a.m. Godly Play–Room 6
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Path–Room 2
- 11:30 a.m. St Barnabas–Room 2

Attendance	September 2	September 9	September 16
8:00a.m.	28	24	25
10:00 a.m.	83	103	132
12:00p.m.	40	25	45
Total:	151	152	202