

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: 3 September A.D. 2017

The Life to Come

Too often in the past few weeks I have had serious conversations with people about what happens when we die. You'd think I would have these kinds of talks routinely, given what I do, but really the topic of death doesn't come up all that often.

One especially memorable one was with a precocious five year old. At about this age children start asking the Great Questions, and frequently earlier. In my experience each new generation of children is more sophisticated than the last! Mozart's music was playing in the background. She recognized it because her parents play it a lot, and after asking if it were Mozart she asked if he'd died yet. I said, yes, he had, around 200 years ago. "Did it hurt?" she asked. Skirting the question a bit I replied that I didn't know because I wasn't there. "Well then does dying hurt?" she persisted. I said I didn't think it did, but if a person was very ill or in an accident of some kind that that part might hurt, but dying would put an end to the pain.

"What happens to people when they die? Where do they go?" "All of us were made by God, and so we return to God when we die," I said. "It's probably a lot like falling asleep and waking up somewhere else, but I'm not positive about that because nobody has come back to give us a full report. Death isn't anything to be afraid of, though." She seemed satisfied with what I said, for the time being. It's a lot like other adult conversations we might have with our children. Don't give more information than they're asking for (even if you know more than you're sharing with them!).

She'd just read a book about butterflies, I learned as we continued to talk with each other and I strained to find the right metaphors. I suggested that our life on earth was like the caterpillar in the chrysalis. We are constantly changing, preparing for the great metamorphosis to come (she asked me what that word meant). It may appear that very little is happening on the outside, but in fact profound changes are taking place. And, with folded wings, we await our release into a life that we could scarcely have imagined, becoming so much more than we could comprehend.

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... - 1 Corinthians 15:51b-52a

Peace,
Randy

Town Hall Meeting

There will be a Town Hall Meeting about Ascension's finances as a follow up to the discussion at the Annual Meeting, at 10:15 a.m. September 24, in the main church.

Episcopal Relief & Development

Episcopal Relief & Development urges prayers for communities along the US Gulf Coast dealing with the impact of Hurricane Harvey. Please donate to the Hurricane Harvey Response Fund and visit the organization's website for more information about relief and recovery efforts. <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-harvey-response>

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 downstairs in lower atrium.

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 Labor Day. For more information contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Children's Formation

Beginning September 17, 2017, Christian Formation (Sunday School) for children age 3 (and potty trained) through 5th grade will be held at 10:15 am (or immediately after the 9:00 am service) on the lower level of the main church building. Formation greeters/teachers will be stationed in the narthex to greet and assist newcomers. Classes will end before the start of the 11:00 am service. Adult classes are also offered during this time. 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: The Son of God for The Secular Age

On Wednesday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m. the book group will begin to read and discuss James Carroll's learned, extended, and beautifully written CHRIST ACTUALLY: THE SON OF GOD FOR THE SECULAR AGE. This is actually [sic] cheapest in hard cover from Amazon at \$6.98.

The Amazon synopsis: "A New York Times bestselling and widely admired Catholic writer explores how we can retrieve transcendent faith in modern times. Critically acclaimed and bestselling author James Carroll has explored every aspect of Christianity, faith, and Jesus Christ except this central one: What can we believe about—and how can we believe in—Jesus in the twenty-first century in light of the Holocaust and other atrocities of the twentieth century and the drift from religion that followed?"

The Wednesday morning book group will be on hiatus this week (Sept. 6): We will resume on Sept. 13 (10:00-11:30, as usual, in the Library) to start discussing Christ, Actually. Read the Introduction.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

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. Contact Lori Perine at lperine@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Invitation to "Walk with Me" film



The Stillwater Mindfulness Practice Group invites you to view — "Walk with Me: A Journey into Mindfulness Featuring THICH NHAT HANH" on September 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Germantown Stadium 14, 2000 Century Blvd. Germantown, MD. For more information, visit <http://walkwithmefilm.com/> or to reserve your tickets gather.us/s/20587

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 us to encounter at every service. Some spaces got claimed immediately, such as the Chapel nave and sacristy, by "regulars" at the 11:00o'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>

Zumba at Ascension!

Summer is here and is always a good opportunity to get in shape. For that reason, we will have Zumba classes at Ascension every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Undercroft Commons. 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, merengue 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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

The Lunch Bunch at St. Nick's

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at St. Nick's. After a delicious potluck luncheon together, we will play Bingo with winners choosing from many interesting prizes on our prize table! Newcomers and guests do not have to bring food for the first time.

We are also encouraging everyone to bring at least one non-perishable, kid-friendly food item to add to St. Nick's Summer Food Drive. Many children are hungry this summer as school is out and there are no free breakfast and lunch programs. Let's help the Germantown HELP Food Pantry meet the higher demand for food!

Come prepared to shop at the St. Nick's Crafters' Table, too! We are featuring many handmade works of art and other interesting items. As was done last year, you may make a donation in any amount for any of the items and all proceeds will be donated to the Deibel-Mahan Fund at St. Nick's. You may make your donation in cash or, for tax purposes, by check with Deibel-Mahan Fund in the memo.

Ministry Fair

Leaders and participants of parish ministry teams will be available to chat with next Sunday at 10:15 in the Undercroft. The program year begins on Sunday, September 17. All formation classes will meet between the 9:00 and 11:00/11:15 services.

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 facilitated by Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Atefeh Fathnezhad, LCSW-C

Fiesta de las Americas, September 17

In some Latin American countries, in September we celebrate our Independence. For this reason, the Spanish Congregation is organizing a party in the Undercroft Commons on Sunday, September 17, after the 11:00 a.m. service. We invite everyone to attend!

Save the Date

On October 07 we will held a party in the Undercroft Commons as a fundraiser for Ascension. Tickets are on sale. If you need more information ask Javier or Berenice and Luis, members of the Vestry.

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 Commons 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 September 17 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, September 23 in the church kitchen. If you have any questions, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Connecting College Students to Our EDOW Campus Ministers

EDOW requests for names of college students in our parishes who will attend our local schools this fall. Whether entering freshmen or rising upperclassmen, they would love to know and support them. So, if you have students at any of the following, could you drop a note to Joey at jrick@edow.org or to their respective campus ministers (listed below)? They would love to keep them connected to the our Episcopal chaplaincy and also to whatever parish is closest to them.

- American University, Carolyn Seton, cseaton14@gmail.com
- George Washington University, Shawn Strout, strout@stpauls-kst.com
- Georgetown University, Becky Zartman, rebecca.zartman@gmail.com
- Howard University, Yolanda Rolle, yolanda.rolle@howard.edu
- St Mary's College, nathanbeall1@gmail.com or
- The University of Maryland, Kriste Pitts, rev.kpitts@gmail.com

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 ~ Pasto-
ral Care: Randy Lord-Wilkinson Personnel: Jean Cohn ~ Wor-
ship: 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
Campus Ministries of Howard University;
University of Maryland;
Georgetown University; American University;
George Washington University; Gallaudet University;
Montgomery College and St. Mary's College
National Association of Episcopal Schools
Pray for all students and teachers
Pray for all who labor, those who are unemployed, those
who seek jobs, and all who must work for less than a living
wage (Labor Day - September 4)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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, SEPTEMBER 6

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

1:00 p.m. Al Anon—Room 1

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft Commons
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
1:00 p.m. Memorial Eucharist for the Rev. Peg Custer—
Chapel

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson
7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
10:15 a.m. Service for Young Children— Chapel
10:15 a.m. Ministry Fair—Undercroft Commons
11:00 a.m. Misa en Espanol—Chapel
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Last Chance Church —
Chapel

Attendance	August 13	August 20	August 27
7:45 a.m.	24	25	24
9:00 a.m.	74	58	71
10:15 a.m.	0	16	15
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	42	45	36
11:15 am	31	45	31
5:00 p.m.	9	7	15
Total:	180	196	192