



"We are ambassadors who represent Christ." – 2 Corinthians 5:20



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[Link to Service Leaflets for August 6](#)

[Link to Randy's Sermon: "When it Seems Like God Isn't Doing Anything"](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Website](#)

Calendar Highlights

Friday, August 4

1:00 p.m. AI-Anon—Library

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

Saturday, August 5

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel

11:00 a.m. AI-Anon — Undercroft Commons

11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Sunday, August 6

This Week at Ascension

"How We Got the Bible"

Some people over a period of time wrote some things down. Much of what they wrote down was oral tradition which had already been passed around for a while, then eventually written down. What they eventually wrote down covers a multitude of genres, from poetry to narrative to history to gospel to apocalyptic—as well as a number of letters.

These people who wrote these things down had agendas, views, perspectives, and particular points they wanted to make. When you read the minor prophets, you're reading the birth of what we call social justice (You can draw a direct line from the righteous indignation in the book of Amos to the Occupy Wall Street movement). Luke is writing his account of Jesus's life because there are dimensions of Jesus's life that he wants his readers to know about. The Torah was assembled in exile, where the defining liberation story of the Exodus would have had particular immediate resonance. The apostle Paul saw Timothy like a son and wants to impart to him particular wisdom about what it meant to follow Jesus in Asia Minor in the first century.

From the end of first century through the next several hundred years, various councils and church leaders decided that certain books were what they called canonical (belonging in the Bible) and others weren't. They developed criteria and ways of evaluating which books had certain characteristics and which didn't. There was lots of discussion and debate about this. (As late as the 1500's a church leader named Martin Luther was saying disparaging things about certain books of the New Testament, suggesting they be left out.)

- 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**
- 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**

Monday, August 7

- 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. Listening Hearts
Community—Library

Tuesday, August 8

- 7:00 a.m. **Mobile Med—
Chapel**
- 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

When you affirm the Bible (and whatever particular canon you affirm) you are in the same breath affirming that you agree with the particular leaders and councils who selected those particular books to comprise the Bible. This is especially true when people say the Bible is God's word... To affirm the Bible as God's word, you first must affirm the people who decided that it is God word, and their decisions about thisbook vs. that book, this particular library vs. that particular library. The Bible, then, is a library of books written by humans, edited and compiled by humans, and ultimately called The Bible by... humans. And what these humans affirmed was that this particular library of books (Give or take a few disagreements) is more than just a library of books. There are a number of words that have been used both in the scriptures and in recent history to describe this more-than-just-a-library dimension to this particular library. Inspired. Authoritative. Divine. God breathed.

To believe that the Bible is both a library of books and also more than just a library books takes faith. You have to believe that there's something else going on in these pages, something just below the surface, something that unites all those writers writing over all those years and then all those people making all of those decisions about which of the things those writers wrote belong in the particular arrangement of writings we call the Bible.

These truths about this library and how we got it help us understand what the Bible is and how (not) to talk about it. First, circular arguments are not helpful. For example The Bible is divinely inspired because it says it is. Any book could say that. Not only is this argument not helpful, but it's terribly confusing for people who have never read the Bible. Second, insisting that this book was written by God is not helpful. It was written by actual people. For people who are new to the Bible, telling them that it wasn't written by people is terribly confusing as well. Start with the human, claim that first, then work your way to the divine. Third, the Bible is not an argument. The people who wrote these things down had very real experiences of the divine and did everything they could to put those experiences in words. Those experiences were filtered through their consciousness, culture, worldview, and personal history. The stories in the Bible were told because they meant something profound to the people who first wrote them. All doctrine and dogma and theology was first mystical experience. Someone had an encounter with the divine. And then they set out to articulate what happened.

What we see in this particular library is a story, a story that unfolds over time, a story about growing human awareness

Wednesday, August 9

- 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, August 10

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

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

of the divine. It's a vision of the world that evolves in its understanding of who we are, where we're headed, and what it means to be human. This story has a number of particular characteristics that unite it, traits and twists and revelations that are why so many people like me have affirmed this book and these stories as unique, inspired, and revelatory.

Now when I talk about consciousness, filters, and awareness, I'm talking about the thing that happens when people in a real place and a real time have an encounter with the divine.

From What is the Bible? a new book by Rob Bell

The Installation of The Rev. Beth O'Callaghan

The Wardens, Vestry, & Membership of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Darnestown, Maryland request your prayer and presence at the Installation of The Rev. Beth O'Callaghan as second rector of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church and the celebration of New Ministry on Sunday September 17, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Please join us for a reception following the service.

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
15575 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD

RSVP: office@saintnicks.com or [240-631-2800](tel:240-631-2800)

The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde,
Ninth Bishop of Washington, Presiding

New Parish Administrator Position Filled

In keeping with Ascension's need to be financially conscious, the Vestry and I have elected to place our accountant on retainer for as-needed items which will save the church \$1,800 a month. In addition, we have combined the responsibilities of Bookkeeper and the old Parish Administrator positions into one position. Ascension needed to have a person who was able to do all aspects of the new position. After considerable prayer and thought, Lin Keene of Clarksburg will start

on August 9th as our new Parish Administrator. Lin has an accounting degree, some church experience, and is bilingual.

- RAL

HEADLINERS

[August Recital at Ascension - August 20](#)

[Children's Formation](#)

[Cookbook Committee: Typists Needed!](#)

[Wednesday Book Group: Christ Actually: The Son of God for the Secular Age](#)

[Help Provide School Supplies and Backpacks for Children in Need](#)

[Yard Sale & Car Wash- August 26](#)

[Adopt-a-Space at Ascension](#)

[Skywatching - Solar Eclipse Party](#)

[The Lunch Bunch at St. Nick's](#)

LIFELONG LEARNING

[Zumba at Ascension!](#)

[Education for Ministry 2017-2018](#)

[Thursday Afternoon Tai Chi Class](#)

[Listening Heart Community](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

[Yoga Class](#)

WORSHIP

[Worship Rosters, July-September](#)

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

[Ministerio Felicidad](#)

[Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation](#)

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

[Mobile Med](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[August Ascendant](#)

[2017 Annual Report](#)

[Together We Shine](#)

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Church of the Transfiguration

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope:

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Sandy, Peg, Kirk, Sally, William, Sue, Margaret, Tobey, Karen, David, Olive, Mohamed, Fran, Ed, Bob, Suzanne, Nawal and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for refugees and all affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

Worship Leaders

Sunday, August 6

Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson

7:45 AM

Reader/Prayers: Enid Cole
Chalicians: Enid Cole, David Burton
Healing Prayer: Janet King
Acolytes: Ron Hayden, Aidan Douglas
Welcome Team: Meredith Horan, Florene Sirleaf
Altar Guild: Leslie Sanya, Wadai Dennis
Hospitality Angel: David Burton

9:00 AM

Reader: Betsy Hasegawa, Gordon Donnelly
Prayer: Sue Snay
Chalicians: Sari Stoddard, Cynthia Perley
Healing Prayer: Paul Whitmore
Acolytes: Lisa Dickson, Manny JOhnson, Nuelle Johnson
Welcome Team: Nii Armah Akute, Ruby King, Charles Dickson
Altar Guild: TBA
Hospitality Angels: Kristen Fitzpatrick

11:15 AM

Reader: Tunde Ayinde
Healing Prayer: Sarah Rubin
Welcome Team: Avin Lalmansingh, Karl Didavi, Clark Didavi

Altar Guild:	Laura Shay
Chalicerist:	Christian Nwankwo, Peg Ruppel
Song Leader:	Alice Benson
Hospitality Angel:	Pamela Novel
Eucharistic Visitor:	Pamela Irons-Forth
Flower Delivery:	Adoma Baffoe, Hawa Clemens