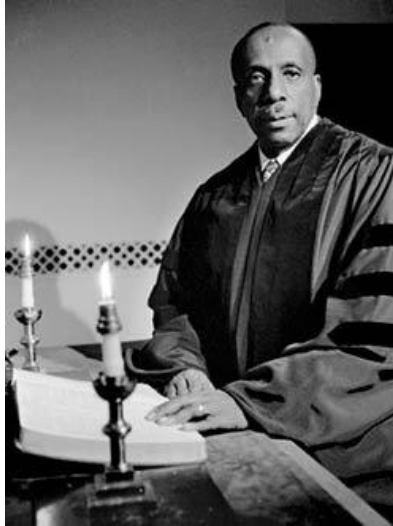


# *This Week at Ascension*

## **The Work of Christmas Begins**

Howard Thurman (1899 – April 10, 1981) wrote:



When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
    To find the lost,  
    To heal the broken,  
    To feed the hungry,  
    To release the prisoner,  
    To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman was an influential American author, philosopher, theologian, educator and civil rights leader. He was Dean of Chapel at Howard University and Boston University for more than two decades, wrote 21 books, and in 1944 helped found a multicultural church. He was a mentor of Martin Luther King.

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# HEADLINERS

## **One Ascension Sunday—December 31st**

One Ascension Sunday is fast approaching. We are going to celebrate the end of one year and the start of another. Please join us after the service and bring a dish to share. The main course will be spiral cut ham. We need side dishes such as mac and cheese, potatoes, green beans, salads, desserts or your favorite dish. Please plan on joining in on the fun. A clipboard will again be passed around in the church so that we can have a rough idea of who is coming and what people are bringing.

Janet King, for the Parish Life Committee

## **Nursery Closing after Sunday, December 31**

At the most recent meeting of Ascension's teachers with the Rector, it was clear that the "nursery" has not been utilized as originally intended for toddlers and infants up to age 3. This has been the case for some time. Parents with infants and toddlers attend the 10:15 service (often with a child on the way!) or one of our other services. Starting January 7, 2018, Room 2 will be the Joyful Path classroom (for kids in 3rd to 5th grade), and *Room 4* will become a comfortable place for parents with children who need a "break" from sitting in church. There will be comfortable furniture, a bathroom, and in time a monitor so that the service can be seen and heard there.

## **Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for volunteers for the church office from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Lin at [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org)

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# LIFE LONG LEARNING

## Wednesday Morning Book Group

Night, by Elie Weisel, is the next selection. Read the first three chapters in preparation for the group's next meeting on January 3. The group meets weekly in the Library from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

## 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.

There will be no Tai Chi on 28th. We will resume in January. Tai Chi will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at [301.275.0617](tel:301.275.0617) or [Cjrosser@aol.com](mailto:Cjrosser@aol.com) if you have any questions.

## Thursday Morning Yoga

It will be on hiatus for the season and will resume at 10:00 a.m. on January 11, 2018.

## Godly Play/Joyful Path

In observance of the Christmas holiday, Godly Play and Joyful Path will not meet this week.

## Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path are moving their classroom upstairs to room 2 (the old nursery). Come and join us in our new setting Sunday January 7th after the 9am service.

## Spaish

## 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 [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

# CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

## 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, January 27 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

## Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation

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 January 21 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](tel:301.519.1074) or [melanie.mitchell@verizon.net](mailto:melanie.mitchell@verizon.net)

### **Mobile Med**

Every Tuesday, Mobile Med will be open for the service until 3:00 p.m. Starting January 2nd, our Tuesday Mobile Med clinic at Ascension House will move to the fixed site at Rollins Avenue for the cold winter months. It is too cold in the van for the staff, patients and equipment. Around February 1st, I will request blackout dates for March and April. If there are questions, contact us at [spangle1@comcast.net](mailto:spangle1@comcast.net) or [240.372.3652](tel:240.372.3652).

## **LIFE AT ASCENSION**

### **Epiphany Pageant - The King's Birthday**

Ascension's annual Epiphany Pageant goes up at 5:00 pm. on Sunday, January 7, 2018, in the context of the weekly Eucharist celebrated at this time. It will take place in the main church.

There are parts and support roles for people of all ages.

Here is the rehearsal schedule:

- Saturday, December 23rd - 10:30-12:00 noon
- Saturday, December 30th - 10:30-12:00 noon
- Saturday, January 6th - 10:30-12:00 noon

All rehearsals are in the main church.

See you there!

Thanks, Gordon  
[vagordon1@yahoo.com](mailto:vagordon1@yahoo.com)

### **Pledge**

The Pledge Campaign has been extended into December 2017 to reach all congregation members who have not yet pledged for funding year 2018. For tax planning purposes, please be aware that the last day to fulfill a 2017 pledge commitment or to make a donation/gift for calendar year 2017 will be Tuesday, December 26h, 2017.

# PRAYERS REQUEST

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Christmas Day (December 25), Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation and Misa Alegria, DC, St. John's Church, Zion Parish, St. John's Church, Broad Creek, St. John's Church, Mt. Rainier, St. John's Church, Georgetown, St. John's Church, Lafayette Square and Iglesia San Juan, St. John's Church, Norwood, St. John's Church, Olney, St. John's Episcopal School, Olney, St. John's Preschool, DC

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Mike Darracott, Sally and William Glick, Sue Jenkins, Melanie Mitchell, Fran Spina, Ruthie Swain, Gale Unterberger, Suzanne Winterhalter, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

## Quick Links

[Link to Service Leaflets for December 24](#)

[Link to Podcast of Randy's Sermon on Sunday, December 17: "How to Survive the War of Advent"](#)

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



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