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This Week at Ascension

Until We Meet Again

[Link to Service Leaflets for January 22](#)

[Link to Randy's sermon "Lies to Die By"](#)

[Meditation at the Memorial Celebration of Graham Hartwell](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Friday, January 20

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

Saturday, January 21

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

Sunday, January 22

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Joyful Path—Room 11
10:15 a.m. Service for Families with Young Children—Chapel
11:00a.m. Misa en Espanol - Chapel
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Undercroft Commons
1:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting—Room 1
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting & Spritual Formation—Undercroft Commons

Monday, January 23

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
7:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scout Meeting—Room 6

One of the fun things you can do on the Internet these days is look up people you haven't seen in a long time. I've lost track of most everybody I knew in high school and even college, as I've moved from coast to coast and been such a gypsy. I'm one of those people who's really focused on the people who are in my life from day to day and do a very poor job of keeping in touch with people from my past. While idly playing around with Facebook and Google last week, however, I discovered that one of my closest friends in high school died in April. A little more sleuthing revealed that her parents' church had her on their prayer list over a year ago. But that's all I could learn about the circumstances of her death. Living and working in churches all of my adult life brings me into close proximity with death on a regular basis. I still feel that something isn't quite right when someone dies before experiencing the "autumn" and "winter" of life. It makes me sad that she won't live to be a very old woman, or that we won't get a chance to reconnect and share stories of the past and the present.

Jesus was a young man when he died. Even though we talk comfortably about his ongoing life in and among us, he did know mortality and grief (upon the death of Lazarus, his friend). While we are consoled by the Christian hope of eternal life, his tears of grief and personal experience of mortality hallow our own. The idea of life being "changed, not ended" through death doesn't seem to mean that we won't know grief and loss, but rather – paradoxically – feel them more deeply. And also, make us more aware that this earthly pilgrimage is a precious gift.

Some of you have no doubt recently overheard me saying that for most of my adult life I was quite comfortable thinking about the afterlife as returning to God whether my "self" was preserved or not. Love changes everything, however, and is stronger than death. As I have accrued tenure on my life journey my defenses have softened and I am more able to "let people in" more than I used to. Not only am I closer to people I know, but, through them, I have in many cases a sense of connection to people they love deeply who have died.

So I am having to revise my thinking on this and many other things!

So may I say to my departed classmate: See you later, old friend.

Randy

Pledge Envelope boxes for those who made commitments to both the Annual Giving Campaign and Facilities Reserve Fund are now available on the table outside the Church Office.

Pictorial Directories are here! They are in a box on the table outside the Church Office. Priority is given to those who had portraits taken.

HEADLINERS

[New Cell Group Formation](#)

[Annual Giving Campaign Extension](#)

[New Book for Wednesday Morning](#)
[Ascension's Adventurers to tour the National Archives](#)

Tuesday, January 24

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. 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, January 25

- 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group-Library
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
- 7:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

Thursday, January 26

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga - Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Episcopal Seeking Seniors—Asbury
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Bariatric Support Group —Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Spanish Class — Ascension House
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

LIFELONG LEARNING

[Finding God in the Waves Book Group](#)
[Cell Group for Families with Young Children](#)
[Thursday Afternoon Tai Chi Class](#)
[Yoga At Ascension](#)
[Listening Heart Community](#)
[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)
[Godly Play](#)
[A Joyful Path](#)

WORSHIP

[Worship Rosters, January-March](#)
[Link to Service Leaflets](#)

SERVICE

[Vestry Nominations](#)
[Men's Shelter Sandwich Making](#)
[The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)
[Gaithersburg HELP](#)
[Mobile Med](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[Link to the Annual Report](#)
[January Ascendant](#)
[Together We Shine](#)

Prayers

For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: St. Paul's Church, Baden and St. Mary's Chapel, Aquasco St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek Parish St. Paul's Church, K Street St. Paul's Church, Piney Parish St. Timothy's Parish, Washington St. Timothy's Child Development Center Diocesan Convention: The Bishop of Washington, Diocesan Convention Officers, Clerical and Lay Delegates, Convention Task Force and Committee Chairs.

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope:

Debbie, Sandy, Peggy, Sarah, Roz, James, Margaret, Donna 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.

We give thanks for the life of Janet Spencer, who died on January 17.

We give thanks for the life of Susan MacDonald, in whose memory her husband Carleton gave the altar flowers, upon the anniversary of her death (January 18, 2016).

Worship Leaders

Sunday, January 22
Preacher: Javier Ocampo

7:45 AM

Reader/Prayers: David Burton
Chalichists: Leslie Sanya
Healing Prayer: Jean Cohn
Acolytes: Ron Hayden, Aidan Douglas
Welcome Team: Janet King, Frank Sanya
Altar Guild: Enid Cole, Mardia Dennis
Hospitality Angel: Janet King

9:00 AM

Reader: Alvaro Gonzales, Susan Ahalt
Prayer: Marsha Sutherland
Chalichists: Bob Waters, Cynthia Perley
Healing Prayer: Susan McLaughlin
Acolytes: Lisa Dickson, Nuelle Johnson, Manny Johnson
Welcome Team: Nii Armah Akuete, Ruby King, Charles Dickson
Altar Guild: Nancy Carman, Cynthia Perley, Liz Lennon
Hospitality Angel: Marion Rice

11:15 AM

Reader: Anne Brink
Healing Prayer: Alex Langley
Welcome Team: Sciou Broderick, Peedy Terry, Emmanuel Nwankwo
Altar Guild: Anika Lalmansingh, Avin Lalmansingh
Reader/Chalichist: Sarah Rubin, Christian Nwankwo
Eucharistic Visitors: Javier Ocampo, Enid Cole
Song Leader: Claire Morin
Hospitality Angel: Georgana Maines

Flower Delivery: Adoma Baffoe, Hawa Clemens

