

This Week at Ascension

Frederick Buechner *Quote of the Day*



Apologists

C.S. LEWIS once said something to the effect that no Christian doctrine ever looked so threadbare to him as when he had just finished successfully defending it. The reason is not hard to find.

In order to defend the faith successfully—which is the business of apologists—they need to reduce it to a defensible size. It is easier to hold a fortress against the enemy than to hold a landscape. They try to make each doctrine as it comes along sound as logical and plausible as they can. The trouble, of course, is that by and large logic and plausibility are not the heart of the matter, and therefore apologists are apt to end up proclaiming a faith that may be quite persuasive on paper, but is difficult to imagine either them or anyone else getting very excited about.

The other danger is that apologists put so much effort into what they do that they may end up not so much defending the faith because they believe it is true as believing the faith is true because they have worked so hard and long to defend it.

- Originally published in *Whistling in the Dark* and later in *Beyond Words*

HEADLINERS

Parish Town Hall Meeting at 10:15 on Sunday, February 4

Meet with Randy and Vestry members for updates and a Q&A session about Ascension's transition.

February 13 is Shrove Tuesday!

That's right, Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year! We need a team of people to organize this annual event. Sign the clipboard Randy will be passing around in church if you want to be part of creating this fun event!

Palm Sunday is a 1A Sunday!

There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. Afterward will be Randy's farewell celebration. Save the date: March 25.

Ascension Youth Group Jan FY18 and Mission Trip Info

Just a reminder we have Youth Group this Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Please come and participate in the food, formation and fun!! Also we need to select the best Sunday for Youth Sunday this Spring. To do so we really need to hear from my Seniors who provide the homilies. Please shot us a text or email that Sunday dates that are out for you...or better yet-come to Youth Group this Sunday and tell us!

Thank you to the Douglas Family for offering to supply Dinner this Sunday!

Best- Angie and Trevor

Best-
Angie and Trevor

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

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Wednesday Morning Book Group

We will begin study and discussion of Michael Morwood's book *Is Christ God? Finding Our Faith From Amazon*: "In the new millennium, the most central question is how to understand God and Jesus. This book is an invitation to Christians—and non-Christians—to challenge their inherited notions of how and why Jesus is to be thought of as divine." You can order the book by following this link: [http:// amzn.to/2CRGzCs](http://amzn.to/2CRGzCs). Read chapters 3 and 4 for the coming week's discussion.

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.

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 if you have any questions.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Randy's yoga class is every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Chapel. These are gentle, entry level classes anyone may enjoy. No props are needed. There are some mats, blocks and blankets for those who want them. If you have your own mat, bring it. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

Interfaith Dialogue and Reflection Series

Church of the Ascension will be one of the hosts of a four-part program series of interfaith dialogue and reflection titled "Abraham's Children." The four sessions will be held in March on Wednesday evenings, 7-9 PM as follows:

- March 7 at Church of the Ascension ([205 S Summit Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877](https://www.churchoftheascension.org/))
- March 14 at Kehilat Shalom ([9915 Apple Ridge Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20886](https://www.kehilatshalom.org/))
- March 21 at Islamic Center of Maryland ([19411 Woodfield Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20879](https://www.islamiccenterofmaryland.org/))
- March 28 at Tikvat Israel Congregation ([2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD 20851](https://www.tikvatisrael.org/))

Developed by the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies in Baltimore, Abraham's Children offers text study and dialogue among the three Abrahamic faiths in an effort to engage "the complexities of what is shared and what is unique in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions." The Faith Community Working Group of Montgomery County and the Greater Gaithersburg Interfaith Alliance is teaming up with Church of the Ascension, the Islamic Center of Maryland, Kehilat Shalom and Tikvat Israel Congregation as co-sponsors of the series. For more information or to sign up, write Richard Lederman at ledermanrc@gmail.com or call him at [240-441-8074](tel:240-441-8074).

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we study the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which Jesus tells in answer to the question of how to inherit eternal life. Through the story we remember that everyone is a neighbor, and, moreover, that the Kingdom of God consists of action, not just talk.

Children's Formation

The members of A Joyful Path will explore the meaning of being of service to others. I John 3:18 "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Also the meaning of this Mexican proverb: "A good deed is the best prayer." Come and join us in Room 2 after the 9:00 a.m. service (10:15).

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 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, February 24 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at 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 February 18 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 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

Mobile Med

Mobile Med will not be at Ascension House starting tomorrow January 2nd (until the beginning of March). I have posted signs on the Ascension House bulletin board and on the door to the chapel. Signs list the alternate location as well as a number to contact for more information.

Jean Cohn
spangle1@comcast.net
[240.372.3652](tel:240.372.3652).

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Zumba at Ascension

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Finance and Investment Committees, Standing Committee, Pray for the Mission and Ministry of the Episcopal Church, Theological Education Sunday (February 2)

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

We give thanks for the life of Glenn J. Pfadenhauer, in whose loving memory his parents, Jerry and Dotty Pfadenhauer have given Altar Flowers.

QUICK LINKS

[Link to Service Leaflets for January 28](#)

[Link to Podcast of Nan's Sermon on Sunday, January 21](#)

[Link to Sermon and Other Videos page](#)

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