

# *This Week at Ascension*

## **Every Creature Is a Word of God**

God brought things into being in order that his [sic]goodness might be communicated to creatures, and be represented by them; and because his goodness could not be adequately represented by one creature alone, he produced many and diverse creatures, that what was wanting to one in the representation of the divine goodness might be supplied by another. For goodness, which in God is simple and uniform, in creatures is manifold and divided.

-Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, I, 47, 1

Each and every creature is a unique word of God, with its own message, its own metaphor, its own energetic style, its own way of showing forth goodness, beauty, and participation in the Great Mystery. Each creature has its own glow and its own unique glory. To be a contemplative is to be able to see each epiphany, to enjoy it, protect it, and draw upon it for the common good. (Some Sundays I am drawn to awe, prayer, and service by the Nature Channel much more than by the morning church service!)

Sister Ilia Delio, OSF, a speaker at some CAC conferences, writes in true Franciscan style: "The world is created as a means of God's self-revelation so that, like a mirror or footprint, it might lead us to love and praise the Creator. We are created to read the book of creation so that we may know the Author of Life. This book of creation is an expression of who God is and is meant to lead humans to what it signifies, namely, the eternal Trinity of dynamic, self-diffusive love" (Christ in Evolution, p. 62).

Meister Eckhart, OP, says it even more succinctly: "Anyone who truly knows creatures may be excused from listening to sermons, for every creature is full of God, and is a book." And that is from one who was a member of the Order of Preachers!

Adapted from "*Every Creature Is a Word of God*," Radical Grace, Vol. 24, No. 2, Spring 2011, p. 3

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# HEADLINERS

## Ascension Youth Group Jan FY18 and Mission Trip Info

### January 7

NoMoCo- Service Project at Nourish Now.

<http://nourishnow.org/about/>

MUST RSVP

UNUSAL TIME 2 pm- 3:30 pm

UNUSAL LOCATION [1111 Taft Street](#) in Rockville

### January 14

Regular Ascension Youth Group

6 pm – 8pm Ascension Undercroft

Need dinner volunteers please

### January 28

Regular Ascension Youth Group

6 pm – 8pm Ascension Undercroft

Need dinner volunteers please

Please email or text us if you can attend this Sunday's service project or if your family can cover dinner one of the evenings.

Also-I have dates for our Mission Trip in June. It is June 23rd through June 29th. We will return to Philadelphia and will be going with our Virginia diocese friends.

Finally-thank you all for the coats and winter wear we sent to St. James! We sent them 37 pounds of warm items and they were so grateful!!

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](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org)

# LIFE LONG LEARNING

## Wednesday Morning Book Group

Night, by Elie Weisel, is the next selection. Finish the book in preparation for the group's next meeting on January 10. 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.

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

Yoga will resume at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2018.

## Godly Play

Godly Play we study Holy Baptism, the full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into the Church. For Christians, this rite is the gateway into the family or families we call the Church. We ask the children to remember or look forward to the day of their baptism by lighting candles from the light of the Christ Candle, since this is also the day they receive their "light".

A note to Parents: On January 14, we will be baking Communion bread for the church. It is a fun and sometimes messy activity, so please dress your children accordingly.

## Children's Formation

The members of A Joyful Path moved their classroom upstairs to Room 2 (the old nursery). Come and join us in our new setting today after the 9:00 a.m. service.

## 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](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

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](mailto:spangle1@comcast.net)  
[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.

The next rehearsal is scheduled on 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)

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Christ Church, Washington Parish, Christ Church, Kensington, Christ Church, Accokeek (St. John's Parish) and St. John's Chapel Christ Church, Georgetown

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, Gail Unterberger, Suzanne Winterhalter, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, as well as for all those on our extended healing prayer list.

We give thanks for the life of J. Graham Hartwell, in whose loving memory today's altar flowers were given by John Hartwell.

We give thanks for the life of Tom Thiele, who died on December 28.

We give thanks for the life of Tom Thiele, who died early Thursday morning. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

# QUICK LINKS

[Link to Service Leaflets for January 7](#)

[Link to Podcast of Randy's Sermon on Sunday, December 24: "Greate Expectations"](#)

[Link to Podcast of Randy's Sermon on Sunday, December 24: "Another Brick in the Wall?"](#)

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



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