



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



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[Link to Service Leaflets for July 23](#)

[Link to Laura Shay's Sermon: "Good Soil"](#)

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

### Calendar Highlights

#### Friday, July 21

- |            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m.  | Thibadeaux's Funeral — Main Church |
| 11:00 a.m. | AIM Dress Rehearsal—Chapel         |
| 1:00 p.m.  | Al-Anon—Library                    |
| 6:00 p.m.  | Couples 12-Step Program—Room 1     |

#### Saturday, July 22

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

#### Sunday, July 23

- |            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 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            |

## This Week at Ascension

### “Faith and Belief”

We could say that Christian faith (like many other faiths) was an engine of human cultural evolution when it came on the scene. It introduced new beliefs into human consciousness that liberated millions from older and less helpful beliefs. (Those beliefs themselves may have been liberating and helpful when they were first introduced, but having fulfilled their purpose became unhelpful and even imprisoning.) But eventually, by defining itself as a settled system of beliefs, Christianity . . . became a leash or a locked door impeding ongoing growth instead of a force for liberation and forward movement.

That's why members of the Christian faith (like members of many other faiths) now face this critical question: must we stay where we are, forever defining ourselves as a system of beliefs, or may we migrate to a new understanding of Christian faith as a way of life . . . ? If such a migration is possible, how would we describe that way of life . . . ?

If we are to be truly Christian, it makes sense to turn to Jesus for the answer.

Of the many radical things said and done by Jesus, his unflinching emphasis on *love* was the most radical of all. Love was the greatest commandment, he said (Matthew 22:37-40). It was his new commandment, his prime directive—love for God, for self, for neighbor, for stranger, . . . and even for enemy, as he himself modeled. The new commandment of love meant neither beliefs nor words, neither taboos, systems, structures nor the labels that enshrined them mattered most. Love decentered [and] relativized everything else; love took priority over everything else.

- 11:15 a.m.     **Holy Eucharist—Main Church**
- 1:30 p.m.     **Vestry Meeting— Room 1**
- 5:00 p.m.     **Holy Eucharist—Chapel**

## Monday, July 24

- 1:00 p.m.     Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m.     **Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church**
- 6:30 p.m.     Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
- 6:30 p.m.     Spanish Class—Ascension House

## Tuesday, July 25

- 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

## Wednesday, July 26

- 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, July 27

- 10:00 a.m.    AIM Action on Worker's Pensions—Chapel
- 10:00 a.m.    **Yoga—Undercroft Commons**
- 12:15 p.m.    AIM Meeting Lunch—Room 1
- 4:00 p.m.     **Tai Chi—Chapel**
- 6:00 p.m.     Bariatric Support Group—Chapel
- 7:30 p.m.     **Zumba —Undercroft Commons**

Early in his life, Paul (then known as Saul) had no time for this kind of love talk. He was a religious-correctness man, not a love man. To guard the purity of his code, he was even willing to kill (Acts 9:1). But Paul was converted, deeply converted, and he migrated from religious correctness to love.

In fact, in his writings he not only echoed Jesus's radical proposal but made it even more explicit. There were nearly nine hundred rules identified by his religion, but you could trade them all up for this one, he said: "The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself in love" (Galatians 5:6).

Jesus and Paul were not denying their religion . . . ; they were faithfully extending it, letting it grow and flow forward. In Jesus's words, they weren't "abolishing the law," but rather they were "fulfilling it"—fulfilling its intent, fulfilling its potential (Matthew 5:17). Love was already part of the tradition, as Deuteronomy 6:5 makes clear; they were saying it was *the most important* part of the tradition. They were decentering old things—religious rules, temples, sacrifice, hierarchies, and the like—and recentering the tradition on love.

From *The Great Spiritual Migration*, by Brian McLaren

## Baptism

Baptisms are being planned for August. Contact Randy or Javier if you would like to schedule one.

## Know a Grad?

Help us celebrate their rites of passage. E-mail Eleni ([comm@ascensionmd.org](mailto:comm@ascensionmd.org)), if you know of someone graduating from high, middle, or elementary school, or finishing a degree.

## Bible Treasure Hunt

Hi All!

Over the summer, I'm offering a bible treasure hunt series - basically a scavenger hunt for 7 boxes about one of the fruits of the spirit in a local park. I'm doing it in Olney because I have a core group of people who are interested here, so it's a good test location, plus

[Link to our Online  
Calendar](#)

parks are parks. So making a 20 minute drive to play at a park that has friends and good shade, isn't such a big deal. Here is the flyer. I would love if you would let your people know. Thanks so much!

In Christ,  
The Rev. Shivaun

## Graduations

Congratulations to Sarah Galagher's Son, Jamie Gallagher, for graduating summa cum laude from UMBC on May 25 with a 4.0 GPA.

Congratulations to Paul Whitmore's grandson Dylan Bagarus for graduating from high school last month.

Congratulations to Raymond Chin's Son, PJ Chin, for graduating from Salisbury University with Bachelor Degree!

### HEADLINERS

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

[Cookbook Committee: Typists Needed!](#)

[One Ascension Sunday—July 30](#)

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

[Ascension's Adventurers Select Future Activities](#)

[Yard Sale & Car Wash— August 26](#)

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

[Coping & Resiliency Workshop for Teens : SSL hours will be provided!](#)

### LIFELONG LEARNING

[Wednesday Morning Book Group](#)

[Zumba at Ascension!](#)

[iRest Yoga Nidra](#)

[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**

[July Ascendant](#)

[2017 Annual Report](#)

[Together We Shine](#)

**Prayers** For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: St. James' Church, Indian Head, St. James' Church, Potomac, St. James' Children's School, Potomac, St. Anne's Church, Damascus.

### **Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope:**

Sandy, Peg, Kirk, Kathryn, 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.

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## **Worship Leaders**

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**Sunday, July 23**

Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson

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**7:45 AM**

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Reader/Prayers: David Burton

Chalicians: David Burton, Sharon Hayden

Healing Prayer: Meredith Horan  
Acolytes: Ron Hayden, Aidan Douglas  
Welcome Team: Herald Douglas, Lisa Murdock  
Altar Guild: Georgette Dennis, Michelle Heinigwood  
Hospitality Angel: Edna Leake

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**9:00 AM**

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Reader: Andrew Greene, Susan Ahalt  
Prayer: Marsha Sutherland  
Chalichists: Sari Stoddard, Kristen Keating  
Healing Prayer: Susan McLaughlin  
Acolytes: Paul Whitmore, Manny Johnson, Nuelle Johnson  
Welcome Team: Esther Allotey-Taylor, Bev Stennett, Christine Kroma, Josephine Clarke  
Altar Guild: TBA  
Hospitality Angels: Joyce Bvumbe

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**11:15 AM**

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Reader: Karl Didavi  
Healing Prayer: Peg Ruppel  
Welcome Team: Alex Langley, Alice Padmore, Kendall Anderson  
Altar Guild: Laura Shay  
Chalichist: Laura Shay, Georgana Maines  
Song Leader: Claire Morin  
Hospitality Angel: Peg Ruppel

Eucharistic Visitor: Jean Cohn  
Flower Delivery: Hawa Clemens, Eliane Dunn-Johnson