



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



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[Link to Service Leaflets for July 2](#)

[Link to Laura Shay's Sermon: "A Sword Not Peace"](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Friday, June 30

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library

Saturday, July 1

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—
Chapel

11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
Commons

11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room
1

11:30 a.m. Wedding & Reception—Main
Church & Undercroft Commons

Sunday, July 2

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

11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main
Church

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Chapel

This Week at Ascension

“Episcopal Belief”

What is unique and definitive about Episcopal belief? On the whole, we as a Christian denomination have not been as concerned about doctrine as we are about liturgy. We are not like the Romans, whose catechisms parse in some detail the beliefs of Catholics. Typically, we point to the Creeds. But as I explained in a recent sermon on the Nicene Creed, this can be as problematic as looking for definite answers in the Bible, for the same reasons. The Creeds and Scriptures were created in a cultural and historical milieu that is alien to our own, and much of the material simply cannot be understood literally.

That said, you probably know about the “three legged stool” that constitutes religious authority for Episcopal Christians: Scripture (our foundational stories), Tradition (the living evolving legacy of spiritual wisdom passed on from generation to generation), and Reason (the human intellect, as illuminated and enhanced by the Spirit of God).

And here are a few more defining characteristics of the Episcopal style of Christianity:*

1. Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:
* Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,

Monday, July 3

OFFICE CLOSED

- 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
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library

Tuesday, July 4

OFFICE CLOSED

- 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 5

- 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 6

- 10:00 a.m. **Yoga—Chapel**
- 4:00 p.m. **Tai Chi—Chapel**
- 7:30 p.m. **Zumba —Undercroft Commons**

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

- * Believers and agnostics,
 - * Women and men,
 - * Those of all sexual orientations and gender identities,
 - * Those of all classes and abilities;
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
 5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
 6. Strive for peace and justice among all people;
 7. Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth;
 8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love.

And I have always loved what former parishioner Seamus Welsh wrote about who we are, now in fact on our website:

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension is a progressive, multicultural Christian community in metropolitan D.C. with a passion for service, diverse worship, and life long spiritual formation. We believe that God continues to be revealed in all cultures in every era. We treasure the opportunities for mutual evangelism we encounter in our church and in our world. Our worship is a celebration of God's abiding love. We are a community of unconditional welcome, inviting anyone to our worship community. We endeavor to speak newcomers' languages and meet them in the cultures of their homes. Christianity means action. We see a fundamental connection between the freely given life of Christ and the giving of our lives in the service of others. The Christian journey is a lifelong pursuit. We have a tradition of living a life in Christ by enriching our understanding through study, and converting our hearts through shared spiritual practice.

Peace, Randy

* www.tcpc.org

Know a Grad?

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

Got Glue?

And some clamps? Thank you ever so much, Gary McLaughlin, Pete Minderman, and Jim Utterback for performing first aid on the Chapel chairs. If any one else feels equipped to tighten up some loose chair legs, drop Randy a line (contact info on the back cover of this bulletin).

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 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

HEADLINERS

[Work Camp 2017](#)

[Education for Ministry 2017-2018](#)

[Zumba at Ascension!](#)

[iRest Yoga Nidra](#)

[Sanctuary Church Town Hall Meeting on July 9](#)

LIFELONG LEARNING

[Wednesday Morning Book Group](#)

[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](#)

[The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

[Mobile Med](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[June Ascendant](#)

[2017 Annual Report](#)

[Together We Shine](#)

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: All Faith Church, Charlotte Hall, Christ Church, Nanjemoy, Pray for justice, freedom and peace for all people (Independence Day - July 4)

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope:

Sandy, Peg, Kirk, Sally, William, Margaret, David, Olive, Fran, Ed, Kathryn, Bob, Suzanne 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.

Worship Leaders

Sunday, July 2

Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson

7:45 AM

Reader/Prayers: Jean Cohn
Chalicians: Wadai Denni, Sharon Hayden
Healing Prayer: Meredith Horan
Acolytes: Raymond Chin, Aidan Douglas
Welcome Team: Jean Cohn, Don Cohn
Altar Guild: Georgette Dennis, Michelle Heinigwood
Hospitality
Angel: Janet King

9:00 AM

Reader: Gordon Donnelly, Betsy Hasegawa
Prayer: Carleton MacDonald
Chalicians: Sue Snay, Margaret Tellu
Healing Prayer: Javier Ocampo
Acolytes: Manny Johnson, Nuelle Johnson, Roberta Taylor
Welcome Team: Dorett Sutherland, James Black, Jonathan Black
Altar Guild: TBA
Hospitality
Angel: Marion Rice

11:15 AM

Reader: Peg Ruppel
Healing Prayer: Laura Shay
Welcome Team: Alex Langlely, Alice Padmore, Kendall Anderson
Altar Guild: Laura Shay
Chalician: Anika Lalmansingh, Sarah Rubin
Song Leader: Alice Benson
Hospitality
Angel: Jeff Buck