

# *This Week at Ascension*

## **Wait, what?! Summer is here?!**

When I started my ministry in the USA, I realized that summer is a season to do many things but Church. It was different to me because in my other church, summer was the busiest season of the year. We used to have many activities, especially for children, since they were on vacation from school. On the other hand here we tend to take church off in the summer.

I don't remember my dad ever dismissing anyone in his church at the end of spring with a sermon called, "See you in the fall." But sometimes I think that's what we hear in our heads. The weather gets warmer. The days get brighter, and around Memorial Day, we pretend the priest is giving us a pass for the next few months.

Why does this happen?

I can only think of two reasons we take church off during summer

### **1. You go on vacation.**

I can probably count on one hand the number of times I've gone to church while on vacation at the beach during the summer. That's horrible, right? (Yeah, I assume so). Some people love that, though. I have friends, who enjoy finding a random church to visit to add to their summer vacation memories, or they hold a church service wherever they're staying, both are legitimate options. If you're away on vacation, that is actually a good reason to miss going to your home church during summer.

### **2. You throw the "God is everywhere in nature" card.**

What a beautiful day. What a warm, fun day this Sunday morning has already turned into. I'd like to go to church today, but you know, I don't want to miss God's glorious sunshine. It's too pretty today to go to church, plus God is everywhere, you know? He made it all. He made the ocean and the mountains and the lake.... Today, instead of being stuck in church, I will worship God in all his majesty, at the lake!

Will this post dramatically impact church attendance this summer? Probably, I'd like to think we're going to see a direct correlation, and church attendance is about to spike. If it doesn't, there must be some other reason for taking the summer off from church that I didn't mention.

What's your reason for missing church during the summer?

If you are not going anywhere for vacation, Church is a good option. We need to come up with some ideas and activities for our church. Come and volunteer and let us make this summer special and different.

Javier

# HEADLINERS

## Yard Sale & Car Wash - June 02

Just a reminder that the Annual Summer Yard Sale and Car Wash is on Saturday, June 02, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Remember that you can bring your car to be washed. We also need help. If you are available, you are welcome to join us!

We are including a **Bake Sale**. Gerry Gil has taken over organizing the Bake Sale. If you need to get in touch with her, email [gerrygil@comcast.net](mailto:gerrygil@comcast.net). Many of you have signed up to bring something for the Bake Sale, but even if you did not sign up, you are welcome to bring some goodies for the sale.

You can bring items for the Bake Sale any time after 9:00 am on Saturday, or if you need to drop them off on Friday contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org) or 202 903-6426.

## Ascension Music Update

Church of the Ascension is blessed to have so many talented and dedicated musicians to lead and inspire in our worship. Beginning Sunday June 10, 2018 The Ascension Choir will begin their summer hiatus. Music at the 10 AM service will continue to be drawn from a variety of sources. The Ensemble will continue to provide accompaniment along with the organ. This summer is an opportunity for new and old members to come and join in the singing and the playing. Rehearsal for the music of the day will be held at 9 AM prior to worship. Additional instrumental rehearsal to be arranged as needed.

Thank-you all,  
Clarice Snyder, Interim Organist and Choir Director  
[ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org) or 202 903-6426.

## Father's Day Food Drive

Honor your dads, living and departed, while helping others. Bring a bag of groceries to church before or on Father's Day, Sunday, June 17, for the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. Forms for dedication information are found at the Narthex, and undercroft. As always, we will give thanks for the ministry of fatherhood in the Prayers of the People at all services on the 17th.

## Facilities Committee Seeks Volunteers!

Have you ever built a house all by yourself? Neither have we. But we have lived in houses and apartments where things break and need repairs. If you have experience calling plumbers, electricians, roofers, etc., and meeting them when they come for estimates, you are just the kind of person we need for the facilities committee. While we welcome handy people who can fix a lock, drive a screw or change a light bulb, most of our duties consist of identifying projects, arranging for estimates and meeting prospective contractors. Perfect for retirees! The more of us there are, the less any one person has to do. If you are interested, contact one of the following: Ted Bedell, 301-520-8449; Luis Pedron, 301-922-5610; John Pruessner, 240-271-4739, or email Lin Keene at: [office@ascensionmd.org](mailto:office@ascensionmd.org)

## Attention Worship Leaders

I will be starting the roster of worship leaders (lectors, chalicists, acolytes, hospitality angels, etc) soon. If there are any changes, if you have black-out dates, or if you would be interested in serving as a specific worship leader, please let me know before June 12.

Thanks,

Sari Stoddard  
301-972-0914  
[Sari.stoddard@verizon.net](mailto:Sari.stoddard@verizon.net)

## Donations for Gaithersburg HELP

Thank you all so much for your generous donations of food to the Gaithersburg HELP food pantry. We get a wide range of donations from week to week, and are very grateful. We especially appreciate donations of canned fruit, boxed cereal, pasta, beans, peanut butter, and soup. There are, however, a couple of categories of items that we cannot accept:

- Perishable items, especially bread. The pantry does have agreements with a couple of local bakeries, by which their unsold (but still fresh) baked goods are delivered directly to our freezers. Loaves of bread left at the church are likely to be crushed or go moldy before they can be delivered to the pantry.
- Open items, or items that are not in their original packaging. We respect our clients and show concern for their health and safety by not giving them open boxes, half-empty jars, pasta or beans in unlabeled plastic bags, or loose flavor packets.

If you would like to volunteer for Gaithersburg HELP, or if you need assistance, visit [gaithersburghelp.org](http://gaithersburghelp.org) or call (301) 216-2510. Thank you!

# LIFE LONG LEARNING

## Wednesday Morning Book Group

We are reading Derek Wilson's book entitled [A Magical World: Superstition and Science from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment](#). Our group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. All are welcome to participate. Please read Chapter 3 for this coming Wednesday.

## 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 or [Cjrosser@aol.com](mailto:Cjrosser@aol.com) if you have any questions.

## Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 AM, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

Lucia Pires is from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She is a 500-hour Pranakriya Yoga School of Healing Arts certified yoga teacher. Her training focuses on cultivating and enhancing the relationship of the student with his or her lifeforce through yoga postures, breath work and meditation, in order to create change in awareness and help the student move towards wholeness and greater aliveness. She completed her professional training in 2015.

Lucia is the mother of two boys, ages 14 and 10, and when they give her a little break she enjoys reading, writing, long walks in nature and dancing.

## Godly Play

In Godly Play, we will learn about how Paul discovered the power of the holy spirit and went to the ends of the earth to teach people the message of love.

## A Joyful Path

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](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

# CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

## Prison Ministry

Bubba Pflantzbaum has been writing to an inmate in Cumberland for about 10 years, providing friendship and access to information. His name is Jim, and he may be released in the next year or so. Jim is always looking for people to correspond with, so if you are interested in getting involved with this ministry, please email Bubba at [bubbashalom@gmail.com](mailto:bubbashalom@gmail.com)

## 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, June 23 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 June 17 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 or [melanie.mitchell@verizon.net](mailto:melanie.mitchell@verizon.net)

## Mobile Med

Mobile Med: Ascension hosts the Mobile Med van on Tuesday at Ascension House (where the van parks) and the Chapel (where the patients wait). We have volunteers that man the waiting room from 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. You do NOT need medical knowledge or training - we act as hosts to the patients as they wait. We welcome new volunteers!

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

## Montgomery Hospice

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit hospice that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. We provide professional end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities and at Casey House, our acute care facility. We are looking for new volunteers. Our greatest need is for volunteers to visit patients. These volunteers provide companionship for patients, respite for family members, lavender oil hand massages, music by the bedside or help with practical matters. Many provide the gift of "presence" by simply being with a patient. All volunteers go through an application process and a three-day training. For more information, call 301-921-4400 or visit [www.montgomeryhospice.org/volunteer](http://www.montgomeryhospice.org/volunteer)

# LIFE AT ASCENSION

## Diana Gustafson Ordination

Dear Ascension Friends

By the Grace of God and the people consenting I will be ordained to the priesthood on June 16, 2018 at 10:00 at the National Cathedral. I am joyful and humbled to invite you join me.

I will have a more formal invitation and further details to send in a few weeks.

National Cathedral  
[3101 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016](http://3101WisconsinAveNW.WashingtonDC20016)

Blessings,  
Diana

## 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.

## Ascension Work Camp 2018

### Exact dates:

June 23: Virginia delegation arrives-Cook Out at Hight Walker 6:00 p.m.

June 24: Church send off-10:00 a.m. service

Even if you can't go to work camp please attend these two events

June 24: leave from church to drive to Philly in large vans

June 29: drive home meet at church for pick up ~9:00 p.m.

Cost:  
\$350, however scholarships will be found for those in need.

Please make check out to Ascension and put "work camp" in the memo. Also please do not hand it to me but rather give it to church office in person or mail.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best-  
A&T

# PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: St. Columba's Church, DC, St. Columba's Nursery School, DC

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Reba Brown, Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Sally & William Glick, Rudi Miksa, Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro, Leslie Pool, Fran Spina, Dorett Sutherland, Samuel Tellu, Martha Tieran, Elvia Valencia, 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.

## QUICK LINKS

[Link to Leaflets for Services](#)

[Link to Podcast of Nan's Sermon on Sunday, May 27th: "Trinity, the Puzzle that Belies Simplicity and Keeps on Giving"](#)

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

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