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This Week at Ascension

The Liberating Power of Failure

[Link to Service Leaflets
for March 26](#)

[Link to Randy's sermon
"Transparent, but Not
Invisible"](#)

[Link to Javier's Sermon
"The Neighboring
Church"](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Friday, March 24

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library

Saturday, March 25

6:00 a.m. **Ministerio Felicidad**

9:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—
Chapel

11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Undercroft
Commons

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

1:00 p.m. Ascension Adventurers—
**NASA Goddard Space
Flight Center**

Sunday, March 26

7:45 a.m. **Holy Eucharist—Main
Church**

8:15 a.m. **Choir Rehearsal—Choir
Room**

9:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist—Main
Church**

Many of you will recall that in one of my parishes there was a weekly feeding program in the parish hall on Saturdays and Sundays. It moved there from another church that didn't want it any more. It was the most controversial thing that particular parish of mine did. In fact, more members were lost because of hospitality to the homeless and underemployed who came there to eat (many were families with children), than the parish's support of the LGBTQ community.

The Junior Warden of the parish had always been against having the program in the church's parish hall, and the year Samantha was born (she is 12!) I was on paternity leave and had to miss the annual meeting. The warden and 2 allies put together quite a nice presentation outlining all the reasons why the program had to find a new home.

Spirited discussion followed. A vote was taken. Three people were in favor of evicting the feeding program, 77 were opposed. There were some housekeeping and administrative details to take care of, and these problems were addressed by and by.

What happened behind the scenes among the membership was a kind of spiritual reckoning. The parish had adopted a mission statement that expressed its aspiration to be a radically hospitable church. Nearly every member had, at one time or the other, grumbled about the inconveniences that

9:00 a.m.
& 11:00 a.m. **Godly Play—Room 6**

9:00 a.m.
& 11:00 a.m. **Joyful Path—Room 11**

10:15 a.m. **Service for Families with Young Children—Chapel**

11:00 a.m. **Misa en Espanol—Chapel**

11:15 a.m. **Holy Eucharist —Main Church**

1:30 p.m. **Vestry Meeting—Room 1**

5:00 p.m. **Holy Eucharist—Chapel**

6:00 p.m. **Youth Group Formation—Undercroft Commons**

Monday, March 27

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library

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. **Jr. Girl Scout Meeting—Room 6**

7:45 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room**

Tuesday, March 28

7:00 a.m. **Mobile Med—Chapel**

10:00 a.m. **Yoga—Chapel**

11:00 a.m. **Staff Meeting**

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

7:30 p.m. Identity - UC - Play Rehearsal

8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, March 29

10:00 a.m. **Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library**

hosting the ministry week after week, month after month, year after year had occasionally caused the church.

When all that grumbling was reflected back to them by the very effective presentation of the Junior Warden and his confederates, everyone, looking in that mirror, realized that they had failed to fulfill the mission of the parish.

We learn, grow and mature much more profoundly when we fail to live up to our calling. The opposition spiritually of that warden and his two allies galvanized support for the ministry with the hungry and homeless in a way my most eloquent and impassioned sermons never could.

Peace, Randy

HEADLINERS

[Call for Confirmation](#)
[Ascension 2017 Cookbook - Deadline Extended](#)
[Wednesday Nights in Lent](#)
[Sunday Morning Small Group for Small Group Leaders](#)
[Parent/Teacher Meeting: Sunday, April 2](#)

LIFELONG LEARNING

[Wednesday Morning Book Group](#)
[Monthly Music Program](#)
[Small Group for Families with Young Children](#)
[Thursday Afternoon Tai Chi Class](#)
[Yoga At Ascension](#)
[Listening Heart Community](#)
[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)
[Godly Play](#)
[A Joyful Path](#)

WORSHIP

[Worship Rosters, April-June](#)

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library

6:00 p.m. Yoga—Chapel

6:30 p.m. Centering Prayer—
Chapel

7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—
Room 1

7:00 p.m. Who Says So—Library

8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—
Chapel

Thursday, March 30

4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel

[Ministerio Felicidad](#)
[Men's Shelter Sandwich Making](#)
[The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)
[Gaithersburg HELP](#)
[Mobile Med](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[March Ascendant](#)
[Together We Shine](#)

[Link to our Online
Calendar](#)

Prayers

For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Chapel of the Episcopal Center for Children, Rosemont Center, Chapel of the Intercession, Washington Hospital Center, Pray for all Hospital Hospital, Hospice, Nursing Home and Healthcare Chaplains, All Parish Nurses and Healthcare Providers

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope:

Sandy, Monica, John, Abby, Diane, Dotty, Sarah, Wilma, Proscovia, Roz, Fran and 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, March 26
Preacher: Jason Cutshall

7:45 AM

Reader/Prayers: Leslie Sanya
Chalicians: Leslie Sanya
Healing Prayer: Meredith Horan
Acolytes: Raymond Chin, Aidan Douglas
Welcome Team: Herald Douglas, Lisa Murdock
Altar Guild: Georgette Dennis
Hospitality
Angel: Don Cohn

9:00 AM

Reader: Marsha Sutherland, Andrew Greene
Prayer: Suzyn Gonzales
Chalicians: Margaret Tellu, Major Clemens
Healing Prayer: Jason Cutshall
Acolytes: Paul Whitmore, Bob Waters, Kofi Kwamena-Poh
Welcome Team:: Swithin Kwamena-Poh, Kevin Blanc, Algernon Thomas
Altar Guild: TBA
Hospitality
Angel: Betsy Balicao

11:15 AM

Reader: Kendall Anderson
Healing Prayer: Laura Shay
Welcome Team: Sciou Broderick, Peedy Terry, Emmanuel Nwankwo
Altar Guild: Anika Lalmansingh, Avin Lalmansingh
Chalician: Kirk Fitch, Anika Lalmansingh
Song Leader: Claire Morin
Hospitality
Angel: Pamela Novel
Eucharistic Visitor: Barb Mansfield
Flower Delivery: Eliane Dunn-Johnson, Alice Padmore

