

This Week at Ascension

Journey of Generosity Joining in God's 'ever-rollingness'

There is a never-failing ever rolling-ness to God. That's what Amos said, "Let justice be like a rolling river and righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24)

Stewardship isn't first and foremost about money. Stewardship is first and foremost about the nature of God... never failing and ever rolling. This must be understood and lived out if you and I are to be called faithful stewards.

When we give, we are participating in the personhood of God. We are participating in what is most real in the universe — God's inexhaustibility! We are making God real in the world by lending God our flesh through partnership.

When we give, you might say, we are rolling the dice in a game, the outcome of which we are already certain. God is love. And, loving is giving. Read along in the bible, Old or New Testament, and you will see the most stern rebukes by God through the prophets are reserved for the people who claim God but fail to enact God. Rebuke is reserved for those who would dam the flow of God's never-failing ever rolling-ness, either in word, deeds or both.

But that is not who we are. We are those who understand and incarnate God's generosity. We are the people who appreciate at a deep personal level that all we have is gift. And that anything we could offer to God is simply the act of returning resources to its author and true owner.

But not only that, there is a never-failing, ever rolling-ness to be experienced personally in this giving business. Let's call it the experience of freedom born of fidelity. Freedom too often these days is defined as the absence of restraint or regulation. This definition of freedom is little more than the idolatry of the self or the market. The freedom that we were made for is the freedom that comes from faithfulness. This freedom births spiritual maturity and a robust sense of neighborliness and common well-being.

It's no wonder that one of the 100 most influential people in the world, as I write this article, is Marie Kondo, author of "The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up." While on the face of it her goal appears to be decluttering the world one closet and home at a time, she's teaching the world that clutter and greed are bondage.

I believe her work is deeply spiritual. I believe her work is about removing the barriers to our experience of never failing and ever rolling-ness. What hinders us in trusting and replicating God's never-failingness and ever rolling-ness? Maybe we could begin again by thinking of God's raging, persistent, goodness toward us. Maybe that could unlock the flow.

THE RT. REV. ROB WRIGHT

HEADLINERS

Town Hall Meeting at 10:15 in the Main Church Today

Bring your beverage and snack into the nave for some Q&A with Randy and Vestry members about his retirement next Spring and what's next for Ascension.

Cookbook Committee Update

Online ordering for the cookbook is now closed due to low stock. Please email the church administrator at office@ascensionmd.org if you would like to purchase a book, and she will forward your inquiry to the Cookbook Committee.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Wednesday Book Group: *Christ Actually: Reimagining Faith in the Modern Age*

Read chapter 7 "Paul" in preparation for Wednesday's discussion. The book group meets in the Library from 10:00—11:30 a.m.

A Joyful Path for Sunday

The members of a Joyful Path will study how we learn from all experiences. If we look honestly at our mistakes and listen within for guidance, we will discover our true identity as an unlimited spirit. While we want each child to have a positive self-image, we do a great disservice if we focus so much effort on building up self-esteem that we forget to teach the power of honest self-examination and introspection. Looking at our mistakes is a difficult but necessary step for change. After introspection, however, don't leave out the next step — going within for help in understanding. "Learn to get in touch with silence within yourself, and know that everything in this life has purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences. All events are blessings, given to us to learn from." — Elizabeth Kubler-Ross . If you are in grades 3-5 come and join us on the path after the 9:00 a.m. service in Room 11.

Godly Play

Abraham and Sarah traveled away from their home, a land where people thought that gods were in each thing—such as the sky, in a river, or in a tree. The understanding that all of God might be everywhere sustained Abraham and Sarah and they finally made their way to Canaan, where Isaac was born. In this lesson, nearly the same arching journey is taken by God's people, but this time in the opposite direction. Even though this journey is forced onto God's people, the same astounding discovery is made. God was not just in one place, in the temple in Jerusalem. God was also in a foreign and strange land. God's presence is not here or there but everywhere, waiting. To be found. To find us.

CARING FOR 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, December 23 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation

The Men's Shelter Lunches program provides bagged lunches, assembled in the Undercroft Commons once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month.

[Read more](#)

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

Mobile Med

Starting from Tuesday November 14, Mobile Med will resume the service and with the cooler weather, we will again remain open until 3:00 p.m. If there are questions, contact us at spangle1@comcast.net or [240.372.3652](tel:240.372.3652).

Blood Pressure Screening

Blood pressure Screening will be offered on November 26 after each services in Room 1.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Epiphany Pageant - The King's Birthday

Wanted - Participants young and old; for speaking and nonspeaking parts in our Epiphany Pageant. Needed-Assistant Director(s), Piano Accompanist, Greeter, 4 Narrators, Innkeeper, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Inn Workers, Stars, Angels, Kings, and Stable Animals. We have the scripts and the costumes we just need you. The pageant will tentatively be on Sunday January 7th. at the 5:00 p.m. service. Rehearsals on Saturday December 23, 30th and January 6th. from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Please contact Gordon Donnelly. I sing in the choir at 9:00 a.m. , teach in Room 11 at 10:15 a.m., in the instrumental ensemble for the 11:15 a.m. My email is yagordon1@yahoo.com

Thanks,

Gordon

Blessing of the Cars

As we celebrate the beginning of the Christian year we pray that God be with us wherever we go. For that reason we will have the blessing of the cars on December 3 after the 11:00 am services in the parking lot. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

We will celebrate Thanksgiving in the spirit of gratitude for creation and how the earth God has given us supports our lives. Join us Thanksgiving Day in the main church at 10:00 a.m. for a Eucharist that will reconnect us to a sense of the goodness of creation, and creation as the body of God.

Contemplative Eucharist at 5:00 p.m. This Sunday in the Chapel

The service features beautiful a cappella Taize (and other) chants, readings and intercessions, punctuated by moments of silent meditation.

Pledge Cards

Remember to bring Your Pledge Cards to Church: And place them in the baptismal font as you come forward to receive Communion.

Yourh Group This Sunday and Fall Service Project

Youth Group will meet this Sunday at 6:00 p.m. in the undercroft! We have schedule our volunteer service project with Comfort Cases for SUNDAY November 19th from 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. Many more details will be shared this Sunday at Youth Group. Please get this on your calendar! We can take up to 25 Youth-and I would really like to see us fill

every slot!! I will need people to sign up by Wednesday November 15th.

Also the Northern Montgomery County (NoMoCo) Episcopal Churches will have a bowling activity on Sunday December 3rd from 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 with unlimited cheese pizza and soda, shoe rental and 1.5 hours of bowling included. We must give a head count by November 20th.

-Angela Hight Walker

PRAYER REQUEST

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: St. Margaret's Parish, Charlie's Place Feeding Program, St. Margaret's Parish Ordination Service, Pray for those who are being ordained.

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope: Beth, Sue, Melanie, Fran, Mike, Delores, George, Dorett, Ruthie, Suzanne, Sally and William and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We give thanks for the life of Cianna Farrah Cooper, daughter of Aloysious and Frances Farrah, who died last Sunday. 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.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

Quick Links

[Link to Service Leaflets for November 12](#)

[Link to Podcast of Randy's Sermon on Sunday, November 5: " Life: Now and Then "](#)

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



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