

This Week at Ascension

Journey of Generosity ***Exercising a Generous Power***

They bear colorful names: Roscoe. Sweetwater. Desert Sky. Buffalo Gap. Horse Hollow. These are all vast farms in Texas. Wind farms.

Giant turbines receive the wind's power and translate it into electricity. Because it is properly channeled, the wind's energy enhances the lives of thousands of people. We take for granted reading after sunset and cooling off at the end of hot day in air-conditioned comfort, driving at night with the aid of streetlights and grabbing ice cream from the freezer.

The same wind that supports modern life can uproot trees and flatten homes. Tornados ravage towns every year. Joplin, Missouri, and Moore, Oklahoma, are just two locations on a long list of destruction and loss.

Wind power, like any power, can enhance well-being or deepen misery. Build up or destroy. The key is channeling that immense power for the good. Jesus had something like this in mind when he said, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5) Only, he wasn't talking about wind power. He had the power of each human life in mind.

I have to confess, until recently the meekness passage was my least favorite Beatitude. Without realizing it, I had been reading it something like this: "Blessed are the weak, for they shall inherit the earth."

Strictly speaking, I have always known that Jesus had something else in mind. But I figured the whole peacemaker thing farther down the list of Beatitudes said it much better, so I read right past the idea of meekness.

Then my friend Nick Knisely, bishop of Rhode Island, set me straight. He told me that "meek" means "power under control." If you look up the Greek word that we translate as meek, you'll see that he's exactly right.

God invests in each of us the power to transform the world. When we devote our time, our spiritual gifts, and our financial resources to God's dream of a just and peaceful creation, our energies feed the hungry, heal the sick, mend fractured relationships, and restore shattered lives. In other words, God works through our generosity to restore the world.

On All Saints' Day we remember that saints are not weak. The creator and redeemer of all things flows through them. Flows through us. We can exercise a generous power.

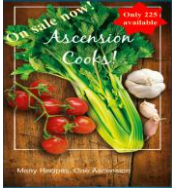
The Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby

HEADLINERS

Sunday November 19, is Jerrold Tidwell's Last Sunday as Minister of Music

Join him for worship at 9:00 and 11:15. Party to follow! Bring food and drink to share!

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 8 "The Women, too" 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

There will be no Godly Play on November 26 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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 vagordon1@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.

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 Fall Service Project

Date: Sunday November 19th

Time: 4 pm to 6:00 pm

Address:

Comfort Cases Center Rockville

[15825 Shady Grove Road, Suite 60](#)

[Rockville, MD 20850](#)

Phone: [301-605-7813](tel:301-605-7813)

4 things to bring: please involve the youth in gathering these items

1. Signed volunteer agreement
2. PJ pants-MUST be new-please leave tags on-buy the size and gender of your Youth-Five and Below has these for \$5
3. Book may be new or *gently* used-age appropriate of the Youth
4. \$40 Check made payable to Comfort Cases-if this an undue burden-don't worry, we will cover this.

RSVP: REQUIRED

- Email angela.hightwalker@nist.gov or
- Text [301-920-4267](tel:301-920-4267)

Pizza Dinner provided

SSL Hours will be given

Please email me with any questions.

[Click here](#) to get the volunteer agreement and [click here](#) to get the parking instructions and volunteer policies

Thank you for all of your support!! See you Sunday!

-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 Brian Fitzpatrick, son of Jerry and Kristin FitzPatrick, in whose memory the altar flowers were given.

The flowers on the altar this morning were given by Peggy Ruppel in thanksgiving; and by Adoma Baffoe in memory of her brother David Barclay Baffoe.

We give thanks for the inspired and inspiring leadership of Minister of Music Jerrold Tidwell.

We give thanks for the ordination yesterday of Diana Gustafson to the Sacred Order of Deacons at the Cathedral Church of Peter and Paul.

We give thanks for the life of Helen Lee, mother of Doris, who died on Wednesday, November 15.

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 19](#)

[Link to Podcast of Randy's Sermon on Sunday, November 12: " Right Here. Right Now "](#)

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