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[Link to Service Leaflets for September 3](#)

[Link to Podcast of Randy's Sermon on Sunday, August 27: "Once and Future Prophets"](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Friday, September 1

- 10:00 a.m. Sandra Boynton Memorial Service—Main Church
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program—Room 1
- 6:00 p.m. Nelson Villalta Viewing - Thibadeau/Brian—Library

Saturday, September 2

- 9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Al-Anon — Undercroft Commons
- 11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

This Week at Ascension

The Life to Come

Too often in the past few weeks I have had serious conversations with people about what happens when we die. You'd think I would have these kinds of talks routinely, given what I do, but really the topic of death doesn't come up all that often.

One especially memorable one was with a precocious five year old. At about this age children start asking the Great Questions, and frequently earlier. In my experience each new generation of children is more sophisticated than the last! Mozart's music was playing in the background. She recognized it because her parents play it a lot, and after asking if it were Mozart she asked if he'd died yet. I said, yes, he had, around 200 years ago. "Did it hurt?" she asked. Skirting the question a bit I replied that I didn't know because I wasn't there. "Well then does dying hurt?" she persisted. I said I didn't think it did, but if a person was very ill or in an accident of some kind that that part might hurt, but dying would put an end to the pain.

"What happens to people when they die? Where do they go?" "All of us were made by God, and so we return to God when we die," I said. "It's probably a lot like falling asleep and waking up somewhere else, but I'm not positive about that because nobody has come back to give us a full report. Death isn't anything to be afraid of, though." She seemed satisfied with what I said, for the time being. It's a lot like other adult conversations we might have with our children. Don't give more information than they're asking for (even if you know more than you're sharing with them!).

She'd just read a book about butterflies, I learned as we continued to talk with each other and I strained to find the right metaphors. I suggested that our life on earth

Sunday, September 3

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: Last Chance
Church —Chapel

Monday, September 4

1:00 p.m. AI-Anon—Room 1

6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4

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

Tuesday, September 5

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

was like the caterpillar in the chrysalis. We are constantly changing, preparing for the great metamorphosis to come (she asked me what that word meant). It may appear that very little is happening on the outside, but in fact profound changes are taking place. And, with folded wings, we await our release into a life that we could scarcely have imagined, becoming so much more than we could comprehend.

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... – 1 Corinthians 15:51b-52a

Peace,
Randy

Wednesday Morning Book Group

The Wednesday morning book group will be on hiatus this week (Sept. 6): We will resume on Sept. 13 (10:00-11:30, as usual, in the Library) to start discussing *Christ, Actually*. Read the Introduction.

Town Hall Meeting

There will be a Town Hall Meeting about Ascension's finances as a follow up to the discussion at the Annual Meeting, at 10:15 a.m. September 24, in the main church.

7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—
Chapel

8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, September 6

1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

Thursday, September 7

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](#)

Fiesta de las Americas, September 17

In some Latin American countries, in September we celebrate our Independence. For this reason, the Spanish Congregation is organizing a party in the Undercroft Commons on Sunday, September 17, after the 11:00 a.m. service. We invite everyone to attend!

Save the Date

On October 07 we will hold a party in the Undercroft Commons as a fundraiser for Ascension. Tickets are on sale. If you need more information ask Javier or Berenice and Luis, members of the Vestry.

Attention all Worship Leaders (and those interested in becoming a worship leader)

I will be preparing the new worship roster for the months of October, November and December shortly; if you have any black-out dates for that period, or any changes specific to those months, please let me know as soon as possible.

Thanks, Sari Stoddard

Invitation to "Walk with Me" film

The Stillwater Mindfulness Practice Group invites you to view — "Walk with Me: A Journey into Mindfulness Featuring THICH NHAT HANH" on September 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Germantown Stadium 14, 2000 Century Blvd. Germantown, MD.

For more information, visit <http://walkwithmefilm.com/> or to reserve your tickets gather.us/s/20587

HEADLINERS

[Episcopal Relief & Development](#)

[Ministry Fair](#)

[Contact info update](#)

[Coping and Resiliency Workshop for Teens](#)

[Children's Formation](#)

[Adopt-a-Space at Ascension](#)

[The Lunch Bunch at St. Nick's](#)

[Connecting College Students to Our EDOW Campus Ministers](#)

LIFELONG LEARNING

[Zumba at Ascension!](#)

[Education for Ministry 2017-2018](#)

[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](#)

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

[Mobile Med](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[August Ascendant](#)

[2017 Annual Report](#)

[Together We Shine](#)

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Campus Ministries of Howard University, University of Maryland, Georgetown University, American University, George Washington University, Gallaudet University, Montgomery College and St. Mary's College, National Association of Episcopal Schools, Pray for all students and teachers, Pray for all who labor, those who are unemployed, those who seek jobs, and all who must work for less than a living wage (Labor Day - September 4)

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope: Kirk, Sally, William, Sue, Margaret, David King, David Parkerton, Olive, Laura, Mohamed, Fran, Bob, Melanie, Suzanne, 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 Joann Gertig, Sister of Laurie Yelle, who died last week in Seattle.

We give thanks for the life of Jane Wilkinson, wife of Bob Wilkinson, who died on August 13.

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, September 3
Preacher: Rady Lord-Wilkinson

7:45 AM

Reader/Prayers: Enid Cole
Chalicians: Enid Cole, Edna Leake
Healing Prayer: Lisa Murdock
Acolytes: Ron Hayden, Aidan Douglas
Welcome Team: Florence Sirleaf, Wadai Dennis
Altar Guild: Georgette Dennis, Michelle Heingwood
Hospitality Angel: Janet King

9:00 AM

Reader: Andrew Greene, John Pruessner
Prayer: Susan McLaughlin
Chalicians: Winsome Plamer, Jake Yalley-Ogunru
Healing Prayer: Javier Ocampo
Acolytes: Lisa Dickson, Nuelle Johnson, Manny Johnson
Welcome Team: Nii Armah Akuete, Ruby King, Charles Dickson
Altar Guild: TBA
Hospitality Angel: Betsy Balicao

11:15 AM

Reader: Peg Ruppel
Healing Prayer: Sarah Rubin
Welcome Team: Alex Langley, Alice Padmore, Kendall Anderson
Altar Guild: Georgana Maines
Chalician: Avin Lalmansingh, Peg Ruppel
Song Leader: Alice Benson

Hospitality Angel: Jeff Buck

Eucharistic Visitor: Pamela Irons-Forth

Flower Delivery: Alice Padmore, Esther Sawyer