

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*The Second Sunday after the Epiphany: 15 January A.D. 2017*

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## THE PARADOX OF OUR TIMES

Is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers  
Wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints  
We spend more, but we have less.

We have bigger houses, but smaller families  
More conveniences, but less time.  
We have more degrees, but less sense  
More knowledge, but less judgment  
More experts, but more problems  
More medicines, but less wellness.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.  
We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often  
We have learnt how to make a living, but not a life.  
We have added years to life, but not life to years.  
We've been all the way to the moon and back  
But have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor.  
We have conquered outer space, but not inner space.  
We've cleaned up the air, but polluted our soul.  
We've split the atom, but not our prejudice.  
We've higher incomes, but lower morals.  
We've become long on quantity but short on quality.

These are the times of tall men, and short character;  
Steep profits, and shallow relationships.  
These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare,  
More leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are the days of two incomes, but more divorces;  
Of fancier houses, but broken homes.  
It is a time when there is much in the show window, and nothing in the stockroom.

A time when technology can bring this letter to you,

And a time when you can choose,

Either to make a difference .... or just hit, delete.

- His Holiness the Dalai Lam

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## TO OUR VISITORS, NEWCOMERS, AND SEEKERS

*We thank you for joining us today and hope you will return often.*

At Ascension, our mission is to become "ambassadors of Christ," so we welcome you to this community of resident aliens. We invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

## TODAY AT ASCENSION

### Preacher: Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

The Nursery is open today from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is in Room 2, in the rear hallway of the annex at the high school end of the building. Ask a welcome team member for directions.

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we will study The Exodus, when Moses led the People of God out of slavery in Egypt through a parting in the Red Sea. This story helps evoke the People's experience of God's elusive presence. Godly Play classes meet downstairs in Room 6 during the 9, 11 & 11:15 services.

### A Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will be spending the next several Sundays studying and learning about "the Many Ways." We will be exploring and discovering the beliefs and rituals of the five major world religions. We will continue our journey from Hinduism to Buddhism. Come and join us in Room 11 during the 9, 11 and 11:15 services.

### Yoga Classes

Randy's yoga class is every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. These are gentle, entry level classes anyone may enjoy. No props are needed. There are some mats, blocks and blankets for those who want them. If you have your own mat, bring it. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

### Tai Chi Class

We are starting Tai Chi classes in the new year, at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel. A good time of peace and balance in a lovely place at sunset. Please come and join us. Claire, cjrosser@aol.com

Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

### Finding God in the Waves Book Group

The Wednesday Morning Book Group continues exploration of *Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found it Again Through Science*, by Mike McHargue. From Amazon.com: "From the host of the popular podcasts, The Liturgists Podcast and Ask Science Mike, a story of having faith, losing it, and finding it again through science—revealing how the latest in neuroscience, physics, and biology help us understand God, faith, and ourselves." For a fuller description and to purchase, go to <http://amzn.to/2ecQ9DC>.

Read Chapters 13 and 14.



## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### Cell Group Meeting for Families with Small Children

The cell group for families with young children meets the first Sunday of every month at 11:15 am in the church library. We are currently discussing Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road by Walking*.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact [sarahanear@gmail.com](mailto:sarahanear@gmail.com)

### New Book for Wednesday Morning



Starting at the usual time (10:00 a.m.) on **January 25** (in the Library), the Wednesday morning book discussion group will begin to talk about Krista Tippett's *Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*. From the author: "The discourse of our common life inclines towards despair. In my field of journalism, where we presume to write the first draft of history, we summon our deepest critical capacities for investigating what is inadequate, corrupt, catastrophic, and failing. The 'news' is defined as the extraordinary events of the day, but it is most often translated as the extraordinarily terrible events of the day. And in an immersive 24/7 news cycle, we internalize the deluge of bad news as the norm—the real truth of who we are and what we're up against as a species. But my work has shown me that spiritual geniuses of the everyday are everywhere. They are in the margins and do not have publicists. They are below the radar, which is broken."

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### Annual Giving Campaign Extension

The Annual Giving Campaign has been extended through January to help us reach our 2017 funding goal of \$500,000. Please help us send a clear message that we are a community that lives generously and supports Ascension's mission and outreach. Many of you have already pledged, and we thank you for your generosity. In the coming weeks, the Vestry will be calling members who have not yet turned in a pledge form to ask that they do so as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your support. **Envelopes for annual giving pledges and the Facilities Reserve Fund are now available on the table outside the Church Office.**

### Giving Tree News

Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this year's Giving Tree. Your donations amounted \$890.00 in gift cards, \$342.70 in Metro cards, and \$660.00 in cash and checks, for a grand total of \$1892.70. This year's total topped last year's by \$168.70. It exceeded all of our expectations and we have been overwhelmed by your generosity.

Thank you again.  
- Richard and Sue Snay

**Visitors' Welcome Kits Are Available**

If you are visiting Ascension today, Welcome! To learn more about the community that is Church of the Ascension, please take home with you a welcome packet, located on the Chapel counter and on the table next to the Office. A Welcome Team member will be glad to assist you!

**Vestry Nominations Welcome**



It is that time of year when the Vestry is in discernment around who may be called to the ministry of leadership at Ascension. If you'd like to nominate someone simply approach any Vestry member, or e-mail one of the Wardens: Betsy Hasegawa (grhasegawa@verizon.net) or Janet King (bkmechanical@aol.com).

**Ascension's Adventurers to tour the National Archives**

All parishioners and friends are invited to join us for a docent-led tour of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC on Thursday, January 26th. [Note: such tours are available only on weekdays.]

Our group will meet at 8:15 a.m. at the kiosk located inside of the Shady Grove Metro Station and then travel to the Archives via Metro Rail.

Alternatively, people can meet us at 9:35 a.m. at the Archives' "Special Event entrance" located near the corner of 7th St. and Constitution Ave., NW. [Warning: do not go to the Archives main entrance.]

The guided tour is free and it will last approximately 60 minutes. Afterwards, we will allow an extra 30 to 60 minutes for participants to visit exhibits in greater detail and at their own pace.

The Rotunda inside the National Archives Building displays the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence. Several other exhibits are on display within three other galleries within this building.

For more information, visit: <https://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/washington> or <https://www.archives.gov/museum/visit/> or contact me either via email (rsshay@aol.com) or phone (301-977-5259).

Participants are also invited to join us for lunch at a yet-to-be-selected restaurant located within a few miles of the Shady Grove Metro Station. Some possibilities include:

- Hershey's
- Red, Hot, and Blue
- Thai Farm

Other suggestions are welcomed. Please provide me with your preference by Sunday, January 15th, and we'll choose the restaurant democratically. Shortly after January 15th, I'll send an invitation to all parishioners via an email that specifies the selected restaurant.

Best regards,  
Richard Snay

**Mobile Med**

The MobileMed clinic will move to the Rockville site during the months of January and February due to the van being too cold and uncomfortable for patients, providers, volunteers and staff. The Rockville site address: 981 Rollins Ave, Rockville, MD 20852

**Show Up. Dive In. Persevere. Make MLK Day Jan 16 A Day of Service**

There are plenty of great service opportunities to respond to President Obama's call to action this upcoming holiday weekend.

Our Volunteer Center has again scheduled a full slate of service options for our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Monday January 16. Several of our MLK Day sites are already full, but there are still many open volunteer opportunities. Sign up at the Volunteer Center's website to volunteer on January 16 or at any time throughout the year - [montgomeryserves.org](http://montgomeryserves.org).

Check out opportunities to volunteer in the parks at [www.montgomeryparks.org/mlk](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/mlk)

Or sign up to collect food for Manna this weekend at a local Giant Food store: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054ea9ac22a7ff2-mlkjr> And after you put in a few hours of service, please head over to Strathmore for our annual MLK Day Birthday Tribute and Celebration. Click here for free ticket.

Bruce Adams  
Director, Office of Community Partnerships

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Pledge Update as of 1-10-17:**

- 143 Pledges for the Annual Giving Campaign, for a total of \$332,075
- 61 Pledges for Facilities Reserve Fund, for a total of \$78,032

Below are the names of those who pledged to the annual giving campaign this past week:

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Enid Cole                    | Georgette Dennis & Douglas Lazano |
| Brad & Carol Clark           | Andrew & Amy Duncan               |
| Amy Van Dalinda              | Melody Bell                       |
| Kevin & Mary Thorpe          | Eliane Dunn-Johnson               |
| Peter & Kathy Wendolkowski   | George Eng & Christine Yankus-Eng |
| Trevor & Angela Walker       | Pamella Irons-Forth               |
| Kirk Davies                  | Leonard & Erin Martinko           |
| Gerlinda Somerville          | Karen Olsen                       |
| Gerald & Kristin Fitzpatrick | Lucille Roberson                  |
| Christian & Marissa Simpson  | David & Ann Scott                 |
| Robert & Cynthia Bonsib      | Joyce Thompson                    |

## CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877  
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Randy's Cell: 301.801.4347
- ◆ Javier's Cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card on the table outside the office, in the Chapel or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

**Bishop of Washington** - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde  
mebudde@edow.org, 202.537.6550

**Rector** - (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson  
ral@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

**Assistant to the Rector**—The Rev. Javier García Ocampo  
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 16

**Seminarian**—Jason Cutshall  
jascut@mac.com

**Minister of Music**—Jerold Tidwell,  
tidwellj@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

**Parish Administrator** - Kathy Van Arnum  
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

**Media Specialist**—Eleni Hailu  
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

**Altar Guild Directors**-Sari Stoddard, 301.972.0914,  
Sari.stoddard@verizon.net, Mardia Dennis, 301.540.4499  
mard908@gmail.com

**Children's Music Leader** - Howard Hanson,  
howarddhanson@gmail.com

**Chapel Musicians** - Eric O'Loughlin, ericsmelody@gmail.com,  
Samuel Munguia, pianoconclave@verizon.net

**Nursery Attendant**—Brenda Alvarez

## LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

**Senior Warden:** Betsy Hasegawa

**Junior Warden:** Janet King

### Vestry:

2017: Denise Lionetti, Najma Stubblefield, Paul Whitmore

2018: Berenice Rodriguez, Avin Lalmansingh,  
Gary McLaughlin

2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner  
Sari Stoddard, *Clerk of the Vestry*  
Howard Holland, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Zadinga Ogada ~ Christian  
Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker ~ Facilities: Ted Be-  
dell Finance: Howard Holland ~ Mission: Paul Boynton ~ Pas-  
toral Care: Randy Lord-Wilkinson Personnel: Jean Cohn ~  
Worship: Carleton MacDonald

### Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Kristen Keating, Carleton MacDonald, Sue Snay  
Alternate: Mardia Dennis

## Cycles of Prayer

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for  
St. Peter's Church

Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes, Washington  
Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)

Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Ministries  
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Pray for the Inauguration of the Forty-Fifth President of  
the United States (January 20)

## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### MONDAY, JANUARY 16

OFFICE CLOSED

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
- 6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Listening Hearts Community—Library

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study—Ascension House
- 7:00 p.m. Codependents Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

- 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
- 7:00 p.m. Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
- 7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. Spanish Class —Ascension House
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Library
- 6:00 p.m. Couples 12-Step Program—Room 1

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

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

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

**Preacher:** Randy Lord-Wilkinson

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 8:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Godly Play—Room 6
- 9:00 a.m. and 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. Maryland Uke Jam—Undercroft Commons
- 1:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting—Room 1
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting & Spiritual Formation-  
Undercroft Commons

Church Attendance	Dec. 18	Jan. 1	Jan. 8
7:45 a.m.	25	20	25
9:00 a.m.	95	59	76
10:15 a.m.	17	9	8
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	84	29	48
11:15 am	59	56	68
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	12	—	3
5:00 p.m.	14	10	18
<b>Total:</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>246</b>