



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost: October 20 A.D. 2019

Life on a Speeding Train

I have always been blessed with an abundance of energy, an ability to see the big picture of where we are going, and a certain optimism that, with God's help, we will get there safely. I still feel that way. The only problem is that with the renewed energy, optimism and flood of ideas, suggestions, plans and opportunities afoot at Ascension these days, I feel as if I'm on a speeding train. It's exhilarating! The view is terrific! I love every day of planning, praying, meeting, and directing. But brothers and sisters, some of you have learned this already: even with a lot of energy, you can't do EVERYTHING really well, on time, and with needed follow up. So I am asking for your participation in several current matters.

The Bylaws Committee has worked hard at revising the document that lays out the governing structure of the Church of the Ascension. We have watched with awe their willingness to get words and phrases exactly right, and their commendable determination to take all suggestions seriously. The revised Bylaws will be published on line October 20, and available in hard copy shortly thereafter. On Sunday, October 27 I need you to vote in favor, (or in opposition) to these Bylaws. Ballots will be available at each service, and will be received and secured by three election monitors. Results will be available by 4pm.

Because we are now on a calendar year for our church schedule, it is very important that we begin the process for discerning capable and willing vestry members to fill slots that will be vacant in January. The Nominating Committee

consists of two vestry members (the two who will be leaving in January) and three members of the congregation. They are:

Meredith Horan
Luis Pedron

Mardia Dennis
Ana Quijada
Karl Didavi

Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible to be considered for the vestry in the year of their service on the committee.

However, there is a mighty reservoir of potential vestry members sitting in the pews right now. If you are interested, you need to care passionately about our church, and be willing to consider how best to manage its gifts and problem areas. Perhaps you do not feel ready today to step up to this challenge—but you know just the person to do so. I want you to help me—and all of Ascension—by bringing these names forward to the Nominating Committee. The deadline for submitting nominations is Sunday, November 17. Still not sure? I invite you to come and talk to me about the realities of service on the vestry.

Finally, I hope you know that Vestry meetings are not closed to the congregation except in very unusual circumstances. They are interesting, informative, and fascinating for the manner in which discernment is achieved. This is the crowning achievement of the Episcopal tradition: the ability to work with the situation at hand, strive to find meaning and consensus, and then get to work! Please feel free to join us at 2pm the first Sunday of each month. This may be the final data point you need to decide whether vestry service is in your future!

Blessings,

Javier

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 represent Jesus Christ wherever we may be. We welcome you to our church family and invite you to fill out a welcome card, located in the rack at the ends of each pew.

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Eugene Wright

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of peace for parents and a beginners Sunday School is available in Room 4.

All children are welcome!

Today's Gospel

The parable of the widow's persistence is introduced as a parable about prayer and not losing heart, then moves into a story about justice, and ends with a question about faith. It begins with the introduction of the judge who neither fears God nor respects people. The un-respected people are represented here by a widow whose relentlessness is so bothersome to the judge that she ends up receiving the justice she demands. And the un-feared God will, by the end of the parable, eclipse the judge who does not fear him. Perhaps the parable suggests that a sign of faith will be a willingness to persist in prayer, as we see in this widow who persists against all odds in her fight for justice against the powerful judge. Another sign may be in what we pray for: daily bread, the Holy Spirit, the kingdom, justice -- or something altogether different

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Sunday School

This week in Godly Play, we study The Great Family. The people living around Abraham and Sarah believed that there were many gods embedded in nature. Abraham and his family believed that God was everywhere, but was that really true? What if they were to go to an unknown place or experience, would God be there? They were not sure of this, but they put their faith in God's promises and found them to be true.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

We are discussing the book, "The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe", by Richard Rohr. For this coming Wednesday please read Chapter 16. We meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays in Ascension's library. All people are welcome to participate.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in room 2, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the chapel, a time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Contact Claire Rosser at cjrosser@aol.com or 301-275-0617 for more information.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

REALM is almost here!!!

Our fabulous new database program is arriving imminently. Watch your email - you'll be getting an announcement when it goes live. REALM is a very powerful program that allows us to sort and network so much information and allows you, the parishioner, to contribute your pledge, enter your data, put your picture in it, keep it up to date, and check your tax information. You'll be able to join a committee, sign up to be a Worship Leader, lodge a concern, see who's on the vestry or who is running for the vestry. It's so user-friendly! We urge you to try it out as soon as you can, and let the office know what you think.

Shining Our Light

Our 2020 Annual Giving Campaign

It is autumn and that means it's time to begin the annual Ascension Giving Campaign. Pledge forms have been mailed out but will also be available IN THE PEWS for your convenience. (Why did we not think of that before?) The theme this year is Shining Our Light, which says in a few words what Ascension has been doing so well. After all, light allows you to see what's important, it helps new things grow, and it keeps on going. That's us! According to our mission statement, at Ascension we strive to represent the true Light of the World in all we do and wherever we may be. Thank you for taking part and supporting the light that is One Ascension.

Betsy Hasegawa, Senior Warden

Please Return the Kitchen Key!

The key to the kitchen is missing. Someone borrowed it from the office and has forgotten to return it. The office will be eternally grateful for its return!

First Aid Kits

Two of the first aid kits are not in their assigned "homes" in the building. Presumably, someone needed one and forgot to put it back. If you know where either of them might be, please return it/them to the church office.

Worship Leader Schedule for October–December

The Worship Leader Schedule is now online on the Ascension website. Go to Quick Links, then Worship Leaders Schedule. You can now search for your name, so you can quickly see when you're scheduled.

We have a number of new people in the various positions of service (acolytes, welcome team, Chalcists, lay readers, healing prayer ministers, hospitality providers, etc). We welcome them! If you see someone new serving, be sure to thank them. The church can always use more worship leaders—please consider it and contact Sari Stoddard if you'd like to try out one of the positions. Text 301-325-8791 or email sari.stoddard@verizon.net

HeartSong Workshop

Registration is still open for next Saturday’s (October 26,10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.) Heart Song Workshop in our sanctuary with Ana Hernandez of Kingston, NY. This workshop promises to enrich the imagination, develop listening skills, lift singing confidence, and broaden spiritual practices. Adults: \$25, under 18 free. Bring a bag lunch. For an example of Ana’s music: <http://anahernandez.org> Info on the workshop: Meredith Horan 301-926-1054 evenings. To register: <http://ascensionmd.org/heartsong-workshop-registration-form/>

Altar Flowers

We have beautiful flowers on the Altar every Sunday. They’re often given in Honor of someone, in Memory of someone, or in Celebration of something. Have you ever thought of giving flowers for a loved one’s birthday, a new baby in the family, a graduation or other event - and had no idea of how to make it happen? There is a sign-up poster in the narthex on the wall to the right when you enter from outside. Sign up for the date there, then take an envelope from the rack next to the poster. Fill it out, put a check inside (suggested amount - \$50) and drop it in the offering plate. Then look for your name and wishes in the service bulletin. Even if there isn’t an event to commemorate, it’s always nice to donate the flowers in support of Ascension or to the glory of God.

MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL
 Celebrating diversity
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019
 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.
WHEATON REGIONAL PARK PAVILLIONS
 2000 Shorefield Road
 Silver Spring, MD



FAITH, FAMILY, FOOD, FIESTA
 Bring your instruments, singers & dancers.
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME
 Sponsored by MAGI
 Multi-Cultural Awareness of Gifts Incorporated
 The Episcopal Diocese of Washington



Don’t forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2 This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon. When you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to our church.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted -

- ◆ To login with your Amazon account.
- ◆ Then search for “Church of the Ascension” and select Church of the Ascension from the list with location “Gaithersburg MD”
- ◆ That’s all. It will be connected to your account; every time you shop, and when you go to smile.amazon.com, your selection will be there and will track your purchases.

Just make sure you select the right “Church of the Ascension” at Gaithersburg MD as this:

Church of the Ascension Gaithersburg MD

About

Christian

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, MD, 20877

www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301-948-0122 □ Fax: 301-926-9012
- ◆ Fr. Javier’s cell: 202-903-6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card (on the table in the narthex) or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde
mebudde@edow.org, 202-537-6550

Priest in Charge –The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12

Pastoral Associate—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand
hildebrandnan@gmail.com

Deacon—The Rev. Deacon Eugene Wright
genenatwright@gmail.com

Minister of Music—Andrew Kullberg
music@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Communications – Jesse Velazquez
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Sari Stoddard,
sari.stoddard@verizon.net; 8 a.m. director Mardia Dennis,
mard908@gmail.com; 10 a.m. directors Dotty Pfadenhauer,
dottypfa@aol.com and Georgana Maines,
mainesgnh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa

Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedrón

2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters, Susan McLaughlin

2022: James Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis

Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay

Alternate: Fredis Diaz

Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with ours:

Pray for all Native Americans and
Native American congregations.

Pray for all victims of terrorism, war, and violence and for
those who foster and perpetuate such acts.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, October 21, 2019

- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 2:00 PM English Tutoring—RM 2
- 6:00 PM Spanish Class - RM 2
- 7:00 PM Listening Hearts Community - Library
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1

Tuesday, October 22, 2019

- 7:00 AM Mobile Med
- 11:00 AM Staff Meeting—Library
- 6:30 PM Parables Bible Study-Room 2
- 7:00 PM Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting - RM1
- 8:30 PM Al-Anon—RM 1

Wednesday, October 23, 2019

- 10:00 AM Book group— Library
- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—RM 1
- 6:00 PM English Tutoring—RM 2
- 7:00 PM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1
- 7:30 PM Spanish Bible Study
- 8:00 PM Gamblers Anonymous—RM 2

Thursday, October 24, 2019

- 10:00 AM Yoga- RM 2
- 6:30 PM Ensemble - Main Church
- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1
- 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 25, 2019

Javier’s Day Off

- 1:00 PM Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, October 26, 2019

- 9:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous-RM2
"HeartSong Workshop with Ana Hernandez" -Main Church
- 10:00 AM Magi Picnic- Wheaton Regional Park
- 11:00 AM Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1
- 11:00 AM Al Anon - CANCELLED
- 7:00 PM Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1

Sunday, October 27, 2019

Preacher: Ms. Katie Beth Miksa

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist- Main Church
- 10:00 AM Bible School for 3 year olds and under -RM 4
- 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Main Church
- 10:00 AM St. Barnabas - Chapel
- 11:30 AM Meeting to vote on By-laws - Parish Hall
- 12:00 PM Eucaristia en español- Main church
- 6:00 PM Youth Group - Dinner—Parish Hall

Attendance	September 29	October 6	October 13
8:00 am		26	28
10:00 am	133	143	124
12:00 pm		20	33
Total:	133	189	185