



Welcome to Church of the Ascension

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany: February 16 A.D. 2020

Our Call to Care for God's Creation

We are all aware of the growing environmental threats to our earth. The weather is becoming more extreme, the oceans are rising, the forests are burning, lands are scourged with drought, bee populations are declining, and species are disappearing. We may feel stymied and afraid, unsure of what to do. Yet there are positive steps that we can take individually and as a congregation.

First, let's take inspiration from what God tells us about our duty to care for the earth. The Bible says: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (Genesis 2:15)." An Islamic hadith (teaching of the Prophet Muhammad) professes: "The world is green and beautiful, and Allah has appointed you as His stewards over it." Qwatsinas (Hereditary Chief Edward Moody) of the Nuxalk Nation tells us: "We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren, and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish, and trees." The Bishop of Rome Francis notes: "Along with . . . little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a 'culture of care' which permeates all of society (Laudato Si', Encyclical Letter on Ecology, 2019)."

Communities from the world's major faiths (Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Shintoism, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism) are working in countless ways to care for the environment (http://www.arcworld.org/arc_and_the_faiths.asp).

What about our own Episcopal approach to the care of our earth? Did you know that the Episcopal Diocese of Washington has a comprehensive program for Creation Care? Go to www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care and read its vision statement, reflect on its goals, watch videos of projects undertaken, and take the Pledge to Creation Care.

The Episcopal Vision for Creation Care asks us to reflect and commit to a loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with God's Creation. The goals for Creation Care are to sustain a network of Episcopalians dedicated to the care and protection of the whole Creation; to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable victims of the impact of climate change; and to set climate mitigation benchmarks as individuals and as a church, in order to live more simply, humbly, and gently on the earth. The Pledge to Creation Care is a promise to protect and renew this good earth and all who call it home. It's a promise to share our stories, stand with those who are most vulnerable, and live more gently on the earth.

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, our Presiding Bishop, has said of God's creation, "It is certainly true that 'he's got the whole world in his hands.' It's also true that he has placed it in ours."

So the future of the earth is in our hands. Let's not be discouraged by the magnitude of the challenge. Let's make a start as a congregation and grow the effort. Let's join with others to make a difference. Let's begin by attending the presentation by Gaithersburg scientist Charles Shore, volunteer for Biodiversity for a Livable Climate (bio4climate.org), this Sunday, February 16. His talk will be in the Parish Hall after the 10:00 a.m. service. Listen to his message and heed his advice for making changes in our daily lives. No step is too small. Many small steps make big strides. But we must start now.

May God bless our precious earth and all the life upon it.
Laurie Yelle

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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

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!

Jesus offers a more radical ethic, a reign of God ethic, one already hinted at in the list of beatitudes preceding this discourse. The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the pure in heart--all of these are blessed not because they are exemplars of the law, but because of their inward orientations of heart. The righteousness of this newly inaugurated kingdom of God is more than following rules. It requires and empowers a life surrendered to God and neighbor.

Next Baptism

The next baptism date is **April 11, 2020**. If you want to be baptized or know someone who would like to be, please contact Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org

Ash Wednesday is February 26

We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist and offer the Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m. in the Main Church. The evening service will be bilingual. The Labyrinth will be available for meditation in the Chapel from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. "Ashes to Go" will be offered again this year for morning commuters at the Shady Grove Metro Station between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. We need volunteers to come and help with prayers and administering the Ashes.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Sunday School

This week in Godly Play we study the Parable of the Great Pearl from the Gospel of Matthew (13:45). In this Parable Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a merchant who goes in search for the great pearl, and exchanges everything for the great pearl when it is found. The children and teachers will explore questions about the parable after hearing the story.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

During our next meeting, we will be discussing Chapter 2 of the book "The Lost Way" by Stephen J Patterson, which discusses some early gospels that were not included in the Bible. We meet at 10 am on Wednesday's 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.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

This fun annual event will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Undercroft. Come join us to celebrate Mardi Gras, Carnival, Fat Tuesday or Martes Gordo...or use this event as a good excuse to have pancakes and sausage! This fun event needs lots of helpers AND lots of attendees, the more, the merrier! If you have an instrument you would like to play or if you have a fun activity or games to play, contact Padre Javier at frjavier@ascensionmd.org or Music Minister Andrew at music@ascensionmd.org.

Midweek Eucharistic Service

During Lent, we will have a Holy Eucharist in the Chapel every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. It will be a Contemplative Eucharist featuring alternative Eucharistic prayers, Taizé music and will come from a variety of sources. If you have questions contact Padre Javier at frjavier@ascensionmd.org

2020 Lenten Rice Bowl Recipient

Continuing a Lenten tradition since the tenure of Rector Harry Dalzell (1970-1980), your offering, placed in the wooden bowl in the font as you come forward for Communion, goes toward an outreach ministry. Typically, we alternate between local and domestic or international causes. The recipient is selected anew each year by the Vestry.

Men's Shelter Lunches

The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men. Lunches are assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Generous Ascension members donate the supplies. Depending on the season, we provide 40 to 80 lunches each month. The next program is on February 16 at 9:00 a.m. Contact Edith esekasi@gmail.com

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Office Help Needed

Our Parish Administrator will be unexpectedly out of the office in the near future. Would you sign up to sit in for a couple or so hours? With guidance, you would answer phone calls, take messages, distribute mail and welcome visitors. It isn't hard! We already have some volunteers, but we still need temporary help in 2-or 4-hour time slots (10 a.m.-noon; noon-2p.m. or 10 a.m.-2p.m.) on February 21, 26, 28, March 2, 3, 4 & 5. Please call the office at 301-948-0122 to sign up.

Lenten Devotional

The first Sunday of Lent will include a gift of a small daily devotional pamphlet titled, "Living Well through Lent". The booklet provides a foundation for seeking a deeper experience of Lent, an experience that will help prepare us for the true meaning of Easter. An English or Spanish version can be downloaded for free at <https://shop.livingcompass.org/collections/advent-and-lent-resources> in PDF format. We have ordered a number of paper copies, but they are not free - so we encourage you to get your copy at the above website.



301 Muddy Branch Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

301-216-2510
info@gaitersburghelp.org
www.gaitersburghelp.org

February 7, 2020

Dear Episcopal Church of the Ascension:

On behalf of the volunteers of Gaithersburg HELP, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of 915 lbs of food in 2019. Your donation allows us to provide basic support and assistance to individuals and families in our community.

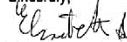
Gaithersburg HELP is an all-volunteer organization that began more than 50 years ago with a singular vision—to help our neighbors in need. Although the times have changed, our goal hasn't—we continue trying to help our community today at the grass-roots level. We coordinate resources and gifts provided by people like you to address the immediate needs of families affected by financial challenges. We fill in gaps during moments of crisis and deliver aid before longer-term assistance becomes available or the crisis passes. We strive to fill our role with compassion and empathy and work seamlessly with other organizations and agencies to provide a network of care in our community.

Your donation is helping us carry out our mission. Because of gifts like yours, during just the past 5 years, we have been able to:

-  Distribute more than 19,600 emergency food packages, which provided a 3-5 day supply of food for more than 80,000 people;
-  Provide more than 7,000 babies with diapers and/or formula;
-  Provide nearly 4,500 rides to medical/social service appointments;
-  Arrange funding for more than 1,500 essential prescription medications.

Once again, thank you for your generous donation to support those in need. You have made a real difference in the lives of the people in our community, and we truly appreciate your support. Please visit us at www.gaitersburghelp.org to learn more about our organization, the ways we serve, and available volunteer opportunities.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth So
Fundraising Support Volunteer

*No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

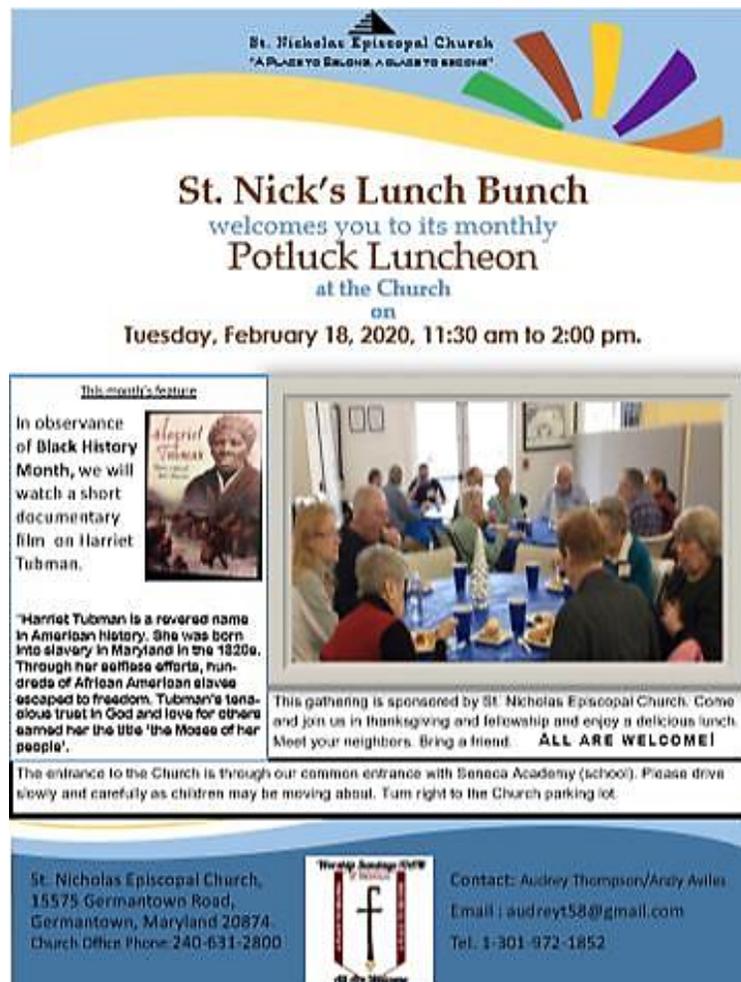
Youth Group Work Camp Dates for 2020

Ascension Youth Group will once again go to Philadelphia to work with the St. James School. Please mark your calendars! **The dates are July 12-17, 2020.**

Our Virginia friends at St Ivy will also join us that week. We need approximate numbers of attendees by **March 1st**. This is truly a life changing experience. Please encourage any youth who will have finished 6th grade by the end of this school year and older to contact us with any questions! - Angie and Trevor

Youth Sunday will be March 29, 2020

Youth Sunday-which is also a One Ascension Sunday-will take place on March 29th at the 10 a.m. service. There will be a luncheon to follow in the undercroft. Please mark your calendars so you are certain to attend!



St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
"A PLACE TO BELONG & A PLACE TO BELIEVE"

St. Nick's Lunch Bunch

welcomes you to its monthly
Potluck Luncheon
at the Church
on
Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

This month's feature

In observance of **Black History Month**, we will watch a short documentary film on **Harriet Tubman**.



"Harriet Tubman is a revered name in American history. She was born into slavery in Maryland in the 1820s. Through her selfless efforts, hundreds of African American slaves escaped to freedom. Tubman's tenacious trust in God and love for others earned her the title 'the Moses of her people'.

This gathering is sponsored by St. Nicholas Episcopal Church. Come and join us in thanksgiving and fellowship and enjoy a delicious lunch. Meet your neighbors. Bring a friend. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

The entrance to the Church is through our common entrance with Seneca Academy (school). Please drive slowly and carefully as children may be moving about. Turn right to the Church parking lot.

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church,
15575 Germantown Road,
Germantown, Maryland 20874
Church Office Phone 240-631-2800



Contact: Audrey Thompson/Aray Aviles
Email: audreyt58@gmail.com
Tel: 301-972-1852

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
Rector –The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 12
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; 8:00 a.m.
director Mardia Dennis, mard908@gmail.com; 10:00 a.m.
directors Dotty Pfadenhauer, dottypfa@aol.com and
Georgana Maines, mainesgnh@verizon.net

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Zadinga Ogada
Junior Warden: Kristen Keating
Vestry:

2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Bob Waters, Susan McLaughlin
2022: James Black, Adoma Baffoe, Wadai Dennis
2023: Wendy Quijada, David Mitchell, Danielle Allen
Clerk of the Vestry - TBA
Gary McLaughlin, *Treasurer*

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Fredis Diaz
Alternate: Ruth Anna Skowronski

Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with ours:

Chapel of the Episcopal Center for Children
Rosemont Center

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, February 17, 2020				
Office Closed President’s Day				
1:00 PM		Al-Anon—RM 1		
2:00 PM		English Tutoring- RM 2		
6:00 PM		Spanish Class - Conference RM		
7:00 PM		Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1		
7:00 PM		Listening Hearts Community - Library		
Tuesday, February 18, 2020				
3:30 PM		Staff Meeting-Library		
6:30 PM		English Bible Study - RM 2		
6:30 PM		Ensemble - Main Church		
7:00 PM		Stillwater Mindfulness Practice Group - Chapel		
7:30 PM		Choir Rehearsal		
8:30 PM		Al-Anon—RM 1		
Wednesday, February 19, 2020				
10:00 AM		Wednesday Morning 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, February 20, 2020				
10:00 AM		Yoga- RM 2		
4:00 PM		Tai Chi - Chapel		
7:00 PM		Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1		
Friday, February 21, 2020				
1:00 PM		Al-Anon—RM 1		
6:00 PM		Couples 12-Step Program - RM 1		
8:00 PM		Couples 12-Step Program - Library		
Saturday, February 22, 2020				
9:00 AM		Overeaters Anonymous-RM 2		
11:00 AM		Overeaters Anonymous—RM 1		
11:00 AM		Al Anon - Parish Hall		
7:00 PM		Al Anon/Spanish - RM 1		
Sunday, February 23, 2020				
Preacher: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo				
8:00 AM		Holy Eucharist - Main Church		
10:00 AM		Bible School for 3-year old’s and under - RM 4		
10:00 AM		Holy Eucharist - Main Church		
10:00 AM		St. Barnabas - Chapel		
12:00 PM		Eucaristía en Español - Main Church		
Attendance	January 19	January 26	February 2	February 9
8:00 AM		28	29	30
10:00 AM	198	114	147	125
12:00 PM		40	52	38
Total	198	182	228	195