

# *This Week at Ascension*

## **Letter to Parish**

### **Selection of the Reverend Javier Garcia Ocampo as Priest in Charge at Ascension**

Hello Dear Friends. Ascension has reached a milestone. We have said farewell to Randy with our blessings, and now it's time to intentionally turn to our future. Using our dreams for the future and with inspired advice from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW), the Vestry offered the position of Priest-in-Charge of Ascension to the Reverend Javier Garcia Ocampo..Padre Javier. We are overjoyed to report that he accepted our offer.

It may appear as though we took the easiest path and did not consider the traditional profile and search committee—not true. Everything and everyone was on the table for examination. We carefully reviewed the recent survey results which revealed the top two dreams for Ascension: to love and grow our multicultural parish, and to nurture spiritual support for our church and ourselves. The budget now and in the near future was always in our minds as we reviewed what we had done, and what we had to do.

It was a little scary to realize that a person who possessed the very qualities we wished for Ascension was already a part of us, but it became obvious that this was true. With EDOW's blessing we painstakingly figured out how much we could afford, and put together a Letter of Agreement that met the EDOW requirements, the needs of Ascension, and was competitive with other offers.

As Priest-in-Charge, Javier has the responsibilities of a Rector, with opportunities for formal, two-way evaluations at six, twelve, and eighteen months from now. For a thorough description of the decision-making process, please read the excellent piece on The Transition Process by Zadinga Ogada that appeared in the February 2018 Ascendant.

Javier will follow this message with his own Pastoral Letter in the Ascendant. Please watch for it. We are a very lucky people-presented with the gift of love for each other and our church that will lead us, with Javier's help, into a grateful, bright and busy future. On behalf of the Vestry of Ascension and the EDOW, please join me in extending a joyful welcome to our Priest-in-Charge, Father and Padre, Javier.

Love!

Betsy Hasegawa, Senior Warden

## **HEADLINERS**

### **One Ascension Sunday**

On April 29th the Youth group will be leading the One Ascension Sunday. There will be one service for everyone at 10:00am. This will be followed by a luncheon in the undercroft. All are asked to bring a favorite salad, some fruit, or a dessert for all to share. The main dish will be a pizza party to be enjoyed by all who attend. Come one, come all, to enjoy the Youth group's One Ascension Sunday.

## Spring Party

A vertical invitation graphic with a light orange background. At the top, a green banner contains the text "Spring is here Let's celebrate!". Below this, the Church of the Ascension invites you to a Spring celebration. The event details are: When: Saturday, April 14th 2018; Where: 205 South Summit Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877; Party Room; Time: 7:30 pm. Admission is free for children 12 and under. There will be music, food, drinks, and desserts sold separately for children, so don't miss out! A red circle in the bottom right corner states "\$15 Dinner & 1 drink". The graphic is decorated with a blue bird flying, black birds on a branch, and a blue bird on a branch, all above a border of green clovers.

**Spring is here  
Let's celebrate!**

Church of the Ascension invites you to our  
Spring celebration.

When: Saturday, April 14th 2018  
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There will be music,  
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**\$15**  
Dinner &  
1 drink

For more information contact Berenice at [berenice.rodriquez.84@gmail.com](mailto:berenice.rodriquez.84@gmail.com), Luis at [lrpedron@gmail.com](mailto:lrpedron@gmail.com) or Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org).

### April Service Schedule

#### April 15th & 22nd:

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
11:00 a.m. Eucaristia en Espanol  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

**April 29 :** 10:00 a.m. One Ascension/Youth Sunday - Holy Eucharist

## Service Schedule Beginning Sunday May 6, 2018

Beginning May 6, 2018 Ascension Church will hold three services each Sunday:

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 Noon Eucaristia en Espanol

These services are a first step to adjusting our Worship to fit our new circumstances. Additional steps, changes and adjustments will likely be made as we go forward. Please make your opinions and ideas available to Padre Javier, the Vestry or the Worship Committee.

### Looking for two Percussionists

Ascension's Ensemble is recruiting for two percussionists. For information: Meredith Horan 301-926-1054 (evenings) or [horanm@hotmail.com](mailto:horanm@hotmail.com)

## LIFE LONG LEARNING

### Wednesday Morning Book Group

We are reading Brian McLaren's latest book entitled The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian. Here's a description from Amazon.com (<http://amzn.to/2nGabwg>): "Brian McLaren, a leading voice in contemporary religion, argues that— notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance— Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun." The group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Read Chapter 7 for this coming Wednesday.

### Tai Chi

Tai Chi classes are offered at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel; a good time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us.

Tai Chi will be cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or [Cjrosser@aol.com](mailto:Cjrosser@aol.com) if you have any questions.

### Thursday Morning Yoga

There is yoga class every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in 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.

Tina Lightner-Morris and Lucia Pires will be teaching this class, also at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays (except 4/19). Tina will begin with the Joint Freeing Series, move into some Sun Salutations and finish with an iRest/yoga nidra guided mindful meditation. Please join us for this amazing practice of embodied prayer!"

## Godly Play

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.

## A Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will explore the meaning of being of service to others. I John 3:18 "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. Also the meaning of this Mexican proverb: "A good deed is the best prayer." Come and join us in Room 2 after the 9:00 a.m. service (10:15).

## Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Ascension House. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

# CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

## Make a difference for someone facing the end of life

JSSA Hospice and Transitions Volunteer Training May 6 and 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rockville, MD.

JSSA, a non-sectarian community agency, is seeking volunteers over the age of 18 to help enhance the quality of life of individuals and families facing life-threatening or terminal illness. JSSA offers specialized training for prospective volunteers for its Hospice and Transitions programs. Following the training, volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of 2 hours a week visiting patients in the Hospice or Transitions programs. If you're interested please fill out the application. Or contact Carrie Myatt, Volunteer Coordinator, at 301-816- 2611 or [cmyatt@jssa.org](mailto:cmyatt@jssa.org)

## Prison Ministry

Bubba Pflantzbaum has been writing to an inmate in Cumberland for about 10 years, providing friendship and access to information. His name is Jim, and he may be released in the next year or so. Jim is always looking for people to correspond with, so if you are interested in getting involved with this ministry, please email Bubba at [bubbashalom@gmail.com](mailto:bubbashalom@gmail.com)

## 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, April 28 in the church kitchen. If you have any question, Contact Javier at [ocampo@ascensionmd.org](mailto:ocampo@ascensionmd.org)

## Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation

The Men's Shelter Lunch program provides bagged lunches for homeless men, assembled in the Undercroft once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month. The next program is April 15 at 10:15 a.m. Contact Edith at [esekasi@gmail.com](mailto:esekasi@gmail.com) if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

## 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 or [melanie.mitchell@verizon.net](mailto:melanie.mitchell@verizon.net)

## Mobile Med

Mobile Med: Ascension hosts the Mobile Med van on Tuesday at Ascension House (where the van parks) and the Chapel (where the patients wait). We have volunteers that man the waiting room from 7a-3p. You do NOT need medical knowledge or training - we act as hosts to the patients as they wait. We welcome new volunteers!

Jean Cohn  
[spangle1@comcast.net](mailto:spangle1@comcast.net)  
240.372.3652.

## Montgomery Hospice

Montgomery Hospice is a nonprofit hospice that has been serving the residents of Montgomery County for 36 years. We provide professional end-of-life care in homes, extended care facilities and at Casey House, our acute care facility. We are looking for new volunteers. Our greatest need is for volunteers to visit patients. These volunteers provide companionship for patients, respite for family members, lavender oil hand massages, music by the bedside or help with practical matters. Many provide the gift of "presence" by simply being with a patient. All volunteers go through an application process and a three-day training. For more information, call 301-921-4400 or visit [www.montgomeryhospice.org/volunteer](http://www.montgomeryhospice.org/volunteer)

## Workshop on "Securing Our Places of Worship"

Please mark your calendar and attend the next workshop on "Securing Our Places of Worship" - Tuesday, April 24, 7-9 pm, MoCo Fire Station [34, 20633 Boland Farm Rd, Germantown, MD 20876](https://www.mocofire.com/locations/34-20633-Boland-Farm-Rd-Germantown-MD-20876). Tour of Fire Station is at 6:30 pm. Please register yourself and any faith community members who may have responsibility for securing your facilities.

Four guest presenters: MCPD - Active shooter expert; MCFRS - Bomb Squad; Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security - Assessing your facilities; and the Director of the Office of Security for the Jewish Federation of Washington.

Register using Constant Contact

link: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ef605p0baca8154d&oseq=&c=&ch=>

# LIFE AT ASCENSION

## Zumba at Ascension

We will have Zumba classes at Ascension every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Undercroft Commons. Zumba is a dance fitness program created by Colombian dancer and choreographer Alberto "Beto" Perez during the 1990s. Zumba involves dance and aerobic movements performed to energetic music. The choreography incorporates hip -hop, soca, samba, salsa, merengue and mambo.

## Ascension Youth Group

Hello All!

I hope you had a wonderful spring break and Easter! We have a busy April so I want to make sure you have everything in your calendars.

- April 22th-Youth Group 6 pm
- April 28 (Saturday)-Dry Run for Youth Sunday 4 pm
- April 29th Youth Sunday ONLY ONE SERVICE @10 am with pizza luncheon immediately following.

We need dinner support for Youth Group on the 8th and 22nd . Should anyone be interested please let me know!

We need a big attendance at the two Youth Groups this month to prepare for Youth Sunday. If you wish to participate in Youth Sunday but can not make either Youth Group-please let me know immediately so I can hold a part for you.

Thank you to all four seniors for agreeing to speak! This will be a wonderful event!

Reach out with any questions!

Best-

A&T

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers For Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked With Ours: Church of the Good Shepherd, Silver Spring, Good Shepherd Episcopal Preschool, Silver Spring

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Juan Ernesto Escamilla, Delores Finister, Rudi Miksa, Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro, Sarah Olsen, Easton Pool, Berenice Rodriguez, Fran Spina, Suzanne Winterhalter, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, as well as for all those on our extended healing prayer list.

We give thanks for the life of Lyndall B. Caffey, in whose loving memory today's altar flowers were given by Fran Spina.

We give thanks for the lives of Vickie Williamson, Mildred Mwamba, Helen Zimba and Ms Serpell, in whose loving memory today's altar flowers were given by Claire Moran.

# QUICK LINKS

[Link to Leaflets for Services](#)

[Link to Podcast of Paula's Sermon on Sunday, April 8th: "Give everything, be of one heart and soul, believe God can do anything"](#)

[Link to Sermon and Other Videos page](#)

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