

This Week at Ascension

Pastoral Letter

Dear Ascension Family,

It is my great pleasure and privilege to have been called as the Priest in Charge of this congregation. The road has been long and complicated, and I thank all of you for your faith that, in the end, all would be well. Many of you here responded to the survey that sought to know what matters most to you in the community we are now, and can become. I have read your responses all of them, talked to some of you over many months, and I have come to understand that there is a widespread feeling that we need the following: deeply compassionate pastoral care, a path to spiritual growth, and a sincere desire to be one body in Christ, regardless of our age, language, nationality, or economic circumstance.

I am humbled both by the challenge this represents, and the goodness of heart and basic optimism you have shown in voicing these concerns. I promise to do my best to serve you, but I must be honest, I need your help. Even wanting to do it all, I know I cannot. I will need you on the vestry to help manage our resources, and discern opportunities and options. I will need you to revitalize the committees to take on planning and doing God's work for the church, community and parish children. And I will need you to meet, mingle and socialize with each other to form the valid connections that will be the true support of this church. I sincerely believe that it is through getting to know our brothers and sisters through interaction and trust on committees, in social interactions, and yes! in parties, that we form the deeper bonds of trust and affection that makes us a real community. Finally, I need your help in telling me openly when there is something that I may have missed or misinterpreted; for we have a road ahead as long and complicated as the one we have been on in this search, and it will serve us well to be open and informed about all things as we move along it.

I have been praying for the Church of the Ascension, and you its people, for some time now. Please pray for me as I begin the work of serving you, the Church, and God.

Sincerely,

Javier Garcia Ocampo

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.

For more information contact Berenice at berenice.rodriquez.84@gmail.com, Luis at lrpedron@gmail.com or Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

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.

Worship Roster Signup

Dear Worship Leaders,

It has just been announced that starting at the beginning of May, Ascension will only have three services each Sunday –

- an 8:00 service in English much like the current 7:45 service, without music
- a 10:00 service in English, and
- a 12 noon service in Spanish language

The most recent roster, covering April, May and June, will have to be revised for all the May and June services. So I am asking each of you to please, as soon as possible, send me an email to let me know which service to assign you to. My email address is sari.stoddard@verizon.net.

Many thanks in advance,

Peace, Sari Stoddard

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 8 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 Cgrosser@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. Lucia Pires will be teaching this class, at 10:00 a.m. every Thursdays.

Lucia Pires is from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She is a 500-hour Pranakriya Yoga School of Healing Arts certified yoga teacher. Her training focuses on cultivating and enhancing the relationship of the student with his or her life force through yoga postures, breath work, and meditation, in order to create change in awareness and help the student move towards wholeness and greater aliveness. She completed her professional training in 2015. Lucia is the mother of two boys, ages 14 and 10, and when they give her a little break she enjoys, reading, writing, long walks in nature, and dancing.

Godly Play

This Sunday's lesson is the Good Shepherd and World Communion. The Good Shepherd knows all of the sheep, and the sheep know the sound of His voice. The people of the World come to the table of the Good Shepherd to share the bread and the wine. We will use images of the Good Shepherd and World Communion to explore our own experiences.

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

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

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

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

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 May 20 at 10:15 a.m. Contact Edith at 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

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 | 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

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: St. Mark's Church, DC, St. Mark's Church, Fairland, St. George's Church, Glenn Dale, St. George's Church, Valley Lee, St. George's Church, DC, International Earth Day (April 22) - Pray for the Good Stewardship of the Earth.

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for Harriette Eleanor Cooper, Charles Dickson, Juan Ernesto Escamilla, Delores Finister, Sally & William Glick, Lin Keene, Rudi Miksa, Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro, Sarah Olsen, Easton Pool, Berenice Rodriguez, Sue Snay, 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 Charles Dickson's father who died on April 13.

QUICK LINKS

[Link to Leaflets for Services](#)

[Link to Podcast of Javier's Sermon on Sunday, April 15th: "New Beginning"](#)

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

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