

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: (The Rev). Randy Lord-Wilkinson

HOSPITALITY HOUR

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Yoga Classes

Randy teaches yoga every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. 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 to class. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

New Wednesday Morning Book Selection

We will start a new book on September 7; *Searching for Sunday, Loving, Leaving, and finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans.

From Amazon: From *New York Times* bestselling author Rachel Held Evans comes a book that is both a heartfelt ode to the past and hopeful gaze into the future of what it means to be a part of the Church.

Centered around seven sacraments, Evans' quest takes readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death that are funny, heartbreaking, and sharply honest.

A memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, *Searching for Sunday* is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church.

Education for Ministry

The Education for Ministry (EfM) group here at Ascension wrapped up a wonderful year of exploring our faith. We are now signing people up for the coming year.

If you are interested, or just have some questions, contact David Mitchell at 240.454.1904, or newlywed98@comcast.net."

Women's Retreat

The Women's retreat is taking place next weekend Aug 19-21. Registrations may come in as late as this Sunday, Aug. 14. Partial night registrations are welcome. Forms (pink) are on the table by the office and may be turned to the office or to Lauren Kingsland. The retreat is Friday night to Sunday noon for women of Ascension to share a time apart for fellowship and renewal. Call Lauren 301.275.5831 or Ophelia for more information.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension Choir

On June 12, the Ascension Choir finished its regular season at the 9:00 service, but some of the members will continue to sing every other week during the summer on August 21.

On these dates anyone interesting in singing for the 9:00 service can meet in the choir room at 8:15 am. Jerrold will select music based on how many are there at that time. If you have been thinking about singing with the choir, you are most welcome, and this is a great opportunity to try it out without further commitment. Just show up on one or more of the Sundays. Being able to read music is helpful but not required.

Welcome New Seminarian Jason Cutshall

Jason is studying for a year at Virginia Seminary and will be coming to Ascension this Fall as a field education student. He grew up in Minnesota, worshiping and serving in many different denominations. After completing his Master's of Divinity degree Jason moved to The Hague, Netherlands, where he served at Crossroads International Church for two years. During this time he was hired by Christian Associates International to work in their operations department supporting church planting in Europe and North and South Americas Jason relocated to Arlington, VA in 2010 and, with his wife Cecily, began attending St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Jason came on staff there in 2014 as the Minister of Community Life. Jason is a postulant in the Diocese of VA and lives at VTS with his wife and two boys, Henning (2) and Soren (4 mo).

A Call for Worship Leaders

Attention all Worship Leaders - Acolytes, Readers, Healing Prayer Leaders, Chalicists and Welcome Team Members, and anyone who would like to join in any of these capacities:

I will be starting work on the next Worship Roster (for October, November and December) very shortly. If you know you have any blackout dates please email them to me as soon as you can. I won't be able to make changes after mid-September. And to anyone who's interested in joining the Worship Roster in any of these capacities, please email me and we will arrange for training. Many, many thanks to all of you who serve the Lord as a Worship Leader. Sari Stoddard. sari.stoddard@verizon.net

Furniture Refinisher Needed

Randy has a few tables that need refinishing. Please contact the Church Office if you would like to take on this task. Ascension will supply the materials.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Gift for Gisele

We want to present Gisele with a nice departing cash gift. If you'd like to contribute toward this, TODAY is the deadline. Write a check to Ascension with 'Gisele' in the memo line and mail it to the church with Attn: Kathy as part of the address, or drop it in the offering plate on a Sunday, or just stop by during office hours. We plan to have selected her successor by September at the latest.

Helping your Senior

Senior high students are graduating and preparing for a new season of life. As you celebrate this season with your students, the Diocese would like to support your efforts in transitioning students from life at home to life on campus. Specifically, we would be honored to introduce them to the chaplains and clergy nearby-wherever they are headed. If you would like assistance in connecting your graduates with their new community, please contact us directly, or you may fill out the form found here: <http://tinyurl.com/2016graduates>

We will take the initiative to reach out to clergy and chaplains and pass along your student's contact information. We will ensure these leaders follow up with each student, letting students know of available programs and inviting each student to participate.

Sincerely, Jason Evans and Iman Green, Young Adult, Youth and Family Missioners, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Armor of Light

As you may recall we are planning a viewing of the acclaimed documentary on gun violence - recently broadcast on PBS - The Armour of Light. We want to have the viewing (or viewings) in September. Our plan is to have it either at the church or in people's homes. Or both. In either scenario we will want to discuss the film in small groups. We'll be sending out an invitation for those of you who would like to facilitate a small group discussion so you let us know that you're interested. Group facilitators will prepare by viewing the video and working with other facilitators to generate questions and talking points to get the discussions going. - Alice Benson and Kirk Fitch (fitchbenson@comcast.net).

September is Coming!

The Sunday after Labor Day is when Ascension begins to wind up for the coming program year. In addition to the annual Ministry Fair on that day, the 11th, we'll also have the annual observance of Fiesta de las Americas, also in the Undercroft Commons.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

September is Coming! (continued)

The Fair will be held after the 9:00 and 11:00/11:15 services, at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 a.m. The Fiesta will start around 12:30 p.m. There will be lots to eat and drink!

The Fair is also the occasion to register for Christian Formation for children age 3 through 5th grade. These classes begin on September 18 at 9:00 and 11:00. Youth Group starts at 6:00 p.m. on September 25.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Linkages to Learning

Linkages to Learning is a school-based collaboration among Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and private sector health and human service agencies in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Summit Hall Elementary School is a participant in this program, and we support their students with our backpack project.

The Backpacks project provides new backpacks filled with specific school supplies for students at each level in the school. Our project leader, Kristen Keating, has put out lists of supplies needed in the Narthex, and parishioners can take a list (or two!), buy the supplies, and enclose a check in the specified amount to cover the cost of the backpack. Then, on Sunday August 14th during Connection Hour, we'll get a group together to assemble the backpacks in Room 1. - Kristen Keating

Men's Shelter Lunch Program

The Men's Shelter Lunches program provides bagged lunches, assembled in the Undercroft Commons once a month. Supplies are donated by Ascension members. Depending on the season, we provide forty to eighty lunches a month.

Sign-up for contributions are through an online system and assembly occurs by those present after the 9:00 o'clock service on the third Sunday of the month. We will put lunches together next on August 21.

Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Last Week's Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$13,609.44	\$9,498.19	\$297,961.99	\$294,444.00

CONTACT US

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- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30 am-3:30 pm
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Randy's Cell: 301.801.4347
- ◆ 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

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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

Sexton - Betty LaVern, betty_s_lavern@mcpsmd.org

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Janet King

Vestry:

2017: Denise Lionetti, Najma Stubblefield, Paul Whitmore

2018: Maria Estela 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
Bedell Finance: Howard Holland ~ Outreach: Paul Boynton ~
Pastoral 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. Mary's
Church, St. Mary's Court, St. Mary's Scholarship Commit-
tee.



THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

7:00 pm Codependents Anonymous—Room 1
Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
8:30 pm Al-Anon—Room 1

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

6:30 pm Spanish Class—Ascension House
7:00 pm Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
8:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

10:00 am Yoga—Chapel

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Women's Retreat—Hallowood
6:00 pm Couples 12-step program—Room 1

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Women's Retreat—Hallowood
9:00 am Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1
11:00 am Al-Anon - Undercroft Commons
Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Preacher: The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo

7:45 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
9:00 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
10:15 am Service for Families with Young Children—
Chapel
11:00 am Holy Eucharist in Spanish—Chapel
11:15 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
12:30 pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting—Library
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	July 24	July 31	Aug 7
7:45 a.m.	27	19	34
9:00 a.m.	83	73	68
10:15 a.m.	9	24	4
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	43	31	30
11:15 am	25	37	40
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	-	-	11
5:00 p.m.	10	15	21
Total:	197	198	208

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: 14 August A.D. 2016

Ascension: Church of the Big Table

If the Episcopal Church is the Big Tent, then Ascension is the Big Table. One of the most distinctive things about Ascension is that it has 6 services a Sunday, one of which is in Spanish. This is the legacy of a past generation of parish leaders who studied church growth and acted upon the exhortation of a distinguished teacher who said, "If you have a service, add another, and make it different!" This gave rise to our very popular 10:15 service for families with young children and the 5 o'clock "Last Chance Church" Eucharist. The latter used to be called the "Come as You Are" service, but all of our liturgies are.

Soon after (Ash Wednesday 2004) came the Spanish Eucharist, under the leadership of The Rev. Canon Simón Betances Bautista, who's now doing mission in the Diocese of Texas. The goal is to increase the diversity of our membership by making the Table bigger.

I get a lot of questions about that gong we use at 9:00 a.m. Bells in the Eucharist in days of yore were for the purpose of signaling to largely illiterate worshipers when the "transformation" of the Bread and Wine into the Body and Blood of Christ happened. Now, and here, I am using a meditation gong as a way to introduce a contemplative element into our classic Eucharist. We will invite it to sound once after the reading, and once after each of the paragraphs in the Great Thanksgiving known as the "words of institution." The readers and celebrant will pause for some duration until the gong is nearly silent. You may simply observe and savor the time of quiet, or say a word of prayer, such as 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

The 11:15 was more challenging to design as there are no well established recipes for such an undertaking. Its most striking difference is the modern Christian music written and composed by, for the most part, living composers from across the denominational spectrum. Congregational singing is accompanied by a largely volunteer group of dedicated amateur musicians (flute, oboe, 6 and 12 string guitar, and light percussion) and a cantor (or "song-leader"), backed up by two professionals, our Minister of Music Jerrold on the grand piano, and Howard Hanson on the electric bass. This is not a "praise band" leading contemporary Christian music (although I applaud that model for liturgical churches), but something else. Check it out some Sunday if you oversleep.

By the way, if this kind of thing interests you, consider attending with me "Missional Voices: Liturgy, Music, and Context," on Saturday, October 15, at Virginia Theological Seminary.

Peace, Randy

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).