

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: The Rev. Javier Garcia Ocampo,
The Rev. Carol Flett at 11:15 a.m.

HOSPITALITY HOUR

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Yoga Classes

Randy teaches yoga every Thursday at 10:00 am. There will be no class this week; our next session will be on September 1.

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.

Read Section I, "Baptism."

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 newlywed98@comcast.net, or 240.454.1904.

The Armor of Light

As you may recall we are planning a viewing of the acclaimed documentary on gun violence - recently broadcast on PBS - The Armor 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).

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Pastoral Care

Randy is away visiting relatives in Ohio this week. We welcome the Rev. Carol Flett, who will preach at the 11:15 a.m. service. If you are in need of pastoral care during Randy's absence, please contact the Rev. Javier Ocampo at 202.903.6426.

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

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

Prayer Request Policy

The term for a prayer request is four weeks, infinitely renewable. The regular Sunday prayer list is for parishioners and their families, including extended family members. The weekday list used by the staff, called the "extended prayer list," is for coworkers, friends, and so on. When you see a name missing that you think should be included in the Prayers of the People and the list in the bulletins, say their names at service, preferably out loud, then fill out a new prayer request form, found on the welcome desk, the table outside the Church Office, and the table near the Chapel door. - Randy

LIFE AT ASCENSION

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

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.

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 all ages. These classes begin on September 18 at 9:00 and 11:00. Youth Group starts at 6:00 p.m. on September 25.

Articles for *The Ascendant* Due

Articles and announcements for the September *Ascendant* are now due. If you have an article to submit, please send it to Carol at leamanp@ascension.org as soon as possible. The deadline for October articles is September 15.



LIFE AT ASCENSION

Blessing of the Backpacks

On August 28th (the day before MCPS classes begin), at the 9:00 a.m. service, the 11:00 a.m. Spanish service and the 11:15 a.m. service, we will bless backpacks (bendición de mochilos) for students returning to school. Ascension will also bless ALL forms of bags and backpacks (which includes laptop bags, briefcases, instrument cases...). Bring your "backpack" to church with you on that day!



CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Men's Shelter Lunch Program: Today at 10:15 a.m.

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.

We will put lunches together today in the Undercroft beginning around 10:15 a.m.

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

Help Victims of Silver Spring Apartment Explosion

There are many ways to help victims of the recent explosion and fire at the Flower Branch Apartments in Silver Spring.

This link to the Washington Post article tells where to donate furniture or household goods, make monetary donations, or volunteer as interpreter or sorter of donations: <http://wapo.st/2bdWw7U>

FINANCIAL REPORT

Last Week's Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$8,290.30	\$9,498.19	\$306,251.89	\$303,942.15

CONTACT US

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- ◆ Summer 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

Assistant to the Rector—The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 16

Minister of Music—Jerrol Tidwell, tidwellj@ascensionmd.org
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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 The Church of Our Saviour, Brookland Parish; The Church of Our Saviour, Hillandale and Nuestro Salvador; St. Bartholomew's Church.



THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, AUGUST 22

6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

7:00 pm Missional Voices—Ascension House
7:00 pm Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
8:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

6:00 pm Bariatric Support Group—Chapel

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

9:00 am Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1
11:00 am Al-Anon - Undercroft Commons
Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

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
1:30 pm Vestry Meeting—Room 1
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	July 31	Aug 7	Aug 14
7:45 a.m.	19	34	26
9:00 a.m.	73	68	60
10:15 a.m.	24	4	16
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	31	30	42
11:15 am	37	40	35
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	-	11	
5:00 p.m.	15	21	12
Total:	198	208	191

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: 21 August A.D. 2016

Loving God

We humans, at least we homo sapiens, have real difficulty imaging God as personal if she, he, or it doesn't look like us. How can God be in relationship with creation and creatures if God is "simply" (!) Being, or the "Ground of Being," like the "Force" in Star Wars or Brahman in Hinduism? Are our only choices for creating an image of God "humanity writ large" or an impersonal, omnipresent energy? I believe this is simply a failure of the human heart and mind - a form of spiritual bigotry - to feel and believe that unless God is somehow human like us God can't be in a personal relationship. God simply can't be personal without being a "person," we think.

Yet the energy that flared forth in the Big Bang also manifests in this cosmos as beings like you and me who are capable of life and consciousness and love and relationship... and probably so much more than we can possibly begin to imagine! It is all right, I think, to imagine God "like us" as long as we know that our pictures - like our prayers - are opportunities for communion with the Real Thing (who is a Who and not a Thing). To believe otherwise would of course be idolatrous, pure and simple. Even the notorious idol worshipers against whom the prophets of the Hebrew Bible preached knew that their statues were not the gods themselves. Images and words and doctrines are the way we are enabled to connect to the reality that inspires them. But idolatry is so much more insidious when we say that God must look or act like us to qualify as a person. "My thoughts," says the Lord, "are not like yours, and my ways are different from yours. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways and thoughts above yours." - Isaiah 55:8-9

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).