

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

All Saints' Sunday : 6 November A.D. 2016

Living Generously Richard Felton

Could there be a greater definition of living generously than what is found in the sixth chapter of Luke's Gospel? "But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies." The gospel appointed for All Saints Day concludes with: "Give to everyone who asks and don't demand your things back from those who take them. Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you."

And Psalm 149 encourages us to praise God with dance, with the drum and the lyre because "the Lord is pleased with his people." Alleluia!

All Saints Day is a day to remember those who have gone before us as we joyfully strive to be God's disciples. We're called to remember them not simply as a way to honor their good work but to be inspired by them and their work. We are called to live generously – as they lived. The work of discipleship is ongoing.

As members of "The Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement" – as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry refers to us – we are called to be and make disciples. Tyler Edwards, the discipleship pastor at Carolina Forest Community Church in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and author of "Zombie Church: Breathing Life Back Into the Body of Christ," says we are to make disciples, not converts.

Tyler makes a powerful distinction: Converts are new to the faith; that is where we all start. But disciples go further. "Converts go to church," he says; "Disciples are the Church.

"Converts are involved in the mission of Jesus. Disciples are committed to it. "Converts cheer from the sidelines. Disciples are in the game. "Converts hear the word of God. Disciples live it. "Converts follow the rules. Disciples follow Jesus. "Converts are all about believing. Disciples are all about being. "Converts are comfortable. Disciples make sacrifices."

I've found that disciples willing to make sacrifices are committed to living generously. We are called to be and make disciples. We are called to generously live in gratitude for all that God has given us. On All Saints Day, let us rededicate ourselves to doing God's work in the world just as those who went before us: sacrificing and giving of ourselves in joy and in gratitude.

Reflection Questions

- Who are the role models in your life for living generously, and living committed to faith?
- What qualities did or do they have that you aspire to replicate?

Richard Felton is the Executive Director of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS). A cradle Episcopalian, Richard has worked with churches around the country in the areas of stewardship, planned giving and capital campaigns. Before joining TENS, he was the Vice President for Advancement at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

PS. Pledge cards for the Annual Giving Campaign and Facilities Reserve Fund, and Electronic Funds Transfer Forms, are available on the table by the office door, Chapel side entrance, and on the website.

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).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: Rev. Randy Lord-Willkinson

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

The Nursery is open today from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is in Room 2, in the rear hallway of the annex at the high school end of the building. Ask a welcome team member for directions.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we will study The Exodus, when Moses led the People of God out of slavery in Egypt through a parting in the Red Sea. This story helps evoke the People's experience of God's elusive presence. Godly Play classes meet downstairs in Room 6 during the 9, 11 & 11:15 services.

A Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will be spending the next several Sundays studying and learning about "the Many Ways." We will be exploring and discovering the beliefs and rituals of the five major world religions. We will continue our journey from Hinduism to Buddhism. Come and join us in Room 11 during the 9, 11 and 11:15 services.

Youth Group Fall Service Activity

November: Prepare, invite and engage with the faith-based community, fund raise for supplies

December 14th : Attend special Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence (Wed evening, anniversary of Newtown)

<http://www.stmarks.net/preventing-gun-violence/>

Yoga Classes

Randy teaches yoga every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the 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.

New Music Program for Sunday School

We are so pleased to announce a new component to our Sunday School program. The last Sunday of each month will now be "Music Sunday" with Howard Hansen, Ascension's Children's Music Director. Each Music Sunday we will spend approximately 15 minutes during the 9:00 and 11:15 Sunday School sessions to learn basic music theory, explore our favorite musical traditions and learn new Bible songs. So let's get our children fired up!

Blessing of the Cars

As we celebrate the beginning of the Christian year we pray that God be with us wherever we go. For that reason we will have the blessing of the cars on November 27 after the 11:00 am services. If you want you can decorate your car with flowers.



LIFE LONG LEARNING

Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi is an ancient tradition that helps us feel healthy and relaxed. It is a moving meditation. Claire Rosser proposes to lead a group through the 88 steps in the Yang Long Form on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm in the chapel. For detailed information: <http://www.ascensionmd.org/tai-chi-class/>

Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

The Listening Heart Community

The Listening Heart community is Ascension's "monastery of the heart", an intentional group for seekers in all stages of their spiritual journey to explore Benedictine and other contemplative spirituality in community. We meet the first and third Monday of each month. Contact Lori Perine at lperine@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

On November 16 Randy and the Wednesday Morning Book Group will begin exploring *Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found it Again Through Science*, by Mike McHargue. From Amazon.com: "From the host of the popular podcasts, The Liturgists Podcast and Ask Science Mike, a story of having faith, losing it, and finding it again through science—revealing how the latest in neuroscience, physics, and biology help us understand God, faith, and ourselves." For a fuller description and to purchase, go to <http://amzn.to/2ecQ9DC>

This Wednesday Randy will make a presentation on "Contemporary Images of Evil".

Cell Group News

Today the group for parents of small children, facilitated by Sarah and Brian Annear will meet in the Library at 11:00am. While the group originated from the 10:15 service, anyone who fits the profile is welcome! You can read the book's preface and introduction at the below Amazon link. <http://amzn.to/2d87Apx> It is based on this text from Genesis: <http://bit.ly/13yDft0> Feel free to bring snacks/toys to help distract the little ones.

Stillwater Mindfulness Practice Group

Our weekly program of meditation and mindfulness practices in the tradition of zen monk and peace activist Thich Nhat Hahn will continue on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Mind-Body Skills Workshop

Dr. Tina Lightner-Morris will offer workshops on holistic health using research based healing therapies for 8 Mondays from November 14, 2016 to January 9, 2017 between 7pm and 9pm to help you deal with life changes, stress and illness. Participants have experienced a decrease in depression and anxiety, renewed sense of wellbeing, better coping skills to manage pain, increased energy and stamina, enhanced immune system, greater self-awareness and more. The fee is \$65 per session, \$520 for the series or \$500 if paid in full by the first session.

For more information or if you have question, contact Dr. Lightner-Morris, at 301.524.0808 or tina@lightbalncecounseling.org

LIFE AT ASCENSION

All Saints' at Ascension : Today

At the 9:00 and 11:15 services on Sunday, November 6, we will prayerfully read the names of loved ones who have entered into the "land of light and joy" and are now part of the Church Triumphant. All Saints' Sunday is the occasion for celebrating the lives and legacies of the great saints of the church and the saints of our lives. Forms for you to complete are in today's bulletins and on the tables in the hallway next to the office and in the Chapel and Today, October 30 is the last day to return the completed request form. Copies of the list of names of those for whom you have requested prayers will be available on the welcome desk in the narthex of the main church on All Saints' Sunday.

At 7:45, 9:00 and 11:15 we will also renew our Baptismal Covenant.

Día de los Muertos: Today



Sunday November 6, at the 11:00 a.m. Spanish Eucharist in the Chapel on All Saints' Sunday, we will be observing a Latin American tradition called the festival of "Día de los Muertos." As is customary we will adorn the altar with pictures of departed loved ones, and offer our memories of them and their spiritual legacies to the Lord.

Visitors' Welcome Kits Are Available

If you are visiting Ascension today, Welcome! To learn more about the community that is Church of the Ascension, please take home with you a yellow welcome packet, located on the Chapel counter and on the table next to the Office. A Welcome Team member will be glad to assist you!

November 11—Veterans Day

Our office is closed on November 11, Veterans day. On this day, we Pray for all military veterans military chaplains, military personnel and their families.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

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 am service on the third Sunday of the month. We will put lunches together on **November 20 again** at 10:15 am. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Benefit Concert for MCIRRN

Benefit concert for Montgomery County Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Neighbors (MCIRRN) at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring, MD on Saturday November 12, 2016 from 5–7pm. For detailed information: <https://www.efcgermantown.org/news-events/>

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Last Week's Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$6409.39	\$9,498.19	\$406,164.30	\$408,422.27

N.B.—In addition to pledge and plate income, together with what Ascension receives in rental fees and money from several small trusts, Ascension uses the cash portion of the Endowment Fund to meet month-to-month operating expenses. In general, we have been using between \$7,000 - \$8,000 per month from the Endowment on top of a monthly transfer of \$3,334 that the Vestry approved as part of the 2016 budget.

Pledge Update as of 11-01-16:

- 53 Pledges for the Annual Giving Campaign, total \$127,597
- 26 Pledges for Facilities Reserve Fund, total \$49,740

Thanks to those below who have pledged to the annual giving campaign:

Mary Anna Culkin, Don & Martha Marks, Jake & Ophelia Valley-Ogunro, Christopher & Susan Ahalt, Levin B Broughton, Jemima Carr, Cynthia Perley, Neil & Nathalie Scott, Carolyn Dowling & John Bjerke, Jennie B Cargill, Nancy & John Carman, Beverly Stennett, Gary & Susan McLaughlin, Mary N Waldron, Russell E Weber, Kelvin W Basier, Suzanne E Hood, Monteath B Petersen, Janet King, Betty B Knight, Marjorie Madikoto, Richard & Susan Snay, Margaret Tellu, Stewart & Lavina Williams, Carleton MacDonald, Claire Rosser, Paul Whitmore, Laura Shay & Linda MacNeil, Donna R Moss, Martha Lubet, Sari Stoddard, Avin Lalmansingh, Ceda & Zadinga Ogada, Rose & Jeff Buck, John B Pruessner, John & Kelly Ten-Hagen, Ann & Jim Utterback, Don & Jean Cohn, Kevin Conway, Johnetta Mars-Gibson, Sylvana F McIntosh, James & Antoinette Babcock, Phyllis Eddy/Joseph Deffenbaugh, Betsy Hasegawa, Troyce Holland, Lauren Kingsland.

And to those who pledges to the Facilities Fund:

Carleton MacDonald, Claire Rosser, Paul Whitmore, Laura Shay & Linda MacNeil, Donna R Moss, Martha Lubet, Sari Stoddard, Avin Lalmansingh, Ceda & Zadinga Ogada, Rose & Jeff Buck, John B Pruessner, John & Kelly Ten-Hagen, Ann & Jim Utterback, Don & Jean Cohn, Kevin Johnetta Mars-Gibson, Sylvana F McIntosh, Janet King, Marjorie Madikoto, Betsy Hasegawa, Lauren Kingsland, Elizabeth Lennon, Algernon Thomas, Roy Bevington & Constance Finch, Margaret Donnellon, Joyce & Andrew Bvumbe, Chris & Rachel Ruggieri.

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Randy's Cell: 301.801.4347
- ◆ Javier's Cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ 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

Seminarian—Jason Cutshall
jascut@mac.com

Minister of Music—Jerrold Tidwell,
tidwellj@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Kathy Van Arnum
office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

Media Specialist—Eleni Hailu
comm@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

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

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
All military veterans
All military chaplains,
All military personnel and their families
Those who are being ordained

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

- 1:00 pm Al-Anon—Library
- 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
- 7:00 pm Listening Hearts Community—Library

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

- 6:00 pm Bible Study—Ascension House
- 7:00 pm Codependents Anonymous—Room 1
- 7:00 pm Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
- 8:30 pm Al-Anon—Room 1

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

- 10:00 am Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
- 1:00 pm Al-Anon—Library
- 6:30 pm Spanish Class—Ascension House
- 7:00 pm Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
- 7:00 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
- 8:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

- 10:00 am Yoga Class—Chapel
- 7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- OFFICE CLOSED—VETERAN DAY
- 1:00 pm Al-Anon—Library

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Preacher: The Rev. Randy Lord-Wilkinson

- 7:45 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 8:15 am Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
- 9:00 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 9:00 am and 11:00 am Godly Play—Room 6
- 9:00 am and 11:00 am Joyful Path—Room 11
- 10:15 am Service for Families with Young Children—Chapel
- 11:00 am Misa en Espanol—Chapel
- 11:15 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
- 1:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting—Library
- 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel
- 6:00 pm Youth Group Meeting & Spiritual Formation—
Undercroft Commons

Church Attendance	Oct 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30
7:45 a.m.	18	20	24
9:00 a.m.	104	87	90
10:15 a.m.	22	17	28
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	52	38	38
11:15 am	49	52	83
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	11	14	
5:00 p.m.	18	8	17
Total:	274	236	280