

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

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.

Wednesday Morning Book Group

We are reading *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans. From Amazon: 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, heart-breaking, 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 IV, "Communion" in preparation for Wednesday's discussion.

First Armor of Light Viewing Scheduled

Trevor and Angie Hight Walker are offering a viewing and discussion of the award winning video at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 28th at their home in Montgomery Village, 9701 Breckenridge Place. Dessert will be served. A SignUp Genius link will be sent out directly.

A Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will continue to learn that "the teachings of Jesus lead me to understand that I am one with all." Following the path of Jesus can change us from feeling limited and separate to feeling connected and whole. The use of games, art, music and story telling will be enjoyed by all. Come and join us in Room 11 during the 9am and 11:00 and 11:15 services.

Godly Play

Our Godly Play lesson this week focuses on the Holy Family--Mary, Joseph and Jesus, along with the Angels, Shepherds, Magi and animals present at Jesus' birth. The Holy Family holds deep significance in Godly Play as the matrix from which new life comes. Christ's incarnation changes everything, particularly the way we understand ourselves, each other, the Creator, and the world around us.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Cell Group News

Starting today in the Library at 11:15-12:00 noon and continuing on the first Sunday of the month is a group for parents of small children, facilitated by Sarah and Brian Annear. While the group originated from the 10:15 service, anyone who fits the profile is welcome! For the first session, the group will discuss the attached first chapter of *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren. If you have time to read the chapter and the accompanying Bible passages before Sunday, great (the chapter is only 3 pages). If not, no biggie. You can also 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.

Sari Stoddard and Paul Whitmore's group is also using the McLaren book and is taking names of interested people, who will decide when and where to meet together. E-mail Sari at sari.stoddard@verizon.net if you want in.

Formation leaders are in conversation about grouping: contact Megan Didavi at mdidavi@gmail.com to connect.

There is a rumor that alums of the women's retreat are thinking about monthly connection. Watch for a revelation.

Others have expressed interest in the progressive dinner format for a group. The office staff is ready and willing to support that endeavor.

Not all Ascension groups need to follow the cell format. The more groups we have the better!

Outreach Ministry Retreat

Randy will be leading an outreach or "missional" retreat in our Chapel from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 8th. **Anyone** may come, of course, but this is especially aimed at Ascension members and friends who are already engaged in missional activity in our community or are drawn to do so and want to know more. Our purpose is to deepen our awareness of how what we do in the community, especially under the auspices of our many outreach partner ministries, define our mission. All that's required is an interest in the world around us and a desire to be a disciple of Christ. Please come and share your experiences and dreams for Ascension, and what you'd like to do with them! Through prayer, reflection, and discussion we'll identify how we, as members of Ascension, can be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Sign up here if you plan to come: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4CABA82DA75-outreach>

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Episcopal Spiritual Life Inventory

Friends: the links to the online questionnaire reviewing the spiritual life of Ascensions members is LIVE now through midnight TONIGHT.

Link in English: <https://www.research.net/r/RenewalWorks2082>

Link in Spanish: <https://es.research.net/r/RenewalWorksSpanishVersion2082>

There are also hard copies in both languages available on the table outside the church office and near the chapel door. You are also welcome to use a church computer; talk to a member of the clergy, staff, or vestry.

Let's see if we can get 200 surveys in this year!

Blessing of the Beasts, This Evening!



In observance of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will be blessing your feline, avian, canine, bovine, equine, porcine, reptilian, and arachnid friends at the 5:00 p.m. service TONIGHT in the Chapel. Please invite your friends to bring their pets too!

Ascension Movie Night is Back!

Our first movie this fall will be *The Boxtrolls*, on Friday night October 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. We'll start off with pizza and whatever else people want to bring. We do ask for a donation of \$5 per person with a \$15 per family maximum toward the cost of the pizza. We'll start the movie at 6:45 and we'll most likely be out and off to bed by 8:30 p.m.

For information about the movie, which is rated PG, follow this link to Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/2dp5VyY>. Please bring your favorite beverage, and some to share. Snack foods will not be denied admission. You need not be a child, or have one, to attend! Dolls, favorite toys, sleeping bags and pillows are also welcome! Sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0A4CABA82DA75-seethe>

"New" Parish Administrator

After reviewing all relevant data and some discussion at the Vestry, we have dubbed Kathy Van Arnum Parish Administrator of Ascension. Since she came to us in 2012 her areas of oversight evolved beyond that of "office coordinator." This is especially evident in facilities management and maintenance. We rent out space in our plant more and more, and this has been a busy time in terms of capital expenses, requiring Kathy to interface with contractors and vendors. Congratulations, Kathy!

LIFE AT ASCENSION

"Fifth Sunday" Brunch is Coming

Save the date! Ascension's next gathering of the Fifth Sunday Brunch will take place on October 30 at 12:30 p.m. in the Undercroft. All are welcome, new and old members alike. Watch for the Sign up genius as to what we need. See all of you there on the 30th.

Thank You

Thank You, Lou Anderson, Kirk Fitch, and Gary McLaughlin for taking care of certain precious (and old) pieces of furniture belonging to Ascension!

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Felicidad Was a Great Success!

Thanks to our early-rising volunteers on Saturday September 24, we made 114 sandwiches to give to day laborers outside the local Seven-Eleven. All were distributed by 7 a.m., and we could have given away more!

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 October 16. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

Fall into Wellness Health Fair

Come to Church of the Ascension on Saturday, October 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to a health fair hosted by The Diabetes Selfcare Management Institute. There you can get a free flu vaccination, information on the latest trends in health and wellness, an exercise demonstration, vendor giveaways and discounts, and some good old fashioned fun for the kids. See the posters in the narthex, chapel, and table outside the office.

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

There is an opportunity to serve at the soup kitchen on the first Saturday or third Monday each month at 1:00 pm (prep work) or 3:00 p.m. (serving) across the street at St. Martin's Church. Contact one of our experienced team leaders, Page Salazar (Saturdays, pagesalazar@gmail.com) or Jennifer Smith (Mondays, jennifer0966@gmail.com.) We can always use more helpers!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Last Week's Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$11,416.50	\$9,498.19	\$367,578.62	\$360,931.30

CONTACT US

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- ◆ 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.

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Children's Music Leader - Howard Hanson,
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Chapel Musicians - Eric O'Loughlin, ericsmelody@gmail.com,
Samuel Munguia, pianoconclave@verizon.net

Nursery Coordinator—Magda Tosta

Sexton - open

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. Francis Church. Pray for All Animal Rescue Leagues in
the Diocese, for human treatment of all of God's crea-
tures, especially companion, rescue, and service animals.
Remember and pray for all Jewish people during the holy
days of Rosh Hashanah (October 2-4) and Yom Kippur
(October 11-13).

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

10:00 am Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
1:00 pm AI-Anon—Room 1
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, OCTOBER 6

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

1:00 pm AI-Anon—Room 1
6:00 pm Couples 12-Step Program—Room 1
6:30 pm Movie Night—Chapel

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:30 am Outreach Retreat—Chapel
9:00 am Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
11:00 am AI-Anon—Undercroft Commons
11:00 am Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

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 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
6:00 pm Youth Group and Spiritual Formation—UC

Church Attendance	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25
7:45 a.m.	30	20	30
9:00 a.m.	106	94	92
10:15 a.m.	10	13	17
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	45	35	35
11:15 am	62	46	59
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	10	13	12
5:00 p.m.	16	18	21
Total:	279	239	266

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: 2 October A.D. 2016

Living Generously

Donn Morgan

I have a friend at my local coffee shop who often wonders how I can read the paper every day. Much the same might be said of our biblical texts this week! Indeed, they ring many bells contained in the daily news of our world. Violence, loss, destruction, desolation, suffering, and injustice—all of these bring suffering, grief, incredible sadness, and tears. The stewardship theme before us, generous living, is mystifying in light of this. How, with all the loss and bad stuff of our world, can we live generously? Even to speak of generosity in such a context seems incongruous and unrealistic. And then there's God! For some, in biblical and in contemporary times, there's not much evidence of God's presence. And this often creates anger, frustration, and lamentation. Yet our laments become prayers—calling for the community and for God to remember. In that remembering we recall and reaffirm our relationship with the One who takes away, and gives; who destroys, and creates; who visits retribution and justice on all, both us and our oppressors. In the midst of all this bad stuff, in the context of our prayer, there is a movement from lament to hope, from despair to trust, from frustration and fear to confidence. Calls and prayers for hope witness to something easily forgotten: that we have a relationship with God that can and will sustain in the most difficult of times. Yes, we will cry and lament and sometimes praise will be difficult to achieve. But we are called to live in that hope and that relationship—to live generously and faithfully—no matter what the world looks like, no matter how much we've earned and own, or how much we've lost. When everything seems depressingly hopeless—in that time, through our tears and prayers, comes a realization that God is there, and that God is more than enough. For none of it is ours anyway, as our gospel lesson makes clear: "We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done." To paraphrase another biblical writer: "If we treat gold as dust, then we'll come to understand that God is our gold.... We will have delight in God and we will have answered prayers." And then, in light of and because of our rich relationship with God, we can, and will, live faithfully and generously.

Donn Morgan is Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. After a career of teaching and administration at CDSP, Donn now does freelance teaching, editing, and writing in Old Testament studies with colleagues all over the world, as well as a bit of golf and work with his local Berkeley parish.

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).