

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

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

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

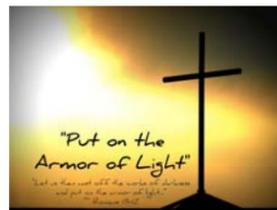
We are reading *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans. From Amazon: Centered around seven sacraments, Evans's quest takes readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death that 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 V, "Confirmation" in preparation for Wednesday's discussion.

Two Armor of Light Viewings 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.

Kirk Fitch and Alice Benson plan to host a viewing at church on Sunday, October 16 at 6:30 p.m. A light supper will be served at approximately 6:10 p.m., therefore it would be ideal for people who come to the 5:00 p.m. service. A signup link will follow soon, to get a count of those who wish to eat before the showing.



LIFE LONG LEARNING

Cell Group News

On the first Sunday of the month there 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!

A Joyful Path

The members of A Joyful Path will spend the next several Sundays being open to the wisdom teachings of the world. We will look at the other major faiths in their customs and teachings. We will discover how much we all have in common. If you are in grades 3-6 come and join us downstairs in Room 11 during the 9, 11 and 11:15 services

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we examine the story of the great flood and the ark that Noah built. We move beyond the creation of the world to its re-creation and begin to see the gift of water as a symbol of cleansing, redemption and forgiveness. We also learn about God's promise, through Noah, to all of us. Godly Play classes meet downstairs in Room 6 during the 9, 11 & 11:15 services.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Let's Do Dinner and Dancing!

Mark your calendars for an evening of music, great food, and dancing, hosted by Ascension's Hispanic congregation, on Saturday October 22, beginning at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome! The ticket price of \$10 per person covers one dinner and one soda, and unlimited dancing! Tickets will be on sale after services on Sunday. See Javier with any questions.



All Saints' at Ascension

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 on the tables in the hallway next to the office and in the Chapel. 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

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.



Living with Serious Illness Support Group

A serious physical illness can happen to any of us, and when it does, dealing with it can be a real challenge. It can leave us living with anxiety of what may happen next and concern for how it will affect our families. We invite you to join our group, "Living with Serious Illness Support Group," and share ways to continue to live our lives to the fullest. The group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month in Room 1 from 11:30 to 1:00. Bring a bag lunch. For more information, contact Barb Mansfield at barbmansfield8@gmail.com or 301-963-2214.

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.

New Birth

Thanks be to God upon the birth of Nathan Lettrich Saturday, October 1. Best wishes to parents Stephen and Lauren, and brothers Matthew and Alexander!

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 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.

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 melanie.mitchell@verizon.net or 301.519.1074.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Last Week's Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$17,805.31	\$9,498.19	\$375,383.93	\$370,429.50

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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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

Nursery Coordinator—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
The regional assemblies and regional conveners of the
Diocese.

The National Association of Episcopal Schools
All Native Americans and Native American congregations.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

OFFICE CLOSED for Columbus Day

11:30 am Living with a Serious Illness Supp. Group-Rm 1
1:00 pm Al-Anon—Room 1
6:00 pm Girl Scouts—Room 1
6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
7:00 pm Outreach Committee—Library
7:00 pm Girl Scouts—Room 6

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

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, OCTOBER 12

10:00 am Wednesday Morning Book Group—Library
1:00 pm Al-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 13

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

1:00 pm Al-Anon—Room 1

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Preacher: The Rev. Javier García Ocampo

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
10:15 am Sandwich Making—Undercroft
11:00 am Holy Eucharist in Spanish—Chapel
11:15 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
2:00 pm Christian Counselors Meeting—Library
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	Sept 18	Sept 25	Oct 2
7:45 a.m.	20	30	33
9:00 a.m.	94	92	94
10:15 a.m.	13	17	10
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	35	35	44
11:15 am	46	59	41
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	13	12	—
5:00 p.m.	18	21	30
Total:	239	266	252

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost: 9 October A.D. 2016

Living Generously

In my Common English Bible translation of the story of healing found in Luke, the story is captioned, "Jesus heals a Samaritan." The story, of course, is about Jesus healing ten people with a serious skin disease, but only the Samaritan returns to thank him and give God praise. Jesus notes that it is the foreigner, the greater outcast, who is overwhelmed with gratitude. The others do what they are told to do, no doubt, but show no real gratitude to the one who transformed their lives. One wonders what they said to the priests to whom they were instructed to visit. Other than being healed, do they live life differently after this miracle? I bet the Samaritan does. He's already shown deep gratitude. He prostrated himself in front of Jesus to praise him for his newfound life. He's had to live apart from friends and loved ones because of his disease and now he can rejoin them. He's had to rely on begging to survive and now he can work. Oh, the joy in such transformation! There are many times when we experience miracles, small and large, in our lives. Do we take the time to give thanks for them or do we just go on about our daily work? Do we even recognize God's grace and glory in our daily lives, let alone give thanks for them? Do we see God's abundance in our lives or simply think most of what we have is the result of our own hard work? When we choose to live generously, we choose first and foremost to be grateful. Grateful to God for what we have; grateful to our families and friends for their love and support; grateful to our faith communities for their acceptance and challenge. Gratitude opens our soul to a fuller life because it opens our mind to seeing all that we have been given. When we accept that we have received so much, we can then live generously. That generosity is more than how we share what we have, how we welcome the stranger or foreigner, and how we forgive those who have offended us. Living generously can transform our lives and transform our communities. It is a way of praising God for all we have been given. Reflection Questions • When have you experienced a miracle in your life? • How have you responded? • What is your favorite way of showing gratitude?

The author of today's meditation, 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).