

TODAY AT ASCENSION
Preacher: Jason Cutshall

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.

New Wednesday Morning Book Selection

We have started a new book, *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, 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 III, "Holy Orders, " in preparation for Wednesday's discussion.

The Armor of Light

We are just about ready to schedule viewings of the acclaimed documentary on gun violence entitled *The Armor of Light*. Our plan is to have them either at the church or in people's homes. Or both. Kirk Fitch and Alice Benson are up for hosting one, as are Trevor and Angie Hight Walker. If you want to host a viewing, simply e-mail Randy. In any event, we hope you will make time to learn about and discuss this very important topic.

A Joyful Path

Welcome to all young people in grades 3-5. For the first few weeks, the members of the class will be learning about the Path and Teachings of Jesus. Our affirmation is: The life of Jesus helps me understand that I am one with all. We will learn about Jesus and the Sacred Community. A letter from Paul, a game and an art project will be a part of our Path. Come and join us downstairs in Room 11 during the 9, 11 & 11:15 services.

Godly Play

This week in Godly Play, we study the circle of the church year to learn how the church tells time. Each year, as Christians, we move through a circle of memory and anticipation as we open ourselves to God's presence. Godly Play classes meet downstairs in Room 6 during the 9, 11 & 11:15 services.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Ascension Youth Group Kicks off 2016-17 Program!

Youth Group will begin TONIGHT with a Cook-Out at the Hight Walkers at 9701 Breckenridge Place in Montgomery Village. Please arrive by 6:00 p.m. for games, food and fellowship which will end at 8:00 p.m. Meat, buns, and serving items will be provided. Please bring a dish or item to share. All Youth in the 6th grade and older are encouraged to participate in the Ascension Youth Group Program!



The Group meets on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and typically in the Church undercroft. We are one of the most active Youth Programs in Montgomery County-so come see what the excitement is about! We have fun and serve others, especially during our annual Mission Trip which occurs in the summer. As there will no longer be a morning education component for Youth in this age group, please plan to attend our Sunday evening program! Text Angie 301.693.2399 with any questions.

Cell Groups at Ascension

As we lean into Fall it's time to revisit the concept of small "cell" (as in "of the Body of Christ") groups. Would you consider hosting or joining a group of about 6 to 12 people that is centered around study and discussion and that deepens the experience of community?

Some groups meeting at Ascension already function this way, such as the "Listening Hearts Community" on Monday evenings, the Education for Ministry Group on Tuesday evenings, and the Wednesday Morning Book Group ("WAM"). These cell groups meet at the church, but groups may meet in somebody's home, or even at places like Panera or Growler's Pub!

Groups may meet as many times as they want, of course; the suggested timeframe for getting together is 1 to 3 times a month. How often you meet and where is something you work out with people you've signed on with.

A group for families with young children who attend the 10:15 service will meet in the Library; contact Sarah Annear (sarahannear@gmail.com) if you are interested. Paul Whitmore and Sari Stoddard are forming a book discussion group and welcome anyone who's interested. The book we will be discussing is Brian McLaren's *We Make the Road by Walking*. The group will meet on Friday 9/30 at 7:30 p.m. at Sari and Paul's house. We will discuss the best meeting time, place and frequency for the rest of the study. If you would be interested but can't come at that time, please send an email with alternate dates/times, at sari.stoddard@verizon.net. Try to have the book at the first meeting; you can order it from Amazon.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Retreat for Ambassadors of Christ!

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>.

Please RSVP by Midnight Thursday, October 6th. We need 8 people signing up to make a "quorum." For more information or if you have questions or suggestions, contact Randy or Outreach Chair Paul Boynton at boynton357@verizon.net

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 October 2.

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, Sunday October 2



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 next Sunday in the Chapel. Please invite your friends to bring their pets too!

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Annual Friendship Picnic

TODAY, from 1 to 5 p.m., join the Montgomery County Annual Friendship Picnic that brings together communities with diverse cultures and faiths. Food and drinks will be provided so everyone may relax and enjoy the afternoon! Kosher, Halal, Vegetarian and Traditional Cuisines! We kindly request that you bring one non-perishable food item, which will be donated to local Montgomery County food banks. The event will be held at Wheaton Regional Park 2000 Shorefield Road, Wheaton, MD 20902. Copy and paste this link to register: <http://conta.cc/2cM85Fp>

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.

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 volunteers!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Last Week's Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$8,461.00	\$9,498.19	\$356,162.12	\$351,433.11

CONTACT US

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- ◆ 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.

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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

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 the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Campus Ministries at American University, Georgetown University, and St. Mary's College.

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

1:00 pm Al-Anon—Room 1
6:00 pm Girl Scouts—Room 1
6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous—Room 4
7:00 pm Jr. Girl Scouts—Room 6

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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, SEPTEMBER 28

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, SEPTEMBER 29

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

1:00 pm Al-Anon—Room 1

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

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
11:15 am Families with Young Children Cell Group—Library
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	Sept 4	Sept 11	Sept 18
7:45 a.m.	23	30	20
9:00 a.m.	73	106	94
10:15 a.m.	21	10	13
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	45	45	35
11:15 am	44	62	46
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise		10	13
5:00 p.m.	22	16	18
Total:	228	279	239

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: 25 September A.D. 2016

Dear Ascension Friends,

I'm honored to serve as the Chair for this year's Annual Giving Campaign.

Next Sunday, October 2, we will kick off the campaign, whose theme will be "Living Generously." In the weeks following, we will explore together how we can live more generously as individuals and as a community of faith. Living Generously is more than what we do with our financial resources — though that is important. To live generously, we are also called to be open to new ideas, to welcome the stranger, to volunteer often, and to forgive those who have offended us.

Your generosity, in response to the abundance in your life, will fund the mission and ministry of Ascension and transform lives.

Here is our roadmap for this year's campaign:

- Beginning next Sunday and continuing throughout the campaign, our Sunday bulletin will include reflections written by Episcopal leaders from across the country. These reflections will cover stewardship and faithful giving in connection with the Gospel reading of the day, and we will use them for prayer and study throughout the week.
- Each Sunday, we will hear stories of personal transformation through the practice of intentional giving from your fellow parishioners.
- On the First Sunday of Advent, November 27 - the Christian New Year - we will celebrate Commitment Sunday, the culmination of our exploration, when pledges received will be offered as an act of worship and in response to all that God has provided.

Randy and the Vestry have set a goal of receiving 100% of pledge commitments from our worshipping community. We will be in intentional prayer that each of us will remain open to letting the Holy Spirit lead and guide us in a faithful response to being called to Live Generously.

Thank you for joining me as we consider how we can live more fully into a generous life. May our exploration open us to a new spirit of generosity.

Yours in Christ,
Avin Lalmansingh

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).