

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preachers: Ms. Enid Cole

HOSPITALITY HOUR

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Sunday School Survey for Next School Year

The teachers of Godly Play and Joyful Path would like to learn more about the families we serve and welcome anyone interested in learning about Sunday School for preschool-5th grade.

We will be waiting in the Narthex, each Sunday in May after the 9:00, 10:15, 11:00 and 11:15 services for anyone who would like to share their impressions of our programs. Questions from parents are also welcome! There is also a written survey as another way to gather information at <http://svy.mk/1qHgOx3>. Thank you for sharing with us! - Megan Didavi



Godly Play

Classes for children age 3 through second grade meet at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in Room 6 downstairs. This week in Godly Play we will study the Parable of the Deep Well. This parable is not a parable of Jesus but has its roots in the traditions of the rabbis. From time to time we wonder what parables really are. The parable of the Deep Well helps us find our own interpretation of what a parable really is. The parable tells the story of a person who crossed the desert and came to a deep well where she took her time to look at the well and to learn how to draw out the refreshing water.

A Joyful Path

A Joyful Path welcomes all third to fifth graders to come and join us in the Room 11 during the 9 and 11:15 services. The members of A Joyful Path will learn about prayer and the "Persistent Friend." See you there.

Youth Group

We have Youth Group today from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

- We will have a 30 minute discussion about Work Camp...if you plan to attend, hope to attend, or are even considering attending Work Camp - please come on Sunday evening! Angie and Trevor will talk about what the camp is like and what it's all about, and I will be leading some discussions about fund raisers. This part of the evening will take place at the beginning of Youth Group so that parents may be free to do other things until Youth Group ends at 8:00 o'clock.

If you can not attend Youth Group but plan to attend Work Camp please let Angie know.

- It is Kate and Diana's last Youth Group!! The Seminararians will be moving on to their next phases in life and we will celebrate them with dinner catered by Chipotle (gluten free of course), there will be fun games where they will be the stars!!

Randy, Angie, and Trevor

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Yoga Classes

Randy teaches yoga every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. 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 to class. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

New Book for Wednesday Book Group: *Gilead*

The Wednesday Morning Book Group ("WAM") is finishing up *Grounded* and will move on to the next book with the novel *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson. Here's a description of the book on Amazon: the book is "an intimate tale of three generations, from the Civil War to the 20th century: a story about fathers and sons and the spiritual battles that still rage at America's heart. In the words of *Kirkus*, it is a novel "as big as a nation, as quiet as thought, and moving as prayer. Matchless and towering." *Gilead* tells the story of America and will break your heart." The book won the Pulitzer Prize in 2004, was a New York Times Top-Ten Book of 2004, and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction. It is available in multiple versions from Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/24o1hVf>. Discussion of *Gilead* begins on Wednesday, May 25 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library.

The Listening Heart Community Sabbatical

The Listening Heart Community are currently on hiatus until Monday, June 20, when we will resume our regularly scheduled meetings. Contact Lori Perine at lperine@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to join us.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Mother's Day Food Drive Ends Today

In honor or in memory of our mothers on Mother's Day, today, we invite you to donate a bag of groceries to replenish the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. There are forms available on the welcome desk and in the Chapel, where you can designate your contribution "in honor of" a loved one. That person will receive a letter notifying them of your gift. For donations "in memory of" loved ones, we will add those names to a list for special prayers.

Budget 2017 Discussion Groups

Join Vestry members in the Library today at 8:45, 10:15 and 12:30 to talk about how you think parishioner contributions and other monetary resources should be spent to best support Ascension's core missions. There will be 8:45 and 10:15 a.m. groups next week (May 15th) and a second 12:15 group on the 22nd for those who missed them today.

Ascension's Adventurers to Brookside Gardens

All parishioners and friends are invited to participate in a scenic walk in and around Brookside Gardens on Saturday, May 14 (rain date = May 21). We will meet in the Ascension House parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Alternatively, you can meet us at Brookside's Visitor Center (not the Conservatory) at 10:00 a.m. We would then walk/stroll/sightsee for approximately 1.5 hours.

Participants are also invited to join us for lunch afterwards at the Golden Bull Grand Café [7 Dalamar Street, Gaithersburg]. The Golden Bull lunch menu features an extensive salad bar which comes as part of a soup and salad option. The salad bar is also included with the purchase of any entrée or sandwich. Contact Richard Snay at rssnay@aol.com or 301-977-5259 if you have any questions or comments.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension Celebration: May 15, The Day of Pentecost

Next Sunday we will celebrate three things: The birthday of the Christian Church, the many splendored Ascension community, and the ministry of seminarian (The Rev. Deacon) Kate Siberine. The 15th will be her last Sunday at Ascension before she graduates from Virginia Theological Seminary and moves to Oregon. We will have our annual Ascension International Potluck. There will be a Sign Up Genius circulated via e-mail in a few days, but you can just show up with something you like to eat and can share. Festivities commence in the Undercroft Commons at 12:30 p.m.

Pictorial Directory

The last time we sat for portraits to create a pictorial directory of Ascension members was May 2011. Time for another! Save these dates for your portraits: May 18-20 (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) from 2:00-8:00 p.m. and May 21 (Saturday) from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Other dates can be added as needed.

You can start signing up online today by following this link: <https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/churchoftheascension3/index.php?page=10>. There will also be opportunities to sign up on Sundays.

If you want to help out with the project or have questions, contact Randy (ral@ascensionmd.org) or Sue Snay (subarsy@aol.com).

Ascension Softball

The men's softball team play on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Playoffs will be July 25 & 30.

May 12 Ascension vs. Emory Grove at Nike Field
May 16 Ascension vs. Journeys Crossing at Field TBD
May 23 Ascension v. Epworth UMC at Flower Hill Field

If you would like more information, contact Ted Bedell at tedbedell@comcast.net or 301.520.8449, or Bill Ward at William.ward@nrc.gov or 301.523.4088.

Annual Picnic, June 5, 2016

The annual parish picnic will be on Sunday, June 5 at the Park Pavilion at Bohrer Park.

As we have done for the last few years, there will be a bilingual service at 11:00 a.m., meaning that there will be no Spanish service at 11:00 in the Chapel, nor a Holy Eucharist in the Main Church at 11:15.

The picnic, a pot luck affair, follows. Bring a dish to share and your own drinks. All paper goods will be provided. Feel free to bring chairs and blankets.

Yard Sale and Car Wash

On Saturday, June 25, Ascension will hold a yard sale and car wash to raise funds for the Church. If you have gently used clothes, house wares, furniture, books or any other items to donate for the yard sale, please put them on the Ascension House porch. Also, if you are able to help during the day of June 25, let Javier know at ocampoj@ascensionmd.org.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Work Camp: Saturday, July 16- Friday, July 22

Where: Philadelphia City Camp/Episcopal Mission Center.
Cost: \$350
episcopalmissioncenter.org/summer-break.html

This is always a very rewarding experience for Youth and for the adult chaperones. The number of spots is limited but sufficient, and will be filled on a first come first served basis. There is room for 18 youth and 4 adults.

Please contact Angie to sign up or with any questions: angela.hightwalker@gmail.com. Make checks out to Church of the Ascension, with Work Camp in the subject line. Please, leave the check with Kathy in the office, not in the plate or with Angie.

Finally, we are looking for donations to help offset the cost of youth-in-need and chaperones. Please consider a tax deductible donation and look out for Work Camp fund raisers!

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 next Sunday, May 15. Contact Edith at esekasi@gmail.com if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

Outreach Retreat—FEED OUR SHEEP!

All are invited to a Saturday morning Ascension Outreach Retreat on June 4th, to be held at the church from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our purpose is to reflect on our dreams for Ascension and for our community. 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 dreams for Ascension, and what you'd like to do with them! Remember:

Through prayer, reflection, and discussion we'll strive to identify how we, as members of Ascension, can be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

For more information, please contact Paul Boynton at boyn-ton357@verizon.net

WORSHIP

Last Call for Pentecost Readers

Thank you so much for your responses so far! I can accommodate a couple more for reading the Pentecost Gospel reading in different languages.

E-mail me at ral@ascensionmd.org.



CONTACT US

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

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30 am-3:30 pm
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ◆ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Randy' Cell: 301.801.4347
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a yellow prayer request card on the table in the Narthex, Chapel or e-mail the office.

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

Spanish Language Missioner—The Rev. Javier García Ocampo
ocampo@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 16

Minister of Music—Jerold Tidwell, *tidwellj@ascensionmd.org*
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Seminarian—The Rev. Deacon Kate Siberine,
ksiberine@gmail.com

Seminarian—Diana Gustafson, *dmorgan1@vts.edu*

Office Coordinator - Kathy Van Arnum

office@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 10

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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, *ericmelody@gmail.com*,
Samuel Munguia, *pianoconclave@verizon.net*

Nursery Director - Gisèle Lachance, 301.928.0788

Sexton - Betty LaVern, *betty_s_lavern@mcpsmd.org*

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Enid Cole
Junior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa

Vestry:

2017: Denise Lionetti, Najma Stubblefield, Paul Whitmore

2018: Janet King, 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 Collington Episcopal Life Care Community, Friendship Terrace, Seabury Christian Communities Group Homes, Seabury Resources for Aging, Pray for all Seniors and their Ministries in the Church, Pray for all Mothers and those who have been as Mothers to Us

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, MAY 9

11:30 am Living with Serious Illness Group—Room 1
6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous - Undercroft Commons
7:00 pm Outreach Committee Meeting—Library
Girl Scouts—Room 6

TUESDAY, MAY 10

6:30 pm Spanish Class—Ascension House
7:00 pm Education for Ministry—Library
Codependents Anonymous—Room 1
Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
8:30 pm Al-Anon—Room 1

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

10:00 am *Grounded* Book Group—Library
7:00 pm Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
8:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, MAY 12

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

SATURDAY, MAY 14

9:00 am Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1
9:30 am Ascension Adventurers—Brookside Gardens
10:00 am Confirmation Service - National Cathedral
11:00 am Al-Anon - Room 1
Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1

SUNDAY, MAY 15

Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Kate Siberine

Day of Pentecost

7:45 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
8:15 am Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
8:30 am Budget Discussion Group—Library
9:00 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
Godly Play—Room 6
Joyful Path—Room 11
10:15 am Service for Families with Young Children—
Chapel
Budget Discussion Group—Library
Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation—Undercroft
Commons
11:00 am Holy Eucharist in Spanish—Chapel
11:15 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
Godly Play—Room 6
Joyful Path—Room 11
12:30 pm Ascension Celebration Pot Luck—Undercroft
Commons
1:30 pm Maryland Uke Jam—Chapel
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	April 17	April 24	May 1
7:45 a.m.	17	21	19
9:00 a.m.	87	85	91
10:15 a.m.	20	21	10
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	26	41	51
11:15 am	32	37	52
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	15	14	-
5:00 p.m.	23	30	30
Total:	220	249	253

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Seventh Sunday of Easter: 8 May A.D. 2016

Ambushed by Love

I wonder if the only way that conversion, enlightenment, and transformation ever happen is by a kind of divine ambush. We have to be caught off guard. As long as you are in control, you are going to keep trying to steer the ship by your previous experience of being in charge. The only way you will let yourself be ambushed is by trusting the "Ambusher," and learning to trust that the darkness of intimacy will lead to depth, safety, freedom, and love.

Any use of fear techniques or trying to shame people into the spiritual journey is inherently counter-productive. It simply makes you more defensive and protective of your boundaries, but now at an unconscious level (I am afraid this is true of a high percentage of Christians, who were largely raised on fear of "hell" and social pressure). We need spiritual teachers like John of the Cross to help us see the patterns of the spiritual journey that actually work, so we can be a bit less defended, a bit less boundaried, with ourselves and with God. Only then can God do the soul forming work of seduction and union.

God needs to catch us by surprise because our very limited preexisting notions keep us and our understanding of God small. We are still trying to remain in control and we still want to "look good"! God tries to bring us into a bigger world where by definition we are not in control and no longer need to look good. A terrible lust for certitude and social order has characterized the last 500 years of Western Christianity, and it has simply not served the soul well at all. Once we lost a spirituality of darkness as its own kind of light, there just wasn't much room for growth in faith, hope, and love.

So God has to come indirectly, catching us off guard and out of control, when we are empty instead of full of ourselves. That is why the saints talk about suffering so much. They are not masochistic, sadistic, negative, morbid, or oppositional. The mystics have seen the pattern and, as Teresa of Ávila says in one place, it is not that you are happy for the suffering—who would be, who could be?—you are happy for the new level of intimacy that the suffering brought you to. You only know this after the fact, perhaps days or weeks or even years later. One day you realize, "God is so real to me now. How did I get here?" All you know is that you did not engineer or even imagine this. You were taken there when you were off guard. John's word for that is darkness.

Adapted from Intimacy: The Divine Ambush

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).