

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preachers: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

HOSPITALITY HOUR

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Christian Formation Summer Break

The last day of Sunday Christian Formation classes will be next Sunday, May 29. We will start up again in September. Check the announcements for information as we get closer.

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. In Godly Play, we will continue to learn about how Paul discovered the power of the holy spirit and went to the ends of the earth to teach people the message of love.

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. Come and join us as we explore God and our faith. The path we will take will involve some learning and some arts and crafts.

Youth Group Cookout Tonight

Tonight we will have a cook out at Angie and Trevor's house, 9701 Breckenridge Place, Montgomery Village at 6:00 p.m. Meat, buns and serving utensils will be provided. *Please bring a dish to share.* We will also be discussing fund raising projects for Work Camp. Parents are welcome to stay too!

Contact Angela Hight-Walker for more information at angela.hightwalker@gmail.com.



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. Read the first 25 pages before we meet.

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

Blood Pressure Screenings Today

Today, there will be blood pressure screenings after each service in Room 1. All are welcome.

Final Budget 2017 Discussion Groups: May 29

Join Vestry members in the Library on May 29 at 12:15 p.m. to talk about how you think parishioner contributions and other monetary resources should be spent to best support Ascension's core missions.

Ascension Softball

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

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.

June Movie Night

Our next movie night will be held on Friday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Undercroft Commons. We will be watching the movie *Inside Out*.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

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.

Ascension's Adventurers Seeking Ideas

Ascension's Adventure Team is seeking ideas for excursions/activities to undertake within the next 12 months or so. The excursions/activities may be recreational, educational, social, cultural, religious and/or just good fun. Please think outside of the box, we do not want to confine ourselves at this point in time.

All past activities have been half-day events, but full-day/multi-day events will also be considered.

Please email your suggestions to Richard Snay (rssnay@aol.com) by June 5, 2016. Richard will then compile a list and ask parishioners to vote so as to identify the most popular of the suggested options. P.S.: You are allowed to suggest redoing adventures that we previously enjoyed.

Father's Day Food Drive

Honor your dads, living and departed, while helping others. Bring a bag of groceries to church before or on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19, for the food pantry at Gaithersburg HELP. Forms for dedication information are found on the welcome desk, in the Undercroft Commons, and in the Chapel. Letters of appreciation will be written to living fathers, and a list of all paternal honorees will be published. As always, we will give thanks for the ministry of fatherhood in the Prayers of the People at all services on the 19th.

Congratulate Our Graduates!

If you or someone you know is graduating from either high school or college please let the church office know or email Pia at leamanp@ascensionmd.org. Please include their name and college they will be attending or from what college they will be graduating. Thanks!

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.

Summer Office Hours

During the months of June, July, and August, the church office hours will change. The office will be open Mondays-Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m., and on Fridays 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Work Camp 2016

Saturday, July 16- Friday, July 22

Where: Philadelphia City Camp/Episcopal Mission Center.

Cost: \$398

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.

Fundraisers are being organized by youth and their parents. Scholarships are available. See Angie or Randy.

Outreach Retreat—Being Ambassadors of Christ!

All are invited to a Saturday morning Ascension Outreach Retreat on June 4th, to be held in the Chapel from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 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! 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 boynton357@verizon.net

WORSHIP

Attention all Worship Leaders, and Those Interested in Becoming a Worship Leader

I am in the process of updating the list of worship leaders (chalcists, lectors/readers, welcome team members/ushers, acolytes and flower deliverers). If you would like to join in any capacity (we will train you) or change your status (add or delete a worship position), please email me asap.

I will also be preparing the new worship roster for the months of July, August, and September shortly; if there are any changes specific to those months, let me know that too. Many thanks! Sari Stoddard, sari.stoddard@verizon.net.

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 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

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

Minister of Music—Jerrold Tidwell, tidwellj@ascensionmd.org
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Seminarian—Diana Gustafson, dmorgan1@vts.edu

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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, ericsmelody@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 Holy Trinity,
Collington, Holy Trinity Day School, Trinity Church, DC,
Trinity Church, Newport & Hughesville and Old Fields
Chapel, Trinity Church, St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's
Chapel, and Trinity Church, Upper Marlboro

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, MAY 23

6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous - Undercroft Commons
7:00 pm Girl Scouts—Room 6

TUESDAY, MAY 24

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 25

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

THURSDAY, MAY 26

10:00 am Yoga—Chapel
11:00 am Episcopal Seeking Seniors—Asbury
6:00 pm Bariatric Support Group—Chapel
7:45 pm Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

SATURDAY, MAY 28

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

SUNDAY, MAY 29

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson
*Last Day for Christian Formation
for Children, Youth, and Adults*

7:45 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
8:15 am Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room
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
11:00 am Holy Eucharist in Spanish—Chapel
11:15 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
Godly Play—Room 6
Joyful Path—Room 11
12:15 pm Budget Priorities Discussion Group—Library
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	May 1	May 8	May 15
7:45 a.m.	19	31	22
9:00 a.m.	91	106	103
10:15 a.m.	10	16	15
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	51	61	41
11:15 am	52	46	35
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	-	9	16
5:00 p.m.	30	12	15
Total:	253	281	247

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The First Sunday after Pentecost: 22 May A.D. 2016

Trinity as Lover and Beloved

I once had a guest preacher from the National Episcopal Church Center speak in one of my former parishes on Trinity Sunday. He talked about the Trinity as a community of "persons" bound together in love. He didn't even try to explain the doctrine at all. I'd never heard anyone speak of the Trinity in this way, that the God theologians are hinting at in this abstruse and confusing image is basically creation's lover. The Trinity is all about love between persons, between the lover and the beloved.

Once that idea got into my head I started to see and hear it everywhere! You know how that is. So a few weeks later a friend shares with me a bit from one of his favorite writers about how God loved creation and all of us into existence and then draws in again just by loving us. It went like this:

"What is so attractive about God that enables him to draw the world into being? Well, on the basis of the Trinity - in which the Father eternally thinks up the world, the Spirit eternally broods over the idea and the Son eternally calls the world out of nothing into being - maybe it is simply creation falls, lovely head over round heels, for all the divine fuss over it. Martha moves toward Harry first of all because of the romantic intimation by which she perceives the marvel of his being, leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills, showing himself through the lattice. But she falls hardest at the discovery that he always thinks, broods, and says her name: *You are beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners. Rise up, my Love, my fair one, and come.* More than that, under his love she becomes herself; she blossoms into a fullness of being. We talk about her clothes, her hair, her skin, being more becoming than they were. We recognize in her a process, not of ceasing to be what she was and becoming some alien thing, but of being called into the fullness of her own being. We see, not foreign perfection forced upon her from the outside, nor yet some inevitable development deterministically built into her bones; we see a creature in pursuit of her own goodness as pronounced by her lover. He calls her forth, *her eyes like doe's eyes, her breasts like twin roes among the lilies and the smell of her garments like the smell of Lebanon* - all the things she always could be but never was until they were spoken by him whose name is like ointment poured forth - and she says, *Draw me, we will run after you. The King has brought me into his chambers, we will remember your love more than wine.*" - Robert F Capon, "The Third Peacock: The Problem of God and Evil."

It really is all about love, don't you think?

Randy

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).