

## TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preachers: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

### HOSPITALITY HOUR

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the Narthex.

## 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.

### Wednesday Book Group: *Gilead*

The Wednesday Morning Book Group ("WAM") is reading the novel *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson. The book is available in multiple versions from Amazon.com: <http://amzn.to/24o1hVf>. Discussion of *Gilead* continues on Wednesday, July 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. Read to page 180 for this week's discussion.

### Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat is back!! Once again Hallowed Retreat Center, near Sugarloaf Mountain, will be the site of our gathering of the women of Ascension for renewal, fellowship and learning from Friday evening, August 19-21, 2016. *Registration forms are already available on the table outside the office.*

The planning committee welcomes suggestions for topics or activities, particularly if someone can share their expertise. Contact Ophelia Magnusen Yalley-Ogunru, [opiemagz@gmail.com](mailto:opiemagz@gmail.com) or Lauren Kingsland, [Laurenkingsland@gmail.com](mailto:Laurenkingsland@gmail.com).

### The Listening Heart Community

The Listening Heart Community is Ascension's "monastery of the heart", an intentional group for seekers in all stages of their spiritual journey to explore Benedictine and other contemplative spirituality in community. We gather twice a month for contemplative prayer, readings, and discussion.

During the month of July, we will meet on Mondays July 11 in Room 3, and July 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the library. Contact Lori Perine at [lperine@gmail.com](mailto:lperine@gmail.com) if you would like to join us.

### Education for Ministry

The Education for Ministry (EfM) group here at Ascension wrapped up a wonderful year of exploring our faith. We are now signing people up for the coming year.

If you are interested, or just have some questions, contact David Mitchell at 240.454.1904, or [newlywed98@comcast.net](mailto:newlywed98@comcast.net).

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### Ascension Choir

On June 12, the Ascension Choir finished its regular season at the 9:00 service, but some of the members will continue to sing every other week during the summer on July 10, July 24, August 7, and August 21.

On these dates anyone interesting in singing for the 9:00 service can meet in the choir room at 8:15 am. Jerrold will select music based on how many are there at that time. If you have been thinking about singing with the choir, you are most welcome, and this is a great opportunity to try it out without further commitment. Just show up on one or more of the Sundays. Being able to read music is helpful but not required.

### Work Camp Fundraiser—Dine Out



*Come out and support our Youth Group.* Grab lunch or dinner (or both) on July 12 at Ledo Pizza, 19200 Montgomery Village Avenue, Village Plaza. Bring the flyer available on the table outside the office and in the Chapel. When you show them the flyer and mention Ascension, our Youth Group will receive 20% of the check for their Work Camp trip to Philadelphia.

### Armor of Light

As you may recall we are planning a viewing of the acclaimed documentary on gun violence - recently broadcast on PBS - The Armour of Light. We want to have the viewing (or viewings) in September. Our plan is to have it either at the church or in people's homes. Or both. In either scenario we will want to discuss the film in small groups. We'll be sending out an invitation for those of you who would like to facilitate a small group discussion so you let us know that you're interested. Group facilitators will prepare by viewing the video and working with other facilitators to generate questions and talking points to get the discussions going. - Alice Benson and Kirk Fitch ([fitchbenson@comcast.net](mailto:fitchbenson@comcast.net)).

### Ascension Softball

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

July 11 Ascension vs. Gatierhsburg Church of the Nazarene at Johnsons Field

July 18 Ascension vs. Seneca Creec CC

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

## LIFE AT ASCENSION

### Funeral for Ernie Rossi at Arlington

Former parishioner Ernie Rossi will be interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday July 14th. The ceremony will begin at the Old Post Chapel before the caisson, band, family and guests proceed to the burial site. Those attending will need to enter through the Fort Myer gate. Please arrive 30 to 45 minutes early to go through security. All are welcome to attend.

### Helping your Senior

Senior high students are graduating and preparing for a new season of life. As you celebrate this season with your students, the Diocese would like to support your efforts in transitioning students from life at home to life on campus. Specifically, we would be honored to introduce them to the chaplains and clergy nearby-wherever they are headed. If you would like assistance in connecting your graduates with their new community, please contact us directly, or you may fill out the form found here: <http://tinyurl.com/2016graduates>

We will take the initiative to reach out to clergy and chaplains and pass along your student's contact information. We will ensure these leaders follow up with each student, letting students know of available programs and inviting each student to participate.

As your diocesan staff, we are proud of all that your students have learned and accomplished in their lives thus far, and we pray that the path ahead is one of continued growth and opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Jason Evans and Iman Green, Young Adult, Youth and Family Missioners, Episcopal Diocese of Washington

### Ascension's Adventurers to Visit Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

All parishioners and friends are invited to join us in visiting Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens on Saturday, July 16, where we will participate in their annual "Lotus and Water Lily Festival."

We will meet in the Ascension House parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Alternatively, you can meet us at Kenilworth's Visitors Center at 10:00 a.m. Admission is free.

Participants are also invited to join us at Thai Farm Restaurant (800 King Farm Blvd., Suite 125, Rockville) for lunch.

For information about Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens see: <https://www.nps.gov/keaq/index.html>.

For information about Thai Farm Restaurant see: <http://www.thaifarmrestaurant.com/>

Contact Richard Snay at [rssnay@aol.com](mailto:rssnay@aol.com) or 240.750.5960 if you have any questions.

## CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

# Work Camp 2016

Saturday, July 16- Friday, July 22

Where: Philadelphia City Camp/Episcopal Mission Center.  
Cost: \$398

Go to: [episcopalmissioncenter.org/summer-break.html](http://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.

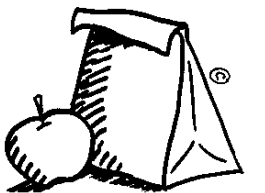
Please contact Angie to sign up or with any questions: [angela.hightwalker@gmail.com](mailto:angela.hightwalker@gmail.com). Make checks out to Church of the Ascension, with Work Camp in the subject line. Please, leave the check with Kathy in the office, not in the plate or with Angie.

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

### 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 on July 17.



Contact Edith at [esekasi@gmail.com](mailto:esekasi@gmail.com) if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

## WORSHIP

### Worship Rosters

Worship rosters for July, August, and September have been emailed out. There are also hard copies available on the table outside the office and in the chapel.

## 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

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**Communications** - Pia Leaman  
leamanp@ascensionmd.org, voice mailbox 14

**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:** 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 Diocesan  
Committee on Constitutions and Canons, The Diocesan  
Disciplinary Board, Pray for justice, freedom and peace  
for all people (Remember Independence Day)



## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### MONDAY, JULY 4

July 4th—Office Closed

6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1

### TUESDAY, JULY 5

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

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

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

### THURSDAY, JULY 7

10:00 am Yoga—Chapel

### SATURDAY, JULY 9

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

### SUNDAY, JULY 10

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  
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

Church Attendance	June 12	June 19	June 26
7:45 a.m.	33	31	28
9:00 a.m.	85	88	75
10:15 a.m.	18	17	25
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	40	60	47
11:15 am	34	31	36
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	12	16	2
5:00 p.m.	20	15	20
Total:	242	258	233

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: 3 July A.D. 2016

## What is the Episcopalian "Style" of Christianity?

Over the last almost three years with the significant changes in two of the Sunday morning liturgies I, along with many other ordained leaders, have been *expanding* what constitutes "Episcopal" worship. In this era the parameters of Episcopal worship are very, very broad.

So what is unique and definitive about Episcopal *belief*? On the whole, we as a Christian denomination have not been as concerned about doctrine as we are about liturgy. We are not like the Romans, whose catechisms parse in some detail the beliefs of Catholics. Typically, we point to the Creeds. But I believe that this can be as problematic as looking for definite answers in the Bible, for the same reasons. The Creeds and Scriptures were created in a cultural and historical milieu that is alien to our own, and much of the material simply cannot be understood literally. Nor is much of it applicable beyond the challenges posed to the people of God at the time. This is especially true of Paul's epistles.

That said, you probably know about the "three legged stool" that constitutes religious authority for Episcopalian Christians: Scripture (our foundational stories), Tradition (the living, evolving legacy of spiritual wisdom passed on from generation to generation), and Reason (the human intellect, as illuminated and enhanced by the Spirit of God).

And here are a few more defining characteristics of the Episcopalian style of Christianity:

1. Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Holy and the interconnectedness of all life;
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the sacred character of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:
  - \* Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,
  - \* Believers and agnostics,
  - \* Women and men,
  - \* Those of all sexual orientations and gender identities,
  - \* Those of all classes and abilities;
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
6. Strive for peace and justice among all people;
7. Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth;
8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love.

Peace, 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).