

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: (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>. This week the group will discuss Barb Mansfield's recent sermon, "Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself."

Discussion of *Gilead* continues on Wednesday, August 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. We will finish our book on this day.

New Wednesday Morning Book Selection

We will start a new book on September 7; *Searching for Sunday, Loving, Leaving, and finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans.

From Amazon: From *New York Times* bestselling author Rachel Held Evans comes a book that is both a heartfelt ode to the past and hopeful gaze into the future of what it means to be a part of the Church.

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.



Summer Baptisms

Summer Baptisms will be offered in August. Please contact Randy if you want to schedule a baptism at ral@ascensionmd.org, or call 301.948.0122 ext. 12.

LIFE LONG LEARNING

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat is back!! Once again Hallowood 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.*

Forms and payment are due to the office by August 12. Contact Ophelia Magnusen Yalley-Ogunru, opiemagz@gmail.com or Lauren Kingsland, 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 Monday July 25, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in the library. Contact Lori Perine at 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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Blood Pressure Screenings Today

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

Randy on Vacation

Randy will be on vacation this week, July 25-30. While he is out, Javier will be on call. He can be reached at 202.903.6426.

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 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.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Newcomer's Brunch/Summer Pot Luck, July 31

We will host a combined Newcomer's Brunch/Summer Pot Luck on Sunday, July 31 after the 11:15 a.m. service in the Undercroft Commons. All are welcome, both new and old. Bring a dish to share. There will be a sign up genius emailed out, so please respond. We look forward to seeing everyone who can make it on Sunday the 31st.

Gift for Gisele

We want to present Gisele with a nice departing cash gift. If you'd like to contribute toward this, write a check to Ascension with 'Gisele' in the memo line and mail it to the church with Attn: Kathy as part of the address, or drop it in the offering plate on a Sunday, or just stop by during office hours. We plan to have selected her successor by September at the latest.

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.

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

Yard Sale and Car Wash, August 13

We are having another yard sale and car wash on Saturday, August 13 from 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Again, if you have items to donate for the yard sale, please bring them to church and leave in the office. Also, if you are able to help out during the yard sale on August 13, let Javier know at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

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).

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Linkages to Learning

Linkages to Learning is a school-based collaboration among Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and private sector health and human service agencies in Montgomery County, Maryland. The Summit Hall Elementary School is a participant in this program, and we support their students with our backpack project.

The Backpacks project provides new backpacks filled with specific school supplies for students at each level in the school. Our project leader, Kristen Keating, has put out lists of supplies needed in the Narthex, and parishioners can take a list (or two!), buy the supplies, and enclose a check in the specified amount to cover the cost of the backpack. Then, on Sunday August 14th during Connection Hour, we'll get a group together to assemble the backpacks. - Kristen Keating



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 August 21.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of June 30, our total income was \$246,786. That reflects both plate and pledge income, which is reflected in the chart below, as well as our rental income and income from miscellaneous sources.

*For us, that's trust income and other donations. Our total expenses as of June 30 were \$287,713. Thus, we have negative net operating income of \$40,928. That difference of nearly \$41,000 is being made up by using the cash portion of the Endowment.

Last Week's Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$7,521.73	\$9,498.19	\$267,544.78	\$265,949.38

CONTACT US

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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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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

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 St. Anne's
Church, Damascus, St. James' Church, Indian Head, St.
James' Church, Potomac, St. James' Children's School,
Potomac, Pray for Camp EDOW: Junior Camp



THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

MONDAY, JULY 25

6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1
7:00 pm Listening Heart Community—Library

TUESDAY, JULY 26

7:00 pm Codependents Anonymous—Room 1
Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
8:30 pm Al-Anon—Room 1

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

10:00 am Gilead Book Group—Library
6:30 pm Spanish Class—Ascension House
7:00 pm Ensemble Rehearsal—Main Church
8:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous—Chapel

THURSDAY, JULY 28

10:00 am No Yoga
11:00 am No Episcopal Seeking Seniors
6:00 pm Bariatric Support Group—Chapel

SATURDAY, JULY 30

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

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Preacher: The Rev. Javier Ocampo
7:45 am Holy Eucharist—Main Church
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 Summer Potluck—Undercroft Commons
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	July 3	July 10	July 17
7:45 a.m.	25	28	30
9:00 a.m.	85	85	65
10:15 a.m.	21	17	14
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	40	31	39
11:15 am	37	42	29
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	13	-	17
5:00 p.m.	13	22	17
Total:	234	225	211

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost: 24 July A.D. 2016

Existence

"I fell to thinking about the passage in the *Institutes* where it says the image of the Lord in anyone is much more than reason enough to love him, and that the Lord stands waiting to take our enemies' sins upon Himself. So it is a rejection of the reality of grace to hold our enemy at fault. Those things can only be true. It seems to me people tend to forget that we are to love our enemies, not to satisfy some standard of righteousness, but because God their Father loves them. I have probably preached on that a hundred times.

"Now here is the point I wish to make, because this is the thought that came to me as I was putting all this before the Lord. Existence is the essential thing and the holy thing. If the Lord chooses to make nothing of our transgressions, then they *are* nothing. Or whatever reality they have is trivial and conditional beside the exquisite primary fact of existence. Of course the Lord would wipe them away, just as I wipe dirt from your face, or tears. After all, why should the Lord bother much over these smirches that are no part of His Creation?

"Well, there are a good many reasons why He should. We human beings do real harm. History could make a stone weep. I am aware that significant confusion enters my thinking at this point. I'm tired—that may be some part of the problem. Though I recall even in my prime foundering whenever I set the true gravity of sin over against the free grace of forgiveness. As I am a Christian man, I could never say otherwise."

The voice of narrator Rev. John Ames, from Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead*

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).