

**TODAY AT ASCENSION**  
**Preacher: The Rev. Javier Ocampo**

**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, August 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. We will finish our book discussion 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](mailto:ral@ascensionmd.org), or call 301.948.0122 ext. 12.

**LIFE LONG LEARNING**

**Women's Retreat**

The Women's Retreat is back!! Once again Hallwood 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](mailto:opiemagz@gmail.com) or Lauren Kingsland, [Laurenkingsland@gmail.com](mailto:Laurenkingsland@gmail.com).

**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**

**Newcomer's Brunch/Summer Pot Luck, Today**



We will host a combined Newcomer's Brunch/Summer Pot Luck today after the 11:15 a.m. service in the Undercroft Commons. All are welcome, both new and old. Bring a dish to share. We look forward to seeing everyone.

**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**

**Pia's Last Day**

Today, July 28 marks my last day here at Ascension. I would like to thank you so much for these past 6 years. I have learned so much, and loved getting to know you. I have really loved working here in the office, but it is time for me to move on, working more hours, getting benefits, etc. I will miss everyone more than you will know. Thank you again! Peace, Pia Leaman

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:esekasi@gmail.com) if you would like to help, or sign up at <http://bit.ly/1VAKEz8>.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Last Week's Income*	Weekly Budget Goal	Year to Date Income*	Year to Date Budget Goal
\$9,216.50	\$9,498.19	\$276,761.28	\$275,447.58

## CONTACT US

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- ◆ 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  
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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 Church of the  
Transfiguration, Pray for Camp EDOW: Middle Camp



## THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

### MONDAY, AUGUST 1

6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous - Room 1

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

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

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3

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, AUGUST 4

10:00 am Yoga—Chapel

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

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

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

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  
5:00 pm Holy Eucharist—Chapel

Church Attendance	July 10	July 17	July 24
7:45 a.m.	28	30	27
9:00 a.m.	85	65	83
10:15 a.m.	17	14	9
11:00 a.m. Spanish Service	31	39	43
11:15 am	42	29	25
11:30 a.m. At Sunrise	-	17	-
5:00 p.m.	22	17	10
Total:	225	211	197

# WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: 31 July A.D. 2016*

## Jonah

Within a few minutes of swallowing the prophet Jonah, the whale suffered a severe attack of acid indigestion, and it's not hard to see why. Jonah had a disposition that was enough to curdle milk.

When God ordered him to go to Nineveh and tell them there to shape up and get saved, the expression on Jonah's face was that of a man who has just gotten a whiff of septic-tank trouble. In the first place, the Ninevites were foreigners and thus off his beat. In the second place, far from wanting to see them get saved, nothing would have pleased him more than to see them get what he thought they had coming to them.

It was as the result of a desperate attempt to get himself out of the assignment that he got himself swallowed by the whale instead; but the whale couldn't stomach him for long, and in the end Jonah went ahead and, with a little more prodding from God, did what he'd been told. He hated every minute of it, however, and when the Ninevites succumbed to his eloquence and promised to shape up, he sat down under a leafy castor oil plant to shade him from the blistering sun and smoldered inwardly. It was an opening that God could not resist.

He caused the castor oil plant to shrivel up to the last leaf, and when Jonah got all upset at being back in the ghastly heat again, God pretended to misunderstand what was bugging him "Here you are, all upset out of pity for one small castor oil plant that has shriveled up," he said, "so what's wrong with having pity for this whole place that's headed for hell in a handcart if something's not done about it?" (Jonah 4:10-11).

It is one of the rare instances in the Old Testament of God's wry sense of humor, and it seems almost certain that Jonah didn't fail to appreciate it.

—Originally published in *Peculiar Treasures* and later in *Beyond Words*, by Frederick Buechner (who just turned 90!)

## 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).