



# This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for April 17](#)

[Youth Group Senior Ian Shaer's Sermon from April 10.](#)

[Youth Group Senior Jackson Douglas' Sermon from April 10.](#)

[Link to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's Website](#)

## Calendar Highlights

**Friday, April 15**  
6pm Couples in Recovery, Chapel

**Saturday, April 16**  
9am Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons  
11am Al-Anon, Undercroft Commons  
11am Overeaters Anonymous, Room 1

**Sunday, April 17**  
7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main Church  
8:15am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
9am Holy Eucharist, Main Church  
9am Godly Play, Room 6  
9am A Joyful Path, Room 11  
10:15am Holy Eucharist for Families with Young Children, Chapel  
10:15am Men's Shelter

## Life-Giving Power

Most of the time we tend to think of life as a neutral kind of thing, I suppose. We are born into it one fine day, given life, and in itself life is neither good nor bad except as we make it so by the way that we live it. We may make a full life for ourselves of an empty life, but no matter what we make of it, the common view is that life itself, whatever life is, does not care one way or another any more than the ocean cares whether we swim in it or drown in it. In honesty one has to admit that a great deal of the evidence supports such a view. But rightly or wrongly, the Christian faith flatly contradicts it. To say that God is spirit is to say that life does care, that the life-giving power that life itself comes from is not indifferent as to whether we sink or swim. It wants us to swim. It is to say that whether you call this life-giving power the Spirit of God or Reality or the Life Force or anything else, its most basic characteristic is that it wishes us well and is at work toward that end.

Heaven knows terrible things happen to people in this world. The good die young, and the wicked prosper, and in any one town, anywhere, there is grief enough to freeze the blood. But from deep within whatever the hidden spring is that life wells up from, there wells up into our lives, even at their darkest and maybe especially then, a power to heal, to breathe new life into us. And in this regard, I think, every man is a mystic because every man at one time or another experiences in the thick of his joy or his pain the power out of the depths of his life to bless him. I do not believe that it matters greatly what name you call this power - the Spirit of God is only one of its names—but what I think does matter, vastly, is that we open ourselves to receive it, that we address it and let ourselves be addressed by it; that we move in the direction that it seeks to move us, the direction of fuller communion with itself and with one another. Indeed, I believe that for our sakes this Spirit beneath our spirits will make Christs of us before we are done, or, for our sakes, it will destroy us.

Frederick Buechner

Lunch Preparation,  
Undercroft Commons  
11am Holy Eucharist in  
Spanish, Chapel  
11am Godly Play, Room 6  
11am A Joyful Path, Room  
11  
11:15am Holy Eucharist,  
Main Church  
1:30pm Maryland Uke Jam,  
Undercroft Commons  
3pm Confirmation Class,  
Room 3  
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

#### Monday, April 18

6:30pm Overeaters  
Anonymous, Undercroft  
Commons  
7pm Listening Heart  
Community, Library

#### Tuesday, April 19

6:30pm Spanish Class,  
Ascension House  
7pm Education for Ministry,  
Library  
7pm Codependents  
Anonymous, Room 1  
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

#### Wednesday, April 20

10am *Grounded* Book Group,  
Library  
7pm Ensemble Rehearsal,  
Main Church  
8pm Gamblers Anonymous,  
Chapel

#### Thursday, April 21

10am Yoga, Chapel  
7:45pm Choir Rehearsal,  
Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

## Worship Leaders

Sunday, April 17  
Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-  
Wilkinson

*Flower Delivery:* Adoma Baffoe,  
Hawa Clemens

**Announcements**  
(click for more info)

### HEADLINERS

[Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation](#)

[Pictorial Directory](#)

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Godly Play, April 17](#)

[A Joyful Path, April 17](#)

[Yoga at Ascension](#)

[Education for Ministry](#)

[Wednesday Morning Book Group](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

### WORSHIP

[Pentecost Readers Needed](#)

[Worship Rosters, April-June, 2016](#)

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

[Calling all Altar Guild Members](#)

### SERVICE

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

[Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)

### LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Ascension Softball](#)

[Mother's Day Food Drive](#)

[Ascension Sunday Celebration](#)

["Annual Giving Campaign Cottage Meeting"](#)

[Living with Serious Illness Group](#)

[Keeping the Feast](#)

[Spanish Classes](#)

[ESOL Classes](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayers*: Diana Gustafson, *Chalicians*: Edna Leake, Diana Gustafson, *Healing Prayer*: Lisa Murdock, *Acolytes*: Ron Hayden, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team*: Enid Cole, Janet King, *Altar Guild*: Georgette Dennis

9:00 AM, *Readers*: Sari Stoddard, Gary McLaughlin, *Prayers*: Betsy Hasegawa, *Chalicians*: Swithin Kwamena-Poh, Jerry Pfadenhauer, *Healing Prayer*: Major Clemens, *Acolytes*: Alfred Wasikye, Kofi Dickson, Lisa Dickson, *Welcome Team*: Nii Armah Akuete, Ruby King, Charles Dickson, *Altar Guild*: Caryl Thomas, Adoma Baffoe, Dotty Pfadenhauer

11:15 AM *Reader*: Avin Lalmansingh, *Chalicians*: Page Salazar, Georgana Maines, *Healing Prayer*: Peg Ruppel, *Welcome Team*: Sciou Broderick, Peedy Terry, *Altar Guild*: Lynne Shaer, Georgana Maines

5:00 PM *Reader/Chalician*: Howard Holland

*Eucharistic Visitors*: Barb Mansfield, Kate Foley

## PUBLICATIONS

[Link to the Annual Report and the Vestry Candidate Questionnaire](#)

[April Ascendant](#)

[Together We Shine](#)

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## Prayers

### FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Church of the Good Shepherd, Good Shepherd Episcopal Preschool, St. George's Church, Glenn Dale, St. George's Church, Valley Lee, St. George's Parish, DC, Pray for the Good Stewardship of the Earth (International Earth Day April 22)

### PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:

Carol, Nancy, Janet, Lou, Fran, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love - as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for all affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

We pray for those who are in discernment around confirmation, Alice Bennett, Grace Bennett, Jerry Fitzpatrick Fayemi Johnson, Wendy Quijada, and Alfred Wasikye.

### THANKSGIVING:

For the baptism today of Holden Beckman McGuirk, son of Rachel Robbins and Kevin McGuirk.

Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
205 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2315  
301-948-0122  
[ascensionmd.org](http://ascensionmd.org)