



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for August 28](#)

[Link to Javier's August 21 sermon "Life-giving vs The Law"](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Saturday, August 27

9am Overeaters Anonymous, Chapel

11am Al-Anon, Undercroft Commons

11am Overeaters Anonymous, Room 1

Sunday, August 28

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main Church

9am Holy Eucharist, Main Church

10:15am Holy Eucharist for Families with Young Children, Chapel

10:15am Men's Shelter Lunches, Undercroft Commons

11am Holy Eucharist in Spanish, Chapel

11:15am Holy Eucharist, Main Church

1:30pm Vestry Meeting, Room 1

5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Monday, August 29

6pm Girl Scouts, Room 1

RenewalWorks Survey 2016

This fall, the Diocese will once again offer to facilitate Ascension's participation in Forward Movement's RenewalWorks Program. We were among the first cohort of parishes to participate in the program three years ago. "RenewalWorks" is the Episcopal version of a spiritual vitality program based on research in 2000+ Christian parishes and with their 500,000+ congregants. The program invites parishes to explore their spiritual health and identify ways to increase it. Though most churches feel the call to numeric growth, the center of church is spiritual growth. It is the only true foundation on which we can build. RenewalWorks helps to focus a congregation on that very fact and to reinvigorate the most seminal conversations we can have. The Vestry voted to have Ascension participate in this year's diocesan cohort as a follow up to our first inventory.

FAQs

Where did RenewalWorks come from?

Willow Creek Church near Chicago did a study of themselves, and called it Reveal. The study was then replicated at over a thousand churches, and the overall results published in a book entitled MOVE. Since the original Reveal consultant was an Episcopalian, some of our clergy got involved. The Rev. Jay Sidebotham, formerly of EDOW, has partnered with Forward Movement to call the project RenewalWorks, give the survey more Episcopal language, and spread it throughout our denomination.

What does participation look like?

During a 2-3 week window beginning Sunday, September 11, Ascension members take an on-line survey. After the surveys are tabulated, a select group from the parish meets for four 2.5 hour workshops, each about two weeks apart. Those workshops use survey results to

6:30pm Overeaters
Anonymous, Room 3

Tuesday, August 30

7pm Codependents
Anonymous, Room 1
7pm Stillwater Mindfulness
Group, Chapel
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

Wednesday, August 31

6:30pm Spanish Class,
Ascension House
7pm Ensemble Rehearsal,
Main Church
7pm Overeaters Anonymous,
Room 1
8pm Gamblers Anonymous,
Chapel

Thursday, September 1

10am Yoga Class, Chapel

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, August 28

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-
Wilkinson

Flower Delivery: Alice Padmore,
Esther Sawyer

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayers:* Enid Cole,
Chalicians: Sharon Hayden, Enid
Cole, *Healing Prayer:* Lisa Murdock,
Acolytes: Raymond Chin, Aidan
Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Janet
King, Wadai Dennis, *Altar Guild:*
Enid Cole

9:00 AM, *Readers:* Andrew Greene,
Christian Simpson, *Prayers:* Gary
McLaughlin, *Chalicians:* Esther Tellu,
Dotty Pfadenhauer, *Healing Prayer:*
Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Acolytes:*
Nuelle Johnson, Manny Johnson,
Msangwa Ogada, *Welcome Team:*
Dorette Sutherland, James Black,
Jonathan Black, Josephine Clarke,
Altar Guild: Caryl Thomas, Dotty
Pfadenhauer

11:15 AM *Reader:* Karl Didavi,
Chalicians: Peg Ruppel, Laura Shay,
Healing Prayer: Sarah Rubin,
Welcome Team: Sciou Broderick,
Peedy Terry, Emmanuel Nwankwo,
Altar Guild: Georgana Maines,

explore where the parish is and where it feels called to go spiritually.

How much effort is involved?

As many parishioners as possible would need to take the online survey, which will be available in Spanish and English. A group of 6-10 would attend a workshop. It's not an enormous commitment, but it is an important one.

Is this related to other Diocesan programs?

Ideally, we hope all EDOW programs are related! The Bishop's staff's number one goal is to help parishes grow in vitality and deepen the connections between their spirituality and everyday life. RenewalWorks falls under the banner of things our diocesan leadership cares most about.

Spiritual growth applies everywhere, so any parish will find value in participating in the survey and follow up workshops. That being said, it's critical that parishes enter this program with an open mind and a willingness to follow-through. Some of the survey language may be less Episcopal than people prefer. Learning that some percentage of our parishioners feel "stalled" or "dissatisfied" in their spiritual lives, for example, can be troubling. Every parish is asked to discern their participation thoughtfully.

[Announcements](#)

HEADLINERS

[Blessing of the Backpacks](#)

[Ministry Fair and Fiesta de las Americas](#)

[Call for Worship Leaders](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Yoga at Ascension](#)

[New Wednesday Morning Book: Searching for Sunday, Loving, Leaving, and finding the Church](#)

[Education for Ministry, Fall 2016](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

WORSHIP

[Worship Rosters, July-September](#)

Lynne Shaer

5:00 PM *Reader/Chalicerist*: Pete Minderman

Eucharistic Visitors: Barb Mansfield, Enid Cole

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

SERVICE

[Help Victims of the Silver Spring Apartment Explosion](#)

[The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)

[Gaithersburg Help](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Armor of Light](#)

[Summer Office Hours](#)

[Living with Serious Illness Group](#)

[Keeping the Feast](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

[Welcome New Seminarian Jason Cutshall](#)

PUBLICATIONS

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

[August Ascendant](#)

[Together We Shine](#)

Prayers

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Augustine's Church, Washington; Campus Ministry Advisory Group; Committee on Youth and Family Ministry; Diocesan Young Adult Ministry; Howard University Chaplaincy; University of Maryland Chaplaincy; and for all Students and Teachers.

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:

Helen, Joseph, George, Homé, Maria Estela, Peg, 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 give thanks for the 50th wedding anniversary of Don and Marty Marks and the 47th wedding anniversary of Ron and Jan Hauber, in whose honor the altar flowers are given. We also give thanks for the lives of Raymond S. and C. Peter Thomas, in whose memory flowers are given by Caryl Thomas.

Episcopal Church of the Ascension

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