



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for
December 20](#)

[Link to Ms. Barb Mansfield's
Sermon "John the Baptist: a
Scary Guy with a Big
Message" from December 13.](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Saturday, December 19
9am Overeaters Anonymous,
Undercroft Commons
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft
Commons
11am Overeaters
Anonymous, Chapel

Sunday, December 20
7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
8:15am Choir Rehearsal,
Choir Room
9am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
9am ESOL Classes, Room 1
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
Lunch Preparation,
Undercroft Commons
11am Holy Eucharist in
Spanish, Chapel
11am *Godly Play*, Room 6
11am *A Joyful Path*, Room

Blessed to Be a Blessing
Stewardship Reflection Series

...has put in everything she had..

A few years ago, the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Botswana in Southern Africa invited me to lead a preaching mission at Holy Cross Cathedral in Gaborone, the capital city.

Worship in the Church in Botswana can be very traditional Anglican-Anglo Catholic in one moment, and then, in the very next moment, it includes spontaneous songs of faith born on Africa's soil and accompanied by dancing and clapping and rejoicing. At one point, though, we sang a hymn from Hymns Ancient and Modern, a venerable old English hymnal still in use around much of the Anglican world. It was an old familiar hymn that is also in *The Hymnal 1982* of the Episcopal Church. *Take my life and let it be, Consecrated, Lord, to Thee/ Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in endless praise.*

The hymn continued, as it does in *The Hymnal 1982*, with successive stanzas offering the entirety of our lives to God: *Take my hands and let them move, at the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet... Take my voice... my lips...my intellect... my heart... my will...Take myself and I will be, ever, only, all for thee.*

But then we sang a verse that is not in the hymnal of the Episcopal Church. This is what the missing verse says: *Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold.*

I wish this verse was in the Episcopal Hymnal. Its absence from the hymnal of the Church, in the wealthiest nation on earth, is interesting. But maybe more important than that, this missing verse gets to one of the deep truths of the story of the widow's mite in Mark 12:41-44. Jesus was watching people give money to the temple. He noticed a pattern. Those with much gave little, when you consider how much they had. And a woman with little gave it all. *Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold.*

That missing verse is the key. "Not a mite would I withhold."

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11:15am Holy Eucharist,
Main Church
12pm Navidad Latina,
Undercroft Commons
1:30pm Vestry Meeting,
Room 1
1:30pm Maryland Uke Jam,
Chapel
3pm Christian Counselors
Gathering, Library
4pm Maryland Uke Jam,
Main Church
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Monday, December 21

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

Tuesday, December 22

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

Wednesday, December 23

10am No Book Group
7pm No Spanish Bible Study
8pm Gamblers Anonymous,
Chapel

Thursday, December 24

*Christmas Eve - Office
Closed*
5pm Service for Families
with Young Children, Main
Church
7pm Festival Eucharist, Main
Church
7pm Holy Eucharist in
Spanish, Chapel
9pm Festival Eucharist, Main
Church

Friday, December 25

*Christmas Day - Office
Closed*
10am Holy Eucharist, Main

The issue for Jesus had nothing to do with giving money to a religious institution. The issue had to do with lives given to God to be enfolded in the love of God, being lived in the way of God. An old song, popular before my time, sung variously by Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong and Frank Sinatra, may well reflect what Jesus was getting at. The lyrics include these words: *All of me, why not take all of me/ Can't you see, I'm no good without you/ You took the part that once was my heart/ So why not take all of me.*

There was indeed a message in that missing verse.

The Right Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Bishop The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

Reflection Questions:

- What does giving it all mean to you?
- How would you rejoice in doing so?
- How do you live in gratitude for the blessings you have received?

Announcements

(click for more info)

HEADLINERS

[Christmastide Services, 2015](#)

[Ascension's Giving Tree, 2015](#)

[Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation, December 20](#)

[Child First Montgomery](#)

[Epiphany Pageant](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Godly Play, December 20](#)

[A Joyful Path, December 20](#)

[Falling Upward, Wednesday Morning Book Group](#)

[Yoga at Ascension](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

[Baptisms](#)

WORSHIP

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

Church

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, December 20

Preacher: Dr. Tina Lightner-Morris

Flower Delivery: Hawa Clemens,
Eliane Dunn-Johnson

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

9:00 AM Readers: Susan Ahalt, Sue Snay, *Prayers:* Susan McLaughlin, *Chalicians:* Sari Stoddard, Dotty Pfadenhauer, *Healing Prayer:* Javier Ocampo, *Acolytes:* Stacy Taylor, Alfred Wasikye, Sam Mendimasa, *Welcome Team:* Margaret Joseph, Dorett Sutherland, James Black, Jonathan Black, *Altar Guild:* Caryl Thomas, Dotty Pfadenhauer

11:15 AM Reader: Karl Didavi, *Chalicians:* Anika Lalmansingh, Avin Lalmansingh, *Healing Prayer:* Laura Shay, *Welcome Team:* Alex Langley, Alice Padmore, *Altar Guild:* Laura Shay, Lynne Shaer

5:00 PM Reader/Usher: Feeta Caphart

Eucharistic Visitors: Meredith Horan, Kate Foley

[Navidad Latina, December 20](#)

[Worship Rosters, Jan-Mar 2016](#)

SERVICE

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

[Ascension's Cancer Support Group](#)

[Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Annual Giving Campaign Update with Annual Giving Form](#)

[Christmas Flowers](#)

[Christmas Caroling at Asbury](#)

[Ascension's Adventure Group to Carlyle House](#)

[Our Winter Weather Policy](#)

[Nursery Volunteers Needed](#)

[Keeping the Feast](#)

[Spanish Classes](#)

[ESOL Classes](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[December Ascendant](#)

[Together We Shine](#)

Prayers

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation and Misa Alegria, St. Thomas' Church, DC, St. Thomas' Church, P.G. County, and the Chapel of the Incarnation.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for Yewa (Formerly Egbado) - (Lagos, Nigeria)

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:

Barbara, Harry, Carol, Peg, Mary, The FitzPatrick Family, Edward, Sally, Jean, The Johnson Family, Tracy, Susan, Johnetta, Julia, Norma, Julia, Clarence, 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 Ascension's Minister of Music Discernment Team.

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. For all people affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

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

Compassionate God and Father of all, we are horrified at violence in so many parts of the world. It seems that none are safe, and some are terrified. Hold back the hands that kill and maim; turn around the hearts that hate. Grant instead your strong Spirit of Peace- peace that passes our understanding but changes lives.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS:

We give thanks for the life of Clara A. Thomas, in whose loving memory her daughter Enid Cole, grandchildren and great-grand children have given the altar flowers today.

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