

EPISCOPAL
**Church of the
Ascension**



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for
February 1](#)

[Link to Randy's Sermon
"Becoming Ambassadors for
Christ" from January 25.](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Friday, January 30
6pm Couples 12-Step
Program, Ascension House

Saturday, January 31
9am Ceiling Tile Hanging
Party, Undercroft Commons
9am Overeaters Anonymous,
Chapel
11am AI-Anon, Chapel
11am Overeaters
Anonymous, Ascension House

Sunday, February 1
7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
9am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
9am Godly Play, Room 6
10:15am Holy Eucharist for
Families with young
Children, Chapel
10:15am A Joyful Path,
Room 3
10:15am Rite 13 & Confirm,
not Conform, Ascension
House
10:15am *We Make the Road
by Walking* Book Group,

Thomas Merton

January 31 was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Merton. A Trappist monk in the Roman Catholic Church, he is one of the most influential spiritual writers of recent times. In his life and writings he displayed the intimate interplay between contemplation and political activism.

He was born in Prades, France, of a Kiwi father and American mother. He is also formally celebrated in The Episcopal Church in Holy Women Holy Men. The collect there is:

Gracious God,
you called your monk Thomas Merton to proclaim your justice
out of silence,
and moved him in his contemplative writings
to perceive and value Christ at work in the faiths of others:
Keep us, like him, steadfast in the knowledge and love of Jesus
Christ;
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A particularly famous prayer that Thomas Merton himself wrote
is:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the
road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am
following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please
you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I
hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I
know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though
I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will
not fear, for you are ever with me, and will never leave me to
face my perils alone.

- Adapted from the blog of the Rev. Bosco Peters of
Christchurch, New Zealand

Library

11am Holy Eucharist in Spanish, Chapel
11am Godly Play, Room 6
11:15am Holy Eucharist, Main Church
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Monday, February 2

11:30am Cancer Support Group, Room 3
6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons

Tuesday, February 3

9:30am Staff Meeting, Library
11am Yoga, Chapel
6pm Spanish Bible Study, Room 3
7pm Education for Ministry, Library
7pm Still Water Mindfulness Practice, Chapel
8:30pm AI-Anon, Ascension House

Wednesday, February 4

10am *Speaking Christian* Book Group, Library
6pm Yoga, Chapel
6:45pm Meditation, Chapel
7pm Codependents Anonymous, Ascension House
8pm Gamblers Anonymous, Ascension House

Thursday, February 5

6pm Spanish Class, Room 3
6:45pm Girl Scouts, Room 6
7:45pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, February 1
Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Flower Delivery: Shirley Allen, Esther Sawyer

Announcements

(click for more info)

HEADLINERS

[Ceiling Tile Hanging Party, January 31](#)

[Family Movie Night, February 6](#)

[Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 2015](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Godly Play, February 1](#)

[A Joyful Path, February 1](#)

[Rite-13 and Confirm, not Conform](#)

[Wednesday Evening Spiritual Practice Opportunities](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Wednesday Morning Book Study](#)

[We Make the Road by Walking Book Group](#)

[Selma](#)

[Wednesday Night Lenten Class](#)

WORSHIP

[Dia de la Candelaria, February 1](#)

[Ash Wednesday, 2015](#)

[Youth Sunday, February 22](#)

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

[Worship Rosters, January - March 2015](#)

SERVICE

[Men's Shelter Lunch Program](#)

[Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Annual Meeting and Candidates' Forum](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayer:* Leslie Sanya, *Chalicians:* Enid Cole, Wadai Dennis, *Healing Prayer:* Janet King, *Acolytes:* Raymand Chin, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Frank Sanya, Wadai Dennis, *Altar Guild:* Mardia Dennis, Enid Cole

9:00 AM *Readers:* Gordon Donnelly, Suzyn Gonzalez, *Prayers:* Andrew Greene, *Chalicians:* Sarah Rubin, Jerry Pfadenhauer, *Healing Prayer:* Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Acolytes:* Alex Hanson, Nuelle Johnson, Kofi Kwamena-Poh, *Welcome Team:* Naomi Senkeeto, Esther Allotey-Taylor, Bev Stennett, Christine Kroma, *Altar Guild:* Shirley Allen, Margaret Joseph

11:15 AM *Reader:* Megan Didavi, *Chalicians:* Peg Ruppel, Page Salazar, *Healing Prayer:* Barb Andersen, *Welcome Team:* Penelope Cudjoe, Musu Rogers, *Altar Guild:* Fran Spina, Laura Shay, Avin Lalmansingh, Anika Lalmansingh

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

Eucharistic Visitor: Musu Rogers

Annual Giving Campaign

Winter Weather Policy

THE ASCENDANT

January 2015

Prayers

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SUNDAY
The Canon for Clergy Development and Multi-Cultural Ministries
The Diocesan Commission on Ministry
All Seminaries, Seminarians, and Seminary Professors;
Postulants and Candidates

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:
The Bonesio Family, Carol, Helen, Major, Lee, Abby, Jerry, Helen, Terry, George, Heather, Marguerite, Susan, Gary, Nancy, Clint, Sarah, Glenn, Ernie, Rimie, Nancy, Jim, Rosemary, Laurie, 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. For all people affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

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

We pray for all who are threatened by the Ebola virus, those who suffer and have died, those who've lost family and friends, and those who are working toward a cure and who are helping the afflicted, especially in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea.

We pray that the leadership of our nation will adopt legal measures that will reduce the incidence of gun violence.

ALTAR FLOWERS:
Given by Eliane Dunn-Johnson, in celebration of the birthdays of Elise Johnson and Joyce Mends-Cole

THANKSGIVING:
For the life of Diane Sheldon, mother of Janet King, who died on January 26.

For the life of Greta James, mother of Susan Ahalt and grandmother of Jack Ahalt, who died on January 27.

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