



# This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for  
January 11](#)

[Link to Randy's Sermon  
"Gabriel's Oboe" from  
January 4.](#)

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

## Calendar Highlights

**Friday, January 9**  
6pm Couples 12-Step  
Program, Ascension House

**Saturday, January 10**  
9am Overeaters Anonymous,  
Undercroft Commons  
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft  
Commons  
11am Overeaters  
Anonymous, Ascension House

**Sunday, January 11**  
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,  
Library

## *Believing in Jesus*

In a previous incarnation as rector I facilitated a weekly Wednesday evening book study. Until the last year and a half of my association with it the participants were from the parish. Then, almost on a dare, some class regulars suggested a book by a famous Episcopal Church bishop with a particularly inflammatory title. Taking the bait, I promoted the class in the local weeklies, dailies and one radio station (it only took a simple e-mail).

Participation doubled in the class and held until I left - and since - when a dozen Roman Catholics, retired Episcopal and Presbyterian clergy, and even a Unitarian-Universalist (!) joined us for that and future studies.

There were also a couple of people who had no affiliation with a spiritual community and did not want one, although the Wednesday evening group became so for them. I was very moved when one "Generation X" aged woman got excited about Jesus when we read books about him intended for an un-churched readership or for church going people who were looking for more.

The quandary of many modern would be Christians was revealed to me when a certain man asked: "Can I follow Jesus even if I don't believe in him?" How tragic that a person who wanted to follow Christ felt he was excluded because he didn't believe in literal readings of creeds and scriptures. To live on this earth as Jesus did is what believing in him is really all about.

Shalom,  
Randy

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**Announcements**  
(click for more info)

**HEADLINERS**

11am Holy Eucharist in Spanish, Chapel  
11am Godly Play, Room 6  
11:15am Holy Eucharist, Main Church  
1pm Christian Counselor's Meeting, Library  
1:30pm Maryland Uke Jam, Undercroft Commons  
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel  
6pm Youth Group, Undercroft Commons

**Monday, January 12**

6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons  
7pm Centering Prayer Group, Chapel  
7pm Outreach Committee, Room 3

**Tuesday, January 13**

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, January 14**

10am *Speaking Christian* Book Group, Library  
6pm Yoga, Chapel  
6:45pm Meditation, Chapel  
7pm Codependents Anonymous, Ascension House  
7:30pm *We Make the Road by Walking* Book Group, Library  
8pm Gamblers Anonymous, Ascension House

**Thursday, January 15**

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

Godly Play, January 11

A Joyful Path, January 11

Rite-13 and Confirm, not Conform

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

Women's Minis Retreat, January 17

Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group

Listening Heart Community at Ascension

Wednesday Morning Book Study

Wednesday Evening Spiritual Practice Opportunities

*We Make the Road by Walking* Book Group

**WORSHIP**

Bulletins for Tablets Link

Worship Rosters, January - March 2015

**SERVICE**

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

Gaithersburg HELP

Youth Against Hunger

**LIFE AT ASCENSION**

Memorial Service for Betty Rossi

Ascension Adventure Group to the Museum of Civil War Medicine, Postponed

Date Change: Ceiling Tile Hanging Party, January 31

Prayer Request Updates

Annual Giving Campaign

Winter Weather Policy

**THE ASCENDANT**

January 2015

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**Prayers**

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:  
Church of the Epiphany, Washington

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

## Worship Leaders

Sunday, January 11

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

*Flower Delivery:* Adoma Baffoe, Shirley Allen, *Altar Guild:* Dotty Pfadenhauer, Sari Stoddard, Shirley Allen, Enid Cole, Sue Conway, Penelope Cudjoe, Maria Estela Rodriguez, Kristin FitzPatrick, Sarah Gallagher, Carmen Bogran

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayer:* Bob Owolabi, *Chalicians:* Sharon Hayden, Leslie Sanya, *Healing Prayer:* Lisa Murdock, *Acolytes:* Ron Hayden, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Janet King, Florence Sirleaf

9:00 AM *Readers:* Carleton MacDonald, Barbara Mansfield, *Prayers:* Betsy Hasegawa, *Chalicians:* Esther Tellu, Margaret Tellu, *Healing Prayer:* Sarah Rubin, *Acolytes:* Stacy Taylor, Kayleigh Yankie, Alex Hanson, *Welcome Team:* Margaret Joseph, Dorett Sutherland, James Black, Jonathan Black

11:15 AM *Reader:* Barb Andersen, *Chalicians:* Georgana Maines, Alice Benson, *Healing Prayer:* Peg Ruppel, *Welcome Team:* Alex Langley, Alice Padmore

5:00 PM *Reader/Usher:* Rebecca Smith Kevern

*Eucharistic Visitor:* Meredith Horan, Peg Ruppel

The Welcome Table and Street Church, Church of the Epiphany  
Epiphany Church, Forestville

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

The Bonesio Family, Carol, Helen, Abby, Major, Terry, George, Heather, Susan, Gary, Glenn, Ernie, Diane, Nancy, Jim, 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 for dislocated children and families who've crossed the southern border of the United States in search of a better life, and for those who are helping resettle them here.

We pray for the victims of violence cloaked in the mantle of religion wherever it may be found, especially for Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities in the Middle East.

We pray for those who died in a violent attack upon a synagogue in Jerusalem, and the perpetrators.

We pray for a just and fair legal system and reconciliation between people afflicted with racism.

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

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**

Given for the baptism of Claire Elizabeth Raley, daughter of John Castle and Laura Lee Raley, and granddaughter of Clarence and Brenda Lee.

Given by Enid Cole, Wadai Dennis, their children, and grandchildren, in loving memory of Robert I. E. Bright.

**THANKSGIVING:**

For the life of Ernestine L. Andersen, mother of Kristin FitzPatrick, who died on January 3.

For the life of Betty C. Rossi, who died on January 7.

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