



# This Week at Ascension

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

[Link to Randy's Sermon "Baptized by Fire" from January 10.](#)

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

## Calendar Highlights

**Friday, January 15**

6pm Couples in Recovery, Chapel

**Saturday, January 16**

9am Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons

11am AI-Anon, Undercroft Commons

11am Overeaters Anonymous, Chapel

**Sunday, January 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

9am ESOL Class, Room 1

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

10:15am Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation, Undercroft Commons

11am Holy Eucharist in

**What is the Bible: Part 11 - How We Got it - Rob Bell**  
Go to: <http://robbellcom.tumblr.com/post/67479672681/what-is-the-bible-part-11>

"When you affirm the Bible (and whatever particular canon you affirm) you are in the same breath affirming that you agree with the particular leaders and councils who selected those particular books to comprise the Bible. This is especially true when people say the Bible is God's word (We'll get to that phrase in a bit). To affirm the Bible as God's word, you first must affirm the people who decided that it is God's word, and their decisions about this book versus that book, this particular library versus that particular library.

"The Bible, then, is a library of books written by humans, edited and compiled by humans, and ultimately called *The Bible* by...humans. And what these humans affirmed was that this particular library of books (give or take a few disagreements) is more than just a library of books. There are a number of words that have been used both in the scriptures and in recent history to describe this *more-than-just-a-library dimension* to this particular library.

"To believe that the Bible is both a library of books and also more than just a library of books takes faith. You have to believe that there's something else going on in these pages, something just below the surface, something that unites all those writers writing over all those years and then all those people making all of those decisions about which of the things those writers wrote belong in the particular arrangement of writings we call the Bible.

"These truths about this library and how we got it help us understand what the Bible is and how (not) to talk about it.

"First, circular arguments are not helpful. For example *The Bible is divinely inspired because it says it is*. Any book could say that. Not only is this argument not helpful, but it's terribly confusing for people who have never read the Bible.

"Second, insisting that this book was written by God is not helpful. It was written by actual people. For people who are

Spanish, Chapel  
11am Godly Play, Room 6  
11am A Joyful Path, Room 11  
11:15am Holy Eucharist, Main Church  
12:30pm Meet and Greet Jerrold Tidwell, Main Church and Undercroft Commons  
1pm Pastoral Care Team, Library  
1:30pm Maryland Uke Jam, Undercroft Commons  
2pm Vestry Budget Meeting, Room 1  
5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

**Monday, January 18**  
*Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed*  
6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons  
7pm Listening Heart Community, Library

**Tuesday, January 19**  
6:30pm Spanish Class, Ascension House  
7pm Codependents Anonymous, Room 1  
8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

**Wednesday, January 20**  
10am *Falling Upward* Book Group, Library  
6pm Yoga, Chapel  
7pm Spanish Bible Study, Ascension House  
7pm Ensemble Rehearsal, Main Church  
8pm Gamblers Anonymous, Chapel

**Thursday, January 21**  
10am Yoga, Chapel  
7:45pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

## Worship Leaders

Sunday, January 17

new to the Bible, telling them that it wasn't written by people is terribly confusing as well. Start with the human, claim that first, then work your way to the divine.

"Third, the Bible is not an argument. The people who wrote these things down had very real experiences of the divine and did everything they could to put those experiences in words. Those experiences were filtered through their consciousness, culture, worldview, and personal history. The stories in the Bible were told because they meant something profound to the people who first wrote them.

"All doctrine and dogma and theology was first mystical experience. Someone had an encounter with the divine. And then they set out to articulate what happened.

"What we see in this particular library is a story, a story that unfolds over time, a story about growing human awareness of the divine. It's a vision of the world that evolves in its understanding of who we are, where we're headed, and what it means to be human. This story has a number of particular characteristics that unite it, traits and twists and and revelations that are why so many people like me have affirmed this book and these stories as unique, inspired, and revelatory."

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### Announcements

(click for more info)

### HEADLINERS

[Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation, January 17](#)

[Meet and Greet Jerrold Tidwell, January 17](#)

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Godly Play, January 17](#)

[A Joyful Path, January 17](#)

[Youth Group](#)

[Education for Ministry](#)

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

[Yoga at Ascension](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

### WORSHIP

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

*Flower Delivery:* Esther Sawyer, Adoma Baffoe

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

**9:00 AM, Readers:** Betsy Hasegawa, Kirk Davies, *Prayers:* Gordon Donnelly, *Chalicians:* Jerry Pfadenhauer, *Healing Prayer:* Susan McLaughlin, *Acolytes:* Alfred Wasikye, Kofi Kwamena-Poh, Sam Mendimasa, *Welcome Team:* Doretta Sutherland, James Black, Jonathan Black, *Altar Guild:* Doretta Sutherland, Margaret Joseph

**11:15 AM Reader:** Anika Lalmansingh, *Chalicians:* Laura Shay, Peg Ruppel, *Healing Prayer:* Sarah Rubin, *Welcome Team:* Alex Langley, Alice Padmore, *Altar Guild:* Anika Lalmansingh, Avin Lalmansingh

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

**Eucharistic Visitors:** Meredith Horan, Kate Foley

[Ash Wednesday, 2016](#)

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

[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](#)

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

[Blood Pressure Screenings, January 24](#)

[Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Save the Date](#)

[Our Winter Weather Policy](#)

[Nursery Volunteers Needed](#)

[Keeping the Feast](#)

[Spanish Classes](#)

[ESOL Classes](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

[January 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 Ascension and St. Agnes, Washington, St. Peter's Church, The Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Ministries, Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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

Carol, Joseph, Susan, Alice, Clarence, Nancy, Janet, Lou, Fran, Leslie, 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.

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.

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