

EPISCOPAL  
**Church of the  
Ascension**



# This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for  
January 24](#)

[Link to Randy's Sermon  
"What God has Joined  
Together" from January 17.](#)

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

## Calendar Highlights

### Saturday, January 23

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

### Sunday, January 24

*Blood Pressure Screenings  
after each Service, Room 1*  
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  
11am Holy Eucharist in  
Spanish, Chapel  
11am *Godly Play*, Room 6  
11am *A Joyful Path*, Room  
11  
11:15am Holy Eucharist,

## The Power of Today

"A synagogue leader handed [Jesus] the scroll, and Jesus finds the place where the reading last week left off and reads from the words of the prophet Isaiah.... he said, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'"

"They were shocked. What do you mean that the Spirit of the Lord is HERE? Now? Today? That the poor hear good news, that prisoners are being released, the blind see, and the oppressed receive justice? *This* is the year of Lord's favor?"

"Have you been watching the news, Jesus? Are you aware of how horrible things are? That there is more inequality than ever, more people in prison unjustly, more illness of all sorts, more violence and terrorism than our ancestors ever knew? This now--today--is the kingdom of God?"

"Are you crazy?"

"*Today* this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' Not yesterday, not tomorrow. Today.

"And with that word, Jesus' furious neighbors tried to throw him off a cliff.

"Faith communities are often consumed with memories of the past and hopes for the future. Speaking of the past may take a form of maintaining buildings and structures, of teaching ancient texts, and passing on patterns of life and values from ancestors. Speaking of the future is often wrapped up in hopes for salvation and eternal life, desires for answered prayers, for the children to hold onto faith or 'come back to church.' Both past and future are important to vibrant communities; healthy and life-giving practices of honoring our ancestors and embracing a hopeful future derive from the witness of the whole biblical tradition.

"But both 'past' and 'future' as the primary location of faith have their shadow sides. Overemphasizing the past results in nostalgia--the belief that the past is better than either the present or the future--a disposition that is steeped in grief and

Main Church

1pm Christian Counselors Meeting, Library

1:30pm Vestry Meeting, Room 1

5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

6pm Youth Group, Undercroft Commons

**Monday, January 25**

6:30pm Overeaters

Anonymous, Undercroft Commons

7pm Girl Scout Meeting, Room 6

**Tuesday, January 26**

6:30pm Spanish Class, Ascension House

7pm Education for Ministry, Library

7pm Codependents

Anonymous, Room 1

8:30pm AI-Anon, Room 1

**Wednesday, January 27**

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 28**

10am Yoga, Chapel

11am Episcopal Seeking Seniors, Asbury

12pm Interreligious Study as a Civic Good, Room 1

7:45pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

## Worship Leaders

Sunday, January 24

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

*Flower Delivery:* Hawa Clemens, Eliane Dunn-Johnson

fear. Overemphasizing the future--the belief that all that matters is that which is to come--often results in thwarted hope, doubt, and anxiety.

"But 'today' is a deeply dangerous spiritual reality--because today insists that we lay aside both our memories and our dreams to embrace fully the moment of now. The past romanticizes the work of our ancestors; the future scans the horizons of our descendants and depends upon them to fix everything. But 'today' places *us* in the midst of the sacred drama, reminding us that we are actors and agents in God's desire for the world. 'Today' is the most radical thing Jesus ever said.

"In effect, Jesus is asking his friends to open their eyes, to see the burning bush, to become more attentive to God's promise to abide with Israel in the land, and that God is keeping God's promise, no matter how awful the outward circumstances. This is not a call toward quiescence--meditate and everything else will go away. Instead, it is a call to see more deeply, past the immediate sin, injustice, trials, and evils of human life to the profound reality of love and compassion upon which everything else truly rests: The love of God and neighbor. If we can *see, experience, and grasp* that the active force of love is at work in the world now, our fear recedes, our hatreds melt, our willingness to murder and kill and seek revenge flows away with the tide, and we can recognize that in the midst of all things--even in the worst oppression--God is with us. Through our delusions of domination, the clarity of grace, mercy, and justice make themselves known to us. And that transforms fear into compassion, giving us the power to walk in the way of love God intended."

- *Diana Butler Bass; her new book Grounded is the next book to be explored at the Wednesday morning book group and recommended selection for Ascension's small groups.*

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### Announcements

(click for more info)

### HEADLINERS

[Our Winter Weather Policy](#)

[Blood Pressure Screenings, January 24](#)

[Godly Play, January 24](#)

[A Joyful Path, January 24](#)

[Youth Group, January 24](#)

### CHRISTIAN FORMATION

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayers:* Enid Cole, *Chalicians:* Sharon Hayden, Edna Leake, *Healing Prayer:* Meredith Horan, *Acolytes:* Ron Hayden, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Enid Cole, Wadai Dennis, *Altar Guild:* Georgette Dennis

9:00 AM, *Readers:* Sue Snay, Suzyn Gonzalez, *Prayers:* Carleton MacDonald, *Chalicians:* Margaret Tellu, Swithin Kwamena-Poh, *Healing Prayer:* Javier Ocampo, *Acolytes:* Kofi Dickson, Lisa Dickson, Kayleigh Yankie, *Welcome Team:* Nii Armah Akuete, Ruby King, Charles Dickson, *Altar Guild:* Adoma Baffoe, Kristin FitzPatrick

11:15 AM *Reader:* Avin Lalmansingh, *Chalicians:* Georgana Maines, Sarah Rubin, *Healing Prayer:* Alex Langley, *Welcome Team:* Page Salazar, Clark Didavi, *Altar Guild:* Laura Shay, Lynne Shaer

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

*Eucharistic Visitors:* Pamela Irons-Forth

## Education for Ministry

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

[Yoga at Ascension](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

## WORSHIP

[Ash Wednesday, 2016](#)

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

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

## SERVICE

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

[Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation](#)

[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](#)

[Dia de la Candelaria](#)

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

[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 St. Paul's Church, Baden and St. Mary's Chapel, Aquasco, St. Paul's Church, K

Street, St. Paul's Church, Piney Parish, St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek Parish, St. Timothy's Parish, Washington, St. Timothy's Child Development Center, The Diocesan Convention: The Bishop of Washington, Diocesan Convention Officers,, Clerical and Lay Delegates, Convention Task Force and Committee Chairs, Pray for the Mission and Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

**PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:**  
Carol, Ann, Joseph, Alice, 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.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**  
Given by Eliane Dunn-Johnson, in celebration of the 16th birthday of Elise Johnson.

**THANKSGIVING:**  
For the life of Monique Marbury, who died on January 15.

For the life of Susan MacDonald, wife of Carleton MacDonald, who died on January 18.

Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
205 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2315  
301-948-0122  
[ascensionmd.org](http://ascensionmd.org)