



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for
January 25](#)

[Link to Ms. Peg Ruppel's
Sermon "Giving a Fig" from
January 18.](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Friday, January 23
6pm Couples 12-Step
Program, Ascension House

Saturday, January 24
9am Overeaters Anonymous,
Undercroft Commons
9:30am Ascension's
Adventure Group, Museum of
Civil War Medicine
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft
Commons
11am Overeaters
Anonymous, Ascension House

Sunday, January 25
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

Marcus Borg

Marcus Borg died last week. I have been a long time admirer of this man and am deeply grateful for his spiritual and intellectual legacy. He brought Jesus into the 21st century and played a pivotal role in translating Christian thought and language into the vernacular of our age. Below is a recent quote from his book *Jesus and Buddha: The Parallel Sayings*. - RAL

"Jesus and the Buddha were teachers of wisdom. Wisdom is more than ethics, even though it includes ethical teaching. The 'more' consists of fundamental ways of seeing and being. Wisdom is not just about moral behavior, but about the 'center,' the place from which moral perception and moral behavior flow.

"Thus both were teachers of the way less traveled. 'Way' or 'path' imagery is central to both bodies of teaching. The way of the Buddha is enshrined in the four noble truths of Buddhism, the fourth of which is 'the eightfold path.' Jesus spoke regularly of 'the way.' Moreover, according to the book of Acts, the earliest name for the Jesus movement was 'the Way.' The Gospel of John thus only takes this image one step further in speaking of Jesus as the incarnation of 'the way.'

"What Jesus and the Buddha said about 'the way' is remarkably similar. I will mention three major points of contact. First, in both cases, it involves a new way of seeing. Sayings about seeing, sight, and light are central to Jesus' teaching. Moreover, the forms of Jesus' teaching — his aphorisms and parables — most commonly functioned to invite a new way of seeing.

"So also for the Buddha. Indeed, the common description of him as 'the enlightened one' points to the centrality of a new way of seeing. Enlightenment means seeing differently. Both Jesus and the Buddha sought to bring about in their hearers a radical perceptual shift — a new way of seeing life. The familiar line from a Christian hymn expresses an emphasis common to both: 'I once was blind, but now I see.'

10:15am *We Make the Road by Walking* Book Group, Library

11am Holy Eucharist in Spanish, Chapel

11am Godly Play, Room 6

11:15am Holy Eucharist, Main Church

2pm Vestry Meeting, Room 1

5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

6pm Youth Group, Undercroft Commons

Monday, January 26

6:30pm Overeaters

Anonymous, Undercroft Commons

7pm Centering Prayer Group, Chapel

Tuesday, January 27

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 28

10am *Speaking Christian* Book Group, Library

6pm Yoga, Chapel

6:45pm Meditation, Chapel

7pm Codependents Anonymous, Ascension House

8pm Gamblers Anonymous, Ascension House

Thursday, January 29

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, January 25

"Second, both paths or ways involve a similar psychological and spiritual process of transformation. The way of the Buddha entails a reorientation of one's life from 'grasping' (the cause of suffering) to 'letting go' of grasping (the path of liberation from suffering). The Buddha invited his followers to see that life is not about grasping but about letting go, and then to embark on the path of letting go.

"Buddhist 'letting go' and Christian 'dying' are similar processes. Dying is the ultimate letting go — of the world and of one's self. The world as the center of one's identity and security and the self as the center of one's preoccupation pass away. This 'letting go' is liberation from an old way of being and resurrection into a new way of being. There is thus a Buddhist 'born again' experience as well as a Christian 'liberation through enlightenment' experience.

"Third, the ethical fruit of this internal transformation is the same for both: becoming a more compassionate being. The Buddha is often called 'the compassionate one,' and the central characteristic of a bodhisattva (roughly, a Buddhist saint) is compassion. "So also for Jesus. When he crystallized with one word the life that would result from following his way, the word was compassion: 'Be compassionate, as God is compassionate.' Paul's word for compassion is love, and he spoke of love as the primary fruit of the Spirit and the greatest of all spiritual gifts. Indeed, one might even say that becoming a bodhisattva is the goal of the fully developed Christian life. As Paul put it, 'We are being transformed from one degree of glory to another in the likeness of Christ.' "

Announcements

(click for more info)

HEADLINERS

[Ascension Adventure Group to the Museum of Civil War Medicine, January 24](#)

[Youth Group, Sunday, January 25](#)

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

[Family Movie Night, February 6](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Godly Play, January 25](#)

[A Joyful Path, January 25](#)

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

[Wednesday Evening Spiritual Practice Opportunities](#)

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Flower Delivery: Musu Rogers, Alice Padmore, *Altar Guild:* Nancy Carman, Cynthia Perley, Leslie Sanya, Lynne Shaer, Elizabeth Lennon

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayer:* Jackson Douglas, *Chalicians:* Edna Leake, Sharon Hayden, *Healing Prayer:* Jean Cohn, *Acolytes:* Ron Hayden, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Herald Douglas, Lisa Murdock

9:00 AM *Readers:* Sue Snay, Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Prayers:* Kirk Davies, *Chalicians:* Nancy Carman, Cynthia Perley, *Healing Prayer:* Javier Ocampo, *Acolytes:* Kofi Kwamena-Poh, Kayleigh Yankie, Stacy Taylor, *Welcome Team:* Swithin Kwamena-Poh, Kevin Blanc, Algernon Thomas, Barbara Angel

11:15 AM *Reader:* Karl Didavi, *Chalicians:* Avin Lalmansing, Christian Nwankwo, *Healing Prayer:* Laura Shay, *Welcome Team:* Pete Minderman, Sciou Broderick

5:00 PM *Reader/Usher:* Feeta Caphart

Eucharistic Visitor: Enid Cole, Pamela Irons-Forth

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

[Wednesday Morning Book Study](#)

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

[Wednesday Night Lenten Class](#)

WORSHIP

[Ash Wednesday, 2015](#)

[Youth Sunday, February 22](#)

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

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

SERVICE

[Lord's Table Soup Kitchen](#)

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Blood Pressure Screenings, January 25](#)

[Selma](#)

[Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 2015](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

[Annual Giving Campaign](#)

[Winter Weather Policy](#)

THE ASCENDANT

[January 2015](#)

Prayers

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:

St. Timothy's Parish, Washington

St. Timothy's Child Development Center

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

St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek Parish

St. Paul's Church, K Street

St. Paul's Church, Piney Parish

Pray for the leaders of all the nations, especially Barack

Obama, President of the United States

The Diocesan Convention

Diocesan Convention Officers; Clerical and Lay Delegates

Convention Task Forces and Committee Chairs
Finance and Investment Committees
The Standing Committee of the Diocese
Pray for the Mission and Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of
Washington

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, Diane, Nancy, Rimie, 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 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, and
the Muslims of the Central African Republic who've been
persecuted by the "Christian militia."

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

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