



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for
January 4](#)

[Link to Randy's Sermon
"Hidden in Plain Sight" from
December 25.](#)

[Link to Randy's Sermon
"African Creche" from
December 24.](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Friday, January 2
6pm Couples 12-Step
Program, Ascension House

Saturday, January 3
9am Overeaters Anonymous,
Undercroft Commons
11am AI-Anon, Undercroft
Commons
11am Overeaters
Anonymous, Ascension House
2pm Christmas Pageant Dress
Rehearsal, Main Church

Sunday, January 4
7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
9am Holy Eucharist, Main
Church
9am No Godly Play
10:15am Holy Eucharist for
Families with young
Children, Chapel
10:15am No Joyful Path
10:15am No Rite 13 &

Christ, Actually

"Here is the question, finally: Why do Christians need to believe in the Incarnation? 'The point of incarnation language,' the Catholic theologian Roger Haight writes, 'is that Jesus is one of us, that what occurred in Jesus is the destiny of human existence itself: *et homo factus est*. Jesus is a statement, God's statement, about humanity as such.' Humanity is the presence of God. The presence of God, therefore, lies in what is ordinary. Not in supernatural marvels. Not in a superman with whom we have nothing actual in common. Not in saints. Not in a once-only age of miracles long ago. Not first in doctrine, scholarship, or theology-but in life. ...

"Leaving us with? A simple Jesus. An ordinary Christ. One whom the simplest person can imitate, the most ordinary person bringing Christ once more to life-day by day, word by word, bread by bread, cup by cup. In all of that we see divinity, which, paradoxically, is what makes Jesus one of us. Whatever sort of God Jesus is understood to be, it must be the God who is like humans, not different. If that seems impossible, then what we think of God-and of humans- must change. This is essential to the New Testament and "the very logic of Christian faith." And, finally, the truest argument-not proof-for the divinity of Jesus is in the one undenied fact of this history: that billions upon billions of ordinary human beings have found in this faith an immediate and saving experience of the real presence of God, "partaking" of God-becoming God. Even unto here, with these words written and read. We come to Jesus, in the end as in the beginning, only through the Jesus people.

"If Christ is undiscovered now, a figure lost to many, that is in part because of scandals done in his name, by those who call out his name most loudly. ...

"Human life is more than material. To be rendered mute in the face of that mystery is to be less than human. And being less than human now carries dangers that simply did not exist before. Auschwitz and Hiroshima amount to the twin interruptions of history that have made this inquiry not only necessary but urgent. Auschwitz and Hiroshima, which warned

Confirm, not Conform
10:15am No Book Group
11am Holy Eucharist in Spanish, Chapel
11am No Godly Play
11:15am Holy Eucharist, Main Church
5pm Christmas Pageant, Main Church

Monday, January 5

11:30am Cancer Support Group, Room 3
6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons
7pm Listening Heart Community, Library

Tuesday, January 6

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 7

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 8

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

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

not just of a capacity but of an inclination, lay bare the new actuality that confronts men and women: the dread prospect that the human species—which is the very cosmos aware of itself—will bring about its own extinction....

"Now we know, though, the limits of our language about God. We do not know 'God' not because we are ignorant, but because 'God' refers to one who, when it comes to certitude, is beyond categories of knowledge. The God to whom Jesus points is the God beyond 'God.' We recognize in Jesus all that we need to know about the God who otherwise remains incomprehensible. And this recognition, because it is well rooted in the past, is powerful enough to carry us into the open-ended future, even extending beyond what can be imagined."

- from *Christ, Actually: The Son of God for the Secular Age*, James Carroll

Announcements

(click for more info)

HEADLINERS

[Christmas Pageant, January 4](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Godly Play](#)

[A Joyful Path](#)

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

[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](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, January 4

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Flower Delivery: Esther Sawyer, Musu Rogers, *Altar Guild:* Ophelia Yalley-Ogunro, Adoma Baffoe, Georgana Maines, Esther Taylor, Patricia Walker, Mardia Dennis, Georgette Dennis

7:45 AM *Reader/Prayer:* Enid Cole, *Chalicians:* Wadai Dennis, Edna Leake, *Healing Prayer:* Janet King, *Acolytes:* Raymond Chin, Jackson Douglas, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Enid Cole, Frank Sanya

9:00 AM *Readers:* Stephanie Mitchell, Andrew Greene, *Prayers:* Suzyn Gonzalez, *Chalicians:* Jerry Pfadenhauer, Dotty Pfadenhauer, *Healing Prayer:* Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Acolytes:* Nuelle Johnson, Kofi Kwamena-Poh, Patrick Mitchell, *Welcome Team:* Naomi Senkeeto, Esther Allotey-Taylor, Bev Stennett, Christine Kroma

11:15 AM *Reader:* Tunde Ayinde, *Chalicians:* Laura Shay, Rimie Sicard, *Healing Prayer:* Barb Andersen, *Welcome Team:* Penelope Cudjoe, Musu Rogers

5:00 PM *Reader/Usher:* Pete Minderman

Eucharistic Visitor: Meredith Horan

SERVICE

Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

Gaithersburg HELP

Youth Against Hunger

LIFE AT ASCENSION

Ascension Adventure Group to the Museum of Civil War Medicine, January 17

Ceiling Tile Hanging Party, January 17

Annual Giving Campaign

Winter Weather Policy

THE ASCENDANT

January 2015

Prayers

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:
Christ Church, Washington Parish
Christ Church Parish, Kensington
Christ Church, Accokeek (St. John's Parish) and St. John's
Chapel
Christ Church, Georgetown

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:
Carol, Abby, Major, Terry, George, Heather, Susan, Gary,
Glenn, Betty, 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.

Episcopal Church of the Ascension
205 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2315
301-948-0122
ascensionmd.org