



This Week at Ascension

[Link to the Bulletins for July 19](#)

[Link to Randy's Sermon "A Prophet Like Me" from July 12.](#)

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

Calendar Highlights

Saturday, July 18

9am Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons

11am AI-Anon, Undercroft Commons

11am Overeaters Anonymous, Ascension House

Sunday, July 19

7:45am Holy Eucharist, Main Church

9am Holy Eucharist, Main Church

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

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

11am Holy Eucharist in Spanish, Chapel

11:15am Holy Eucharist, Main Church

1:30pm Maryland Uke Jam, Undercroft Commons

2pm Fibromyalgia Support Group - Ascension House

5pm Holy Eucharist, Chapel

What is Saving Your Life?

"MANY YEARS AGO now, when I was invited to speak at a church gathering, my host said, "Tell us what is saving your life now." It was such a good question that I have made a practice of asking others to answer it even as I continue to answer it myself. Salvation is so much more than many of its proponents would have us believe. In the Bible, human beings experience God's salvation when peace ends war, when food follows famine, when health supplants sickness and freedom trumps oppression. Salvation is a word for the divine spaciousness that comes to human beings in all the tight places where their lives are at risk, regardless of how they got there or whether they know God's name. Sometimes it comes as an extended human hand and sometimes as a bolt from the blue, but either way it opens a door in what looked for all the world like a wall. This is the way of life, and God alone knows how it works.

"Committing myself to the task of becoming fully human is saving my life now. This is not the same as the job of being human, which came with my birth certificate. To become fully human is something extra, a conscious choice that not everyone makes. Based on my limited wisdom and experience, there is more than one way to do this. If I were a Buddhist, I might do it by taking the bodhisattva vow, and if I were a Jew, I might do it by following Torah. Because I am a Christian, I do it by imitating Christ, although I will be the first to admit that I want to stop about a day short of following him all the way.

"In Luke's gospel, there comes a point when he turns around and says to the large crowd of those trailing after him, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple" (14: 26). Make of that what you will, but I think it was his way of telling them to go home. He did not need people to go to Jerusalem to die with him. He needed people to go back where they came from and live the kinds of lives that he had risked his own life to show them: lives of resisting the powers of death, of standing up for the little and the least, of turning cheeks and washing feet, of praying for enemies and loving the unlovable. That would be plenty hard enough for most of them. If he could not shake the

Monday, July 20

6:30pm Ascension Softball vs. Seneca Creek Community Church - Stewartown Field
6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous, Undercroft Commons
7pm Listening Hearts Community, Library

Tuesday, July 21

9:30am Staff Meeting, Library
7pm Still Water Mindfulness Practice, Chapel
8:30pm AI-Anon, Ascension House

Wednesday, July 22

10am *The Portable Jung* Book Group, Library
7pm Codependents Anonymous, Ascension House
8pm Gamblers Anonymous, Ascension House

Thursday, July 23

10am Yoga, Chapel
11am Episcopal Seeking Seniors, Asbury

[Link to our Online Calendar](#)

Worship Leaders

Sunday, July 19

Preacher: (The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

Flower Delivery: Hawa Clemens, Eliane Dunn-Johnson

7:45 AM Reader/Prayers: Enid Cole, *Chalicians:* Wadai Dennis Sharon Hayden, *Healing Prayer:* Lisa Murdock, *Acolytes:* Raymond Chin, Aidan Douglas, *Welcome Team:* Enid Cole, Frank Sanya, *Altar Guild:* Georgette Dennis, Yarvo Jones

9:00 AM Readers: Susan Ahalt, Kirk Davies, *Prayers:* Meredith Horan, *Chalicians:* Shirley Allen, Major Clemens, *Healing Prayer:* Meredith Horan, *Acolytes:* Nuelle Johnson, Manny Johnson, Alfred Wasikye, *Welcome Team:* Swithin Kwamena-

crowd off, they were all going to get themselves killed, or worse. They were going to venerate his path in place of finding their own. They were going to expect him to tell them things that they could only discover for themselves. So he turned around and said something guaranteed to discourage most of them from going any further. He stopped the car so the spiritual hitchhikers could get out. Like me, a lot of them decided that they did not have what it took to be disciples after all. Drifting away in clumps of two and three, they eventually found their ways back home, where they started local chapters of the Friends of the Disciples, and to everyone's great surprise that turned out to be enough. All these years later, there are still a few who believe that becoming fully human is the highest honor they can pay to the incarnate one who showed them how."

- Barbara Brown Taylor, *Leaving Church* (pp. 226, 229-230)

Announcements

(click for more info)

HEADLINERS

[Linkages to Learning](#)

[Men's Shelter Lunch Preparation](#)

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

[Joyful Path New Time This Fall](#)

[The Portable Jung](#)

[Still Water Mindfulness Practice Group](#)

[Listening Heart Community at Ascension](#)

WORSHIP

[Bulletins for Tablets Link](#)

[Worship Rosters, July-September](#)

SERVICE

[Gaithersburg HELP](#)

[Ascension's Cancer Support Group](#)

LIFE AT ASCENSION

[Ascension's Adventure Group Upcoming Events](#)

Poh, Kevin Blanc, Algernon Thomas,
Barbara Angel, *Altar Guild*: Cynthia
Perley, Liz Lennon

11:15 AM *Reader*: Karl Didavi,
Chalicians: Howard Holland,
Margaret Holland, *Healing Prayer*:
Sarah Rubin, *Welcome Team*: Pete
Minderman, Sciou Broderick, *Altar
Guild*: Georgana Maines, Alice
Padmore

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

Eucharistic Visitors: Meredith
Horan, Kate Foley

[New Architect's Renderings](#)

[Ascension Softball Schedule](#)

[Hospitality Hour](#)

[Prayer Request Updates](#)

THE ASCENDANT NEWSLETTER

[July](#)

Prayers

FOR THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CLOSELY LINKED WITH OURS:
Church of St. Mary Magdalene
St. James' Church, Indian Head, St. James' Church, Potomac,
St. James' Children's School, Potomac.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Port Elizabeth
and Pretoria
In Southern Africa.

PRAY FOR COMFORT, HEALING, COURAGE, AND HOPE:
Lee, Peg, Susan, Julia, Una, Jim, Rose, Peg, Nancy, Janet,
Lou, Fran, Howard, Jake, 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

We give thanks for the life of Glenn J. Pfofenhauer, in whose
loving memory his parents Dotty and Jerry Pfofenhauer have
given altar flowers on the anniversary of his birth on July 23.

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