



# Ascension Extension

A Monthly Newsletter of Church of the Ascension  
Westminster, MD

*Ascension is a family of faith so reflecting the life of Christ  
that we draw all people to Him.*

## JUNE 2017

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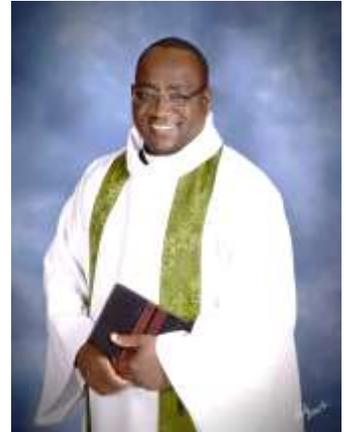
The Ascension Extension is published to exchange information between parishioners & friends of the church. Please send your contributions to: [ascensioncommunication@gmail.com](mailto:ascensioncommunication@gmail.com)

**Please submit articles for the July 2017 issue to the church office by: Monday, June 26, 2017.**

## I Believe in the Holy Spirit

*by Samuel Nsengiyumva*

Many of us are familiar with the title above from both the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. The question is: How much do we know about this Holy Spirit we say we believe in? What does it mean to believe in the Holy Spirit?



A story is told of a religious education teacher who asked the kids to raise their hands if they believed in God the Father. All of them raised their hands.

When he asked about God the Son, they all raised their hands; but when he asked about God the Holy Spirit, not a single hand was raised. Then one of the kids raised his hand and said: "Sir, the boy who believes in the Holy Spirit is not here today."

This may sound funny, but it is unfortunately true with many Christians. I suspect the main reason why many Christians are reluctant to believe and embrace the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the excesses and sometimes abuses by some people claiming to be filled with the Holy Spirit. As a result there is a general sense of confusion and suspicion on the subject.

As we prepare for the Feast day of Pentecost (June 4), I wish to share my own understanding of the person and work of the Holy Spirit with the hope of clearing any confusion or suspicion and hopefully inspiring more Christians not simply to believe, but to recognize and embrace the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in the church.

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

According to the Book of Common Prayer, "The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, God at work in the world and in the Church even now." He is revealed in the Old Testament as "the giver of life, the one who spoke through the prophets" and in the New Testament as "the Lord who leads us into all truth

and enables us to grow in the likeness of Christ.” (p. 852) Just as Jesus was “the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being” during his earthly life and ministry (Hebrews 1: 3), so is the Holy Spirit ever since Jesus returned to heaven. (John 14:15-31).

### **What does the Holy Spirit do?**

Perhaps the simplest answer is that the work of the Holy Spirit is to transform us and equip us. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to become the kind of people we are designed to be, and to do the work we are called to do. Christianity is all about becoming like Jesus the Christ, and continuing the work he started two thousand years ago. As we rightly admit in our baptismal covenant, we can only be and do what God wants, with God’s help. It is God who works in us to will and to act according to his good purpose. (Philippians 2:13)

### **How does the Holy Spirit help us?**

There are many ways by which the Holy Spirit helps us. According to Nicky Gumble, author and presenter of the Alpha series, the Holy Spirit helps us by:

**Affirming our identity as children of God** – Everyone who believes in Jesus the Christ is a child of God but not every believer feels or acts that way. It is the Holy Spirit who testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. (Romans 8:16)

**Developing our relationship as children of God** – As is the case with every relationship, communication is key. The Holy Spirit helps us in this process by helping us to pray (Romans 8:26) and to understand God’s word (Ephesians 1:17-18). This makes effective communication with God possible, which enhances our relationship.

**Producing the Fruit of the Spirit** – All of us are aware of the conflict between what we want and what God wants. It is often referred to as the conflict between the flesh and the spirit. (Galatians 5:17). It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to overcome the flesh and produce the fruit of the spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

**Bringing unity among believers** – It is the Holy Spirit that makes it possible for those who believe in Christ to be united in spirit and purpose. Where the spirit is there is love and unity, but where the spirit is absent there is hostility and dissension. The Holy Spirit is the one who can bring people together from different cultures, languages, races and denominations to make them feel and act as brothers and sisters.

**Giving Gifts for the edification of the body and the work of ministry** – Every Christian has the Holy Spirit living in him, but to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge, to another faith, to another gifts of healing, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). Even though these gifts are beneficial to the individual, they are given for the good of all and the advancement of Christ’s mission in the world.

**Bringing Growth** – It is the Holy Spirit who brings about spiritual and numerical growth. As the Holy Spirit works in us to bring personal spiritual growth, he also works through us to be credible and effective witnesses for Christ and to lead others to him.

As we become more aware of the nature and the work of the Holy Spirit, I hope and pray that we will become more open to His work in us and through us. My own experience is that the more I have become aware and opened myself to the work of the Holy Spirit, the more meaningful and fulfilling my faith has become. I have also realized that just as I need food and water for my physical body, so I need to be filled by the Holy Spirit regularly. Without the help of the Holy Spirit, I cannot be the kind of person God wants me to be or do the things God wants me to do.

As you prepare for the feast of Pentecost, may your prayer be *“Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me. Mold me. Fill me. Use me.”* For according to Christ’s promise, *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, ... and to the ends of the world.”* (Acts 1:8)

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### Worship Highlights



On Wednesday, May 24, we had a wonderful service of Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation. **Margaret Campanella, Alison Schwartz, and Grayson Fritz** were confirmed. **Barry Messersmith** was received, and **Christopher Nusbaum** reaffirmed his Baptismal Vows. Bishop Eugene Sutton presided over the service. A reception was held in their honor by St. Martha's Guild. Congratulations to the new confirmands and many thanks to all who helped make it such a special day. We also congratulate **Evan Jamison** who was confirmed on Sunday, May 21, at Church of the Redeemer in Baltimore.

This year's **Feast of Pentecost** on **June 4** coincides with our annual outdoor service and picnic. On June 4, there will be a service at 8:00 a.m. in the Stone Church and another one at 10:00 a.m. at the Carrol County Farm Museum. If you are able to read or sing in a language other than English, please let us know by contacting the church office. We wish to make the service as close to the original Pentecost as possible.

This year's **Annual Celebration of Ministry** will be held on **Sunday, June 4**, at the (10:00 a.m.) outdoor service and picnic at the Farm Museum. Ministry Team leaders are encouraged to submit a brief report showing some highlights of the past year and any significant upcoming events. In addition, some of our high school graduates will be recognized on June 4 and our new members will be officially welcomed. **Everyone should bring a lawn chair to sit in.**

**Mark Your Calendar:** Weather permitting, the annual **Blessing of the Animals** service will be on Sunday, August 27. On that Sunday, there will be two worship services:  
8:00 a.m. in the Stone Church and 10:00 a.m. on the Lawn

## Worship & Parish Event Schedule

**June 1** Thursday Bible Study - Movie Night: "Heaven is for Real"  
7:00 p.m. Holy Cross Hall  
*Next meeting: Thursday, September 7*

**June 3**  
7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Country Breakfast Buffet:** All you can eat breakfast \$8.00  
10:00 a.m. Wedding - Stone Church  
11:30 a.m. Prayer Service - Stone Church

**June 4** Pentecost  
**Carroll Food Sunday** (See p. 8)  
8:00 a.m. H.E., Rite I - Stone Church  
10:00 a.m. Service at the Carroll County Farm Museum  
Growing in Ministry Celebration, High School Graduate Recognition  
11:30 a.m. Annual Picnic at the Carroll County Farm Museum

**June 6** Tuesday Bible Study  
10:00 a.m. First and Third Tuesday in the Guild Room

**June 11** First Sunday After Pentecost - Lisa Bornt, Guest Speaker (See p. 12)  
8:00 a.m. H.E., Rite I - Stone Church  
9:30 a.m. H.E. Rite II - Holy Cross Hall  
10:30 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn or Linoleum: **Buildings and Grounds Committee**  
11:15 a.m. H.E., Rite II - Stone Church

**June 18** Second Sunday After Pentecost - Father's Day  
8:00 a.m. H.E., Rite I - Stone Church  
9:30 a.m. H.E. Rite II - Holy Cross Hall  
10:30 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn or Linoleum: **Ascension Choir**  
11:15 a.m. H.E., Rite II - Stone Church

**June 25** Third Sunday After Pentecost  
8:00 a.m. H.E., Rite I - Stone Church  
9:30 a.m. H.E. Rite II - Holy Cross Hall  
10:30 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn or Linoleum: **Country Breakfast Team**  
11:15 a.m. H.E., Rite II - Stone Church

**July 2** Forth Sunday After Pentecost - Fourth of July Weekend  
**Carroll Food Sunday** (See p. 8)  
8:00 a.m. H.E., Rite I - Stone Church  
9:30 a.m. H.E. Rite II - Holy Cross Hall  
10:30 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn or Linoleum: **Provider to be determined**  
11:15 a.m. H.E., Rite II - Stone Church

**Please note that on almost every summer Sunday, three worship services will be offered at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.**



## Senior Warden's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am writing to you on Memorial Day. This is a day when we remember the sacrifice and celebrate the lives of the brave men and women who died in the service to our country. Let us never forget that our freedom and indeed our way of life is not free. Today, the armed forces of the United States are in harm's way across the globe facing old foes and new threats. Please remember those who gave their last full measure of devotion and those serving today in your prayers.

Last Wednesday evening, May 24, we were visited by Bishop Sutton who was present to confirm, receive and assist a young member to reaffirm his baptismal vows. The Bishop remarked that he is always glad to visit us at Ascension because we charge his batteries (my words). And he is right, being a member of our community of faith can charge your batteries. We have been blessed by the Lord in so many ways that it is helpful to occasionally take time to count our blessings. This Sunday, June 4, in addition to kicking off the summer season at the Carroll County Farm Museum and celebrating the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in Pentecost, we will also take time to count the blessings of the many ministries and activities at Ascension that have been a part of bringing the message of Christ to our members and the community beyond our walls. I hope that you will be able to join us for this special worship service at the Farm Museum.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit and hold a brief open forum after each of our Sunday worship services. I will try to hold these open forums after each service on a quarterly basis during which I will update you on news and issues that the vestry is addressing and hope that you will bring your ideas and feedback which I can take to the vestry. As an example of how impactful these open forums can be; during the open forum after the 11:15 service we asked attendees how the summer schedule impacted them. They almost unanimously shared that they do not attend the worship services provided during the summer due to the location, the format or the time. They eagerly shared their preference for the 11:15 service to continue during the summer. As Father Samuel shared last Sunday, we will very seriously consider this suggestion.

This open forum does remind us of two issues which we need to keep in mind as we seek to be the best stewards of our Lord's resources. First: We do not need to repeat what we did or the way that we did it in the past. As time passes, we take the way things are done for granted when we should be asking if we need to change to become better stewards of the Lord's resources. Second: We must be very sensitive to the very different ways that our members find God and support them by offering an array of different worship experiences.

Lastly, I will be asking the vestry to be much more intentional about how we use our resources in planning our activities to 2018. This past year, we had a prolonged budget process which has helped us more proactively control our finances. But our money is not our only resource. Our members are our human resources, our buildings are physical resources and our time is a resource. All must be carefully allocated. I will propose that the vestry lead the parish, all ministries and activities in a review of how well each ministry is performing in relation to the resources that it uses. After the vestry leads the parish wide review of ministries and activities, then each ministry and activity will make a formal request for the use of our resources. In the past ministries and activities made a request for financial resources when that is clearly not the only resource that is in limited supply and should be carefully managed and allocated by the vestry. This process will be new to our parish, and I reiterate that I will be proposing this to the vestry, and they may decide that this process is not

necessary or preferred. But, in my opinion, this is one way that we can be better stewards of the Lord's resources at Church of the Ascension, Westminster, Maryland.

As always, I welcome your comments and feedback and humbly ask for your prayers.

Yours in Christ,  
 Roger I. 'Chip' Bair, III  
 Senior Warden

## Lemonade on the Lawn (or the Linoleum!)

Please volunteer your group or committee to provide Lemonade on the Lawn (or the Linoleum!) this summer by calling the church office or signing up on the list that is posted in the hallway just outside of the Holy Cross Hall. There are many dates still available in July and August!



The Fellowship Committee will provide the iced tea and lemonade mix, cups, plates, and napkins. Your group will be responsible for set up, clean up, and the food.

**New this summer:**

Your group may choose the location:

On the Lawn or On the Linoleum (Fellowship Hall).

There is no need to move tables, beverages, food, etc. outside unless you really want to!

Lemonade on the Lawn (or the Linoleum!) Summer 2017	
May 28	Handbell Choir
June 11	Buildings and Grounds
June 18 (Father's Day)	Ascension Choir
June 25	Country Breakfast Team
July 2	
July 9	Outreach
July 16	St. Luke's Guild
July 23	
July 30	
August 6	Fellowship Committee
August 13	
August 20	
August 27 - Worship services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. (Blessing of the Animals)	
September 3 (Labor Day Weekend)	

## What is Happening at Ascension?

**Country Breakfast Buffet** Fellowship Hall ~ June 3, 2017 ~ 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.

**COME HUNGRY \* LEAVE FULL**

Delight in the decadent, delicious, and delectable foods served by our dedicated, determined and devoted crew that prepare and serve our country breakfast buffet each month.

The cost of the breakfast is **\$8.00 adults / \$4.00 ages 4-8.**

### **Tuesday Bible Study**

The Tuesday Bible Study gathers on the first and third Tuesday of every month in the Guild Room beginning at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions you may contact Barbara or Bill Sears (redrock2@verizon.net).

### **Thursday Night Bible Study**

The **Thursday Night Bible Study** invites everyone to attend our last spring **Movie Night** from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Holy Cross Hall.

**Thursday, June 1**

*Heaven is for Real* (PG)

The true story of a pastor whose young son experiences heaven during emergency surgery.

*Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 7.*

### **The Annual Picnic**

**Worship Service, Annual Picnic and Growing in Ministry Celebration**

**At the Carroll County Farm Museum Outer Pavilion**

**Sunday, June 4, 2017 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Admission:**

**\$5.00 per person or \$20 per family and 1 side-dish or dessert**

*All you can eat:*

*BBQ Chicken, Hotdogs, Hamburgers, Chips & Drinks provided by the Fellowship Committee*

**Bring a friend and join us again, (or for the first time), for a day of fun and fellowship.**

### **Update on Spring Marketplace**

A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who baked, sorted, priced, or worked at the Spring Marketplace and then helped to pack up.

We are very happy to report that the Spring Marketplace, (flowers sales, flea market, vendor rentals, food court, and bake shop), has made \$3,400 to date and The 1844 Shoppe made \$612.



## The 1844 Shoppe

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Church of the Ascension

Come see the great selection of antiques, collectibles, pottery, dishes, jewelry, furniture, household decor, pictures and much more all at bargain prices. **Open every Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Look for the signs at the corner of the brick building on the Ascension campus. We also accept your tax deductible donations of any of the items above. Call for information. (410.848.3251) *Reuse! Repurpose! Reimagine!*

## Outreach Update

The first DreamBuilders trip took place from May 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. Buck Lyon-Vaiden along with Verna and David Karolenko went to New Orleans to continue the restoration and rebuilding of the area due to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Even 12 years later the work continues!

The next trip, on June 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, will include many of our youth. They will be heading to Rainelle, West Virginia, for a double house build. Please keep our missionaries in your prayers for a safe and successful trip.

*The New Orleans 2017 DreamBuilders Team at the restored house. Notice the house to the left is being overtaken by vines.*



## Carroll Food Sunday

The **first Sunday of EVERY month** Ascension collects non-perishable food items for Carroll Food Sunday. Place your items in the basket provided in the vestibules of the Stone Church and Holy Cross Hall worship space.

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.” (Matthew 25:35)*

## Next Blood Drive: August 26

The next blood drive is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>. Please check your calendars now, pencil us in and call or email Sydney White to sign up. It's never too early! itssydney13@yahoo.com, (410) 848-3529



## Helping One Another

Once upon a time, in a faraway town called Westminster, a group of Ascensionites descended upon the home of the fair maiden Joy. They clean and scrubbed. They tidied up the gardens. The small, but mighty, group worked hard, and the work brought them great happiness. When they were done they posed for a picture and everyone smiled. THE END!

*Betsy Reinders, Charlie White, Sara White, Milt Beebe, Rick Reinders, Joy Badger, and Gary Lang. Behind the camera - Helen Lang.*



*Some of the work that was completed by the volunteers from Ascension on April 29<sup>th</sup>*

## **Dollars & Cents**

Ann Cox – Treasurer

The financial information for May was incomplete at the time of the June Extension publication. Please look for additional information in the July Newsletter.

**ASCENSION'S FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN**  
**UPDATE AS OF 5/30/2017**

Date and Time		Activity and Ages	Facilitator	No. Registered
June 12	12-2pm	American Girl and Manners Ages 5-11	Zoe Howard	10
June 14	1-4pm	Ultimate Frisbee Ages 6-13	Bob Franzese	7
June 15	10-11:30am	Mini Herb Garden Ages 5-12	Katie Corbin	19
June 16	10am-12pm	Soccer Workshop Ages 5-8	Katie Fleming /Estivan	14
June 16	1-3pm	Soccer Workshop Ages 9-13		7
June 20	9:30-11am	Lawn Games Ages 8-13	Bobbie/Jerry Gooding	10
June 21	10:30am-12pm	Fun With Flowers Ages 8-13	Sandy White	4
June 23	10am-12pm	Relay Races/Games Ages 5-12	Nanci Franzese	16
June 26	10-11:30am	Fun With Cats Ages 5-13	Mary Butler	14
June 27	9am-12pm	Building Birdhouses	Helen/Gary Lang	9
June 28	9am-11am	Garden Stepping Stones 5-13	Joyce Chomko	11
July 6	9-11am	Creating w/ Acrylics & Pastels Ages 6-13	Mary Beth Francis	18
July 7	9-11am	Zen Doodle Ages 6-13	Mary Beth Francis	14
July 10	10-11:30am	Beginners Landscape/Watercolor Painting Ages 9-13	Katie Corbin	3
July 11	9:30am-12pm	Apple Pie Making Ages 7-12	Donna Bair/JoAnne Neil	6
July 13	1pm-3:30pm	Cool Crafts Ages 5-12	Lynn Kirby/Jaclyn Weschler	14
July 18	10am-12:30pm	Jewelry Making Ages 7-13	Lynn Kirby/Jaclyn Weschler	15
July 20	9:30am-12pm	Kickball Ages 5-13	Roger Bair, Sr./John Holbert	22
July 21	10am-12pm	Volleyball Ages 5-12	Nanci Franzese	15
<b>July 24-28</b>	<b>9am-12:30pm</b>	<b>'Fun in the Son' Bible Camp</b>	<b>Betsy Reinders/Mary Myers</b>	<b>13</b>
August 1	12-2pm	Cake Decorating Ages 7-13	Anne Arena	8
August 3	10am-12:30pm	Weird Science Ages 6-12	Lynn Kirby/Jaclyn Weschler	12
August 4	10am-12pm	Lego Creations Ages 5-12	Nanci Franzese	24
August 8	1-3:30pm	Dinosaur Adventures Ages 5-11	Lynn Kirby/Jaclyn Weschler	19
<b>August 14-18</b>	<b>8:30am- 4pm</b>	<b>Drama Camp</b> for children who have completed Kindergarten to 5 <sup>th</sup> grades	<b>Roberta Gore</b> <b>Betsy Reinders</b> <b>Mary Myers</b>	<b>35- FULL</b> Accepting names for waiting list

**WE ARE THRILLED WITH THE INTEREST! WE NEED YOUR HELP AND PRAYERS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM. IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER OR HELP IN ANY WAY, PLEASE CONTACT BETSY REINDERS AT [r.b.reinders@comcast.net](mailto:r.b.reinders@comcast.net). (DONATIONS TO THIS PROGRAM ARE ALSO WELCOME.)**

To register for the activities or one of our camps contact the church office:  
410-848-3251 [churchoftheascension@gmail.com](mailto:churchoftheascension@gmail.com)

Children with disabilities must be accompanied by a caregiver.

## **Around Our Community**

**Art in the Park: June 3, 2017**

**10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

City Hall Park  
70 Locust St.

This annual event features fine art and craft displays by accomplished regional artists. Held rain or shine on the beautiful grounds of Westminster's City Hall. Bring the kids for a free craft activity to inspire artists of the future! A small food court and live music round out this family friendly outdoor festival!

**Annual Ice Cream Social and Open House: June 4**

**2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Residents of **Timber Ridge/Ridge Residences** are having their Annual Ice Cream Social and Open House to be held on Sunday, June 4 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Timber Ridge Community Center (101 Timber Ridge Drive, Westminster). Enjoy ice cream and beverages while listening to the Westminster Municipal Band. The event will be held rain or shine. Bring lawn chairs and friends! Parking is available on Bishop Street, on Stoner Avenue, at CHANGE or at the Senior Center.

**Daddy Daughter Dance: June 17, 2017**

**6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

American Legion Post 31  
2 Sycamore St

**COST: \$35 for each Dad, daughters attend free**

Dads Works is excited to announce its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Daddy Daughter Dance where Dads can make memories with their daughters that last a lifetime. Evening includes appetizers, a meal with dessert and drinks, dancing to a live band, door prizes, a parting gift for each daughter with sponsor gifts for her and her family, a free professional photo of each father/daughter(s), and raffle opportunities from our gracious donors.

**A Star-Spangled Evening in the Valley: July 1, 2017**

**2:00 p.m.**

River Valley Ranch  
4443 Grave Run Road  
Manchester, MD 21102

Come spend an evening in the Valley with your family, while supporting the ministry of RVR! The Star Spangled Evening in the Valley features an authentic Rodeo, a variety of food vendors, interactive entertainers, the excitement of live music with the Westminster Municipal Band, and one of the area's most spectacular fireworks display!

Tickets and additional information: <http://www.rivervalleyranch.com/fireworks-at-rvr/>

For more fun things to do around Westminster go to; <http://carrollcountytourism.org/calendar-of-events/>

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I write, I cannot believe that I am finished with my second of three years at seminary. Being with my colleagues at Virginia Theological Seminary this past year has been inspiring, edifying and illuminating with the help of the Holy Spirit.

This year, I have sung in the VTS Seminary Choir, been a member of the Prayer & Praise team, as well as studied homiletics (art of preaching), leadership skills in ministry, Christian Education, Liturgy in Spanish, Advanced Musicianship, Family Systems Theory, Christian Ethics, Bible in Spanish and Anglican Worship (Liturgics) as well as served as a Sacristan (Altar Guild at Seminary) and been promoted to Head Sacristan by the Dean of Chapel. I have also been doing an internship in a parish throughout the entire year called Field Education. My Field Education parish has been and will be St. James Parish in Lothian, MD with Rev. William Ticknor serving as my supervisor until that part of my formation ends in December 2017.

I was also blessed to spend 16 days in the Holy Land with 12 of my colleagues at VTS as well as laity and clergy from all over the Anglican Communion: the Philippines, Sri Lanka, England, Tanzania, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. It was an amazing opportunity not only to see the holiest sites in the Christian faith (Gethsemane, the Jordan River, Nazareth, Holy Sepulcher, Abraham's Tomb to name a few), but we also had the opportunity to visit Jewish and Muslim holy sites as well- in particular, the Dome of the Rock and al Aqsa Mosque on the Haram al Sharif (Temple Mount) as well as Qumran (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found) and Masada (Herod the Great's palace in the desert).



As to next steps and final things, my last year of seminary will begin this September. I will be going for Candidacy interviews in October or November depending on Diocesan scheduling. This will be the last look that the Diocese will have before making a final decision as to approving me for ordination to the transitional Deaconate. That, providing Diocesan and Bishop's consent, will most likely take place in January 2018 at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore. Once I know that I have been approved and have permission to share the information, I will communicate that to Ascension's office. Ordinations are celebrations for all of God's people, and I will look forward to seeing anyone who can attend.

Beyond that, my graduation from VTS will be May 17, 2018 provided I meet all the requirements needed. I greatly appreciate your continuing prayers in my priestly formation and academic endeavors. I do not currently know what is beyond graduation, but I trust in our loving God who provides and prepares all things.

In the meantime, Fr. Samuel has invited me to preach at Ascension on June 11, and I look forward to seeing you all on that day.

Yours in Christ,  
*Lisa A. Bornt*

# Honoring Our Graduates

## High School Graduates



**Avery Arena** will graduate from Century High School, with honors. During her four years at CHS, Avery was a member of the Friends for Life and Hope for Tomorrow clubs, was inducted into the National Honor Society, and participated in twelve seasons of athletics. She received two program awards for athletics, is graduating in the top 5% of her class, received twelve Minds in Moon awards and was on the Honor Roll every semester. Avery has completed over 300 hours of community service, having supported numerous events at her elementary, middle and high school, has gone on two DreamBuilders trips to West Virginia, and has assisted in a number of church sponsored summer programs. Additionally, Avery has served as an acolyte since seventh grade and has worked a part time job for two years. She will attend Seton Hall University in the fall to obtain a dual degree (bachelor and masters) in experimental psychology with a concentration in behavioral neuroscience.

**Jason Campanella** will graduate from Westminster High School where he was an active member of the Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Owl Jazz Ensemble and the National Honor Society. He has played the euphonium for the past 9 years. He has played his instrument at Church of the Ascension as well as the past 4 years at WHS and 4 times with the All-County honor ensemble. He is an active member of Boy Scout troop 321, and is now an Eagle Scout candidate. He plans to study Physics at the University of Maryland, College Park.



**Nathan Fritz** will graduate from Francis Scott Key as Valedictorian. While there, he has earned a 4.53 GPA and enters college with over 30 credits earned from AP coursework and dual enrollment at Carroll Community College. Nathan has been an active member of the FSK Marching and Jazz bands and has supported the drama program with his tech work. He is a member of the National Honor Society, active in the It's Academic club and has competed in the Physics Olympics several times. He has also earned his varsity letter in three sports at FSK. This year, Nathan completed an internship at the Johns Hopkins University applied physics lab. He also earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Nathan plans to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology and has already been admitted to the Kate Gleason School of Engineering.



**Conner Goff** will graduate from Francis Scott Key High School and will attend Shepherd University in the fall. He plans to study Middle/High School Education with a concentration in History and English. He will also audition for the drum line in the marching band there. His high school activities have included playing in the drum line during all four years of high school in the FSK Marching Band, Stage Crew for 2 years and freshman football. He has been active in Boy Scouts at Ascension and received his Eagle Scout award last December. He has participated in the youth group at Ascension, Christmas plays since he was 3 years old, played in the youth band, served as an acolyte since age 9 and was on the Junior Vestry.

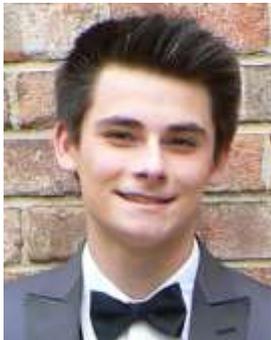


Congratulations to **Max Howard** on his graduation from high school. We hope to include information about Max in the July Extension.



**Leah Jamison** will graduate from Westminster High School. Leah has competed and won awards in both the Maryland State and International Wood Bridge Engineering Challenge. She earned a Westminster High School Scholastic Letter, and she was a WHS Carson Scholars nominee in 2016. She has played the cello in community and school orchestras, and she has performed in Westminster High School theater productions. She also plays piano and organ. We are thankful for her participation in the Youth Praise Team, Junior Vestry, Mistletoe Mart, Soup Kitchen, Community Breakfast, and DreamBuilders. She will study Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Ben Leahy** will graduate from Winters Mill High School. We are thankful for Ben's service in our Soup Kitchen, on DreamBuilders mission trips and during our Summer Camps for Kids. Ben enjoys playing the guitar, skiing, tennis and traveling. He is an Eagle Scout and a member of the National Honor Society. Ben will study photography at Savannah College of Art and Design.



**Nick Leahy** will graduate from Winters Mill High School. During senior year, he was elected to serve as National Honor Society President, and he is ranked #1 academically in his class. He has served as the Class of 2017 Treasurer for 4 years, and has been passionately involved with Key Club through which he has worked to organize many school and community service projects. During senior year, he was appointed to the position of District Convention Chair which entails organizing a 1500 person service convention that was held in March in downtown Baltimore. For enjoyment, Nick has been a member of the Cross Country, Tennis and Corollary Bocce programs.

Nick has been a member of the Church of the Ascension for his entire life. He was an acolyte for 5 years, and has attended Sunday School since he was a cherub. When he was a sophomore in high school, he was elected to serve on the Junior Vestry, and he helped to start the Ascension Summer Camp which targeted kids from lower income households in the local community. Through Troop 321, Nick has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and for his project, he built a pergola on the playground of the Hill Family Center YMCA where he was a member of the swim team for 4 years. Nick has been blessed to have been a part of a DreamBuilders team that went to West Virginia for a week to build a house for a family in need during two summers. Collectively, he has earned over 1050 service hours and he looks forward to pursuing a degree in pre-medical studies. Nick will attend the University of Maryland, College Park, to study biological sciences and, as of now, his goal is to move on to medical school after graduation from UMD to study to become a doctor. These plans are tentative at best right now, but, overall, Nick is excited for what lies ahead in his future.

**Kyle Manspeaker** will graduate from Westminster High School. He will study Computer Science at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.



**Tyrus Mataban** will graduate from Westminster High School. He has grown up in Carroll County. He began his education as a 3-year old at the Montessori School of Westminster where he stayed through 9th grade. He loves playing piano and singing in chorus. And he has been known to throw in a ukulele performance now and again. Tyrus is also an athlete who enjoys playing soccer, excelled at competitive swimming and played lacrosse. He still teaches swim lessons and is a lifeguard at Merritt Athletic Club in Eldersburg. He was confirmed at St. John's Episcopal Church in Glyndon and has been part of the Sunday school and youth group at Ascension since 2012. He also serves on the Junior Vestry. Tyrus will study music education at Towson University.

**Katie Fleming**, granddaughter of Ann and Dan Cox, graduated from Mt. Airy Christian Academy.

**Erin Elizabeth Neil**, Ted and Joanne Neil's granddaughter and daughter of their son Doug, graduated on May 27 from Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, CA.

**Philip John (PJ) Peters**, grandson of Elizabeth Heagy, will graduate from Calvert Hall College High School in Baltimore. PJ will attend High Point University in North Carolina where he will study Business and play lacrosse. He is on Calvert Hall's varsity lacrosse team and played in the MIAA A Conference lacrosse tournament championship game in May.

(Final Score: **Calvert Hall 12, McDonogh 6**)

### College Graduates

**Bryan Barry** graduated from the SUCCESS Program at UMBC on May 9. This is the first 4 year college program for students with intellectual disabilities.

**Caitlin Copeland** graduated Phi Theta Kappa from Carroll Community College in May. She earned an AA in Arts and Sciences (General Studies). She will enter the RN program at Carroll Community College in the fall.

**Emily Horn** graduated from Virginia Tech earning a B.S. in Accounting and Information Systems.

**Ruth Iradukunda**, daughter of Fr. Samuel and Rose, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Bachelors degree in Social Work. This summer, she is going to Japan to teach English. She hopes to go to graduate school next fall.

**Adelaide Kachur** graduated summa cum laude with an honors BS in Baking and Pastry Arts from Johnson and Wales University in Providence, RI. She is already employed as an assistant cake decorator at a high end cake shop, Fancy Cakes by Lesli, in Bethesda, MD. She completed an internship with Ron Ben-Israel Cakes in Manhattan in March of this year as the final leg of her schooling.

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**College Care Packages** will be mailed to college students in the fall. With the addition of students who are in the Class of 2017, approximately 24 packages will be mailed. **It is not too early** to make a cash contribution to cover the cost of postage and the purchase of items to fill the boxes. (Just the postage will cost approximately \$170.00.) Please make your check payable to "Church of the Ascension" with "College Care Package" on the memo line.

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## Thank You!



*Dear Ascension Family,  
I can't thank all of you enough for the thoughts, prayers, cards, well wishes, etc. during my recovery from unexpected surgery while vacationing in Williamsburg at the beginning of May. A special thank you to those who were able to come in and help cover the office phones and other tasks.*

*With heartfelt love and appreciation, Cheryl*

## Summer Concerts

**Doo-Wop and Barbershop: Back to the Malt Shop**

**June 3, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Old Line Statesmen Barbershop Chorus**

Carroll Community College, Scott Center

1601 Washington Rd

COST: \$15; \$12 in advance

**Westminster Ringers Spring Handbell Concert**

**June 11, 2017 @ 4:00 p.m. - 5:30p.m.**

Carroll Community College, Scott Center

1601 Washington Rd

COST: \$12; \$10 in advance

**On Friday, June 30, 7:00-8:00 p.m.**, Buck Lyon-Vaiden will play a carillon recital at McDonogh School.

Tagart Memorial Chapel

8600 McDonogh Road

Owings Mills, MD 21117

Bring a picnic, lawn chairs and friends. Buck will lead tours of the carillon after the recital.

COST: FREE

**Thursday, July 13 at 7:00 p.m.**

Summer Lights concert at Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, MD

MercyMe with Jeremy Camp, Natalie Grant, Meredith Andrews and Jimi Cravity

[951shinefm.com/concerts](http://951shinefm.com/concerts)

<u>Officers/Vestry Member</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Ministry Liaison</u>
Roger Bair III, Sr. Warden	(2019)	Finance, Discipleship Ministries
Buck Lyon-Vaiden, Jr. Warden	(2018)	Buildings & Grounds, Stewardship Ministries
Ann Cox, Treasurer		
Anne Arena, Registrar		
Nancy Barry	(2017)	Membership Ministries
Mary Forbes	(2017)	Worship Ministry
JoAnne Kreider	(2017)	Outreach Ministries
Milt Beebe	(2017)	(Fundraising & Membership Ministries)
Brenda Bornt	(2018)	Memorials
Mary Beth Francis	(2018)	Worship Ministry
Melissa Leahy	(2018)	Discipleship Ministries, Affiliated Groups
Jenny Beeker	(2019)	Outreach Ministries
Mary Lou Berg	(2019)	Membership Ministries
Judith Stainbrook	(2019)	Membership Ministries

**CLERGY & STAFF:**

The Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva, *Rector*

The Rev. Barbara Sears, *Deacon*

Cheryl Vecera, *Parish Administrator*

Mary Butler, *Director of Music Ministry*

Lynn Lyon-Vaiden, *Handbell Choir Director*

Donald Chepko, *Night Sexton*

Lynn Kirby, *Ministry Support Associate*

**Parish Administrator's Office Hours: 8:30-2:30 Mon., Tues., & Fri.  
Wed. & Thurs. - Volunteer Staff, please call ahead  
410-848-3251 or 410-876-0736**

Church Office email: churchoftheascension@gmail.com

Newsletter email: ascensioncommunication@gmail.com

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