

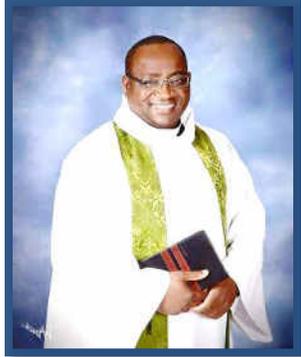
ASCENSION EXTENSION

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.*

23 North Court Street • Westminster, MD • 21157

email: churchoftheascension@gmail.com • website: ascension-westminster.com • office phone: 410-848-3251/ 410-876-0736



God is Doing a New Thing

by Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” (Isaiah 43:19)

As many of you are aware, we are currently engaged in what we have called the Strategic Visioning and Discernment process. Vestry members and Ministry Team leaders have been meeting regularly to discern what God might be calling us to be and do.

Part of that process involves listening to God’s voice through scripture and one another. For me, nothing has spoken more clearly than the verse quoted above. I hear God bidding us to take a closer look and notice the new thing he is doing. I wonder whether you notice anything springing up; any signs of what God might be doing? For me, the more closely I look, the more I see “a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” Indeed, there are many signs of the new thing God is doing in our time and place. I will highlight just a few of those signs.

Children and Youth Ministry

A year ago, many of us were wondering what would become of our children and youth ministry. With no funds to hire a staff person to lead it, it was difficult to imagine what the future held for this cherished aspect of our common life and mission. As we gathered to explore our options, a few people volunteered to do what they can to keep this important ministry going. One of them stepped up to lead the Free Children’s Summer Program. With help from many others, we had perhaps the most well attended summer programs in the past five years. Since then, we’ve had vibrant children’s worship, Sunday School, Confirmation program, etc. and a \$5,000 annual pledge to help cover a paid staff position. Most exciting perhaps is what is happening this summer. With a new Children and Youth

• • • • •
June 2018
• • • • •

IN THIS ISSUE

Rector’s Reflection.....	p.1
May Highlights.....	p.4
Worship Schedule.....	p.8
Vestry Highlights.....	p.9
Christian Education.....	p.11
Summer Program.....	p.13
Fundraisers.....	p.14
Good News!.....	p.15
Graduates.....	p.15
Prayers.....	p.18
Birthdays/Anniversaries.....	p.19
Upcoming Events.....	p.19-20

• • • • •
The Ascension Extension
is published to exchange information between the parishioners and friends of the church. Please send all contributions for the newsletter to: ascensioncommunication@gmail.com.

Please submit articles for the July 2018 issue by:
Monday, June 18 2018.

minister in place, a record registration for this year's Children Summer program, and a renewed sense of enthusiasm, we know God is truly doing a new thing through this vital ministry.

Community Engagement

As I was reflecting on our diocesan slogan (Encounter & Engage), it occurred to me that we have numerous encounters with the community around us but not enough engagement. We encounter members of our community through the various events that happen on our campus such as the AA meetings, the Country Breakfast Buffet, the 1844 Shoppe, Mistletoe Mart, etc. While we have always desired and tried to engage these people, we had not taken as a bold and deliberate step as we recently did by hiring a Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC). With this staff position, we hope to raise our engagement with the community to a much higher level. The CEC will coordinate our efforts to reach as many people as possible through modern communication platforms, more efficiently manage resources, and network with potential ministry partners in our community and beyond.

New People

Perhaps the greatest and most exciting sign of what God is doing is the people He continues to send our way. While we have not seen an influx of new people coming to our church, the few God has sent have been wonderful. Many of them are stepping forward to serve in a variety of ways. We are grateful to God for sending more workers into his harvest field; for the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few (Matthew 9:35-38).

Participating in God's Mission

With these few examples, there is no doubt that God is at work in our midst, right here at Church of the ascension. Things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, Jesus Christ our Lord. (BCP 280). Our only calling going forward is to willingly and gladly participate in what God is doing; each according to the gifts God has given us – time, talent, and treasure.

If we do so, I have every confidence that the God who began a good work in this place 174 years ago will do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us. (Philippians 1:6) To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21).

WEEKLY SCHEDULE



SUNDAY

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I (SC)
9:15 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II (HCH)
10:30 am - Lemonade Fellowship
11:15 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II (SC)

MONDAY

8:30 am - Church Office Open
12:00 pm - AA, Room 210

TUESDAY

8:30 am - Church Office Open
10:00 am - Bible Study, Guild Room
1st and 3rd Tuesday of June, then on break until September.

WEDNESDAY

9:30 am - Church Office Open
10:00 am - Pins and Needles, Room 202
12:00 pm - Soup Kitchen (FH)
12:00 pm - AA, Room 210
7:00 pm - AA, Room 210
Summer Praise Band rehearsals will be announced. Choir and Handbell Choir rehearsals will resume in September.

THURSDAY

8:30 am - Church Office Open
7:00 pm - Bible Study (see p. 12)
8:00 pm - AA (FH)

FRIDAY

10:00 am - 1844 Shoppe Open
12:00 pm - AA, Room 210
7:00 pm - NA, Room 210

SATURDAY

9:30 am - AA, Room 210
10:00 am - 1844 Shoppe Open
Opens at 8:30 am on the 1st Saturday of the month
8:00 pm - AA (FH)



SC: Stone Church HCH: Holy Cross Hall
FH: Fellowship Hall

Staff Planning Meeting

June 12



The Staff will gather on Tuesday, June 12 for the annual planning retreat. They will look at the calendar for the rest of 2018 and the first half of 2019. If you are a committee chair or group leader and know of special events that need to be on the calendar, please contact Cheryl Vecera with those dates so they can be included in the planning.

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva, Rector
Cheryl Vecera, Parish Administrator
Stephanie Schaffer, Community Engagement Coordinator
Mary Butler, Director of Music Ministry
Abigail Wright, Interim Children and Youth Minister
Lynn Lyon-Vaiden, Handbell Choir Director
Donald Chepko, Night Sexton

Parish Administrator's Office Hours:

8:30-2:30 Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday

Community Engagement Coordinator's Office Hours:

9:30-3:30 Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

Friday. – By Appointment, please call



Welcome our Community Engagement Coordinator

My name is Stephanie Schaffer and I am a student at Carroll Community College, majoring in Communications. I have experience in marketing for a non-profit, as well as assisting in the marketing of the Kids@Carroll summer children's camps held at Carroll Community College. I also have a Social Media Professional Certificate. I have volunteered since I was eleven years-old, including serving several churches. I currently lead a support group I started at Crosswind Church called Choosing Life In Christ.

I dedicated my life to the Lord at the age of fourteen, and continue to grow deeper with Jesus Christ every day. I look at this position of Community Engagement Coordinator as another way to serve the Lord and the Carroll County community. I look forward to the opportunity to get to know the members of the Church of the Ascension and work closely with you. My belief is that God directed me to this position in the church, as well as in life to benefit His people and to grow further in Him. I hope to serve faithfully and wholeheartedly and honor His precious name while serving at Church of the Ascension.



Stephanie Schaffer

Stephanie will begin working on Tuesday, June 5. She will be in the church office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. After June 5, she can be reached at ascensioncommunication@gmail.com.



HELP WANTED

We are seeking a **Nursery Attendant** to care for children ages 0-5 years during the 9:15 am Sunday worship service. This is a 2 hour (9:00 am -11:00 am) commitment on Sunday mornings and other times as needed. A suitable candidate will be a dedicated and caring person with experience caring for small children. Compensation is \$12/hr. Interested persons may send a letter of interest and résumé to rectoratacension@gmail.com.

May Highlights

The month of May was filled with some exciting highlights in our common life and mission.

Bishop Visitation and Confirmation Service

Sunday, May 6 was a joy-filled day at Ascension. Bishop Sutton was here for Visitation, Confirmation and Reception. Kaelyn Goff, Bryan Franzese, Domenic Arena, Katie Corbin, Connie Muscato and Angela Furlong were confirmed, while Mark Muscato was received. (Angela Furlong is a member of Grace Episcopal Church in New Market.)



Bishop Sutton's sermon focused on our call as Christians to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, and with all our souls, and with all our minds; and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-40). He encouraged those who, for some reason, have a hard time loving God to start with loving their neighbors; if they have a hard time loving their neighbors to start by loving themselves; and if they can't love themselves, come to Church regularly to experience love from their brothers and sisters in Christ.



Following the service, a wonderful reception was held in celebration of this special event. We thank God for our new confirmands and those who helped make their day special.

Celebration of Deacon Barbara's Ministry

In accordance with the national church's canonical requirements on retirement, Deacon Barbara completed her assignment as the deacon assigned to Church of the Ascension on Sunday, May 20. While many were sad to see her go, the celebration was filled with joy and gratitude for the privilege of having Barbara as our deacon for the past six years. As always Deacon Barbara preached a very encouraging message and wished us God's blessings as we labor on. (Her May 20 sermon is on the next page.) During the service, Fr. Samuel thanked Deacon Barbara for her ministry and presented her with a Deacon's Cross in recognition of her ministry.

Following the service, a reception was held in honor and celebration of Deacon Barbara's ministry among us.

The Senior Warden presented her with an envelope full of gift cards from Vestry members and others, while several ministry team leaders also presented her with a variety of gifts. It was a truly joyful moment.

Deacon Barbara continues to be a deacon of the Diocese and may be assigned to another parish or church agency. Ascension also remains her home church, and she will still be involved in several activities unrelated to her official capacity as a deacon. Meanwhile, Barbara and Bill are excited about their planned road trip out west during the summer. We thank God for Deacon Barbara's ministry among us; but more so for having her as a friend and sister in Christ. We wish her the very best in this next chapter of her life.



Day of Pentecost

A sermon shared by Deacon Barbara Sears on Sunday, May 20

Much has happened in the lives of Jesus' followers over the past fifty days. Just seven weeks ago, Jesus had been raised from the dead, and ever since, the disciples and the other followers had been meeting regularly for prayer, worship, and fellowship. Jesus had appeared to many of them--at the tomb; on the road to Emmaus; in the Upper Room; on the seashore. They had been with Jesus when he ascended into heaven. And they had elected Matthias to replace Judas as one of the Twelve.

And now, they were gathered together in the city of Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Pentecost. Pentecost was also called the "Feast of Weeks" because it fell seven weeks--fifty days-- after Passover. It was the time when the first fruits of the corn harvest were presented in the temple, and also the time to commemorate Moses' receiving the Law on Mt. Sinai.

There were lots of people in Jerusalem that day--Jewish people from all over the world--from places as far away as Asia, Africa, and even Europe. Most of them had been in Jerusalem for the past two months. They had come to celebrate the Passover, and had stayed so that they could be in the city for the great festival of Pentecost. It was a time of feasting and parties and renewing friendships and exploring the city.

Jesus' followers were also in Jerusalem that day. They had gathered together for Sunday worship, in remembrance of Jesus' resurrection. And they must have been wondering what they should do next--what would happen next.

Luke tells us, "And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting." Have you ever been at home with all the windows open, and all of a sudden a storm blows in, and curtains start flapping, and newspapers start flying, and you run around madly slamming the windows shut? That's the way I like to think about the wind on that day. I like to think of the wind shaking the paintings on the wall, knocking some of them off their hooks onto the floor. I like to think of John's hair being blown all around and Simon Peter grabbing his napkin as it goes flying off his lap. Of course, maybe John was bald and maybe Simon Peter just used his shirt sleeve. Nobody knows. All we know for sure is that on the Day of Pentecost there was the roaring of a mighty wind, and it didn't end there.



Listen to what happened next! Luke writes: "Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." The disciples suddenly were able to speak in other languages without an interpreter. Wouldn't that have been great in high school French?

What a day that was! Can you imagine what would happen if a roaring wind swept through our church this morning? Can you imagine what we'd think if suddenly everyone here had tongues of fire coming from their heads? On that Day of Pentecost, in the middle of the city of Jerusalem, like the roar of a mighty wind, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' followers and their lives were changed forever. The Holy Spirit of God--the Comforter, the Sustainer--came and filled their hearts and sent them forth in mission for the living God.

Isn't that what this Day of Pentecost is all about? Isn't today also all about our receiving the Holy Spirit and our being sent on a mission? At the very end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaks of this mission: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me," Jesus tells his followers. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

That sounds like a tall order, almost like a Mission Impossible! If you've ever seen the movie or the TV show, you know how it goes. Each time headquarters calls Mr. Phelps, you hear that music and they say the same words, "Your mission, if you choose to accept it ..." The assignment seems absolutely impossible, but not to worry because Mr. Phelps is a super-agent, and he comes equipped with all kinds of fantastic gadgets.

But the mission that Jesus gave to his disciples--and gives to us! -- is not just for super agents. It's not just for those with sci-fi gadgets. Our mission is given to each one of us at our baptism. And it is ours to claim as we reaffirm our faith at our Confirmation. Jesus calls each one of his followers--each one of us-- to mission and ministry in his name.

Go, Jesus says, make disciples of others. Go, Jesus says, share my love with others. Go, Jesus says, care for one another and share their needs. Just as God filled the disciples in that Upper Room on that Day of Pentecost; just as God empowered them to proclaim the good news of Christ; just as God enabled them to change the world, so God also sends us forth. And the gift of the Holy Spirit is the power of God that enables us to accomplish God's mission on earth.

God is breathing new life into us. God is giving us courage and power to share his love with others. That's what Pentecost is all about. That's what the mighty wind was signaling. The Holy Spirit has come to blow away the dust of doubt. The Holy Spirit has come to spread good news. It is the Spirit's presence in our lives that gives life to our faith and enables us to say, "I believe."

Two weeks ago, at the Confirmation service, we stood and renewed our Baptismal vows. We heard Bishop Sutton say, "Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship? Will you persevere in resisting evil? Will you proclaim by word and example the Good news? Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons? Will you strive for justice and peace?" And with the power of the Holy Spirit, we replied, "I will, with God's help." Every time we renew these vows, it is our opportunity to respond to the mission that God sends us on. This is our opportunity to respond to Jesus' call to follow.

In a world that is threatened by terrorism, in a time when people seem more and more concerned only with themselves, in a day and age that is filled with immorality and godlessness, it is so important that we know who we are. We are God's children, sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism,

and sent forth on a mission to share God's love with others. Not an impossible mission at all. Because God has sent us the Holy Spirit--which like the roar of a mighty wind, fills our hearts with grace and peace and joy. And that gives us the courage and the power to be God's people in our world today.

Your mission--if you choose to accept it--is to stay in fellowship with God's people; be faithful in prayer and worship; share God's love with those in need; and spread the Good News of Jesus wherever you are. Amen.



Well, I have some good news and some bad news.

The good news is that Bill does not have to leave Ascension. The good news is that he will continue to worship here and to work with the Buildings and Grounds Committee to keep our campus in excellent condition.

More good news:

The good news is that this congregation is absolutely packed with dedicated and capable lay people who carry on the work of administration, worship, outreach, Christian formation, and so much more.

The good news is that our priest is a man of faith and prayer.

The good news is that there is so much good news!

The bad news – the really bad news – is that everyone now knows exactly how old I am!

A lot of people have been asking “What will we ever do without Barbara?” But I think the bigger question should be, “What will we ever do without Rosemary’s brownies!”

The author of the book of Ecclesiastes wrote, “For everything there is a season.” This is true in so many areas of our lives, and it is true today. The season of my ministry as deacon at Ascension has come to an end. I will be around for social events and special occasions, but as Bill’s wife, not as deacon.

People have been asking what lies ahead for me. The Bishop, Archdeacon, and I are in conversation about my future ministry, but I won’t know anything definite until the end of the summer. Bill and I are taking a long-anticipated 7-week road trip out West, starting June 23 and we will return the middle of August. Over the next few weeks, I will be worshipping at several churches in the area, something that I have not had the opportunity to do as yet.



Thank you all so much for the very special farewell on Sunday, May 20. It was overwhelming, and I so appreciate all the good wishes, the lunch, and the gifts. That day will remain in my heart for a long time. It has been my privilege and joy to serve God and our parish over the past six years. I am thankful for the opportunities to minister with all of you and to help the parish grow in many ways, sometimes in a new and different direction, but growing nonetheless. My prayer is that you will continue to be a family of faith and a witness to the love of Jesus in our community. Thank you for all that you are.

God’s blessings to you, everyone.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Saturday, June 2

9:00 am – Altar Guild Meeting
2:00 pm - Memorial Service for Betsy Goldsborough - Stone Church
Memorial service will be followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, June 3 - TWO WORSHIP SERVICES

Second Sunday after Pentecost
Carroll Food Sunday
8:00 am - Stone Church
10:00 am – Holy Cross Hall
High School Graduate Recognition
11:30 am - Church Picnic, Front Lawn
If it rains, the picnic will be in the Fellowship Hall.
Please note that the worship service and picnic WILL NOT take place at the Carroll County Farm Museum.

Sunday, June 10

Third Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am – Stone Church
9:15 am – Holy Cross Hall
10:30 am- Lemonade Fellowship - Outreach
11:15 am – Stone Church

Sunday, June 17

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day
8:00 am – Stone Church
9:15 am – Holy Cross Hall
10:30 am- Lemonade Fellowship
11:15 am – Stone Church

Sunday, June 24

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 am – Stone Church
9:15 am – Holy Cross Hall
High School Graduate Recognition
10:30 am- Lemonade Fellowship
11:15 am – Stone Church

Sunday, July 1

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Carroll Food Sunday
8:00 am – Stone Church
9:15 am – Holy Cross Hall
10:30 am- Lemonade Fellowship
11:15 am – Stone Church

Following the June 2 memorial service, there will be a reception with light fare and deserts. **If you are planning to attend the reception PLEASE RSVP** to the church office or Sandy White.

St. James Guild would appreciate some willing hands to help before, during or after the reception. **Set Up** will begin Immediately following the June 2 Country Breakfast Buffet from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm. **Serving and/or Clean Up** will take place from 2:00 pm - 5:00/5:30 pm.

Food donations are also needed. Please contact Sandy White by phone: 443-536-5306 or email: sandysdreams@comcast.net



at Church of the Ascension after the 10:00 am Worship Service

Provided: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips and Drinks. Please bring a side dish, dessert or fried chicken to share.

Admission: \$5.00 per person or \$20 per family.



Picnic Set Up help (Tables, Chairs, etc.) will be needed on **Saturday, June 2 at 5:30 pm.** Please contact the church office if you are able to help.



Summer Lemonade Fellowship

Families as well as groups, guilds, and committees are invited to sign up to provide refreshments after a summer 9:15 am service. This year, the signup sheet includes an option to check indoors or outdoors, and we would like to offer coffee too. The signup sheet is posted on the bulletin board across from the interior Holy Cross Hall doors. The Outreach Committee has already signed up for June 10. After June 10, the remaining Sundays in June, July, and August are available. Questions?? Please contact Cheryl in the church office.

Vestry Meeting Highlights May 8, 2018



1. The vestry approved a proposal to take pictures for a new church directory in the fall of 2018. The new directory will:

- Include a detachable pdf highlighting our ministries
- Include a smartphone app which compliments the written directory, including functions of google maps, group texts, updatable directory

Additional directory features:

- The directory does not cost anything to the church
- Each parishioner receives a complimentary 8 x 10 photo, a directory, and access to the app

2. The vestry met with the two very talented finalists for the Community Engagement Coordinator position.

3. The vestry discussed development of policies for renting our space for non-church functions/events.

4. During Bishop Sutton's visit he highlighted the need to augment pastoral care efforts due to the impending departure of Deacon Barbara Sears.

OUR VESTRY		
Officers/Vestry Member	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva		Rector
Roger Bair III Senior Warden	January 2020	Finance Discipleship Ministries
Buck Lyon-Vaiden Junior Warden	January 2019	Buildings & Grounds Stewardship Ministries
Connie Muscato		Treasurer
Brenda Bornt	January 2019	Memorials
Mary Beth Francis	January 2019	Worship Ministries
Melissa Leahy	January 2019	Discipleship Ministries Affiliated Groups
Jenny Beeker	January 2020	Outreach Ministries
Mary Lou Berg	January 2020	Membership Ministries
Judith Stainbrook	January 2020	Membership Ministries
Anne Arena	January 2021	Discipleship Ministries
Donna Fine	January 2021	Worship Ministries
Greg Forster	January 2021	Membership Ministries
Pam White	January 2021	Outreach Ministries

Visioning and Strategic Planning Discernment Committee Update



Greetings from your Visioning, Discernment and Strategic Planning Team!

As you will hopefully recall, the vestry has decided to update the strategic plan prepared about 6 years ago. A Visioning, Discernment and Strategic Planning Team has been assembled to lead this process. The team includes vestry members and many ministry leaders. The team has begun the planning process by focusing on an update to our purpose, vision, mission and core values. The next step in the process will be to solicit your input on a ministry/committee and individual/family basis.

Junior Warden Report: Buildings & Grounds



by Buck Lyon-Vaiden

5/18/2018

New stair treads have been installed in the stairway leading to the second floor at the office end of the building.

The damaged gutter along the Fellowship Hall roof by the alley has been removed and the windows have been caulked to keep rainwater out. The brackets have been left in place, just in case a new gutter has to be installed. The problem is that the location of the outside sprinkler heads (required by code when the building was erected) is such that the heads are directly under the gutter. Ice from that major snowstorm in January 2016 caused the gutter to bend down and one of the heads broke, resulting in a lot of water shooting onto the alley. The damaged gutter was also resting directly on several other sprinkler heads. Additionally, this situation caused most of the rainwater to be unable to drain into the downspouts, potentially allowing it to freeze and sag even more.

Repairs and repointing have been made to some of the loose stone by the front steps to the Stone Church and to some of the surrounding flagstone walkway. Additionally, the front and side steps to the Rectory have been repointed plus a lot of the bricks at the nose of the front steps have been replaced.

Steve Vana has scraped and painted the outside front doors to the Stone Church and has begun to do the same for the sacristy door.

McCreesh Slate Company has been contracted to fix the leak in the sacristy roof which will involve removing and reinstalling slate after the metal flashing has been replaced.



The Buildings and Grounds committee purchased and planted a dogwood tree in honor of Deacon Barbara Sears' six years of dedicated service to Church of the Ascension. The tree is planted near the cemetery.

Treasurer's Report	
Year-to-Date Income and Expenses Through April 30, 2018	
Income:	
General Giving	\$ 95,328.79
Fundraisers	\$ 5,824.83
Rental	\$ 7,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 6,780.10
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 114,933.72
Expenses:	
Staff and Staff Support	\$ 49,350.79
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 35,811.37
Diocese	\$ 14,035.36
Office/Business Expenses	\$ 3,274.88
Ministries/Worship	\$ 3,047.60
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 105,520.00
NET INCOME	\$ 9,413.72

The **High School class** used a combination of readings from 2 daily devotionals one of which is called *Wired Differently* and the other was *Devo*. They enjoyed a great day in DC when they visited the Museum of the Bible. They also played bingo with the residents at Bright View. They took turns making meals for the Soup Kitchen, and mostly shared some deep thoughts, hopes, and fears about navigating our spiritual walk in our very secular world.

Thank you to Roberta Gore and Melissa Leahy for teaching this class.

The **Confirmation class** confirmed three students: Bryan Franzese, Kaelyn Goff and Domenic Arena on May 6, 2018. They had been in a two year cycle of Confirmation catechism. They used the text *My Faith, My Life* to guide their course of instruction. This text uses many references to scripture and the Book of Common Prayer requiring the Confirmands to seek out these references, enriching their overall Christian education. The Confirmands received generous support from the church to further their education: Deacon Barbara led a class on the history of the Episcopal Church in America. The Altar Guild instructed them on the duties of the Altar Guild and what it takes to prepare the altar for worship, and Deb Howard co-taught many classes and organized the Confirmands' sending Easter cards to shut ins and those on the prayer list. Deb Howard, Bryan and Domenic attended the Diocesan Convention with other youth pages.

Thank you to John Holbert and Deb Howard for teaching this class.

The **Elementary School class** read stories from the Old Testament such as Joshua, King Solomon, Samson and Delilah and Jonah. We reviewed how to pray and each child put a pebble in a jar for things for which they are thankful. They made cards at Thanksgiving for the shut ins. During the season of Advent, they read stories about the birth of Jesus. During Lent, they prepared for Easter. Following Easter, they read stories of Jesus in different roles such as teacher and healer. With each class, they had a craft to reinforce what was learned.

Thank you to Anne Arena, Carrie Goff and Barb Forbes for teaching this class.

Children's Chapel Time Highlights

Miss Betsy and Miss Merle have been blessed to have the opportunity to share God's Word with the children this year. Seeing them immerse themselves in the Bible stories, growing in their understanding of our Lord, warms our hearts.

Highlights from Miss Betsy:

Mary Beth Francis teaching us the song, "Someone Prayed For Me" and singing it to the parish.

The children who have come to Chapel 5 times in a row getting the opportunity to get a trinket from the Jesus Box.

Hearing them tell the Sunday lesson perfectly--
Book of....Chapter.....Verse....

Seeing some come with their Bible, finding the lesson of the day in it and reading the verses to us.

Highlights from Miss Merle:

Lessons are scaled/geared on a child's level specifically giving the children their time to learn, share and participate by lighting candles, singing children's songs, sharing concerns in prayer, and some bring their own Bibles.

Highlights from the children:

Olivia: I like my teachers cause they are nice to me and kind. I love singing the song about Jesus when we come to chapel and I like to dance to it.

Evie: My favorite thing is the prize chest.

Lily: My favorite part of chapel time was lighting the candles. My favorite class was this last one with the apple. (The Trinity Lesson)

Adelaide: I like when Miss Betsy opens her gold box and brings things out for us to touch and see to help us understand.

Kadaj: Miss Betsy and Miss Merle made it a lot of fun learning about God. I learned to be thankful for my blessings.

Thank you to Betsy Reinders and Merle Martin for leading Children's Chapel.

• • • • • **Vacation Time!** • • • • •

Well, the school year is coming to an end, and it is time for summer vacations. How many of you are looking forward to taking a vacation? We are too! We have worked hard this year and we need some time for fun, rest, and relaxation.

Did you know that Jesus taught his disciples that it was important for them to take a vacation? Jesus' disciples traveled from town to town telling others about God and His love for them. They traveled every day preaching, teaching, and healing the sick. They worked so hard that they often didn't even have time to stop to eat or sleep. They became very tired. When Jesus saw how tired they were, he said to them, "Come with me to a quiet place and get some rest." The Bible then says, "So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. We hope that you have a great summer vacation. **DON'T FORGET TO TAKE JESUS WITH YOU!**

Miss Betsy and Miss Merle

During the past year, the **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** finished a study of the Revelation to John. They will soon finish a study about the Parables of Jesus. They will meet on the first and third Tuesday in June and then will take a break until September.

Thursday Night Bible Study spent this year exploring the topic of Grace. They used resources by a variety of authors including Philip Yancey, James Moore, John Ortberg, and Lee Stroebel. The Tuesday and Thursday Bible Studies took a break from their regular Bible studies to do a Lenten study on Prayer.



Summer Bible Study

The **Thursday Night Bible Study** will meet on five summer Thursday nights at 7:00 pm in the Holy Cross Hall for this study:

Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World
a Small Group DVD Bible Study by Max Lucado

Please join us on **June 14, June 28, July 19, August 23 and August 30**. Please let Lynn Lyon-Vaiden know if you will attend so that your study guide can be ordered.

Summer Reading Recommendation

from Bobbie Gooding

Flunking Sainthood by Jana Riess

JoAnne Kreider gave me a copy of this book because she said the author reminded her of me. She is correct. I have a long history of trying on a variety of spiritual practices, but I never had the ingenuity to turn my experiences into a book.

Riess chronicles a yearlong experiment with twelve spiritual practices: fasting, practicing the presence of God, lectio divina, austerity, the Jesus Prayer, strict Sabbath keeping, mindful thankfulness, Benedictine hospitality, Biblical eating, praising, generosity, and spiritual reading.

She offers a frank and mostly funny account of her difficulties. Her monkey mind refuses to still for Centering Prayer, which she sub-titles, "Look - a squirrel." She discovers that efforts at austerity lead to competition about who can buy the most for the least.

On the other hand, the Jesus Prayer reminds her of her unforgiveness and leads to self-awareness. Finally, she is able to make peace with her dying father who had deserted her when she was just a child. She writes, "Here is what I learned from my father's reappearance and death: all of those unsuccessful practices, those attempts at sainthood, that felt like dismal failures at the time, actually took hold somehow."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S SUMMER ACTIVITIES AND CAMPS

The **Children's Summer Program** is quickly approaching. Of course, many hands are needed to make another successful program possible. **Time is running out** and choosing to join us as a volunteer is vital. PLEASE read about the various ways you can help and listen for God's call to join us. **TEAM WORK:** If 2 or more people sign up for a team, that means working together to prepare and fill the days through the week in case you are not available for some. Do you know 2 or 3 others that you would be interested in working with as a team? It will be fun!



Don't wait...sign up now! Sign up sheets can be found in the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall and at the back of the Stone Church or contact Betsy Reinders at r.b.reinders@comcast.net

VOLUNTEERS FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES ASSISTANTS

Can I add your name onto the master list of people who would be available and interested in assisting with a summer activity? You don't have to be available for all the activities. If your name is on the list, you will be contacted each week via e-mail/text with a list of the activities and times for the upcoming week. Respond, "I can help with...", or "not able to help with this one". No worries...come when you can! We have a good amount of children who have signed up, so we need enough adults to cover them. Please help with this!!!!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DRAMA CAMP **AUGUST 13-17 8:30am-3:00pm**

Crafts, activities and games will be provided.
You will set up and lead the activity.
Teams work together to share the responsibilities.

DRAMA TEAM

Working with Roberta Gore during drama sessions

GROUP LEADERS

Responsible for a small group of children, ushering them to each craft, activity and game.

CRAFT TEAM

To help plan, prep, and prepare the craft activities
To teach the craft activity

GAMES TEAM

To help plan, prep, prepare and lead the games

LUNCH TEAM

To help prep, prepare and serve lunches
To clean up after lunches

YOUTH ASSISTANTS

To assist with crafts, games and drama sessions

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BIBLE CAMP

'SHIPWRECKED VBS' BIBLE CAMP

JULY 9-13 9:00am-12:30pm

This is a VBS program that is pre-made. All you have to do is follow the lessons. Training will be provided.

CREW MEMBERS -You love the Lord. You love children.

You'll visit different activities with a group of 3 to 5 children. You are not in charge of preparing or teaching activities. You just get to be there and help kids enjoy activities as you shepherd the members of your Crew. Because your group is small, you'll get to know and affirm each one by asking questions, really listening, and being encouraging.

TROPICAL TREATS TEAM

Gather all the food and kitchen supplies for the yummy, creative snacks
Set up the snack preparation area
Guide the kids as crews of children make the snacks each day
Be ready to explain how the snack ties in with the day's Bible verse and Bible Point.
Clean up after snacks are served each day.

SPOTLIGHT VBS TEAM

Use your photography and computer skills to create a super cool photo presentation using the special downloads provided
Gather the props required for special photo shots
Take pictures of kids, according to script
Set up the necessary equipment to run the Spotlight VBS show

IMAGINATION STATION LEADER

Become familiar with the helpful material in the manual
Try out all the Sciency-Fun Gizmos in advance
Collect all the listed supplies for activities
Help kids connect the fun experiments to Bible truths

YOUTH ASSISTANTS

To assist station leaders To assist with snack preparation
To assist anywhere!

MUSIC TEAM

To lead the children in singing the songs provided on cd

Thank You For Supporting Our Fundraisers

Country Breakfast Buffet

June 2, 2018 7:00 - 11:00 am

COME HUNGRY LEAVE FULL

Adults \$8.00 • Ages 4-8 \$4.00

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. For additional information or to volunteer, please contact Milt Beebe.



1844 SHOPPE JULY SALE

Friday, July 6

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday, July 7

8:00 am - 3:00 pm



The 1844 Shoppe July Sale will include JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES.

Please start now to collect and donate the following jewels and accessories:

JEWELRY - all kinds. Please help us by putting your sorted donations in zip lock bags.

HANDBAGS, BELTS, SCARVES AND SHAWLS, HATS, HEADBANDS, BOOTS, AND SHOES

(in good condition only, please!)

The sale will be advertised in the newspaper, so ask your friends to donate their gently used jewelry and accessories too.

Tax slips are available for charitable donations.



Mistletoe Mart Planning is Underway

November 8, 9, 10 2018

November seems far off when summer is just getting started. But planning for the Mistletoe Mart happens during all four seasons. Our April meeting focused on volunteers who have made the last 44 years a huge success for the church and artisans. Last November was the first time

we invited non-Ascension people to help with set-up and assistance during The Mart.

I know I find it hard to believe, but we've all gotten older. Several volunteers and committee members have moved or their health limits their participation. So the focus of this meeting was to discuss the need for outside volunteers and engaging more of current members.

There are several key areas where more volunteers are needed.

Take-down on Sunday, November 4 from 12:00-4:00 pm. This initial effort requires about 18 people to dress the bulletin boards, stack chairs, move furniture, put up garland, sweep floors, prep the kitchen and much more. Men of Standard have been a big help over the last several years, but we need more assistance- especially men.

Continued Set-Up: Monday, November 5- Wednesday, November 7. The kitchen is very busy getting food prepped with New Life for Girls assisting. We continue to dress the bulletin boards, hanging wreaths and setting up our church spaces. Our Ascension bakers always come through with lots of yummy and decorative baked items.

Thursday, November 8 through Saturday, November 10. It's show time, and we need all-hands available to work the Café, Tea Room, selling tickets at the door, 1844 Shoppe and more people to be runners from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Runners are also needed in the evening from 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm at our new closing time. Many hands do make the tasks light and make it possible for the Mart to continue as 'a well-oiled machine.'

How can you help? Please consider setting aside a vacation day NOW to help anytime during The Mart - November 8, 9 and 10. Mark your calendars to help on Sunday, November 4.

Assist Monday to Wednesday with final preparations that include tea room set-up and completing decorations.

We may ask you to invite friends or co-workers to help during the Mart to fill the gaps. Last year we offered volunteers 2 free tickets for their assistance. The 13 outside volunteers enjoyed themselves, but we still need a few more.

The committee agrees that we need a **Volunteer Coordinator** – two coordinators would be best to meet work and home schedules. These folks will help actively recruit Ascension members to fill the blanks spots on the sign-up boards, and they will recruit outside volunteers as needed. Then during the Mart, they will work with volunteers to ensure they know their job by assisting new runners and redirecting them where there are gaps.

**Thank you everyone and mark your calendars for
The Mistletoe Mart – November 8, 9 & 10.**

Marcie Forster, President, The Mistletoe Mart
Marcie.forster@gmail.com

Good News!

Congratulations 2018 Graduates

Rev. Lisa Bornt received a Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary. On July 1, she will begin serving as the Pastoral Associate at Grace Memorial Church in Darlington, MD. (Harford County) From Lisa: *Thank you all for your prayers, love and support through this journey and continuing. My prayers are with you all as well.*



Lisa on graduation day with The Right Rev. Chilton Knudsen, Assistant Bishop of Maryland

Will Grabill graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Technology Entrepreneurship. He also had a great experience as a manager for the men's basketball team for all 4 years. Immediate future plans are traveling to Europe and continuing his job search.



Ryan Aler, son of Charlie Aler, graduated from Albright College with a B.S. in Accounting. He looks forward to working at Ernst & Young, studying for the CPA exam, and living in Philadelphia. Ryan played goalie for the Albright College men's lacrosse team.

He was a team captain, a defensive MVP and received an Academic Excellence award from the Albright College athletic department as well as several other academic awards.

Hannah Gore graduated from Dickinson College with a double major in English and French. In the fall, she will travel to France to teach English as part of a one-year teaching exchange. Hannah is a distance runner. She looks forward to pursuing running as she continues her journey.



Abigail Wright graduated from Messiah College with a B.S. in Music Education. She hopes to become a middle school choir/band/general music teacher. Abigail will begin working at Church of the Ascension as our Interim Children and Youth Minister on June 1.



Robbie Grabill is graduating from Francis Scott Key High School. He played soccer and lacrosse all 4 years and was a member of Ski Club. He was also in the Project Lead The Way engineering program at the Tech Center. Robbie will attend East Carolina University

in Greenville, NC in the fall and is considering a Geology major and playing club lacrosse. He looks forward to assisting with the summer programs again this year and volunteering at Union Mills Homestead.

Lucy Cincotta will graduate from Winters Mill High School where she played bass drum in the marching band. Lucy has participated in Girl Scouts since first grade and recently earned her Gold Award. For her Gold Award project, Lucy planted a Bee Garden at the Humane Society of Carroll County. She will study Mechanical Engineering at UMBC.



Nathaniel Lance will graduate from Winters Mill High School where he has been on the honor roll during all four years. He obtained his CCENT certification (Cisco Certified Entry Network Technician) at the Career and Tech Center. He earned his Varsity letter as a four-year member of the Winters Mill baseball team, playing second

base, third base and shortstop. He was nominated to participate in the MidAtlantic Diamond Classic High School All-Star Showcase tournament held in Chambersburg, PA. He continues to play outside of high school on the Finksburg 18 and under travel team, competing in tournaments in MD, NJ and PA.

He will attend Towson University to pursue his Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology with a concentration in Networking and Cyber Security.

Sean Gore will graduate from Winters Mill High School, and will attend Savannah College of Art and Design. He will study Filmmaking and Photography. Sean is a distance runner. He looks forward to continuing to pursue running as he continues his journey in college and beyond.



The online **Ghanaian Mothers' Hope** fundraiser in May was a big success. We raised \$8,360 in donations and will receive a matching gift of \$6,000. So many children and mothers will benefit from your generosity. Thanks to:

Pins & Needles	Mary Jo Boylan
Anne Arena	Elizabeth Heagy
Debbie Bargar	Lynn Kirby
Nancy Barry	Helen Lang
Lisa Bornt	Samuel Nsengiyumva

I thank everyone at Ascension for your love, prayers, encouragement and support. You will always be my family and my home.

Blessings,

Debi Frock, Ghanaian Mothers' Hope Founder

Buck Lyon-Vaiden will play a **carillon concert** at McDonogh School's Tagart Memorial Chapel on **Friday, June 29 at 7:00 pm**. Buck's concert will be the first of five consecutive Friday night concerts. The July concerts will be played by musicians from the United States and Belgium. The concerts are free of charge and open to the public. Bring a picnic and friends. The tower will be open for tours after the concerts on June 29, July 6, 13, and 20. For more information visit

www.mcdonogh.org/c/arts/carillon.

McDonogh School is located at 8600 McDonogh Road in Owings Mills.

DreamBuilders in Houston, TX

by Buck Lyon-Vaiden

May 19-25

Early on Sunday morning May 19, a group of six DreamBuilders winged their way for the first time to Houston, TX to aid in the rehabbing of housing damaged by Hurricane Harvey last summer. A mega-Methodist church in Katy, TX provided space for volunteers to stay as well as making a large kitchen available for preparing our own meals. Coinciding with our stay, was a group of 30 girls, 2 guys and 3 leaders from Stevenson University. They worked in a different house, while we were busy in 2 other houses - (1) painting and then hanging doors, installing trim, baseboards and window sills and (2) applying joint compound or "mudding" and then sanding the joints, painting doors and patching crumbling sections of sheet rock near the window sills. Each house had 2 or 3 leaders who were members of Americorps, working through the organization SBP (formerly the St. Bernard Project), begun in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Their motto is: "Shrinking time between disaster and recovery." DreamBuilders has worked with them in New Orleans, Joplin, MO and



Sea Bright, NJ. We worked alongside two other groups in the first house - 4 college students who live in the Boston area and 3 employees from the Farmers Insurance on Company. The bios of the 2 homeowners are posted on the DreamBuilders' bulletin board. The trip was very fulfilling because we were able to accomplish a lot in a short amount of time as well as meet new folks in the process.

Please pray for everyone who will serve on the DreamBuilders team in Baton Rouge, LA, June 17-23.

Thanksgivings

Dear Church of the Ascension Family:

I am sending a much overdue note of thanks for the lovely plaque that was given to us during our last church service in November 2017. Church of the Ascension will always be our home. Our children, Mark, Eric, and Anna, were all baptized and confirmed there, and our son Eric was married there.

We are finally settling in and making new friends. There is so much to do when moving to a new state. We have started to attend Christ Episcopal Church in New Bern, NC.

Our new address is:
113 Sursee Court
New Bern, NC 28562

We miss everyone!
Barb and Bob Forbes

Outreach would like to thank all of you who joined us for the Tupperware demonstration held on April 24. The items earned will benefit the **Outreach Craft and Crop Day** scheduled for **January 19, 2019** to raise funds for the numerous projects we support in the community and abroad. We earned over \$300 in free items to be used as door prizes at this event!

A big thank you also to the many folks who contributed baked goods to the bake sale held at the Country Breakfast Buffet on May 5. We raised approximately \$160. Outreach plans to hold another **bake sale** at the monthly breakfast on **Saturday, August 4** (quarterly) and welcomes all contributions of homemade goodies to sell. A **Tastefully Simple Demo** will be held on **Tuesday, October 23** in the Holy Cross Hall- please mark your calendars. Many, many thanks to such a wonderful church family that continues to support this ministry in so many ways!

Prayer List – for Various Needs and Conditions

Joe	Mandy	Bill	Kevin
Joy	LeAnne	Alice	Joyce
Milt	Jan	Dee	J. Michael
Mary Lou	John	Jason	George
Clare	Andrew	Cassie	Mary Lee
Emily	Noelle	Lynn	Anne
Rick	Frank	Barbara	Barbara
Sally	Debi	Howard	Pat
Bill	Rachel	Barbara	Nicole
Judy	Marti	David	Margaret
Meaghan	Nancy	Barbara	Dustin
Mary Jo	Bob	Sue	Peggy
Gloria	Eila Mae	Barry	Kim
Trey	Ron	Russell	Claire
Lynn	Nancy	Lisa	John
	Ben	Catherine	

Our College Students and Young Adults (Age 18-24)

Ryan	Hannah	Rachel
Avery	Luke	Ben
Jeb	Robbie	Nick
Angela	William	Kyle
CJ	Emily	Leah
Austin	Max	Tyrus
Amanda	Kyle	Christopher
Jason	Ruth	Cody
Jordan	Leah	Veronica
Ana	Andrew	Hope
Samuel	Emily	Emma
Nathan	Adelaide	Trevor
Conner	Sarah	Abigail

For the Homebound and Those in Convalescence Centers

Betty
Caroline
Delores

For the Safety of all Military Personnel Currently Serving

Pvt. Jacob

Fort Wainwright • Fairbanks, Alaska

If you have a relative in the military, please provide the church office with rank, name, and where he/she is currently serving.

Birthdays

6/1 • James
6/2 • Bob
6/2 • Donna
6/3 • Lynn
6/5 • Michael
6/7 • Trish
6/8 • Joanne
6/9 • Michael
6/10 • Andy
6/12 • Holden
6/12 • Dolores
6/13 • Bradley
6/13 • Joyce
6/14 • Meaghan
6/15 • Charlotte
6/15 • Elizabeth
6/16 • Jim
6/20 • Aiden
6/21 • Logan
6/21 • Blake
6/22 • Pam
6/23 • Jill
6/23 • Deb
6/28 • Gabriella F
6/29 • Jaclyn

Anniversaries

6/2 • Jim & Ann
6/7 • Sam & Meg
6/12 • John & Martha
6/15 • Sean & Allie
6/20 • Butch & Mary Jo
6/20 • Michael & Jessie
6/21 • Bud & Lynn
6/21 • Kevin & Jaclyn
6/22 • Chris & Kristie
6/22 • Buck & Lynn
6/24 • Jerry & Bobbie
6/25 • John & Elizabeth
6/29 • Hugh & Lisa
6/30 • Jim & Karen

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

JUNE

Altar Guild Meeting..... June 2

Country Breakfast BuffetJune 2

Annual Church Picnic.....June 3

Worship Service Times:

8:00 am (Stone Church)

10:00 am (Holy Cross Hall)

Picnic will follow the 10:00 am service.

Summer Bible Study begins.....June 14

DreamBuilders trip to Baton Rouge, LA.....June 17-23

Children's Summer Activities begin.....June 18

July Extension Information Due.....June 18

(Continued on next page)

Upcoming Events and Opportunities *(Continued)*

JULY

1844 Shoppe July Sale.....	July 6-7
Country Breakfast Buffet	July 7
Bible Camp.....	July 9-13
August Extension Information Due.....	July 16

AUGUST

Country Breakfast Buffet	August 4
Outreach Bake Table at Country Breakfast Buffet.....	August 4
Drama Camp.....	August 13-17
Summer Program Closing Ceremony and Ice Cream Social.....	August 17
September Extension Information Due.....	August 20
Blood Drive.....	August 25
Blessing of the Animals.....	August 26

Worship Service Times:

8:00 am (Stone Church)

10:00 am (Front Lawn, weather permitting)



Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street

Westminster, MD 21157