

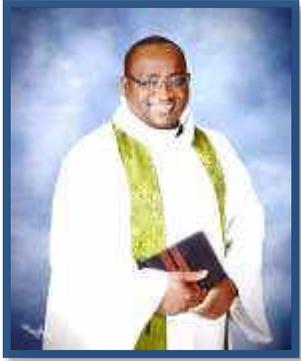
ASCENSION EXTENSION

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.*

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Prayer, Participation, & Patience

by Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva

It has been almost two years since the Holy Spirit gave me these three words as the keys to a healthy and vibrant Church of the Ascension. The more I have continued to meditate and observe how these words are manifest in the day to day activities of our church, the more I am convinced that they are indeed the keys to our current and future vitality.

But what do I mean by **prayer, participation, and patience**? I wish to share some of my thoughts on each of these words and how they can serve as the keys to a healthy and vibrant church.

Prayer: For Christians, prayer is not meant to be a utilitarian exercise (something we do to get what we want) but an expression of our relationship with the God who created the universe. It is an expression of who we are (identity) and what we are about (mission). Prayer is our way of expressing our belief that we are participants in God's mission and not our own mission. That's why St. Paul urges his readers to *"Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Note that we are not simply called to pray prayers of petition (requests) but prayers of joy and thanksgiving as well; not only when things are going well, but in all circumstances. Prayers of thanksgiving are particularly powerful because they recognize what God is already doing and believing that He can do more. No wonder Jesus always gave thanks whenever He was faced with a big challenge.

Faced with a multitude to feed with only five loaves and two fish, Jesus took *"...the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people." They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.* (Luke 9:16-17). I am convinced that many of the wonderful things we are seeing happen here at Ascension are because of the numerous prayers of thanksgiving offered by many of you. *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* (Philippians 4:6).

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July 2018
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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 August 2018 issue by:
Monday, July 16 2018.

Participation: Participation as a key to a healthy and vibrant church is based on the understanding and belief that God has invited us and others to participate in what He is doing in the world. This means that it is not just important for us to participate but to provide opportunities for others to participate as well because each of us has been given a gift according to God's purpose.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11).

One of my greatest joys is to see how many of our members participate in the work before us. I am always amazed not just by the number of people who give of their time, talent and treasure, but by the number of activities/ministries in which we participate. This is a reflection not only of our dedication to God's mission but also our willingness to provide opportunities for others, including newcomers and non-members, to participate in God's mission with us. As we more intentionally invite and encourage others to join us, the more we will be able to do for God's glory and the benefit of many in our community and beyond.

Patience: As important as prayer and participation are to a healthy and vibrant church family, patience is perhaps the greatest of them all. Patience is the awareness that even after doing our part, we are not in control of how things play out. We need to be patient with God whose ways and timing are often different from ours, and we need to be patient with one another because each one is different.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9).

St. Paul was right when he said to his readers that "... if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8:25). He also reminded them to "Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." (Ephesians 4:2).

I do believe that patience provides balance to the whole exercise. It allows the opportunity to relax, which is key to a healthy and vibrant life.

Whether you are on vacation or busy with the many programs at Ascension, may God give us the grace to **pray** without ceasing, **participate** as we are able, and, more importantly, be **patient** with God and one another. If we do so, we will be able to proclaim the loving, liberating, and life-giving message of God for many more years to come.

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
Will resume on August 21.

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. 5)
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

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 rectoratascension@gmail.com.

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Every Sunday in July

8:00 am – Stone Church

9:15 am – Holy Cross Hall

10:30 am- Lemonade Fellowship

11:15 am – Stone Church

Father Samuel is away on vacation until July 7. For pastoral concerns, please contact the office to reach Fr. Eddie Blue. Fr. Eddie will be the celebrant for our worship services on Sunday, July 1.

Praise Band Retreat: Saturday, July 14

The Praise Band asks for your prayers for discernment during its retreat which will be held on Saturday, July 14 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. The retreat will be held at the home of Mary Butler, Director of Music Ministry. Please contact Mary if you are interested in attending: mbutler500@aol.com or 410-239-6109

Children's Chapel Time

will happily continue during summer!



Miss Betsy and/or Miss Merle look forward to leading **Children's Chapel Time** during **9:15 am** worship services throughout the summer. The children will learn the Lord's Prayer, taking a phrase each Sunday, delving into its meaning understanding it on their level, and discussing how it relates to their own world. By the end of the summer, we hope the children will have a good understanding of what our Lord was saying in his prayer for us.



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

Treasurer's Report

Year-to-Date Income and Expenses Through May 31, 2018

Income:	
General Giving	\$ 119,086.04
Fundraisers	\$ 8,789.91
Rental	\$ 8,400.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 9,545.70
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 145,821.65
Expenses:	
Staff and Staff Support	\$ 61,738.55
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 42,897.90
Diocese	\$ 17,544.11
Office/Business Expenses	\$ 4,251.91
Ministries/Worship	\$ 3,635.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 130,067.87
NET INCOME	\$ 15,753.78

The **Buildings and Grounds Committee** requests donations of Carroll County Landfill coupons that come with Real Estate Tax bills during the month of July. Coupons may be turned in to the Church Office. Please make sure that the coupon is in an envelope that is addressed to "Buildings and Grounds." The coupons will be used throughout the year as the Buildings and Grounds Committee keeps our church campus tidy.



Summer Bible Study

The **Thursday Night Bible Study** will meet on three more 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 **July 19, August 23 and August 30.**

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During Lent, the Tuesday Bible Study participated in the Philip Yancey video series, "Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference." We have recently been studying the parables of Jesus, and so we decided to write our own parable based on the "mailbox scenes" which opened each session of the Lenten series.



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The Parable of the Mailbox

A group of people were gathered together to discuss the topic of prayer in their lives. One of them asked, "How can I communicate with God, and how can I be sure He hears my prayers?" In response to the question, the leader of the group told this parable:

Once upon a time, there was a king who loved his people. He cared about their individual concerns, and so he placed a special mailbox in his front yard. The king knew when there were letters in the mailbox, because there was a flag on it. The king sat by his window and watched as the people approached the mailbox from all directions, put their letters into it, and raised the flag. He noticed that there were people from different walks of life.

One day he saw a woman and child, and another day a woman with a backpack put a letter in the mailbox. Maybe she was a traveler. There was a stranger who came from a different direction. Most people put a letter in the mailbox and then went away. However, one day an older gentleman came with a bulky package, addressed to the king. He seemed to have many concerns.

Another day, a man approached the mailbox, tapping his letter against his leg. Maybe he was nervous, or maybe he was wondering if his letter was worthy enough. He did finally put it into the mailbox though.

But not everyone put a letter in the mailbox. A businessman came hesitantly to the box, not seeming sure of his intentions. He put his letter into the box, started to walk away, returned to the box, removed it, put the flag back down and left. The king noticed that man and knew he would be back.

Praying is like going to a mailbox and putting in a letter, a note, or even a package to be sent to God. Anyone – adult, child, young or old – from anywhere in the world, in any circumstance, can use the mailbox. Even like the man who did not leave a letter, God knows our hearts and will be ready when we finally put our letter into the mailbox. God always gets His mail, and He always writes back.

Tuesday Bible Study will resume at the end of the summer.

Thank You For Supporting Our Fundraisers

Country Breakfast Buffet

July 7, 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.

Gift Card order forms are due on the second Sunday of each month.

1844 SHOPPE JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES SALE

Friday, July 6
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Saturday, July 7
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Please 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, WALLETS, NECKTIES
(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.

Good News!

Congratulations 2018 Graduates

James Bath is one of more than 100 Army officers commissioned in The Citadel Class of 2018. Cadets joining the Army upon graduation at The Citadel took their commissioning oath on May 4, and were officially sworn in as officers during the South Carolina Corps of Cadets commencement ceremony on May 5. James earned a place on the Dean's List during 3 semesters at The Citadel. James received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering. He is currently participating in a Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Lee, VA (through September 2018). His first assignment will be as a Cavalry Ordinance Officer at Fort Hood, TX beginning in October 2018.

Jordan Considine graduated from Towson University with a B.S. in Athletic Training and minor in Deaf Studies. She also passed her Maryland State Boards for Athletic Training. She will attend Shenandoah University in the fall where she will earn her Doctorate in Physical Therapy.





Our youth recently spent a fun afternoon at Escape Adventures in Finksburg where they conquered the most difficult level. Later this summer, there will be an outing to a Drive-In movie theater in Dillsburg, PA. Details will soon be shared. Many thanks to youth advisors Kevin and Jackie Weschler, as well as assistant youth advisor Luke Gore.

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The Amazing Journey of a Simple Shoebox Gift Begins with You and Results in Evangelism, Discipleship, and Multiplication

Packing

From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Parents often use the project to teach their kids about giving. Year-round volunteers support these efforts across the country.

Collecting

Churches and groups of all size collect boxes from their communities for drop off the third week of November every year.

Shipping

Thousands of volunteers serve annually inspecting and preparing shoeboxes for international shipping. Every hour work stops for a few minutes to pray for the children who will receive the boxes.

Worldwide Distribution

Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children.

Outreach Events

Pastors around the world host shoebox distributions in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas.

Discipleship & Multiplication

Boys and girls grow in Christ and share with friends and family. This often brings parents, siblings, and friends to accept Christ and become active members in the local church. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed. Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children.

It All Starts With You!

Join what God's doing - join with us in September and October as Ascension packs shoeboxes. Look for more details in August.



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Episcopal Diocese Night at Camden Yards

Friday, July 27 at 7:05 pm Baltimore Orioles vs. Tampa Bay Rays
Friday Fireworks (*Postgame, All Fans*)

Upper Reserve Sections 312-322: \$12*

**There is an additional 10% service charge per ticket.*

For any questions or accessible seating, please call 888.848.BIRD (2473) and ask for the Ticket Services team.

To purchase tickets please click on this link:
<http://www.orioles.com/tix/episcopaldioceses>

Because of my work with Carroll Hospice, I, Jill Horn, have been made aware by our Volunteer Coordinator that we need volunteers for our "We Honor Veterans" program. This is a nationally recognized program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Program Organization and is in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Carroll Hospice and our community.

If you are a veteran and are interested in spending a little time with our patients who are veterans to present them with a certificate, pin and salute for their service, please contact me so I can share more details with you.

This has been a very successful and meaningful experience for our volunteers who do this and even more so for our veteran patients and their families. Sometimes our families hear stories from their loved one about their time in the service that they have never heard before due to the conversation our volunteer has with the patient. I am so proud of our program, which is a Level 4 partner - the highest in the "We Honor Veterans" program!

For more information, please contact Jill Horn by calling: 410-259-0504 or emailing: jillhorn63@gmail.com.

Thanksgivings

St. James Guild would like to thank everyone who had any part in helping us with the memorial service reception for Betsy Goldsborough on Saturday, June 2. The weekend was certainly a challenge for all of us with the large number of events taking place at Ascension.

If it was making something, helping with set up, serving, or clean up, taking tables and chairs from up to down to up again, or whatever else you did: THANK YOU EVERYONE!!!!!! It was a true show of love to make all that had to happen, HAPPEN on Saturday and Sunday. God's love truly does show through the people of Ascension.

The 60 plus family and friends who came together from California, Michigan, Vermont and Maryland to celebrate Betsy's life could not say enough about how much they appreciated the time they were able to share in fellowship and sharing at the reception and how lovely it was. St. James Guild could not do what it does for families who are grieving the loss of a family member if it weren't for all of you.

It is what you all do so willingly that makes Ascension what it is.

Thank you and Blessings.
St. James Guild



July Prayer Requests

For the work of our Visioning and Strategic Planning Discernment Committee

For our search for a Nursery Attendant

For our Free Summer Programs for Children and Bible Camp (July 9-13)

For the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, July 5-13, 2018, in Austin, Texas

Prayers for Comfort

Alice Immler passed away on Wednesday evening, June 20 at the age of 101. Funeral arrangements will be shared after Fr. Samuel returns from vacation.

Rest eternal grant to your servant, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon her. May her soul, with all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Prayer List – for Various Needs and Conditions

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

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

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

For the Homebound and Those in Convalescence Centers

Betty
Caroline
Dolores

For the Safety of all Military Personnel Currently Serving

Pvt. Jacob
Fort Wainwright • Fairbanks, AL
2nd Lt. James • Fort Lee, VA

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

Birthdays

7/1 • Ruth
7/2 • LaRue
7/3 • Jordan
7/3 • Amy
7/3 • Russell
7/6 • Betty
7/6 • John
7/8 • Barbara
7/8 • Lisa
7/9 • Scott
7/11 • Avery
7/11 • Ann
7/13 • Bryan
7/15 • Virginia

7/15 • Austin
7/15 • Kathy
7/17 • Ray
7/18 • Rick
7/19 • Rose
7/22 • Kyle
7/22 • Tanner
7/23 • Barbara
7/26 • Carol
7/27 • Jason
7/27 • Patti
7/29 • Win
7/30 • Joyce
7/30 • Mary

Anniversaries

7/8 • Frank & Cheryl
7/14 • Bob & Barbara
7/17 • Dennis & Trish
7/22 • Joe & Anne
7/22 • David & Shawna
7/28 • Lew & Mary
7/30 • Ray & Dorothy

Church of the Ascension is in need of a 15 to 16 foot long trailer and a truck or tractor that can pull the trailer during the Fall Fest Parade on Thursday, September 27 at 7:00 pm. If you are willing to donate, please contact Cheryl at churchoftheascension@gmail.com.

Summer Children's Program Thank you for your support!



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

JULY

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

AUGUST

- Country Breakfast BuffetAugust 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**