



Ascension Extension

Church of the Ascension

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Providing Opportunities to Connect, Grow and Serve in the name of Christ.

Ascension is called to be a Family of Faith so reflecting the life of Christ that we draw all people to Him.

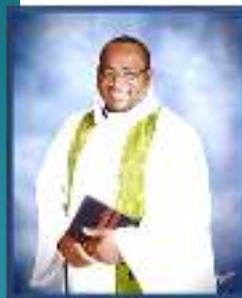
December 2018

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Advent: A Season of Appreciation and Anticipation

By Fr. Samuel Nsengiyumva



Welcome to the season of Advent! Advent, as I have come to understand it, is a time to appreciate what God has done, and a time to anticipate what God will do in Christ Jesus. During Advent, we look back with appreciation for the first coming of Christ to inaugurate God's Kingdom and look forward with anticipation of Christ's second coming to fulfill God's Kingdom. On a personal level, it is a time to look back with appreciation for what

God has done in our lives and look forward in anticipation of what God will do for us. Advent is a season of appreciation and anticipation. In the spirit of Advent, we at Ascension have good reasons to appreciate what the Lord has done and anticipate what the Lord will do. One only needs to look around and see what the Lord has done for us as a Church during the past year. More exciting however, are the things we believe God will do in the days, months, and years to come. We believe the best is yet to come as we continue living into our vision of a church where more and more people have opportunities to Connect with God and one another, Grow in love and understanding, and serve God's people, both near and far.

As we wait for details to emerge, the spirit of Advent is calling to us to prepare. The words of the prophet Isaiah, as quoted by St. Luke, are particularly compelling:

Continued on pg. 2.

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 January 2019 issue by: **Wednesday, December 19, 2018.**

Continued from pg. 1...

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for
him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill
made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways
smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.’ (Luke 3:4-6).

Preparing the way for the Lord begins with believing that God
indeed has a good plan for us individually, and together as a
church family. God’s plan for us is to prosper us and not to harm
us, to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

The next step in preparing the way for the Lord is to participate in
what God is already doing. One way to participate in what God is
doing at Ascension is to invite someone to church during the Ad-
vent and Christmas seasons. Special opportunities for invitation
include, but are not limited to, the Taizé Prayer Service on Sun-
day, December 2, 6:00 pm; the Messiah Sing Along on Saturday,
December 8, 3:00 pm; the Christmas Play on Sunday, December
9, 11:15 am; the Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, De-
cember 16, 10:00 am; the Christmas Eve services on December
24, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, and 10:00 pm; and the Christmas Day
service on December 25, 11:15 am.

Beyond invitation, we also need to prepare by thinking about
how we will best offer hospitality to those who will be joining us
for these special events. It is my hope that when new people join
us for these special events, we will greet them with joy and help
them navigate our complex campus and happenings. Other ways
of participating in what God is doing during this season may in-
clude singing or reading for the Advent Lessons and Carols ser-
vice, decorating our buildings, or contributing to the Angel Tree
Outreach project (see pg. 14). There are many different ways to
prepare the way for the Lord to accomplish his purposes in us
and through us. Like other seasons of the church calendar, the
spirit of Advent is not and should not be limited to the four weeks
of the Advent season. Christians should always be Advent peo-
ple – always hoping, always anticipating, and always preparing
for what God will do. May this Advent season truly be for us a
season of appreciation, preparation, and anticipation for God’s
appearing in our lives; this Christmas, the New Year, and be-
yond.

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite I (SC)
9:15 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II (HCH)
10:45 am - Sunday School
11:15 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite II (SC)
11:30 am - Children’s Choir (Chapel)

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)

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
6:30 pm - Handbell Choir (HCH)
7:00 pm - AA, Room 210
7:30 pm - Choir (Choir Room)
7:30 pm - Praise Band (HCH)

THURSDAY

8:30 am - Church Office Open
7:00 pm – Bible Study (HCH)
8:00 pm - AA (FH)

FRIDAY

10:00 am - 1844 Shoppe Open
10:30 am - Church Office 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

Worship

December Worship Schedule

December 2 First Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. H.E. Rite I (Stone Church)
9:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Holy Cross Hall)
11:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Stone Church)
High Sung Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Christmas Play Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service (Stone Church)

December 8 (Saturday) 3:00 p.m. Handel's Messiah Sing-Along (Holy Cross Hall)

December 9 Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. H.E. Rite I (Stone Church)
9:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Holy Cross Hall)
11:15 a.m. Christmas Play (Holy Cross Hall)
11:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Stone Church)
12:00 pm Pizza Lunch and Family Ornament Activity

December 15 (Saturday) 11:00 am Choir Rehearsal (Holy Cross Hall)

December 16 Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. H.E. Rite I (Stone Church)
10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols
H.E. Rite II (Holy Cross Hall)
11:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Stone Church)
12:00 pm Potluck Lunch

December 22 (Saturday) 10:00 am Cookie Walk (Fellowship Hall)

December 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. H.E. Rite I (Stone Church)
9:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Holy Cross Hall)
10:45 a.m. No Christian Formation
11:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Stone Church)

December 24 (Monday) Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. H.E. Rite II (Holy Cross Hall)
Praise Band
Children's Choir
7:30 p.m. H.E. Rite II (Holy Cross Hall)
Ascension Choir, Handbell Choir
10:00 p.m. H.E. Rite II (Stone Church)
Ascension Choir

December 25 (Tuesday) Christmas Day

11:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Stone Church)

December 26 (Wednesday) No Handbell Choir or Choir Rehearsal

December 30 First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 a.m. H.E. Rite I (Stone Church)
9:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Holy Cross Hall)
10:45 a.m. No Christian Formation
11:15 a.m. H.E. Rite II (Stone Church)

December 31 (Monday) New Year's Eve

6:00 pm Watch Night Prayer Service (Stone Church)

Watch Night Prayer Service

A Watch Night Prayer Service with Communion in the Stone Church will be held on December 31 at 6:00 pm. We will give thanks for 2018 and ask God's blessing on 2019. There is no better way to celebrate the New Year than with God, Family and Friends!



Worship

ADVENT CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 Worship</p> <p>Advent 1</p> <p>Pay attention during worship. What part of the gathering fills your heart?</p>	<p>3 Go</p> <p>Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously, or who has a different perspective than you.</p>	<p>4 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:26-38. What is God calling you to say "yes" to?</p>	<p>5 Pray</p> <p>Set a timer for five minutes. Silently repeat this prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus."</p>	<p>6 Bless</p> <p>In the spirit of St. Nicholas, practice a random act of kindness today.</p>	<p>7 Turn</p> <p>Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends?</p>	<p>8 Rest</p> <p>Do something that replenishes your spirit.</p>
<p>9 Worship</p> <p>Advent 2</p> <p>What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with someone close to you.</p>	<p>10 Go</p> <p>Choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play today. Who or what did you encounter differently?</p>	<p>11 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:39-56. Tell a friend or family member about your practice of the Way of Love and invite them to join you.</p>	<p>12 Pray</p> <p>Join a family member or friend for 10 minutes for prayer, either in person or by phone.</p>	<p>13 Bless</p> <p>Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Tell them what they mean to you. Ask how you can pray for them.</p>	<p>14 Turn</p> <p>Turn away from the business of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.</p>	<p>15 Rest</p> <p>On this day of rest, pause and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love.</p>
<p>16 Worship</p> <p>Advent 3</p> <p>Pray for each person as they receive communion. Imagine who you would like to see at church next week. Invite them to church today.</p>	<p>17 Go</p> <p>Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.</p>	<p>18 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:57-80. Name three ways your faith community challenges you to practice the Way of Love. Share your list with a member of your community.</p>	<p>19 Pray</p> <p>Gather with your faith community for a short time of prayer today.</p>	<p>20 Bless</p> <p>Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Then share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.</p>	<p>21 Turn</p> <p>Read the Confession (BCP 352) in an unfamiliar location - in the park, at work, at school, or on the bus. What does the prayer inspire you to turn from in that location? What does it inspire you to turn toward?</p>	<p>22 Rest</p> <p>How can you or your community open yourselves to people in need of rest and relief from overwork? From oppression? From violence?</p>
<p>23 Worship</p> <p>Advent 4</p> <p>Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you to go out into the world to witness to God's love.</p>	<p>24 Go</p> <p>Notice and pray for all those who, like Mary and Joseph, are in need of shelter.</p>	<p>25 Learn</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body and spirit.</p>				

Worship

Advent Taizé Prayer Service December 2 at 6:00 pm

By preparing us for Christmas, Advent prepares us to welcome Christ. In the life of the people of Israel, God prepared the coming of Christ. The prophets announced his coming; John the Baptist opened the way. Advent reminds us of the longing of God's poor: Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, Anna, Simeon. Advent is also a time of waiting and longing for Christ's presence in us, and through us, the world. We are called to bear Christ, to live Christ for others. This longing is made up of simplicity, the spirit of childhood and joy.

On the first Sunday of Advent at 6:00 pm, everyone is welcome to attend a contemplative prayer service that will include music from the Taizé Community.

Handel's Messiah Sing-a-Long December 8 at 3:00 pm

Church of the Ascension will host a Handel's Messiah Sing-Along beginning at 3:00 pm in the Holy Cross Hall. We will sing the choruses from Handel's Messiah. Everyone is asked to bring their music scores if you have one, but a few copies are available. A free-will offering will benefit Shepherd's Staff which "exists to Reach Out to those in crisis, to Aid those in need, to Support those in trouble, to Seek Out and Encourage pathways to self-sufficiency, and to Be a Witness for Christ in our community." RSVP to Mary Butler (410-239-6109) or the church of-
fice: churchoftheascension@gmail.com or (410) 848-3251.

Christmas Play, Pizza, and Family Ornament Activity December 9 at 11:15 am

The Annual Christmas Play, "Behind the Pageant," will be performed by actors of all ages at 11:15 am on Sunday, December 9 in the Holy Cross Hall. For additional information, please contact play director Roberta Gore (ncdramadamsel@gmail.com).

Following the Play, there will be a Pizza Lunch, then a Family Ornament Activity. Please RSVP to Abigail Wright or the office so they will know how many pizzas to order. Please go to the following website to register for the ornament activity:

<https://occ.sn/ILgSCGqt>



Children and Youth

Children's Chapel News

A Christmas Message from Miss Betsey and Miss Merle



Christmas is so exciting that we just want to 'pop'! But if we want to really understand Christmas, we have to think a little bit. In church we will hear the story of the day Jesus was born. We call that day Christmas.

Remember what the shepherds and the sheep saw that night when they were out in the fields? They saw a huge, huge bunch of angels all shining with light. They were singing—loud. How would you feel if you saw something like that? I think I might just be so surprised that I couldn't say a thing! I'd just stand there with my mouth open!

But the angels were not the most important thing. They got the shepherds' attention, but something more important than angels was happening. The important thing was what the angels said. What the angels said is the reason that Christmas is a happy time; a celebration.

Let me put into different words what the angels said. First they said that God is wonderful! Now that is a good thing to know. You never have to be afraid of God. God is not angry at you—God is never angry at children. God is wonderful. God's love for you is greater than anything. That's a good message to get!

The other thing the angels said was, God is coming to show everyone who wants to know, how to live in peace. Sometimes we call Jesus "the Prince of Peace" because Jesus helps us live peacefully.

Do you know how to live in peace? Jesus helps us forgive our friends when they mess up and hurt our feelings. That brings peace. Jesus shows us that we must accept all kinds of people of any color or any country and learn to be friends. Making friends brings peace. Jesus shows us how to help people when they are having a hard time. Jesus shows us many, many things. And when we live those things, when we watch Jesus and the way Jesus treats people, we are learning to live in peace.

Wow! That's something everybody in the world needs to know.

So, go ahead and be excited about Christmas. And remember the shepherds and the angels. But most of all, remember what the angels said: God is wonderful, and Jesus helps us live in peace.

And that is why Christmas is a happy time!

Merry Christmas to all our children and their families! Our holiday wish for you is that, as your relationship with God builds and strengthens, you will find your life full of joy and peace!

Stewardship



Updates

Our Transforming Generosity campaign was concluded on Consecration Sunday, November 18. Fr. Samuel began by reviewing the definition of the term "Consecration" as "a solemn commitment of your life to some cherished purpose" or "the act of dedicating something to God, sanctifying it and making it holy." He stated that as Christians, we are first and foremost called to consecrate our lives to God and by implication dedicate a portion of our time, talent, and treasure toward God's mission in the world. Fr. Samuel praised God for the many ways we at Ascension consecrate ourselves first and then give so much of our time, talent, and treasure for the glory of God and the benefit of his people. He cited several examples such as the recent repainting and refurbishing of the Sunday school classrooms and hallways, the Mistletoe Mart, etc.

Fr. Samuel turned his focus to financial generosity and shared the reasons for giving to the church. Citing certain scriptures passages, he said that we give to the church:

- in obedience to God's Word (*Deuteronomy 14:22-29*)
- as a token of our gratitude (*Psalms 50:23*)
- as an expression of our commitment to God's mission through Ascension (*2 Chronicles 31*), and
- to open doors for more of God's blessings (*Proverbs 11:25; Malachi 3:10*).

He also reiterated that biblical giving is to be done willingly (*2 Corinthians 9:5-7*), proportionally (*Deuteronomy 16:17; 2 Corinthians 8:11-12*), and joyfully (*1 Chronicles 29:9*).

Following Fr. Samuel's reflections, those present were given the opportunity to indicate how much of their anticipated financial blessings they intend to give to God's mission at Ascension for the year 2019; by prayerfully filling out an Estimate of Giving Card and bringing it forward to the Altar. It was a solemn exercise indeed.

In celebration of our generosity, a catered brunch was served at 9:00am (for those who attended the 8:00am service) and 10:30am for those who attended the 9:15am and 11:15am services.

Based on the numbers we have, about 67% of those expected to pledge have already filled out and turned in their pledges for 2019. Of the total pledges received so far, 4 are new pledges. 50.8% of the continuing pledgers increased their pledge compared to last year.

If you have not yet filled out an Estimate of Giving Card, please do so as soon as possible. If you are not able to estimate how much you will give for the coming year, please mark the line on the card that states so. We rely on those numbers to create our budget.

Once again we are grateful for your generosity of time, talent, and treasure that enables us to continue doing God's work here at Ascension and beyond. Because of your transformed generosity, God's people are blessed, and God's name is glorified.

2019 Pledges as of November 26, 2018		
General Fund (4 new pledges, 29 increased pledges)	- 61 total pledges	= <u>\$180,074</u>
Outreach Fund	- 20 pledges	= <u>\$11,126</u>
Building Maintenance Fund	- 16 pledges	= <u>\$10,006</u>

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God."
(*2 Corinthians 9:11-12*)

Stewardship

Treasurer's Report Year-to-Date Income and Expenses through October 31, 2018

Income:	
General Giving	\$ 234,744.23
Fundraisers	\$ 18,231.82
Rental	\$ 15,840.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 15,430.40
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 284,246.45
Expenses:	
Staff and Staff Support	\$ 134,170.28
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 91,525.66
Diocese	\$ 35,087.86
Office/Business Expenses	\$ 12,099.91
Ministries/Worship	\$ 6,299.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 279,182.75
NET INCOME	\$ 5,063.70

Quilt Raffle

Although the Grandma's Nine Patch Queen Size Quilt is still in progress, Pins and Needles is selling raffle tickets for this extraordinary quilt. Raffle tickets are 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00. The drawing will be on May 4, 2019. Please contact the church office (410-848-3251) or Donna Bair (410-596-6506) to purchase tickets.



1844 Shoppe News

The 1844 Shoppe will be closed on December 21 and 22, as well as December 28 and 29. The Shoppe will reopen the weekend after January 1, with a Christmas Clearance Sale on **January 5**.
8:30 am—3:00 pm.

1844 Shoppe Winter Hours

Friday and Saturday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Country Breakfast Buffet

December 1, 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.

Stewardship



Mistletoe Mart

A Thank You From Marcie Forster

A big hug of thanks to everyone who pitched in whether for 2 hours or 60 hours to ensure our 45th Mistletoe Mart was another huge success. When I looked down the hallways and into the café, there were smiles from families and friends enjoying another year at “The Mart.” We are a big deal in Carroll County! Having sufficient volunteers was our most significant concern. But again, God provided! He sent us all the volunteers we needed to earn the thanks of the artisans who sang their praises.

Planning for the 46th Mistletoe Mart began on Wednesday, November 28. Believe it or not, after 45 years we can still find a few new ways to run more efficiently. Please send your thoughts to Marcie at marcie.forster@gmail.com.

A Thank You From Helen Lang

The Mistletoe Mart Kitchen Crew thanks all of the wonderful kitchen volunteers! We had a fantastic week and were blessed with many new volunteers. While the kitchen experience is fresh in your minds, we have a follow up request. We would appreciate any constructive thoughts about how to improve the performance of the kitchen operation. Also, we are looking for help in planning ahead for 2019. Please send any comments or offers to help in the planning for the kitchen next year to the church office or to Helen Lang at h.lang@stuartkitchens.com.

Discipleship

“Miracles of Jesus”

Tuesday Bible Study will be starting a new study about the "Miracles of Jesus". In December we will meet on Tuesday mornings 12/4 and 12/18; in January we will meet on 1/15 and 1/22. All studies start at 10:00 am. Please come and join us for a comparison of the many miracles Jesus performed during His ministry.



Advent: A Season of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace

By Stephanie Schaffer

The Advent season is here and Church of the Ascension is filled with the hustle and bustle of Christmas activities. I just want to remind everyone as we rush to shop for gifts for family and friends, go to all the holiday get-togethers and parities, and most importantly serve God in any capacity at the church to remember the meaning of the four candles of Advent. Let us bring **Hope** to the world with our encouragement, show **Love** to those who do not normally experience it, live in Christ and in the moment to experience true **Joy**, and most importantly, value the **Peace** that surpasses all understanding that Christ offers us on a daily basis. Let us slow down this season instead of rush, and soak in the Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace of the true reason of the season.

Thursday Night Bible Study: The Rock, The Road and The Rabbi

Kathie Lee Gifford will take us on a journey through the Jewish roots of Jesus and the ancient paths of Israel in this 6-session DVD study. We will learn more about the Rock (Jesus Christ), explore the Road (Israel), and dig deeper into the Bible with the Rabbi (God's Word). This study will begin on **Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 pm** in the Holy Cross Hall. Please let Lynn Lyon-Vaiden know if you want to attend.

Session 1: (January 10) : Bethlehem: Where It All Began

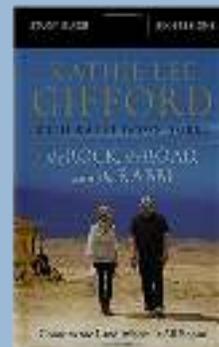
Session 2: Nazareth: The Early Years

Session 3: Capernaum: Ministry Headquarters

Session 4: Galilee: Ministry Grounds

Session 5: Mount of Olives: The Triumphal Entry

Session 6: Jerusalem: Crucifixion and Resurrection



Discipleship

News and Inspiration from Forward Movement

Dear friends in Christ,

Advent is nearly upon us. I love this season and its invitation to prepare our hearts to meet Jesus. Mostly, Advent is about getting ready for our celebration of Christmas. That's certainly one way we meet Jesus. But Advent is also about preparing to meet Jesus when he comes again in glory.

The scriptures offer us dire warnings. The Gospel on the First Sunday of Advent tells us to "Be on guard" and to "Be alert at all times." The idea is that we're meant to be ready for Jesus, who might come to judge us at a moment's notice. What will he find us doing on that judgement day?

When desktop computers were new, some games used to have a built-on "the boss is here" feature. You could be playing a game, press a few keys, and something that looks like a spreadsheet would pop up on the screen. You wouldn't want the boss to catch you playing a game at work!

I'm not sure that Advent is meant to put us in a "the boss is here" mode. We don't need fake screens, because Jesus already knows what's in our hearts. The spreadsheet wouldn't fool him. I think Advent is meant to invite us to prepare for Jesus by looking for him and by serving him. Surely, we ought to be concerned about the day of judgement, but we can be just as concerned about today.

On my way to work, I pass people on the street who have no homes. How do I serve Christ in them? The scriptures testify to God's love, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Am I looking for Christ in the scriptures? The church offers the sacraments, and its members are the body of Christ. Am I tuned to be attentive to Christ in the church and to honor him in the sacraments?

There are lots of ways to make our hearts ready for Jesus Christ this Advent. Use this season well.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Yours faithfully,

Scott Gunn
Executive Director

Membership

A Thank You From the White Family

We are so blessed to have the best church family!! What an outpouring of love on the work day at our farm. So much work was accomplished but more than that our hearts were absolutely exploding with gratitude for the time spent helping us. We know everyone has very busy schedules but you chose to spend a day helping us and we greatly appreciated it. We would never be able to express what it means to us to have such special people in our lives. There were also other friends and family there that day. Every one of them came to us and told us how impressed they were with our church members. Not only about the loving and giving spirit of everyone but also the uniqueness of the group. All ages were there helping in different ways, even entire families. Our neighbor who attends another church was blown away by that. We truly are part of a special place here at Ascension. Thank you to everyone who has been praying for us and those we have relied on for other helpful expertise as well. Charlie is scheduled to have knee surgery on the 29th of November and his goal is to walk into Christmas Eve services. One of our favorite verses is Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Ascension shows the love of God through our loving acts. It has always felt like home here.

Charlie, Pam, Sarah and Sydney White

A Thank You from John Lowe's Daughters

Dear Father Samuel,

On this, the birthdate of our father, John J. Lowe, my sister Holly and I wanted to send our deep gratitude for graciously inviting us into your church home to celebrate his life. It has been a few years since we had been to Ascension, but the memories of our time there when we lived in Westminster are joyful and filled with love. Thank you for carrying on the legacy of love and welcome!

Julie & Holly

College Care Package Report

College Care Packages were mailed to over 20 college students in late November. Thank you to everyone who gave contributions to pay for the postage and the snacks and school supplies that were sent. Additional contributions are welcome.



Membership

175th Anniversary Committee Needed

2019 will be the 175th Anniversary of Ascension's founding as a parish. We are forming a committee to explore ways by which we may commemorate this important milestone. If you enjoy planning and organizing special events, please prayerfully consider being part of this committee. If you are interested, please talk to Fr. Samuel or Greg Forster.



Vestry Nominations

As we approach our Annual Parish Meeting in January 2019, it is time to begin the nomination of those who will be elected to succeed the Vestry members whose terms will end in January. Please prayerfully consider whether the Lord may be calling you to serve as a Vestry member and let any of the following people know: Melissa Leahy, Buck Lyon-Vaiden, Brenda Bornt, or Mary Beth Francis.

Birthdays

12/1	Ronald Cox	12/22	Andrew Jeffers
12//2	Dorothy Carpenter	12/23	Nicholas Earp
12/3	Emily Horn	12/26	Milt Beebe
12/6	Ellen Anderson	12/26	David Bez
12/6	Wilson Ramsey	12/28	Mary Lou Berg
12/8	Dee Kerger	12/28	Cheryl Vecera
12/11	Conner Goff	12/29	Ken Howard
12/13	Marcie Forster		
12/17	Janice Hobart		
12/18	Michael Earp		
12/19	Sean Considine		

Anniversaries

12/13	Roger & Audrey Bair
12/15	Titus & Amy Mataban
12/23	Don & Janice Hobart
12/23	Barry & Wendy Messersmith
12/30	Raymond & Clare Blair
12/30	Mike & Katie Corbin

Ascension News

Angel Tree

Outreach has an Angel Tree set up in the hallway near the entrance to the Holy Cross Hall. We are asking for specific donations, which can be found on the Angel Tree, for five families in need. Please bring in your donations by December 16.



New Look for Sunday School Rooms

The Sunday School rooms have a new look thanks to Jackie, Kevin, Betsy, Katie and all those who designed, painted, and furnished the rooms. Please take some time to visit and see the transformation made possible by their generosity of time, talent, and treasure.



Cookie Walk

There will be a Cookie Walk on December 22, 2018 at 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. Hand select home-made cookies and treats and purchase goodies by the pound. Proceeds will benefit youth activities at Church of the Ascension.

We are looking for donations of double batches of 5 dozen cookies to be brought in starting on Tuesday, December 18. Include your name and a list of ingredients. Please no chocolate chip cookies.



Beyond Ascension

**Diocesan Men's Retreat
at the Claggett Center
"Using God's Gift All Week
Long"**



February 1, 2019 (5:00 pm) -
February 3, 2019 (11:30 am)

This year's Men's Retreat features keynote speaker the Rev. Tim Grayson from Church of the Messiah in Baltimore. The retreat will include a healing service as well as other worship opportunities enlivened by members of the 3rd Sunday Band at St. Margaret's Church in Annapolis. We look forward to renewing old relationships and establishing new ones, especially important in today's divided world.

Retreat costs include lodging, meals and materials:

Inn single: \$250

Inn Double (room mate required, double occupancy): \$225

Saturday (2 meals and materials only): \$62

Register online: <https://www.claggettcenter.org/events/31>

**Christmas Carillon Concert
Sunday, December 2
3:00 pm
McDonogh School, Owings Mills**



Buck Lyon-Vaiden will play a Christmas Carillon Concert of traditional and popular music. If you prefer to listen to the concert from your warm, comfortable home, the concert can be viewed and heard live online via this link: www.mcdonogh.org/carillon. (Please note that sometimes the live-streaming works better on an iPad or smartphone rather than on a computer.)

Kokopelli Concert

There will be a Kokopelli Concert at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church December 2nd at 1:45 pm. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged. The contact information for Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is:

38 W. Baltimore Street
Taneytown, MD
410-756-6626
www.trinitytaneytown.org

Upcoming Events

December Events

Country Breakfast Buffet	December 1
Taize Service	December 2
Messiah Sing-a-long	December 8
Christmas Play	December 9
Lessons & Carols	December 16
Cookie Walk	December 22
Christmas Eve Services	December 24
Christmas Day Service	December 25
Watch Night Prayer Service	December 31

January Events

Country Breakfast Buffet	January 5
1844 Shoppe Clearance Sale	January 5
St Martha's Guild Meeting	January 7
Craft & Crop Day	January 19
New Life For Girls Visitation	January 20
Annual Meeting	January 27

Inclement Weather Policy

Monday-Friday: If Carroll County Public Schools are closed, or if afternoon and evening activities are cancelled within the school system, the church buildings are closed and all meetings or activities are cancelled.

Saturday: If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect in Carroll County, the church buildings are closed and all meetings or activities are cancelled.

Sunday: Sunday services are normally held except during the most extreme weather. Any change or cancellation of services will be posted on the homepage of the church website, on the church Facebook page, and put on the answering machine in the church office. In addition, all those for whom we have email addresses will be notified by email which will be sent by 7:00 am.

Exceptions: Church group leaders may override the policy in consultation with the rector; in which case they will contact their members to inform them of the special arrangements. Participation under those circumstances will be at each individual's discretion.

Our Vestry, Clergy, and Staff

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

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva, Rector
 Cheryl Vecera, Parish Administrator
 Stephanie Schaffer, Community Engagement Coordinator
 Mary Butler, Director of Music Ministry
 Lynn Lyon-Vaiden, Handbell Choir Director
 Abigail Wright, Children and Youth Minister
 Allison Boggs, Nursery Attendant
 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 Wednesday, & Thursday
 10:30-4:30 Friday

Large Ad

\$10 .00 per month
Or \$110.00 for 1 year
Black and White print
Color on web
3 3/4 x 2 3/4 inches

To secure your place, call
Stephanie Schaffer
at 410-848-3251 or email at
ascensioncommunication@gmail.com

Church of the
Ascension Member
Ads are free!

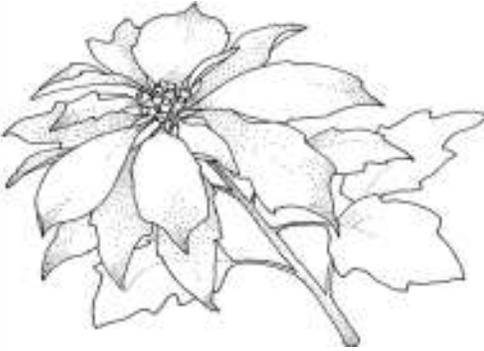
**Your Ad
Could
Be Here!**

Church of the
Ascension Member
Ads are free!

To secure your place, call
Stephanie Schaffer
at 410-848-3251 or email at
ascensioncommunication@gmail.com

Small Ad
\$5.00 per month
Or \$55.00 for 1 year
Black and White print
Color on web
1 7/8 x 2 3/4 inches

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



If you would like to contribute to the Poinsettia Fund, and help beautify the church at Christmas time, while remembering loved ones, please list the names below and mail or return to the Church office by no later than December 16th.

Checks should be made payable to Ascension Church Altar Guild in whatever amount you feel appropriate. Please write "Poinsettias" on the memo line of your check.



Church of the Ascension

**23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157**