



Ascension Extension

DECEMBER 2024

www.ascension-westminster.com

410-848-3251
office@ascension-westminster.com

Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court St.
Westminster, MD

In this Issue:

RECTOR'S MESSAGE.....P.1-2
 DECEMBER WORSHIP.....P. 2-3
 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS.....P.4
 ADVENT.....P.5
 OFFICE NOTES.....P.6
 MISTLETOE MART.....P. 7
 OUTREACH.....P.9
 CHILDREN/YOUTH.....P.10
 VESTRY.....P.11-16
 GIVING TUESDAY.....P.12
 2025 PREVIEW.....P.18-21
 POINSETIA DONATIONS.....P.22



Rector's Message

Dear Ascension Family:

We live in a world where we are always rushing, or more precisely, a world where we are constantly chasing after time. As Advent approaches, let us take this opportunity to truly embrace the season.

Advent is meant to be a time of joyful anticipation:

- Anticipating the annual celebration of God's incarnation in the humble baby born in Bethlehem.
- Anticipating Christ's renewed presence in our hearts at Christmas.
- Anticipating Christ's return to our world, both now and at the end of time.

Advent is a season of joyful longing for Christ's coming into our world and into our lives. We have a brief liturgical season of just four weeks to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Incarnation. And unfortunately, for many of us, Advent has become a frantic rush to be ready for the Christmas festivities. These are not just the liturgical celebrations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but also gatherings with family, friends, colleagues, and all the parties we are invited to. And, of course, there's the shopping for gifts. It's no wonder that many of us feel exhausted when Christmas finally arrives.

Let us make a conscious effort to enjoy this Advent! Not as a race toward Christmas, but as a sacred time set aside to prepare our hearts and minds. A time to savor the present moment.

(Continued on p. 2)

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Day Off: Monday
rector@ascension-westminster.com

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am -3:00 pm
office@ascension-westminster.com

Ascension is called to be a family of faith so reflecting the life of Christ, that we draw all people to him.

December Worship

December 1

First Sunday of Advent

Youth Sunday

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
 9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
 10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
 11:30 am Lunch, Memory Lane Theater
 Performance

December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
 9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
 10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
 11:30 am Coffee Hour

December 14

11:00 am Memorial Service: Donna Hansen

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
 9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
 10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
 11:30 am Lunch, Youth Christmas Play

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
 9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
 10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
 Advent Service of Lessons and Carols
 11:30 am Coffee Hour

December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
 8:00 pm H.E. Rite II, Stone Church

December 25

Christmas Day

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Stone Church

December 29

First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
 9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
 10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
 11:30 am Coffee Hour

Rector's Message continued...

I recognize that this is challenging, and often seems impossible, in a world that demands so much of us. We will all have so many things to do this December. But at the very least, let us try to embrace the opportunities available to us—small moments to stop, breathe, reflect, and pray.

Beyond the four Sundays of Advent, we can take time each week to pray with the Advent wreath at home, perhaps lighting it before the main family meal and taking a few moments of silence. We can also use the Advent devotional provided by the church, setting aside a daily moment for prayer—either alone or with family. We can set aside time for silent prayer, or reading the lessons from the daily office.

Additionally, there are two special services designed to help us pause and reflect before and during Advent. The Thanksgiving Eve service, on November 27, which offers a time to express our gratitude for God's blessings, and the Blue Christmas service, on December 19, which is especially designed for those of us who find it hard to rejoice due to the challenges in our lives, society, or the world.

We all need moments to pause, reflect, and pray, and this is even more crucial during the busy month of December in order to enjoy the gift of the Advent season, and be spiritually ready for the celebration of Christmas.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

In Christ's love,
 Pierre-Henry+

NOVEMBER 27 6:00PM

*Thanksgiving
 Worship Service*

Church of the Ascension
 23 North Court Street
 Westminster, MD 21157

*In the historic
 Stone Church*

ascension-westminster.com/events

December Worship Highlights

December 19 at 7:00 pm, Holy Cross Hall



For those experiencing grief, loss, or hardship, the holiday season is far from the most wonderful time of the year. Death, divorce or separation, job loss, financial hardship, illness, or other circumstances mute our experience of joy, making this time of year painful for many.

Join us for this worship experience with space for silence and reflection, music and meditations, recognizing and honoring sadness, grief, and difficulty, while holding out hope for healing and wholeness.

Worship Assistants are needed for this service.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, the first part of the 10:15 am service will be an abbreviated version of Lessons and Carols that will prepare us for the liturgy of the Eucharist. This unique and uplifting service aims to set our hearts ablaze for the joyous celebrations of Christmas.

Five Lectors are needed for this service.



During Advent, we will prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Incarnation of the Eternal Son of God in the baby who will be known as Jesus of Nazareth. The meaning of Christmas is well expressed in the prologue of John (John 1):

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (...) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day let us gather together with family and friends to joyfully celebrate the birth of our Savior.

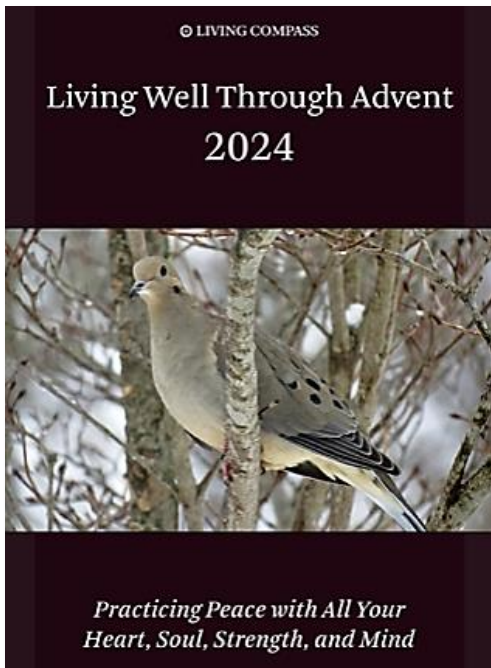
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Worship Assistants are needed for all of these services.

Worship Assistants: December 2024

Altar Guild: Charlie Aler, Beverly Baker, Jenny Beeker, Helen Lang, Kim Tompkins
Team 4

| | Usher(s) | Lector | Acolyte | Chalicians | Worship Slides |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------|---|------------------|
| December 1 8:00 am | David Kreider | Cheryl Vecera | Charlie Aler | | |
| December 1 10:15 am | 1. 2. | Olivia Carpenter | Ellen Anderson | 1. Susan Considine 2. Helen Lang 3. 4. | Lynn Lyon-Vaiden |
| December 8 8:00 am | Charlie Aler | Roberta Wilhelm | Beverly Baker | | |
| December 8 10:15 am | 1. | Kevin McIntyre | Alex Corns | 1. Kevin McIntyre 2. Jim Fariss 3. Jill Horn 4. | Jeanne Cox |
| December 15 8:00 am | Cheryl Vecera | | Charlie Aler | | |
| December 15 10:15 am | 1. David Horn 2. | Jill Horn | | 1. Jill Horn 2. Susan Considine 3. Helen Lang 4. | |
| December 19 7:00 pm | | | | 1. Helen Lang 2. | Lynn Lyon-Vaiden |
| December 22 8:00 am | | | Beverly Baker | | |
| December 22 10:15 am <i>Lessons & Carols</i> | 1. 2. | 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. | | 1. Helen Lang 2. 3. 4. | |
| December 24 4:00 pm | 1. 2. | Roberta Gore | | 1. 2. 3. 4. | Gabriel Hoff |
| December 24 8:00 pm | | | Jennie Grabill | 1. | |
| December 25 10:15 am | | | | 1. | |
| December 29 8:00 am | | | Beverly Baker | | |
| December 29 10:15 am | 1. 2. | Buck Lyon-Vaiden | | 1. Helen Lang 2. 3. 4. | |



Advent Devotional

Living Well Through Advent 2024

Practicing Peace with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

This 52-page devotional focuses on being instruments of peace in a world that so deeply longs for it. What is our call as people of faith to not just experience the peace that passes understanding, but to be bearers of that peace in our communities? **Pick up your complimentary copy at church.**



Advent Begins on Sunday, December 1

ADVENT WREATH MAKING
POTLUCK LUNCH
CHRISTMAS INSPIRED PERFORMANCE BY
MEMORY LANE PLAYBACK THEATER

Join the Festivities
 in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, December 1 11:30am

Church of the Ascension
 23 N. Court Street
 Westminster, MD

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
ASCENSION-WESTMINSTER.COM/EVENTS

Sunday, December 1

Potluck Lunch: Fried Chicken and Sandwiches will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

Enjoy a Memory Lane Playback Theater performance.

Church Office Notes

Early Publication of Bulletins

Friday, December 20

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and December 29 bulletins will be printed. Thank you for submitting announcements to be included by

Wednesday, December 18.



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 in-person meetings or activities are cancelled.

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

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



Mistletoe Mart

Thank you so very much for everyone's assistance and support for the 50th Mistletoe Mart!

It was a wonderful event! **Approximately 2140 patrons attended** and there were long lines when the doors opened each morning! We held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday morning to celebrate the Mart's 50th anniversary. We also held a Stone Church open house early Friday morning (before the Mart opened) for the vendors, with Dr. David Kreider playing the organ.

The Café was busy selling soups, salads, and sandwiches; the 50th anniversary turkey chili with cornbread was a big hit Thursday evening; the new turkey, apple, cheddar sandwich sold out each day; and the Friday evening turkey dinner was as popular as always! The Country Store bake table had delicious home-made desserts! The Pins & Needles room always seemed to be filled as they sold their beautiful items! The children enjoyed the Angel Room crafts! And everyone, adults and children alike, were delighted to see Santa and Mrs. Claus! It was simply wonderful being able to spend time with our remarkable artisans, delighted patrons and each other!

Please help yourself to any remaining Mistletoe Mart pictures on the bulletin board outside of the Holy Cross Hall. They are copies and are available for you to take.

We are currently still paying the bills. Therefore, in early 2025, we will be in touch to begin to discuss both Ascension and Community Outreach donation opportunities.

Thank you, again! We are truly grateful for all of your time and amazing talents each of you shared to support the Mistletoe Mart.

Thank you very much!

Mistletoe Mart Co-Chairs
Jenny Beeker, Kim Tompkins

Mistletoe Mart Kitchen

We have heard Fr. Pierre-Henry express how it takes a village to get our jobs accomplished!

I am expressing heartfelt gratitude to those of you who helped in any way to make the Mistletoe Mart Kitchen and Café a success for the 50th Mistletoe Mart. Some

jobs were fun; others less so, however we made it through most days with smiles and laughter. We could not have done it without each and every volunteer. Enjoy the holidays!

Melissa Leahy



DreamBuilders MD

On behalf of DreamBuilders MD, I thank the Mistletoe Mart for allowing us to have a booth to sell various "fair-trade" items such as coffee, tea and chocolate. And many thanks to everyone who purchased these items. **We made \$1,133 – best ever!** Thanks also to Verna Karolenko, Jeff McKee (Mid-Atlantic volunteer coordinator for Brethren Disaster Ministries), and Maddox Shuman for "minding the store" at times so that I could be a Shop Assistant for the Mart.

Buck Lyon-Vaiden





Themed Potluck Lunch

| Month/Date | Theme | Description |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| December 20 | Winter Warmers | Bring a hearty dish that is perfect for cold weather. |



Outreach Committee Update

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child had a very successful year. **78 boxes will be delivered to children around the world!** Thank you for supporting this valuable project. We look forward to the congregation's continued support next year!



On November 21, John Holbert and Buck Lyon-Vaiden delivered **78 Operation Christmas Child boxes** to First Presbyterian Church.

December: Angel Tree

On Sunday, December 1, look for items on Ascension's Angel Tree which will be filled with Christmas gift wishes from the four families that our church supports monthly through The Outreach Family Friends Program. Many thanks to all of you who will help to make a family's Christmas morning a little brighter.



The Book Club will not meet in November or December due to the holidays.

Our January selection will be *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver. Join us on **Wednesday, January 29 at noon** in the Guild Room.

Do you have a book suggestion?
Please contact Cheryl Vecera.



The 1844 Shoppe will be closed on November 29 and November 30.

Help Pins & Needles Help Our Church

Pins & Needles meets every Wednesday all year long. We knit and sew. Items made are sold at Mistletoe Mart and at our annual **Christmas Shop. (All items:10% off!)**

The proceeds have enabled Pins & Needles to support Free Summer Programs, new windows, cemetery improvements, etc.





youth@ascension-westminster.com



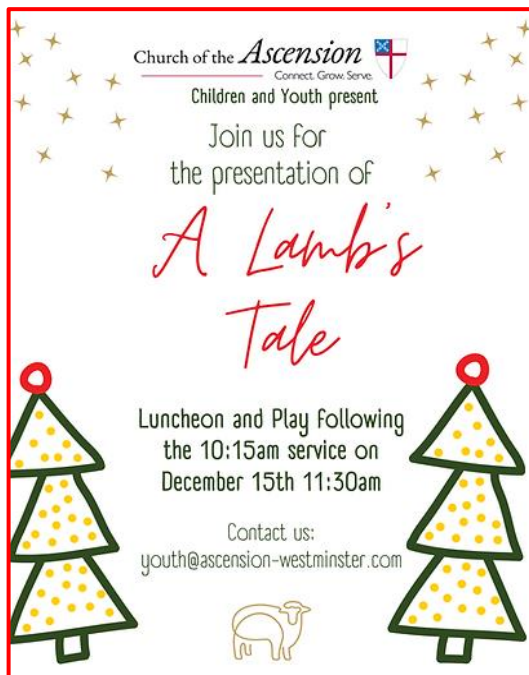
Youth Sunday

Sunday, December 1 will be Youth Sunday during the 10:15 am service! The children and youth are invited to be active participants in the liturgy. The Children's Choir will sing. If your child is interested in ushering, reading, being an acolyte, singing or anything else, please let us know.

Youth Christmas Play: December 15

Zeke is a young shepherd who aspires to a bigger, more important life. He's sick of being ridiculed by classroom bullies and bored by incessant "baa-baaing" of sheep...until the night he follows a shining star in search of his missing sheep, Snowflake, and discovers a baby in a manger... who changes everything.

Celebrate the birth of the King of Kings with us on Sunday, December 15, in the Holy Cross Hall, after the 10:15 am service and lunch.



Cookie Walk: December 21

The Cookie Walk raises funds for Children and Youth Ministries by selling parishioner-made cookies and sweets to the community. The more cookies and sweets we have, the more funds we can raise. **We need homemade goodies (double batch or more please) brought to the Church Office during the week of December 15-20.** All cookies, bars, fudges, candies, candied nuts and bon bons are welcome! The goodies will be packaged at Ascension, so you may drop off the pan, and we will take care of the rest. Thank you for your help, the Cookie Walk is nothing without you!



| The Vestry | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|---|
| Vestry/Officers | Term Ends | Ministry Liaison |
| Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson | | Rector, Stewardship, Digital Ministry, Memorials |
| Vacant, Sr. Warden | | Finance Committee, Personnel Committee |
| Gary Lang, Jr. Warden | | Buildings & Grounds |
| Nancy Starner, Treasurer | | |
| Jackie Weschler, Registrar | | |
| Luke Gore | 2025 | |
| Deb Howard | 2025 | Outreach |
| Jennie Grabill | 2025 | Fellowship |
| Beverly Baker | 2026 | St. Martha's Guild |
| Liz Lowe | 2026 | Adult Christian Formation, Pins & Needles |
| Roberta Wilhelm | 2026 | Worship Assistants, Children's Choir, Praise Ensemble |
| Beth Anthony | 2027 | Communications, Adult Ensemble, Handbell Choir |
| Diana Baker | 2027 | Children & Youth |
| Kim Tompkins | 2027 | Altar Guild, Fundraising (1844 Shoppe, Mistletoe Mart, Cookie Walk) |

Financial Statement of Activities through October 31, 2024

| Income: | October | Year-to-Date |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| General Giving | \$14,533.00 | \$232,511.83 |
| Special Gifts | \$0.00 | \$12,689.00 |
| 1844 Shoppe | \$431.45 | \$5,871.02 |
| Rental Income | \$1,425.00 | \$14,250.00 |
| Facilities Use | \$40.00 | \$5,080.00 |
| Coffee Hour Donations | \$0.00 | \$31.00 |
| Bank Interest | \$522.14 | \$2,796.29 |
| Total | \$16,951.59 | \$277,229.14 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Human Resources | \$18,158.88 | \$188,062.10 |
| Administrative/Office | \$2,081.65 | \$14,838.94 |
| Christian Education | \$130.15 | \$3,785.86 |
| Community Outreach | \$0.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| Diocesan Convention | \$150 | \$300 |
| Diocesan Shared Ministry Allocation | \$2,685.33 | \$21,737.64 |
| Interest Expense | \$342.35 | \$1,739.27 |
| Liability and Property Insurance | \$0.00 | \$9,180.00 |
| Maintenance | \$4,508.56 | \$63,197.77 |
| Miscellaneous Expenses | \$0.00 | \$1,494.59 |
| Rental Property - Taxes | \$0.00 | \$3,472.23 |
| Utilities | \$2,192.15 | \$40,525.94 |
| Worship | \$485.66 | \$2,927.99 |
| Total | \$30,734.73 | \$353,762.83 |
| Net: | (\$13,783.14) | (\$76,533.69) |

CHURCH FINANCES

Did you know that so far this year, Church of the Ascension is running a deficit of **\$76,534**?

I invite all of us to be as generous as we can with our end-of-year giving in order to fulfill our pledges for 2024, and to reduce our deficit. Thank you all for your support of our beloved Church of the Ascension.

Pierre-Henry

FINANCIAL FACT:

How much is your monthly electricity bill?

The church's average electricity bill is \$2,393.14 a month.



Thanksgiving and Giving

I've heard the cheerful greeting, "Happy Thanksgiving!" a lot lately. I love Thanksgiving! It's a celebration we don't have in France. Once a year, we're invited to give thanks to the Lord for our blessings. This is a chance to look back on the past year and remember the people, events, communities, situations, moments of happiness and joy, and moments when we felt God's presence. Even though we've faced problems, pains, and suffering, we want to give thanks to the Lord for our lives, our loved ones, our congregation, and everything we have.

I'm so grateful to be part of this wonderful congregation of Ascension. I'm thankful to the Lord for calling me to serve Him and you. I'm so blessed to know you all.

GIVING TUESDAY

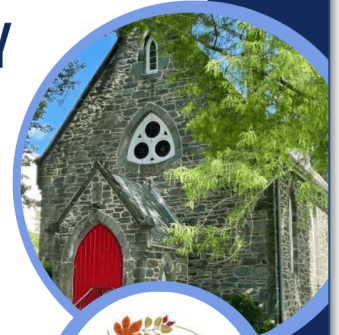
DECEMBER 3, 2024

Make a special donation to Church of the Ascension for Giving Tuesday on December 3. **Are you able to give at least \$24 for 2024?**

Donate Online



GIVING TUESDAY 2024 Church of the Ascension - Westminster MD



Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Click on the image to donate online.

In this time of Thanksgiving, we're called to be even more generous than usual. Between now and the end of the year, we'll likely receive many requests from great causes and non-profits. Let's not forget our beloved congregation. Ascension needs you and your support more than ever.

We can help reduce Ascension's deficit by being as generous as we can by fulfilling our pledges for 2024, by giving more generously for the rest of the year, and by making a special donation for Giving Tuesday on December 3. On Giving Tuesday, when millions of people are going to donate to support their favorite non-profits, please make a special donation to Ascension. Let's be as generous as we can. **I invite each of us to make at least a gift of \$24 for 2024.**

How can you give? You can make a special offering during the Thanksgiving Eve service. You can mail or bring a check to the Church Office. Or you can donate online in Realm or by using this link:

<https://onrealm.org/ascensionwestminster/-/form/give/Tuesday>

Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for supporting Ascension. And Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones.

In Christ's love,
Pierre-Henry

VESTRY MINUTES- Tuesday, October 29, 2024 6:30 p.m. in the Guild Room

1. Opening:
 - a. The meeting began at 6:33pm.
 - i. Those Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Jackie Weschler (Registrar), Beverly Baker, Roberta Wilhelm, Kim Tompkins, Gary Lang (Junior Warden), Jennie Grabill, Diana Baker, Deb Howard
 - ii. Via Phone: Donna Hansen (Senior Warden)
 - iii. Excused: Luke Gore, Beth Anthony, Liz Lowe
 - b. Prayer: Began with a Prayer for the Mistletoe Mart.
2. Approval of Consent Agenda and Finance:
 - i. **Motion Approved** to accept the Consent Agenda: Vestry Meeting Minutes (September 24, 2024), Resolutions 2024 YTD- September, Mistletoe Mart Report
 1. In the minutes for Old Business, Updated Guidelines, Expenditure Approval Process. Need to insert the following wording between paragraphs 1. i.) a.1. and 2. Paragraph "Expenditures between \$1,001 and \$1,499, committees need to obtain only one quote and present it to the Rector and Senior Warden"
 2. Edit to the Leadership Reports, Jr. Warden, paragraph b.1. i.) b. 1. 3.). Thomas Roofing should read "@\$250 - \$5,000" (not \$8,250).
 3. Edit to the second set of 2.a. replacing Plague with Plaques.
 - ii. Motion by Roberta Wilhelm. Second by Gary Lang. Unanimously approved.
3. New Business:
 - a. Financial Report (Debbie B.) Documents: Financial Statement of Activities September 2024, Ministry Fund Balances 09302024
 - i. Financial Statements for September, YTD \$61,000 negative.
 - ii. Human Resources look slightly higher due to Medicare 4th quarter was paid in September.
 - iii. Middendorf Loan anticipates a remaining balance of \$26,672.00. Current Actual Balance of \$39,642.00.
 - b. Budgeting Process (Debbie B.)
 - i. Once October is closed and reconciled Deb will send out to ministries asking for their anticipated budgeted expenses and income for the year.
 - ii. We plan to have a budget by the end of December.
 - iii. **Motion Approved** to approve the Financial Reports Motioned by Beverly Baker, Second by Kim Tompkins. Unanimously approved.
 - c. Finance Committee met with Dina VanKlaveren from the diocese
 - i. Many new ideas on fundraising and use of the building.
 - ii. It is important to communicate to the congregation and others our needs and what we do. Such as transparency with cost to run the building.
 - d. 2025 Shared Ministry Allocation *See attached image titled the same
 - i. The increase was only \$250 in comparison to previous years.
 - ii. The total amount for 2025 is \$34,027, or monthly \$2,835.58.

- iii. The document will not be signed and returned until the deadline so that we can have a full financial picture of our budget before making payment. This was recommended by Dina.
- 4. Old Business:
 - a. Entered an Executive Session
 - b. Finance Committee proposal to increase rent for Wednesdays Soup Kitch *See Attached Document
 - 1. **September Action Item** Vestry decided to postpone the vote on this topic until Pierre-Henry can meet with those in charge of the Soup Kitchen.
 - 2. **September Action Item** Vestry would like a draft contract with a liability clause. Beverly Baker will collaborate with Donna Hansen.
 - c. 2028 Vestry Team
 - i. Member Search Team: Executive Committee and off-going members; Luke Gore, Jennie Grabill, and Deb Howard.
 - ii. Resignation of Carrie Goff
 - iii. Proposal to move forward with 3 members per term.
 - d. **Motion Approved** Motion to change the bylaws for the year 2025 and only require 3 members per vestry term. Motioned by Diana Baker and second by Roberta Wilhelm. One abstained and all others approved.
- 5. The Stewardship Campaign Update
 - i. To date we have received 29 pledges. Our congregation has 169 households. Last year we had 65 pledges.
 - b. (No new update) Fundraising
 - i. Band Dinner Event: Dates are being worked out by the Swartz family with office.
 - ii. Bag Bingo in planning.
- 6. Leadership Reports:
 - a. Sr. Warden (Donna Hansen)
 - b. Jr. Warden (Gary Lang)
 - i. Slate Siding/Roof Repairs
 - 1. Helen was able to negotiate an additional \$250 off the Allied Roofing quote. The total for the Administration wing is \$10,050.
 - ii. 30 N roof repairs proposal. Arocon Roofing at \$12,970.00, includes both sides and porch roof. Buildings and Grounds recommend using Arocon Roofing for this project. See attached documents titled *B&G Arocon quote new shingle roof at 30 N 10-21-24* & *B&G note to V re 30 N roof replacement 10-21-24*
 - 1. **Motion Approved** Motion to replace 30 N roof working with Arocon Roofing at \$12,970.00, including both sides and porch roof. Will use Middendorf loan for payment. Motioned by Gary Lang, Second by Deb Howard. Unanimously approved.
 - iii. Buildings & Grounds - Upcoming projects involving Middendorf Loan monies:
 - 1. Expense for the 30N roof will be taken from the loan.
 - c. Rector (Fr. Pierre-Henry)
 - 1. Rental Possibilities
 - a. Beverly Baker will be working with Pierre-Henry to form a new ministry to see out rental possibilities.
 - 2. A contractor who worked on the property would like to metal detect on our grounds. Vestry agreed to let this man explore the property.
 - 3. Rector Report
- 7. Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer – All in unison
- 8. Adjournment:
 - a. 10/29/2024, Guild Room.
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

VESTRY MINUTES- Tuesday, November 19, 2024 6:30 p.m. in the Guild Room

1. Opening:
 - a. The meeting began at 6:32pm in the Guild Room.
 - i. Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Jackie Weschler (Registrar), Roberta Wilhelm, Kim Tompkins, Gary Lang (Junior Warden), Jennie Grabill, Liz Lowe, Deb Howard, Deb Bargar (Finance Chair)
 - ii. Excused: Diana Baker, Luke Gore, Beverly Baker.
 - b. Prayer: A special prayer for our beloved Sr. Warden, and dear friend, Donna Hansen.
2. Approval of Consent Agenda and Finance:
 - a. **Motion Approved** to accept the Consent Agenda: Vestry Meeting Minutes (October 29, 2024), Resolutions 2024 YTD- October, Mistletoe Mart Report.
 - b. Motion by Liz Lowe. Second by Jennie Grabill. Unanimously approved.
3. Financial Report (Debbie Bargar)
 - a. October Giving was very low in comparison to other months. On average we are short of about \$7,000 a month.
 - b. A request has been sent out to all ministries for their budget requests to be back by December 14.
 - c. The remaining balance of the Middendorf loan is \$26,672.
4. New Business:
 - a. Clergy and Lay Employee Compensation Update (Attached: 2024-01-Clergy-Lay-Compensation.pdf)
 - i. The new Employee Compensation was received at this year's convention and was shared with the vestry members.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Rental Update
 - i. Fish and Loaves replied to our request for a rental increase. They have responded with a very pleasant email letting us know they are happy to make a monthly donation of \$750.
 - b. 2028 Vestry Team Search Update and Recommendations
 - i. Vestry discussed how to present the bylaw change and prepare.
 - c. By Law Changes
 - i. Two changes need to be addressed and published to the congregation. One regarding the time/day of the monthly vestry meeting and one regarding the number of vestry members.
 - d. Stewardship Campaign Update
 - i. We have had a successful campaign, and more pledges are continuing to come in. A letter after Thanksgiving will be sent to those who have not pledged inviting them to pledge before the end of the year.
 - ii. There will be multiple opportunities to share with the parish the expenses and cost of things in our congregation.
6. Leadership Reports:
 - a. Jr. Warden (Gary Lang)
 - i. The administrative wing roof is complete, tomorrow the slate repairs on the Holy Cross Hall will take place. 30 N court roof will be done on Friday. This is all weather dependent.
 - ii. There are multiple other projects that need attending to, Buildings and Grounds is aware of the current financial constraints of the parish and is working around those areas as best as possible.
 - a. Post Mistletoe Mart, it was discovered that the dishwasher in the kitchen needs repairs. There is a faucet upstairs that needs to be fixed. New handicaps spots need to be made.
 - iii. Fence at 30 North fence is falling apart and was wooden in one section. It is about 20' that would be replaced with a metal chain link fence.
 - iv. Soup Kitchen is hosting Christmas and New Years Day at Ascension and is asking for help from our congregation.
 - b. Rector (Fr. Pierre-Henry)
 - i. Rector Report

1. The Vestry discussed the success of the Mistletoe Mart and the need for more volunteers. There are key areas this year that need to be addressed to ensure Mistletoe Mart continues to be a success.
2. Pierre-Henry shared his visits with Donna.
3. Pierre-Henry shared that he received a message from Pastor Malcom, from the United Methodist Church, inviting him and the congregation to the community Thanksgiving Eve service in his church. He also invited him to preside at the Eucharist. Our 2 churches are on their way to full communion. We hope that next year we could attend the community Thanksgiving Eve service with the other churches.

7. Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer – All in unison

8. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.



| Church Staff | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson | Rector |
| Ann Fariss | Parish Administrator |
| Lynn Lyon-Vaiden | Communications Associate/Handbell Choir Director |
| Mary Butler | Organist/Adult Ensemble Director |
| Donna Parker | Organist/Praise Ensemble and Children's Choir Director |
| Travis Collins | Digital Ministry Associate |
| Suzanne Walter | Nursery Attendant |

In Loving Memory

On Sunday morning, November 17, our longtime parishioner, friend, and Senior Warden, Donna Hansen, died, peacefully, surrounded by her family. **A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, December 14 at 11:00 am.** Please keep Donna and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



Thank You Note

Don and Janice Hobart are grateful to their Ascension Family for the prayers, love and support they received after Don's surgery in October. His recovery has progressed very well. We praise the Lord!

The Breakfast Bunch enjoys breakfast after the November 17, 8:00 am service.



Carillon Concert:

December 22 at 3:00 pm

Buck Lyon-Vaiden will play a Christmas Carillon Concert on Sunday, December 22 at 3:00 pm in Tagart Memorial Chapel at McDonogh School.

Guests may enjoy the concert from their car, bring a chair and sit outside of the chapel or sit inside the chapel. **The concert will also be livestreamed.** For those attending in person, Buck will be glad to meet you after the concert in the chapel foyer and give you a tour of the tower and carillon.



On November 21, the restored stained glass window was installed in the sacristy of the Stone Church. Unfortunately, because of the weather, the protective plastic could not be installed, so the wooden protection is still there.

Looking Ahead to 2025



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S CRAFT AND SCRAPBOOKING CROP FUNDRAISER

FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Saturday, January 25, 2025

9am-8pm Cost \$50.00

Inclement weather makeup date Saturday, February 1, 2025

(Please make note of the inclement weather date and mark it on your calendar. Refunds will not be issued due to weather if you cannot attend on the make up date).

- Bring your quilting, knitting, scrapbooking, card making, sewing, painting (or any other craft you love) as well as your friends and join us for a day away from housework and errand running!!!!
- 2025 funds will go towards one or more of our many ministries that the church Outreach committee provides and/or supports; both here and abroad.
- Cost includes some breakfast items for the morning, lunch at noonish, dinner between 5p-6p and beverages (water, coffee, and hot tea) throughout the day. We ask that attendees bring a favorite individually wrapped snack item to share (midget candy bars, individual bags of chips or cookies, whatever) and if you are a soda drinker - please bring your own.
- We hope to have both a yard sale and a swap table for craft items you don't plan to use in the future.
- **Wi-Fi is available for our attendees.** Please bring your own extension cords etc., and duct tape to tape them down for safety reasons.
- Vendors to date include: Bev Snyder-Stampin' Up, Becky Potts-Creative Memories and Rene McCoubrey-Mary Kay. More to come on the vendor front.
- **Church of the Ascension Inclement Weather Policy**
If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect in Carroll County, the church buildings are closed and all in-person meetings or activities are cancelled.

Looking Ahead to 2025 (continued)



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S CRAFT AND SCRAPBOOKING CROP FUNDRAISER

FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Saturday, January 25, 2025

9am-8pm Cost \$50.00

Inclement weather makeup date: Saturday, February 1, 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to sit with: _____

Registration Fee is \$50.00. **Please note: Checks will not be cashed until after the crop.** Jenny's Cell is 443-474-0232 or e-mail jhbeeker@yahoo.com or Melissa Leahy's email: melissazleahy@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to: Church of the Ascension

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

Church of the Ascension
Attn: Jenny Beeker or Melissa Leahy
23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Items from the SWAP table and/or yard sale table that attendees do not want to take home will be donated and used for future church or school events (summer camps, raffles towards Outreach projects, etc.) Donations of time, talent, or items to help with the event are greatly appreciated!).

Looking Ahead to 2025 (continued)

Claggett Center

claggettcenter.org/adult-programs

Men's Retreat

January 31 - February 2

The Rev. Randy Callender, Canon for Mission In the Diocese of Maryland, will be our Keynote Speaker for this year's Men's Retreat.

Join men from across the Diocese of Maryland and Washington for a weekend of music, fellowship, recreation, and worship. This year's theme will be **Living in A Polarized World**.

Women's Weekend

February 21 – February 23

Our Keynote Speaker for Women's Weekend 2025 will be Bishop Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, the Bishop of Maryland.

This is the 25th Anniversary of Women's Weekend and will focus on the theme **Love in Action**.

Join with women from all walks of life to learn, worship, and grow in love together.

Mr. Jon & FRIENDS

Church of the Ascension
23 N Court Street
Westminster, MD

Mr. Jon is a Parents Choice Award winning musician. His show features stories, puppets, and music. Fun for kids of all ages.

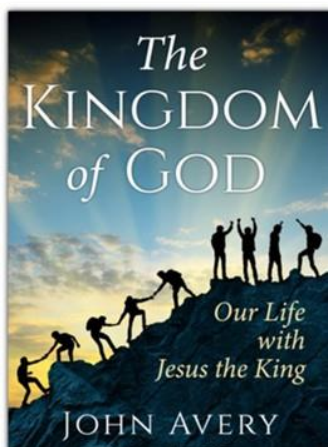
FREE

ACTIVITIES
LIVE MUSIC • SILLY SONGS
MOVEMENT • CRAFTS • PIZZA

JANUARY 20TH 11AM

Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursday at 7:00 pm In person and via Zoom



January 9 – February 20 (7 weeks)

What is the kingdom of God? Why is the kingdom of heaven such good news for us? And how do we live the kingdom lifestyle? How did Jesus intend us to seek first the kingdom of God? Examine the miracles and message of Jesus about the kingdom, including the Beatitudes, the Sermon on the Mount, and parables like the parable of the sower and the mustard seed.

Please contact Lynn Lyon-Vaiden for additional information. (lynn.lyonvaiden@gmail.com)

Looking Ahead to 2025 *(continued)*

DreamBuilders MD

Mission Trip to Hazard, Kentucky: June 15-21

This mission project for teens and adults will be DreamBuilders MD third trip to this location.

(Photos of June 2024 mission trip are posted on the DreamBuilders MD bulletin board.)

General Information Meeting:

Sunday, January 12 at 3:00 pm

Temple Isaiah

Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction:

Saturday, March 8 at 5:00 pm

Temple Isaiah

12200 Scaggsville Rd

Fulton, MD 20759

Claggett Center Summer Camps

claggettcenter.org/youth-programs



Registration opens on December 1, 2024.

Free Summer Programs at Church of the Ascension



Sessions

July 14-18

July 21-25

Drama Camp

August 11-15

August 18-23

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to contribute to the Poinsettia Fund, and help beautify the churches at Christmas time, in memory of or in honor of someone, or in thanksgiving for someone/something, please fill out the form below and return to the Church Office by **Friday, December 20.**

Checks should be made payable to Ascension Church Altar Guild in whatever amount you feel is appropriate. Please put "Poinsettias" on the memo line of your check. Please print the names of those you would like included:

Your Name: _____ Email or Phone: _____

Church of the Ascension

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