

Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.



23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157
410-848-3251
office@ascension-westminster.com

ascension-westminster.com

Ascension Extension | October 2024

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

Rector's Message

Dear Ascension Family:

I recently took the time to look back at what I shared with you the previous months. In July, a couple of weeks after my assault, I wrote that "Emotionally and psychologically, I am fine, so I thought I would be able to be back to work as usual after my 2-week "vacation." Of course, I was not able to resume my life as if nothing had happened. The truth is that it took me a while to realize that what happened to me was serious, and even more time to admit that I was not doing fine emotionally or psychologically.

There were days when I was not able to do anything, I did not want to call or receive phone calls; I just wanted to be left alone. Then I experienced frustration when I thought I was able to function normally, but could not focus, concentrate, read or write without a lot of effort. Then came the time when I started to see the progress, thinking "I'm back." Just to realize a couple of days or weeks later that now I was making progress. Healing is a slow process. There was a long period during which I could not pray as usual. I could not use my Prayer Book, could not read my Bible; my only two prayers were the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary in English and French. I realized I was doing better when my prayer life began to be back, taking pleasure in praying, being able to pray with the Bible and books of prayers, and eventually resume my practice of the daily office. During all that time, I felt the prayers of others.

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November Ascension Extension

Please share articles and information to be included by **Monday, October 21.**

communication@

ascension-westminster.com

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 am -3:00 pm

office@ascension-westminster.com

A turning point, emotionally charged, for me, was the trial, on September 17, when I was invited to give a witness impact statement. It was difficult to tell the judge how this assault affected me personally and professionally, but it was an opportunity to put it behind me. At one point I told her that I had forgiven my aggressor, and I turned toward him, looked at him as he was looking at me, and told him simply, I forgive you. I think I felt at peace at this time. When I left the tribunal with some parishioners who accompanied me, I had the chance to talk with his mother. I was embarrassed for her. We started a conversation, and she thanked me for my statement. She told us that she had, in vain, tried to find help for her son, and that what happened to me was the reason he will get help. God works in mysterious ways, indeed!

What happened to me made me think about pastoral care. I was the beneficiary of so many prayers and offers of support, even when I just wanted to be left alone. Too many times I heard that someone had been hospitalized after the person came back home, or that someone was sick after their recovery. I now understand the desire to be left alone, or to keep it private, but I also know the comfort and support provided by prayer, cards, messages, and visits. As you read this October Extension, if you are sick, if you are alone, if you can't leave the house, please let your church community know, so that we can pray for you. If you want to be added to the Church's prayer list, let Parish Administrator, Ann Fariss know. If you want to be added to the St Luke's Guild prayer list, contact JoAnne Kreider. If you don't want anybody to know, please contact me, I'll pray for you and keep it confidential.

If you want a visit from me, please let me know. I would be happy to visit you and pray with you. This is what the Church has always done, following James advice: *Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* (James 5:14-16) Enjoy the reading of the October Extension.

In Christ's love,
Pierre-Henry+

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Day Off: Monday

rector@ascension-westminster.com

October Worship

October 6

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of the Animals

Youth Sunday

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Education

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

(weather permitting) Please bring a lawn chair.

11:30 am Coffee Hour

October 13

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

Set up Holy Cross Hall

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Education

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

11:30 am Coffee Hour

October 20

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Education

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

11:30 am Coffee Hour

October 27

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Education

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

11:30 am Coffee Hour

Stewardship Campaign 2024: October 6 – November 3



Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, Walk In Love, will begin on Sunday, October 6 and ends on Sunday, November 3 when we will gather and bless the pledge cards. Each week a reflection will be available to help us think about generosity. The theme, Walk in Love, comes from Ephesians 5:2:

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

This verse is one of the offertory sentences the celebrant can use to introduce the second part of the Eucharist. It's a reminder that when we bring our offerings of bread, wine and money to the altar, we offer ourselves to the Lord as expressed in the Eucharist Prayer I, Rite I:

"And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies."

Stewardship is about time, talent and treasure. All are important. Ascension is blessed by the many volunteers who share their time and

talents to support our mission. We are blessed to have 77 pledging units in 2024. We are also blessed by those who give generously without pledging.

During this Stewardship season, I invite you to think about the many blessings you have received through Ascension. I invite you to think and give thanks for all those who generously have offered their time, talents and money at Ascension since 1844. All we have today, our beautiful buildings, grounds, and our community of faith, are testimonies of the generosity of those who came before us. It is now our turn to make the flame shine even brighter. Let us walk in love together, let us be as generous as we can. And on November 3, let us gather joyfully as we offer our financial offering as a sacrifice to the Lord to support Church of the Ascension.

Walk in love!
Pierre-Henry

On November 2, 2024, Ascension will host a Watch Party to join the Churchwide Virtual Celebration of New Ministry and Investiture of Bishop Sean Rowe as the 28th Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church.

This is the first time this celebration will be livestreamed. Bishop Rowe wants to cut the cost and allow all Episcopalians to participate in this beautiful and meaningful celebration.

The service will begin with a prelude featuring a "roll call" of dioceses starting at 9:30 a.m. EST. The service itself starts at 11:00 a.m. EST. Save the date! We will keep you updated about this event.

Join the Churchwide Virtual Celebration



The Most Reverend Michael Curry
requests the honor
of your presence at the
Celebration of New Ministry and Investiture of
the Right Reverend Sean Rowe
as Presiding Bishop and Primate
of The Episcopal Church

Saturday, November 2, 2024

"Roll Call" of Dioceses - 9:30 am ET
Service of Holy Eucharist - 11:00 am ET

Worship Assistants: October 2024					
Altar Guild: Team 2 Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana					
	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicians	Worship Slides
October 6 8:00 am	Bill Sears	Cheryl Vecera	Jennie Grabill		
October 6 10:15 am	1. Noah Ketterman 2. Roberta Gore	Olivia Carpenter (and others)	Reilly Goff, Brayden Tenney	1. Adelaide McIntyre 2. 3. 4.	
October 13 8:00 am	Bill Sears	Roberta Wilhelm	Beverly Baker		
October 13 10:15 am	1. 2.		Raymond Lui	1. 2. 3. 4.	
October 20 8:00 am		David Kreider			
October 20 10:15 am	1. 2.	Jill Horn	Ellen Anderson	1. Jill Horn 2. 3. 4.	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
October 27 8:00 am					
October 27 10:15 am	1. David Horn 2.	Buck Lyon-Vaiden		1. 2. 3. 4.	Jill Horn



Bring a beloved pet, or a photo of your pet to the outdoor worship service. Please bring a lawn chair. If it rains, the service will be in the Holy Cross Hall where well-behaved pets or photos of pets are welcome.

October 6th
10:15am in the Courtyard

Operation Christmas Child

The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce Operation Christmas Child 2024!

Please return your box(es) by Sunday, October 27.

Visit the displays in the Stone Church and the vicinity of Holy Cross Hall to pick up empty shoe boxes and packing instructions.

If you are unable to pack a shoe box but would still like to participate, please consider donating with a check payable to Samaritan's Purse and include on the memo line of the check that the donation is for Operation Christmas Child. Checks may be returned to the Ascension Church Office. All donations will be collected and submitted with our filled shoe boxes.

Please note that the suggested donation per shoe box is \$10 (to cover shipping and other costs). Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child!



During October Please Help Fill

The Shepherd's Staff Blessings Closet

October is a month when Ascension collects non-food items for Shepherd's Staff to assist individuals and families in Carroll County who cannot afford to purchase everyday necessities.

Current High Need Items

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| All Purpose Cleaner | Deodorant | Paper Towels | Toothpaste |
| Tall Kitchen Trash Bags | Dish Soap | Toilet Tissue | |

Other Items:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Bar Soap | Disposable Gloves | Incontinence Briefs |
| Baby Diapers - all sizes | Feminine Hygiene | Men's Disposable Razors |
| Laundry Detergent | Hand Sanitizer | Ziploc Bags - all sizes |
| Disinfecting Wipes/Spray | Shampoo | |

Please place the items in the box at the entrance to Holy Cross Hall or the Stone Church.

Eagle Scout Project

Hi Everyone:

My name is Bryan Howard Barry. **I'm working on my Eagle Scout Project, and I could use your support! I'm planning to build a new Little Free Library** for Church of the Ascension to replace the current one, which is in poor condition. The existing library is missing its door, and the wood is deteriorating, leaving the books unprotected from the weather.

The new Little Free Library will be made from durable composite materials to withstand the elements and will be securely anchored with two posts. The estimated cost for this project is \$500, and I'm seeking help to raise the necessary funds. Any amount you can donate would mean the world to me!

I'll be presenting my project at Church of the Ascension on Sunday, October 13th. Donations can be made by cash or check. Checks should be payable to Troop 2007, with "Bryan Barry's Eagle Project" in the memo line.

Contributions can be mailed to:

Troop 2007
P.O. Box 381
Westminster, MD 21158

Your generosity will help create something lasting for both the church and the wider community.

Thank you for your support!
Bryan Howard Barry



Floor Stripping and Waxing: October 10, 11, 12

The work will begin Thursday, October 10, and finish Saturday, October 12. The floors will dry overnight.

First Floor: Fellowship hallway, Office hallway, Guild Room, Fellowship Hall, Holy Cross Hall, and the Holy Cross Hall entrance/vestibule.

Second Floor: Rooms 202, 208, 210 and the hallway.

Beginning at 8:00 am on Sunday, October 13, we will reset Room 210 and Holy Cross Hall. Help is needed to do this in time for the 10:15 am service.

Following the service we will set up the other areas, and there will be a Coffee Hour.

Mistletoe Mart

Ascension's 50th Annual Mistletoe Mart is only 6 weeks away!

Mistletoe Mart 2024: Thursday, November 7 - Saturday, November 9

The Mistletoe Mart has become one of the premier arts & crafts shows in the tristate area. The talent of each artisan is truly amazing! **This year, there will be 50 specialty shops for our 50th anniversary.**

Over 2,400 patrons attend each year and the \$5.00 admission ticket is good for all 3 days of the Mart. Each year the Mart donates 25-30% of the proceeds to Community Outreach, with the balance supporting specific, unbudgeted Ascension expenses. Proceeds from Mistletoe Mart 2023 provided \$9,500 to Community Outreach (14 different organizations) and \$24,228 to Ascension.

Volunteer signup boards have been posted outside the Fellowship Hall and there are many ways you can apply your talents! **We need your help!**

Publicity

Mistletoe Mart Postcards: We need your help distributing Mistletoe Mart postcards to areas where you live or places you go, including: libraries, dry cleaners, hair & nail salons, restaurants, Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, Panera Bread, schools, doctor's offices, daycare facilities, and senior centers. Postcards are available at the back of the Stone Church and Holy Cross Hall.

Yard Signs: Do you live on a major or busy road? Yard signs will be available this month at church every Sunday. Please place one in your yard to help promote the Mart.

Advertising: Watch for our ad in Carroll Magazine, in newspapers and online, as well as on 2 digital billboards (by Sheetz and in Finksburg) and 2 banners (next to Main Street and by Airpark). A press release is being released to multiple organizations.

Decorating

"Fluffing the Greens" volunteers transform our space into a beautiful Christmas setting throughout the Holy Cross Hall, Fellowship Hall and hallways – and then undecorate afterwards. **Please contact Betsy Reinders for details.**

Tear Down / Set Up

Take down the Holy Cross Hall altar and pew chairs as well as furniture from the Fellowship Hall, classrooms and offices before the Mart and then set them up afterwards. This is physical work and while we have movers from Glamour Moving to help and then store off-site during the Mart, Ascension volunteers are needed to make the take down and set up tasks effective and manageable. **Please contact Jackie & Kevin Weschler for details.**

Kitchen

Food prep takes place Monday – Wednesday before the Mart. Help is then needed throughout each day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to prepare food, serve food and clean up. There is wonderful fellowship while working in the kitchen, and the more volunteers that sign up result in more manageable shifts, especially during lunch and dinner.

Café Hostess

Clears and cleans the café tables.

Shop Runner

Visits vendors throughout each day, taking and delivering their café food and drink orders. Vendors compliment the Mart on providing this service to them – and with a smile!

Golden Bough Tea Area (Mistletoe Mart Tea Setup by the Baked Goods Table) Ensures there is Mistletoe Mart Tea and supplies available.

Admission Table

Sits at one of our 2 Admission Tables (by back parking lot and by church office). Greets patrons, sells admission tickets and hands out the hourly door prize raffle ticket.

Country Store (Baked Goods Table)

Calling all bakers - the bake table needs your talents! This is the time to get out those great recipes for cookies, cakes, breads, pies, muffins, cupcakes, candy, fudge, muffins and more. We also have recipes Queen Elizabeth cakes. Please remember, we need to keep the bake table stocked for all three days.

Church Store (Ascension Greeting and Information Corner outside the Holy Cross Hall)

We will fondly remember Joy Badger as she warmly greeted and chatted with everyone who walked by!

Angel Room

Make crafts with children.

Sound System

Assist with playing Christmas music through the speaker system and presentations on monitors, make announcements and announce hourly raffle ticket winners.

When you volunteer during the Mart, please wear your Ascension magnetic nametag! If you need one, please contact Parish Administrator, Ann Fariss, in the Church Office.

And please remember our 50th Anniversary Commemorative Ornament!

Anne Piazza, an artisan at the Mistletoe Mart for many years, has designed a beautiful, limited edition, hand painted porcelain ornament for our 50th anniversary. Both Longwood Gardens and the White House have purchased her ornaments to display as part of their Christmas decorations. The Mistletoe Mart has ordered 100 and will sell them prior to this year's Mart. The ornaments have arrived and are selling quickly! Please contact Kim Tompkins to purchase.



This remains such an exciting time of the year! We all have heartwarming memories of the Mistletoe Mart and the special moments we have shared with each other as well as our family, friends, vendors and the community! However, we truly need everyone's help to manage the wide range of jobs. Thank you for all of your time and support to make the Mart a success!

Mistletoe Mart Co-Chairs

Jenny Beeker, Donna Hansen, Kim Tompkins

<https://www.mistletoemart.com>

Mistletoe Mart #50 Order Form for 50th Anniversary Ornament



Anne Piazza, an artisan at the Mistletoe Mart for many years, has designed a beautiful, limited edition, hand painted porcelain ornament for our 50th Anniversary! The Mistletoe Mart has ordered 100 of these commemorative ornaments and will sell them prior to this year's Mart.

- Price is \$45.00 per ornament
- Payment is due at time of order
- Ornaments will be delivered in September
- Front side of ornament will state "Mistletoe Mart"
- Back side will reference "50th Anniversary, 2024, Church of the Ascension"

** Checks should be made payable to "Church of the Ascension" & reference "MM Ornament" on the memo line

** Please give the completed order form with payment to **Kim Tompkins** (ktompkins2@verizon.net).

Name: _____

Phone Number / Email address: _____

Quantity Ordered: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Church of the *Ascension*
 Children and Youth Ministries



youth@ascension-westminster.com

A new opportunity, Mingle and Play Café, will be offered on October 5 at 12:00 pm.

This gathering is open to the community and aims to provide a space for parents and their youth to connect, enjoy food, and build lasting relationships. Based on the turnout and success of this initial event, we hope to expand and involve more congregation members in future monthly gatherings.

COME JOIN US AT
mingle & play Café
 CONNECT, CHAT, AND UNWIND

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
 12PM - 3PM

23 N COURT ST. • WESTMINSTER, MD
WWW.ASCENSION-WESTMINSTER.COM/EVENTS

A Christmas play has been selected and rehearsal dates have been scheduled, with the luncheon and performance set for **December 15**. **Christmas Play auditions** will be held on **Sunday, October 6** after the 10:15, Blessing of the Animals worship service.

A Lamb's Tale

Church of the *Ascension*
 Connect. Grow. Serve.
 Children and Youth present

A Lamb's Tale

Is your youth interested in joining our Christmas play?

Auditions are October 6th at 11:45am.

Rehearsals will be 11:45am every Sunday from

October 13th - December 8th

Dress rehearsals December 14th.

Luncheon and Play Following

the 10:15am service on

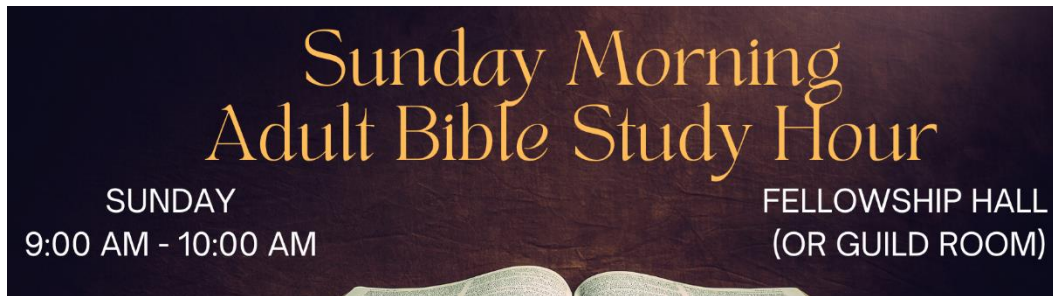
December 15th 11:30am

Contact us:

youth@ascension-westminster.com



Adult Education



When?: Sunday **Time:** 9:00 am - 10:00 am
Where?: Fellowship Hall (or Guild Room) **Who?:** Adults age 19 or older

A time to explore and discuss one or all of the Sunday Bible readings, also known as the Lectionary, While we would love to see you every Sunday, it's okay to drop in from time to time. All materials are provided: Bibles, bulletins, paper and pens. Just come!

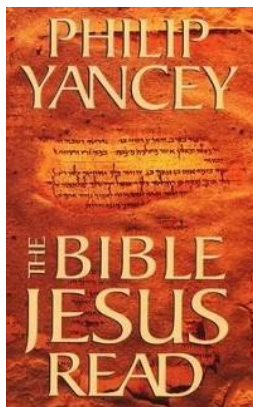
Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our current study is *The Bible Jesus Read*, a video study hosted by Philip Yancey.

This study is an introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, which Jesus studied throughout his life, and which laid the foundation for everything he ever said or did.

Our sessions will meet at 9:30 am on Tuesday, October 1, October 15 and October 29 in Room 202.

Please contact Bill Sears (redrock2@verizon.net) for questions or additional information.

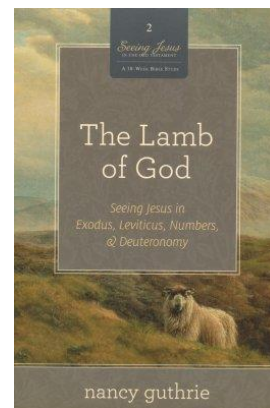


Thursday Night Bible Study

The Lamb of God: Seeing Jesus in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy reveals that the overarching story of Scripture from beginning to end is the story of the Lamb—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

This 10-week study will meet on these Thursdays, at 7:00 pm (in-person and via Zoom.) October 3, October 10, October 17 and October 24.

For more information, contact Lynn Lyon-Vaiden (lynn.lyonvaiden@gmail.com)



Themed Potluck Lunch

Month/Date	Theme	Description
October 18	Halloween Inspired	Create a spooky dish that will give a tasty fright.



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

OCTOBER

Mingle & Play Café	October 5
Blessing of the Animals & Christmas Play Auditions	October 6
Stewardship Campaign Begins	October 6
Floors Cleaned	October 10, 11, 12
Themed Potluck Lunch	October 18
Operation Christmas Child Boxes due	October 27

NOVEMBER

Watch Party: Bishop Investiture	November 2
All Saints' Sunday/Stewardship Pledge Cards Due	November 3
Mistletoe Mart	November 7-9
Themed Potluck Lunch	November 15
Thanksgiving Eve Service	November 27

Book Club

Our selection for October is *A Calamity of Souls* by David Baldacci, a legal thriller set in the south in the 60's. It depicts the trial of a black man accused of killing a wealthy white couple. Join us on **Wednesday, October 30 at noon** in the Guild Room.

We will not meet in November or December due to the holidays.

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

The Shoppe is currently seeking gently used fall and Christmas items and unique gift giving items for the upcoming Mistletoe Mart.



The 1844 Shoppe will be closed on Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12 while the floors are cleaned.



Quilt Raffle Tickets are on sale for the "Plum Fusion" Pins & Needles king size quilt. **Drawing will be on November 9, 2024, at Mistletoe Mart.**

Tickets are on sale at Coffee Hour after the 10:15 service. You can also purchase tickets at the 1844 Shoppe, or from any member of Pins & Needles. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and One America Movement are excited about the upcoming series of workshops: "Leading in Divided Times." This four-part series will allow both clergy and lay leaders to gather and will be broken into four sections. Each session will be live-streamed on Zoom **beginning on Tuesday, October 8, 6:00 PM - 8:00 pm.** After registering, you will receive the Zoom link a week before the first session.



[REGISTER](#)

Week 1: The Science of Polarization (Tuesday, October 8, 6:00 PM - 8:00 pm)

An overview of normal versus toxic polarization will frame the conversation over the subsequent four sessions and provide a starting point for participants to engage with the content. In this session, facilitators briefly introduce core concepts to set the stage for the following sessions.

Week 2: The Science of Listening (Tuesday, October 15, 6:00 PM - 8:00 pm)

Understanding what happens in our brain when we listen to people that we disagree with is crucial to understanding toxic polarization. While what happens in our brain is real, with some work we can learn to control it.

Week 3: The Science of Being an Ingroup Moderate (Tuesday, October 22, 6:00 PM - 8:00 pm)

Realizing when our group is becoming extreme and helping to call them back in can be difficult. Being an ingroup moderate doesn't mean watering down your own views, but it does mean realizing when your own group might be the cause of some of the polarization. This session will explore some strategies around how to talk to your own side.

Week 4: Storytelling Through Difficult Conversation (Tuesday, October 29, 6:00 PM - 8:00 pm)

This final session will bring everything together for a final interactive workshop. We will learn how to use storytelling to have productive, meaningful discussions with people who don't think, vote, or believe the same way you do.

Spiritual practices retreat

Claggett

October 25-27 2024

Sign up today for a weekend of rest, learning and prayerful community

claggettcenter.org/adult-programs



**Annual Carroll County Christian
Men's Prayer Breakfast
October 5, 2024
7:30 - 10:00 am**

with Matt Tyner, Head Baseball Coach at Towson University

Music: Justin Combs, Worship leader Crossroads Church, Westminster

Visit us online at <https://carroll.mdmn.org>

Please Join Us for our 28th Annual Prayer Breakfast celebrating the unity and diversity of the church without regard to background, ethnicity or denomination. We are all One in Christ.

It is our honor to host Matt Tyner to share his true story of professional baseball to addiction to redemption through God's amazing grace.

Tickets are \$20 and are available online at
<https://carroll.mdmn.org>

Event held at
Pleasant Valley Fire Hall
2030 Pleasant Valley Rd. Westminster, MD 21158

Email for additional information - carroll@mdmen.org

Thank You Note

Dear Ascension Family:

Thank you all for making Hanora's baptism, on Sunday, September 8, so beautiful and memorable! The service was truly fantastic, and it meant so much to share this special day with our beloved Ascension Family.

We are deeply grateful to the Altar Guild, the Music team, and Parish Administrator, Ann Fariss, those who helped set up and clean up the luncheon, and the many others for all your efforts in preparing for the event. We also appreciate the thoughtful cards and gifts. We feel incredibly blessed to welcome Hanora into the same church family that is so dear to our hearts.

With love and gratitude,
Kevin, Jackie, Roan, and Hanora Weschler



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

VESTRY MINUTES- Tuesday, September 24, 2024

6:30 P.M. in the Guild Room

1. Opening:
 - a. The meeting began at 6:32pm.
 - i. Those Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Jackie Weschler (Registrar), Beverly Baker, Liz Lowe, Roberta Wilhelm, Diana Baker, Kim Tompkins, Beth Anthony
 - ii. Via Phone: Donna Hansen (Senior Warden)
 - iii. Excused: Deb Howard, Jennie Grabill, Gary Lang (Junior Warden), Carrie Goff, Luke Gore
 - b. Prayer: Fr. Pierre-Henry
2. Approval of Consent Agenda and Finance:
 - i. **Motion Approved** to accept the Consent Agenda: Vestry Meeting Minutes (August 20, 2024), Resolutions 2024 YTD- August, Approval of Delegate for Convention Approval (approved via email Aug 30th, 2024), Mistletoe Mart Report, Rector Report
 1. In the Vestry Minutes, paragraph 3.b.iii.1.b., change 'Arocon' to 'Parker Fuel' so that the sentence reads, 'Motion Approved to approve we award this contract to Parker Fuel to replace the boiler in the rectory.'
 2. In the Vestry Resolutions, Motion 2024-27, change 'Arocon' to 'Parker Fuel' in the first sentence so that it reads, "Motion to approve we award this contract to Parker Fuel to replace the boiler in the rectory."
 - ii. Motion by Roberta Wilhem Second by Kim Tompkins. Unanimously approved.
1. Old Business:
 - a. **Motion Approved** unanimously to modify the Expenditure Approval Process, following the recommendations presented by Roberta Wilhem
 - i. Up to \$1000 expenditure per project:
 1. Committee Chair can proceed with purchase if it is part of that committee's annual budget expenses.
 2. No formal quotes required, but Committee encouraged to find the best price.
 - ii. Greater than \$1000 up to \$1500 expenditure per project:
 1. Submit request to Rector & Sr. Warden.
 2. Three quotes are required.
 - iii. Greater than \$ 1,500.00 expenditure per project:
 1. Submit request to Rector or Sr. Warden.
 2. Three quotes are required.
 3. Requires Vestry approval.
 - iv. Note: If a desired project is not part of the budget, the committee must first submit the request to Rector & Sr. Warden.
 1. Rector & Sr. Warden will determine if project can be pursued, and if so, work with the Finance Committee to research funding options.
 - b. *(No new update)* Fundraising
 - i. Band Dinner Event: Pierre-Henry is in contact with Jim Schwartz to organize this event.
 - ii. Bag Bingo in planning for 2025
2. New Business:
 - a. Plaques in the building and what to do with them. *See attached proposal
 - i. Vestry reviewed the plaques during the vestry meeting.
 - ii. Kim Tompkins will contact the families and see if they would like their plaque returned to the family's possession and contact the Shellman House.
 - b. The Stewardship Campaign will begin in October with the help and assistance of all of Vestry.
 - i. Update vestry seeking vestry members to share their giving stories with the congregation.
3. Leadership Reports:
 - a. Sr. Warden (Donna Hansen)
 - i. 30 North: The Finance Committee informed us that the current rental agreement will expire October 30, 2024. A new 2-year lease agreement was voted on and accepted by the vestry to be presented to the tenants in October.
Motion Approved Motion by Kim Tompkins. Second by Beth Anthony. All in favor.
 - ii. Finance Committee proposal to increase rent for Wednesdays Soup Kitch *See Attached Document
 1. **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. **Action Item** Vestry would like a draft contract with a liability clause. Beverly Baker will collaborate with Donna Hansen.
- b. Jr. Warden (Gary Lang)
 - i. Slate Siding Repairs
 1. Buildings and Grounds is seeking three quotes and set to discuss new revelations after three quotes are obtained.
 - a. Buildings and Grounds gave an update on the slate siding. They are seeking quotes from McCreesh, Arocon, and Thomas Roofing.
 - b. The roofing repairs are divided into two areas.
 - i. Worship Wing – Holy Cross Hall.
 1. McCreesh- 43 tiles @ \$2,942
 2. Arocon- 50 tiles @ \$3,000
 3. Thomas Roofing- 50-100 tiles @ \$250-\$5,000
 - ii. Administration Wing – Fellowship Hall down to Pierre-Henry's, Treasurer's and Ann's Office.
 1. With the age of the Administration Wing, none of the companies want to replace the slare tiles. All three companies recommended replacing the roof with architectural shingles.
 - a. McCreesh- Waiting for the estimate.
 - b. Arocon- \$13,500
 - c. Thomas Roofing- \$10,400
 - ii. Buildings & Grounds - Upcoming projects involving Middendorf Loan monies: *no recent updates.
 - c. Rector (Fr. Pierre-Henry)
 - i. Soup Kitchen Concerns
 1. **Action Item** Pierre-Henry will speak with the leaders of Soup Kitchen and address key issues.
 2. **Action Item** Vestry recommended adding locks to certain doors to help secure the building.
 - ii. Finance Summary
 1. Vestry reviewed the reports. The budget for the year is looking better than we had projected. We are still negative; however, it is extremely less than projections.
4. Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer – All in unison
5. Adjournment:
 - a. 9/24/2024, Guild Room.
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

The Vestry		
Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson		Rector, Stewardship, Digital Ministry, Memorials
Donna Hansen, 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
Robertta Wilhelm	2026	Worship Assistants, Children's Choir, Praise Ensemble
Beth Anthony	2027	Communications, Adult Ensemble, Handbell Choir
Diana Baker	2027	Children & Youth
Carrie Goff	2027	Pastoral Care (St. James' Commission, St. Luke's Guild, LEV)
Kim Tompkins	2027	Altar Guild, Fundraising (1844 Shoppe, Mistletoe Mart, Cookie Walk)

Election Prayers: Prayers are Posted on the [Resources page](#) of the church website.

★ **FOR SOUND GOVERNMENT** ★

For this season, we encourage you to pray this litany every day. You might also consider praying the Great Litany, beginning on page 148 of *The Book of Common Prayer*.


O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.
Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.
Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.
Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.
Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.
For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.



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★ **SEASON** ★

OF PRAYER:

FOR AN ELECTION:

We come together, asking God for courage and wisdom, thanking God for love and joy. As we move toward the election of leaders for the United States, may we all join in a season of prayer, committing to offer to God our fears and frustrations, our hopes and dreams.

A novena is an ancient tradition of nine days of devotional prayers, often with a specific intention. In this case, we pray for discernment in voting and for the well-being of our nation. Starting October 27 and continuing through the day after the election, we invite you to pray for the election of leaders in the United States.

These prayers, drawn from *The Book of Common Prayer*, can be printed out and tucked in a Bible or prayer journal. The prayers will be posted daily on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, #seasonofprayer. We encourage you to share your prayers in person or online.



★ NINE DAYS OF PRAYER ★

OCT 27 Pray for the nation

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

OCT 28 Pray for every human heart

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OCT 29 Pray for those who influence public opinion

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OCT 30 Pray for these times of conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OCT 31 Pray for guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldst have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

NOV 1 Pray for direction from God

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

NOV 2 Pray for discernment

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

NOV 3 Pray for the election

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

NOV 4 Pray for our own work for the common good

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



All prayers are taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*, pages 258, 823, 827, 824, 832, 231, 822, and 261.

This free guide is offered as part of the ministry of Forward Movement, which donates thousands of resources each month to hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons. To learn more and support this ministry, visit www.ForwardMovement/donate.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY PRAYER REQUEST

Each year at the **Feast of All Saints'**, this year on **Sunday, November 3**, we remember in the Parish Prayers loved ones – family and friends – whose earthly lives have ended but who are with us through the Communion of Saints. You are invited to submit the names of those saints who have been special in your life.

Please complete this form and place it in the Offering Plate by Sunday, October 27.

Or mail it to: Church of the Ascension | 23 N. Court Street | Westminster, MD 21157

Your Name: _____

Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street

Westminster, MD 21157