Ascension Extension

MARCH 2025

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.1-3
MARCH WORSHIP	P. 2
ASH WEDNESDAY	P.3
SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES	P. 4
INQUIRERS' CLASS	P. 4
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	p.5
OFFICE NOTES	P.6
MISTLETOE MART	P.7
DREAMBUILDERS FUNDRAISER	P.8
VESTRY	.p. 9-10
CHILDREN & YOUTH	р.11
	P.13-14

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



Rector's Message

Dear Friends and Parishioners:

As I was thinking about Lent and the March issue of the Extension, these words came to my mind:



It's the most wonderful time of the year. And that made me laugh because few of us would say that Lent is the most wonderful time of the year. There will be no kids jingle belling, nobody to tell us to "be of good cheer," no parties for hosting, and no caroling out in the snow, to quote some of the lyrics. Rather, for many, Lent is the most gloomy and depressing season of the year. We begin with a formal call to penitence with imposing of the ashes and the traditional words: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. We are called to acknowledge our sinfulness and to repent; we are called to read the Bible more seriously and to pray more intentionally; we are called to fast and to give to the less fortunate. Even our Sunday Eucharist is somber with the penitential rite, the Kyrie in lieu of the Gloria, and slowly but surely our hearts and minds will turn to the passion and death of Christ with the liturgy of Holy Week that will lead us to the joy and beauty of Easter. Then we will rejoice; then it will be a wonderful time of the year. But Lent?

Maybe the way Lent was celebrated in the past is the reason why many are not so excited when we begin this special season of the year. I must confess that for a long time I did not like Lent (Continued on p. 2)

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

<u>March Worship</u>

March 2

Last Sunday after Epiphany 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 Fellowship Hour

<u>March 5</u>

Ash Wednesday

12:00 pm H.E. Rite II, Stone Church 6:00 pm H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall Community Worship Service

March 9 (Daylight Saving Time Begins) First Sunday in Lent

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 Fellowship Hour

March 16

Second Sunday in Lent

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 Fellowship Hour

<u>March 23</u>

Third Sunday in Lent

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 Fellowship Hour

March 30

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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 Fellowship Hour

Rector's Message continued...

at all. It was the darkest season of the liturgical year. The focus was too much on sin and repentance, mandatory confession before Holy Week, and the 3 traditional Lenten disciplines of fasting, almsgiving and prayer were chores that did not bring any joy but more guilt when I was not able to follow through. I remember each year the time spent to make the list of what I wanted to do during Lent: read the Bible, take more time of daily prayer, go to mass more often, be kind, and find something I was going to give up during Lent as a spiritual effort. If I don't remember in detail the many things I tried, and the many things I gave up, I remember clearly that I was rarely successful, and before mid-lent I felt so guilty for my failed promises. I ended Lent ashamed and discouraged.

This is the past! I know from experience that Lent can be a wonderful time of the liturgical year. I'm excited to begin Lent. Each year I am excited and moved by the beautiful and meaningful celebration of Ash Wednesday, I'm excited and moved by the different Sunday worship experience. I appreciate the readings of the daily office, and I look forward to the beauty and deep spiritual experience of Holy Week. I see Lent as a spiritual journey, a spiritual adventure, leading us slowly from Ash Wednesday to Easter morning. Tools, or gears, are available during this 46- day journey: the traditional Lenten spiritual disciplines of prayer, fast, and almsgiving, the Book of Common Prayer, the Bible, a devotional, and other spiritual practices. A long trek can be exhausting; I learned that I must be gentle with myself; for instance I don't fast by skipping a meal daily anymore: I'm not adding daily new spiritual practices either, because I know it would not be sustainable for my entire Lenten journey and only bring frustrations. Even the Church invites us to take pauses on this 46day journey between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday: the six Sundays of Lent, technically, are not part of the Lenten journey. They are spiritual pauses, and each Sunday, even in Lent, is a celebration of Easter. That means that whatever spiritual practices or efforts one has chosen for Lent, they don't apply on Sundays. The six Sundays of Lent are pauses, allowing us to recuperate and continue our journey up to Easter.

Yes, Lent can be the most wonderful time of the year! A time to reconnect with God, a time to intentionally slow down the pace of our lives; a time to pause and ponder; a time to pray and to read the Bible; a time to acknowledge our failed efforts to live according to (Continued on p. 3)

Rector's Message continued...

the command to love God and our neighbor as ourselves; a time to ask God for forgiveness, and a time to reconcile with those around us we might have offended. Lent can be the most wonderful time of the year when we intentionally center our minds and hearts on Christ to listen to his call to love and forgive, to be beacons of peace and reconciliation in our polarized and divided society. And, of course, the Lenten message is a call to repentance and conversion, a call to listen more closely to the Lord Jesus Christ, a call to change and amend our lives, a call to care for those in need around us. With Jesus' words that we will hear again on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a call to fast, pray, and give to the poor.

And if you wonder what to do this Lent, I leave you with this text attributed to Pope Francis:

Do you want to fast this Lent?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Dear brothers and sisters of Ascension, I wish you a blessed and holy Lent. I hope this 2025 Lent will be a wonderful season for you.

In Christ's Love, Pierre-Henry+





Living Well Through Lent 2025 invites you on a transformative Lenten journey exploring a different fruit of the Spirit each week: faithfulness, peace, joy, generosity, patience, and love. This 84-page devotional offers daily reflections and "making-it-personal" questions that encourage deeper exploration of these fruits. Devotional books are available in both churches, and on the literature table outside of Holy Cross Hall. A downloadable pdf document is included in the Enews and the Resource page of the church website.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: March 4, 5:00-7:00 pm

Come Hungry and Leave Full!

St Martha's Guild Annual Pancake Supper is just around the corner. This is a fundraiser for St Martha's Guild so invite others - extended family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.

For planning purposes, please click below to RSVP and/or volunteer to help.

Many hands make the work lighter and the fellowship with one another is uplifting. You may also contact Jill Horn if you are available to help: jillhorn63@gmail.com OR 410-259-0504.

RSVP and/or VOLUNTEER



Inquirers' Class



office@ascension-westminster.com

If you are baptized but not confirmed, confirmed in another Church denomination, or you want to refresh your knowledge and are willing to renew your baptismal vows, you are invited to a 5-week Inquirers' Class with Fr. Pierre-Henry.

This class will explore our history, faith, and tradition, and allow you to be confirmed, received in the Episcopal Church, or reaffirm your faith during the celebration presided by Bishop Carrie on Ascension Day, May 29, at Church of the Ascension

"The Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop. It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord." (BCP p.860) _____

•

Worship Assistants: March 2025							
Altar Guild: Team 2 Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana							
	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicists	Worship Slides		
March 2 8:00 am	Don & Janice Hobart	Angela Chmar	Jennie Grabill				
March 2 10:15 am	1. Beatrice Howe 2. Emelia Howe	Betsy Reinders		 John Holbert Melissa Leahy Jill Horn A. 	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden		
March 5 Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm	Roberta Wilhelm	David Kreider	Beverly Baker				
March 5 Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm	1. David Horn 2.	Jill Horn	Jennie Grabill	 John Holbert 3. 4. 	Jeanne Cox		
March 9 8:00 am		Roberta Wilhelm	Beverly Baker				
March 9 10:15 am	1. 2.	Buck Lyon- Vaiden		 John Holbert 	Jeanne Cox		
March 16 8:00 am							
March 16 10:15 am	1. 2.	Betsy Reinders	Emelia Howe	1. 2. 3. 4.	John Holbert		
March 23 8:00 am		Roberta Wilhelm	Beverly Baker				
March 23 10:15 am	1. 2.	Roberta Gore		 John Holbert 			
March 30 8:00 am			Beverly Baker				
March 30 10:15 am	1. 2.	Betsy Reinders		 John Holbert 			

Fellowship Hour: Volunteer Hosts Needed!



The Fellowship Committee seeks individuals, families, or ministries to host Fellowship Hour after the 10:15 service on March 9 or March 30.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Jackie Weschler (jaclynmkirb@gmail.com).

Church Office Notes



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9. Set your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night, March 8.



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.

.

Coming in March: United Thank Offering

Sponsored by St. Martha's Guild

Start collecting your change. A Ministry of THE $Episcopal_{CHURCH}$

"Our Change Changes Lives"



The Mistletoe Mart Is In Jeopardy!

We are striving to have our 51st Mistletoe Mart November 13-15, 2025. However, there are several critical team lead positions which must be filled by March 31 so that training can begin to support the successful transitions for this year's Mart. The organization, planning and coordination activities for these specific areas can begin as early as late spring / early summer. If these lead positions are not filled by March 31, we will not be able to hold the Mart.

These open positions are:

Tear Down / Set Up – to replace Kevin & Jackie Weschler for this year

Plans, coordinates and develops a team to organize and take down the HCH altar & pew chairs as well as furniture from the Fellowship Hall, parlor, classrooms and offices before the Mart and then sets up afterwards. Is on site to provide instructions to the movers when the furniture is picked up before the Mart for off-site storage and then delivered back to Ascension after the Mart. Provides physical assistance to MM team leads when requested to pull their items from the MM closet to prepare for the Mart and place packed boxes back in the MM closet afterwards. Moves the requested tables and chairs to each vendor location. Assists with setting up the Café and Baked Good Table area. Please contact Kevin & Jackie to further discuss.

Decorating - shadow and assist Betsy Reinders this year and assume the role by Mistletoe Mart 2026 Plans, coordinates and develops a team to organize supplies and decorate the HCH, Fellowship Hall and hallways prior to the Mart and then removes & packs the decorations afterwards. This also includes "fluffing the greens," decorating bulletin boards and hanging the MM vendor signs at each vendor location. Please contact Betsy to further discuss.

The following positions have been filled:

- 1. Social Media Coordinator is now Lauren Beeker, replacing Beth Anthony.
- 2. Publicity is now Lynn Lyon-Vaiden and Susan Considine, replacing Sandy White.

Based upon the proceeds from Mistletoe Mart 2024, the committee has begun to make donations to both Ascension and Committee Outreach initiatives:

- \$ 33,700 to Ascension
- \$ 10,000 to Community Outreach, including:
- Access Carroll
- Bridging Life (CC Times Holiday Hope)
- Caring Carroll
- Carroll County Food Sunday (CC Times Holiday Hope)
- Carroll County Youth Service Bureau
- Church Homes Foundation (Timber Ridge)
- DreamBuilders MD, Joyce's Crew
 - Ghanaian Mothers' Hope (Summer Reading Program)

- HSP of Carroll County
- Meals on Wheels
- NESAP
- Target Communication & Educational Services
- The Arc of Carroll County
- The Shepherd's Staff (Festival of Trees)
- Westminster Rescue Mission
- YMCA Turkey Trot
- 4H Fair Cake Sale / Auction

We value the success of the Mistletoe Mart over the past 50 years. We treasure the friendships we have developed and relationships that have been fostered with each other, our vendors and the community. Over all these years, we have been able to donate \$251,205 to Community Outreach and \$682,224 to Ascension. We pray the 2 remaining open lead positions can be filled by March 31, 2025, so that we can continue to hold the Mistletoe Mart.

Mistletoe Mart Co-Chairs Jenny Beeker, Kim Tompkins

DreamBuilders MD Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser: Saturday, March 8



Support the June mission trip to Kentucky:

- Attend the Spaghetti Dinner!
- Provide a bottle of wine and/or a \$25 restaurant gift card for a Wine & Gift Card bag (to be sold at the event) Use the signup sheet that is posted in the Fellowship Hall
- Donate an item or themed basket for the Silent Auction (Ask Buck Lyon-Vaiden for ideas!)
- Buy a raffle ticket for a Samsung TV (Buck will soon have tickets to sell!)

Win a Samsung 75" 4K TV

In support of DreamBuilders™

\$20.00 per raffle ticket (3 for \$50.00)



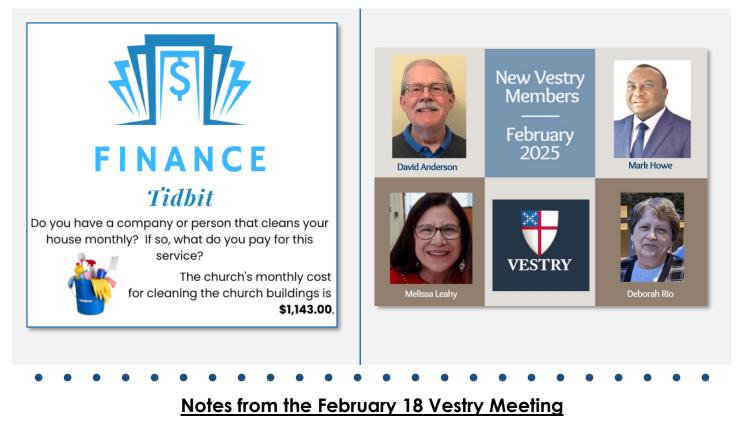
NO MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

The drawing will be held on March 8, 2025 at the Spaghetti Dinner.

The winner will be notified immediately.

Benefit for DreamBuilders of Maryland (www.dreambuildersmd.org)

The Vestry					
Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison			
Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson		Rector, Stewardship, Digital Ministry, Memorials			
Kim Tompkins, Sr. Warden	2027	Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Altar Guild			
Gary Lang, Jr. Warden		Buildings & Grounds			
Nancy Starner, Treasurer					
Jackie Weschler, Registrar					
Beverly Baker	2026				
Liz Lowe	2026				
Roberta Wilhelm	2026				
Diana Baker	2027				
David Anderson	2027				
Mark Howe	2028				
Melissa Leahy	2028				
Deobrah Rio	2028				



.Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Kim Tompkins (Senior Warden), Beverly Baker, Jennie Grabill, Deb Howard, Liz Lowe, Roberta Wilhelm, Debbie Bargar (Finance Chair). Excused: Gary Lang (Jr. Warden), Jackie Weschler (Registrar), Diana Baker, Luke Gore.

After the opening prayer led by Fr. Pierre-Henry, the Vestry approved the Consent Agenda, including the minutes from the January 21, 2025, Vestry Meeting as well as reports from the Rector, Senior Warden and the Mistletoe Mart.

Debbie Bargar, Chair of the Finance Committee, reviewed the Financial Reports for January 2025. The total income for January was \$28,804.64 and the total expenses were \$28,822.83, resulting in a \$18.19 deficit for the month. Debbie also reminded the Vestry that every month the 1st Sunday's loose plate offering goes to the Rector's Discretionary fund. Debbie then presented the most recent draft of the budget for 2025. Minor changes were made, resulting in a \$7,667 deficit. The Vestry approved the 2025 Budget.

The Vestry also approved a change to the by-laws for Article II, Section 8 Quorum and Presiding Officer, reducing the quorum to 5 lay Vestry Members and the Rector if present, or 7 lay Vestry Members if the Rector is not present.

Fr. Pierre-Henry thanked Jennie Grabill and Deb Howard for their service on Vestry.

Notes from the February 23 Vestry Meeting

Those Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Kim Tompkins (Senior Warden), David Anderson, Beverly Baker, Mark Howe, Melissa Leahy, Deb Rio, Roberta Wilhelm. Excused: Gary Lang (Junior Warden), Jackie Weschler (Registrar), Diana Baker, Liz Lowe.

The new Vestry briefly met in the Holy Cross Hall after the 181st Annual Parish Meeting concluded on Sunday, February 23, 2025. The Vestry elected Kim Tompkins as Senior Warden and Gary Lang as Junior Warden for 2025.

	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		



Youth Sunday



youth@ascension-westminster.com

Youth Sunday

Sunday, March 2 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.

Free Summer Programs

We're excited to announce the return of our Free Summer Programs, offering creative, educational, and fun experiences for children in our community! To make this year's program a success, we need your help.

Dates & Times: July 14–18 and July 21–25 (excluding Wednesdays). Sessions are 1–2 hours, with time slots between 9 AM–12 PM and 12 PM–7 PM.

How You Can Help:

- Lead a Session: Share a skill, hobby, or activity with kids ages 3–12.
- Assist with Setup: Help organize materials and prepare spaces.
- Provide General Support: Assist participants, manage supplies, or help clean up.

Safeguarding Certification: Required for at least one adult per session. Email us at youth@ascension-westminster.com for certification info.

Support Provided: You'll receive a child roster (ages, allergies, etc.), activity ideas, and assistants to help during your session.

Interested? Email us at youth@ascensionwestminster.com or contact Jackie Weschler to share your availability and how you'd like to help.

Your time and enthusiasm can make this summer unforgettable for our community. Thank you for your support—we can't wait to hear from you!

Claggett Center Summer Camps



claggettcenter.org/youth-programs

Registration is open!

Tuesday Bible Study

Our Women of the Bible study will meet on March 4 and March 18 at 9:30 am. Please contact Bill Sears (redrock2@verizon.net) for questions or additional information.



Sunday Morning Bible Study Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study Hour SUNDAY 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Themed Betweek Lunch: Adereb 21

Themed Potluck Lunch: March 21



In Loving Memory

Our brother in Christ and longtime parishioner, Colin Furneaux, husband of Lorraine Fulton-Furneaux, died peacefully at Inspirations Memory Care on Saturday morning, February 1. He was 85 years old.

The funeral service was held on Friday, February 14 and was followed by a reception.

Memorial donations may be made to Church of the Ascension.



Tuesday at 9:30 am

Community Events

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Colin Furneauxa dedicated CMOTH Board member and a lover of Chamber Music.

Chamber Music on the Hill presents A Garden of Musical Delights: Encore Chamber Winds and Friends

Sunday, March 2, 2025, 3 p.m. The Theater in Scott Center, Carroll Community College



Rob Sirois, Bassoon Mindy Niles, Oboe David Duree, Clarinet

What if you were to take a reed trio—bassoon, oboe, clarinet—and add a flute, and a horn, and then a piano and a vocalist, too? Join us as seven outstanding artists take us to a garden of musical delights with works by Charles Gounod, Franz Schubert, Andrey Rubstov and the famous 'Sextet' by Francis Poulenc.









 Paulella Burchill, Flute
 Lynne Griffith, Horn
 Lisa Dodson, Soprano
 David Kreider, Piano

 Tickets at door and online/PayPal:
 www.McDaniel.edu/CMOTH

 General:
 \$20; Seniors/Military: \$15; Children and Students free

 Reception to follow—meet the musicians!

Community Events (continued)



Westminster Ecumenical Ministerium Black History Month Racial Justice & Reconciliation Series

Originally Scheduled for February 6

<u>Thursday, March 13 at 6pm</u> – at Carroll Lutheran Village Chapel 300 Luther Dr. Westminster, MD 21158 (Hosted by Revs. Charlie Marshall & Matt Fuhrman) Refreshments and fellowship to follow. **"Remembering the 60's Civil Rights Era"** showing the CMC Documentary **"March on Washington ,"** followed by discussion and sharing of memories of that era.

A Westminster Gem!

Have you discovered Westminster's wonderful little independent bookstore, Rudolph Girls? It's a small bookstore with a big heart. If they don't have the title you are looking for they are happy to order it for you, and it arrives quickly. I love having a local bookstore to support! Check them out! (Rudolphgirls.com)

The bookstore will host a discussion on Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde's book "How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith" on **Thursday March 27 at 6:00 p.m.**

The bookstore is located at 19 Liberty St, Suite 3, Westminster. 443-974-6901. Their parking lot is across the street from the O'Lordan's Irish Pub.

Ellen Anderson

Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street Westminster, MD 21157