



# Ascension Extension

FEBRUARY 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  
 FEBRUARY WORSHIP.....P. 2  
 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS.....P.3  
 OFFICE NOTES.....P.4  
 BLACK HISTORY MONTH.....P.5  
 MISTLETOE MART.....P.6  
 NICENE CREED ANNIVERSARY.....P.7  
 VESTRY.....P. 8-11  
 CHILDREN & YOUTH.....P.12  
 SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES.....P.15  
 DREAMBUILDERS FUNDRAISER.....P.16

## Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.



### Rector's Message

Dear Ascension Family:

While sitting at my desk to prepare this message, an image popped into my mind, and whenever I tried to brush it off and concentrate, it came back again and again. So, here it is. It was sometime in 1984. I was still in the Army, I was in touch with the Bishop of La Rochelle about seminary, and he sent me to spend a full week in a Benedictine monastery in the Basque region. There, daily, I had a time of discussion with the prior, to assess whether I really had a vocation to the priesthood. He asked me how I could see myself as a priest, and I started to explain what I had in mind. This is the vivid memory that popped in my mind suddenly this morning, because after all these years, I can still remember the vision I had of the priesthood. I saw myself as the rector of a small church in a village in the countryside. It was peaceful and easy with the celebration of the Mass on Sunday and on weekdays, visiting the parishioners, all within walking distance, doing pastoral care and counseling, celebrating funerals, baptisms, and weddings. The Prior smiled, and told me that there was very little chance that my vision would happen. He was so right! Even after years of seminary, including 2 full years in a parish, I had no clue about what my ministry would be. It was never boring, and rarely two days were exactly the same.

In France, during my six years of active ministry, I was never in a small church or a small village, and my parishioners were never within walking distance. I spent time in my car going from one place to another, learning new skills, discovering new people, and celebrating sacraments, sometimes wondering what I was doing because the many people I buried, married, and baptized,

*(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.*

## February Worship

### February 2

#### **The Presentation of Our Lord**

#### **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

### February 9

#### **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

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

### February 1

#### **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

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

### February 23

#### **Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

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 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

### *Rector's Message continued...*

were not church goers. But this vision of a small peaceful small church, with lots of time in my hands to read, pray, meditate, and encounter people, is still stuck in my head.

When I started my ministry in the United States in July 2014, I had 2 weeks when I was able to breathe, read, and pray as much as I wanted because there was nothing for me to do, except to become familiar with the church and the people. That did not last, and that did not occur ever again.

Looking back, I realize how much my vision of the priesthood was not realistic, or belonged to another time. It reminds me that deep within me there is a desire to experience peace, a thirst for quiet time, and a regular prayer life that is not always possible in the business of a priest's life, and to be honest, with the business of anybody's life. I had to learn many skills that were not taught at seminary, from leading meetings to being a summer camp director for 50 kids, organizing and leading pilgrimages for teens and college students, to teaching "sacred studies" at an Episcopal school for middle schoolers. Somehow all these things were related to the day-to-day ministry. They were different ways of being with people and preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ.

One thing that I did not expect when I began my ministry as an Episcopal rector, was the ministry of money. I already shared with you part of my stewardship journey, from giving almost nothing out of obligation to being a tither. But struggling year after year with the finances of a parish, inviting people to be as generous as they can over and over again, and dealing with deficit budgets even when people are being generous; this is sometimes so discouraging.

The Vestry is finalizing the budget for 2025, our dream was to have a balanced budget, but that might not be possible again. The Finance Committee, the Vestry, and the various committees are doing their best to address the situation, and we will have new fundraisers during the year. So, I'm hopeful.

I was so naive about the ministry 41 years ago! I'm glad that I did not know what it would be like, how demanding it would be, and how far the Lord would lead me and my family. If I had known, I might have run away!

*(Continued on p. 3)*

*Rector's Message continued...*

I'm thankful for the various opportunities that were presented to me, and the many ways the Lord challenged me. No regrets whatsoever. But, about the financial health of Ascension, this is our common challenge, if we want Ascension not only to pursue its mission, but also to grow in number and discipleship, if we want Ascension to be able to attract families with children and youth, if we want Ascension to be a place where the love of God is embodied, I have to ask you once again: please be as generous as you can!

Your brother in Christ,  
Pierre-Henry+

**Worship Assistants: February 2025****Altar Guild:  
Team 1**

Karen Lance, Jenny Lui, Kathy Sullivan, Sandy White

	<b>Usher(s)</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Chalicians</b>	<b>Worship Slides</b>
<b>February 2</b> 8:00 am	Cheryl Vecera	Ann Fariss			
<b>February 2</b> 10:15 am	1. David Horn 2.	Olivia Carpenter	Emelia Howe	1. Jill Horn 2. Mark Howe 3. John Holbert 4.	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
<b>February 9</b> 8:00 am	Roberta Wilhelm	Angela Chmar	Beverly Baker		
<b>February 9</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	Buck Lyon- Vaiden		1. Melissa Leahy 2. Kat Dittrich 3. John Holbert 4. Betsy Reinders	
<b>February 1</b> 8:00 am	Bill Sears	David Kreider			
<b>February 1</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	Betsy Reinders		1. Betsy Reinders 2. Kat Dittrich 3. Mark Howe 4.	John Holbert
<b>February 23</b> 8:00 am		Roberta Wilhelm	Beverly Baker		
<b>February 23</b> 10:15 am	1. David Horn 2.	Betsy Reinders		1. Kat Dittrich 2. John Holbert 3. 4.	Jill Horn

**Altar flower charts for 2025** are posted in each church so that you can reserve your special dates. A standard set of altar flowers will continue to cost \$50. Please speak with any member of the Altar Guild or call the Church Office if you have any questions about payment or about the ordering process.

**Fellowship Hour: Volunteer Hosts Needed!**



The Fellowship Committee seeks individuals, families, or ministries to host Fellowship Hour after the 10:15 service on **February 2, March 9 or March 30.**

**Hosting is simple and fun!** Pre-packaged snacks will be provided—all we need is your help to make coffee and lemonade, set out the refreshments, and clean up afterward. **If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Jackie Weschler (jaclynmkirb@gmail.com).** Thank you for helping to make our time of connection and community possible!

**Church Office Notes**

**March Newsletter: Articles Due**

**Monday, February 17**  
[communication@ascension-westminster.com](mailto:communication@ascension-westminster.com)

**Contribution Statements for 2024 are available in the back of each church on February 2 and February 9,** if you would like to take yours with you. If you are not able to pick yours up it will be mailed to your home.

**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.







**Westminster Ecumenical Ministerium  
Black History Month Racial Justice & Reconciliation Series  
February 2025**

*For more information on the WEM speaker series:  
Contact Rev. Marty Kuchma, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, (410) 848-5975*

---

**Thursday, February 6 at 6pm** – 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<sup>1</sup>,” followed by discussion and sharing of memories of that era**

**Thursday, February 13 at 6pm** – at **Church of the Ascension**, 23 N Court St, Westminster, MD 21157 (Hosted by Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson) **Refreshments and fellowship to follow.**  
**“Working toward Racial Justice and Reconciliation in our Mainline Churches” Speakers: Rev. Randy Callender, Canon for Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland; Cathy Rice, Co-Chair, Delaware-Maryland Lutheran Synod Racial Justice Team**

**Thursday, February 20 at 6pm** – at **Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalist Church**, 2912 Club House Rd, Finksburg, MD 21048 (Hosted by Rev. Kimberley Debus) **Refreshments and fellowship to follow.**  
**Speaker from the Carroll County Lynching Memorial Coalition, Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC), introduced by Rev. Marty Kuchma, St. Paul’s United Church of Christ.**

**Thursday, February 27 at 6pm** – at **Westminster Church of the Brethren**, 19 Bond Street, Westminster, MD 21157 (Hosted by Rev. Glenn McCrickard ) **Refreshments and fellowship to follow.**  
**“Keep On Keeping On.” Speaker: Rev. William H. Johnson III, Senior Pastor, Union Memorial Baptist Church, “Where Do We Go From Here?”**

## ***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.

**Publicity** - to replace Sandy White for this year

Plans, coordinates and develops a team to provide print publicity for the Mart. Topics include: coordinating the artwork design and implementing the advertisements for various publications (i.e. Carroll Arts Magazine, Arts Council newsletter, Shepherd's Staff newsletter, Baltimore Sun / Carroll County Times interviews & articles); confirm design and order postcards, tri-folds, yard signs, electronic bill boards, banners. Please contact Sandy 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.

Please note, the **Social Media Coordinator** is now Lauren Beeker, replacing Beth Anthony.

Each year, the Mistletoe Mart strives to give 25-30% of the proceeds to Community Outreach.

During 2024, using proceeds from MM2023, we donated \$9,500 to Community Outreach including:

- Access Carroll
- The Arc of Carroll County
- Bridging Life
- Caring Carroll
- Carroll County Food Sunday
- Church Homes Foundation (Timber Ridge)
- DreamBuilders MD, Joyce's Crew
- Ghanaian Mothers' Hope
- HSP of Carroll County
- NESAP
- New Life for Girls
- The Shepherd's Staff
- Westminster Rescue Mission
- YMCA Turkey Trot

At our February meeting (after all our bills have been paid!) we will determine the Community Outreach donations from the Mistletoe Mart 2024 proceeds. If you have a Community Outreach proposal you would like the Mistletoe Mart Committee to review, please forward it to Kim Tompkins (ktompkins2@verizon.net) by Monday, February 10.

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 these 3 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

## 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed

**Did you know that the Nicene Creed that we proclaim each Sunday was partially written by the bishops gathered by the Emperor Constantine for what became the First Ecumenical Council?** This first gathering of bishops



representing the whole Church took place in the city of Nicaea (now İznik, Turkey) from May to the end of July 325, 1,700 years ago. One of the goals of this first official Creed was to proclaim the orthodox (right) faith against the position of the priest Arius and his allies for whom the Son was not of the same nature as the Father. As a consequence of the Council, the Church was divided between those who accepted the Council and those who rejected it.

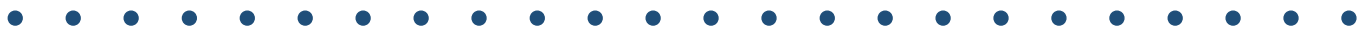
The Second Ecumenical Council, held in 381 in Constantinople, made some changes to the original text, adding several paragraphs (from *the Lord, the giver of life to amen.*) The revised Creed, known as the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, became the official creed of both the western part of the Church (speaking Latin) and the Eastern part (speaking Greek). This Creed was reaffirmed during the Third Ecumenical Council of Ephesus in 451.

The west later added a sentence to the Creed that was never approved by an Ecumenical council, and therefore rejected by the east. This is known as the "Filioque" controversy, a Latin term meaning "and from the Son." In the original Greek version, the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. This addition of the Filioque unilaterally by the Western Church is one of the causes of the Great Schism that broke the Church in 1054. Some churches use the singular: I believe, but both original versions of 325 and 381 use the plural: we believe.

This anniversary is a good opportunity to study the history of the Creed, and to be united with all the churches who proclaim the same faith. The World Council of Churches is organizing events and conferences to celebrate this 1700th anniversary.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Pierre-Henry+



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

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 Starnier, Treasurer		
Jackie Weschler, Registrar		
Luke Gore	2025	
Deb Howard	2025	Outreach
Jennie Grabill	2025	Fellowship
Beverly Baker	2026	St. Martha's Guild, Fundraising
Liz Lowe	2026	Adult Christian Formation, Pins & Needles
Roberta Wilhelm	2026	Worship Assistants, Children's Choir, Praise Ensemble
Diana Baker	2027	Children & Youth



**MIDDENDORF  
LOAN  
INFORMATION**

**Loan Amount: \$150,000**  
**Interest Rate: 4% per year**  
**Number of Payments: 120**  
**Monthly Payment: \$1,448.41**  
**(interest & principal)**  
**Loan Balance: \$138,388.40**  
**(as of 12/31/2024)**

**Notes from the January 21 Vestry Meeting**

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

After a prayer led by the Senior Warden, the Vestry approved the Consent Agenda including the minutes from December 17, 2024, the list of the resolutions for 2024, reports from the Rector, Senior Warden, Altar Guild, Mistletoe Mart, the appointment of Sophie Buisson to the Timber Ridge Apartments Board, and a flyer about Black History month organized by the ecumenical Westminster Ministerium.

Debbie Bargar, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave a report for 2024, and answered the various questions from the Vestry. We ended 2024 with a deficit of \$42,130.98. As of December 31, 2024, we have \$189,071.07 of restricted funds. Then Debbie presented a first draft of the budget for 2025. The initial projected deficit is \$53,062. That allowed a great and lengthy discussion. Given the situation it was decided not to give a raise for the staff in 2025. Each vestry member was invited to review the budget of their committees to determine whether reductions could be made. Debbie will keep working on the budget, and we hope to finalize a budget before the Annual Parish Meeting.



The Vestry nominees are: Mark Howe, Melissa Leahy, and Deborah Rio for a 3-year term, and David Anderson for a 2-year term. The Vestry approved a motion allowing Buildings and Grounds to obtain quotes for some needed work around our campus. We said the Lord's prayer before adjourning the meeting at 8:10 pm.



## Get to Know Our Vestry Nominees

**Name:** David Anderson

**Address:** 115 Houck Rd, Westminster, MD 21157

**Occupation:** Retired U.S History teacher, coach, department chair, university supervisor of student teachers

**Family:** wife Ellen, daughter Lindsey Anderson, son-in-law Tyson Fogel, grandchildren Henry and Eila, son Christopher (deceased)

**Number of Years at Ascension:** 9

**Previous church experiences:**

**Ascension:** Fellowship Committee 2015-2020; Usher and Lector; Mistletoe Mart volunteer; help with special events

**St. Paul's Episcopal DeKalb, Illinois:** Vestry, Junior Warden, Senior Warden, Chair of Rector Search Committee

**Ways to use my time and talent:** Serving on the Vestry, continuing to usher and help with special activities to further the programs at Ascension

**Name:** Mark W. Howe

**Address:** 414 Hancock Street Taneytown, MD 21787

**Occupation:** Grants Manager, MD Department of Labor

**Family:** Emelia (spouse), Kim (daughter), Caesar (son), and Beatrice Howe (Daughter).

**Number of Years at Ascension:** three (3) years.

**Activities at Ascension:** Adult Ensemble and Worship Assistant

**Bio:** Mark W. Howe was born and raised in Monrovia, Liberia to an Episcopal Church family, and is deeply rooted in the Episcopal doctrine and tradition. He has served as a chorister, usher, men's president (Trinity Cathedral), and Board Member of the Diocese's relief and humanitarian arm, Episcopal Relief and Development. Mark currently serves as Grants Manager at the Maryland Department of Labor, overseeing grants for the State's Registered and Youth Apprenticeship Programs. Mark has held key roles at organizations such as the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, Amazon, Ducor Health, the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the World Bank, and Liberia's Ministry of Education. He holds an MBA from the University of Maryland Global Campus, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from the African Methodist University in Liberia, and is a certified Project Management Professional.

**In what ways do you see yourself using your time and talents to further the ministry and programs of the church?** I hope to contribute to Ascension's growth by sharing ideas and making critical decisions that shape its future while upholding the church's values and beliefs.



**Name:** Melissa Leahy, Ph.D

**Address:** 712 Lythe Hill Court, Westminster, MD

**Occupation:** Retired (School Psychology)

**Family:** Sons Benjamin Leahy, Nicholas Leahy

**Number of Years at Ascension:** 27

**Activities at Ascension:**

Altar Guild, Outreach Committee, St. Martha's Guild, St. James' Commission, Mistletoe Mart, Thursday Night Bible Study

**In what ways do you see yourself using your time and talents to further the ministry and programs of the church?**

- I am interested in assisting our parish in adapting to the ever-changing demands of a changing society.
- I have always had a passion for our outreach projects and would love to see our campus be used again for more community programs that not only serve our needs but those of the community as well.

**Name:** Deborah Rio

**Address:** 1000 Weller Circle, Apt. 124, Westminster, MD. 21158

**Occupation:** Retired from Carroll County Public Schools as Administrative Assistant to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

**Family:** Husband of 56 years – Thomas Rio, Daughters – Jessica Rio (Chicago), Sarah and Jeffrey Lange (Lutherville, MD), Grandchildren - Elise and Marco Lange

**Number of Years at Ascension:** Since 2022, previously 2013 - 2014

**Activities at Ascension:** Member of Pins and Needles and worked at the Mistletoe Mart 2023 – 2024, Co-Coordinator of 'Ascension West' for residents of Carroll Lutheran Village who are members of Ascension.

**Previous church experiences:**

- Secretary to the Chaplain of Carroll Lutheran Village, 2014 – 2020 and worshipping there until 2022
- Coordinator of Home-Based Religious Education and attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Glyndon, MD. 2001-2006
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Point of Rocks, MD, 1985 - 1990, Organist
- Served as President of the Claggett Committee for one year.
- Grace Episcopal Church in Brunswick, MD from 1973 – 1985, Organist and Director of Children's Sunday School.

**Community Activities:**

- Chairperson of Carroll Lutheran Village Hospitality Committee for a 1-year term 2023 – 2024.
- Served two 2-year terms as President of the Residents Association at CLV, 2021-22 and 2019-2020.
- Chairperson of the Spiritual Life Committee for a 1-year term prior to being President.
- Volunteered in the Village Gift Shop prior to moving into the Village.

**In what ways do you see yourself using your time and talents to further the ministry and programs of the church?**

I believe that God has blessed me with many opportunities in the past that have required the use of my talents in each step and job opportunity that followed. Most recently I was able to attend the Vestry Vitality Day offered by the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. By the time we left the all-day session, I was excited about the possibility of coordinating a plan to welcome new members who wish to join the congregation and also those people who find us for a Sunday service or are checking us out for the possibility of becoming members in the future. These are trying times as churches are losing parishioners, and the world seems to be moving further and further away from being God centered. It is vital that we present ourselves as a loving, welcoming faith community to everyone who walks through our doors. Outreach will become more valuable as we continue to exist. I welcome the challenge!



### Youth Sunday

[youth@ascension-westminster.com](mailto:youth@ascension-westminster.com)



### Youth Sunday

**Sunday, February 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](mailto: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@ascension-westminster.com](mailto:youth@ascension-westminster.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](http://claggettcenter.org/youth-programs)



**Registration is open!**



**Claggett Center**[claggettcenter.org/adult-programs](http://claggettcenter.org/adult-programs)**Women's Weekend****February 21 – February 23**

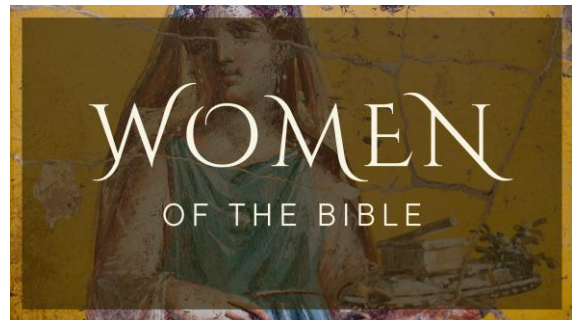
Our Keynote Speaker for Women's Weekend 2025 will be Bishop Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, the Bishop of Maryland.

This is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

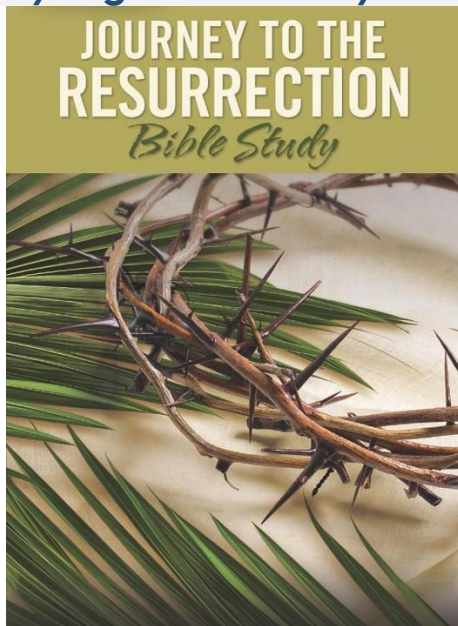
**Tuesday Bible Study****Tuesday at 9:30 am**

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

**Thursday Night Bible Study: Lent****6:30 pm In person and via Zoom****February 27 – April 10 (6 weeks)***We will not meet on April 3.*

How can you apply Jesus' crucifixion to your life in practical ways? How can you and those you lead see the deeply spiritual practices in Jesus' journey to the cross? *The Journey to the Resurrection* answers these very questions!

Jesus didn't just come to earth to die on the cross. He came to show us how to live an abundant life, a life focused on God in every season—even in times of weakness, brokenness, and betrayal. As you journey through Jesus' final days, you'll see spiritual practices that sustained him, including fasting, repentance, and confession. These practices were regularly a part of Jesus' life not as rules or regulations, but as lifelines to God's heart. See how to cultivate these 6 spiritual practices in your own life.



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

**Sunday Morning Bible Study****Sunday at 9:00 am****Sunday Morning  
Adult Bible Study Hour**

SUNDAY  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

GUILD ROOM

Themed Potluck Lunch		
Month/Date	Theme	Description
February 21	Healthy Eats	Bring a dish that is nutritious and light.



### Book Club



If you have any questions or a book suggestion, please let Cheryl Vecera know.

**Our February book** is *Where the Wind Leads* by Vinh Chung with Tim Downs. Published in 2014, it is a refugee family's miraculous story of loss, rescue, and redemption. Used copies are available online at Thriftbooks.com, eBay, AbeBooks.com, as well as new editions from Books A Million, Christian Book Distributors, and other stores.

Join us on **Wednesday, February 26 at 12:30pm** in the Guild Room.

### 1844 Shoppe

We continue to accept donations from the parish and the community. Currently we are interested in quality clothing in very good condition, and as always, antiques and eclectic pieces. Donations can be placed in the vestibule closet during the week, and brought directly into the Shoppe when it's open.



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

**Did you know that the Pancake Supper is a fundraiser for St Martha's Guild?** To make this event successful - COME! Volunteer, Eat, Pray. To RSVP or help, look for a SignUp Genius link in the weekly February Enews. You may also contact Jill Horn if you are available to help: [jillhorn63@gmail.com](mailto:jillhorn63@gmail.com) OR 410-259-0504.

Volunteer opportunities will include setting up the Fellowship Hall, Cleaning up following the event, Pancake flippers, Dining room hosts/hostesses, Dish washers and dryers.



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**5 PM - 7 PM**  
**BUTTERMILK, BLUEBERRY, CHOCOLATE CHIP, & GLUTEN-FREE PANCAKES WITH SAUSAGE AND APPLESAUCE**  
**ADULTS: \$7 CHILDREN (AGE 4-11): \$3 FAMILY(5 OR MORE): \$20 UNDER AGE 4: FREE!**  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT**  
**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
**23 N. COURT STREET WESTMINSTER, MD**  
**ASCENSION-WESTMINSTER.COM/EVENTS**

**Lent Devotional** will be available in late February.



*Living Well Through Lent 2025* invites you on a transformative Lenten journey exploring 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.



## 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 sign-up 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!*)



**DreamBuilders** An Interfaith Community of Teens and Adults Building Houses for Those in Need

### Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser

Saturday, March 8, 5–8pm, Temple Isaiah Sanctuary  
12200 Scaggsville Rd., Fulton, Maryland 20759

The Annual Spaghetti Dinner is historically our biggest fundraiser of the year, and an incredible opportunity to enjoy good food, fellowship and a chance to have the winning bid on all sorts of great things through participating in the Silent Auction.

**Cost:**

- ☞ Adults/\$20
- ☞ Family: \$60 (up to 6 people)
- ☞ Children/\$10
- ☞ Pre-registration not required

Please contact Doug Silverstein at [silversteinleung@yahoo.com](mailto:silversteinleung@yahoo.com) or 504.495.3318 with any questions.

All proceeds directly support DreamBuilders mission trips and projects.



## 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](http://www.dreambuildersmd.org))



---

**Church of the Ascension**

23 North Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157