



Ascension Extension

JANUARY 2025

www.ascension-westminster.com

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

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

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Church of the *Ascension* 
Connect. Grow. Serve.



Rector's Message

Dear People of Ascension:

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, it's a time for reflection and gratitude as we look back on 2024. Together, we have achieved remarkable things, and I am deeply thankful for each of you who have played a part in making our community a special and welcoming place.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in the preparation for and celebration of the Christmas Play, Blue Christmas Service, Advent Lessons and Carols Service, and the worship services held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Your dedication made these events a resounding success. Our musicians and singers truly shone in all services, bringing joy and reverence to our gatherings. The Altar Guild did a fantastic job!

Looking ahead, we face the challenge of stabilizing our finances. It is crucial we address this to avoid running a deficit year after year. I encourage each of you to be as generous as possible in your giving, as this is the cornerstone of Ascension's income. Remember, it's never too late to make a pledge, offer a special gift, or contribute to the offering plate. We will also host **fundraising events throughout the year**, including a Bingo night, Spaghetti Dinner, and Breakfast with Santa, among others. Beverly Baker has graciously agreed to lead this initiative. Additionally, we are exploring opportunities to rent our space for various events, with Bev coordinating the rentals.

(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

January Worship

January 5

Second Sunday of Christmas/Feast of Epiphany (Transferred from January 6)
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

January 12

First 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

January 19

Second 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

January 26

Third 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 2

Fourth 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...

On **Sunday, February 23**, after the 10:15am service, our **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held when three vestry members will be elected for a three-year term, and one person will be elected for a two-year term. To serve as a Vestry member, one must be a confirmed member in good standing, actively involved in the parish, and a regular giver. This is an important and necessary role in our church community.

We are also excited to welcome The Right Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Bishop of Maryland, on the evening of **Thursday, May 29**, for the **Feast of the Ascension**, during which we will celebrate **regional Confirmations**. I invite all who have not been confirmed and those joining us from other denominations to contact the Church Office to prepare for Confirmation classes.

As we step into 2025, I wish every one of you a Blessed and Happy New Year. May the light of Jesus guide you and shine through you. God loves you. God bless you.

With love and gratitude,

Fr. Pierre-Henry



The graphic features a blue background with three circular images: a church building, a shield with a cross and the word 'VESTRY', and a stained glass window. Text on the right reads 'Annual Parish MEETING 2025 February 23, 2025' and 'In the Holy Cross Hall after the 10:15 am service'.

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

Worship Assistants: January 2025

Altar Guild: Bobbie Gooding, Susan Considine, Debbie Linard, Liz Lowe, Merle Martin					
Team 5					
	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicians	Worship Slides
January 5 8:00 am	Don & Janice Hobart	Angela Chmar	Charlie Aler		
January 5 10:15 am	1. Ellen Anderson 2. David Anderson	Jim Fariss	Emelia Howe	1. Helen Lang 2. Kim Tompkins 3. Jim Fariss 4. Kat Dittrich	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
January 12 8:00 am		Roberta Wilhelm	Bill Sears		
January 12 10:15 am	1. 2.	Buck Lyon-Vaiden		1. Kim Tompkins 2. Kat Dittrich 3. Jim Fariss 4.	
January 19 8:00 am		David Kreider	Beverly Baker		
January 19 10:15 am	1. 2.	Roberta Gore		1. Kim Tompkins 2. Kat Dittrich 3. 4.	
January 26 8:00 am	Bill Sears		Beverly Baker		
January 26 10:15 am	1. 2.			1. 2. 3. 4.	



Fellowship Hour: Volunteer Hosts Needed!



The Fellowship Committee seeks individuals, families, or ministries to host Fellowship Hour after the 10:15 service on Sundays from January 5 through March 16.

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. As a small committee with limited resources, we may not be able to offer Fellowship Hour on certain Sundays unless volunteers step forward. We will do our best to keep everyone informed about dates that remain unfilled, but we would love to see Fellowship Hour continue each week with your help!

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



Boxed offering envelopes for 2025 are at the entrance to each church, on the Fellowship Hall information table, and in the Church Office. Please call the Church Office (410-848-3251) if you would like to have a set of envelopes mailed to you.

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.

Beautiful Church of the Ascension calendars for 2025 are available at the entrance to each church, and on the Fellowship Hall information table for you to take and enjoy throughout the year. If you are able, a donation of \$5.00 will help to cover our printing costs.

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.



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		
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

Dear Parish Family:

It is with great joy that I announce the appointment of Kim Tompkins as our new Senior Warden! She will be a valuable asset to our church leadership, working closely with me, the Junior Warden (Gary Lang) and the Vestry to guide our parish in its mission and vision.

According to our Bylaws, I nominated Kim after she agreed to serve, and the Vestry elected her via email. Kim is well known to the parish; she is one of the co-chairs of Mistletoe Mart and the head of the Altar Guild among other responsibilities.

Please join me in welcoming Kim to this important role.

With blessings,
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

Financial Statement of Activities through November 30, 2024		
Income:	November	Year-to-Date
General Giving	\$19,390.00	\$255,651.83
Special Gifts	\$0.00	\$12,689.00
1844 Shoppe	\$5,835.21	\$11,706.23
Rental Income	\$1,425.00	\$15,675.00
Facilities Use	\$1,400.00	\$6,480.00
Coffee Hour Donations	\$0.00	\$31.00
Bank Interest	\$650.64	\$3,446.93
Total	\$28,700.85	\$305,679.99
Expenses:		
Human Resources	\$15,555.36	\$203,617.46
Administrative/Office	\$2,724.47	\$1,7563.41
Christian Education	(\$2,980.72)	\$805.14
Community Outreach	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Diocesan Convention	\$0.00	\$300.00
Diocesan Shared Ministry Allocation	\$2,685.33	\$24,442.97
Interest Expense	\$339.59	\$2,078.86
Liability and Property Insurance	\$8,150.56	\$17,330.56
Maintenance	\$44,861.38	\$108,059.15*
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$50.00	\$1,544.59
Rental Property - Taxes	\$0.00	\$3,472.73
Stewardship	\$533.91	\$533.91
Utilities	\$1,899.74	\$42,425.68
Worship	\$62.94	\$2,990.93
Total	\$73,882.56	\$427,645.39
Net:	(\$45,181.71)	(\$121,965.40)
*\$63,533.85 – Middendorf Funds used to date for maintenance expenses		

Stewardship Campaign Update

The Vestry and I, are grateful for the 63 persons or families who pledged \$235,390 for 2025. Your generous donations will allow Ascension to keep serving the Lord and our neighbors. We also encourage those who did not pledge yet to do so as soon as possible. Pledges are the basis for preparing our budget. Now is the time to be generous and make a donation.



Thank you.
Fr. Pierre-Henry

December 17 Vestry Meeting Notes

Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Jackie Weschler (Registrar), Roberta Wilhelm, Gary Lang (Junior Warden), Liz Lowe, Deb Howard, Deb Bargar (Finance Chair), Beverly Baker.

Excused: Diana Baker, Luke Gore, Jennie Grabill, Kim Tompkins

The financial situation did not change in November; we are still spending more than what is being donated/earned.

Vestry candidates: The Vestry is actively searching candidates for the election on February 23, 2025. We are looking for 3 candidates for a 3-year term, and one candidate for a 2-year term for the class of 2027.

The Vestry approved the Snow Removal contract with See's Landscaping, LLC.

We discussed some needed maintenance: faucets and dishwasher, and our options.

Fr. Pierre-Henry shared a report of his activities since the last Vestry meeting and announced that Bev Baker has agreed to oversee the rentals at Ascension and to chair a Fundraising Committee. Several groups have already rented our space, and we have fundraising ideas for 2025.

We said the Lord's prayer before adjourning the meeting just before 8:00 pm



Please Fully Close Doors:

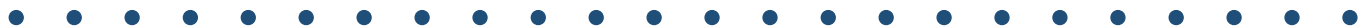
The Buildings and Grounds Committee asks everyone to be mindful when closing church doors, especially the glass doors. When there are changes in temperatures those doors may not fully close until manually pushed/pulled closed. Everyone who enters and exits the building is asked to make an additional effort to see that the door you are entering or exiting gets fully closed.

Please Keep Doors Locked:

Leaving the Fellowship Hall entrance doors open as a convenience for our members to come into the building for meetings, classes, and events also means the doors are open to uninvited individuals.

Please ask a volunteer from your group to open the locked door for the recognized individual or ask group members to text/call the group or event leader inside when the door needs to be opened for them. Additionally, if you unlock a door, don't assume that someone else will lock it. Communicate with other event or meeting members to determine who will lock the doors. If you are a meeting or event leader, it is your responsibility to check the doors after the meeting/event ends and as the last person leaves.

We are so fortunate to be located in an area where we can serve others in our community. Let's practice good stewardship by ensuring that we can provide a safe and secure environment to **Connect, Grow, and Serve.**



DreamBuilders MD

dreambuildersmd.org

Mission Trip to Hazard, Kentucky: June 15-21

This mission project for teens and adults will be DreamBuilders MD third trip to this location. (Photos of June 2024 mission trip are posted on the DreamBuilders MD bulletin board.)

General Information Meeting at Temple Isaiah
Sunday, January 12 at 3:00 pm

Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction:

Saturday, March 8 at 5:00 pm

Temple Isaiah
12200 Scaggsville Rd
Fulton, MD 20759



Youth Sunday

youth@ascension-westminster.com



Youth Sunday

Sunday, January 5 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.

Mr. Jon & Friends: January 20 at 11:00 am

 Mr. Jon & FRIENDS
 Church of the Ascension
 23 N Court Street
 Westminster, MD
 Mr. Jon is a Parents Choice Award winning musician. His show features stories, puppets, and music. Fun for kids of all ages.
FREE
 ACTIVITIES
 LIVE MUSIC • SILLY SONGS
 MOVEMENT • CRAFTS • PIZZA
JANUARY 20TH 11AM

Claggett Center Summer Camps

claggettcenter.org/youth-programs



Registration is open!



**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION'S CRAFT
AND SCRAPBOOKING CROP FUNDRAISER
FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

Saturday, January 25, 2025

9am-8pm Cost \$50.00

Inclement weather makeup date Saturday, February 1, 2025

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

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

FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS OUR OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Saturday, January 25, 2025

9am-8pm Cost \$50.00

Inclement weather makeup date: Saturday, February 1, 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to sit with: _____

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

Please make checks payable to: Church of the Ascension

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

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

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

Claggett Center

claggettcenter.org/adult-programs

Men's Retreat

January 31 – February 2

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

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

Women's Weekend

February 21 – February 23

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

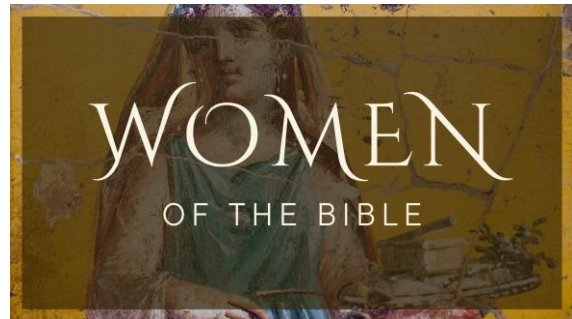
This is the 25th Anniversary of Women's Weekend and will focus on the theme **Love in Action**.

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

Tuesday Bible Study

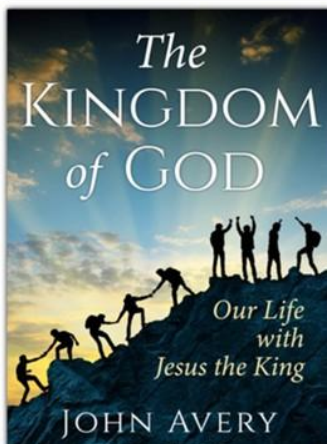
Tuesday at 9:30 am

On **January 7, at 9:30 am in Room 202**, we will begin a Women of the Bible study. Please contact Bill Sears (redrock2@verizon.net) for questions or additional information.



Thursday Night Bible Study

Thursday at 6:30 pm In person and via Zoom



January 9 – February 20 (7 weeks)

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

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

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
January 17	Pie Party	Show off your skills with a sweet or savory pie.



Book Club



Our January selection will be *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver.

Join us on **Wednesday, January 29 at 12:30pm** in the Guild Room.

Donna Bair suggested the following title for **February:** *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.

The Book Club will begin 2025 with a new start time on the last Wednesday of each month - 12:30pm instead of noon. The new time will provide a smoother transition from Pins and Needles to buying the Soup Kitchen lunch, for those who attend both. If you have any questions or a book suggestion, please let Cheryl Vecera know.

1844 Shoppe

the1844shoppe@gmail.com

The 1844 Shoppe will venture down a new road in 2025, when clothing will be added to our store.



Almost new, gently used clothing (and shoes) for men and women will be featured. Clothes can be dropped off in the vestibule closet. There will be a shelf or two marked as such and a clothes rack to hang garments on. At this time, we are not asking the public for donations - we wouldn't have the room to store or display the volume that would come in. If you have a relative or neighbor that you know who would like to donate to our Shoppe through you, that would be fine.

If you have any questions, please let us know: the1844shoppe@gmail.com

Thank You Notes



Dear Church of the Ascension:

I thank everyone who donated to my Eagle Scout Project. The Little Free Library has been built and was installed on November 23. Please be sure to stop by and take a book or add a book. My hope is that this will be a nice addition to our church and the community for years to come. Thank you for all of your support.

Gratefully,
Bryan Barry

THANKS A BATCH!

Once again Ascension's family answered the call and performed a Christmas wonder! All of your hard work as bakers, advertisers, consumers, and sellers paid off; **we raised over \$2,250 for children of our church and community.**

Thank you, each and everyone, for your time, talent, and support.

Deb Howard



Mark Your 2025 Calendar

Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
March 4, 2025

SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER

MARCH 4, 2025
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION
23 N. COURT STREET
WESTMINSTER, MD

FELLOWSHIP HALL



ALL YOU CAN EAT:
• PANCAKES
(BUTTERMILK, BLUEBERRY,
CHOCOLATE CHIP, GLUTEN-
FREE)
• SAUSAGE
• APPLESAUCE

ASCENSION-WESTMINSTER.COM/EVENTS
410-848-3251

Free Summer Programs

Sessions

July 14-18
July 21-25

Drama Camp

August 11-15
August 18-23



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

JANUARY

Youth Sunday	January 5
DreamBuilders Meeting for June Mission Trip to KY	January 12
Themed Potluck Lunch	January 17
Mr. Jon & Friends	January 20
Men's Retreat at Claggett Center	January 31- February 2

FEBRUARY

Women's Weekend at Claggett Center	December 15
Annual Parish Meeting	February 21- February 23
	February 23

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Westminster, MD 21157