

Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.



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Ascension Extension | August 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: July 17 Assault

Dear People of Ascension:

On Wednesday, July 17, I was violently assaulted as I walked home from Human Services Programs of Carroll County, where Sophie works. In a couple of seconds, my world was shattered, even though it took me some time to realize it. I did not see it coming because I was hit in the back, without warning, without words. It was astounding. I played the scene so many times in my head; it was so fast. A violent pain in my back, and, as I fell, I knew that someone did that to me. I'm pretty sure I screamed before hitting my head on the pavement. I was lucky enough not to pass out, stood up fast, and looked back to see who did that to me. I can tell you that I was very upset. I had only one question in mind that I could not help but yell at the person who was leaving as fast as he could: "Why did you do that?"

To be honest, I screamed, "Are you crazy? Why did you do that?" Since there was no answer, I followed my aggressor, asking over and over the same question to no avail. He threatened to call the police because I was annoying him; I told him to do so and that I would call them too. I took a couple of pictures of him and went back to HSP, barely aware that people were screaming at us close by. They were other homeless people who took my side and gave me the name of my aggressor.

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September Ascension Extension

Please share articles and information to be included by **Friday, August 23.**
communication@ascension-westminster.com

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am -3:00 pm

office@ascension-westminster.com

My desire was to go home with my two dogs. I did not notice yet that blood was covering part of my face. Sophie and people from HSP were looking for me, and from there I was taken care of. I had no choice but to sit down as someone called 911 and the police. At the Emergency Room, I learned that I had a mild concussion, and a police officer asked me some questions about what happened. When he asked me to describe the guy, I could not. It's strange: I followed him, asked questions, but did not notice how he was dressed nor any details about him. My pictures came in handy, and the officer recognized the guy instantly. I learned the following day that he had been arrested.

For almost a week I dealt with pain in my neck, my back, and a rib. My face had scabs, and soon enough bruises appeared. After a couple of days, I started to experience episodes of dizziness and vertigo; it was as if everything was spinning around me. A new trip to the Emergency Room confirmed that it was expected and should last a couple of weeks or a couple of months. I was retold that I needed to rest and avoid screens, TV, computers, and intellectual tasks.

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," but on Tuesday morning, July 30, I realized that I was not up to the task. I still have difficulty focusing; it's difficult to read or write, and after a half day I was worn out. With our Senior Warden's support, I decided to work in the morning and rest in the afternoon last week. I hope that very soon I will be back to normal and able to resume all my activities. It is very frustrating for me to think that I should be able to resume my duties but to realize that I'm not there yet.

I'm thankful for all the support, messages, emails, cards, prayers, and words of love and affection from so many of you. My heart is overwhelmed, and I guarantee you that this outpouring of love is helping me greatly.

As you know, I planned to read, pray, and rest during my 2-week "staycation." I did rest by force. For a time I could not pray, except the Lord's Prayer. As for reading, the books I bought to prepare for the next pastoral year are still untouched. I hope I will read them later, eventually.

Fr. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Day Off: Monday

rector@ascension-westminster.com

August Worship

August 4

Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

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

11:30 am Coffee Hour

Youth Sunday

August 11

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

11:30 am Coffee Hour

August 18

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

11:30 am Coffee Hour

August 25

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

11:30 am Coffee Hour

September 1

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Labor Day Weekend

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

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

11:30 am Coffee Hour

September 8: Rally Day

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Youth Sunday

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

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

- Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders
- Blessing of Backpacks

11:30 am Coffee Hour

Despite my recent problems, my heart is at peace. I'm aware that what happened could have been worse. I will never know why; it was just an act of random violence from a man who has psychological issues. I rejoice to be your rector. I give thanks to the Lord for calling me to serve Him with you at Ascension. I give thanks for the one year that I have spent with Sophie at the rectory where we moved on July 25, 2023. I give thanks for the beginning of my second year with you on August 15. I feel blessed to serve this congregation where so many give generously of their time, talents, and treasure. What a blessing it has been to see all that is happening at Ascension!

During this month of August, please take the time to think and pray about how you could share your gifts with Ascension.

When our activities and programs resume in September, where would you like to serve and be involved? For instance, help is needed in **Children and Youth Ministries in Sunday School** and **Children's Chapel**; help is needed for the **Stewardship Campaign**. **Church musicians** as well as more **Lectors, Acolytes, Chalicists, Ushers**, and people to run the **Worship Slides** are needed. New volunteers for the **1844 Shoppe** are needed.

How would you like to be involved to spread the message of Christ through our various ministries? I have no doubt that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, Ascension will continue to thrive during this new pastoral year.

In His love, *Pierre-Henry*

Worship Assistants: August 2024					
Altar Guild:		Susan Considine, Bobbie Gooding, Debbie Linard, Liz Lowe, Merle Martin			
Team 5					
	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicists	Worship Slides
August 4 8:00 am	Cheryl Vecera	David Kreider			
August 4 10:15 am	1. David Horn 2.	Olivia Carpenter	James Corns Alex Corns	1. Sandy White 2. John Holbert 3. Ellen Anderson 4.	Jill Horn
August 11 8:00 am	Donald & Janice Hobart	Donna Hansen	Beverly Baker		
August 11 10:15 am	1. 2.	Liz Lowe		1. Sandy White 2. Jim Fariss 3. 4.	John Holbert
August 18 8:00 am	Donald & Janice Hobart	Cheryl Vecera	David Kreider		
August 18 10:15 am	1. 2.	Jill Horn		1. Jill Horn 2. John Holbert 3. 4.	
August 25 8:00 am	David Kreider	Angela Chmar			
August 25 10:15 am	1. 2.			1. John Holbert 2. 3. 4.	

Ron Cox Memorial Service and Luncheon

The St. James' Commission thanks you all for contributing to the luncheon for Ron Cox's family and friends following his Memorial service on Friday, July 12. We had ample helpers, the Fellowship Hall was beautiful and the food was delicious.

We also recognize those who prayed for the event's success and to those who contributed monetarily. From deep in our hearts, St. James' Commission is very grateful for you all.

Ellen Anderson, Beverly Baker, Jill Horn, Melissa Leahy

Donation to Ascension in Memory of Ron Cox



Church of the *Ascension*
Children and Youth Ministries



youth@ascension-westminster.com

Drama Camp

Mark Friday, August 23 at 6:00pm on your calendar! 51 children participating in this year's Drama Camp will perform *Alice in Wonderland*.

Join us for a **potluck supper in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00 pm. The show will begin in the Holy Cross Hall at 7:00 pm.** Livestreaming will be available for those unable to attend in person.

Arrive early! Doors will open at 5:30 pm to allow time for all guests to arrive. In August 2022, tables filled fast for the dinner and seats were full for the performance in the Holy Cross Hall.

AUGUST 12-23

DRAMA
Camp

Alice in Wonderland

Friday,
August 23

6pm: Potluck Supper
7pm: Performance

ascension-westminster.com/events

Themed Potluck Lunch

Saturday Potluck! Due to many requests, our first Saturday Potluck Lunch will be held on Saturday, August 10! We hope to see those who are unable to attend during the week! A special challenge theme has been chosen for this meal: 5 Ingredients or Less. Are you up for the challenge? Spend a relaxing Saturday with good friends and food. We can't wait to see you there!

Month/Date	Theme	Description
August 10 (Saturday!)	5 Ingredients or Less	Bring a dish with no more than 5 ingredients



Coffee Hour volunteers are needed. Please contact the Church Office with the date that you or your group are able to host: office@ascension-westminster.com

Book Club

The Book Club is on vacation during August. We will resume meeting in September, with *The Women* by Kristen Hannah; a historical fiction novel that tells the story of Frances "Frankie" McGrath, a nurse serving in the Army Corps during the Vietnam War.

Please join us on **Wednesday, September 25, at noon**, in the Guild Room.

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

Recycling Continues!

We will continue to recycle everything we can, including paper, cans, and plastic bottles which can all be put in the big blue bin in the Fellowship Hall.

While we do not have recycling pick up at the church, several people routinely take the blue bin contents to the County Recycling Center or home and add it to their residential recycling. Thanks for your support!



Buildings and Grounds: Trash Dumpster

The Buildings and Grounds Committee encourages everyone to be sure not to overload the church trash dumpster. If the lid to the dumpster is not closed all the way, the trash company charges us an extra \$80.00 for that week. (High volume trash weeks, like Mistletoe Mart, are pre-scheduled and paid for by those groups.) On a day-to-day basis, the trash should be bagged, with items like contaminated cardboard broken down to take up less space in the dumpster. Items such as furniture, electronics, and other high-volume items should be taken to the landfill. Thank you for helping to reduce the cost of our trash removal!



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

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

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