

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 | April 2024

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

Quiet Time

Dear Ascension Family:

Maybe you don't know this, but I'm a procrastinator! Nothing new, except that not too long ago I did not know that such a thing existed. I did not even know the word. But the more I read about procrastination, the more I realized that it has always been part of who I am. I always think I have all the time in the world to do what I is on my plate. Then somehow, suddenly the dreaded deadline is upon me. Suddenly, I must stop what I am doing, or change my plans, because there is no way to escape the deadline, it has to be done. With aging and, I hope, maturing, I learned to deal with this tendency. I recall countless sleepless nights during high school or during seminary in France when I had to write an important paper. I was lucky enough that I never missed a deadline, but I suppose my grades would have been better if I had taken the time to study and prepare my papers in advance.

I can no longer afford to stay awake at night to think, read, or write, so I manage the best I can. However, from time to time I am overwhelmed, ashamed, and stressed. My lifeline is silent prayer and quiet time; most of the time it's enough. But a couple of weeks ago my stress level was high, I felt powerless, tired, overwhelmed. I could not wait for the 24-hour Clergy Retreat at the Claggett Center. I went there with the desire to pray and to work. I brought my computer, tablet, Bible, commentaries, 2 or 3 devotionals, some books, and some documents to study. I thought I would come back with several

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May Ascension Extension

Please share articles and information to be included by

Monday, April 22

communication@

ascension-westminster.com

Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 am -3:00 pm

office@ascension-westminster.com

The Church Office will be closed on
March 29, Good Friday.

sermons written, notes on my books, and new ideas for my ministry. All that in a 24-hour retreat!

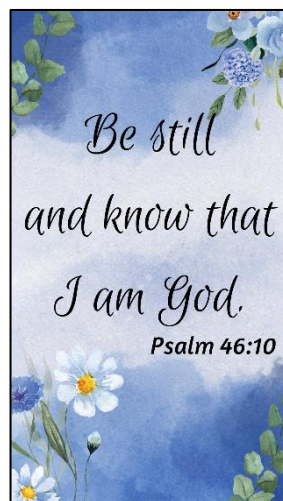
Of course, that did not happen. Not because I procrastinated, but because, after the first meal and time of prayer, when I returned to my room, I could not concentrate on anything I read. I realized I was physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted. After a short nap, I watched an episode of *The Chosen*, and that was it. I spent lot of quiet time by myself and enjoyed the various times of prayer with the group and the fellowship at mealtime. I accomplished nothing at Claggett; I was just there, breathing, resting, connecting with the Lord. I appreciated the silence, and the beauty of creation. But more importantly, I felt the presence of the Lord, there and inside my heart and mind. I felt refreshed, spiritually fed, and renewed. I felt at peace. And I could feel a deep joy in my heart.

When I returned home on Friday afternoon, I was in a different state of mind than when I left on Thursday morning. This 24-hour retreat was a blessing to me, and for my colleagues. I want to think it was also a blessing for Ascension, because I came back filled with renewed energy and more connected to the Lord. The tasks I wanted to accomplish, the books I wanted to read, the sermon I wanted to write; they were not that important and, as a good procrastinator, I will do them later. Without the presence of the Lord in my life, without spiritual peace and joy, I can't accomplish anything, or something would be missing.

So, I confess that I did nothing useful at Claggett. I just rested and prayed. From a worldly perspective, I wasted my time. From a Christian perspective, and from personal experience, I could have not made better use of those 24 hours. **I need regular quiet time to connect with the Lord. I need regular quiet time to refresh my heart and mind.** This is why I try to faithfully enjoy my Mondays off. We are all different, with various needs and ways to cope with our problems, dreams and hopes, but we all need to be connected to our Lord to fulfill our individual vocations as followers of the Risen Lord. I hope and pray that you too will find opportunities in your busy lives to relax, be silent, pray, and feel the presence of the Lord in your hearts. Sometimes, we need to stop what we do and be silent for a while. As the Psalm 46 says: "Be still and know that I am God." *Psalm 46:10*

Your brother in Christ,

Pierre-Henry



Fr. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Day Off: Monday

rector@ascension-westminster.com

April Worship

April 7

Second Sunday of Easter

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
Youth Sunday

April 14

Third Sunday of Easter

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

April 21

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Easter Sunday: March 31

Sunday School classes
will not meet at 9:00 am.

Children's Chapel
will be offered
during the 10:15 am service.

Invitation to Holy Week

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our Lenten journey is almost over. Holy Week allows us to follow Jesus from his triumphant entrance in Jerusalem to the Last Supper, his passion and death, and his resurrection.

On Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 6:00 pm in the Stone Church, we will remember the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist, but also the New Commandment that Jesus gave to the disciples before the Last Supper, the commandment to love one another. New Commandment, in Latin was Mandate Novum.

At some point, in English, Mandate became Maundy, and gave its name to the Thursday in Holy Week. Foot washing will be part of our celebration, a concrete way to reenact what Jesus did. The foot washing is optional; if you are not comfortable, just enjoy the music and the singing during this part of the service. After the Eucharist, we will strip the altar bare and leave in silence. This is a beautiful and meaningful service. I hope you will be able to join us.

Good Friday, March 29, is the most somber day of our Christian calendar. At 11:00 am, you will have the opportunity to join the Community Cross Walk that will end at Ascension just before noon. At Noon in Holy Cross Hall, and at 6:00 pm in the Stone Church, we will gather to remember Jesus' passion and death, through the readings, the prayers, and the veneration of the cross.

Good Friday services will begin and end in silence, the silence of the tomb, the silence of Jesus' death. I hope that you will join us for one of these services.

After these celebrations, we will joyfully celebrate the heart and the basis of our Christian faith, the resurrection of our Lord on **Easter morning, March 31 at 8:00 am and 10:15 am,** as once again we will proclaim Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Dear people of Ascension, I pray and hope that you will be able to attend, in person or online, all the celebrations of Holy Week. They help us to pause and ponder the different aspects of Jesus' last week; a week that changed the world for ever.

I wish you a blessed and meaningful Holy Week.

Pierre-Henry+



GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL CROSS WALK

11AM FRIDAY, MARCH 29

"Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God."

Begins 11am:

**Grace Lutheran Church
21 Carroll Street
Westminster, MD**

Ends Noon Service:

**Church of the Ascension
23 N Court Street
Westminster, MD**

You are welcome to join us at the beginning of the walk, along the way, or for the noon service.

A special love offering accepted in support of The Shepherd's Staff.

Sponsored by the Westminster Ecumenical Ministerium Group

For more information contact Brenda Meadows, 410-857-5944

Cancellations due to inclement weather will be posted on the Westminster Ministerium's FaceBook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestminsterMinisterium/>



Worship Assistants: April 2024

Altar Guild: Team 1					
	Sandy White	Donna Hansen	Karen Lance	Kathy Sullivan	Jenny & Ray Lui
	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicians	Worship Slides
April 7 8:00 am	Cheryl Vecera	Angela Chmar	Bill Sears		
April 7 10:15 am	1. David Horn 2.	Olivia Carpenter		1. Helen Lang 2. Betsy Reinders 3. Jill Horn 4.	
April 14 8:00 am	Roberta Wilhelm		Beverly Baker		
April 14 10:15 am	1. 2.	Jim Fariss		1. Helen Lang 2. Kat Dittrich 3. Jim Fariss 4.	
April 21 8:00 am		Roberta Wilhelm			
April 21 10:15 am	1. 2.	Buck Lyon-Vaiden		1. Helen Lang 2. Kat Dittrich 3. 4.	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
April 28 8:00 am			Beverly Baker		
April 28 10:15 am	1. 2.			1. 2. 3. 4.	

United Thank Offering

Please return your thank offering box by Sunday, April 28, when the boxes will be blessed. One hundred percent of all thank offerings support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.

Notice.

Notice the good things that happen each day.

Give.

Give thanks to God for your blessings.

Make.

Make an offering for each blessing.
(Drop coins in the box.)

Bless.

Your blessing becomes a blessing for others.

Mistletoe Mart

Thank you, again, for your ongoing support for the Mistletoe Mart! The committee is already busy planning for **Mistletoe Mart #50** which will take place **November 7-9, 2024**. Please be sure to mark your calendars now!

Based upon the proceeds from Mistletoe Mart 2023, the committee has begun to make donations to both Ascension and Committee Outreach initiatives, including:

\$7,580 to specific Fall, 2023 Ascension expenses. This includes our annual floor cleaning after the Mart.

\$9,250 to Community Outreach, including:

- The Arc of Carroll County
- Access Carroll
- Bridging Life
- Caring Carroll
- Carroll County Food Sunday
- Church Homes Foundation (was 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

Please don't forget to continue to check out [our enhanced website](#).

Mistletoe Mart Co-Chairs
Jenny Beeker, Donna Hansen, Kim Tompkins



<i>Upcoming Events and Opportunities</i>	
<u>MARCH</u>	
Maundy Thursday Worship Service: 6:00 pm	March 28
Good Friday Worship Services: 12:00 pm & 6:00 pm	March 29
Easter Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 am & 10:15 am	March 31
Easter Egg Hunt	March 31
<u>APRIL</u>	
Themed Potluck Lunch	April 19
Return United Thank Offering Boxes	April 28

Church of the *Ascension* Children and Youth Ministries



Email address: youth@ascension-westminster.com



Youth Sunday

Sunday, April 7 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.

Registration opens on April 20!



Carroll County Arts Council: Peep Show

See and buy votes for our Explorations class's (led by Carrie Goff) entry in the Carroll County Arts Council Annual Peep Show at the Town Mall of Westminster.



Through April 1, 2024

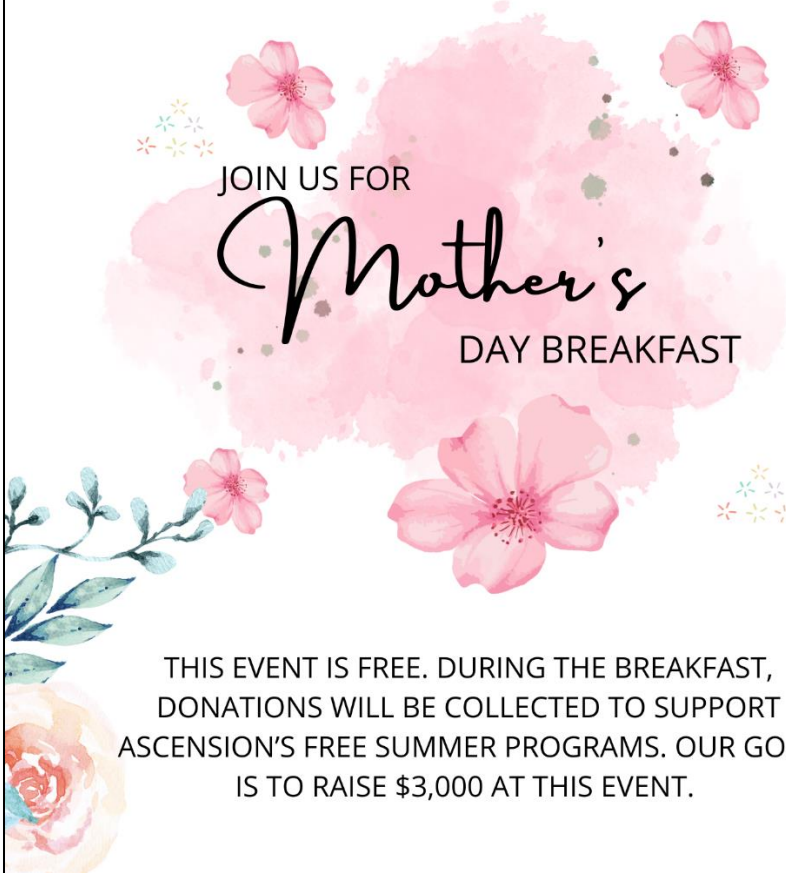
Monday – Wednesday • 10am – 4:30pm
Thursday – Saturday • 10am – 6:30pm
Sunday • 12pm – 5:30pm
(including Easter Sunday)



CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES WILL HOST A
MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO BRING
A FRIEND.**

9:00 AM ON MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 12
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.



JOIN US FOR
Mother's
DAY BREAKFAST

THIS EVENT IS FREE. DURING THE BREAKFAST,
DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED TO SUPPORT
ASCENSION'S FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS. OUR GOAL
IS TO RAISE \$3,000 AT THIS EVENT.



Shepherd's Staff thanks our Children and Youth Ministries for their generous Easter baskets donation.

What is Cursillo?

from the Maryland Episcopal Cursillo Website <https://www.mdepiscopalcursillo.com>

Cursillo is a movement of the Episcopal Church under the authority of the Presiding and Diocesan Bishops. The goal of Cursillo is to bring the world to Christ by empowering adult Christian leaders to live out their Baptismal covenant to serve Christ.

Maryland Episcopal Cursillo, in partnership with the Episcopal Cursillo Ministry, endeavors to evangelize and change the world for Christ by educating and communicating with Christian leaders through the use of a specific evangelistic tool that is taught as part of a three-day weekend known as "A Short Course in Christian Life." The Epistle of James tells us that, "Faith without works is useless." So, as members of the Cursillo movement, we are called to share Christ's love with those around us.

Please contact Fr. Pierre-Henry if you have questions or would like more information about how you can become involved in Maryland Episcopal Cursillo.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Maryland Cursillo Weekend #117 will be held on April 18-21, at the Claggett Center! The Team has formed and is working hard to make this weekend a wonderful experience for those whom God is calling to attend! The two Spiritual Advisors for MD 117 are Rev, Lisa+ Bornt and me. We've already had 2 team meetings, and I'm sure the teaching talks will be great.

If you have already attended a Cursillo weekend, and your 3-day weekend was a great experience and helped you in your faith journey, this is the time to pray and sponsor candidates from Ascension, and as we say in Cursillo: "talk to Jesus about your friend before you talk to your friend about Jesus!" I know that my Cursillo weekend was a great experience, and Sophie's too.

You can find more information about being a sponsor on the [Diocesan Cursillo website](#) along with the required forms. Please send in your forms as soon as you are able. It's easy!

- 1) Just print and fill out the applications.
- 2) Then scan and EMAIL the forms back to MarylandEpiscopalCursillo@gmail.com
No scanner? Just take a good photo of the application with your cell phone and email that image.
- 3) Please note the instructions about where to MAIL fees OR pay them online.

And remember that everyone who has previously attended a Cursillo weekend is warmly invited to attend the closing worship service on Sunday, April 21st!

In Christ's Love,

Pierre-Henry+

Themed Potluck Lunch

The Fellowship Committee is hosting potluck themed lunches every **third Friday of the month at 12:00pm!** Join us for a fun time of food and community! Show off your cooking skills with a different theme each month. Plates, flatware, etc. will be provided.

Month/Date	Theme	Description
April 19	Apps and Finger Foods	Bring any finger foods or appetizers.

Please call the Church Office to RSVP.



The Children and Youth committee will provide Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday, March 31 (before the Easter Egg Hunt!!).

We ask for Coffee Hour volunteers beginning on April 21. Please contact the Church Office with the date that you or your group are able to host.

Adult Education

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Our current topic is **The Sermon on the Mount**. We will meet on **April 2, April 16 and April 30** from 9:30 am - 11:00 am in Room 202. Please contact Bill Sears for questions or additional information.



Sunday morning Bible Study meets on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The subject is the Gospel of Mark. We are doing a chapter-by-chapter assessment and discussion. Please join us!

Thursday Night Bible Study

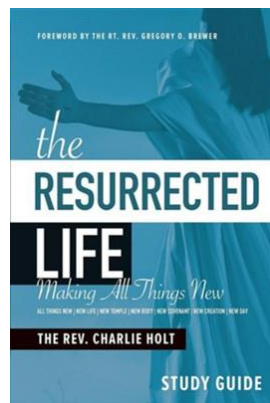
The Resurrected Life: Making All Things New
by Rev. Charlie Holt

April 18 - May 30 at 7:00 pm
(in-person and via Zoom)

New Life! It is something we all want. But how do we find it? The Bible promises that those who are in Christ are "new creatures." But how does that transformation take place?

This unique Easter-season curriculum provides a space in which we can discover what it truly means to live a new life. We'll learn how the resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything for us. We will explore seven key areas of life transformation as Jesus heals, redeems, and makes us new.

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



Book Club

April 24 at 12:00 pm: Our April Selection is *The Immortals* by Steven T. Collins, based on the true story of the sinking of the *Dorchester* and the 4 Chaplains aboard who gave up their life jackets so others could be saved; and of Petty Officer Charles W. David who helped save lives by diving into the freezing water. **We'll meet and discuss this book on Wednesday, April 24th, at noon in the Guild Room.**

In May, we'll read *Demon Copperfield* by Barbara Kingsolver, the story of a young boy living with his mother in a trailer in southern Appalachia. With a fierce talent for survival, he learns to navigate the challenges of foster care, addiction, grief, and more. **Join us on Wednesday, May 29th.**

The 1844 Shoppe: Additional Hours?

We would like to expand the Saturday 1844 Shoppe hours to be open from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.



Are you able to help for a few hours on a Saturday? Some volunteers are unable to work for an entire 5-hour shift, so a few people are needed to help with "split shifts." There are always 2 volunteers during shop hours to assist customers, receive payments and wrap/bag the items purchased. Please contact Cheryl Vecera (cherylvecera@gmail.com) or call the Church Office for more information.

Ghanaian Mother's Hope Award Presentation: March 10, 2024

by Debi Frock-Lyons

Since 2004, Ascension has been a source of spiritual guidance, a pillar of financial support, and a cherished friend to Ghanaian Mothers' Hope. This partnership began when Fr. Ron Fisher and I were dispatched to the Anglican Diocese of Accra to introduce Cursillo.

In the subsequent year, marked by the profound loss of my husband, Carl Frock, and my mother, both to cancer, you all stood beside me during my period of discernment. Your unwavering support played a pivotal role as I sought guidance from God regarding my path forward. Ultimately, it was divine guidance that led me to establish Ghanaian Mothers' Hope.

In the months that followed, Ascension continued its commitment by actively supporting initiatives such as Walks for Hope, Bingos for Hope, and several "A Taste of Hope" dinners. Contributions from Mission and Outreach, St. Martha's Guild, Pins and Needles, and Mistletoe Mart have further demonstrated the depth of your dedication.

Then there were the mission trips. Cheryl Vecera and Cynthia Frock, Chip Bair, Buck Lyon-Vaiden, Kim Tomkins and Helen Lang have all traveled with me to Ghana. For 20 years, this congregation has prayed, and those prayers have been answered over and over again.

It is my pleasure to give the Ghanaian Mothers' Hope 2024 **ONYANKOPO N ADOM NTI BIRIBIARA BEYE YIE** ("By God's grace, all will be well") Award to the congregation of Church of the Ascension. Thank you for your love for the last 20 years.

Ghanaian Mothers' Hope Award Presentation



March 10, 2024

Ghanaian Mothers' Hope, Inc.
Founded November 10, 2005

- ❖ Construction of 4 preschools and 1 primary school, over 2,000 students at Akramaman alone.
- ❖ Trained over 500 teachers
- ❖ Constructed a health center/sub hospital serving 25,000 families
- ❖ Trained 200 women to use and share a water filtration system good for 1,000,000 gallons of water
- ❖ 30 mission trips for health and education, 100+ volunteers
- ❖ Shipped hospital equipment
- ❖ Shipped toys and over 25,000 books for children
- ❖ Held 33 Ghana Reading Camps for second graders struggling in English, 1,600 2nd graders attended
- ❖ Held 6 Cultural Book Exchanges, partnering schools in Ghana and Sarasota, 1,000 students attended
- ❖ Showing the love of Jesus in every program we do!

2024 Giving Challenge:
April 9-April 10



HAPPENING
APRIL 9-10
NOON TO NOON
 GivingChallenge.org

Donate to Ghanaian Mothers Hope

You donate between \$25 and \$100, the donation is doubled. Only on April 9-10 noon to noon online only.

www.gmhopes.org

2024 German Christmas Markets

Monday, December 2 -
Wednesday, December 18

Visit 6 cities and their Christmas markets:

Frankfurt, Leipzig, Dresden, Nürnberg, Stuttgart, Heidelberg

Experience the sights, sounds, food and drink of the markets along with many opportunities to attend concerts and visit museums. Travel in Germany will be by train.

Contact Buck Lyon-Vaiden for more information:
blyonvaiden@mcdonogh.org



[Itinerary](#)

[Expenses](#)

[Photos: December 2023](#)

Parish Officers and VestryThe Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, *Rector & President*Donna Hansen, *Senior Warden*Gary Lang, *Junior Warden*Jackie Weschler, *Registrar*Nancy Starner, *Treasurer*Rick Reinders, *Assistant Treasurer***Until 2025**

Luke Gore
Jennie Grabill
Deb Howard
Rick Reinders

Until 2026

Beverly Baker
Liz Lowe
Joe Parker
Roberta Wilhelm

Until 2027

Beth Anthony
Diana Baker
Carrie Goff
Kim Tompkins

Year-to-Date Income and Expenses through February 28, 2024		
	Actual Year-to-Date	Budgeted Year-to-Date
Income:		
General Giving	\$ 60,576.73	\$
Fundraisers	\$ 224.48	\$
Rental	\$ 2,850.00	\$
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,055.03	\$
Total Income	\$ 65,076.24	\$
Expenses:		
Staff and Staff Support	\$ 38,265.02	\$
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 19,986.03	\$
Diocese of MD	\$ 5,370.66	\$
Office/Business Expenses	\$ 1,868.33	\$
Ministries/Worship	\$ 865.83	\$
Total Expenses	\$ 66,355.87	\$
Net Income	\$ (649.63)	\$

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
Reagan Dunn	Digital Ministry Associate
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant

A promotional graphic for a spring event. It features a large, soft red watercolor splash in the background. In the upper left corner, there are several small, black line-art butterflies. The text 'Spring Time' is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. Below it, 'at the' is written in a smaller, simple sans-serif font. The name '1844 Shoppe' is written in a large, black cursive font, underlined with a simple black line. Below the name, there is a bulleted list of two items: '50% off Clear Glass Items' and 'Red Dot Art Sale'. At the bottom of the graphic, the event schedule 'Friday & Saturday 10am-1pm' is written in a simple sans-serif font.

Spring
Time

at the

1844 Shoppe

- 50% off Clear Glass Items
- Red Dot Art Sale

Friday & Saturday 10am-1pm

Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157