

Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.



23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157
410-848-3251
churchoftheascension@gmail.com

ascension-westminster.com

Ascension Extension | August 2023

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

Shining Moments

by the Rev. F. Allan Weatherholt, Jr.

The Feast of the Transfiguration falls on August 6 on the Church Calendar. This is considered a Major Feast of Our Lord and, therefore, when it falls on a Sunday, it takes precedence over the regular Sunday observance. (See page 16 of *The Book of Common Prayer*.) The Feast of the Transfiguration, as told in St. Luke 9:28-36 (and also in Matthew and Mark) is a kind of "preview," if you will, of the Resurrection of Our Lord. For a short time, Peter, James and John are permitted to see Jesus as He will appear in His glorious Risen form! To validate this, Moses – the great teacher of Israel – and Elijah – the great prophet of Israel – are seen with our Lord.

For one shining moment, these three Apostles are given a glimpse of the glory that is to come!

I like to think of my time with you all as Interim Rector of Ascension as a time punctuated with some shining moments – moments when we could see the glory of being part of Christ's Church at its best – moments of glory, goodness and joy – moments of "Transfiguration."

Oh, we have had some bumpy times too. We have had the bittersweet experience of commending several of our flock into the Eternal Kingdom of our Lord. And, when I came to you in August 2021, we were still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Masks were still being worn, other precautions were

In this Issue:

INTERIM RECTOR.....	P.1-2
NEW RECTOR INFORMATION.....	P.3-5
WORSHIP ASSISTANTS.....	P. 6
VESTRY.....	P. 8
CHILDREN & YOUTH.....	P.9-11
1844 SHOPPE.....	P.12
THEMED POTLUCK LUNCHES.....	P.13
COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS.....	P. 13

September Ascension Extension

Please share articles and information to be included by

Monday, August 21

ascensioncommunication@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

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

still in place, vaccines were being strongly urged. But, with the Diocese's guidance and our leadership together, we were soon able to move beyond the pandemic and its dark struggles.

Mistletoe Mart was held, the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist was quickly resumed, a Sunday morning Adult Education Class was added to our schedule. With the addition of the talented Donna Parker to our Parish Staff, we established our Praise Ensemble, singing God's praises in rotation with our Adult Ensemble led by the ever-faithful Mary Butler at our beautiful Organ. The 10:15 a.m. Eucharist took on new flavor – and new life! Children's Chapel became a regular and very important part of Sunday morning for our little ones.

Other highlights of our two years together have included terrific St. Francis Day celebrations, complete with Blessing of the Animals, festive All Saints' Sundays and Thanksgiving celebrations and beautiful observances of Advent and Christmastide (my personal favorite time!)

We saw record numbers on two Shrove Tuesdays, we embraced Lent very fully both years, our Holy Week observances were deeply meaningful, and our Easter celebrations were glorious!

Eleven young people and adults – six in 2022 and five in 2023 – were prepared and presented to our Bishops for Confirmation or Reception. Our Summer Programs and Drama Camps have enriched the lives of numerous children and young people. Summer 2023 is turning out to be especially strong!

These are but some of the shining moments we have had the joy of sharing together over the past two years. There have been others as well – Evensongs and Organ recitals, beautiful music from our Handbell Choir, outreach ministries and significant improvements to our buildings and grounds – many others. All have been moments of "Transfiguration" – previews of the joy of living in Christ's Kingdom.

Thank you for embracing Rev'd Anne, me and our family so lovingly and so completely during our two years together. We have loved serving our Lord with all of you, and we so appreciate the love and kindness you have extended to us!

Now comes the long-awaited time for you all to continue this amazing journey under the leadership and guidance of your new Rector. Fr. Pierre-Henry Buisson has wonderful gifts and skills for ministry. The people of the Church of the Ascension will be blessed to have him as Rector. Working together, you all have many more "shining moments" ahead. God's love and blessings to him and his family and to each of you!

Fr. Allan's Office Hours

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Day Off: Monday
except in times of pastoral need or emergency

email: revfaweatherholt@aol.com
phone: 301-491-6888

August Worship

August 6

The Feast of the Transfiguration

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
11:30 am Brunch

August 13

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

August 20

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
9:00 am Welcome Breakfast
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
11:30 am Welcome Brunch

August 27

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

Get to know Pierre-Henry and his Family!!

Earlier, a short summary of Pierre-Henry's biography was provided. Here is a longer version! As you know, he is a native of France and was Called to serve as the new rector of Church of the Ascension. His ministry will begin on August 15, 2023. He will celebrate his first Eucharist at Ascension on Sunday, August 20.



Prior to his arrival to Westminster, Pierre-Henry served 2 years as Rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Delaplane, VA and was nominated by his Bishop to become Dean of the Northern Piedmont Region. Before his move to Virginia, he served for 7 years as Rector of St Luke's Episcopal Church in Prescott, AZ, doing his best to be a loving pastor to all. Under his tenure, Emmanuel and St Luke's grew, and new ministries began. He worked collaboratively with the Vestry, staff, and leaders of all the groups and ministries because he believes that all baptized are ministers of the church. He always tells people that if they have ideas for new ministries, classes or groups, to please come to him and share their ideas, but to be warned because he would probably say that's a great idea, and that they should implement it!

His personal vision of ministry is to lead people of all ages and conditions to a living faith in Christ through prayer, word, and example, building strong congregations in which to live out the Christian faith through radical welcome and loving service of all.

A native of Rochefort, France, Pierre-Henry first followed his childhood dream and enlisted in the French Army in 1979. After graduating from the National School for Non-Commissioned Officers he became a sergeant and was happy in his military life.

In 1984, he eventually said yes to the Lord after 14 years of spiritual struggles to discern and accept this calling. So, he resigned from the army and attended the diocesan seminaries of Poitiers and Bordeaux. He was ordained a deacon on April 29, 1989, and a priest for the Roman Catholic diocese of La Rochelle on June 25, 1990. He served the parishes of Mirambeau, St Genis and Archiac all located in the same deanery, 53 miles from his native town. At the same time he was the chaplain for the Middle Schools of the deanery for whom he organized summer camps, retreats and pilgrimages.

During this time, he fell in love with Sophie, and realized he could not live without her. So, in September 1996 Pierre-Henry resigned his position and proposed to Sophie, who said yes.

Sophie and Pierre-Henry moved to Bordeaux where Sophie was a college student. He was hired at Gaz de Bordeaux, a local gas company, where he worked in various positions, from working in the mail office, to being a customer agent, and a purchasing agent. He could not hide his past, and even if he did not belong to any church at that time, he was a kind of 'bi-vocational' priest to whom people could confide and ask questions.

In June 1997 Sophie and Pierre-Henry got married, and their first son Raphael was born in 1998.

He discovered the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion in April 2000 after the birth of his second child, Pauline, and was received as a lay person the following year in the Episcopal Church by Bishop Jeffrey Rowthorn. With the support and help of his wife, he planted the French Speaking Episcopal Mission Saint Martin, in Bordeaux. In January 2003, he was received as an Episcopal priest by Bishop Pierre Whalon, and in March 2003, when his 3rd child, Clement, was baptized, he officially became the Priest-in-Charge of the Mission St Martin.

(Continued on next page.)

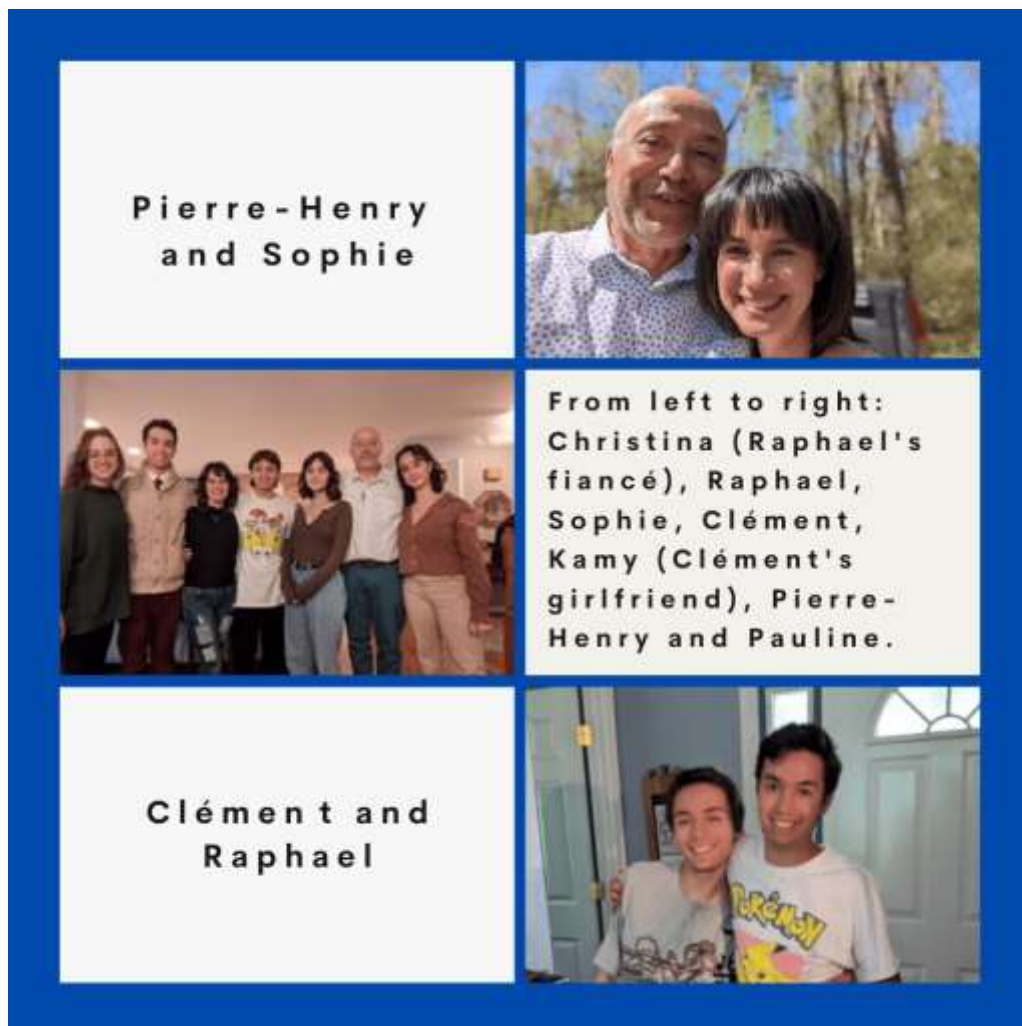
In 2008, to answer the call of Bishop Whalon, Pierre-Henry, Sophie, Raphael, Pauline and Clément moved to Alexandria, VA. Pierre-Henry became a seminarian at Virginia Theological Seminary and his family adapted to life in America. He earned his Master of Theological Studies in May 2010, and began his ministry of Assistant Rector of St Martin's in the field in Severna Park, MD. He was also the Chaplain of St Martin's Episcopal School.

In 2018 the whole family became United States citizens. It was a joyful and powerful event.

When at home, Pierre-Henry enjoys hiking with Sophie, playing guitar and the Native American Flute, reading books, gardening, and watching sci-fi movies and series like Star Trek which is his favorite.

Sophie graduated with her bachelor's degree in behavioral science from Grand Canyon University in 2022. She has been working as an associate director at a La Petite Academy, an early childhood education center.

They look forward to celebrating Christmas in our historic rectory with their three children. Raphael teaches French and history in a Montessori middle school in Front Royal, VA and is working on his bachelor's degree in education at Prescott College. Pauline teaches English in Japan with the JET (Japanese Exchange and Teaching) Program, and Clément is a junior at Northern Arizona University where he is studying film and documentary production.



Transition Committee Requests Information by August 6

Attention: Leaders of all Ascension Guilds, Groups and Ministries

The Transition Committee requests the following information for our new Rector. Please send the information to Donna Hansen via email (dbhansen0924@gmail.com) no later than August 6th. Thanks in advance.

Name of Guild/Group/Ministry:

Mission Statement/Purpose: (a few sentences)

Typical Meeting Dates & Time:

Chairs/Co-Chairs or Leader(s) Name(s) & contact information:

Other participants: Names and Contact information





Sunday, August 6 - Fr. Allan's final Sunday as our Interim Rector. A parish-wide brunch will follow the 10:15 a.m. service, honoring Fr. Allan & Rev'd Anne. (Hosted by St. Martha's Guild)
Sunday, August 13 – Rev. Ron Fisher will be the "supply priest" for both the 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m. services.
Sunday, August 20 – Fr. Pierre-Henry's first Sunday, with our regular services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. 8:00 a.m. worshippers will host breakfast following their service. A parish-wide brunch in honor of Fr. Pierre-Henry and Sophie will follow the 10:15 a.m. service, with St. Martha's Guild hosting.

Save the Date

A Celebration of New Ministry
and Institution of
The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson
as Rector of Church of the Ascension

Saturday January 6, 2024 11:00 am

23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157

**Thank You:
Buildings and Grounds**

Dear Church Family:

I want to thank the members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for the gargantuan efforts they and other members of the congregation made to make the 179-year-old Rectory ready for our new Rector and his family. We encountered many roadblocks, and the work is still ongoing, but the Rectory shines both inside and out. It is a true testament to how our church works well together and through God's will.

Many thanks to these persons and many more parishioners who helped to make things happen:

- Ellen and David Anderson
- Luke Gore
- Janice and Don Hobart
- Jill and David Horn
- Bryan Lance
- Gary and Helen Lang
- Buck Lyon-Vaiden
- Joe and Donna Parker
- Bill Sears
- Deb and Steve Vana
- Frank Vecera
- Jackie and Kevin Weschler
- Roberta Wilhelm

From,
Donna Hansen,
Senior Warden

The Buildings and Grounds Committee thanks the Mistletoe Mart Committee for

providing the funding to pay for new carpet for the Rectory staircases, the new refrigerator for the Rectory kitchen, and the new faucet for the Stone Church sacristy!!

Thank you! 

Worship Assistants: August 2023

	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte(s)	Chalichists	Worship Slides
August 6 8:00 am	Cheryl Vecera	Donna Hansen	David Kreider		
August 6 10:15 am	1. David Anderson 2. Ellen Anderson	Melissa Leahy	1. Raymond Lui 2. 3.	1. Kat Dittrich 2. Sandy White 3. 4.	Beth Anthony
August 13 8:00 am	Beverly Baker	Roberta Wilhelm			
August 13 10:15 am	1. Ron Cox 2. Bryan Lance	Buck Lyon-Vaiden		1. Rick Reinders 2. Kat Dittrich 3. Melissa Leahy 4.	Jeanne Cox
August 20 8:00 am	Donald & Janice Hobart	David Kreider	Jennie Grabill		
August 20 10:15 am	1. 2.	Bobbie Gooding	Raymond Lui	1. Bobbie Gooding 2. Kat Dittrich 3. 4.	Beth Anthony
August 27 8:00 am	Nancy Starner				
August 27 10:15 am	1. 2.	Carrie Goff	1. Kaelyn Goff 2. Reilly Goff	1. Kat Dittrich 2. Rick Reinders 3. 4.	Reagan Dunn



The Consecration of Carrie Schofield-Broadbent as Bishop Coadjutor of Maryland

(and eventually 15th Diocesan

Bishop) will take place on **Saturday, September 16, at 11:00 a.m. at Washington National Cathedral.** Chief Consecrator will be The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop. The service is open to all, with carpooling strongly encouraged! Clergy of the Diocese will be in the Procession.

Singers are needed for the Choir which will sing at the Consecration. Talented Sonya S. Sutton (wife of Bishop Sutton) will serve as Music Director for the service. Singers should plan to attend at least one of two rehearsals: Saturday, September 9, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore, or Sunday, September 10, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at St. John's Church, Ellicott City.

[To register as a singer please click here.](#)

Banners from Parishes across the Diocese are requested for the Procession. Parishioner **Kat Ditrich** has volunteered to carry Ascension's banner!

Our Parish Staff is the very best, and, as Interim Rector, I want to thank each of them for their exceptional teamwork and dedication to the Lord's work here at Ascension. Please join me in saluting and warmly thanking:

- Ann Fariss, Parish Administrator
- Lynn Lyon-Vaiden, Communications Associate and Handbell Choir Director
- Mary Butler and Donna Parker, Organists and Ensemble Directors
- Reagan Dunn, Digital Ministry Associate
- Suzanne Walter, Nursery Attendant
- Donald Chepko, Sexton

I am so grateful to each of you for your faithfulness and support. I also salute and thank our HUGE host of volunteer lay leaders, who give so tirelessly of their time and talent to help the Lord's work move forward at Ascension!

--The Rev. F. Allan Weatherholt, Jr.

Church Staff

Rev. F. Allan Weatherholt, Jr.	Interim Rector
Ann Fariss	Parish Administrator
Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Communications Associate/Handbell Choir Director
Mary Butler	Organist/Adult Ensemble Director
Donna Parker	Organist/Praise Ensemble Director
Reagan Dunn	Digital Ministry Associate
Meredith Litlv	Summer Programs Coordinator
Kaelyn Goff	Summer Programs Assistant
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant
Donald Chepko	Night Sexton

The Vestry		
Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Allan Weatherholt		Interim Rector
Donna Hansen, Sr. Warden	2024	Finance/Mistletoe Mart
Joe Parker, Jr. Warden	2026	Buildings and Grounds
Nancy Starnier, Treasurer	2024	Finance
Jackie Weschler, Registrar	2024	Fellowship/Children & Youth
Jill Horn	2024	Outreach/Altar Guild
Katie Corbin	2024	Children & Youth
Carrie Goff	2024	Children & Youth/Altar Guild
Jennie Grabill	2025	Outreach/Altar Guild
Luke Gore	2025	Buildings and Grounds
Deb Howard	2025	Outreach/Children & Youth
Rick Reinders	2025	Finance and Memorials
Beverly Baker	2026	St. Martha's Guild/Mistletoe Mart
Liz Lowe	2026	St. Martha's Guild/St. James Guild/Altar Guild
Roberta Wilhelm	2026	Buildings and Grounds

Year-to-Date Income and Expenses through June 30, 2023		
	Actual Year-to-Date	Budgeted Year-to-Date
Income:		
General Giving	\$ 127,108.75	\$ 89,696.96
Fundraisers	\$ 2,688.12	\$ 7,318.02
Rental	\$ 8,550.00	\$ 8,550.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,793.62	\$ 4,212.00
Total Income	\$ 140,140.49	\$ 109,776.98
Expenses:		
Staff and Staff Support	\$ 60,250.94	\$ 60,616.98
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 57,751.32	\$ 53,152.94
Diocese of MD	\$ 16,954.02	\$ 16,954.02
Office/Business Expenses	\$ 13,791.71	\$ 12,774.99
Ministries/Worship	\$ 9,000.79	\$ 13,060.00
Total Expenses	\$ 157,748.78	\$ 156,558.83
Net Income	\$ (17,608.29)	\$ (46,781.85)

Church of the *Ascension*
Children and Youth Ministries



Free Summer
Programs



ascension-westminster.com/events

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY DURING OUR FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS.

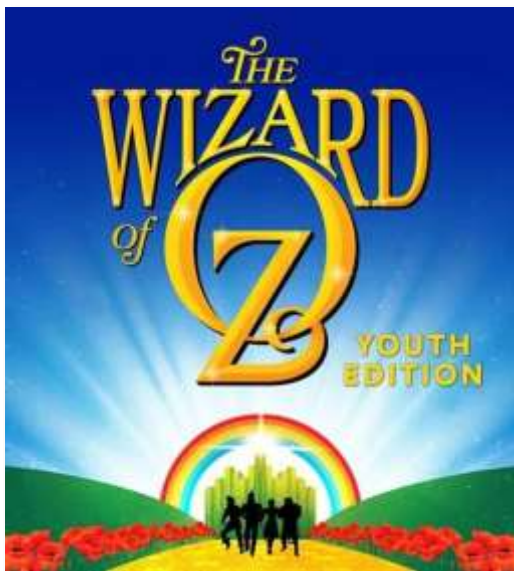
SCHEDULE:

Robin Hood	August 4
Mary Poppins Returns	August 11
Drama Camp	August 18
Performance of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	
Nanny McPhee	August 25

LIGHT SNACKS PROVIDED. FEEL FREE TO BRING FOOD OR DRINK.

Potluck Dinner: August 18 at 6:00 pm

Church of the Ascension
23 N Court St Westminster, MD

Drama Camp will run Monday-Friday August 7th-18th (two, 5-day weeks). **The play will be held on August 18th with a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm.** Drama campers will rehearse a wonderfully youth-oriented version of **The Wizard of Oz** that will feature acting, singing, dancing, and opportunities for audience participation.

We will work diligently to create our very own Dorothy, Scarecrow, Wicked Witch, Munchkins and everyone else you remember. Rehearsals are during the weeks of August 7 and 14 with an evening show on Friday, August 18. Come celebrate youth and summer and imagination with us. We'll enjoy a 6:00 p.m. potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall first with the show following in Holy Cross Hall.

Sunday School Resumes: September 10 at 9:00 am



Foundations Sunday School (Grades K - 6)

Teacher: Carrie Goff

Stories

The Foundations Class will read and learn about the Most Amazing Stories ever told with the Best Storyteller of all time- Jesus! We will use the books, *The Story for Kids* and *The Story for Children* by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee to explore these awesome stories!

Other stories we will explore:

- *The Wingfeather Saga* by Andrew Peterson
- *Prince Warriors* by Priscilla Shirer
- *Prince Caspian and The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis

We will continue to learn about the importance of prayer in our lives. The class will also participate in community service projects.

Explorations Sunday School(Grades 7 - 12)

Teacher: Roberta Gore

The Explorations Sunday School class will use the **Bible-In-Life Curriculum**. Each step-by-step lesson is designed to engage students in:

- Spiritual development to foster ownership of their faith
- Deeper discovery of the Bible in class and throughout the week
- Group discussions that connect God's truth to current events and news topics
- A variety of creative peer stories, activities, and articles



Adult Education



Tuesday Morning Bible Study will meet on **August 1 and August 8** to continue their study of the Revelation to John.

Meetings are in Room 202 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Please contact Bill Sears (redrock2@verizon.net) for questions or additional information.

Book Club

The Book Club selection for August is the classic, *The Old Man and the Sea*, by Ernest Hemingway. Written in 1952, and awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1953, it is the story of an aging fisherman's enduring struggle to capture a giant Marlin.

The club will meet on **Wednesday, August 30th, at noon**, in the Guild Room for a discussion of the book.

Everyone is welcome to join in.

Please send book suggestions to Cheryl Vecera.
(cherylvecera@gmail.com)

1844 Shoppe: Back to School Sale

The 1844 Shoppe is having a "Back to School Sale" throughout August.

Teachers, Educators, Students, Parents of Students, can take 25% off anything in the Shoppe that will help them get ready for the upcoming school year. You might want to update your jewelry to accent the new outfits you bought, pick up a new mug for your desk; there are endless possibilities. Maybe you are on your way to your first year of college - we have dishes for one, two, or more. We have fold up tables and dropleaf tables. We have single chairs, and we have storage solutions. Be sure to stop in and let your imagination take the lead.

Themed Potluck Lunches

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
September 15	Restaurant Re-Creation	Bring a dish that re-creates a dish from your favorite restaurant.

Please click on the image to RSVP for the September 15 lunch.



Coffee Hour Volunteers: Thank You!!

August 6	St. Martha's Guild	September 3	Altar Guild
August 13	Buildings and Grounds Cmte.	September 10	Children & Youth Committee
August 20	St. Martha's Guild	September 17	Mistletoe Mart
August 27	Memorials Committee	September 24	Vestry

Members One of Another

We are thankful to God that parishioner **JoAnne Kreider** is now home from the rehabilitation facility in York, Pennsylvania.

JoAnne spent about two weeks there after undergoing knee replacement surgery here in Westminster on July 11. She is continuing to work with a physical therapist at her home.

After a bout with pneumonia, retired priest **Fr. Sam Edleman** is, happily, back in his cottage at Carroll Lutheran Village and doing well.

Parishioner **Ron Cox** is out and about again after also battling pneumonia during a recent stay at Carroll Hospital, where Fr. Allan visited and prayed with him.

Ensemble singer **Jerry Gooding** will have some surgery at Hershey Medical Center on Thursday, August 10. Please keep him in your prayers.

Parishioner and Parish photographer, **Jim Fariss**, received a good report from his ophthalmologist at the Wilmer Eye Institute of Johns Hopkins Hospital. Some weeks ago, Jim underwent same-day surgery for a detached retina in his right eye. The surgery was successful and, praise God, Jim is resuming most of his regular activities

Vestry member **Jill Horn** is scheduled to undergo knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, August 9 at Greater Baltimore Medical Center. Please remember Jill in your prayers.



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

AUGUST

- Family Movie Nights Continue** **August 4**
- Thank You Brunch for Fr. Allan & Rev'd Anne** **August 6**
- Drama Camp Begins** **August 7**
- Drama Camp Dinner and Performance** **August 18**
- Welcome Breakfast & Brunch for Fr. Pierre-Henry and family** **August 20**
- Family Movie Night: Summer Program Reunion** **August 25**

SEPTEMBER

- Rally Day/ Sunday School Resumes** **September 10**
- Themed Potluck Lunch** **September 15**

Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157