



Ascension Extension

OCTOBER 2025

www.ascension-westminster.com

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office@ascension-westminster.com

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

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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

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



Rector's Message The Higher Calling of Christian Life

Dear Siblings in Christ:

As we move into the heart of fall, the season of harvest reminds us of God's abundance and our role as caretakers of all we have been given. At Ascension, fall is also the stewardship season, but really what we are talking about is Christian living. Stewardship is simply one expression of the greater call to follow Jesus—a way of life that deepens our relationship with God and each other.

Stewardship means recognizing that everything we have—our time, our talents, our resources, and even our very lives—are gifts from God. It is our joyful response to these gifts, using them to honor God and build up God's kingdom. While you will soon receive a letter about our 2025–2026 stewardship campaign, please remember this is not simply a fundraising effort. It is an opportunity to reflect on how we are living out our baptismal vows and participating in the mission of Ascension.

We also pause to give thanks. So much of the ministry at Ascension is possible because of your generosity—not only financial giving, but also the countless hours given to worship, outreach, music, fellowship, children and youth, altar guild, buildings and grounds, Bible studies, fundraising, and quiet behind-the-scenes support. Each act of service, each pledge, each offering of time and talent is a visible sign of faith and love. For all the ways you give of yourselves: thank you.

(Continued on p. 2)

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

October Worship

October 5

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of the Animals

Youth Sunday

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

9:00 am Sunday School (Gr. 6-12), Adult Bible Study

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Courtyard
(weather permitting) *Please bring a lawn chair.*

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

October 12

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

9:00 am Sunday School (Gr. 6-12), Adult Bible Study

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Sunday School (Gr. K-5), Holy Cross Hall

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

October 19

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

9:00 am Sunday School (Gr. 6-12), Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

October 26

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

9:00 am Sunday School (Gr. 6-12), Adult Bible Study

10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Sunday School (Gr. K-5), Holy Cross Hall

11:30 am Fellowship Hour w/parish discussion led by the Rev. Dr. Kristofer Lindh-Payne

Rector's Message continued...

In a world that often feels fractured and filled with hatred, violence, and division, our call to stewardship has never been more vital. We live in a stressful political climate, with daily reports of shootings and polarization.

As Christians, we are called to a higher standard than the world around us, one that rises above the noise of political parties and societal strife.

Our example is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who commands us to love God and to love our neighbor—all of our neighbors, regardless of their color, sexual orientation, origin, or political beliefs. That does not mean that we agree on everything, but we acknowledge that our differences are what make the human family so special. This is the Baptismal Covenant we each renew in Christ: to follow his example, to be held accountable, and to uphold these promises: to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers; to persevere in resisting evil and to repent when we fall into sin; to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ by word and example; and to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

This call to love is not easy. Jesus commands us to love even our enemies and to bless those who curse us. It challenges us to be bold Christians who embody Christ's way of life, no matter what is happening in the world. For us as Episcopalians, this means taking seriously the final promise of our baptismal vows: to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being.

In a world so polarized, we are called to be centered on Christ and to be guided and strengthened by the Lord. This is why our Sunday communion, the breaking of the bread, is so central to our lives. It is the source of the grace we need to follow Jesus's way—to refuse to add violence to violence, and to see in every person, especially those who are very different from us, a beloved child of God for whom Christ died.

This is what we will explore together in the coming weeks. **On Sunday, October 26, The Rev. Canon Dr. Kristofer Lindh-Payne, Canon to the Ordinary for Leadership for the Diocese of Maryland, will preach on this higher calling and lead a parish discussion after the service.**

It will be a time to reflect on what we are doing as a community and where God is calling us to go next. I invite you to pray about this, to reflect on your own spiritual journey, and to join us in this important conversation.

(Continued on p. 3)



Rector's Message continued...

Thank you for being part of the Ascension family, and for your commitment to living a faithful Christian life. May God grant us the grace to live generously, love boldly, and follow Christ faithfully.

Pierre-Henry+

Stewardship Campaign

Tell Out My Soul!

Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign: Tell Out My Soul will begin on **Sunday, October 5**, and conclude on **Sunday, November 9**, when we will gather and bless our pledge cards in a special act of worship. Each week during this season, reflections will be shared to help us explore the deep connection between gratitude and generosity.

The theme, *Tell Out, My Soul*, comes from Mary's song of praise, *The Magnificat* (Luke 1:46–55). Upon learning she would bear the Son of God, Mary responds not with fear or doubt, but with a joyful eruption of praise, proclaiming the greatness of the Lord. Her song reminds us that stewardship begins not with numbers on a page, but with a grateful heart. Our giving is our own song of praise—the way we “tell out” the goodness of God in our lives.

Just as Mary offered her life, we are invited to offer our gifts back to God during the Eucharist. When we bring bread, wine, and our financial offerings to the altar, we are offering ourselves—our labor, our time, our talents, our very souls—trusting that God will bless and multiply them for the sake of the Kingdom.

The simple truth is that the Church of the Ascension cannot exist without the generosity of its people. Every hour of time, every talent

shared, every dollar given makes possible our worship, our ministries, and our care for one another. Your pledge fuels our mission, sustains our sacred spaces, and keeps our community a beacon of God's love in Westminster.

During this Stewardship season, I invite you to reflect on the blessings you have received through Ascension, and to give thanks for the generations of faithful stewards who, since 1844, have built and sustained this parish. Now it is our turn to add our voices to that chorus of generosity.

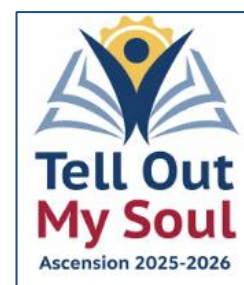
Our goal this year is 100% participation. We hope that every member of our parish family will return a pledge card. No gift is too small, and no gift is too large. What matters is your participation. Every pledge is a statement of faith, belonging, and gratitude.

Let us join our voices and our gifts together. May our collective generosity be a joyful song that supports the mission and ministry of Ascension in the year to come.

Tell Out, My Soul!

Faithfully,

Pierre-Henry+



The Vestry

Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson		Rector
Kim Tompkins, Sr. Warden	2027	Altar Guild, Worship Assistants, Mistletoe Mart
Gary Lang, Jr. Warden		Buildings & Grounds
Nancy Starnier, Treasurer		
Deborah Rio	2028	Welcome Ministry
Beverly Baker	2026	Fundraising
Liz Lowe	2026	1844 Shoppe, Pins & Needles, Book Club, Church Homes Foundation, Bible Studies
Roberta Wilhelm	2026	Buildings & Grounds
Diana Baker	2027	Youth Ministry, Fellowship Hour
David Anderson	2027	Worship Assistants
Mark Howe	2028	Stewardship, Altar Guild, Worship Assistants
Melissa Leahy	2028	St. Martha's Guild, St. James' Commission, LEV, St. Luke's Guild, Outreach, DreamBuilders MD

A Message of Hope and Gratitude from the Vestry

Dear Parish Family:

We want to begin by thanking you for your faithfulness and for the vibrant community we share at Ascension. We know there has been some concern about the church's financial health, and we want to address that directly and reassure you.

Our ministries are active, our worship is vibrant, our fellowship is deep, and our service to the community continues with energy and purpose.

The Vestry is actively monitoring our finances, and we want to reassure you that our church remains strong and resilient. We've experienced some seasonal ebbs and flows in giving this past summer, which is a normal part of church life. We are committed to being faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

We are filled with hope for our future. Our financial health is directly linked to the strength of our mission, which is a mission we all share. We are confident that by working together, with faith in God's provision and the generosity of our community, we will continue to grow and thrive.

We ask that you join us in prayer for:

- Wisdom for our leadership
- Openness to God's guidance in shaping our future
- Generous hearts as we share our time, talent, and treasure

Thank you for being part of this community.

Sincerely,
The Vestry



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
Martin Villanueva	Minister of Music
Travis Collins	Digital Ministry Associate
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant

Highlights from the September 30, 2025 Vestry Meeting

Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, Kim Tompkins (Sr. Warden), Gary Lang (Jr. Warden), Beverly Baker, Mark Howe, Liz Lowe, Deborah Rio, Roberta Wilhelm, Debbie Bargar (Finance). Excused: David Anderson, Diana Baker, Melissa Leahy.

After the opening prayer led by Fr. Pierre-Henry, the Vestry approved the Consent Agenda, including the July 29, 2025 Special Financial Meeting Minutes, September 2, 2025 Vestry Meeting Minutes, Financial Letter from the Vestry, Senior Warden's Report, Vestry Liaison Reports for the Altar Guild, Memorials, Mistletoe Mart and Welcome ministries.

Deborah Rio remains on the Vestry but resigned as the Registrar. Therefore, the Vestry will need to identify candidates to fill this open position.

Debbie Bargar, Chair of the Finance Committee, reviewed the Financial Reports for August, 2025. Actual Income was \$28,566.23, Actual Expenses were \$48,122.31, resulting in a net loss of \$19,556.08. Please note: The \$11,898.65 Maintenance Expense included \$9,416 for the paving of the parking lot which was funded by the Middendorf Loan.

The Realm Booking Services had been budgeted through June 2025. The Vestry voted to extend these services through 2025. The columbarium will be added to our existing property insurance policy with Brotherhood. Building a 7-foot metal fence with Rustic Fence for the alcove by the Fellowship Hall outside door was approved.

A clean-up task list for the Fellowship Hall will be posted to ensure that when the space is used by either Ascension ministries or outside organizations, it will be consistently cleaned afterwards.

The Stewardship Campaign, "Tell Out My Soul," will run from October 5, 2025 through November 9, 2025. Letters will be mailed to the congregation and speakers will be identified. Communication will also be included in the weekly Enews, monthly Extension and on the church website.

As follow up to the Adult Forum held with Canon Kristofer Lindh-Payne on Sunday, August 24, a second forum will be held with Canon Kristofer on Sunday, October 26, after both the 8:00 am and the 10:15 am services. This will also allow the parish to continue to discuss concerns and ideas about limited resources to support current ministry responsibilities as we explore solutions in this challenging area.



FINANCE

Tidbit

Surprising Church Digital Giving Data
Interesting facts based on giving data from thousands of churches



- Month with highest digital giving – December
- Days of month with highest digital giving – 1st and 15th days of month
- Day of week with highest digital giving – Sunday
- Hours of day with highest digital giving – afternoon (12:00pm – 6:00pm)
- Digital giving by gift size – \$101-\$250 (27%)
- (80% of gifts are over \$100)
- Recurring vs. One-time digital giving – over 50% are auto recurring
- Digital giving by occasional vs. consistent givers – 51% give one time a month

Donate to
Church of the
Ascension



SCAN ME

Worship Assistants: October 2025

Altar Guild: Team 4

Charlie Aler, Beverly Baker, Jenny Beeker, Helen Lang, Kim Tompkins

	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicists	Worship Slides
October 5 8:00 am		Patty O'Brien	Charlie Aler		
October 5 10:15 am	1. 2.	Olivia Carpenter	Ellen Anderson	1. Sandy White 2. John Holbert 3. Betsy Reinders 4.	
October 12 8:00 am	Charlie Aler	Roberta Wilhem	Beverly Baker		
October 12 10:15 am	1. David Horn 2.	Jill Horn		1. 2. 3. 4.	Jeanne Cox
October 19 8:00 am		Mary Lou Berg			
October 19 10:15 am	1. 2.	Jim Fariss		1. Jim Fariss 2. 3. 4.	John Holbert
October 26 8:00 am	Roberta Wilhelm		Beverly Baker		
October 26 10:15 am	1. 2.	John Holbert		1. John Holbert 2. 3. 4.	

Blessing of the Animals – Sunday, October 5

Join us for this joyful tradition!

8:00 am worship – Bring a photo of your pet to be blessed.

10:15 am worship – Weather permitting, we'll gather in the Courtyard. **(Please bring a lawn chair!).**



Bring your furry, feathered, scaly, or swimming companions—or a photo—for a special blessing. Children are invited to bring a favorite stuffed animal.

Rain plan: If the weather doesn't cooperate, the 10:15 am service will be held in Holy Cross Hall, where well-behaved pets (or their photos) are welcome.





Questions? Lynn Lyon-Vaiden (lynn.lyonvaiden@gmail.com)

Thank You: Purse Bingo

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals, committees, and businesses for generously sponsoring the September 27 Purse Bingo Fundraiser:

Ellen & David Anderson
 Beverly & Frank Baker
 Debbie Bargar
 Donna & Roger Bair
 Ann & Jim Farris
 Kimberly Gossert
 Janice & Don Hobart
 Merri & Stan Hollinger
 Jill & David Horn
 Melissa Leahy
 Lynn & Buck Lyon-Vaiden
 Betsy & Rick Reinders
 Kristi & Scott Tenney
 Lisa Webster
 Sandy White
 Roberta Wilhelm

Building & Grounds Committee
 Children & Youth Ministry
 Longwood Gardens
 Mistletoe Mart
 Myers-Durboraw Funeral Homes
 Outreach Committee
 Pins & Needles
 Pub Dog Brewing Company
 St. Martha's Guild
 Sweet Bay Farm Nursery & Garden Center
 The Cutting Garden
 Westminster National Golf Course

Thank you! ❤️

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Saturday, October 18

Join us for a delicious spaghetti dinner and fellowship—all while supporting a great cause!

Bring your family, friends, and appetite. We can't wait to see you there!

Payment: Cash or credit card accepted at the door.

SPAGHETTI
Dinner
Church of the Ascension
Fellowship Hall

Dinner Prices:

Children under 5: FREE

Children (age 5 -10): \$5/person

Ages 11 and over: \$10/person

Carry Out: \$8

Contact: blbaker08@comcast.net

**October
18
4:00-7:00pm**



23 N. Court Street Westminster, MD ascension-westminster.com/events

Mistletoe Mart

Ascension's 51st Annual Mistletoe Mart is only 6 weeks away!
Thursday, November 13 - Saturday, November 15

www.mistletoemart.com

The Mistletoe Mart has become one of the premier arts and crafts shows in the tristate area.

The talent of each of the 42 artisans participating this year is truly amazing! Over 2,100 patrons attend each year and a \$5.00 admission ticket is good for all 3 days of the Mart. Each year the Mart donates 25-30% of their proceeds to Community Outreach, with the balance providing support to Ascension. Proceeds from Mistletoe Mart 2024 provided \$10,000 to Community Outreach (17 different organizations) and \$33,700 to Ascension.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



Volunteer signup boards are now posted outside of the Fellowship Hall. Coming Soon: Online volunteer sign up. There are many ways you can apply your talents!

Decorating (Please see Betsy Reinders for details.) Includes "Fluffing of the Greens" and transforming our space into a beautiful Christmas setting throughout the Holy Cross Hall, Fellowship Hall and hallways – and then undecorating afterwards.

Café Host/Hostess

(Please see Beverly Baker for details)
 Clear and clean the café tables.

Publicity (Please contact Susan Considine & Lynn Lyon-Vaiden for details.)



Mistletoe Mart Postcards: Help us spread the word! Please take some postcards (available at the back of both sanctuaries) and share them at places you visit—such as dry cleaners, hair and nail salons, restaurants, Dunkin' Donuts, Panera Bread, schools, doctor's offices, daycare facilities, and senior centers.

Yard Signs for the Mistletoe Mart

Do you live on a major road? **Beginning October 19, yard signs will be available** at the church. Please take one and place it in your yard to help us spread the word about the Mart!

Advertising: Watch for our ad in Carroll Magazine, in newspapers and online, as well as on digital billboards and a large banner (by the Airpark). A press release is being released to multiple organizations.

Shop Assistants

(Please see Ellen Anderson for details)
 Visit vendors throughout each day, taking and delivering their café food and drink orders. Vendors compliment the Mart on this service that is provided to them– and with a smile!

Continued on next page

*Mistletoe Mart (continued)***Tear Down / Set Up***(Please see David Horn for details)*

Take down the Holy Cross Hall altar and pew chairs as well as furniture from the Fellowship Hall, classrooms and offices before the Mart and then set up after the Mart. Also move packed Mistletoe Mart boxes and items used during the Mart out of storage and return them afterwards.

This is physical work and while we have movers from Glamour Moving to help on specific days, Ascension volunteers are needed to make the take down and set up tasks effective and manageable.

Kitchen *(Please see Melissa Leahy for details)*

Food prep takes place Monday(11/10) – Wednesday(11/12) before the Mart. Help is then needed throughout each day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to prepare food, serve food and clean up. There is a wonderful fellowship while working in the kitchen, and the more volunteers that sign up result in more manageable shifts, especially during lunch and dinner.

Admission Table *(Please see Susan Considine for details)* Sit at one of our two Admission Tables (by back parking lot and by church office). Welcome patrons and sell admission tickets.

Country Store (Baked Goods Table) *(Please see Merri Hollinger for details)*

Calling all bakers - the bake table needs your talents! This is the time to get out those great recipes for cookies, cakes, bread, pies, muffins, cupcakes, candy, fudge, muffins and more.

Please remember, the bake table needs to be stocked for ALL THREE DAYS.

Church Store *(Ascension Greeting and Information Corner outside the Holy Cross Hall)*
Sell specific Ascension items. This is a perfect opportunity to greet and visit with our patrons!

Golden Bough Tea Area *(Please see Jeanne Cox for details)* Mistletoe Mart Tea Setup in the Fellowship Hall
Ensure there is Mistletoe Mart Tea and supplies available.

Angel Workshop *(Please contact Lynn Kirby)*
Children will be able to visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus! Crafts will also be available.

Sound System *(Please see Travis Collins for details)*

Assist with playing Christmas music through the sound system and display presentations on the monitors. Make announcements during the Mart.

When you volunteer during the Mart, please wear your Ascension magnetic nametag! If you need to order one, please contact our Parish Administrator, Ann Fariss, in the Church Office.

We still have some Mistletoe Mart 50th anniversary ornaments remaining from last year! These beautiful, limited edition, hand painted

porcelain ornaments were designed and made by Anne Piazza, one of our Mistletoe Mart artisans. The price is \$45.00 per ornament. Please see Kim Tompkins for more information.



This is such an exciting time of the year! We all have special memories we have shared with each other as well as our family, friends, vendors and the community! However, **we truly need everyone's help** to manage the wide range of jobs. Thank you for all of your time and support to make the Mart a success!

Mistletoe Mart Co-Chairs
Jenny Beeker & Kim Tompkins

Have you ever wanted to volunteer in the Mistletoe Mart kitchen but hesitated because you need a sitting job?

Hesitate no more - we can accommodate you! Below are several opportunities in the kitchen that can be done while seated.



- Making spice packs for soup
- Filling salt and pepper shakers
- Filling pretzel bags for sale in the Country Store
- Cutting up celery, etc.
- Rolling silverware in napkins

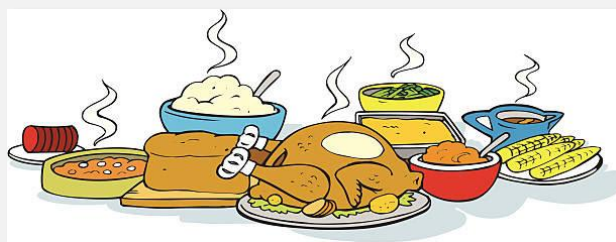
Please consider helping us out!!

Questions? Please contact Melissa Leahy.

Turkey Dinner at the Mistletoe Mart!

Join us **Friday night, November 14, beginning at 5:00 pm** for a hearty turkey dinner with all the fixings. Enjoy generous servings of turkey, homemade mashed potatoes, green beans, stuffing, and cranberry sauce — a true comfort meal!

Come hungry, bring your family and friends, and gather around the table. We can't wait to see you there!



Pins & Needles Quilt Raffle

The drawing will be on November 15 (during Mistletoe Mart!). Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6/\$5.00, and are available from any member of Pins and Needles, or in the Church Office. If you would like to SELL tickets, please contact Donna Bair.



1844 Shoppe

Please note the updated 1844 Shoppe hours:

Friday and Saturday: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

The 1844 Shoppe
FALL INTO SAVINGS **50% OFF**

All Fall and Halloween merchandise is 50% off!

OCTOBER 3 - OCTOBER 25

Friday and Saturday 10am-1pm

ascension-westminster.com/1844-shoppe

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

The 1844 Shoppe will be closed
October 31–November 8
as we get ready for the
51st Mistletoe Mart.

Church of the *Ascension*

Children and Youth Ministries



Youth Sunday

youth@ascension-westminster.com



Youth Sunday

Sunday, October 5 will be Youth Sunday during the 10:15 am service! The children and youth are invited to be active participants in the liturgy. If your child is interested in ushering, reading, being an acolyte, singing or anything else, please let us know.

DATE	Sunday School (Gr. 6-12)	Sunday School (Gr. K-5)	Children's Chapel (all ages)
October 5	9:00 am		Children's Sermon & Chapel 10:15 am
October 12	9:00 am	10:15 am	
October 19	9:00 am		10:15 am
October 26	9:00 am	10:15 am	
November 2	9:00 am		Children's Sermon 10:15 am
November 9			
November 16			
November 23	9:00 am	10:15 am	
November 30	9:00 am	10:15 am	

Nursery Care: Sunday Morning (9:00–10:00 am)

Nursery Care is available every Sunday during Adult Bible Study, open to young children—including elementary ages—so parents can fully participate. Nursery care continues through the end of the 10:15 am service.

November Newsletter



Book Club



**BOOK
CLUB**

2025

Join us at 12:30 pm
in the Guild Room.

October 29: *The Grapes of Wrath*
by John Steinbeck

*We will not meet in
November & December.*

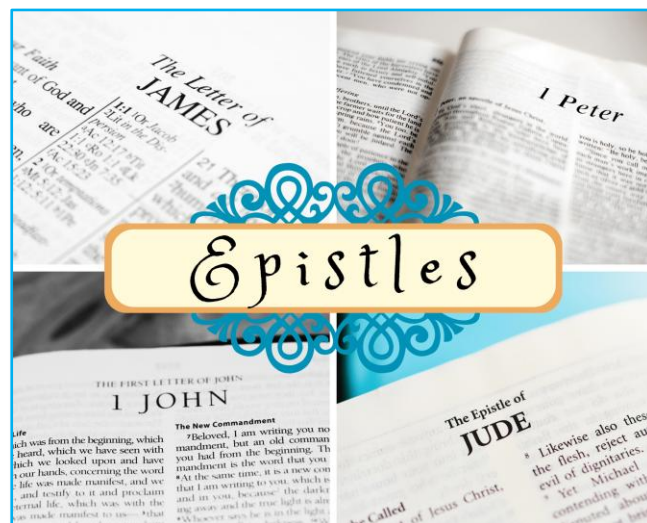
Bible Study



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

We will meet on October 7 and October 21
at 9:30 am in Room #202.

For information, please contact Bill Sears.



Operation Christmas Child

samaritanspurse.org

Please consider filling a box or two. The instructions are included, AND our support goes a long way to make a child's life a little more joyful while spreading the love of Christ. Instructions and gift suggestions will be included in each box.

Please return your boxes to church by
Sunday, November 9.



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

Operation Christmas Child

2025 Schedule:

Boxes and Instructions Available:
in the Stone Church and Holy Cross Hall

Return Boxes to Church:
November 2-9

Boxes Blessed:
Sunday, November 9




Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



During The Month of October Please Help Fill The Blessings Closet

October is a month when Ascension collects non-food items for Shepherd's Staff to assist individuals and families in Carroll County who cannot afford to purchase everyday necessities.

****Current High Need Items****

All Purpose Cleaner
Baby Wipes
Dish Soap

Deodorant: Men's and Women's
Laundry Detergent Pods or Sheets
Paper Towels

Toilet Tissue
Toothpaste

Other Items:

Baby Diapers - all sizes
Disinfecting Wipes/Spray
Disposable Gloves

Feminine Hygiene
Hand Sanitizer
Incontinence Briefs

Shampoo
Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
Ziploc Bags - all sizes

Please place the items in the box at the entrance to Holy Cross Hall or the Stone Church.



Carroll County Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday October 4, 2025
7:30 - 10 am

Harry Swayne
3X Super Bowl
Ravens-Broncos
Chaplain-Leader-Christian

Online tickets at
carroll.mdmembers.org

LIVE WORSHIP Prayer & Ministry Resources Buffet Breakfast Included Help Support Local Ministries

Ghanaian Mother's Hope

Dear Ascension Friends:

On September 20, It was so wonderful to celebrate 20 years of ministry in Ghana at Ascension, my home church. I loved seeing so many people showing up in their African attire. Thank you so much for being my prayer partner and support for the last 20 years.

In 2007, Ghanaian Mothers' Hope opened our first nursery in a small village in Ghana. One little boy named Eric was so cute wearing his red sweater with a hood. It was handmade by a generous donor, and Eric loved it. It was 78 degrees, and looking at Eric made me break out in a sweat.

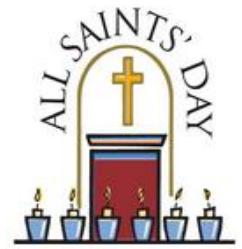
Later that year, Eric suffered 4th degree burns on the left side of his body when a gasoline generator powering his family's well exploded. It took 7 hours before Eric could get treatment. But Eric was a survivor. He recovered, went back to school, and recently graduated from high school.

Thanks to a generous donor, GMH was able to offer Eric a scholarship to medical school. Eric is just one of our success stories. Eric is one of God's miracles. Thank you to all of you who support us with prayer and financial contributions.

Debi Frock, Founder



Each year at the Feast of All Saints', this year on **Sunday, November 2**, we remember in the Parish Prayers loved ones – family and friends – whose earthly lives have ended but who are with us through the Communion of Saints. You are invited to submit the names of those saints who have been special in your life. Please complete this slip and place it in the Offering Plate or bring it to the Church Office by **Wednesday, October 29**. You may also mail the form to Church of the Ascension - 23 N. Court Street - Westminster, MD 21157.



Your Name: _____

Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157