



Ascension Extension

OCTOBER 2026

www.ascension-westminster.com

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

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Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 am -3:00 pm

office@ascension-westminster.com

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

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

Senior Warden's Message

Thank you for the warm welcome to the Rev. Kristin Krantz, Canon for Transitions, on Sunday, September 27! We are grateful she was able to preach at Ascension and then spend time after each service speaking with the congregation. There was engaged participation, active dialogue and thoughtful questions. While change is difficult, especially during this time of pastoral transition, the caring, supportive and positive atmosphere was encouraging to us all!

As Canon Kristin explained, the Vestry has recently been engaged in the interview process for our interim clergy position. We are grateful to share that the position has now been filled! Please keep the Vestry in your prayers.

Key Steps in our Pastoral Transition include:

- Farewell to Fr. Pierre-Henry & Sophie – complete
- Search for our Interim Clergy – complete (see p.2)
- Develop Transitions Prayer Team – in process (see p. 3)

The Discernment Process for our New Priest will include:

- Create Search Committee
- Self-Study & Data Gathering
- Create Vocation Hub Profile
- Discern with Candidates
- Calling of Ascension's New Priest

As we begin to approach next steps, there will be many opportunities for Ascension parishioners to share their gifts and serve in meaningful ways!

May God, who loves us through all states of stability and change, guide our hearts and calm our minds as we navigate this transition.

In Christ's love,
Kim Tompkins
Senior Warden

Welcoming Our Interim Rector

The Vestry is excited to announce that The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee will serve as Ascension's Interim Rector!

Fr. Chip recently retired in July after **33 years of ministry with the Episcopal Churches in Garrett County**, where he served as rector at St. Matthew's and vicar at St. John's. We are grateful that he has agreed to come alongside our church family during this important time of transition.

At the Vestry's request, and in consideration of our current financial situation, Fr. Chip will serve as a **50% part-time Interim Rector**. His primary responsibilities will be to lead worship, provide pastoral care, and care for and support Ascension as we move through our pastoral transition.

For Ascension, this means Fr. Chip will lead both of our Sunday worship services each week:

- **8:00 a.m. Rite I in the Stone Church**
- **10:15 a.m. Rite II in Holy Cross Hall**

He will also lead holiday and special services throughout the liturgical year, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Fr. Chip will be **in the church office each Monday**. Since he lives in Garrett County, he will stay **in the Rectory Saturday through Monday each week**.

The Rev. Dr. Chip Lee

If you ask him, the Reverend Doctor Chip Lee will tell you that he knew he would become a priest when he was a sophomore in high school. He just found 25 years' worth of excuses to put it off.

Raised in Saratoga Springs, NY, Chip went to work at the local radio station in his junior year, and wound up on active duty in the Navy in 1967 in Armed Forces Radio and Television on board the USS Wright. Following discharge, he re-entered Ithaca College where he earned a BS in Communications and subsequently worked for nearly 25 years as a disc jockey and program director at radio stations in Syracuse, Seattle, and Anchorage.

God kept tapping him on the shoulder and in 1986, Chip entered seminary and received his Master of Divinity from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA and, was ordained to the Diaconate in 1989 at Trinity Church in Bend, Oregon and called as Priest-in-Charge to

The Vestry felt that, given the strong lay leadership at Ascension, having Fr. Chip present at our worship services was a major priority in structuring this part-time interim position. His focus will be on worship, pastoral care, and supporting our church family as we prayerfully discern the future of Ascension.

Due to prior commitments, Fr. Chip will not be available for three Sundays in November. His final day serving at Ascension will be Sunday, July 11, 2027. As we continue through the discernment process, we will have the opportunity to prayerfully consider and determine our next steps as we approach next summer.

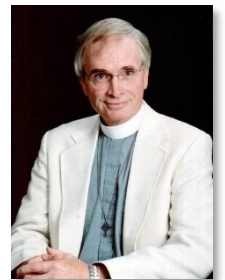
We warmly welcome Fr. Chip to Ascension and are deeply grateful for his willingness to share his gifts, experience, and guidance with our church family during this pastoral transition.

Step by step, and together as a church family, we will continue to move forward with compassion, love, patience, and grace.

In Christ's love,
Kim Tompkins
Senior Warden

St. James' in Kemmerer, WY and St. Bartholomew's in Cokeville, WY. He was ordained to the Priesthood in 1990 and in 1992 was called to the mountains of Western Maryland as Rector of St. Matthew's, Oakland, and Vicar of St. John's, Deer Park, where he served until his retirement in July 2026 after 33 years.

Chip received his Doctor of Ministry in Congregational Development from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Chicago in 2002. His thesis, "Changing Times, Timing Change; The Rural and Small Town Church: Family Chaplaincy or Missional Community?" calls for changes in the way clergy are trained and called to small, rural churches so that congregations have the best opportunity to grow into missional communities. This thesis is a seminal work in developing an ethos of long-term care of rural congregations.



October Worship

October 4

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Blessing of the Animals

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
9:00 am Sunday School: Gr. 6-12
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Courtyard
(weather permitting)
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

October 11

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
9:00 am Sunday School: Gr. 6-12
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
10:15 am Sunday School: Gr. K-5
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

October 18

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
9:00 am Sunday School: Gr. 6-12
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
10:15 am Chapel for all ages
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

October 25

Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Stone Church
9:00 am Adult Bible Study
9:00 am Sunday School: Gr. 6-12
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall
10:15 am Sunday School: Gr. K-5
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

As we enter a time of transition in our parish, constant and intentional prayer is especially important. Deacon Barbara Sears invites you to prayerfully **consider becoming part of a Transitions Prayer Team.** If you feel God calling you to this ministry, please **contact Deacon Barbara to learn more and get involved.** Your prayers can make a meaningful difference as we journey through this season of transition together.

410-857-1845

We are hopeful for favorable weather on Sunday morning October 4 that will allow us to worship outdoors at 10:15 a.m.

Please note that **if the 10:15 a.m. service is held outdoors, we will not be able to livestream the service.**

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to worshipping together!



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 4, 2026
8:00 am and 10:15 am

8:00 am: Stone Church
Photos of pets are welcome.

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

23 North Court St.
Westminster, MD

Rain or Shine

The 10:15 service will be held in the church courtyard!
Please bring a lawn chair.

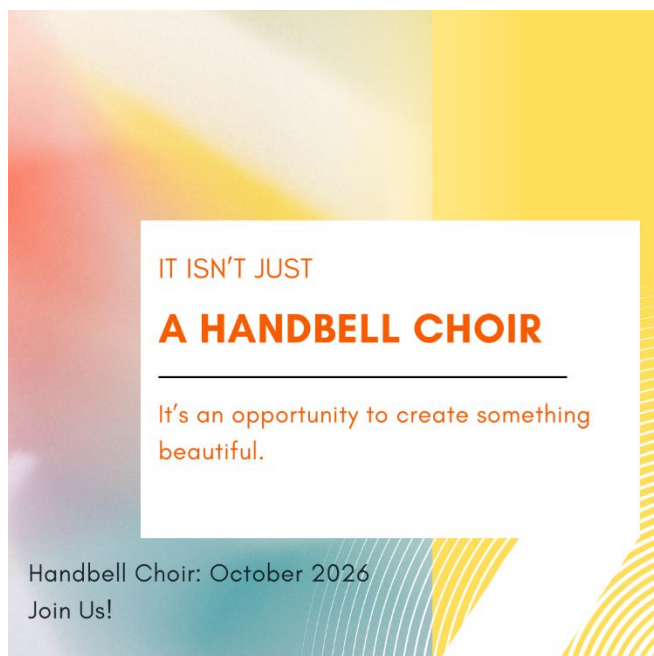
If it rains, the 10:15 service will be held in the Holy Cross Hall.

ascension-westminster.com/events

Worship Assistants: October 2026

Altar Guild: Team 1 - Karen Lance, Jenny Lui, Raymond Lui, Sandy White

	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicians	Worship Slides
October 4 8:00 am		Angela Chmar	Jennie Grabill		
October 4 10:15 am	1. David Anderson 2.	John Holbert	Ellen Anderson	1. Kim Tompkins 2. Sandy White 3. Helen Lang 4. Betsy Reinders	
October 11 8:00 am	Roberta Wilhelm	Mary Lou Berg			
October 11 10:15 am	1. 2.	Buck Lyon-Vaiden		1. Kim Tompkins 2. Sandy White 3. 4.	
October 18 8:00 am	Bill Sears	Barbara Sears			
October 18 10:15 am	1. 2.	Olivia Carpenter		1. Kim Tompkins 2. Sandy White 3. John Holbert 4. Betsy Reinders	
October 25 8:00 am		Mary Lou Berg			
October 25 10:15 am	1. 2.			1. Kim Tompkins 2. Sandy White 3. John Holbert 4.	



Handbell Choir rehearsals will resume in mid-October, and we welcome new members.

If you're interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact Lynn Lyon-Vaiden

We look forward to making a joyful sound together!

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is pleased to sponsor **a new Financial Awareness Speaker Series, *Protect Today, Plan for Tomorrow***, designed to help us stay financially informed, recognize and avoid scams and fraud, and plan thoughtfully for the future.

Speakers will join us quarterly on Sundays at 12:00 pm to discuss important financial and planning topics. Invite your family, friends and neighbors to attend with you.

Session 1:

Sunday, October 18 at 12:00 pm

Martina Lane from PNC Bank

Topic: Financial Scams and How to Avoid Them

Learn about common financial scams, how to recognize warning signs, and practical steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones.



Future Topics:

- **How Financially Literate Are You?** Do you know the facts about important financial topics such as RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions), financial planning, planned giving, and more?
- **Planning for Your Memorial Service and Funeral** - Have you thought about what you would like your memorial service and funeral arrangements to look like? This discussion will offer an opportunity to consider these decisions in advance and share your wishes with your loved ones.
- **Including the Church of the Ascension in Your Estate Planning** - A representative from the Diocese of Maryland will discuss ways you can include the Church of the Ascension in your estate planning and explore the different options available for making a lasting gift to the church.

We hope you will join us for these informative and practical conversations. Knowledge and planning today can provide greater peace of mind for tomorrow.



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Operation Christmas Child

2026 Schedule:

Boxes and Instructions Available:
at Church!

Return Boxes to Church:
Sunday, October 25

Boxes Blessed:
Sunday, October 25




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

PROTECT TODAY, PLAN FOR TOMORROW: A FINANCIAL AWARENESS SERIES

A Quarterly Series Sponsored by the Outreach Committee

Session 1: Financial Scams and How to Avoid Them
Presenter: Martina Lane, PNC Bank
Sunday, October 18 at 12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall



Future Sessions:

- Financial Literacy
- Memorial Service & Funeral planning
- Estate Planning



ascension-westminster.com/events

Vestry Meeting Highlights: September 29, 2026

Present: Kim Tompkins (*Sr. Warden*), Bryan Lance (*Jr. Warden*), Susan Considine (*Treasurer*), David Anderson, Kevin McIntyre, Mark Howe, Melissa Leahy, Deborah Rio, Dave Gosnell, Jill Horn (*Registrar*).

Absent: none

The vestry warmly welcomed Jill Horn as the new Vestry registrar.

We are striving to send a 2-3 person team from Ascension to attend the **College for Congregational Development (CCD)**. This program builds connections and a community of love within and between congregations to strengthen shared learning, encouragement, community, and inspiration as well as **to enhance our ability to discern our future**. While there is a Weekend Program 2026-2027 for six full Saturday sessions from October - April, there is also **a Weeklong Program scheduled for June 13-18, 2027**.

Due to the Pastoral Transition, Annual Stewardship Campaign and Mistletoe Mart activities this fall, we will focus on the Summer, 2027 session. Any interested persons should contact Kim Tompkins or any vestry member.

The Vestry continued to have discussions regarding the interim clergy position.

Susan Considine reviewed the Financial Reports for August, 2026 (see chart).

The **Annual Stewardship Campaign** will be launched on October 11 and will conclude by the end of November. **This is a critical topic for the 2027 budget process**. As we understand the pledges received for the 2027 General Fund/Operating Budget, we will be able to better understand what expenses Ascension can and cannot support for next year. This includes determining what monies will be available to hire new clergy.

Annual Stewardship Campaign

Our 2026 Annual Stewardship Campaign will begin on Sunday, October 11, and conclude on Sunday, November 8, when we will gather and bless our pledge cards during worship. Each week, reflections will be shared to help explore the deep connection between gratitude and generosity, even during times of change.

Stewardship means recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God, including our time, our talents, and our resources. It is our joyful response to these gifts, using them to honor God. While you will soon receive a letter about our 2026 Annual Stewardship Campaign, please remember this is an opportunity to reflect on how we are participating in the mission of Ascension. It is important that we 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, prayer, pastoral care, outreach, music, fellowship, children and youth, buildings and grounds, Bible studies, fundraising, altar guild, 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.

This year's campaign is especially critical for the 2027 budget process. As we understand the pledges received for the 2027 General Fund / Operating Budget, we will be able to better understand what monies will be available to hire new clergy.

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. What matters is your participation. Every pledge is a statement of faith, belonging, and gratitude.

A Financial Snapshot — August, 2026

Below is a brief look at how the parish is doing financially — first for the month of August, then for the year so far — alongside what we had budgeted, so we can see how we stand against our plan.

August, 2026 Operating Budget (General Fund)

	Budgeted	Actual	Compared with budget
Income	\$29,765	\$37,409	\$7,644 above budget
Income – Grant	0	\$40,000	\$40,000 (was not budgeted)
Expenses	\$35,062	\$47,530	\$12,468 above budget
Income vs. Expenses	(\$5,297)	\$29,879	

Year to Date, January–August, 2026 Operating Budget (General Fund)

	Budgeted	Actual	Compared with budget
Income	\$238,120	\$275,154	\$37,034 above budget
Income – Grant	0	\$40,000	\$40,000 (was not budgeted)
Expenses	\$280,496	\$266,781	\$13,715 below budget
Income vs. Expenses	(\$42,376)	\$48,373	

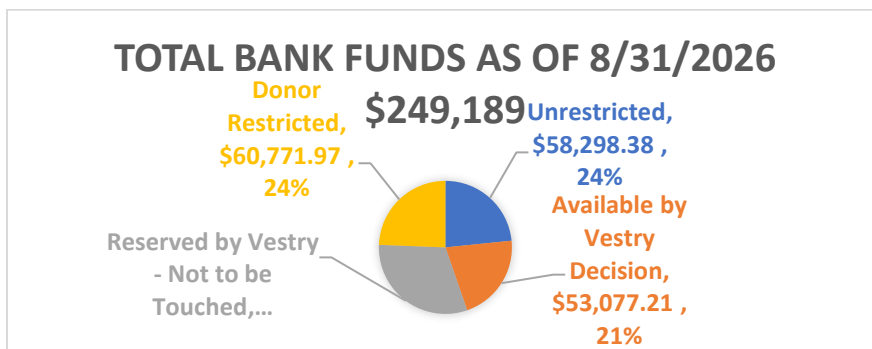
Note: Amounts in parentheses are deficits — periods in which we spent more than we received.

For the approved 2026 Operating Budget (General Fund), the total Expenses are \$420,745, the total Income is \$357,182, resulting in a projected \$63,563 total deficit for the year.

- In March, we applied for a one-time grant from the diocese to help address this large budget deficit. We were awarded \$40,000 and received those funds in August.
- Our 2026 YTD actual expenses were running below budget through July in part because we held paying the monthly diocesan assessment, pending the grant decision. Now that the \$40,000 grant has been received, we have paid the diocesan assessment through August (\$25,027). This accounts for the unusually large expense in August.
- The higher YTD actual income reflects the timing of gifts. Several ministries redirected some of their restricted funds to the General Fund early in the year. In addition, a number of pledges have already been paid in full, some earlier in the year and some during August.

What's in the Bank? (Checking Account & Money Market Account)

Of the \$249,189 total in our two bank accounts, only **\$58,298 is fully unrestricted (24%)** and available to pay our monthly operating expenses. Our Operating Budgeted expenses average \$35,062 per month.



The Vestry		
Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Dr. Chip Lee		Interim Rector
Kim Tompkins, Sr. Warden	2027	
Bryan Lance, Jr. Warden	2029	Buildings and Grounds
Susan Considine, Treasurer	2029	
Nancy Starner, Assistant Treasurer		
Jill Horn, Registrar		
Kevin McIntyre	2027	Christian Education (Adults)
David Anderson	2027	Worship Assistants
Deborah Rio	2028	Fellowship
Mark Howe	2028	Stewardship
Melissa Leahy	2028	Outreach, Pastoral Care
Dave Gosnell	2029	Christian Education (Children & Youth)

Church of the *Ascension*

Children and Youth Ministries



Sunday School

Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Class meets at 10:15 am on the 2nd & 4th Sunday, led by Carrie Goff.

•Prayer in Every Class

Prayer will be included in every class to help children develop a personal relationship with God and learn the importance of prayer.

•Understanding the Church Service

Children will learn what happens during worship and why each part of the church service is important. Crafts and simple activities will help make each lesson meaningful and memorable.

•Bible Stories Chosen by the Children

Children will have opportunities to choose Bible stories they are interested in learning about, encouraging participation and curiosity about God's Word.

•Community Outreach

Children will be given opportunities to put their faith into action by serving others and participating in age-appropriate community outreach activities.

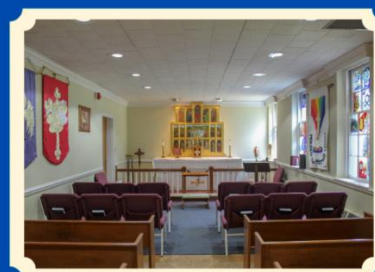
ascension-westminster.com/sundayschool

6th – 12th Grade

Class meets at 9:00 am on Sunday morning, led by Karen Griesmyer.

•Discovering How to Work Together for God

- God calls us to work together in love and unity, using our different gifts and abilities to serve Him and others.



Children's Chapel

- September 20
- October 18
- November 1

during the 10:15 service

Mistletoe Mart

***There are 6 weeks remaining until Ascension's 52nd Mistletoe Mart.
Thursday, November 12 - Saturday, November 14***

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 over 40 artisans participating this year is truly amazing! Over 2,300 patrons attended the 2025 Mart. Each year the Mart donates 20-30% of their proceeds to Community Outreach, with the balance providing support to Ascension. Proceeds from Mistletoe Mart 2025 provided \$7,500 to Community Outreach (15 different organizations) and \$27,500 to Ascension.

After careful consideration, the decision was made to increase the admission price from \$5.00 to \$7.00. Children under age 12 remain free. This should result in an additional \$4,000 - \$4,500 admission income. As a reminder, the admission ticket is good for all three days of the Mart.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



Volunteer signup boards are posted outside of the Fellowship Hall. There are many ways you can apply your talents!

Click here to sign up online!!

► **Decorating** (Please contact Donna Bair 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 removing decorations afterwards.

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



Mistletoe Mart Postcards need to be distributed to places that you visit, including dry cleaners, hair and nail salons, restaurants, Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, Panera Bread, schools, doctor's offices, daycare facilities, and senior centers. Postcards are available at the back of both sanctuaries during October.

Yard Signs: Do you live on a major road?

**Yard signs will
be available**

beginning Sunday, October 11. **We will ask you to 'sign out' your sign this year so that unreturned signs can be located after Mistletoe Mart.** Please place one in your yard to help promote 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 contact 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 contact 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 contact Melissa Leahy for details.)*

Food prep takes place Monday (11/9) – Wednesday (11/11) 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 contact Susan Considine for details.)* Sit at one of our two Admission Tables (by the back parking lot and by the church office). Welcome patrons and sell admission tickets.

► **Country Store (Baked Goods Table)** *(Please contact 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.

► **Café Host/Hostess***(Please contact Beverly Baker for details.)*

Clear and clean the café tables.

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

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

► **Sound System** *(Please contact 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.

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, **everyone's help is truly needed** to manage the wide range of jobs. Thank you for all of your time and support to make the Mart a success!

Mistletoe Mart Chairs
Kim Tompkins

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE BEAUTIFUL
STARS AND STRIPES QUILT (48" x 72")
\$1 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5



WINNING TICKET WILL BE DRAWN ON NOVEMBER 14!

DreamBuilders MD in Puerto Rico: October 2026

by Buck Lyon-Vaiden



From October 18-24, DreamBuilders MD will return to Puerto Rico for its 5th mission trip there since 2019.

Elaine Bind and Buck Lyon-Vaiden will join 3 other volunteers helping to complete a home to replace one completely destroyed by Hurricane Maria in 2017.

Buck and Elaine will be commissioned during the 10:15 am service on Sunday, October 11.



Below is the story of Maria del Carmen Rivera Nieves' difficult journey over the last 9 years. Unfortunately, it is not an unusual one.



Maria is a courageous woman from Bayamón, Puerto Rico, whose life changed forever after Hurricane Maria completely destroyed her home while she was inside with her beloved dog.

Determined to move forward, she borrowed money to build a small home. Unfortunately, she became the victim of contractor fraud and was left unable to complete construction. Today, Maria continues paying that loan with the little income she receives while trying to finish her home.

Despite every challenge, Maria continues trusting God and fighting with faith, strength, and hope.

During the storm, her house collapsed around her. She survived by taking refuge in a small wooden closet where she remained awake all night praying and waiting for help until the hurricane finally ended. By the next morning, everything had been destroyed.

After the tragedy, Maria traveled to the United States hoping to rebuild her life with the support of family members. Sadly, she faced more hardships and eventually returned to Puerto Rico without a place to live.



Through One Hand Apoyemos Foundation Puerto Rico, we invite compassionate hearts to become part of this mission of love and restoration.

St. James' Commission

The St. James' Commission is currently led by Jill Horn, initial contact leader, Ellen Anderson and Melissa Leahy and we primarily host receptions for funerals/memorial services. Due to our congregation being smaller and limited in energy and resources, **what is currently offered for receptions is going to change.**

In an effort to be more manageable, the planned changes include **providing only desserts with beverages (coffee, hot/cold tea, lemonade) and dessert donations from the congregation.** The Fellowship Hall tables will be set with cloth tablecloths and centerpieces with buffet style service for the dessert and beverage tables.

The family is more than welcome to order their own catered food. St James' leaders will gladly talk with the family contact(s) to guide them with their preferences, suggestions for local caterers, how to calculate expected numbers for attendance, assess technical needs should they wish to have a slide show to run during the reception, and support them through this initial time of grief through active listening.

Please feel free to talk to us about these changes as we try to reduce the stress on all of us.

Jill Horn, Ellen Anderson and Melissa Leahy

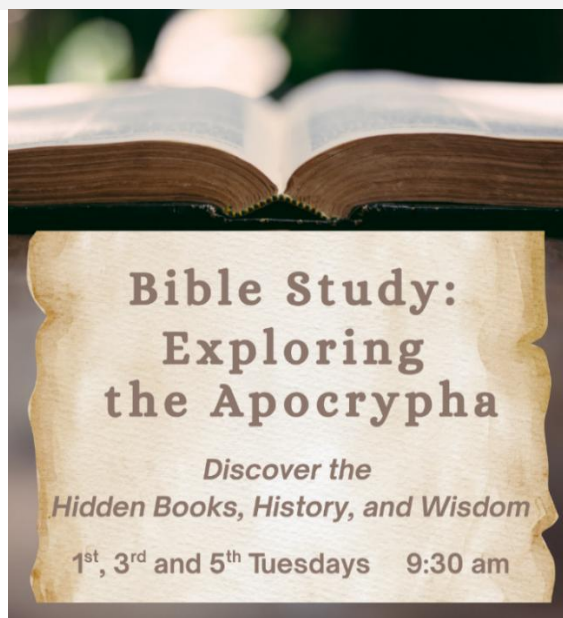
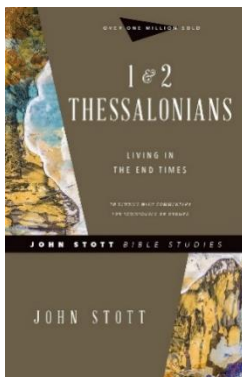


Bible Study



On November 5, at 6:30 pm, Thursday Night Bible Study will begin a 10-week study:

1 & 2 Thessalonians: Living In the End Times by John Stott who was one of the world's leading and most-loved Bible teachers and preachers. In this study, you can explore Scripture under his guidance, enhancing your own in-depth study with insights gained from his years of immersion in God's Word. For more information, contact Lynn Lyon-Vaiden.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study
This study will meet on
October 6 and 20
at 9:30 am in Room #202.

For information, please contact Bill Sears.

Book Club



BOOK CLUB 2026

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

October 28 - Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel by Shelby Van Pelt

For more information, please contact
Cheryl Vecera at 443.794.3691 or
cherylvecera@gmail.com

1844 Shoppe



The 1844 Shoppe
FALL INTO SAVINGS

All Fall and Halloween decor is 50% off!
All furniture, lamps and mirrors are 30% off!

OCTOBER 2 - OCTOBER 24

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 30–November 11
as we get ready for
Mistletoe Mart.

Fellowship



After the 10:15 am
Sunday worship service
in the Fellowship Hall

FELLOWSHIP
Hour

Volunteers are needed to host. We want to keep it VERY simple by providing coffee, and using snacks that are available in the church pantry. Coffee making instructions are provided. All you need to do is make coffee, set out a few platters or baskets of snacks, monitor the coffee and make more if necessary and clean up. There is a signup sheet on the kitchen door. Training is available! Questions? Please contact Kat Dittrich.



OCT 16
12pm

**THIRD FRIDAY
OF THE MONTH
POTLUCK
Lunch**

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT BEVERLY BAKER

Church Staff

Ann Fariss
Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
Mary Butler
Travis Collins
Suzanne Walter

Parish Administrator
Communications Associate/Handbell Choir Director
Organist/Choir Director
Digital Ministry Associate
Nursery Attendant

Westminster Church Homes Foundation

We're excited to announce that both of Ascension's vacant Westminster Church Homes Foundation Board of Directors seats have been filled!

- **Nancy Starnier** will begin a three-year term in January 2027, serving through December 2029.
- **Kirsten Adolphus** will fill the one-year vacancy, serving from January through December 2027.



We're grateful for their willingness to serve and look forward to the experience and leadership they will bring to this important ministry.

Thank You Notes

Dear Ascension Family:

Thank you so much for all the good deeds that you have done while I was at the hospital and rehab facilities. I appreciated all of the wonderful cards, prayers, transportation to the rehab facility in York, PA and visits while I was at Carroll Lutheran rehab.

Thanks for my rug pickup for the 1844 Shoppe yard sale and the food and snacks that you gave me. I really do belong to a beautiful parish.

Sincerely,

Mary Snyder

Dear Ascension Family:

I can't thank you enough for all the cards, prayers and get well wishes that were sent my way following my recent knee replacement surgery. There were some hard days and I really felt uplifted by your care and kindness. You are such a blessing in my life. I hope to be getting back into the swing of things as I continue to make progress in physical therapy. Thank you again.

With gratitude and affection,

Jeanne Cox

Thank you, Ascension, for so many prayers, notes, cards, phone calls and visits after I had spinal surgery in August. Recovery is still going well, and I hope to be back to church before too long!

Sharon Schwartz

Thank you for all the prayers and beautiful cards. They are all hanging up next to my refrigerator for me to see all day! I am healing and progressing with each day. Not quite ready for intense PT; but maybe in November I can start that. Each day is a new adventure.

Mary Butler

During 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.



Bar Soap
Body Wash
Deodorant
Diapers (all sizes)
Dish Soap

Feminine Hygiene
Hand Sanitizer
Incontinence Briefs
Multi-Purpose Cleaner
Paper Towels

Shampoo
Tissues
Toilet Paper
Toothpaste
Trash Bags
Ziploc Bags - all sizes

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

Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157