



# Ascension Extension

MAY 2025

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

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## Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.



### Rector's Message

#### Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

The resounding cry of "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" continues to echo in our hearts as we journey through the joyous Easter Season. This special 50-day period, stretching from Easter Sunday to Pentecost in June, is more than just a time of celebration; it's a profound immersion into the reality and implications of Christ's resurrection.

The Easter Season is a time to rejoice in the victory over sin and death. It's a period for us to reflect on the empty tomb and the risen Christ's appearances to his disciples. These encounters transformed their grief and fear into unwavering faith and mission. Similarly, we are called to let the risen Christ transform our lives, to live with hope, and to share the good news with others.

This is a time of deepening our understanding of the resurrection's meaning for us today. It's a time of spiritual growth, of recognizing the power of new life, and of embracing the promise of our own resurrection. A particularly significant moment in this season is the Ascension of our Lord, which occurs 40 days after Easter. On this day, we remember Jesus being taken up into heaven, signifying his ultimate victory and his continuing reign. **We will especially celebrate the Feast of the Ascension on May 29**, as it coincides with Bishop Carrie's visit to celebrate some receptions, confirmations, and renewal of baptismal vows; a powerful opportunity to publicly renew our faith in the risen and ascended Lord.

*(Continued on p. 2)*

### 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

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

## May Worship

### May 4

#### Third Sunday of Easter

#### Youth Sunday

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

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### May 11

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### May 18

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### May 25

#### Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

9:00 am Sunday School, Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### May 29

#### Regional Confirmation

6:30 pm H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

### *Rector's Message continued...*

Our Holy Week and Easter celebrations were truly inspiring, with wonderful attendance and a palpable sense of joy. I am deeply grateful for everyone who participated. I also want to express our deepest gratitude to Donna Parker for her dedicated ministry with the Praise Ensemble and Children's Choir, and to Joe, who has served Ascension in so many ways, including Junior Warden. Sunday, May 4, will be their last with us, and while we are saddened to see them leaving our Church family, we also celebrate with them as they embark on a new adventure. Just as Easter reminds us of death giving way to new life, their departure is a transition to something new and exciting, a new chapter filled with promise and possibility. We wish them and their family all the best in their journey ahead.

Following Easter, I took a week of staycation for rest and renewal. I spent my time gardening, baking, praying, reading the Bible, and resting. I did not check my email and will respond to you as soon as possible. I held you all in my prayers during this period of quiet reflection.

### **Please note that I will be away again from May 7 to 13.**

Sophie and I will be in Flagstaff, Arizona to celebrate Clement's graduation from Northern Arizona University. He will receive his Bachelor of Science in Creative Media and Film. The Rev. Bill Pugliese will be the Celebrant for both services on Sunday, May 11.

May the hope of the resurrection fill your hearts with joy and peace, and may God's abundant blessings be upon you all as we journey through this Easter season.

In Christ's love,  
Pierre-Henry+

## Church Staff

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson	Rector
Ann Fariss	Parish Administrator
Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Communications Associate/Handbell Choir Director
Mary Butler	Organist/Adult Ensemble Director
Donna Parker	Organist/Praise Ensemble and Children's Choir Director
Travis Collins	Digital Ministry Associate
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant
Erin Hagan	Nursery Assistant

## Worship Assistants: May 2025

### Altar Guild: Team 4

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

	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicians	Worship Slides
<b>May 4</b> 8:00 am	Don & Janice Hobart	Angela Chmar	Jennie Grabill		
<b>May 4</b> 10:15 am	1. David Horn 2.	Olivia Carpenter	Ellen Anderson	1. John Holbert 2. Kat Dittrich 3. 4.	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
<b>May 11</b> 8:00 am		Roberta Wilhelm	Charlie Aler		
<b>May 11</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	Roberta Gore		1. Kat Dittrich 2. Jim Fariss 3. 4.	John Holbert
<b>May 18</b> 8:00 am	Roberta Wilhelm	Charlie Aler	Beverly Baker		
<b>May 18</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	John Holbert	Kat Dittrich	1. John Holbert 2. Jim Fariss 3. 4.	
<b>May 25</b> 8:00 am			Beverly Baker		
<b>May 25</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	Jim Fariss		1. John Holbert 2. Kat Dittrich 3. 4.	Jeanne Cox
<b>May 29</b> 6:30 pm <i>Confirmation</i>	1. 2.		Kat Dittrich	1. 2. 3. 4.	

## Feast of the Ascension: May 29

**Join us for a special celebration of the Feast of the Ascension on Thursday, May 29, at 6:30 pm!** This major Christian feast day commemorates Jesus' glorious ascent to God the Father, on the 40th day after Easter, and foreshadows the gift of the Holy Spirit ten days later at Pentecost. While Jesus' physical encounters with his followers ended, he is still present through the Holy Spirit working in the Church, the new body of Christ, and in the world.

**Our Ascension Day service will be particularly meaningful as we welcome The Right Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent** and our friends from St. James', Mt. Airy. Bishop Carrie will celebrate the confirmation of a teenager from St. James', the confirmation of Rhonda and David Gosnell, the reception of Lorraine Fulton into the communion of the Episcopal Church, and the renewal of baptismal vows of Roberta Wilhelm, Kat Dittrich, and Ann Fariss.

Let us gather together to commemorate the Ascension of our Lord and to support and celebrate these important steps of faith within our church family. A reception will follow the service, offering an opportunity for fellowship and connection. All are invited!

### 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 Starner, Treasurer		
Deborah Rio, Registrar	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	
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

### Notes from the April 29 Vestry Meeting

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

After the opening prayer led by Fr. Pierre-Henry, the Vestry approved the Consent Agenda, including the minutes from the March 18, 2025 Vestry Meeting as well as reports from the Senior Warden.

Debbie Bargar, Chair of the Finance Committee, reviewed the Financial Reports for March, 2025. The total income for March was \$21,653.52 and the total expenses were \$37,042.61, resulting in a \$15,389.09 deficit for the month. March's income was significantly lower than February, especially General Giving, which is a serious concern.

Beverly Baker reported that planning activities are going well for the June 14 "A Summer Evening at Ascension" dinner, dance and silent auction fundraiser. Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 4. In addition, a Texas Roadhouse event has been scheduled for June 2, from 3-10 pm, with Ascension receiving 10% of sales between these hours if Ascension is mentioned.

Gary Lang provided Buildings & Grounds Committee updates, including the annual rectory inspection has been completed resulting in a handful of manageable items to be addressed. In addition, the new columbarium niches have now been installed. Please note, a carbon monoxide detector has been installed in the second-floor hallway, to the left of the Mechanical Room that houses a boiler. The boiler is inspected yearly and the Mechanical Room receives fresh air through a large roof vent. Therefore, while this carbon monoxide detector is not required, it was voluntarily installed by Ascension. A sign has been posted on the Mechanical Room door and a test was conducted on March 26.



For the Diocesan Convention scheduled for November 21-22, 2025, Luke Gore will be the delegate and Kim Tompkins will be the alternate.

Fr. Pierre-Henry reported that the Music Ministry and the New Children & Youth Director positions have been posted on Indeed, locally as well as with the diocese. There has not been much response to date.

Finally, Vestry liaisons have been assigned to the Ascension ministry areas. The purpose is to facilitate communication between the ministry's committees and the Vestry. The Vestry liaisons will reach out to the committee point of contacts on at least a quarterly basis to obtain updates and/or concerns to be shared with the Vestry.



## FINANCE

### *Tidbit*

**The Rector's Discretionary Fund** is a church fund which is a vehicle for (and limited to) aiding persons in need and other charity purposes. The Rector is the primary disburser of the discretionary funds.

**The loose offering on the first Sunday of the month** is placed in the discretionary fund account. All funds given to the discretionary fund are tax deductible contributions to the church and will be reflected on your annual statement.

**The current balance of the Rector's Discretionary Fund is \$1,520.10.**

## *A Summer Evening at Ascension on June 14, will be a night of dinner, dancing and fellowship.*

### **Dinner:**

Dinner (5:00pm-6:30pm) will be catered by Bullock's Restaurant and will include:  
*Fried Chicken, Ham, Mashed Potatoes,  
Green Beans, Corn, Rolls, Cake*

### **Dancing:**

From 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm we will enjoy and dance to the music of the Thom Roland Dance Band.

There will also be a **Silent Auction**.

**Tickets cost \$35.00 per person** and will be available for purchase beginning on May 4.

We look forward to seeing you (and your friends!) there.





### Youth Sunday

[youth@ascension-westminster.com](mailto:youth@ascension-westminster.com)



### Youth Sunday

**Sunday, May 4 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.

### Free Summer Programs

[ascension-westminster.com/summer](http://ascension-westminster.com/summer)

We're excited to announce the return of our Free Summer Programs, offering creative, educational, and fun experiences for children in our community!

**Dates:** July 14–18 and July 21–25 (excluding Wednesdays).



### Drama Camp: August 11 – 22

[ascension-westminster.com/summer](http://ascension-westminster.com/summer)



**Mother's Day Breakfast: May 11 at 9:00 am**

Please click on the image below to  
R.S.V.P. by May 4.

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

**9:00 AM ON MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 11**  
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED  
TO BRING A FRIEND.

**RSVP**

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.

SCAN HERE  
TO DONATE!



<https://onrealm.org/ascensionwestminster/-/form/give/SP>

**Text to Donate:**  
Text: AW23 SP to 73256 to give  
using your mobile device.

**Strawberry Picking: May 25**

[youth@ascension-westminster.com](mailto:youth@ascension-westminster.com)

COME WITH US TO PICK  
**STAWBERRIES**

THE SECOND TO LAST SUNDAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL:  
**MAY 25, 2025**

ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH ARE INVITED TO  
CELEBRATE THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR  
WITH US AT BAUGHER'S ORCHARD & FARM.  
JOIN US AT 12:30PM FOR PICK-YOUR-OWN  
STRAWBERRIES AND BRING A LUNCH FOR A  
PICNIC TOGETHER!

RAIN DATE      MAY 31ST



## Outreach Committee Update

As we cruise into another beautiful spring at Ascension, the Outreach Committee continues to be busy.

- Five families are supplied monthly with basic housing and cleaning supplies that can't be obtained with food stamps.
- Our monthly cards go out to over 20 parishioners, near and far.
- We will sponsor another baby shower for the Pregnancy Support Center of Carroll County. The shower will follow a 10:15 service. Look for more details to follow.
- The Outreach Committee continues to make quarterly payments to the following service agencies:
  - Shepherd's Staff
  - Access Carroll
  - Carroll County Food Sunday
  - Family Friends
  - Pregnancy Support Center of Carroll County
  - Carroll County Youth Service Bureau
  - Human Service Program of Carroll County

**May is our month to support Shepherd's Staff** with household and cleaning supplies. A collection box will be in the back of the Stone Church and Holy Cross Hall.

Thanks so much for your generosity. We are successful in our efforts to help our community because of your generosity and love.

Many thanks,  
The Outreach Committee

## Shepherd's Staff Blessings Closet

**During May,** donations of non-food items for Shepherd's Staff to assist individuals and families in Carroll County who cannot afford to purchase everyday necessities will be accepted. Items in the adjacent columns are needed. Please place your donations in the containers provided at the entrance of the Stone Church and the Holy Cross Hall.

### \*\* High need items

All Purpose Cleaner  
Baby Diapers - all sizes  
Bar Soap  
Deodorant  
Disinfecting Wipes/Spray  
Dish Soap  
Disposable Gloves  
Feminine Hygiene

Hand Sanitizer  
Incontinence Briefs  
Laundry Detergent pods or sheets\*\*  
Paper Towels  
Shampoo  
Toilet Paper  
Tall Kitchen Trash Bags\*\*  
Ziploc Bags - all sizes





**Mistletoe Mart #51 will take place November 13 -15, 2025!**

**Mark your calendar!**

[mistletoemart.com](http://mistletoemart.com)

As reported in the April Extension, the remaining critical team lead positions were filled during March and conversations are now taking place to support successful transition planning.

We are currently on track to have 44 vendors for Mistletoe Mart 2025 (several vendors are purchasing double spots). 34 vendors are returning and there are 10 open spots. Vendor jurying for these open spots was completed during March. All contracts have now been issued and are in the process of being returned.



The Mistletoe Mart website ([mistletoemart.com](http://mistletoemart.com)) will be updated during May to begin to reflect the Mistletoe Mart 2025 dates, vendors for Mistletoe Mart 2025, updated photo gallery and the amount given to community outreach from the Mistletoe Mart 2024 proceeds.

The committee has decided to discontinue the hourly blue door prize raffle tickets this year. For the past couple years, they were frequently not redeemed by patrons, causing disappointment for the vendors who donated the door prizes. This decision will also minimize the instructions and streamline activities taking place at the Admissions Tables.

Thank you, again, for your ongoing support for the Mistletoe Mart! We are grateful!

Mistletoe Mart Co-Chairs  
Jenny Beeker, Kim Tompkins

**Themed Potluck Lunch: May 16**



**Annual Parish Picnic: June 1**



June Newsletter

**June Newsletter:  
Articles Due**

**Monday, May 19**  
communication@ascension-westminster.com

Book Club

**BOOK CLUB 2025**  
Join us at 12:30 pm in the Guild Room.

**May 28:** *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance  
**June 25:** *The Engineer's Wife* by Tracey Enerson Wood  
**July 30:** *Dream State* by Eric Puchner  
**August 27:** We will share our favorite summer reading books.  
**September 24:** *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens  
**October 29:** *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*We will not meet in November & December.*

1844 Shoppe Spring Yard Sale: May 30 and May 31

the1844shoppe@gmail.com

Yard Sale donations will be accepted beginning on May 16.

Household items, Children's toys, Books, Records, Tools, Sports Equipment, and much, much more!

Questions?: Please contact Cheryl Vecera (the1844shoppe@gmail.com)

**Come to The 1844 Shoppe's  
Spring Yard Sale**

**Friday, May 30 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Saturday, May 31 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

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