

# Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.



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ascensionwestminster.com

## Ascension Extension | February 2023

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

### **“Candlemas: Sunday, February 5”**

by the Rev. F. Allan Weatherholt, Jr.

Again this year we will celebrate **Candlemas** on the first Sunday in February. This ancient observance – a personal favorite of mine – recognizes our Lord Jesus Christ as **the Light of the world and the Light of our lives**. Candlemas is actually this day’s nickname. It is officially **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**, referring to the events recorded in St. Luke 2:22-40. Here **Mary and Joseph**, in keeping with Jewish law, ceremonially present the **Baby Jesus** in the Temple at Jerusalem. There the **Holy Child** is heralded as the **Messiah** by the aged **Simeon**, who proclaims Him “a Light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel.”



At the 10:15 a.m. service, the **Song of Simeon** (the Latin name is **Nunc dimittis**) will be sung from St. Luke’s Gospel as congregational candles are lit. A beautiful congregational procession will encircle Holy Cross Hall as the liturgy gets underway. Later in the service, the candles to be used in our worship over the coming year will be blessed – one of the great traditions of this observance.

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### **March Ascension Extension**

Please share articles and information to be included by  
**Monday, February 20.**  
communications@ascensionwestminster.com

### **Church Office Hours**

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

At the 8:00 a.m. service, we will use the scriptures appointed for Candlemas, and the Homily will focus on this Holy Day.

Coming **40 days after Christmas Day, Candlemas actually falls on February 2**, which is also '**Groundhog Day.**' We are transferring it to the nearest Sunday. Since the candles we burn at worship represent Jesus as "our Light." you can easily see how the custom of Blessing the year's supply of candles arose. The connection with the pagan custom of 'Groundhog Day' can also be easily understood since the groundhog's "predictions" are connected with light and with a mid-Winter hint of the lengthening of the days. Note this little verse about Candlemas:

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,  
Winter will have another flight:  
But if it be dark with snow or rain,  
Winter is gone and will not come again.*

This is a wonderful Day of celebration, and we look forward to offering it once again. Particular thanks go to Donna Parker and our Praise Ensemble for preparing the special music for this day. Please join us on February 5 for our observance of 'Candlemas' – an age-old celebration of **the Light of Christ!**

### **Members One Of Another**

We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to Larry Embrey and Family in the December 31 passing of his wife, Delores, 79. A Service of Christian Burial with Eucharist was held in Holy Cross Hall on January 5. Fr. Allan was joined by our retired Rector, Fr. Ron Fisher, in officiating. Fr. Ron offered the Homily. Committal was held on January 24 at Rosemont Cemetery, Martinsburg, WV, with Fr. Steven McCarty, officiating. Fr. Steve is Vicar of St. Andrew's, Clear Spring, and a close friend of Fr. Allan. May Delores rest in peace.

We also extend our love, prayers and sympathy to The Rev. Samuel Edleman and Family on the January 6 passing of his wife Margaret (Meg). The couple resided in a house at Carroll Lutheran Village, where Meg fell and broke her hip. She was taken by ambulance to Frederick Memorial Hospital, where she experienced complications and entered the Larger Life. Fr. Sam and Family are considering a Memorial Service in May near the time of Meg's Birthday.

### **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

### **February Worship**

#### **February 5**

#### **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Candlemas**

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

9:00 am Sunday School

Adult Education

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

#### **February 12**

#### **Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

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

9:00 am Sunday School

Adult Education

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

11:30 am Annual Parish Meeting

Followed by Parish Luncheon

#### **February 19**

#### **Last Sunday after the Epiphany**

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

9:00 am Sunday School

Adult Education

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

#### **February 22**

#### **Ash Wednesday**

12:00 pm H.E. Rite II, **Holy Cross Hall**

7:00 pm H.E. Rite II, **Holy Cross Hall**

#### **February 26**

#### **First Sunday in Lent**

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

9:00 am Sunday School

Adult Education

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

### Members One Of Another (continued)

We also extend our love, prayers and sympathy to Ken and Deb Howard and Family. Ken's mother, Patricia, 85, died on January 23. It was her personal wish that a service not be held.

And we are saddened to note that Barbara Longest, 85, wife of retired Suffragan Bishop Charles Longest, entered the Larger Life on January 25. In their retirement, the Longests have been residing at Fairhaven, the Episcopal facility in nearby Sykesville. A service has not yet been announced.

Fr. Allan and Family warmly thank everyone at Ascension for their recent prayers for his brother, Bob Weatherholt. Bob, who lives near Cumberland, underwent hip replacement surgery at Ruby Memorial Hospital, West Virginia University, Morgantown, on January 5. He is recovering well at home, with the good help of his wife, Becky, a retired surgical nurse. Bob and Becky are active members of Emmanuel, Cumberland, where Bob serves on the Vestry.

**Recent Holy Communion visits** by Fr. Allan have included parishioner Colin Furneaux, at Brightview Senior Living, Towson; parishioner Donna Fine, at her Westminster home; and Mary Lee Schmall, Elizabeth Heagy and Barbara Meyers, all at Brightview Senior Living, Westminster.



### A Very Special 90th Birthday

Parishioner, friend and former music director, **Mary Lee Schmall**, will celebrate her 90th birthday on **February 8!** Cards can be sent to:

Mary Lee Schmall  
c/o Brightview Senior Living  
507 High Acre Drive  
Apt 317  
Westminster, MD 21157

### CaringBridge: Donna Fine

A CaringBridge Site has been created for Donna Fine. It's a caring social network to help people stay connected with family and friends during a health event. Follow Donna's site and be sure to visit often to stay updated and share messages of support.

Site Link: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/donnafine](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/donnafine)  
Site Name: donnafine

After being given access to Donna's site, click on 'Follow Site' to receive email notifications when new journal entries are posted.



Cards (perhaps a Valentine?) and letters may be mailed to:

Mrs. Donna Fine  
c/o Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Parker  
10 Robin Road  
Moorestown, NJ 08057

A recent CaringBridge update shared that Donna will be in Westminster for a few days in early February before returning to New Jersey for radiation and chemo. **On the evening of February 1, a large basket will be placed on the Handbell Choir tables in the Holy Cross Hall. Cards and small gifts of encouragement may be placed in the basket through Sunday morning, February 5 when the basket will be given to Donna.**



## Stone Church Basement Flood

The basement of the Stone Church was flooded when severely cold weather in late December apparently caused a water main in the basement to rupture! The break was not discovered until Sunday, January 1. Mary Butler played the organ in the Stone Church for the 8:00 a.m. service on January 1 and found she could not activate the organ's motor/blower. She was able to use the limited electronic components of the organ for the service, but it was clear the main organ pipes were not functioning. Following the 10:15 a.m. service, Fr. Allan asked Joe Parker to see if the circuit breaker for the organ motor had malfunctioned, and Joe discovered the water break when he opened the basement doors. The basement was filled with about 3 feet of icy cold water. The Westminster Fire Department responded, and it was determined that BGE would be needed to turn off the electricity to the Stone Church. This was done, along with turning off the water main to the building. Senior Warden Bryan Lance later arranged for pumps to remove the water from the building. Bill Sears and several others stepped in to help also. The building is now in "recovery mode." The Vestry and the Buildings and Grounds Committee will be filing a claim with our insurance company. We can all praise and thank God that the break was discovered when it was. If the water had continued to flow, the main level of the Church would also have been affected and serious electrical problems or a fire could have occurred. The Lord was with us!



## Stone Church Organ

Cleaning and repairs for our historic Moller pipe organ are now underway. This work, planned for many months, is being done by Mark Steiner, of Steiner-Murphy Organ Company, Cumberland. Mark and his crew have carefully removed and packed the pipes and the wooden chests which hold them, and they have been taken to his shop in Cumberland for this work. The organ motor/blower, damaged in our Christmas Week flood, has also been removed and will be refurbished.

While the organ is out, it will still be possible to play the digital, or electronic, portion of the instrument. The sound is very limited, but it will suffice for the simple music we offer once each month at the 8:00 am service.

While the organ is being repaired, Dan Martin of P. A, Martin & Sons, a local contractor who has done many jobs for Ascension, is repairing the peeling walls behind the organ pipes and correcting the moisture problem there. He is also repairing some other spots in the Stone Church that need attention.

Since the Christmas Week flood, we are also making repairs to the heating system in the Stone Church (only one side is working!), and some plumbing improvements are being made in the Sacristy. All of these projects will take many weeks, but it is our hope and prayer that all will be completed in time for Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday on April 2.



The Vestry		
Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Allan Weatherholt		Interim Rector
Bryan Lance, Sr. Warden	January 2023	Finance
Nancy Starner, Treasurer	January 2022	Finance
Susan Considine, Registrar	January 2023	Worship/Altar Guild
Ron Cox	January 2023	Finance
Donna Hansen	January 2023	Outreach
David Kreider	January 2023	Worship
Jill Horn	January 2024	Outreach
Katie Corbin	January 2024	Discipleship
Jackie Weschler	January 2024	Membership
Jennie Grabill	January 2025	Altar Guild
Luke Gore	January 2025	Buildings and Grounds
Deb Howard	January 2025	Outreach
Rick Reinders	January 2025	Finance

Year-to-Date Income and Expenses through December 31, 2022		
	Actual Year-to-Date	Budgeted Year-to-Date
<b>Income:</b>		
General Giving	\$ 221,971.98	\$ 189,080.00
Fundraisers	\$ 16,072.54	\$ 14,050.00
Rental	\$ 17,075.00	\$ 16,800.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 21,099.93	\$ 6,010.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 276,219.45</b>	<b>\$ 225,940.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Staff and Staff Support	\$ 127,429.60	\$ 135,997.35
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 98,930.46	\$ 103,809.99
Diocese of MD	\$ 34,253.04	\$ 34,118.00
Office/Business Expenses	\$ 25,091.09	\$ 31,008.00
Ministries/Worship	\$ 16,120.54	\$ 21,975.04
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 301,824.73</b>	<b>\$ 326,908.38</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (25,605.28)</b>	<b>\$ (100,968.38)</b>

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
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant
Donald Chepko	Night Sexton

**The Annual Parish Meeting** of the Church of the Ascension is scheduled for **Sunday, February 12**, in **the Holy Cross Hall following the 10:15 a.m. service.** [Inclement Weather date is February 19.] A Parish Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall will follow the meeting.

The agenda will include the election of four new Vestry members to succeed Susan Considine, Ron Cox, Donna Hansen and David Kreider, all of whom are faithfully completing their terms. These four, together with Fr. Allan, will serve as our Nominating Committee. Please speak personally with one of these individuals if you have names to suggest for Vestry election.

Vestry nominees must be Communicants in good standing – i.e. Confirmed members, regular in attendance at worship. faithful in giving to the Parish's work and ministry.

### Two Proposed Changes in Parish By-Laws

In his capacity as Interim Rector, Fr. Allan is proposing two small but important changes to our Parish By-Laws. The congregation will be asked to approve these changes at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 12.

[Click here to read the proposed changes.](#)



The Discernment Committee was excited to hold a second round of interviews in late January. Our hearts are open to the Holy Spirit guiding us in this process. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our journey of discernment.

### A Prayer for the Pastoral Transition

O Lord our God, in you we live and move and have our being, and our trust is in you. We lift up our parish to you as we seek a new Rector to be our shepherd in the years ahead. We pray that you will guide the Vestry in all their deliberations as they discern your will for our parish and the priest that you have chosen for us. We also lift up to you the new shepherd of our parish. We pray that our new priest will have a discerning heart, a vision for the future of our parish, the desire to lead us in ministry, and a caring pastoral presence. Most of all, we pray that our priest will be passionate about you, devoted to prayer, diligent in studying your word, and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. Trusting our future to you, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### **Worship Assistants: February 2023**

	<b>Usher(s)</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Acolyte(s)</b>	<b>Chalicians</b>	<b>Worship Slides</b>
<b>February 5</b> 8:00 am	Cheryl Vecera	Roberta Wilhelm	David Kreider		
<b>February 5</b> 10:15 am	1. Gary Lang 2. David Horn	Jill Horn	1. Kaelyn Goff 2. Reilly Goff 3.	1. Bobbie Gooding 2. Kevin McIntyre 3. 4.	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
<b>February 12</b> 8:00 am	Beverly Baker	David Kreider	David Kreider		
<b>February 12</b> 10:15 am	1. Ellen Anderson 2. David Anderson	Liz Lowe	1. James Corns 2. Alex Corns 3.	1. Bobbie Gooding 2. John Holbert 3. 4.	Jill Horn
<b>February 19</b> 8:00 am	Nancy Starner	Donna Hansen	David Kreider		
<b>February 19</b> 10:15 am	1. Bryan Lance 2.	Kevin McIntyre	1. Kaelyn Goff 2. Reilly Goff 3.	1. Kevin McIntyre 2. Ellen Anderson 3. John Holbert 4.	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
<b>February 22</b> Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm	Beverly Baker	Donna Hansen		1. 2.	
<b>February 22</b> Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm	1. Donald Hobart 2. Janice Hobart	Buck Lyon-Vaiden		1. John Holbert 2.	
<b>February 26</b> 8:00 am	Beverly Baker	Angela Chmar			
<b>February 26</b> 10:15 am	1. David Anderson 2. Ellen Anderson	Melanie Turnbaugh	1. Raymond Lui 2. 3.	1. John Holbert 2. 3. 4.	Roberta Gore

Church of the *Ascension*  
Children and Youth Ministries



## Children and Youth Ministry Schedule February 2023

<b>February 5</b>	9:00 am - Sunday School Children's Chapel during the 10:15 am service
<b>February 12</b>	9:00 am - Sunday School Children's Chapel during the 10:15 am service
<b>February 17</b> (Fri.)	6:00 pm - Family Bowling at Greenmount Bowl (Hampstead)
<b>February 19</b>	9:00 am - Sunday School Children's Chapel during the 10:15 am service 6:00 pm - High School Book Club begins
<b>February 21</b> (Tues.)	5:30 pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
<b>February 26</b>	9:00 am - Sunday School Children's Chapel during the 10:15 am service 4:00 pm - Winter Bible School begins

### Let the Good Times Bowl!

All children, youth and families are invited to come to Greenmount Bowl in Hampstead, at 6:00 pm on **Friday, February 17**, for duck pin bowling! So that enough lanes can be reserved, please RSVP to:

ascensionchildrenandyouth@gmail.com



Roberta Gore will lead a **Book Club for High School Youth**. The book will be *Black* by Ted Dekker. (Books will be provided!) Meetings will be held on selected Sunday evenings from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm in Room 209:

- February 19
- April 2
- April 30
- May 21
- June 18
- July 23

Pizza and drinks will be included. Please contact Roberta Gore if your youth will attend (ncdramadamsel@gmail.com).



## Winter Bible School: A Program for All Ages

[Click here to register.](#)

Five Sundays: February 26 through March 26

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm



Bring the whole family for a time of worship and learning. Enjoy family worship, adult Bible Study, children's and teen's Bible Study, crafts and games. The night will conclude with a free delicious dinner. Fr. Allan is planning the Adult Education portion. The lessons are 'light and easy.'

It is o.k. to miss one or two lessons without falling behind.

## Ascension Youth Ministries Summer Programs

### It is the time of year when planning for Ascension's Free Summer Programs begins.

This program continues to be a success year after year with help from all the volunteers.

We ask for your help. If you have hosted a program in the past, please consider hosting it again. If you have never hosted an event but have always wanted to, now is the time!

Registration will open on April 15, so a schedule of events is needed by the end of March.

This can only happen with your help!

Please look at your calendar and choose a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday between July 10 and August 4.

[PLEASE CLICK HERE](#) to reserve the day and time that works best for you.

If you have any questions, reach out to anyone on the Children and Youth Committee:  
Betsy Reinders, Carrie Goff, Roberta Gore,  
Katie Corbin, Deb Howard, Jackie Weschler.

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: February 21

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by St. Martha's Guild

All you can eat hot buttermilk, blueberry, and chocolate chip pancakes



delicious Hahn's sausage and refreshing cinnamon applesauce

Tickets can be purchased at the door.

- \$6.00 Adults
- \$3.00 children ages 4-11
- Children under 4 are free.
- **Family package:** \$20.00 for a family of 5 or more

## Adult Christian Education Opportunities

**Adult Education**, led by Fr. Allan, meets at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall. Our topic is a Bible Study of St. Matthew's Gospel. Everyone is warmly invited to join us.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** meets at church, from 9:30 am until 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome!

A study of the childhood stories of Jesus in the Gospels will continue on **February 7 and February 28**.

Please contact Bill Sears (redrock2@verizon.net) if you plan to attend OR call the Church Office.

### Thursday Night Bible Study

Please contact Lynn Lyon-Vaiden for more information (lynn.lyonvaiden@gmail.com)

**Beginning on Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 pm**, we will meet to discuss this book:

*Forgiving What You Can't Forget: Discover How to Move On, Make Peace with Painful Memories, and Create a Life That's Beautiful Again* by Lysa TerKeurst

Is your mind stuck in overdrive because you repeatedly play back others' offenses? Follow author Lysa TerKeurst to life-giving freedom! Sharing a step-by-step plan to help you let go of bound-up resentments, she'll teach you what the Bible says about forgiveness, how to disempower triggers hijacking your emotions, move on if a person refuses to change, and more.

## Claggett Center Winter Retreats

### Women's Weekend 2023

**February 17, 2023 - February 19, 2023**

Grow your spiritual life in community with women from all walks of life. Leaders from the Dioceses of Maryland and Washington will speak on our theme:

#### **Growing God's Garden: Cultivating Community**

Activities include:

- workshops
- service projects
- nature walk
- arts and crafts

### Men's Retreat 2023

**February 3, 2023 - February 5, 2023**

Join men from across the Dioceses of Maryland and Washington for a weekend of music, fellowship, recreation, and worship. One of Claggett's longest-running retreats, find community and deepen your faith this winter.

**Registration:** [claggettcenter.org/adult-programs](http://claggettcenter.org/adult-programs)

## “A ROPE Made of Many Cords”

The following was shared by Bill Sears during the January 22 celebration of his 25 years of Buildings and Grounds leadership and ministry.



When I reflect on working with the Buildings & Grounds committee, I am drawn to a couple of scripture passages from Ecclesiastes. It was written by King Solomon as he reflected on his life. In chapter 3 we read the familiar words “To everything there is a season; a time for everything under heaven.”

For me, this is the time to step back from being the facilitator with Buildings & Grounds; I say “step back” but not “away” from the normal repairs and maintenance needed for this property.

But there are another couple of verses in Ecclesiastes chapter 4 which also mesh with my time as facilitator. They read: “Two people are better off than one for they can help each other succeed; if one person falls the other can reach out and help. Three people are better; for a ROPE of 3 cords is not easily broken.”

I have heard that an effective leader is someone who has a reluctance to be a leader but does rely on the help of others and, in the case for Christian leaders, guidance from the Holy Spirit.

In the ROPE known as Buildings & Grounds, there are more than 3 cords, and I would like to thank each of them. Together we have worked to best take care of the needs of our physical facility.

There is a cord that consists of the people who are currently the most actively involved in the day to day, week to week activities related to property management. They are the “front -line”; they meet to make decisions and act to best perform needed tasks; they are:

Buck Lyon-Vaiden, Bryan Lance, Helen & Gary Lang, Deb & Steve Vana, Frank Vecera, Joe Parker, Luke Gore, Kevin & Jackie Weschler, Fr. Allan Weatherholt, and Ann Fariss our Parish Administrator; her work in the main office is integral to what we do. Sondra Sarles, for a long time, was a very active part of the group, and she now works as needs arise. Thanks to each of you; you have been the central cord around which the others have been wrapped.

There are also others who have offered their time and talents as the need arises, they include: Betsy and Rick Reinders, Deb Howard, Sandy White, Kim Tompkins, Mike Corbin, Jim Fariss, and at times several youth group members. Thanks to each of you.

The next cord includes those who have helped in various ways over the years, including: Jack Gore, Mike Brown, Greg Forster, Titus Mataban, Tony Richardson, John Steinle, Scott Wallace, Cary Copeland, Chip Bair, Steve Caprarola and Mark Muscato. Several other helpers have passed on to be with our Lord - Charlie White, Don Ripley, Jim Parker, Ron Howard. Thanks to each of them.

The next vital cord includes those that the church has hired as Sextons: Ken Taylor, Joe Cline, Joan Stultz, Jeff Marley-Cass, Glenn Hansen, Richard Hill and Donald Chepko who continues his work with us.

A company called Vanguard currently does our major custodial work. Thanks to each of them.

Over the years, the ladies who have worked in the main office have helped create a strong rope with a needed cord. In addition to Ann Fariss, there were before her: Anne Murdock, Shirley Brenton, Vonnie Frush, Lynn Kirby and Cheryl Vecera and for a short time help from Stephanie, Kailey, and

Terri. They are the first line of contact for parishioners as well as the community. They helped with scheduling and appointments related to Buildings & Grounds. Thanks to each of them.

The other office across the hall from the main office has also provided much help through our treasurers and counters; currently, Nancy Starner and Rick Reinders. But in the past: Ann Cox, Joyce Brown, Joyce Chomko, Nancy Griesmyer, and LaRue Nusbaum. They all have helped with recording Buildings & Grounds expenses and income and keeping us up to date. Thanks to each of them.

Buildings & Grounds could not possibly do all the repairs and maintenance ourselves; we need the "professionals," the contractors in the community. The cord they provide is invaluable.

A sampling of them includes: Tim Kyle, P.A. Martin and Sons, Naylor's Plumbing, Tim Crews Plumbing, Mark Milby Lawn Service, Glen Hagan Construction, Wayne Martin Tree Service, John Perry and Sons Construction, James See Landscaping, WFX and for HVAC - PCI, Tevis Oil, Modern Comfort Systems. These are only a few of the professionals that we have worked with over the years. Thanks to each of them.

There is one last strand: "all of you" who generously tithe and give to the Building Maintenance Fund. That fund allows us to complete many extra maintenance needs. Thanks to all of you.

These strands or cords have been twisted together creating a strong rope. The guidance and direction of Rectors, assistant Rectors, and Vestries have allowed us to continue the long line of "stewards" which began at this location 179 years ago.

"Physical" needs as well as "people" needs spurs our committee to action. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Buildings & Grounds facilitator. I am only stepping back, not away; at some point the leadership will be taken up by someone else; until then, current committee members will take the lead. The Buildings & Grounds rope of many cords will continue as a strong part of our parish, along with other strong ministry ropes.



**Thank You from Bill Sears**

Dear Friends:

Sunday, January 22 was such a special day, and just saying "thank you" seems inadequate, but here goes: Thank you so much for the very generous Visa gift card that so many of you contributed to. Barbara and I will use it on our road trip west later this year. Thanks to all who had a part in planning the meal and the program: to Betsy Reinders and Deb Vana, to St. Martha's Guild, to the skit actors, and to Fr. Allan (Weatherholt) and Fr. Ron (Fisher) for their kind words. Most of all, I give thanks to our Lord for your love and friendship, for the opportunities we have to work and worship together. I am blessed to call you friends and Christian brothers and sisters.



God's blessings to you all.

Bill

## New Address

Please update your church directory:

Jerry and Bobbie Gooding  
1000 Weller Circle  
Apt. 327  
Westminster, MD 21158

**The Book Club will meet on  
February 1 at 12:00 pm  
in the Guild Room.**

Our book will be *Dissolution*,  
by C.J. Jamison.

Everyone is welcome.  
We hope to see you there.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

### FEBRUARY

<b>Candlemas</b>	<b>February 5</b>
<b>Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Luncheon</b>	<b>February 12</b>
<b>Family Bowling</b>	<b>February 17</b>
<b>High School Book Club Begins</b>	<b>February 19</b>
<b>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper</b>	<b>February 21</b>
<b>Ash Wednesday Worship Services: 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm</b>	<b>February 22</b>
<b>Winter Bible School begins</b>	<b>February 26</b>

## Inclement Weather Policy

### **Monday-Friday:**

If Carroll County Public Schools are closed, or if afternoon and evening activities are cancelled within the school system, the church buildings are closed and all in-person meetings or activities are cancelled.



**Sunday:** Sunday services are normally held except during the most extreme weather. Any change or cancellation of in-person worship services will be posted on the homepage of the church website, posted on the church Facebook page, and all those for whom we have email addresses will be notified by email which will be sent by 7:00 am.

**Exceptions:** Church group leaders may override the policy in consultation with the Interim Rector, in which case they will contact their members to inform them of the special arrangements. Participation under those circumstances will be at each individual's discretion.

**Saturday:** If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect in Carroll County, the church buildings are closed and all in-person meetings or activities are cancelled.

January Photo Highlights





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## Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157