

# SUMMER

Snapshot

July 2026

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



Church of the Ascension  
23 N. Court St.  
Westminster, MD 21157

## A Summer Message from Your Rector: A Note of Gratitude and Hope

Dear Friends:

What a joy it was to see so many of you at our Hawaiian Dinner-Dance on June 13.

I am so grateful for the hard work of Bev Baker and her team, and deeply moved by your wonderful participation. Together, we made a fantastic profit of \$4,000!

Combined with our Texas Roadhouse event on April 27, our Fundraising Committee has already brought \$4,704 to Ascension this year. We budgeted \$7,000 for 2026, and we are well on our way to reaching that goal with more events ahead. **(Next Fundraiser: Texas Roadhouse on Monday, July 6, 3:00pm – 10:00pm)**

However, I want to be entirely transparent with you about our broader financial reality: Ascension is still operating under a deficit budget.

Without diocesan help—and we still don't know if we will receive it—we are losing more than \$5,500 a month. If that aid comes through, the deficit drops to \$2,200. As summer attendance dips, giving traditionally decreases, but our operating expenses stay constant.

Please don't forget Ascension when you are away this summer. Setting up a recurring donation through your bank or Realm is a wonderful way to sustain us. If you can, please prayerfully consider increasing your giving.

Finally, if you wish to give an extra gift, please direct it to our General Fund. We are blessed with plenty of restricted money for specific projects, but it is the General Fund that keeps our daily ministries alive. Your support there makes a profound difference.

Faithfully,  
Pierre-Henry+

## Church Staff

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson	Rector
Ann Fariss	Parish Administrator
Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Communications Associate/Handbell Choir Director
Mary Butler	Organist/Choir Director
Travis Collins	Digital Ministry Associate
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant

The Church Office  
will be  
**CLOSED**  
7/3/2026



**Celebrate AMERICA'S 250TH**

Church of the Ascension  
23 N. Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157

**SUNDAY, JULY 5**

EUCCHARIST OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE NATION  
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:00 AM

VETERANS WILL BE HONORED.

CHURCH COURTYARD  
Weather Permitted

**BRING LAWN CHAIRS!**

ascension-westminster.com/events

**The 1844 Shoppe July Specials**

Celebrate independence  
from high prices

**50% off  
Linens  
\*Dishes  
Glassware**

Friday & Saturday: 10am - 1pm  
The 1844 Shoppe will be closed: July 3, 4, 11

**Fundraiser**

**Texas Road House**  
21 S. Cranberry Road  
Westminster, MD

**July 6**  
3:00pm - 10:00pm

Eat at Texas Road House and 10%  
of the proceeds will be donated to  
Church of the Ascension.

Church of the *Ascension*  
Crossed Lives Saved

**Summer Program Volunteers Needed**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

For more information,  
please contact:  
Betsy Reinders  
brr100@comcast.net

**BINGO FOR BOOKS**

Donate books for ages 5 - 13  
by July 12.



**Drama CAMP**

August 10-14 August 17-21

**PINOCCHIO**



**BIBLE BASICS**  
with Carrie Giff

10:15 am  
June 7  
July 19  
August 9

**Summer CHILDREN'S SERMON**  
Fr. Patsie Henry

10:15 am  
June 14 July 12  
August 2



**Terrific Tuesday Summer Programs**  
June 16



**Terrific Tuesday Summer Programs**  
June 23




Church of the *Ascension*  
Crossed Lives Saved


**HOME COMING SUNDAY**  
Sunday School classes resume  
Worship Services at 8:00 am & 10:15 am

Blessing of Backpacks

welcome home

**SEPTEMBER 13**

ascension-westminster.com/events



Gordon 'Mace'  
Woolston  
memorial service  
July 11  
10:30 am  
Stone Church

Please use the link in the Enews  
to RSVP/Volunteer for the  
reception or contact  
Jill Horn.

**JULY 17 12pm**

**THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH POTLUCK Lunch**

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
**BRING A DISH TO SHARE!**



QUESTION? CONTACT BEVERLY BAKER

**JULY 10 5pm**

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD INVITES YOU

**POTLUCK Dinner**

IN THE COURTYARD / RAIN DATE: 7/17/  
PROVIDED: FRIED CHICKEN & MISSION BBQ

PLEASE BRING:

- A DISH TO SHARE
- LAWN CHAIRS
- BEVERAGE



QUESTION? CONTACT BEVERLY BAKER

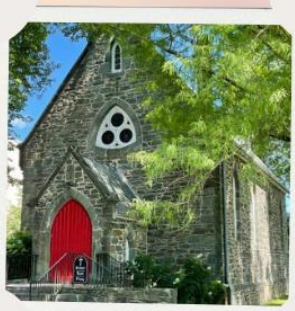
**Bible Study**



Sunday morning at 9:00 am  
Tuesday morning at 9:30 am  
July 7 & July 21

Summer  
Worship Assistants  
are needed.  
Training is available!

Contact the  
Church Office

**SCAN HERE**



**DONATE TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

**BOOK CLUB 2026**

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

**August 26 - The Asylum Seekers: A Chronicle of Life, Death, and Community at the Border**  
by Cristina Rathbone

**September 30: Switchboard Soldiers: A Novel of the Heroic Women Who Served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps During World War I**  
by Jennifer Chiaverini

**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

## Gordon 'Mace' Woolston Memorial Reception RSVP & St. James' Commission Volunteers Needed

Please join the Woolston family in the Ascension Fellowship Hall for a light reception on **Saturday, July 11, 2026 following Mace's 10:30am Memorial service and columbarium inurnment.** Share memories with his family and one another while enjoying coffee/tea, lemonade and desserts.

For planning purposes (food and beverages), it helps so much if you will please use this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/stjameswoolstonreception>

to RSVP AND/OR volunteer for the reception preparation on Friday (early afternoon) or just prior to his Memorial service on Saturday morning. There are various types of help needed on Friday and Saturday morning or following the reception. Food donations are also needed.

Review the volunteer opportunities and descriptions in the Sign Up.

Kindly RSVP, volunteer or donate a needed food item.

Thank you in advance for your loving support.

If you have any questions or need assistance with signing up, please contact Jill Horn



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

**There are 4 months until Mistletoe Mart!**

**Mistletoe Mart #52 will take place November 12-14, 2026!**

We have 42 talented artisans for this year's Mart. The beautiful postcards have been received and have been mailed to specific vendors so they can advertise the Mart at their summer shows. The Mistletoe Mart website is being updated. Menus are being reviewed.

**After careful consideration, the decision was made to increase the admission price from \$5.00 to \$7.00.** (Children 12 and under remain free.)

This should result in an additional \$4,000 - \$4,500 admission income for this year. As a reminder, the admission ticket is good for all three days of the Mart.

Wearing our **Ascension magnetic nametags** during the Mart is a great way to identify ourselves. **If you don't have one this is a perfect time to order one!** Please contact Ann Fariss in the Church Office.

**Please note: This will be Melissa Leahy's last year serving as the lead of the Mistletoe Mart Kitchen.** Therefore, we need someone to shadow and assist Melissa this year and assume the role by Mistletoe Mart 2027. Please contact Melissa to further discuss ([melissazleahy@gmail.com](mailto:melissazleahy@gmail.com)).

Please be sure to mark your calendars and begin to think about how you would like to be part of this year's exciting activities!

*Kim Tompkins*  
Mistletoe Mart Chair



## Vestry Meeting Highlights: June 30, 2026

Present: The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson, David Anderson, Lorraine Fulton, Kim Tompkins, Mark Howe, Melissa Leahy, Deborah Rio, Susan Considine, Dave Gosnell, Bryan Lance.

The meeting began with a time of prayer led by Fr. Pierre-Henry. Susan Considine reviewed the Financial Reports for May, 2026 (see chart).

The Vestry continued to focus on Ascension's current financial situation and future strategies. We are waiting for the decision from the diocese regarding the one-time \$50,000 grant request for 2026. A Marketing Committee will be established to develop and implement approaches to increase rental opportunities at Ascension across our campus.

### A Financial Snapshot — May, 2026

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

#### May, 2026

	Budgeted	Actual	Compared with budget
Income	\$29,765	\$26,328	\$3,437 below budget
Expenses	\$35,062	\$28,736	\$6,326 below budget
<b>Result</b>	<b>(\$5,297)</b>	<b>(\$2,408)</b>	\$2,408 better than budget

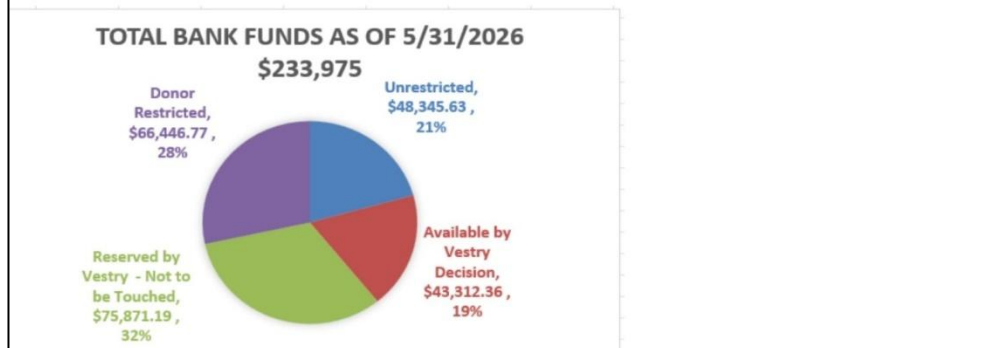
#### Year to Date, January–May, 2026

	Budgeted	Actual	Compared with budget
Income	\$148,825	\$189,077	\$40,252 above budget
Expenses	\$175,310	\$162,219	\$13,091 below budget
<b>Result</b>	<b>(\$26,485)</b>	<b>\$26,858 surplus</b>	\$53,343 better than budget

*A note on reading these figures.* Amounts in parentheses are deficits — periods in which we spent more than we received. Our expenses are running below budget in part because the diocesan assessment is being held temporarily while we await a decision on a diocesan grant; it has not been removed and will still need to be paid. The year-to-date surplus also reflects the timing of gifts: several ministries redirected funds to the General Fund early in the year, and a number of pledges were paid in full up front. For these reasons, the early-year surplus should not be read as the outlook for the full year.

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

Of the \$233,975 in our bank accounts, only \$48,345 is fully unrestricted (21%).




There will also be a Marketing Initiative to bring in new parishioners. The Outreach Committee will host an Adult Financial Education Speaker Series beginning this fall, covering a variety of topics for both parishioners and the community. We will also reach out to various churches as well as the diocese, to review initiatives and business models they have found successful.



# Hawaiian Dinner-Dance Sponsors

## Myers-Durboraw Funeral Homes *Advertising, Tickets, Cost of the Band*

- Cutting Garden Florist - Floral Arrangement Certificate
  - Longwood Gardens - Two Admission Tickets
  - Food Lion - Gift Card
  - Weis Market - Gift Card
  - Taco Loco - Gift Cards
  - Jersey Mike's - Gift Cards
  - Blaze Pizza - Gift Cards
  - Molly's Cafe - Gift Card
  - Plum Crazy Diner - Gift Card
  - Cinco de Mayo - Gift Cards
  - Starbucks
  - Buffalo Wild Wings - Gift Card
  - Mediterraneo Restaurant - Gift Card
  - Rock Salt Grille - Gift Card
  - Illiano's J&P Restaurant - Gift Card
  - Sergio's Pizzeria - Gift Card
  - Paradiso Ristorante - Cash Donation
  - Sweetbay Farms Nursery - Basket
  - Outback Steakhouse - Basket
  - Element Armor
  - International House of Pancakes - Gift Card
  - JeannieBird Baking Company - Basket
  - Manchester Valley High School Senior Class- Tropical shirts
  - Melissa Leahy - 3 Baltimore Ravens photos
  - Debbie Bargar - Basket
  - Roberta Wilhelm - a picture and a Basket
  - Frank Baker - Basket
  - Ann Fariss - Basket
- 



## *From the Rector's Desk*

### *Two Funerals, Two Weddings, and an Anniversary*

Some of you may remember the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. As I reflected on this past week, that title came back to mind, and I realized that my own version might be called *Two Funerals, Two Weddings, and an Anniversary*.

On Sunday, June 21, Sophie and I celebrated our twenty-ninth wedding anniversary. Yet, just before the 10:15 a.m. service, we received the news that Sophie's grandmother had passed away that very morning in France. We carried both gratitude and grief into worship, as so many of us have done at different moments in our lives.

The days that followed were filled with preparing and celebrating Ernest Mauritz's funeral on June 23, meeting with Mace Woolston's family as they prepare to say goodbye on July 11, rejoicing with Isak Blonquist and Meredith Mercer at their wedding, and, on Saturday evening, June 27, celebrating the marriage of my son Raphael and Christina. It was a week that held sorrow and joy together.

Looking back, what stays with me is not simply how full the week was, but how clearly I experienced the faithfulness of God throughout it all.

Jesus' final promise to his disciples was, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, NRSV). This past week, I saw that promise fulfilled again and again—in grieving families, in joyful celebrations, and in the love this congregation showed to Sophie and me.

Your prayers, your kindness, your cards, and your care reminded us that the Church is truly the Body of Christ. Through your love, Christ made good on his promise to be with us always.

Thank you for walking with us through this remarkable week. In all these ways, you have been the Body of Christ to our family. For that—and for each of you—we give thanks to God.

Faithfully,  
Pierre-Henry

(410) 871-1220  
21 S. Cranberry Rd.  
Westminster Md

**TEXAS ROADHOUSE**

**FUNDRAISING**  
DINE-IN OR TO-GO

→ *Support* ←

**Ascension Episcopal Church**  
Monday, July 6  
3pm – 10pm

Flyers are not to be distributed on Texas Roadhouse property.

**10% DONATION NIGHT**

Support  
**Ascension Episcopal Church**  
by presenting this flyer to the  
Westminster, Maryland  
location and Texas Roadhouse  
will donate 10% of your total  
food purchases.

**Church of the Ascension**  
23 North Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157