



# Ascension Extension

AUGUST 2025

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

410-848-3251  
[office@ascension-westminster.com](mailto:office@ascension-westminster.com)

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

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### **Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson**

Day Off: Monday  
[rector@ascension-westminster.com](mailto:rector@ascension-westminster.com)

### **Church Office Hours**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:00 am -3:00 pm  
[office@ascension-westminster.com](mailto:office@ascension-westminster.com)

Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.



## Rector's Message:

### Looking Ahead with Gratitude and Hope

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I prepare to begin my third year with you on August 15, my heart is full of gratitude. The past two years have been a time of rich connection, growth, and grace. I continue to be amazed by the generosity, dedication, and faithfulness I witness in so many of you—through your giving, your presence, and your time offered in ministry. Together we have faced challenges and successes, sadness and joy, and through it all, we've continued to walk in faith as a community rooted in love.

Summer often brings a change of rhythm—vacations, family visits, long days, and warm evenings. It's a season when some of our usual routines pause or slow down. And while rest is a gift from God, it's also a time when we can gently remind ourselves to keep the Lord at the center of our lives. Whether we're traveling, working, or simply enjoying a moment of quiet on the porch, Christ desires to meet us there. A short prayer, a moment of gratitude, a pause to reflect—these small acts can keep our hearts anchored even in the busiest or quietest of days.

This week began with a message from our Finance Chair letting me and our Senior Warden know that, while our bank balance shows \$100,000, only \$13,000 is actually available for daily operations—the rest being restricted funds.

*(Continued on p. 2)*

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

## August Worship

### August 3

#### **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

#### **Youth Sunday**

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

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### August 10

#### **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### August 17

#### **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

### August 24

#### **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

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

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour, **Adult Forum**

### August 31

#### **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

9:00 am Adult Bible Study

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

11:30 am Fellowship Hour



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

Fortunately, all our regular expenses for July were already paid. Still, I admit that at first I felt discouraged. But I also know that clarity is a gift. When we see reality for what it is, we can act. Summer giving is typically lower, and while our situation is delicate, it's not hopeless. With prayer, faith, and shared responsibility, I believe we can still finish 2025 without deepening our deficit.

The Vestry is monitoring the situation closely, and both the office and our ministry leaders are exercising careful stewardship. Maybe this is a gentle wake-up call for us all—a moment to ask how each of us can help support the mission and ministry of this parish we love. Every gift of time, talent, or treasure makes a difference. I trust in the Spirit's guidance and in the commitment of this congregation to move forward with grace and courage.

**As we look forward to a new season, I hope you'll mark your calendars for Homecoming Sunday on September 7.** We will gather with joy at both worship services to celebrate our life together, reconnect after summer, and look ahead in faith. It's the perfect Sunday to invite friends, neighbors, and family members—especially those who may have slipped away or haven't been with us in a while. Everyone needs a place where they are remembered, loved, and welcomed. Let's fill the church with joy, music, and the warmth of our community.

**From August 3 to 25, I will be on a much-needed staycation**—and the rectory will be full of life and love! On August 3, we'll head to Dulles to pick up our daughter Pauline and her Japanese fiancé, Kho. We haven't seen Pauline in person since Christmas 2023, and we're looking forward to finally meeting Kho for the first time. Clement and Kamy plan to spend a week with us to see their sister, and Sophie's mom will be with us for three weeks. Our niece from Canada will also visit to spend time with Pauline, and we're hoping that Raphael and Christina can come for a weekend. It will be a house full of family, stories, and shared meals—a true blessing.

During my time away, the Rev. Anne Weatherholt, Rev. Bill Pugliese, and Canon Kristoffer Lindh-Payne will preach and celebrate on Sundays. Rev. Anne will also be available for any pastoral emergencies.

*(Continued on p. 3)*

*Rector's Message continued...*

I am grateful to them for their presence among you while I take this time to rest, reconnect with family, and renew my own strength.

As I step back briefly to rest and renew, I invite you to take time this month to pray for our church—for its health, its mission, and its future. Pray for our leaders, our ministries, and for one another. May this summer be a time not just of rest, but of renewal in faith, in hope, and in love.

And please know how grateful and excited I am to walk this journey with you.

In hope and faith,

Fr. Pierre-Henry+

## Worship Assistants: August 2025

**Altar Guild:** Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana  
**Team 2**

	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte	Chalicists	Worship Slides
<b>August 3</b> 8:00 am	Cheryl Vecera	David Kreider	Beverly Baker		
<b>August 3</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	Olivia Carpenter	Ellen Anderson	1. Sandy White 2. John Holbert 3. Susan Considine 4.	Jeanne Cox
<b>August 10</b> 8:00 am	Don & Janice Hobart	Roberta Wilhelm	Beverly Baker		
<b>August 10</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	John Holbert		1. Sandy White 2. John Holbert 3. Susan Considine 4.	
<b>August 17</b> 8:00 am	David Kreider	Dave Gosnell			
<b>August 17</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	Chris Nusbaum	Emelia Howe	1. Sandy White 2. 3. 4.	John Holbert
<b>August 24</b> 8:00 am	Don & Janice Hobart	Roberta Wilhelm			
<b>August 24</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	Buck Lyon-Vaiden		1. Sandy White 2. John Holbert 3. 4.	
<b>August 31</b> 8:00 am	Roberta Wilhelm				
<b>August 31</b> 10:15 am	1. 2.	John Holbert		1. Sandy White 2. John Holbert 3. 4.	

## New Ministry for Church of the Ascension

A new ministry is in the planning stages at Church of the Ascension. It will be a small ministry from its inception with the hope that it will grow in concept to revitalize the way we welcome visitors, guests and prospective members into our parish. We are taking small steps but moving forward as the committee studies the concept other churches have tried. Some have been successful and some are still struggling.

Our first step is to identify new people as they worship with us and encourage them to make themselves known by signing the yellow

information cards available near the guest book inside the parking lot entrance to the Holy Cross Hall and also in the vestibule of the Stone Church. As school begins again, it is also the season when people look for new church affiliations. We want to be ready and hope that the congregation will support this ministry. A friendly smile and a handshake are all that are required from the parish at this time. We appreciate your help in setting the tone for what life at Ascension will be for our visitors.

Deborah Rio



## Realm Database

The Ascension Realm (Database) Team is beginning to review the Realm directory settings as well as the initial parish profile data in the system. Effective Friday, August 1, parishioners may receive system generated emails from Realm as the data is reviewed and cleaned up. **PLEASE DISREGARD these messages.** Once the initial directory setup is completed, targeted for the end of August, the team will notify parishioners and then begin to schedule training on how to access and view the Realm directory. We appreciate your patience during this process.





Urgent Notice: Parking Lot

A portion of the Ralph Street parking lot will be restriped on Monday, August 4. This includes the line of spaces closest to our building, also the angled section and the area near the exterior kitchen door. These areas will be taped off to block entry. The parking spaces closer to the Westminster cemetery MAY be available. We don't know how big an area will be taped off. Thank you for your patience.

Roberta Wilhelm

A Season of Rest and Renewal for the Handbell Choir

After many years of faithful service and beautiful music, the Handbell Choir will take a break this fall. Recent changes in membership — including the departure of several ringers — have made it difficult to continue rehearsals and worship service participation.

Our Handbell Choir Director, Lynn Lyon-Vaiden, has generously proposed a pause in rehearsals and in her stipend from August through December. This thoughtful decision reflects both her deep care for the ministry and the financial realities our church is navigating.

This break will offer time to rest, reflect, and rebuild. Our hope is to gather new ringers during the program year so that rehearsals can resume in January 2026. If you are musically inclined or curious about ringing, please reach out to Lynn — no experience is necessary, and she is happy to train new members.  
(lynn.lyonvaiden@gmail.com)

In the meantime, you may still hear handbells in worship on occasion this fall, especially during Advent and Christmas.

We give heartfelt thanks to Lynn for her dedication, creativity, and faithful leadership of this beloved ministry. Her vision and generosity continue to bless our worship and our community.

We look forward with hope to the joyful sound of handbells once again in 2026.

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
James Corns	Interim Praise Ensemble Director
Travis Collins	Digital Ministry Associate
Suzanne Walter	Nursery Attendant
Erin Hagan	Nursery Assistant

## The Vestry

Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson		Rector
Kim Tompkins, Sr. Warden	2027	Altar Guild, Worship Assistants, Mistletoe Mart
Gary Lang, Jr. Warden		Buildings & Grounds
Nancy Starnier, Treasurer		
Deborah Rio, 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	Worship Assistants
Mark Howe	2028	Stewardship, Altar Guild, Worship Assistants
Melissa Leahy	2028	St. Martha's Guild, St. James' Commission, LEV, St. Luke's Guild, Outreach, DreamBuilders MD

### Highlights from the July 29 Vestry Meeting

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

#### Finance Report

Debbie Bargar, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the June 2025 Financial Reports: Income: \$21,845.57; Expenses: \$41,068.87; Deficit: \$19,223.30

As we navigate the seasonal challenges of summer giving and an increase in restricted funds, the Vestry remains committed to fiscal responsibility and transparency. As of July 21, the bank balance was \$101,449, with \$13,419 in available funds. By July 29, that balance had decreased to \$7,790. In response, the Vestry approved a \$2,500 transfer from CD interest to the General Fund to ensure we could meet our immediate obligations—**most importantly, staff payroll**—with confidence and care. Though the financial picture is tight, our leadership is actively engaged in identifying creative solutions. We remain hopeful that the fall will bring renewed energy and generosity as we lean into our shared mission. The August Vestry Meeting has been rescheduled to September 2 to allow time for thoughtful review of the budget and strategic planning for the months ahead.

#### Stewardship

The Stewardship Planning Committee met with Canon Dina Van Klaveren on July 18 to plan the upcoming fall campaign. This year's theme, "Tell Out My Soul," celebrates our shared stories of faith and generosity. The campaign will launch on September 28 and culminate on November 2 (All Saints' Sunday). We look forward to a season of joyful giving and community celebration.

#### Sustaining Ministry Together

Recognizing the increasing demands on volunteers and lay leaders, the Vestry began a conversation about how to sustain our ministries with care and intention. These discussions are rooted in hope—believing that God is calling us to discover new ways of being church together. To help deepen this conversation, **Canon Kristofer Lindh-Payne will preach on Sunday, August 24, followed by an Adult Forum with the congregation.** This will be a time to listen, reflect, and explore together how we can share the load and continue the work God has entrusted to us.

Income and Expenses: January – June 2025	Budgeted Amount January - June	Actual January - June
<b>Income:</b>		
General Giving	\$ 147,975.00	\$ 152,702.00
Fundraisers* *1844 Shoppe, Pins & Needles, Children & Youth, Cookie Walk, Mistletoe Mart, Church Fundraising Events	\$ 35,675.00	\$ 4,062.48
Rental Income	\$ 7,950.00	\$ 8,900.00
Bank Interest Earned	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,650.27
Facilities Use	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 7,530.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 200,250.00</b>	<b>\$ 174,844.75</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Human Resources	\$ 113,000.00	\$ 116,029.86
Administrative/Office Expenses	\$ 7,947.50	\$ 9,641.23
Christian Education	\$ 3,175.00	\$ 110.00
Diocese of Maryland - Allocation	\$ 17,013.50	\$ 14,177.90
Equipment	\$ 1,625.00	-----
Liability and Property Insurance	\$ 8,675.00	\$ 2,909.34
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 38,450.00	\$ 24,484.72
Meetings	\$ 325.00	-----
Middendorf Loan Repayment	\$ 8,690.00	\$ 10,138.87
Professional Supply	\$ 900.00	-----
Stewardship	\$ 267.50	-----
Rental Property Taxes	\$ 1,737.50	-----
Utilities	\$ 23,030.00	\$ 29,587.45
Worship	\$ 1,340.00	\$ 235.55
Miscellaneous Expenses	-----	\$ 305.94
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 226,176.00</b>	<b>\$ 207,620.00</b>

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

**TEXAS ROADHOUSE**

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

»» **Support** ««  
Ascension Church  
Thursday, August 28  
3pm – 10pm  
Flyers are not to be distributed on Texas Roadhouse property.

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



**PURSE**  
*Bingo!*

**SEPTEMBER 27**  
4:30PM-9:30PM  
*Save the Date*



**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**  
23 N. COURT ST.  
WESTMINSTER, MD [www.ascension-westminster.com/events](http://www.ascension-westminster.com/events)

# Church of the *Ascension*

Children and Youth Ministries



## Youth Sunday

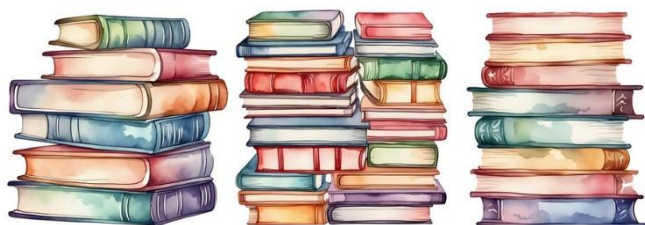
[youth@ascension-westminster.com](mailto:youth@ascension-westminster.com)



## Youth Sunday

**Sunday, August 3 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.

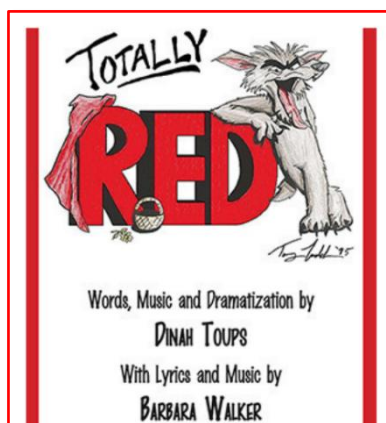
## Thank You!



A HUGE 'THANK YOU' to our parishioners for donating so many wonderful books for **Bingo for Books**. Each child left with a handful of books and a big smile! Thank you for helping to make this event such a success!!

## Drama Camp: August 11 – 22

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



## Drama Camp Performance: August 22

Bring a dish for the **potluck supper at 6:00 pm**, and stay for the **show at 7:00 pm**. This will be performed by our young people, ages 5 years to 15 years old, as well as other children in the community.

This show is described as "a unique and fun retelling of the classic battle of wit and deception as told in the beloved fairy tale of Little Red Riding Hood. We meet Red (who is nobody's fool) and the wolf (who tries to be cool) and granny—well, sometimes she's left in the dark! This play is as much fun for the performers as it is for the audience."





## September Newsletter



## Book Club



**BOOK CLUB**

**2025**

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

**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.*

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

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



**There are 3 months until Mistletoe Mart!**

The committee is busy planning for Mistletoe Mart #51.

We will have 44 talented artisans at this year's Mart. The postcards have been received and are beautiful! New pictures are being added to the website. Menus are being reviewed.

As a reminder, wearing our **Ascension magnetic nametags** during the Mart is a great way to identify ourselves. **If you don't have one yet, this is a perfect time to request one!** Please contact Parish Administrator, Ann Fariss, in the Church Office.

**We have some Mistletoe Mart 50th anniversary ornaments remaining from last year!**

These beautiful, limited edition, hand painted porcelain ornaments were designed and made by Anne Piazza, one of our Mistletoe Mart artisans. The price is \$45.00 per ornament. Please contact Kim Tompkins ([ktompkins2@verizon.net](mailto:ktompkins2@verizon.net)) for more information.



The volunteer signup boards will be posted in early September. 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!

We are grateful for all of your support!

Mistletoe Mart Co-Chairs  
 Jenny Beeker, Kim Tompkins

**1844 Shoppe**

**In late August, we will have a HUGE sale - everything will be 50% off, or more,** to empty the shelves to begin to prepare for Mistletoe Mart.

Please note that summer/seasonal clothing donations are no longer being accepted. General merchandise donations, especially holiday items, are welcome.





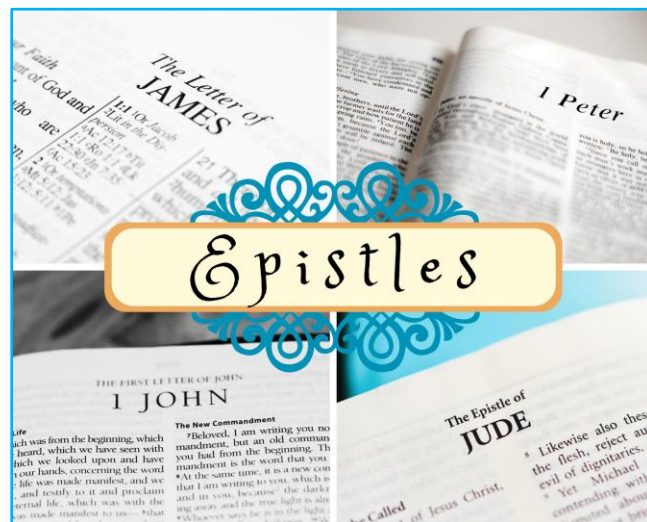
## Bible Study



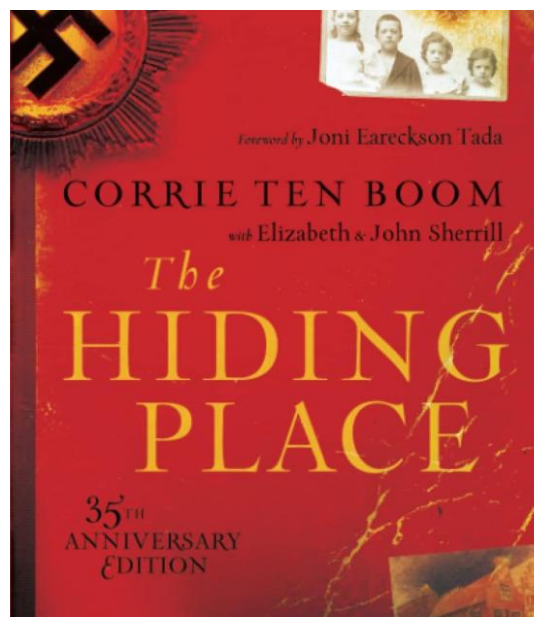
### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

We will meet on August 5, 9:30 am,  
in Room #210.

For information, please contact Bill Sears.  
redrock2@verizon.net



## Thursday Night Bible Study



**Click on the image to register.**

For additional information:  
lynn.lyonvaiden@gmail.com

Thursday Night Bible Study will read and discuss  
*The Hiding Place*, by Corrie Ten Boom

Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch watchmaker who became a heroine of the Resistance, a concentration camp survivor and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century. During World War II, she and her family risked their lives to help Jews and underground workers escape from the Nazis. Among her family, only Corrie survived to tell the story of how faith ultimately triumphs over evil.

**Begins September 11 at 6:30 pm**

*In the Guild Room and on Zoom*

"There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still." Corrie Ten Boom

## Thank You!



To Our Ascension Church Family:

Bryan and I would like to express our gratitude for your support throughout his journey to achieve the Eagle Scout Award. Bryan began his scouting adventure as a Cub Scout at Ascension and later bridged into Boy Scout Troop 321 at Ascension. When Troop 321 closed after many of its scouts earned their Eagle Badges, Bryan transitioned to Troop 381.

Despite facing similar challenges when Troop 381 disbanded, he persevered, moving on to two other troops with the guidance of his Scout leader, Dave Rogers.

Throughout these transitions, Bryan never forgot the friendships and memories he made during his many adventures with Troop 321. When it was time to choose an Eagle Project, Bryan wanted to do something for Church of the Ascension by updating the Little Free Library. The support of the congregation in bringing this project to fruition was amazing! On May 31, in a ceremony which included members of all four Scout Troops Bryan was part of, he received his Eagle Scout Award. We are very grateful for all of you who played a role in this significant accomplishment.

Gratefully,  
Nancy and Bryan Barry

## Pins & Needles Quilt Raffle

Pins & Needles holds an annual Quilt Raffle to generate funds for use by the group. In the last 5 years, we have been able to donate to several Stone Church projects - Furnace/AC and to help pay the Water/Sewer bill when the Stone Church basement flooded. We also donated funds to purchase new windows and security cameras.

Other outreach donations include Operation Christmas Child, DreamBuilders MD, Ghanaian Mothers' Hope Reading Camp, Shepherd's Staff Call for Coats, Project Linus, the Free Children's Summer Programs and Angel Tree.

Pins & Needles outreach efforts will continue with your support. Take several packs of 6 tickets, along with a quilt picture, to sell raffle tickets to family, friends, and coworkers! See Pins & Needles members, or stop by the Church Office to purchase raffle tickets or pick up tickets to sell. Thank you for your support!





## Spotlight On: The Outreach Committee

If you ask, "What does the Outreach Committee do?", you should plan adequate time to read the response. The Outreach Committee provides consistent and reliable support to many individuals and organizations in Carroll County:

(1) Monthly supply of household items to 5 local families

(2) Annual "**Angel Tree**" Christmas gifts for 5 local families

(3) Twice-a-year (May and October) collection and delivery of household items for **Shepherd's Staff Blessings Closet**

(4) Monthly **greeting cards** to Ascension's members in long term care facilities or confined to home.

(5) Annual "Baby Shower" to collect items for the local **Pregnancy Support Center**

(6) Monthly cash donation to **Carroll County Youth Services Bureau**, which provides mental health services to children, adolescents and their families. The donations from Ascension are specifically for gas cards, to ensure transportation to mental health services.

(7) Monthly cash donation to **Carroll County Food Sunday**, which provides weekly groceries to over 500 families in the county.

(8) Monthly cash donation to the **Pregnancy Support Center of Carroll County**, which provides safe and confidential support for those facing an unplanned pregnancy.

(9) Monthly cash donation to **Human Services Programs of Carroll County**, which provides a myriad of health, financial and educational services to fight poverty.

(10) Monthly cash donation to **The Shepherd's Staff**, which provides short term financial, housing and other support services to people in crisis situations, with nowhere else to turn.

(11) Monthly cash donation to **Access Carroll**, which provides Health and Dental Care services to uninsured or underinsured residents of Carroll County.

(12) Beyond Westminster and Carroll County: The Outreach Committee organizes **Operation Christmas Child gift boxes**, and transports nearly 100 of them to the Baltimore distribution center. These boxes are sent to countries all over the world so that many, many children have a happy Christmas. **(See next page!)**

## Are you tired yet?

The primary fundraiser for Outreach is the annual **Craft and Crop Day**, held in January. This is a full-day event where crafters and friends get together for a day away from work and chores. Many people bring their own craft projects to work on and others come to enjoy the fellowship and surprises throughout the day and evening.

By supporting the Outreach Committee, you touch every corner of Westminster and Carroll County, either by specific gifts or financial support of reliable local charities.

**The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.** Meetings are held in the Guild Room and/or on Zoom. **The next meeting is scheduled for August 12.** You don't have to commit to a full-year membership. Just come to one of the meetings, or assist with one of their many projects to experience this ministry.

If you would like to find out more about the Outreach Committee, please can contact Anne Arena (averybean@comcast.net).

## Operation Christmas Child

**It's almost time for Operation Christmas Child!**  
**The campaign will run from September 1 through the second week of October, 2025.** Please consider filling a box or two. The instructions are included, AND our support goes a long way to make a child's life a little more joyful while spreading the love of Christ. Instructions and gift suggestions will be included in each box.

Or, if you are unsure of what to purchase:  
 The **Shoebox Supply House in Shippensburg, PA**, has a mission of helping others so many may spread the Word that all may know Him. They are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Their goal is to multiply the number of shoeboxes shipped worldwide by providing a wide variety of inexpensive items for boys and girls. You can browse The Shoebox Supply House schedule, price list, listings of upcoming events, pictures and a lot more at:  
<https://shoeboxsupplyhouse.com/>

Their physical address is:  
 709 Marden Avenue  
 Shippensburg, PA 17257



## DreamBuilders MD in Kentucky: June 2025





# Spirit of Ghana September 20, 2025



**Celebrating 20 years of Service  
in Ghana**

**Buffet Dinner, African Dancers,  
Raffles, Auction, Awards**

**Join the fun and help us  
celebrate.**

**Cost: \$30 Adult  
\$15 Children 6-13  
Children under 6 free**

**When: September 20, 2025**

**Time: 3-7 pm**

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



**SCAN FOR  
TICKETS. OR  
ASK CHERYL  
VECERA**

### Welcome, Elsie Claire!

**On Sunday, May 4, 2025, during the 8:00am service in the Stone Church, we had the joy of celebrating the Baptism of Elsie Claire H.,** daughter of Matthew and Sarah.

It was a beautiful and prayerful moment as we welcomed Elsie into the household of God. Matthew and Sarah began worshipping with us at Ascension in March. They are currently living in Hanover, PA while renovating their new home in Westminster—hoping to move in this August. As Matthew shared, “We really enjoy the church and the people and will continue to attend once we move back to the area.”

We give thanks for the gift of Elsie's life, and we are delighted to welcome the Holl family into our parish community. May Elsie grow in faith, surrounded by the love and prayers of this church family.

*Pierre-Henry*



### In Loving Memory: Kathy Sullivan

**Our beloved sister in Christ, Kathy Sullivan, died peacefully on Friday, July 18,** at 7:30 p.m., at home and surrounded by love. She is now at peace in the Lord's eternal embrace.

Kathy's faith was deep and radiant. In these past weeks, she embraced the final chapter of her life with grace, courage, and gratitude. During a recent pastoral visit, she shared Holy Communion and spoke of feeling “blessed” and “lucky”—her spirit filled with trust in God's goodness and the love of her family and community.

A funeral service to celebrate Kathy's life and commend her to God was held on Saturday, July 26.

**St. James' Commission is grateful to everyone who helped with the brunch that followed the service.**



### In Loving Memory: Mary Anthony

**Mary Anthony, the beloved mother of Mary Butler, passed away on Monday evening, July 28.**

A Mass of the Resurrection for Mary Anthony will be held on Wednesday, August 6 at 11:00am at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Pikesville, MD.

### In Loving Memory: Ed Long

**Ed Long, a long-time and beloved former member of Church of the Ascension, died on July 31.**

The service in celebration of Ed's life is expected to take place during the week of August 4 at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church (Sykesville).



### Community Action: Carrie G.

**Carrie G.** carries school supplies and a backpack to the donation table during the July 26, Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive at the Walmart parking lot. The event was sponsored by The Shepherd's Staff, Walmart, Thrivent Liberty Team, The Cow, Johnson Bus Service, St. Mary's United Church of Christ, and WTRR AM, which broadcast live from the event. Organizers estimated \$6,000 in school supplies were donated. Nearly 1,500 children are registered to benefit.

*by Jeffrey F. Bill, Baltimore Sun Staff*



## Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street  
Westminster, MD 21157