

Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.



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Ascension Extension | March 2023

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

“Embracing Lent”

by the Rev. F. Allan Weatherholt, Jr.

Do you like Lent? As I spoke about in my Ash Wednesday homily, some people do not. They feel that the somberness of Lent is “dark” and “depressing” and overshadows the joy of being a Christian. In one of my former parishes, a woman in the congregation actually told me these things.



Lent, however, is one of the very oldest and most important Seasons of the Christian Year. In preparation for Easter, the early Christians re-lived the events of what we now call Holy Week, particularly the events of the Triduum – the Great Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

Soon after, the Season of Lent – from lencten, the time of the lengthening of the days – developed as a period of fasting and penitence for all the faithful. The early Christians saw this as an important way to imitate our Lord's own 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness, as described in the Gospels. For the Christian, Lent is a time of “spiritual wilderness” and overcoming temptation, just as it was for Jesus.

I strongly encourage all of us to embrace Lent as fully as possible. As Christians, we are never without the joy of our Lord. However, following Him also means embracing, in some measure, the suffering and sorrow He endured for us.

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April Ascension Extension

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

Church Office Hours

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

Embrace the many great themes of this ancient Season. By keeping a Holy Lent, we will know a very Joyous Easter!

Lenten Customs As We Observe Them At Ascension

- The **Liturgical Color** for the hangings and vestments in the Holy Cross Hall is **purple, or violet, the color of penitence**. [Note that some Parishes use an “off-white” or unbleached linen instead.]
The color changes to **red for Holy Week**.
- In both worship spaces, the **Altar Cross** and **Processional Crosses**, which symbolize the Resurrection, are covered with **purple veils** to help us remember that this is the most somber time of the Church Year. As with the vestments and hangings, the color of the veils becomes **red** for **Holy Week**.
- **Flowers**, also symbolic of the Resurrection, are absent, returning in great splendor on **Easter!**
- **Fewer candles**, representative of the Light of Christ, are used at the Lord's Table. Most of our fine silver Communion vessels are replaced by simple ceramic or glass ones.
- The **hymns and other music** are sober, less joyful, the Organ's sound somewhat subdued. **No “Alleluias”** are sung or said until Easter. The Processions are simpler, and some take place in **silence**. The theme of **repentance**, present in all worship, is especially strong in **Lent**.
- **Special Litanies** – “lists” of prayerful petitions to God – are frequently used at our services, along with other liturgical variations, to help us focus on the important Lenten themes of prayer and repentance.
- **Small extra offerings of money** [**“Mite” Boxes** for children, **United Thank Offering Boxes** for adults] are encouraged to help us think unselfishly of others, especially the needy, and to further the Lord's work in the mission field.



We pray that these many Lenten customs enrich this great Season for all of us!

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

March Worship

March 4

11:00 am Memorial Service: M. Turnbaugh
H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

March 5

Second Sunday in Lent

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Holy Cross Hall
9:00 am Sunday School
Adult Education
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

March 12

Third Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time begins
8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Holy Cross Hall
9:00 am Sunday School
Adult Education
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

March 18

11:00 am Memorial Service: Woolston Family
H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

March 19

Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Holy Cross Hall
9:00 am Sunday School
Adult Education
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

March 26

Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:00 am H.E. Rite I, Holy Cross Hall
9:00 am Sunday School: Pretzel Making
Adult Education
10:15 am H.E. Rite II, Holy Cross Hall

United Thank Offering



The 'Blue Boxes' are available at the UTO displays in the hallway outside of the Holy Cross Hall and in the Holy Cross Hall vestibule.

Through UTO, we are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude.

First, place your box somewhere it can't be missed. Notice the good things that happen daily, from a good parking spot to healing from a severe illness, and then give thanks to God for the blessing while making a thank offering in your blue boxes. Your blessings become blessings for others.

UTO Boxes will be returned and blessed on Sunday, April 30.

Lenten "Mite" Boxes for Children

longtime a tradition in the Episcopal Church, are also available at the church entrance. We hope all of our children and young people will take one home and thankfully place coins in it throughout the Lenten Season. Proceeds will benefit the Outreach Ministries of Ascension.



Boxes should be returned on Easter Sunday, April 9.

Small Crosses for Pocket or Purse

were blessed on Ash Wednesday. They are available at the Holy Cross Hall entrance for you to take and carry with you throughout Lent and beyond. The presence of the cross in pocket or purse reminds us that our loving Lord is always with us – always there to help, guide and strengthen us!



Our Lenten Cross was put in place on Ash Wednesday. This large, rough-hewn cross is located in the back of Holy Cross Hall. You are encouraged to "nail" your sins or burdens to the cross. Slips of paper and push pins are available for this purpose. The cross will be moved to the Stone Church if we are able to resume services there for Holy Week.



'Living Water' is the theme of the Gospel this year on Sunday, March 12, the Third Sunday in Lent. The Gospel – St. John 4: 5-42 – recounts our Lord's conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well, in which He promises her 'living water.' Deacon Barbara Sears has prepared the Gospel reading as a dramatic dialogue. Barbara has also offered to preach the sermon that day. Be with us for a special and meaningful Lenten Sunday.



Daylight Saving Time begins on March 12. Please set your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night March 11.

Walk and Pray the Outdoor Stations of the Cross

at nearby Emmitsburg on **Saturday, April 1 (the day before Palm Sunday) at 10:00 a.m.** This is at the beautiful National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, adjacent to Mount Saint Mary's University. Fr. Allan will lead a group from Ascension. We will join Fr. Steven McCarty and members of St. Andrew's, Clear Spring, and St. Thomas', Hancock. **Plan to meet at Ascension's parking lot at 9:15 a.m. that day for carpooling.** Or you may meet us at the Shrine's Gift Shop at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for this meaningful start to Holy Week, 2023.

Members One Of Another

We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to the family and many friends of **Melanie Turnbaugh**, 60, who died suddenly on February 7 at her home. The daughter of parishioner **Cathy Reese**, Melanie sang with our Adult Ensemble and was part of our Handbell Choir.

A Service of Christian Burial with Eucharist will be held **Saturday, March 4, at 11:00 a.m.** in the Holy Cross Hall with Fr. Allan officiating. Visitation, in the Fellowship Hall, will precede at 10:00 a.m., and a Luncheon will follow the service.

We also extend our love, prayers and sympathy to **Mason Woolston**, his family and friends. His daughter **Kim** died suddenly in September, and his wife, **Trish**, died more recently.

A Memorial Eucharist for both will be held in Holy Cross Hall on **Saturday, March 18, at 11:00 a.m.** Our retired Rector, Fr. Ron Fisher, will offer the Homily, Fr. Allan will officiate, and Deacon Barbara Sears will assist. Luncheon will follow in our Fellowship Hall.

St. James Guild needs volunteer support for both luncheons in the way of food donations and able bodies with warm hearts and helping hands. **If you can help, please contact Jill Horn.**

Worship Assistants are needed for both memorial services. Please volunteer by either using Sign Up Genius or by calling the Church Office.

Our prayers are with much-loved parishioner **Joy Badger**, recently a pneumonia patient at Carroll Hospital.

Our prayers continue for parishioner **Donna Fine**, who is undergoing treatments after recent surgery for a malignant brain tumor. You may follow Donna's progress on the Caring Bridge website.

A Lenten Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is underway by nearly 30 members of **St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville**. Led by their Rector, **The Rev. Emily Lloyd**, the group includes **Daniel Weatherholt**, eldest son of Fr. Allan and Rev. Anne. Please join us in prayers for their safe travel and a wonderful time of spiritual enrichment. They return on Monday night, March 6.

Reach Out to Help the Victims of the Devastating Earthquakes

in Turkey and Syria. Thousands of lives have been lost and millions are homeless. Even a small gift will help. You may give online through:

Episcopal Relief & Development:
<https://support.episcopalrelief.org/>

American Red Cross
<https://www.redcross.org/>

You may mail a donation to:
Episcopal Relief & Development
P.O. Box 7058
Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

2023 Confirmation Classes will be offered by **Fr. Allan beginning on Sunday, March 26, following the 10:15 a.m. service.** We will meet for a light lunch, courtesy of St. Martha's Guild, then have our class time. We expect to meet for 6 to 8 Sundays (omitting Easter Day, of course). These classes are for adults and for young people ages 12 and up who are new to the Episcopal Church or who have not yet Confirmed their faith before a Bishop of the Church.

In addition, Deb Howard has kindly offered to meet with any young people in the group for some special time with them. Deb has done an excellent job with this in years past. Please contact Fr. Allan or Deb if you would like to Confirm your faith this year!

Confirmation

Meet and Greet the Candidates for Bishop Coadjutor

The candidates will visit four sites around our diocese for a series of Meet and Greet events.

Two of these are available online:

- **March 8, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**, in person at the Claggett Center, virtually via Zoom
- **March 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**, in person at Emmanuel, Cumberland
- **March 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**, in person at St. James', Lothian
- **March 11, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**, in person at Redeemer, Baltimore, virtually via YouTube livestream

Clergy and lay delegates from the 238th Diocesan Convention will reconvene at St. John's, Ellicott City, on Saturday, March 25 to elect the Bishop Coadjutor (XV Bishop of Maryland). Representing Ascension will be Fr. Allan and Charlie Jones.

PLEASE NOTE: The Diocese has not yet provided the links for the two on-line Meet and Greet events. We will send those to you when they are received.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

The Vestry

Vestry/Officers	Term Ends	Ministry Liaison
Rev. Allan Weatherholt		Interim Rector
Donna Hansen, Sr. Warden	2024	
Joe Parker, Jr. Warden	2026	
Nancy Starner, Treasurer	2024	Finance
Jackie Weschler, Registrar	2024	Membership
Jill Horn	2024	Outreach
Katie Corbin	2024	Discipleship
Carrie Goff	2024	
Jennie Grabill	2025	Altar Guild
Luke Gore	2025	Buildings and Grounds
Deb Howard	2025	Outreach
Rick Reinders	2025	Finance
Beverly Baker	2026	
Liz Lowe	2026	
Robertta Wilhelm	2026	

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

At the February Vestry Meeting

held Tuesday, February 14, our Parish Officers were unanimously elected.

They are:

- Donna Hansen, Senior Warden
- Joe Parker, Junior Warden
- Jackie Weschler, Registrar
- Nancy Starner, Treasurer
- Rick Reinders, Assistant Treasurer

We wish each of them God's blessings, and we thank them for their willingness to serve our Lord and His Church.

Additional February Vestry Meeting Highlights:

- Dan of PA Martin did a walkthrough with Bill Sears and Joe Parker of the ongoing repairs in the Stone Church. Everything looks to be on schedule.
- Livestreaming of worship services has been fixed thanks to Javier Salinas, Joe Parker, and Tim Klick (from 117AV).
- About 30 new households have been added to our parish over the past year.

Highlights of the 179th Annual Parish Meeting held Sunday, February 12, following the 10:15 a.m. service, with at least 40 parishioners attending:

- 2023 Vestry Nominees, recruited by the Nominating Committee, were introduced by Fr. Allan. They included: **Beverly Baker, Carrie Goff, Liz Lowe, Joe Parker and Roberta Wilhelm**. These five were elected by acclamation, with the understanding that Carrie Goff (at her request) will fill an unexpired term until 2024, while all others will serve until 2026.
- Two changes to the Parish By-Laws, as recommended by the Interim Rector, were approved. In the first, Senior and Junior Wardens may or may not be from the elected Vestry, allowing a much wider choice of candidates. Melissa Leahy offered a "friendly amendment" to permit Wardens both a voice and a vote. The second change directs that the Annual Meeting be held within the first 60 days of the calendar year, not specifying a particular Sunday, as was previously the case.
- "Retiring" Vestry members **Susan Considine, Ron Cox, Donna Hansen and David Kreider** were warmly thanked for their years of service and presented with small gift bags in appreciation for their faithfulness.
- "Retiring" Senior Warden **Bryan Lance** was lauded for his five years of very faithful and exemplary service to Ascension during some difficult times. Fr. Allan presented Bryan with a gift from the Vestry and with a gift card from the entire Parish.
- **Discernment (Rector Search) Committee Co-Chair Ellen Anderson** presented a brief summary of the Committee's hard work. They will be receiving additional names to consider this Spring.
- **Betsy Reinders** spoke on behalf of our Children's and Youth Committee, highlighting many of their upcoming plans and events, including our Summer Programs.
- **Assistant Treasurer Rick Reinders** offered a summary of Parish finances and an overview of the 2023 Parish Budget.
- Fr. Allan highlighted upcoming Parish events for Lent-Easter and other Parish calendar items, thanking everyone for their faithful support.
- A delicious Luncheon and fellowship followed in our Fellowship Hall.



Summary of the Discernment Process at Church of the Ascension

After the Discernment Committee members were announced at the 2022 Annual Parish meeting, the Discernment Committee began meeting in March 2022. Our first task involved developing a brief ministry survey to poll leaders and members of ministries on types of characteristics each felt would be valuable qualities necessary for our future Rector. Once the ministry survey was completed, a full parish survey was developed, and distributed to the parish by July 2022. Survey results were provided to the parish in September 2022 at an all-parish meeting. Take aways included a focus on growing the church, recruiting young families, a desire to maintain our worship traditions while continuing to blend contemporary elements into one of our services.

Using the feedback from both surveys, committee members began to develop the Diocese's Office of Transitional Ministry (OTM) profile for Ascension. The OTM consisted of 11 questions, and much refinement and fine tuning was needed to craft a profile which represented our church. This document was finalized, and we were ready to receive names. It was posted on the Episcopal Church of America national website for potential applicants to view. The committee met several times with the Rev. Anne Weatherholt, who is a Transitional Consultant in the Diocese of Maryland to fine tune our documents, survey questions, goals, and timelines.

As we moved forward, the survey results were our guiding principles as they represented the priorities of the congregation. We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as we continued our journey and have been open to where we were being led.

The committee received names from the Diocesan Transition Officer and posted an advertisement in the Episcopal Newsletter in October 2022. Our OTM went live on the Episcopal national church website. We received application packets from three candidates. Time was spent reviewing application materials, listening to worship services and sermons, and prayerfully considering the three candidates. The committee met again with the Reverend Anne to review and develop interview questions and to discuss the interview process. Throughout this time, committee members continued to watch hours of worship services and listened to sermons, always listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The committee interviewed two candidates via Zoom on December 17 and the third applicant on Monday, December 19. The committee reviewed responses from all three candidates and invited two candidates back for a second round of Zoom interviews on January 25. The third candidate was determined to not be a good fit for Ascension. We met again on January 28 to prayerfully consider which candidate(s) we felt would be appropriate and whose skills and personality most closely matched the survey results - what the parish said it was looking for in our new Rector.

We decided that one candidate was the clear choice and extended an invitation to visit our parish. Unfortunately, that candidate declined our invitation, so our plans are to reopen the search in March 2023.

While we are disappointed, we are blessed that Fr. Allan Weatherholt will continue as our Interim Rector. The Discernment Committee wishes to thank Fr. Allan and Rev. Anne for their continual guidance and insights they have shared during this journey. We also wish to thank each of you who have lifted us up in prayer!

The Discernment Committee:

Ellen Anderson, Co-Chair

Helen Lang, Co-Chair

Donna Hansen

Melissa Leahy

Buck Lyon-Vaiden

Rick Reinders

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.

Buildings and Grounds: What and Where is the Air Handler?

The Buildings and Grounds Committee invites you to join us for a walk-through of our facilities on **Saturday, March 11, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.** Bill Sears will be our guide as we explore areas of our buildings that require regular maintenance and inspections.

Have you ever been in the basement of the Stone Church? What's in the attic of the Rectory?

There's sure to be some nuggets of history shared during our time together. We will meet at the Stone Church. We hope to see you there!

Worship Assistants: March 2023

	Usher(s)	Lector	Acolyte(s)	Chalicians	Worship Slides
March 4 11:00 am	1. 2.			1. Melissa Leahy 2.	Jeanne Cox
March 5 8:00 am	Cheryl Vecera	Roberta Wilhelm	Charlie Aler		
March 5 10:15 am	1. Ron Cox 2.	Buck Lyon-Vaiden	1. Reilly Goff 2. Kaelyn Goff 3.	1. Kevin McIntyre 2. Melissa Leahy 3. 4.	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
March 12 8:00 am	Beverly Baker	Donna Hansen	Jennie Grabill		
March 12 10:15 am	1. Ron Cox 2. Melissa Leahy	Betsy Reinders	1. 2. 3.	1. Betsy Reinders 2. Rick Reinders 3. 4.	Jeanne Cox
March 18 11:00 am	1. 2.			1. 2.	
March 19 8:00 am	David Kreider	Donna Hansen	Jennie Grabill		
March 19 10:15 am	1. 2.	Margaret Harchenhorn	1. Reilly Goff 2. Kaelyn Goff 3.	1. Helen Lang 2. 3. 4.	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
March 26 8:00 am	Beverly Baker	Charlie Jones			
March 26 10:15 am	1. David Horn 2. Bryan Lance	Roberta Gore	1. 2. 3.	1. 2. 3. 4.	Jill Horn

Children's Choir

We hope to form a Children's Choir to sing on special occasions at Ascension. Interested children and teens are invited to contact Donna Parker, Director of our Praise Ensemble. Donna hopes to schedule rehearsal times convenient for all interested. Our goal is to have the group sing on Easter Day, April 9, at the 10:15 a.m. service.

You may contact Donna at 425-394-3008 or donnaparkerascension@icloud.com.

Choral Evensong for Eastertide is planned for this spring at Ascension. Retired Director of Music, Dr. David Kreider, has very kindly agreed to organize a Choir for the service, which is scheduled for **Sunday, April 23, at 4:00 p.m. in the Stone Church**. Please contact David if you would like to be among our singers for Evensong. (dkreider@mcdaniel.edu)

In celebration of the restoration of our historic M. P. Moller Pipe Organ, a recital will follow the liturgy. Guest Recitalist will be the talented **Nick Galinaitis**. Nick, a native of Carroll County and a graduate of McDaniel College, is currently studying organ in Los Angeles. Please make plans to be present on this special afternoon of Eastertide!

Church of the *Ascension*
Children and Youth Ministries



Children and Youth Ministry Schedule March 2023

March 5	9:00 am - Sunday School Children's Chapel during the 10:15 am service
March 12	9:00 am - Sunday School Children's Chapel during the 10:15 am service
March 19	9:00 am - Sunday School Children's Chapel during the 10:15 am service 2:00 pm - Escape This Frederick
March 26	9:00 am - Sunday School: Pretzel Making! Children's Chapel during the 10:15 am service

Escape This Frederick

All children, youth and families are invited to Escape This Frederick on **Sunday, March 19** at 2:00 pm. For those interested in staying after the 10:15 am church service, we will have pizza together before leaving at 1:00 pm. Or you may meet us there by 1:45 pm.

Please contact the Church Office to RSVP.



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

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

Pizza and drinks are included. Please contact Roberta Gore if your youth will attend.

Carroll County Arts Council Annual Peep Show

See and VOTE FOR the entry that is created by Carrie Goff's Explorations Class.

Town Mall of Westminster
400 N Center Street
Westminster, MD 21157



March 31 - April 10

Monday – Saturday • 10:00am – 6:30pm

Sunday • 12:00pm – 5:30pm (including Easter Sunday)

Maudy Thursday Children's Chapel

Thursday, April 6

5:30 pm

For youth ages 3-12

Join us for spaghetti (gluten free) and meatballs (Fellowship Hall). Then enjoy a lesson before the 7:00 pm Maudy Thursday worship service.

Please contact the Church Office to RSVP.



Maudy Thursday Lenten Lock-In

For youth in grades 8-12

Begins April 6 at 9:00 pm

Our Lock-In will help youth to reflect on the events leading up to Easter Sunday, through prayer and conversations. We will keep watch in prayer following the 7:00 pm Maudy Thursday service. We will discuss the events leading up to Easter and reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross.

Join us for games, pizza, movies and spend the night in the upper classrooms. On Friday morning, April 7 (Good Friday), we will eat breakfast together before heading home at 9:00 am. **Please contact the Church Office to RSVP.**



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.

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



DreamBuilders' Trip to Puerto Rico: January 8-14, 2023

by Buck Lyon-Vaiden

On Sunday, January 8, most of a group of 16 DreamBuilders arrived at BWI with our light green T-shirts displaying the DreamBuilders logo. We had an early 8:45 am direct flight to the San Juan Airport, arriving 4 hours later to begin our 3rd mission trip to Puerto Rico. After getting our luggage and 4 mid-sized SUVs, we drove to our lodging, the same Airbnbs that we stayed in during our first trip in 2019. Luke Gore flew to Puerto Rico on Saturday and had some very positive experiences before meeting up with the rest of the group on Sunday.



The Airbnbs were divided into 6 apartments, and we were given room assignments before beginning the trip. Our lodging was only a couple of blocks from the beach! After unpacking, a group drove to a nearby Walmart to purchase food for 3 meals for most of the following 5 days. This also included sandwich-making foods, snacks, fruit, and drinks for our lunches. It was a huge order!

Since one of the Airbnbs has an enclosed former carport, this was used so that we could all eat together and hold meetings. After dinner on Sunday, we divided into 3 groups to work on 3 different house projects. This also determined who was going to ride in which SUV to the worksite. All 3 sites were to the east of San Juan proper. A good portion of the road to my house took us along the northern coast with beaches studded with palm trees.

Once on site, I was greeted by 2 folks whom I had first met on our 2nd trip in May 2022, and who have become very dear friends. It was wonderful to see them and work with them again! Most of these young folks are part of the AmeriCorps program whose length of service is 10 months. They can re-up for successive terms. They are organized by SBP (formally the St. Bernard Project) which started in the New Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina caused massive and extensive damage there and in Alabama and in Mississippi in August 2005. This organization has been great to work with and they very much look forward to our arrival. We invariably accomplish more than is usually scheduled and have a reputation of doing good work!

Before starting work on Monday, we had an introduction by one of the SBP Volunteer Coordinators to which jobs were currently available. There is absolutely no pressure to do any job that you don't feel comfortable doing. And you will be taught any job that might be new to you if you are interested. The ongoing jobs at my project were painting the walls inside and out (the whole house was concrete.), the metal window louvers and long iron gate and fencing, installing a kitchen sink and cabinet units, cutting and applying tiles on part of the kitchen wall, and wall and floor of the bathroom and shower.

For lunch we walked to a nearby river where a makeshift pier and benches had been built on the bank by local folks for fishing and cleaning their catch. It was a wonderfully relaxing place in the shade!

On Wednesday evening, we invited all the SBP folks from the 3 projects and their spouses/significant others to join us at a nearby local restaurant for dinner. It was a wonderful evening of getting to know each other socially and as a "muchas gracias" for the support and friendship that these Puerto Ricans had shown to us. This has become a tradition for DreamBuilders.

Because SBP has a regular meeting with their AmeriCorps staff on Thursday afternoon, we took this time to explore more of the island or just to relax at the beach. Luke led a group to the eastern coast where they took a ferry to the Island of Vieques, another group visited Old San Juan, and others enjoyed the nearby beach with Puerto Rico 80-degree sun and warm Atlantic Ocean!

On Friday, my group, along with some SBP partners, finished up a bit early and stopped at one of the northern coastal beaches where we had some authentic Puerto Rican food at a roadside stand followed by some last-minute beach volleyball and a quick swim! In the evening, we attended a Shabbat Service at a nearby Temple. On the previous Tuesday, we had a Eucharist Service on the beach near our lodging.

On Saturday morning before we departed for the airport, one of our Project Leaders stopped by our lodging to pick up all the usable left-over foodstuffs to distribute through a local church with which he is affiliated. Last August, he had shipped a lot of new winter coats, among other clothing which couldn't be used in Puerto Rico, to DreamBuilders to be divided and distributed by our 4 member churches and 1 temple to those in need in our communities. I delivered 2 large boxes to Shepherd's Staff just before Christmas, which was very much appreciated. You can check out the bulletin board in the hallway to the right of the interior exit doors from the Holy Cross Hall.



DreamBuilders next trip will be to Kentucky where tornadoes and flooding have caused a lot of damage. This will take place tentatively from June 18-24, after school is out for the summer. The minimum age for the trip is anyone who has completed the ninth grade!

DreamBuilders will hold a general, informational meeting on Saturday, March 4 at 2:00 pm at Temple Isaiah (a DreamBuilders member organization).

Their address is:
12200 Scaggsville Rd.
Fulton, MD 20759

Please let Buck Lyon-Vaiden know if you are interested in attending the meeting, as well as perhaps going on the mission trip.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

St. Martha's Guild would like to thank those who helped to make the pancake supper a big success. We had a great turn out and we believe everyone left full and satisfied!

Special thanks to:

- The kitchen crew. The pancakes were wonderful! What a team!
- The dishwashers. We are always so amazed at how those dishes get cleaned and put away so quickly and efficiently.
- Those who helped with the set up, prep, and clean up. We so appreciated your time and energy!
- Those who helped clear tables and made sure our guests were well taken care of. You were a blessing!
- Those who kept the food and refreshment tables fully stocked. Great job!!
- Our office staff and communications for all their efforts and expertise in promoting the supper.
- To those who helped us shop, order, pick up and deliver food supplies.
- To those who supported us by attending the supper. We hope you enjoyed the meal and the fellowship.
- To those who so generously donated to this event.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
Many hands made light work.
We couldn't have done it without you!!!



Mistletoe Mart: Social Media

The Mistletoe Mart Committee is looking for a volunteer to be our Social Media Coordinator. If you have any interest, please contact:



Kim Tompkins
Jenny Beeker or
Donna Hansen.



Book Club

On **March 1** the Book Club will meet at 12:00 pm in the Guild Room to discuss *Lady Clementine* by Marie Benedict, a fact-based novel about Winston Churchill's wife and the role she played in British history during WWII.

The Book Club will meet again on **March 29** (same time and place) to discuss *Perestroika in Paris* by Jane Smiley; the adventures of a runaway racehorse in the City of Lights, the animals she meets, and the young boy who befriends her.



1844 Shoppe

The 1844 Shoppe will be closed on Saturday, **March 4** and again on Saturday, **March 18** due to the scheduled Memorial Services on each date. **The Shoppe will be open all Fridays in March and Saturdays, March 11 and 25.**

We'll celebrate **St. Patrick 's Day** and the first day of spring with an **"Everything Green" 25% off Sale.**

If you have any green items for the sale, or gently used furniture, please let us know. Donations can be dropped off on Fridays and Saturdays 10:00am - 1:00pm, Sundays before or after services, or call the office to schedule another time. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

Chamber Music on the Hill Concert

Sunday, March 12 at 3:00 pm

Scott Center, Carroll Community College

“Elegance of a Spring Storm”

Join us for an afternoon of music from the Classical and romantic period, played by the masterful Left Bank Quartet.

David Salness, Violin

Sally McLain, Violin

Katherine Murdock, Viola

Eric Klutz, Cello

Enjoy a broad selection of music by several composers, including Haydn, Coleridge-Taylor and Grieg for a unique springtime experience.

Tickets:

\$15 general admission

\$10 Seniors 60+ and Military

FREE: Students of all ages



Congratulations to Mary Snyder who celebrated her 80th birthday on February 15.

Where were you born?

Westminster, MD in the house where I currently live.
(She has never moved.)

What was your first job?

Rexall drug store in Westminster where I worked as a Soda Jerk

What is your favorite book?

The Kay Tracey Mystery Stories

What is your favorite movie?

Show Boat (and all other musicals)

What are you grateful for?

My family, God providing for my needs and for Church of the Ascension

What do you do for fun?

Eat out with friends, shopping, and reading

Who are your heroes or role models?

My mother and father and friends from Towson State College



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

MARCH

Memorial Service and Luncheon (11:00 am)	March 4
Buildings and Grounds Facilities Tour	March 11
Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 12
Memorial Service and Luncheon (11:00 am)	March 18
Escape This Frederick	March 19

APRIL

Stations of the Cross (National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes)	April 1
Palm Sunday	April 2
Maundy Thursday (Children's Chapel, Worship Service, Youth Lock-In)	April 6
Good Friday	April 7
Easter Sunday (Return Mite Boxes)	April 9
Choral Evensong for Easter and an Organ Recital	April 23
Fellowship Breakfast (Return UTO Boxes)	April 30

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.



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.

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.

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday: April 2
8:00 am and 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday: April 6
7:00 pm

Good Friday: April 7
7:00 pm:

Easter Sunday: April 9
8:00 am and 10:15 am
*Easter Egg Hunt will follow
the 10:15 am service.*



Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court St.
Westminster, MD
410-848-3251

Easter Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Flower Fund in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for someone or something, please submit this completed form to the Church Office by **Monday, April 3**. Please make check payable to Ascension Church Altar Guild with "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

Names of those to be remembered or Thanksgivings:

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

Your Name: _____

Church of the Ascension

23 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157