



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 18, 2025)*

## Ascension Episcopal Church, Colorado

420 W 18th St, Pueblo, CO 81003, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 09/30/25.

[vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org](mailto:vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
69	1	2	
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$78542	4	We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	2
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

*\$78,542 - \$79,500, based on experience. Rectory is located next door to the church.*

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

There are many blessings and moments that are fulfilling at Ascension. Under the helpful guidance of two retired priests, members of our congregation, we maintain a positive outlook during this time of need. Our Christian celebrations have been MOST joyful, including the most precious moments when three young sisters sang before a Christmas service. Their musical family is a true blessing to the church. Thanks to a regional grant we have a children's choir again. This brought three new families to the church. We also recently celebrated the installation of a new lay pastoral leader to our church.

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How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

We are preparing for our future by supporting and incorporating our thriving Pre-School in all our services and activities. Our Interim Rector held several discernment sessions with members to engage them in our search. We post church activities with other Pueblo Churches to encourage their participation. We are constantly working on maintaining and improving our endowed physical plant. A grant for laundry care provides laundry services for homeless people. With other downtown churches, we started the Cooperative Care Center years ago which we still support. We are looking for grants to help us engage with youth. Our members want and need a priest with a clear vision for the future, addressing challenges like aging membership and financial stability. Yet, we look for innovation while representing tradition and ensuring the church remains relevant to younger generations.

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Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

inspiring, accurate, approachable, innovative, sincere, Biblically oriented, counselor and motivator

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Ascension currently practices a very traditional liturgical style. We have one service where we practice Rite II. We have historically had a strong music program. Occasionally, we have gospel music. We have diversity in the musical offerings with flute, violin, guitar, organ and piano when these talents are available. Occasionally we worship with limited music and more silence and meditation. This year we began a monthly Taize service. We offer Morning Prayer during a weekday service.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Lay ministry supporting the liturgy currently includes the altar guild, lectors, acolytes, chalice bearers, ushers and videographers. We have a lay pastoral leader to lead non-Eucharistic worship and prayer services and to serve communion from the reserved sacrament. There is a monthly Taize service in our St. James Chapel led by parishioners. The Pastoral Care Committee includes a welcoming committee for new members, provides support for homebound and ill parishioners, "Care Through Prayer", Eucharistic visitors, pastoral callers, holiday remembrance gifts, transportation, cards and meal ministry. We have recently added a children's choir which alternates with the adult choir.

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As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

As a worshipping community we have Eucharistic ministers who visit our infirmed and share communion. We deliver paper copies of weekly email updates to members who don't have computers. The midweek service is both in-person and offered on zoom. Pastoral callers visit members by phone or in person. The Men's and Women's groups meet monthly. We rank our Shrove Tuesday and silent auction celebration highly. There is an annual garage sale which is community supported. We have a Book Club, Centering Prayer and a Women's spiritual development group known as Fierce Love Soul Journeys. Highly acclaimed and well attended is our weekly coffee hour.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

Ascension has a thriving pre-school. We try to be inclusive with the children's events and invite them to participate in worship. They participated in a spontaneous, unrehearsed Christmas Eve Nativity Service. We are founders of the Pueblo Cooperative Care Center. A member of our church community donated a centrally located building for this community outreach, and we support this organization with volunteers and goods. We support a prison ministry. We participate with Angel Tree Ministries at Christmas to provide gifts to children of incarcerated parents. We visit our homebound.

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Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

As board representatives with the Cooperative Care Center, in 2024 we served 7,169 households in need and provided assistance to 1882 homeless clients in Pueblo County and Southern Colorado. We make a yearly monetary donation in addition to assisting with volunteer hours, food, clothing, showers, toiletries and during the summer months provide Kidz Snacks. In the past we traveled to a Navajo congregation for a mission week. We hope to expand these ministries in the future. We would like to host vacation bible school in 2026 as there is currently no such offering by the downtown Pueblo churches.

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Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Rector Christy Shain-Hendricks brought technology to Ascension. We began to broadcast Sunday services and posted them on YouTube for general viewing and particularly for the physically limited. We continue to make improvements on this offering. We have a website and Facebook page which continue to be revised and updated. Fierce Love and Soul Journeys guides members to maintain their spiritual center during challenging times. A Taize monthly service is an outreach to the Pueblo community. Contact: Robin Rice

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

We conduct an annual stewardship campaign and are practicing year-round stewardship. The previous stewardship campaign was "Walk in Love". Parishioners gave sincere testimonials of the church's real focus and the impact on their lives. Pledges met 80% of the goal even though part of the congregation is on a fixed income. There is an endowment for the building/structure which is a blessing when maintaining a beautiful historical building.

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What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

To assist us in growth after conflict, the Office of the Bishop sent a canon to the diocese to assist us and then recommended a six-month interim rector who was skilled in congregational systems to help us heal and work together to dispel conflict. We are on the path of creating healthy congregational systems with our next rector. Increased attendance, new programs and congregational involvement and interaction attest to our health.

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What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Addressing change in the church has been challenging. Parishioners prioritize on sermons, Christian education, pastoral care, community involvement and recruiting to name a few. With the guidance of the diocese, the vestry has made great strides in trying to heal, redirect and move the church forward to meeting our goals. Our goal is to grow the church, become more flexible, less judgmental and more united. Establishing one unified Sunday service has helped us to know each other and appreciate our strengths as we achieve our goals. Clergy and vestry have facilitated an introspective study through "vision" sessions to give direction to our mission which is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ". Gradual steps are occurring, and our goal is to be unified under scripture, tradition, and reason.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Steve Karcher	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2022-06	2023-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Christy Shain-Hendricks	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2016-06	2021-03

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Revs. Rachel and John Gardner		2012-10	2016-05

*Ascension Preschool is located next door to Ascension Episcopal Church.*

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School
Other	50	7	7



# Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio  
(last updated Aug 18, 2025)

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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://www.ascensionpueblo.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.youtube.com/@ascensionepiscopalchurchpu8018/streams>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

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### References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas,**

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Vanessa  
Stickler Glass**

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Jan Eppinette, Senior  
Warden**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org; 720-677-9007.

Phone: 214-240-8826 Email: mamaj.retired@gmail.com

Search Chair

**Rachelle Werme, Search  
Chair**

Parish/Institution

Phone: 719-671-4955 Email: rockyraccoonco@yahoo.com

Local Community Leader