

Church of the
Ascension
315 Clanton Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

www.coascension.org

Phone: 334-263-5529

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CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

We believe in
sharing the
experience of
love and grace by
seeking
relationship with
God and one
another.



Kick-off Sunday

August 9th

7:30 AM Live-streamed

9:00 AM Outdoor Worship
and Children's Church

Two Buck (\$2) Biscuits

Kick-off Sunday looks a little different this year. Though we may not get to all gather together in Ascension Hall, we are planning on kicking off our year with the start of Adult Formation (via Zoom), Children's Church, and breakfast options in the form of Biscuits-To-Go! Mark it on your calendars and look for more info coming soon.

Church of the Ascension

August 2020

The Tower

Ascension Day School

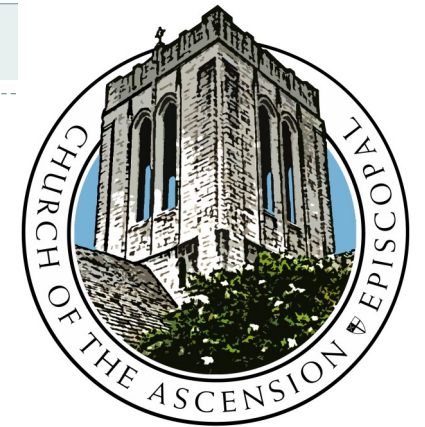
It's back to school time—though that looks a little different for most children this year. I remember a mixture of glee and despair when it came to going back to school. I lived for summer vacation but going back to school always included the back-to-school clothes shopping ritual as well as buying a new backpack and school supplies. I loved school supplies and excelled at picking out the best Trapper Keeper in the class (at least in my own mind). By high school, you could even purchase printed book covers for all your school books so you didn't have to cover them in brown paper anymore.

The first day of school always brought with it that little touch of chaos and excitement in discovering what classes you would take, who your teachers were, and even which friends would be in your section. I loved the challenge of mapping out my route to each class for either the most efficient path or the one that passed whichever boy I might have had a crush on that year. My high school had three distinct wings as well as a few portable classrooms so other than cute boys you also needed to take into consideration weather, bathrooms, and locker location. The fastest way from one building to the next was through the cafeteria but that meant you were probably not going to pass any of the letterman and would probably have to climb two sets of stairs. If you went outside, you would pass more athletes but then there were the weather conditions to contend with. If you went through the library you would still have to go

outside, but it would take less time and fewer stairs. Whichever path you choose always seemed to offer a different group of people and friends to talk too, laugh with, try to avoid, or meet up with. That few minutes between periods offered freedom and socialization while we traveled from one class to the next, year after year after year. I think that is one of the sadder aspects of virtual school—the effectiveness of classroom instruction has its own issues, but the socialization and the friendships made along the way is an even greater concern.

Our little ones at ADS won't know that social deficit in their lives this year as the school will be open for its fall and spring terms. Since June, ADS has been open on a limited and strict precautionary basis. We started with classrooms of no more than eight in June, ten in July, and we will go to the full twelve—that the governor mandated and the health department recommended—this August. When students come to school in the mornings, an adult who lives in the household must be the one to drop the child off and both the child and the adult have their temperature checked. No adults, other than teachers and church employees, are allowed in the school. Teachers think of the great outdoors as their classroom and children spend a large part of their day outside. The different outside areas are assigned each day to different classes so there is no “cross-pollenating” of children or teachers. The playground is cleaned after each class before the next one can come play and classrooms and

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CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Candice Frazer
Rector

The Rev. Drew Brislin
Associate Rector

Rebecca Taylor
Organist/Choirmaster

Tiffany Nishibun
Children's Ministries

Elizabeth McGowin
Youth Minister

Tracy Hinton-Adams
Parish Administrator

Jessica James
Communications

Laura Walter
Special Events

Will McQueen
Facilities Manager

Octavio Gomez-Jimenez
Housekeeping

Ryan Hall
Housekeeping



bathrooms are constantly being wiped down and sanitized throughout the day. Though the children do not wear face masks, the teachers do. And when the children can't play outside, we have converted the Joshua House into an indoor gym for them so they still get plenty of running around time.

If a teacher or child were to come down with coronavirus, that classroom would have a two-week quarantine period—fortunately that has not happened yet; though we are all aware of the very real possibility that it could. If someone in the household of a student or teacher tests positive, that child or teacher then must quarantine for the fourteen days and have a doctor's note to return to school. That has happened twice to date. We try to be as transparent as possible without violating anyone's privacy in notifying the rest of the school of such cases.

There is a lot of research that says children under ten years old don't seem to spread the disease like adults do. I am sure there are a variety of reasons for this, and won't speculate as to why that is, but instead am grateful that ADS can be a resource and help so many of our parents who have to go back to work. We have even picked up a few children of first-responder families who were desperate in their need for day care this summer as their own day cares had closed. ADS has served not only to connect our church to the larger community, but as an outreach to those in desperate circumstances. That's possible because of your support in establishing the school and your commitment to its growth and sustainability. Thank you for all that you do to make Ascension a beacon of hope to a dark and, at times, dangerous world. This little school with all its little people sure helps that light shine brighter.

Light and Life,
Candice+

Contributions to Clergy
Discretionary Fund

The clergy Discretionary fund is partially funded through the Operating Account, as well as contributions from generous parishioners. This fund is used to offer assistance to those in need in our church and community.

Thank you to all who support the Clergy Discretionary Fund:

Sustainers: Hattie Boo and Frank Johnston

SHINING OUR LIGHT
2020 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE
(As of 7/28/2020):

169 Pledges totaling \$940,148.00
2020 Pledges Collected To-date:
\$532,640.87

Pledges are important not only in properly budgeting for the church, but in our growth and transformation as we give to God to partner with God in doing his work in the world.



2nd Sunday Eucharist
Reserved Sacrament
August 9, 2020

You must reserve your sacrament by Thursday, August 6 at noon by calling the church office or emailing jessica@coascension.org. Drive thru pick-up stations will be available in the back parking lot (enter through the Hull Street entrance and exit through Clanton Ave) from 10:30AM until 11:30AM on the morning of Sunday, August 9.

Children's Ministry

Check your mailboxes!

All kiddos will receive something every other week in the mail! If your child isn't receiving anything, please contact Tiffany or the church office, 334-263-5529 to make sure we have your correct address!

KICK-OFF
SUNDAY
August 9th

August 9: Kick Off Sunday!
7:30 AM Live-streamed
9:00 AM Outdoor Worship
and Blessing of Backpacks
Two Buck (\$2) Biscuits

Kick-off Sunday looks a little different this year. Though we may not get to all gather together in Ascension Hall, we are planning on kicking off our year with the start of Adult Formation (via Zoom), Children's Church, and breakfast options in the form of Biscuits-To-Go! Mark it on your calendars and look for more info coming soon.



Throughout the year, Tiffany will make some formation "take-home kits" for families. You can do them on Sunday – or really any day that works, but we'll hand them out on Sundays and let you know ahead of time which Sundays. Each kit will contain 1-3 lessons that parents and Children can use at home and the supplies necessary for any activities or crafts that would not be common in households. It would be helpful if you'd email Tiffany and let her know if your family would like a Brown Bag, so we can purchase enough materials and prepare plenty of kits.

Memorial Donations Received in the Month of July

Memory of Nancy Dunklin: Ann Lewis	Memory of Bob Derickson: Marcia and David McCabe
Memory of Phillip Rawlings, Jr: Emily and Bruce Reid	Memory of Paul Copeland: Marcia and David McCabe

VESTRY
2020 Andrew Akin, Senior Warden Laura Brendle Susan Copeland Henry Weatherly
2021 Mr. Glenn Sylvest, Junior Warden Brittney Calhoun Lacy Gibson Nick Mielke
2022 Elizabeth Conner Frank Johnston Gil Steindorff Peter Waldo
Robert Gould, Treasurer
Matt Bledsoe, Clerk of the Vestry



**LIVE
or
COOKED**

L2G

Hosted By
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
benefitting **Ascension Day School & Respite Ministry of FUMC**

RiverRegionLobsterFest.org

Tickets are \$38 for a full meal

Purchase tickets at RiverRegionLobsterFest.org

Pick up time slots from 4:30 to 7:30 PM

Contact us:

(334) 263-5529

RiverRegionLobsterFest@gmail.com

TICKET DEADLINE: AUGUST 9

MUSIC NOTES

Sing to the Lord a new song

Is Music in Your Future?

In thinking about the possibility of life returning to a somewhat normal, there are experts in the area of education that are recommending that schools not begin in-person school with trying to catch up on the subject matter that was lost during the quarantine, but to start with art and music. Obviously, students will need to process this time of anxiety, interruption of schedule, and perhaps loss in many areas. Regardless, we know that the arts help children process their emotions and express themselves in ways that language alone cannot.

Music in worship affects us all in a similar way. Through music, our hearts and minds are softened and opened to God's voice and through our praise we are healed, strengthened and inspired to be led by the Holy Spirit.

When we do return to worship together, it will be a good time to join The Ascension Choir or enroll children in one of the children's choirs (The Ascension Choristers – grades 1-6, or Rejoice!, ages 3 through Kindergarten). For adults, the choir provides a fulfilling and vital ministry to serve, a place to become part of a small group, and regular experiences of joining with others in creating beauty and joy while leading worship.

In choir programs children learn not only music skills and information, but also gain self-control, problem solving skills, confidence, cooperation with others, fun, community and many more valuable concepts and experiences. For **ADS parents** that are not Ascension parishioners, your children are welcome in our choir programs.

If you might be interested in yourself or your children being part of Music at The Ascension, please contact Becky Taylor, at beckytaylor@coascension.org.

It's a great time to start!

—Becky Taylor

The Ascension Choir * The Ascension Choristers (grades 1-6) * Rejoice! (ages 3 through K)

We welcome and need new choir members!

If you would like more information about this wonderful ministry,

Please contact Becky Taylor at beckytaylor@coascension.org

This break in our schedule is a great time to consider joining us.

We'll be practically starting over when we return, so it will be a good time to begin.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Music Ministry Discretionary Fund has been established to provide special resources for the music program at Ascension. Gifts are welcome in honor, thanksgiving and memory of loved ones.

Thank you to all who support music ministry at the Ascension, by your prayers, presence and gifts.

Sustainers

Pat & Jim Franklin
The Hobbs Foundation
Karen & Marvin Campbell
Emily Caruso
Susan & Lavone Dubose
Patty & Carlton King
Diane Williams
Melanie & Dan Morris
The Family of June Scott
Anonymous
Anonymous
Nancy & Lee Ellis
Sally & Young Boozer

In Memory of Bob Derickson

Emilie & Bruce Reid

In Memory of Nancy Dunlin

Ann Lewis



School Days



**Ms. Dana
Director**

We are delighted to announce that Dana Brewer has accepted the position of Director of the Day School. Dana has been with ADS since its inception at Ascension ten years ago. She has served as the four year old and five year old teacher in the past as well as the assistant director. Dana knows the school, the teachers, the children, and their families. Having her in this role is an asset to our school, our church, and our community.

Mr. Glenn Sylvest, ADS Board Chair

Ascension Day School began in 2011, when the school moved from Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. Since then, the school has accumulated nearly 100 students. The school is thriving as one of the top day schools for children in Montgomery.

Ascension Day School offers Mother's Morning Out, as well as full-time daycare, which makes it stand out in what it offers to our community. We serve families with children aged 10 weeks to Pre-Kindergarten.

Being a part of Church of the Ascension makes coming to school magical each day! A school, like a church, is much more than just a building. The beautiful setting and wonderful people make it an absolute joy to work here. We strive to be a blessing each and every day as we focus on providing a loving learning environment for all.

Ascension Day School is so very thankful to be a part of this wonderful, loving church family.

Dana Brewer, ADS Director

Meet the Teachers



**Ms. Felicia
Ladybugs**



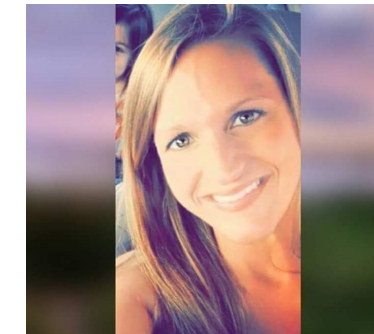
**Ms. Queshia
Ladybugs**



**Ms. Mary
Caterpillars**



**Ms. Areatha
Centipedes**



**Ms. Carmen
Caterpillars**



**Ms. Georgia
Butterflies**



**Ms. Elaine
Bookkeeper**



**Ms. Leigh
Dragonflies**



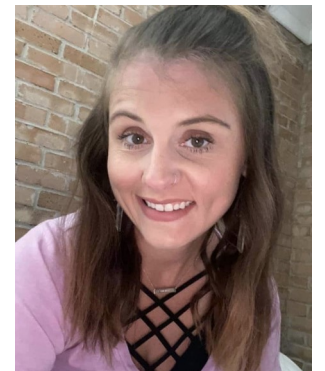
**Ms. Jennifer
Butterflies**



**Ms. Beth
Bumble Bees**



**Ms. Jennifer
Fireflies**



**Ms. Courtney
Butterflies**



**Ms. Bernadette
Floater**



**Ms. Tiffany
Centipedes**



**Ms. Etta
Caterpillars**



**Ms. Kadie
Dragonflies**



**Ms. Sara
Fireflies**