

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.

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**PICTORIAL
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TIME IS NOW!**

Call the Church Office and reserve your time on Sept 9, 10 or
11, or Sept 23, 24 or 25!

Church of the Ascension

September 2019

The Tower

Shining Our Light

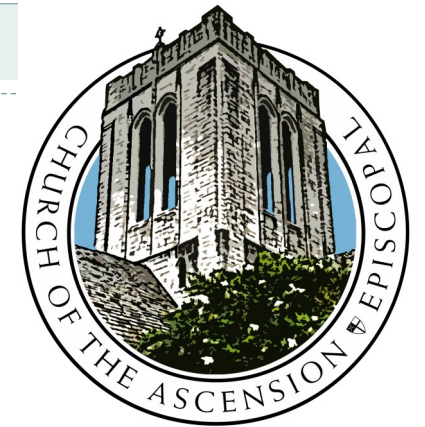
Matthew 5:16 says, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Jesus has just been describing how you don’t want salt to lose its saltiness and how we as Christians are like a city on a hill, shining as a beacon of light—an offering of hope as a bright spot in a dark and scary world. This is what Jesus envisions us to be as Christians—a bright spot of hope: a light by which others can find their paths.

Church of the Ascension and her laity are those beacons of light. Since my time at Ascension, I have seen countless points of light shining brightly and giving hope to one another, to this community, to our diocese, and even to the national church. Here at Ascension I give thanks for the voices of our choir—adult and children—as a powerful voice of praise and worship. The choir loft at times simply glows with the power of the Holy Spirit. Then there is our beautiful child of grace, Violet Monson. Her family not only bears witness to what it means to love, but all those who volunteer to help Violet in Sunday School and Children’s Church shine a bright light and witness on how we care for one

another, not only giving Violet the opportunities other children her age have, but by giving her family the opportunity to participate in worship and get involved in other ministries at Ascension. The pastoral care ministries at Ascension shine the light of love and compassion every time they deliver a meal or reach out to a family in need. Our Newcomer’s Bread Ministry shines the light of hospitality and welcome on all those who visit us and express an interest in joining our Ascension family. There are countless other ways we shine our light amongst ourselves, but it is our work in the world that shines even brighter.

Our various outreach ministries meet the needs of people in our community and beyond. From Beans and Rice to Reality and Truth, our feeding ministries help meet people’s basic needs. The Outreach Committee works hard to identify ministries in the community and in the world that benefit from our financial giving. The Vineyard Bookstore’s proceeds go to support various outreach in our community as well. Our support of Lunches for Learning in Honduras helps children in a third world country not only be guaranteed of one meal a day, but by being fed can then focus on their studies and get a better education. Not to mention the years of mission Ascension has

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CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Candice Frazer
Rector

The Rev. John Bagby
Interim Associate Rector

The Rev. Mark Waldo
Rector Emeritus

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



dedicated itself too in Costa Rica. We are shining our light throughout the world.

And it is not only through our in-reach and outreach ministries that we shine our light. The way we play together as a church with Chili Cook-Off, Sunday School Olympics, Ascension Day, and especially LobsterFest have shined our light as a congregation that enjoys being together and being with others in our community. Even the way we pray together be it Sunday mornings, Christmas and Easter, children’s services, BluEucharist, Compline, and so many more we are shining our light as we worship and praise God together.

As individual members, we shine our lights in our careers and work places, families and homes, and with friends and neighbors. There are a few of us who shine our lights on diocesan and national church levels as well. Ellen Brooks is the chair of the Search Committee for the twelfth bishop of Alabama. Anne Kimzey has served as a deputy and alternate deputy to General Convention in 2018 and 2015. Many of you have served on the Cursillo Secretariat as well as several Cursillo staffs. Others have served on Diocesan Council and other diocesan departments. As an active and involved parish on our local, diocesan, and national level, we shine our light out into the world as part of the body of Christ.

In all of the various ways we shine our lights, it is not about our glory but about

God’s. Whenever we shine our lights we are not putting ourselves in the spotlight, but our relationship with Jesus Christ and the work we are called to do in partnering with God to do God’s work of reconciliation in the world. Shining our light is about giving God glory. That glory is the foundation of our stewardship campaign this year.

Our campaign kicks off Sunday, September 29 with “Don’t Waffle On Stewardship” Sunday—a waffle breakfast and stewardship meeting at the 9:15am Sunday School hour in Ascension Hall. At the stewardship meeting, not only will you hear our vision for mission in the upcoming year but will receive a stewardship packet including a pledge card. The campaign lasts for six weeks in which we will spotlight various ministries and persons who are shining our light at Ascension. Look for videos on our social media and Enews as well as bulletin inserts. We will end the campaign on November 3 with Celebration Sunday in which we will bring our pledge cards to church and take them up in a special offering and blessing. Following the service, we will enjoy a jazz brunch to celebrate with our parish family the in-gathering of our gifts and offerings as we recognize all that God has given us and that in the giving back to God we are glorifying him even further.

Shining our light is about living a transformed life. That life is built, in part, on good stewardship. Our stewardship of time and talent is important but our stewardship of money reflects the way we steward what we value most. When our approach to giving of money reflects first fruits, proportional, sacrificial giving it leads to transformation or as Richard Norris said last year, “We get ruirnt in the Lord.” Shining our light is a lot about what we do in the world but it is also about what we are giving.

This year, you will get an invitation to our stewardship kick-off event, “Don’t Waffle On Stewardship” from one of our many canvassers. They will not be asking you for money. Instead, they will simply invite you to our campaign kick-off and then follow up with you to make sure you’ve gotten a stewardship packet. They will also invite you to our Celebration Sunday event on November 3 and follow up with you about turning in a pledge card. Our hope and goal is for every member of Ascension is to feel a part of our church family by participating in Shining Our Light.

Light and Life,
Candice+



Our stewardship team this year consists of:

Stewardship Chair: Henry Weatherly

Co-Chair: Richard Norris

Captains: Andy Akin, Chris Smith, Glenn Sylvest, Lacy Gibson, Laura Brendle, Paul Davis, Scott Bamman, Mildred Wakefield, Jimmy Walter, Richard Cater, Margaret Hunt, Stacia Bailey, Sarah Chandler, Tim Marquardt, Phelps Reid

Our goals for this year's campaign include pledges of \$1.25 million, 75% return of all pledge cards, and 25 new pledge cards. We invite you to prayerfully discern how you might be apart of this year's campaign with us.

Upcoming Stewardship Events:

- * "Don't Waffle on Stewardship" Kick-Off Campaign is Sunday, September 29 at 9:15am
- * "Celebration Sunday" In-gathering of pledge cards and Jazz Brunch on Sunday, November 3

TRANSFORMING GENEROSITY
2019 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE (As of 8/30/19):

171 Pledges totaling \$908,146.00
2019 Pledges Collected To-date: \$549,519.36

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.

Also, have you considered Church of the Ascension in your estate planning? For more information, contact Tracy in the Parish Office.

VESTRY

2019

Scott Bamman,
Senior Warden

Paul Davis

Richard Norris

Chris Smith

2020

Andrew Akin,
Junior Warden

Laura Brendle

Susan Copeland

Henry Weatherly

2021

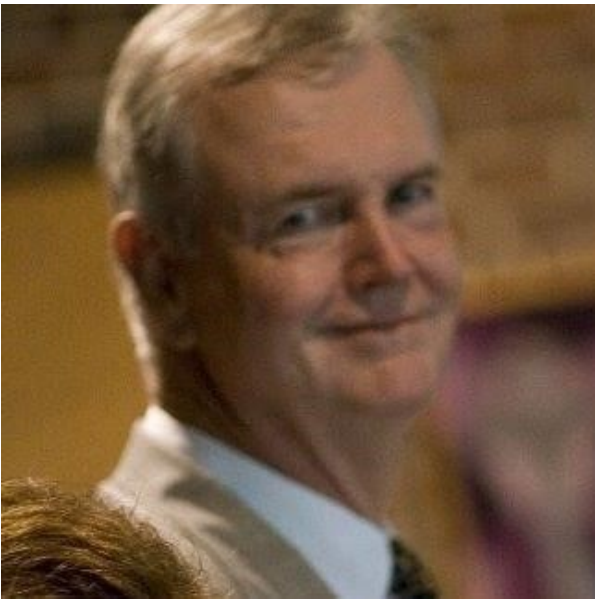
Brittney Calhoun

Lacy Gibson

Mr. Glenn Sylvest

Robert Gould,
Treasurer

Matt Bledsoe,
Clerk of the Vestry

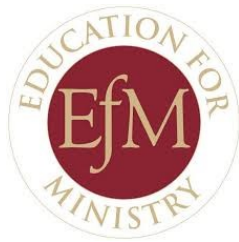


Announcing Ascension's Interim Associate Rector

Rev. John Bagby

The Church of the Ascension is delighted to announce our new interim Associate Rector, Rev. John Bagby. John is a retired priest in the Diocese of Alabama, and has been interim associate at St. John's, Decatur for the past several months. John is married to wife, Nancy, and they live in Birmingham. John is a graduate of the University of Alabama, and did his seminary work at Virginia Theological Seminary.

John will assist with Sunday morning worship and formation beginning Sunday, September 8. Please join in welcoming him that day to the Church of the Ascension.



Come Join Us in Your Spiritual Journey: Education for Ministry (EfM). We meet Wednesday evenings beginning this month to study the Bible, the history of Christianity and Episcopal Theology.

Come join us in this foundational study and discussion that has helped so many broaden and deepen their love and understanding of Christ.

For info, go to www.efm.sewanee.edu. Tuition is \$375, and scholarships are available through Sewanee.

Or contact Brett Hall, EfM Mentor: 334-318-6081 or bretthall@hotmail.com

New in The Vineyard

We are so proud to announce the recipients of the 2018 donations made by The Vineyard:

Ascension Day School, Holy Cross Episcopal School, Foster Kids Christmas, Lunches for Learning, Equal Justice Center (gift), Beans & Rice, Booker T. Washington Fire Relief, Mission Trip to Virgin Islands, and Rosa's Discretionary Fund.

We hope to match and surpass these substantial donations in 2019--but we need your help! Please shop with us for all your gift needs, and Book Club books. Our proceeds go right back into our community and beyond, helping those in need. We hope to see you in The Vineyard soon!

SAT, SEPT 14, 2019

JOIN US FOR THE JOURNEY DAY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
LILA GRAVES, ALABAMA ARTIST

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:
MICHAEL GRAMMAS & PAGE RUBIN - SOBER LIVING
ART & CARIE WIMBERLY- PARENTS OF ADDICTED LOVED ONES
ELIZABETH FIKES - YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES
DR. MIKE WILKERSON - ADDICTION 101
JEFF GILLILAND - THE CRISIS CENTER
RUSS RAINEY - ADDICTION AND SENIORS

WHERE: ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | 3775 CROSSHAVEN DR, VESTAVIA 35227

WHEN: SAT, SEPT 14TH | 9AM - 3PM | **COST:** \$20
REGISTER ONLINE: [BIT.LY/JOURNEYDAY](http://bit.ly/journeyday) OR GET YOUR TIX AT THE DOOR.

MUSIC NOTES

New Music, Memorial Anthems

This time each year, I look at hundreds of anthems, and we choose around 10 new ones that we will offer in worship throughout not only the year to come, but also for many more years.

For me, the process can begin with the sound of the music itself, but most often the text is the element that attracts me initially to a particular anthem. This year, The Ascension Choir will add 4 new Christmas anthems, 4 or 5 new anthems for Sunday morning and other services, and a wonderful collection of music for women's voices by women's composers. A supporter of Music at the Ascension has generously agreed to purchase the music for the Advent Recital that will feature the music for women by women composers, and the following anthems are available for purchase. Parishioners and supporters have in the past purchased music in Thanksgiving or Memory for loved ones or ministries. If any of this music interests you, your contribution will help support Music at the Ascension.

Please contact me if you would like to donate any of the following anthems. beckytaylor@coascension.org or (334) 263-6433.

Christmas Anthems

The following three anthems will form a set of music depicting the worship of the Christmas Angels. They were composed by a young composer that has been popular with The Ascension Choir's Christmas music.

Angel Song II (Will Todd) \$60

This haunting anthem for Christmas portrays a possible sound of the angels singing in the skies over Bethlehem. There is no text and the voices move at their own tempi. The vowel sounds of the word "Hosanna" are present with a gentle melody.

My Lord has come (Will Todd) \$90

Text: *Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels; no place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, for love in heaven; His love will hold me, will cherish me, love will cradle me. Lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels, no place for me but a stable.*

Angels, from the realms of glory

(Will Todd) \$100 The familiar hymn text is set with a peaceful and beautiful tune that calls not only the shepherds at the birth of Jesus but all of us to worship Jesus, the newborn King.

The Bethlehem Star (Bob Chilcott)

\$75 The Gerard Manley Hopkins poetry is set to music especially evocative of the peace of Christmas Eve, imploring God to instill in us the purity and meekness of Jesus. The text may be found at <https://aleteia.org/2018/12/25/gerard-manley-hopkins-christmas-prayer-is-perfect-for-welcoming-christmas/>

Service Anthems

Two classic texts with lovely new settings will grace the music offerings of the choir.

Love bade me welcome (David Hurd) \$60

A sensitive setting of the well-loved George Herbert poetry will become one of our choir's staples over time. The text, which beckons us to feast on God's Love, may be found at: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44367/love-iii>

God be in my head (Philip Wilby)

\$120 This ancient text first appeared in a mid-sixteenth century Sarum Primer and it has appeared in hymnals since as early as 1908, following an anthem setting by Sir Walford Davies, a 19th century Anglican composer. Wilby is the composer of a popular Ascension anthem, *If you love me*.

Becky



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
Patricia T. Guest and her family
Diane Williams
Melanie & Dan Morris
The Family of June Scott
Nell McInnish

THANK YOU TO ALL, ESPECIALLY THIS MONTH, FOR YOUR GENEROUS MEMORIAL GIFTS.

In Memory of Pat Guest

Laura & Michael Luckett
Tina & John Wilson

The Ascension Choir

We need new members!!! Contact Becky for more information!

Ascension Children's Choirs

Ages 3 years through Grade 6
Wednesday evenings, 6 pm

Parents, enjoy dinner and fellowship while your children serve their church!



Episcopal Youth Community



September EYC Events:

9.1 No EYC Labor Day Weekend

9.8 Lunch after church at
Tomatinos

9.15 District Day at Holy
Comforter 2-4:00pm

9.22 Game Night in the Joshua
House 5-7:00

9.29 Axe Throwing TBD



District Day is a fun fall kick-off event hosted in local districts at the beginning of each year to spend time for community building and to promote diocesan youth events for the coming year. Our district's event will be held at Holy Comforter. Open to all and no registration required!

Diocesan Youth Events 2019:

September 15 District Day

November 8-10 Happening #75 Church
of the Nativity, Huntsville

December 28-30 Christmas Conference

HAPPENING is one of those things that must be experienced to be fully understood. During the three-day weekend, the participants spend time seriously considering the person and teaching of Jesus Christ in a relaxed, fun, informal, and loving atmosphere. Open for youth in grades 10-12. **Deadline to apply is Oct 18!!**



For More Information:

Elizabeth McGowin Laura Walter
334-322-4450 334-300-2310
emcgowin3@gmail.com laurawalter7@gmail.com

Children's Ministry

Godly Play (PreK and K) 9:15 Sundays

Teachers: Christine Harrison, Emily Thomas, Tina Waggoner
Sep. 1: Holy Family
Sep. 8: Creation
Sep. 15: Flood
Sep. 22: Great Family
Sep. 29: Exodus

ELEMENTary (1st-2nd) 9:15 Sundays

Teachers: Nan Barganier, Lauren Greene, Mary Lee Yelverton
Sep. 1: Creation
Sep. 8: Tower of Babel
Sep. 15: Abraham and God's Promise
Sep. 22: Abraham and Isaac
Sep. 29: Moses

Children's Church Helpers, 10:30 Sundays

Sep. 1: TBA
Sep. 8: The Calhoun Family
Sep. 15: The Bailey Family
Sep. 22: The Cunningham Family
Sep. 29: Family Eucharist



WEAVING GOD'S PROMISES

for Children



This class is a new offering on **Sundays at 9:15** for kids from **third through fifth grade**. It is published by Church Publishing for kids and teens. This class will meet in the "Art Room" across from Children's Chapel on the third floor. This class will be taught by parent volunteers, and it **starts SEPTEMBER 8!**

Confirmation for Sixth Graders!

Our sixth graders, joined by other middle schoolers who have not yet been confirmed, to prepare for confirmation this May. Clark Waggoner, Mandy Monson, and Steve Frazer are teaching the class. It meets in the Bethel Room on the Third Floor. If you haven't received emails from Clark, please let Tiffany or Clark know ASAP.



SECOND WEDNESDAYS AT THE TOWER
SEPTEMBER 8, 3:30-5:30

TO: All Children 1st-6th grades

MISSION: Meet every second Wednesday of the month in front of the church's Tower for some fun and formation.

THEME: This year's theme is "A Night a the Movies" ending with a red-carpet Gala Eucharist on our last meeting in May.

WATCH: **MOANA** with your family before attending!



Family Bowling Party @ Bowlero, September 22, 3:00 - 5:00

Instead of movie night we are going to try something new! Lets meet at the Bowling Alley, put up some bumpers, and knock down some pins! **RSVP to Tiffany by September 19**, so we can get enough lanes for everyone! Awards will be given to extraordinary bowlers/teams.