

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.

## HOLY WEEK

### Palm Sunday, March 25

8:00am Passion Narrative and Eucharist  
9:15am Palm Cross folding in Ascension Hall  
10:00am Liturgy of the of Palms in Sundial Garden,  
Passion Narrative and Eucharist

### Weekdays in Holy Week

12:05pm Holy Eucharist in Chapel

### Maundy Thursday

12:05pm Healing Eucharist in Chapel  
5:30pm Eucharist and Ritual Stripping of the Altar in Nave

### Good Friday

12:05pm Good Friday Liturgy in the Nave  
5:30pm Stations of the Cross in the Nave

### Holy Saturday

9:00am Holy Saturday Liturgy in the Chapel



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Church of the Ascension

April 2019

# The Tower

## TRIDUUM

As humans we mark time in several ways. Birthdays, Anniversaries, and New Year's Day are a few of the ways we mark time according to the calendar. Most everyone I know has some sort of device or watch in which they mark the time of day. We also mark time through significant events like D-day or Pearl Harbor for older generations and 9/11 for younger ones. We may even mark time by the acquisition of possessions—when we bought a house or what dog we had at the time.

As Christians we have a few ways of marking time as well. But the main way we mark time is by the liturgical year. Christmas is always on a set date, December 25, and four Sundays before that is the start of Advent. Advent is the beginning of a new year in the Christian calendar and thus we always begin our year oriented to the anticipation and expectation of Christ's incarnation and second coming. The rest of the year is oriented by the date of Easter. Ash Wednesday is 46 days before Easter and the Day of Pentecost is 50 days after. Though Christmas begins our church year, the rest of our year is oriented around Jesus's resurrection. It makes sense if you think about it, the two dates that anchor our church year are significant to the two theological con-

cepts we value most—incarnation and resurrection—and though these two dates keep us anchored in a broad sense to church time, there are other, more detailed ways we mark time as well.

One of those detailed means of marking time is triduum. Triduum is the three-day liturgical observance of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It begins with Maundy Thursday through Good Friday and ends with The Great Vigil of Easter. It marks the time from the Last Supper to the Empty Tomb. The readings on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday both come from John and offer us theological insight as well as tell the story. The Easter readings reflect whichever lectionary cycle year we are currently reading (this year is C, so we will read Luke). The retelling of this story helps us to remember the most significant event of the Christian faith. The retelling of this story within the context of the triduum, invites us to do more than simply remember, but to re-embody the story in life-giving and inspired ways.

Holy Week is designed to draw us into the story of Jesus's death and salvific act. In trying to help people embrace the sense of Holy Week's importance, Palm Sunday is a reminder not only of Jesus's triumphal entry but immediately points us to his death. In many ways, that is a helpful arrangement

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## CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Candice Frazer  
*Rector*

The Rev. Mark Waldo  
*Rector Emeritus*

Rebecca Taylor  
*Organist/Choirmaster*

Tiffany Nishibun  
*Children's Ministries*

Laura Walter  
*Youth Coordinator*

Tracy Hinton-Adams  
*Parish Administrator*

Jessica James  
*Communications*

Will McQueen  
*Facilities Manager*

Octavio Gomez-Jimenez  
*Housekeeping*

Ryan Hall  
*Housekeeping*

as we connect Jesus's entry into Jerusalem with the events that will bring about his death. In other ways, it is not as helpful, we are not drawn into the build-up of the Jesus experience in Jerusalem instead presenting the events as a rapid succession, immediacy that disconnects us from the more measured build-up as Jesus interacts with the people, his disciples, and the political authority. The observance of the triduum is a correction to this dilemma. It allows us to take our time in observance of each of the major movements that lead to Jesus's death and resurrection.

By observing the movements of the triduum, we not only hear the story, we allow it to soak into us and deeply entrench itself into our understanding and experience of Jesus. That immersion is the way we begin to embody the story. As sensual people, that embodiment is known through the sensory participation we experience in the liturgy. The stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday helps us to strip our own souls in preparation of the grief and joy to come. The bareness of the Good Friday liturgy with its prayers and Passion narrative encourage our grief as we take on Christ's sufferings, reminding us that life is not meant to be only happiness but a blend of pain and joy that we navigate in hopes of finding peace. Finally, The Great Vigil of Easter begins in darkness and despair, our hopes have been depleted, our joy is remiss, and yet a new light is sparked and begins to spread. In our hearts we begin to wonder if it is even possible and then as the light continues to emerge our hopes are renewed and all that was lost is found. We turn all the lights on in the church, ring bells, and shout our Alleluias—Jesus Christ has risen today!

Too often liturgy becomes static for us because when the right becomes rote it goes wrong. Liturgy is designed for renewal of life, it is to encourage and engage us in the Jesus movement. All the words and actions are there, but we have to get involved; we have to embody the liturgy as an act of worship, as the means of deepening our relationship with our Lord and Savior. Triduum is an opportunity to remind ourselves of that—of how vital our communal worship is in telling the experien-

tial story of Jesus Christ. Part of the church's responsibility is to tell the story; to go out and make disciples of Jesus Christ. No one is going to want to listen, much less buy into a story that has no feeling. We can tell the short version, the Palm Sunday version and do a good job in the telling; but to truly embody that story, to understand that story in all of its power and possibility we must do more than tell it, we must experience it. That is the opportunity the triduum provides.

This Holy Week we will tell that story in all of its power and glory starting with Maundy Thursday at 5:30pm. Though we won't enact the foot washing, there are several churches in the area who will, including Grace, Mt. Meiggs at 7pm. We will continue our observance of triduum on Good Friday at 12:05. The Great Vigil of Easter concludes Holy Week at 7:35pm on Saturday night with the Encore! men's musical group. Keeping with ancient custom, the new day begins at sundown which is why we can celebrate our Easter joy on Saturday night instead of having to wait until Sunday morning.

We tell the story every year from Palm Sunday through Easter; the triduum helps us to embody that story making it part of us and giving it life year after year. That is what it means to mark time—not simply checking off day after day, year after year as life moves onward but recognizing the milestones and giving them meaning through there joyous celebration and reverent observance. That is what Jesus makes us responsible for—not simply telling the story but living into the story year after year, lifetime after lifetime as the Kingdom of God expands upon the earth.

Light and Life,  
Candice+



## Be the Light!

### *Lighting for Special Services*

If you came to the Advent Procession or the Epiphany service, you saw the beautiful up-lights that we rented. The cost of each light is \$200. We would like to buy 10 of these lights, which will be used for a wide variety of services.

Would you like to sponsor a light? If so, send your donation to Tracy, marked "Special Lighting."

***Easter Vigil***  
*Saturday, April 20*  
*7:35 pm*  
*Bring a bell*  
*Incense will be offered*

***Easter Sunday***  
*Rite I Eucharist 7:30am*  
*Children's Festival Eucharist 9:00am*  
*Festival Eucharist 11am*



## TRANSFORMING GENEROSITY

2019 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE (As of 3/28/19):

**171 Pledges totaling \$908,146.00**  
**2019 Pledges Collected To-date: \$310,990.11**

Thank you to those who have made a pledge! If you have not done so, pledge envelopes are available in the Parish Office or you can contact Tracy at [thinton@coascension.org](mailto:thinton@coascension.org). 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.

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  
Sissy Speirs  
Mr. Glenn Sylvest

Robert Gould,  
*Treasurer*

Matt Bledsoe,  
*Clerk of the Vestry*



# EASTER HAPPENINGS

**Easter Dinner**  
Sunday, April 21 following 11:00am Service  
\$40 per person

Church of the Ascension will host Easter Dinner prepared by Cara Coreale and Brett Hall following the 11:00 am Easter Festival Eucharist. The abundant feast includes refreshment time followed by a buffet, \$40 per adult. Please make checks payable to Church of the Ascension, marked "Easter Dinner."

For more information and reservations, contact the church office at (334) 263-5529.



**Parish Work Day**  
**Saturday, April 13**  
**8:00am**

Please join us for our annual Parish Work Day on Saturday, April 13 at 8:00am. While there's plenty of work to be done outside, we'll also have palm folding and other "inside" tasks, as well. Sam is set to grill his annual Parish Work Day lunch, so make plans to join us!

**EASTER FLOWERS & DECORATION**  
**ENVELOPES NOW IN PEWS**  
**DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 15**

Each Easter season, Ascension offers the opportunity to remember loved ones through donations to the flower fund, which provides flowers and other decorations in the Church for Easter services.

If you wish to make a donation to this fund, please complete the information on the provided envelopes and make checks payable to Altar Guild-Church of the Ascension (earmark for Easter Flowers).

## Calling All Cooks!

Every Sunday morning through the Sunday School year, we serve a good ole Southern breakfast of bacon and eggs, sausage and grits, with yummy, fluffy biscuits. And we need YOU to help in the kitchen!

We are recruiting breakfast teams of four persons minimum, six maximum, to help out in the kitchen on Sunday mornings. Our goal is to recruit ten teams. Each team would serve four times a year on a rotating basis. The church buys the groceries needed for breakfast, you just cook and serve! It's a great way to fellowship with one another and have some fun (and Candice will even give you a pass on church that day!).

Contact the church office to sign up your team. Don't have a team? No worries! Contact the church office and we will help place you on one.



## Pew Pals

Totes filled with Godly and quiet activities for your child to enjoy during church services.

Available at the Vineyard Bookstore

# MUSIC NOTES

## The Ascension Choir

A Facebook meme today has me thinking about music and worship. It is a Jascha Heifetz (the great violinist) and it says: "Practice like it means everything in the world to you. Perform like you don't give a damn."

Have you ever considered that experiencing worship requires both sides of your brain? Some people are engaged only with the Sermon and some people care most about the music, but our complex and beautifully crafted liturgies bring us together week after week to acknowledge God's goodness, engaging our bodies and our spirits, our minds and our souls.



Becky

I think our worship is like that. We pay attention, listen, read, even do our 'pew aerobics,' but at some point, probably during a hymn or anthem or at the altar rail, we can become "lost in wonder love and praise," as the great hymn "Love divine, all loves excelling" prompts us. God says that He is "I AM," that which is beyond our labelling and explaining and understanding. And that is one of the things that music and good liturgy can do for us: bring us to that place that is beyond ourselves, to God. I am thankful that we get to do this work together.

We talk about this often in choir, although not specifically. But in order for any musical performance to be meaningful to the performer and to the audience, there has to be both elements of musical skill and letting go to allow our highest selves to 'take over' and allow the music that we 'perform' to accomplish what it will.



## 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

### In Thanksgiving

Tim Vaught

### In Memory of John Thomas

Vaught and Mae Mitchell

Vaught

Ann C. Carmichael

### In Memory of Geoffrey

Sherman

Karen and Marvin Campbell

### In Memory of Ray Rawlings

Karen and Marvin Campbell



# Episcopal Youth Community

DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Join us for our next adventure! All youth in grades 7 to 12 are welcome to come anytime!

## Upcoming EYC Events

4.14 EYC, 5:30 PM, details coming

5.5 Youth Sunday

## YOUTH Sunday is May 5

All youth will participate in the service and we will honor our graduating seniors. We will have lunch after the service. Please plan to attend!

## Serve as Staff at Sawyerville Summer Camp

Sawyerville Summer Camp is a free day camp for children and youth ages 6-14 living in Hale County. At camp, kids hear Bible stories, create art, make music, play sports, learn to swim, and enjoy a breakfast, lunch, and snack. The staff are high school and college age young people ages 16 and up and come from all over the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama and the local community. Sessions are June 1-7, 15-21, 22-28. Deadline for staff applications is March 10. For more info: <https://www.sawyervilledaycamp.org>

## Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell! Summer camp registration is now open

**PRIMARY I** (1st-3rd grade w/ adult) MAY 24-26

**ELEMENTARY II** (4th-5th grade) MAY 29-JUN 2

**MIDDLER CAMP** (5th-6th grade) JUN 5-JUN 10

**SOPHOMORE CAMP** (8th-9th grade) JUN 14-22

**JUNIOR HIGH I** (6th-7th grade) JUN 25-JUL 1

**SENIOR CAMP** (10th-12th grade) JUL 6-15

**JUNIOR HIGH II** (7th-8th grade) JUL 19-26

**ELEMENTARY I** (3rd-4th grade) JUL 28-JUL 31

**YOUTH FOLK CAMP** (5th-12th grade) JUL 28-31

**PRIMARY II** (1st-3rd grade w/ adult) AUG 2-4

### BETHANY'S KIDS:

**CAMPER BUDDY** (10th grade-high school grads) JUN 5-9

**CAMPERS** (4th-8th grade w/ AND w/out disabilities) JUN 6-9

Grade based on entering Fall 2019



Register at:  
<https://campmcdowell.com>

# Children's Ministry

## Godly Play Teachers (PreK and K)

9:15 Sundays, Third Floor

April 7 - Christine Harrison and Allison Jones  
Faces of Easter

April 14 - Meet in Ascension Hall to make palm crosses for the Liturgy of the palms at 10:00am in the Sundial Garden.

April 21 - No Sunday School, Easter

April 28 - Christine Harrison and Allison Jones  
Faces of Easter

## ELEMENTary Teachers (1st-6th)

9:15 Sundays, Third Floor

April 7 - Nan Barganier and Lauren Greene  
Jesus and Me

April 14 - Meet in Ascension Hall to make palm crosses for the Liturgy of the palms at 10:00am in the Sundial Garden.

April 21 - No Sunday School, Easter

April 28 - Mary Lee Yelverton and Lauren Greene  
I am the Resurrection and Life

## Children's Church Helpers, 10:15 Sundays

April 7 - The Bledsoe Family

April 14 - The Sheehan Family

April 21 - No children's Church, Family Eucharist at 9AM for Easter Sunday followed by Egg Hunt.

April 28 - The Liveoak Family

Children's choirs meet Wednesdays at 6:00

Family Dinner starts at 5:15 with a max cost of \$15 per family.

## Dates to remember....

Child Care is offered for every evening offering of Liturgy in Holy Week.

April 13 - 8:00am Church Work Day, 10:00am Bunny Assistance (stuffing Easter eggs, all are welcome!)

April 14 - PALM SUNDAY, Make crosses at 9:15 in Ascension Hall, Liturgy of the Palms at 10:00am in the Sundial Garden followed by Eucharist and Children's Church

April 21 - EASTER 9:00am Family Eucharist. Nursery provided for children 3 and younger. Egg hunt immediately following.

## Kids in Church?....



We have started providing some materials to help you children engage in each service. Through Lent we are experimenting with keeping our young worshipers with us until the gospel reading is finished. You will find some activity kits for them in the narthex. These materials are not meant as distractions, to keep the kids quiet, rather these materials are to help kids sustain their attention and keep them involved in church. If you are interested in reading more about how to involve children in the

fullness of worship. Candice has recommended this book, *Parenting in the Pew*, to offer us some pointers about how kids can be a part of worship.



Children's Bulletins from Illustrated Children's Ministry will be available to children during the 10:15 service starting in the season of Lent. There is also a color sheet in the green activities bag that is similar in style. This website also has some good family devotions for the seasons for a small cost to download.

## Sunday School Olympics FOR ALL AGES

May 19, 9:15 To end a great year of Sunday School all groups will join together for some fun and a little friendly competition! Let the games BEGIN!



## Vacation Bible School June 3-6, 8:30am - Noon @ St. John's

This year St. John's will host VBS. We will look at the story of Joseph and God's Faithfulness to Joseph despite many difficult times in his life! We will also "grow our faith" while exploring farms and gardens around the River Region. Remember that even though we are not the hosts, we still need the support of Ascensions AWESOME volunteers! You'll receive more information in the spring, but keep these dates open for our kids to have a great experience! Registration available online (see children's ministry FB group) or by contacting Tiffany.