Church of the Ascension

315 Clanton Avenue Montgomery, AL 36104

www.coascension.org

Phone: 334-263-5529

BULK MAIL RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH OF THE **ASCENSION**

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

HOLY WEEK

Non-profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 18

Montgomery, Ala

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



Church of the Ascension

April 2019



The Tower

TRIDUUM

al ways. Birthdays, Anniversaries, in a broad sense to church time, the ways we mark time according ways we mark time as well. to the calendar. Most everyone I One of those detailed means of know has some sort of device or marking time is triduum. Triduum watch in which they mark the time is the three-day liturgical obof day. We also mark time through servance of the death and resursignificant events like D-day or rection of Jesus Christ. It begins Pearl Harbor for older generations with Maundy Thursday through and 9/11 for younger ones. We Good Friday and ends with The may even mark time by the acqui- Great Vigil of Easter. It marks the sition of possessions—when we time from the Last Supper to the bought a house or what dog we Empty Tomb. The readings on had at the time.

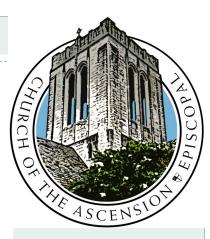
As Christians we have a few ways day both come from John and ofof marking time as well. But the fer us theological insight as well as main way we mark time is by the tell the story. The Easter readings liturgical year. Christmas is al- reflect whichever lectionary cycle ways on a set date, December 25, year we are currently reading (this and four Sundays before that is the year is C, so we will read Luke). start of Advent. Advent is the be- The retelling of this story helps us ginning of a new year in the Chris- to remember the most significant tian calendar and thus we always event of the Christian faith. The begin our year oriented to the an- retelling of this story within the ticipation and expectation of context of the triduum, invites us Christ's incarnation and second to do more than simply remember, coming. The rest of the year is ori- but to re-embody the story in lifeented by the date of Easter. Ash giving and inspired ways. Wednesday is 46 days before East- Holy Week is designed to draw us er and the Day of Pentecost is 50 into the story of Jesus's death and days after. Though Christmas begins our church year, the rest of ple embrace the sense of Holy our year is oriented around Jesus's Week's importance, Palm Sunday resurrection. It makes sense if you is a reminder not only of Jesus's think about it, the two dates that triumphal entry but immediately anchor our church year are signifipoints us to his death. In many

cepts we value most-incarnation and resurrection-and though As humans we mark time in sever- these two dates keep us anchored and New Year's Day are a few of there are other, more detailed

Maundy Thursday and Good Fri-

cant to the two theological con- ways, that is a helpful arrangement

Continued on page 2



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Music Notes	
EYC 4	
Children's Ministry 5	
Easter Happenings 6	
Be the Light7	
Holy Week Schedule 8	

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

dilemma. It allows us to take our time in ob- portunity the triduum provides. servance of each of the major movements that lead to Jesus's death and resurrection.

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 joy to come. The bareness of the Good Friday liturgy with its prayers and Passion narrative We tell the story every year from Palm Sunday ferings, reminding us that life is not meant to body that story making it part of us and giving be only happiness but a blend of pain and joy it life year after year. That is what it means to that we navigate in hopes of finding peace. mark time-not simply checking off day after Finally, The Great Vigil of Easter begins in day, year after year as life moves onward but 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 makes us responsible for—not simply telling we begin to wonder if it is even possible and the story but living into the story year after then as the light continues to emerge our year, lifetime after lifetime as the Kingdom of hopes are renewed and all that was lost is God expands upon the earth. found. We turn all the lights on in the church, ring bells, and shout our Alleluias-Jesus Christ has risen today!

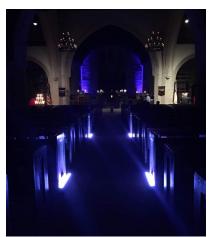
Too often liturgy becomes static for us because when the right becomes rote it goes wrong. Liturgy is designed for renewal of life, it is to encourage and engage us in the Jesus movement. All the words and actions are there, but we have to get involved; we have to embody the liturgy as an act of worship, 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-

as we connect Jesus's entry into Jerusalem tial story of Jesus Christ. Part of the church's with the events that will bring about his death. responsibility is to tell the story; to go out and In other ways, it is not as helpful, we are not make disciples of Jesus Christ. No one is godrawn into the build-up of the Jesus experiing to want to listen, much less buy into a stoence in Jerusalem instead presenting the ry that has no feeling. We can tell the short events as a rapid succession, immediacy that version, the Palm Sunday version and do a disconnects us from the more measured build good job in the telling; but to truly embody -up as Jesus interacts with the people, his dis- that story, to understand that story in all of its ciples, and the political authority. The ob- power and possibility we must do more than servance of the triduum is a correction to this tell it, we must experience it. That is the op-

This Holy Week we will tell that story in all of its power and glory starting with Maundy By observing the movements of the triduum, 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 immersion is the way we begin to embody the Vigil of Easter concludes Holy Week at story. As sensual people, that embodiment is 7:35pm on Saturday night with the Encore! known through the sensory participation we men's musical group. Keeping with ancient experience in the liturgy. The stripping of the custom, the new day begins at sundown which altar on Maundy Thursday helps us to strip is why we can celebrate our Easter joy on Satour own souls in preparation of the grief and urday night instead of having to wait until Sunday morning.

encourage our grief as we take on Christ's suf- through Easter; the triduum helps us to emrecognizing the milestones and giving them meaning through there joyous celebration and reverent observance. That is what Jesus

> 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.

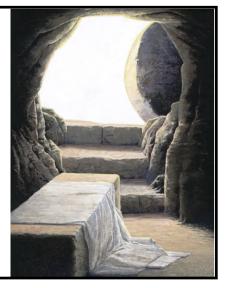
Would you like to sponsor a light? If so, send your donation to Tracy, marked "Special Lighting."

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



Egg Hunt Easter Day Following the 9am service

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. 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 fol-

lowing 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).

Pew Pals

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

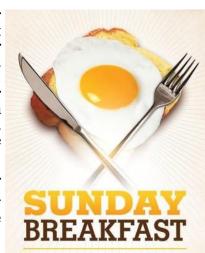
Available at the Vineyard Bookstore

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.



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.

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.

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.



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



Becky

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

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

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

BETHANY'S KIDS:

Grade based on entering Fall 2019

CAMPER BUDDY (10th grade-high school grads) JUN 5-9 CAMPERS (4th-8th grade w/AND w/out disabilities) JUN 6-9

Reaister at: https://campmcdowell.com

Children's Ministry

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

Godly Play Teachers (PreK and K) 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

April 21 - No Sunday School, Easter

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

April 28 - The Liveoak Family

Children's Church Helpers, 10:15 Sundays

April 7 - The Bledsoe Family

April 14 - The Sheehan Family

April 21 - No children's Church,

Sunday followed by Egg Hunt.

Family Eucharist at 9AM for Easter

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?....

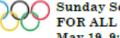


We have started providing some materials to help you children engage in each service. Through Lent we are experimenting with keeping our young worshipers with us until the gospel reading is finished. You will find some activity kits for them in the narthex. These materials are not meant as distractions, 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.