

Church of the
Ascension
315 Clanton Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

www.coascension.org

Phone: 334-263-5529

BULK MAIL

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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.



Trick or Treat Parade

October 28 at Dusk

In the Back Parking Lot

Contact Tiffany to let her know you are participating—
either if you're going to be a “thrower,” or if you need
some sidewalk reserved for your family.

Tiffany@coascension.org or 334-717-7025

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!!!!

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Church of the Ascension

October 2020

The Tower

Confirmation

When I was sixteen, my best friend started wearing a ring with a cross cut into it. (You may know this ring as a James Avery cross ring.) I loved the ring and the subtle, yet intentional, manner in which my friend professed his faith. For years I would wear that ring or a necklace with a cross on it as a profession of my own faith.

There are other ways in which we profess our faith. Each week we profess our faith with the words of the Nicene or Apostle's Creed in the course of the liturgy. It serves as a reminder to what we believe, not just on Sunday or at church, but everyday and everywhere. For many of us, that profession of faith has been part of our experience since we were little as we were born and raised in a creedal church. For others, that may be something new to their experience either because their Christian experience didn't include such professions or because they weren't brought up as Christian. Regardless, the expression of our faith through the words of a Creed are an anchor to that which we believe.

For many of us, the profession of faith serves as a reminder not only of what we believe but also of what we have committed our life too—following the way of Jesus Christ. As baptized individuals, we are accepted into the greater community of the church—regardless if that baptism was as a baby or an adult. When we are older, we are invited “to make a public affirmation of [our] faith and commitment to the responsibilities of [our] Baptism in the presence of a

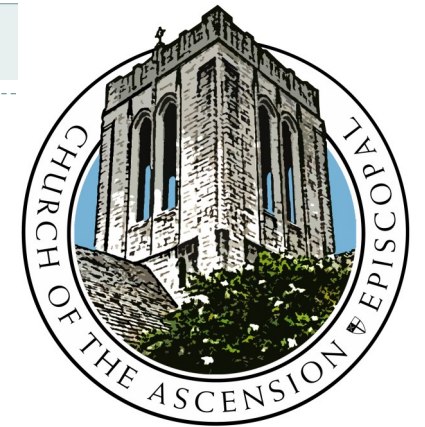
bishop and to receive the laying on of hands” (BCP 412) through the sacrament of Confirmation.

Through Confirmation we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit. That renewed commitment and the strength given us is in order for us to participate in the mission of the Church—the way we partner with God and one another to do God's work of reconciliation in the world. To be a confirmed, creed-professing Christian is to understand and approach our faith not from a place of sinners in need of redemption, but as a recognition that we are beloved children of God. Our belovedness as God's children is then what motivates and inspires us to live the Christian way, to live the way of love. As our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry likes to say, “If it ain't about love, it ain't about God.”

God's love for us is what we profess and affirm when we are Confirmed or Received into the Church. It is what we remember whenever we profess the words of our faith through The Apostle's or Nicene Creed. It is what we remember and participate in when we receive the sacrament—any sacrament. You and I are loved by God—none of us more than others yet all of us more than we deserve. There is nothing that can separate us from that love. When we affirm our faith, we affirm that love, and we are empowered by that love to love one another.

At our outdoor service Sunday, September 13, twenty-seven youth and adults affirmed that love

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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

Tracy Hinton-Adams
Parish Administrator

Jessica James
Communications

Laura Walter
Special Events

Will McQueen
Facilities Manager

Octavio Gomez-Jimenez
Housekeeping

Ryan Hall
Housekeeping



through Confirmation and Reception in the Church. Bishop G laid hands on many heads that day as an intercessor on their behalf to the Holy Spirit—asking for strength, empowerment, and sustenance that each would be in God’s service. As Christians, the faith we affirm is not simply in word, it is through our actions and service in doing kingdom work.

I give thanks for our newest confirmed members and all of those who partner with God, with Ascension, and with one another to continue to shine the light of Christ in our little corner of the kingdom.

Light and Life,
Candice+



Memorial Donations Received in September

In Memory of Sug Keene:
Laura & Mike Luckett

In Memory of Melissa Jackson:
Sallie Millsap

In Memory of Philip Rawlings, Jr.:
Laura & Mike Luckett

SHINING OUR LIGHT 2020 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE (As of 9/30/2020):

169 Pledges totaling \$940,148.00
2020 Pledges Collected To-date:
\$673,329.57

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.

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.

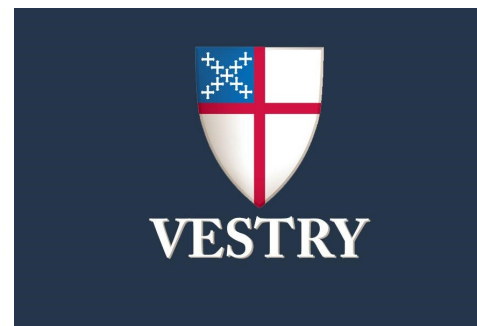
Thank you to all who support the Clergy Discretionary Fund:

Sustainers: Hattie Boo and Frank Johnston
Minnie Lee and Richard Gill
Winnie and Charles Stokely
Nancy and Lee Ellis
Anonymous

NEW in The Vineyard!

Mother of pearl cross necklaces:
Gold chain, \$32. Silver chain, \$25.

Contact Libby at vineyardcota@aol.com to arrange a shopping time, or she is happy to deliver to you. You can also follow the Vineyard Bookstore on Instagram for specials!



VESTRY NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN, October 1-31

The Vestry is responsible for making decisions regarding the operations of the church such as the budget and building and grounds. They are informed by various ministries of the church

and share in the work and ministry of the church in intentional ways.

The Vestry is a group of twelve elected members, the clergy, treasurer, and clerk. Elected members are elected annually to serve for a three-year term. Each class is made up of four members elected at the Annual Meeting each year.

Vestry meets the last Tuesday of each month and goes on a weekend retreat once a year.

If you are interested in running for Vestry or would like to nominate someone, please contact the church office for a nomination form. For more information on what it is like to serve on the Vestry, contact a current member of the Vestry. To be eligible to run, you must be sixteen years or older, a confirmed member of Ascension, and known by the treasurer. Contact the Church Office for Nomination Forms.

VESTRY

2020

Andrew Akin,
Senior Warden
Laura Brendle
Susan Copeland
Henry Weatherly

2021

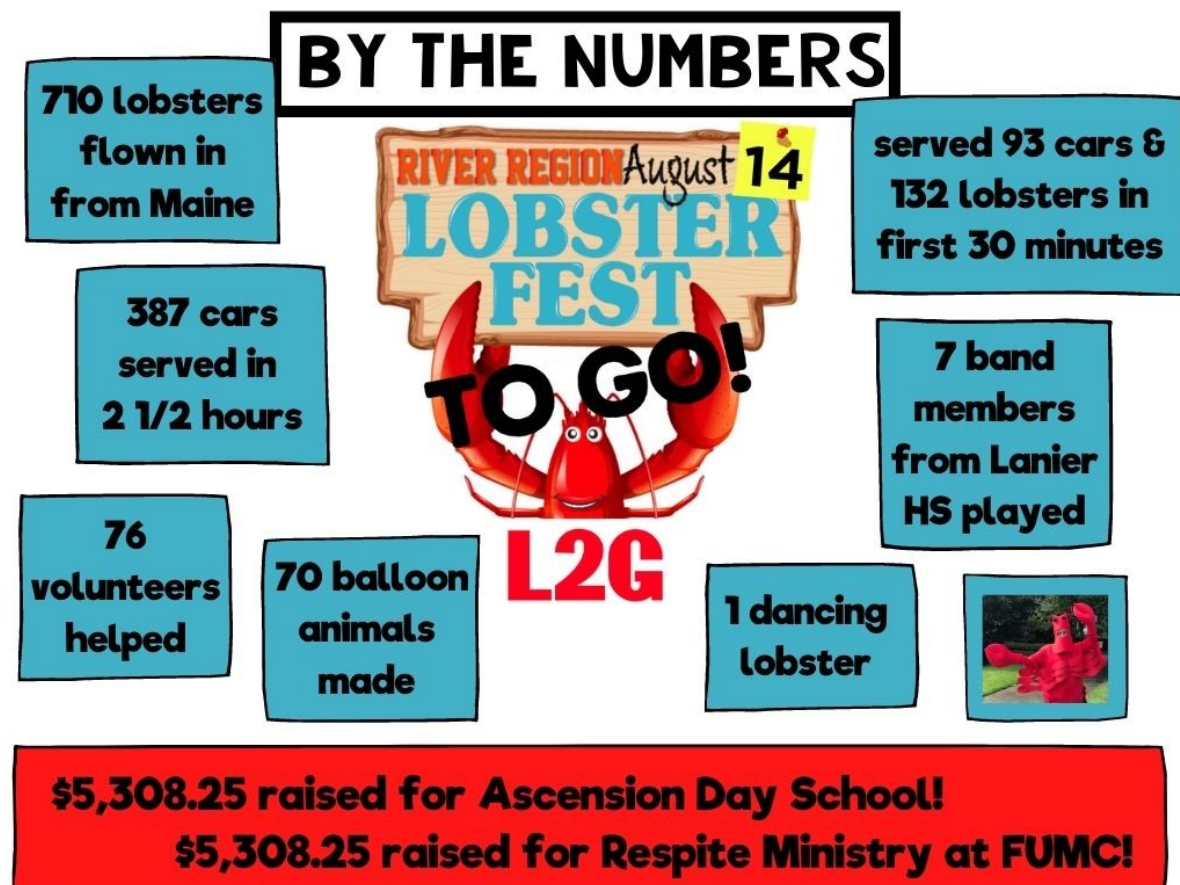
Mr. Glenn Sylvest,
Junior Warden
Brittney Calhoun
Lacy Gibson
Nick Mielke

2022

Elizabeth Conner
Frank Johnston
Gil Steindorff
Peter Waldo

Robert Gould,
Treasurer

Matt Bledsoe,
Clerk of the Vestry



Children's Ministry

TRUNK OR TREAT = MASK-ER-ADE OCTOBER 28, @ DUSK

This year instead of our ordinary trunk or treat, we will have socially distance sections of the sidewalk surrounding the church marked out for families to stand in. Then cars, decorate or not will drive down S. Hull, Clanton and McDonough, throwing treats and candy from their vehicles at the kids. Kind of like a Mardi Gras parade!!

Families with kids — wear your costumes, bring your jack-o-lanterns and come collect some sweet treats from your church family

EVERYONE — get in your car and pelt the children with sweet treats on this fun occasion.

Contact Tiffany to let her know you are participating—Either if your going to be a thrower, or if you need some side walk reserved for your family. Tiffany@coascension.org or 334-717-7025 © HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!!



Brown Bags will go out OCTOBER 11
and will have lessons leading through the season of All Saints

Please let Tiffany know if you'd like a Brown Bag for your household so enough materials can be ordered and prepared. Email: tiffany@coascension.org

Brown Bags are available for pick up after the outdoor service or arrangements can be made for delivery or pick up.

From the Archives...

Dear Friends,

I feel that it is time for a funny story from "Bubber." Bubber Patton was the previous Archivist, and a long time and very active member of the Church of the Ascension. The following is taken from a series of recorded interviews in preparation of our one hundred anniversary book, "The Church of the Ascension, A Resurrection Story." Mr. Patton was interviewed by Lynn Willoughby, the author of the book.

"Beatin' the Heat"

Well, I can remember that the Church was not air-conditioned back in those days, and in the summertime, it would get awfully hot. And I can remember that we had huge oscillating fans in the sanctuary behind the altar rail. There were two big fans up there, one on the Gospel side and one on the Epistle side. Mr. McDonald (rector from 1919-1946) was known -when it was so hot- to take his pants off. Of course you could not see that under his vestments. One Sunday, one of the fans blew open the lower part of his cassock and there were his old bony legs. Mr. McDonald quickly whipped the cassock back in place, but we people who were kneeling down at the altar rail or standing up near the altar could see what happened. A lot of people don't know about that, but I remember quite vividly seeing it happen. Mr. Pearce McDonald was a quite dignified man, and would never have spoken of this occurrence, but now that he is gone, I hope he doesn't come back to haunt me for telling that story.

Thanks for this little chuckle, dear Bubber.

MUSIC NOTES

Sing to the Lord a new song

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

As a musician in the church, one can feel as though ministry is only to the people who are hearing the music, the congregations at services, the audience for concerts. But music in worship is much more than just the immediate effect and inspiration of the present moment in worship.

The introductory quote above from our Confirmation vows expresses an important aspect of the importance of music in our spiritual lives. This is not to be a scientific statement, but we have learned in the fairly recent past that all matter is at its most basic level is energy, much like sound waves, and music by its very nature touches places in human beings that are universal, that are common to all creation, that represent our oneness, our sameness, our I AM. Music seeks out the Christ in us, the one Body, the stuff of all creation. Rather than directing ministry (which anthem texts can do), music can touch a place that also teaches us who we are and what the purposes for which we have been created are, indeed the things to which we are called immediately.

And so, the music that we share can be a sharing of our very selves. My joy can become your exaltation, my grief can be your comfort, my passion can be your charge, and my love can be your ministry. And in the appreciation or listening to the music, the gift is returned to the giver in the same way.

Through the music of a person who is called to the ministry of music, we do indeed seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves. If you are called to this ministry, contact us. We will sing together again soon, and very soon!

—Becky Taylor



All Saints' Day

November 1, 2020

A Service of Remembrance

I mean to be one, too.

On All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 1, 2020, we will post a service in remembrance of those that have died. The service will offer readings, prayers and music in varied locations from around the Montgomery Convocation of the Diocese of Alabama, where clergy and singers from many of those congregations will read and sing.

If you would like for the names of departed loved ones to be read at the service, please call the church office ASAP (334 263-5529) or email beckytaylor@coascension.org. If you leave a message, please spell out the names to be submitted carefully. **DEADLINE: October 25.**

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. Especially for gifts from the following:

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

Confirmation

Welcome, Confirmands!



Clark, Tina & Erin Waggoner



Christopher Dudley



April & Walter McKay



Bryan Reeves



Ryan Coker



Mary Daniel Rives



Amy Jenkins



Lucy Calhoun



Alyssa Eason & Jody McCormick



**Karen Swanson, and
Caitlin & Bill Talbot**



Grayson Dickert



Morgan & Stephen Gunter

Not pictured:
Davis Dickert



Cristina & Spencer Cadden



Margie Anne Prescott



Harper & Lily Mielke



Collins Liveoak



Kayla Bledsoe