

The Tower

THE LEFTOVERS

When I was in seminary, our pastoral care professor spent a good deal of time talking with us about the importance and priority of nurturing our relationship with God. She warned us of the potential of distractions becoming the primary focus of our ministry and subjugating God to lesser status below the needs of our parishioners, administrative and pastoral focus, even our families. She reminded us that God deserved the best of us and that we should be intentional about taking the best of who we are and giving that back to God first before giving to all the others aspects of ministry that would compete for our attention. Those words resonated with me and continue to percolate in my brain as I discover their continued truth in various aspects of my life. At the time, I thought my pastoral care professor was simply alluding to prayer time, but now I think that she was alluding to so much more.

I am at my best first thing in the morning. I do my best writing; I work out harder; I feel refreshed, replenished, and ready to go when I get up in the morning. I am often tempted to take time away from my prayer life to focus on things I need to get accomplished. Many mornings I realize I can either do my devotion reading and twenty-minute centering prayer time or I could go to the gym, respond to emails, write my newsletter articles, work on calendar planning, clean the house, get laundry going,

you get the idea. In those times, I find that even when I do make the “right” choice and focus on my morning spiritual discipline, I am often still distracted and attempting to will the time to move at a faster rate instead of truly focusing on God and nurturing my spirituality. If I’ve slept in or feel an unusual amount of weight pressing down on me from other obligations, my spiritual life suffers because my focus isn’t truly on God—instead I am just giving him the leftovers.

That leads me to wonder where else in my life I give God the leftovers instead of the first fruits. In Deuteronomy 26:1-11, we are instructed that the tithe is not simply 10% but the first of the fruit the land produces. Most of the time, the first check Steve and I write on payday is to the church as a way of giving our “first fruits”. But that is not always the case. There are times we forget or get too busy and don’t think about writing a check to the church in the middle of the week. On those weeks, we are often scrambling to find the check book on Sunday morning or just give up and I hand a check to Tracy on Monday morning. I might have given to the church, but I haven’t truly participated in the communal offering on Sunday morning that supports the work of transforming “me” to “we” when it comes to my spiritual life. Nor have I lived into the biblical call to offer to God the first of the produce gifted to me by God—an even more transformational pro-

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Church of the Ascension
315 Clanton Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

www.coascension.org

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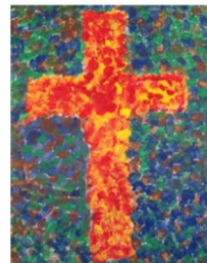


CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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

Join us for our Outreach Speaker Series

PURPOSE. MEANING. HOPE.



The Respite Ministry
AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sunday, July 21
At 9:15am
In Ascension Hall

Daphne Johnston from
FUMC Respite Ministry

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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

cess in my spiritual life. Steve and I make giving a priority, but sometimes we do so out of the leftovers.

Even my prayer life suffers from this concept of giving to God out of the leftovers. I don't know how many times I have said my prayers as an afterthought, if I said them at all, when I fall in bed at night exhausted and done with everyone and everything; wanting only a peaceful sleep. Or how when I am offered an opportunity or faced with a chal-

lenge, I jump right in with a pro/con list before I ever think to pray about it. And though I am more disciplined in the construction of my prayers, for years I jumped straight to intercessory prayer and concerns for myself before I ever thought to praise God or offer gratitude for all that God has given me.

Giving God the leftovers of my life has been a habitual practice for a long time—be it my best time of day, my practice of stewardship, or even my prayers. I'm pretty sure there are other things that reflect this habitual giving out of the leftovers of my life rather than the first fruits. I think God takes the leftovers, he takes anything we are willing to offer, and loves us no matter what. But I wonder how different my life and attitude—toward God, toward, others, even to-

ON THE ROAD

On any given Sunday throughout the year, many of our parishioners are travelling or on vacation. Just because one isn't in Montgomery, doesn't mean you don't go to church. Candice is often handed a bulletin from Episcopal churches throughout the globe. Let us know where you go to church when you are on vacation. Keep a copy of the bulletin, write your name on it, and bring it to the church. Make sure you let us know if you want it back. Each month, we will share with our parish family all the places we go!

June Travelers

Don Vaughan, Christ Church, Vienna

Emily Caruso, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Pensacola

ward myself—would be if I were a first fruit giver instead of a leftover.

Light and Life,
Candice+

P.S. This month's ministry spotlight is on two organizations who believe in prayer as a first fruits type of giving: Daughters of the King and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's. These two organizations share a special relationship and are interconnected in their commitment to prayer and the spreading of Christ's Kingdom. That is definitely some first fruits spiritual practice! Check them out on page seven.

Come Join Us in Your Spiritual Journey: Education for Ministry (EfM). We meet Wednesday evenings starting in September 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 brettchall@hotmail.com

Daughters of the King

History and Mission of the Order

The Order of the Daughters of the King® was founded in 1885 at the The Church of the Holy Sepulcher in New York City. Membership is open to all female communicants of the Episcopal Church, Lutheran or Catholic Church. Now there are chapters worldwide. By joining the Order, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. She receives support in this commitment from a worldwide community of like-minded women. At the Ascension, our chapter meets monthly for prayer and fellowship. DOK also hosts activities for the wider parish, such as quiet days during Advent and Lent, assisting with meals for those in need and daily prayers for the Parish. The Ascension chapter of Daughters of the King was founded on January 26, 2003 by Chris Brown, Delores Skerrett, Pat Guest and Janet VonGal.

In solidarity with one another, all Daughters everywhere make the same promises upon their admission to The Order:

- To obey the two Rules of The Order: the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.
- To offer at all times loyal aid to our clergy and parish to spread Christ's kingdom.
- To wear faithfully the cross of The Order.

To work for the purposes of The Order as God may give us the opportunity.

You may have noticed the modified Greek Fleury cross that members of DOK wear as an outward and visible sign that we cannot live a day without Christ in our lives. If you have questions about the order, please feel free to ask any member or contact our current president, Sharon Massey.

Ascension's DoK Members:

Barbara Gaston	Mimi Gallagher	Chris Lewis
Debbie Steindorff	Anne Kimzey	Nancy Blount
Lois Porterfield	Margaret Hunt	Mary Benton
Mary Anne Martin	Sandy Akin	Elizabeth Conner
Ginny White	Wanda Devereaux	Susan DuBose
Camille Carr		

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Episcopal Church's oldest ministry is also one of its most effective.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has been bringing men and youth to Jesus Christ since its founding on the cold, wintry day of Nov. 30, 1883 at St. James' Episcopal Church in downtown Chicago. Homeless men were sleeping on the city's downtown streets – and it was these men the fledgling Brotherhood wanted to save.

Today, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is a worldwide ministry with chapters in Africa, Japan, the Philippines, Great Britain, Canada, Haiti and the United States. Its 4,192 members in 357 U.S. chapters perform myriad ministries, from building and operating a medical mission ship to sponsoring homes for women and children-in-need. Brothers are quick to respond with both manpower and money during national emergencies, such as Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and during the deadly year of 2013, when an explosion devastated the town of West, Texas, a tornado levelled Moore, Oklahoma and tsunami struck northern Japan.

"But we have lasted so long because men like to get together for support, to offer service projects - and for fellowship."

There are three disciplines Brothers follow: prayer, study and service.

TRANSFORMING GENEROSITY 2019 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE (As of 6/26/19):

171 Pledges totaling \$908,146.00
2019 Pledges Collected To-date: \$470,362.36

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.



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



Ascension's BOSA Members:

Jerry Baxley
Andrew Conner
Brett Hall
Lee Barton
Richard Cater
Mark Silberman
Robert Prescott
Jimmy Walter
Don Vaughan
Matt Bledsoe
Bruce Cathey
David McCabe

We are flying in fresh lobsters from Maine and cooking them to order!

Join us for our first Lobster Fest! Proceeds from the event will benefit FUMC Montgomery's Respite Ministry and Bethany Village at Camp McDowell.

We are offering 2 options for your lobster dinner. You can choose to dine-in and enjoy a social before your seating. We will have a lively, fun atmosphere with live music to crack open your lobster with friends! Or you can choose take-out and enjoy your lobster at home, poolside or wherever you like!

Both options will include a full lobster, 2 sides, bread and dessert. Dine-in tickets will include a 2 glasses of beer or wine. We will have 2 seatings for dine-in, at 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM. There will be a social for the 6:00 seating at 5:30, and at 6:30 for the 7:00 seating. Take-out will be available from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM.

Tickets sales begin JULY 7! You can pay by credit card by visiting our website or Facebook page, or pay cash or check at the Church's front desk.



ALL HANDS ON DECK!

We need lots of help to make this a success! You can volunteer for the event or lend some equipment. We have volunteer positions open all week. For volunteers, we are having a special seating at 8:00 and are providing childcare while you work!

event help

- TICKETS SALES
- DINE IN SERVERS
- WAITRESSES/WAITERS
- TAKE OUT SERVERS
- LOBSTER COOKERS and TOTERS
- MAKING SIDES & DESSERTS
- PREPARING BREAD
- SET UP & CLEAN UP

equipment needed

- TENTS
- LARGE COOLERS
- LARGE FLOOR FANS
- 80-100 qt POTS
- JET PROPANE BURNERS
- Drop off at Joshua House:
July 27-28 & Aug 3-4
- For more information:
Susan Copeland 657-6959
Laura Walter 300-2310

MUSIC NOTES

The Ascension Choir Wants YOU!

Some of you may have noticed that we lost 3 choir members this summer: **Katie Perkowski** (along with her wonderful family!) has moved with Leon's transfer to Pennsylvania; **Tim Vaught** has moved with a good job to Monroeville, and **Deena Temphe's** time as a law clerk has come to an end! We will miss them all.

So, if music and singing is one of your gifts, we would like to invite you to join the Ascension Choir in our ministry. You may have sung in a school choir many years ago (and I know who some of you are!!!) or you may have played an instrument, but leading worship is an enormous privilege and you will both serve the Church and enrich your own spiritual life by joining us. Choir is a great place to connect with others,

learn scripture and truth by singing profound texts, improve your health and well being, and you will always know where you'll sit on Sunday morning! You may have reasons that you do not feel that you can, but we can overcome nearly all of those.

We need you. To join or just explore the possibilities, you should call or email Becky Taylor (334 263-6433, beckytaylor@coascension.org) for a quick conversation. Music reading will be helpful, but if you have a good ear, it may not be required. We are on our summer schedule now, so now is a good time to try us out.

Children ages 3 through 6th grade be on the lookout for a great choir year beginning in September!

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

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

In Memory of Caroline Barmettler

Martha Jane & Taylor Dawson

In Memory of Geoffrey Sherman

Pat & Jim Franklin
Melanie & Daniel Morris

In Memory of Gail Hudgens

Alice & Wesley Dunn

NOW YOU KNOW....

Have you ever noticed the hymns in the bulletin that begin with the letter "S"? Those hymns are called "service music". They are found in the front of the hymnal and represent a variety of setting that we can sing various parts of the service. You may have noticed that depending on the season of the church year, we sing different service music. That is an intentional

way of utilizing various pieces of service music to accentuate seasonal worship. The service music also provides settings for the canticles sung in Morning and Evening Prayer.



In Memory of Pat Guest

- Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Britton
- Dorothy Cameron
- David, Michael & Raymond Cohen
- Ginny & Ben Cumbus
- Martha Jane & Taylor Dawson
- Judge and Mrs. Joel Dubina
- Miller Engelhardt
- Pat and Jim Franklin
- Minnie Lee & Richard Gill
- Frances & Billy Hill II
- Cecily Hulett
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnston
- Jane Klingler
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lawson, Jr.
- John Lightfoot
- Mrs. James Loeb
- Arthur Mazyck

- Judge & Mrs. Reese McKinney
- Melanie & Daniel Morris
- Dae Miller
- Karen and Robert Northcutt
- Gloria & Ray Rawlings
- Kitty & Winston Sheehan
- Winifred Stakley
- Barbara M. Bear Wallace
- Alicia & James Yoder
- Florence & Robert H. Young, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Boshell
- Emily Caruso
- Karen and Marvin Campbell
- Amy Cook
- Justice and Mrs. James Allen Main
- Camille and Shapard D. Ashley
- Susan and Dan Gammage
- John B Scott, Jr.

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!

SAVE THE DATE!

Six Flags over Georgia

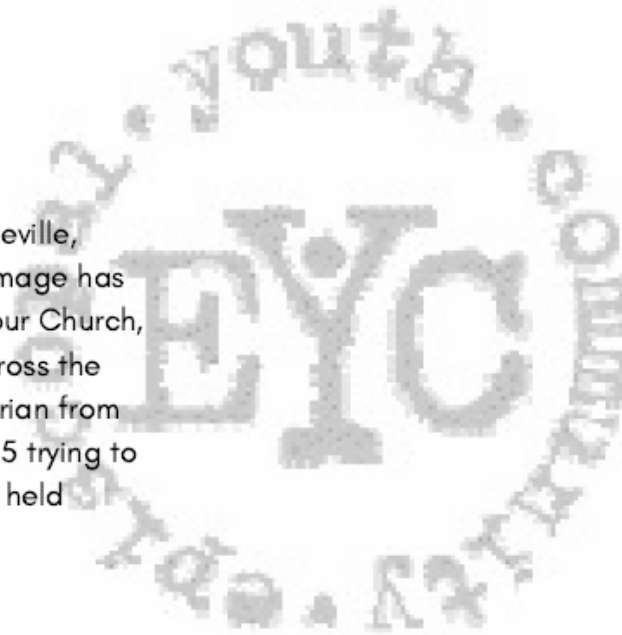
Date to be determined, we are definitely going!

Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage - August 10

The Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage will take place in Hayneville, Lowndes County, Alabama. Over its 23 years, the pilgrimage has grown into one of the most recognized pilgrimages of our Church, bringing people from many dioceses and seminaries across the country to the spot where Daniels, an Episcopal seminarian from Keene, New Hampshire, was shot to death in August 1965 trying to protect an African-American teenage girl. The event is held annually on the second Saturday of August.

EYC Kickoff - August 11

Our new 7th graders will join us for a fun evening! Watch for details coming!



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Since we have been observing the 75th anniversary of the D-DAY invasion of France, I thought it would be good to re-visit the participation in that effort by one of our church members.

Mr. Algernon Blair was one of the founding members of Church of the Ascension and remained a very active member for the rest of his life. Mr. Blair owned a very successful construction company and was awarded many contracts for building various types of federal buildings including the construction of 424 housing units for military personnel at Maxwell Air Force Base.

The following is taken from "Algernon Blair: Portait of Pa" his biography written by his great grand daughter Elizabeth Hill Lindgren:

"After the completion of the Maxwell project, then came his most important wartime project, one that would contribute to the defeat of Adolph Hitler. Hitler's secret weapons, the V-2 rocket bombs, were being launched from concrete bunkers positioned all along the French coast. In an attempt to halt the bombing of London, the Allied Forces needed to find a way to take out those bunkers.. Late one afternoon in 1944, the War Department notified Mr. Blair that by midnight, all of his available superintendents, foremen and workmen would be headed to Eglin Air Force Proving Grounds, near Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

In the middle of the night, 300 of Mr. Blair's men arrived at the appointed spot ready to begin what turned into a 24-hour a day job. In twelve days, using plans smuggled out through the French underground, the men secretly built heavily reinforced concrete bunkers similar to those built by the Germans to launch the V-2 rockets and to defend the French coast. Then, the Air Force began a week of test-bombing runs. By destroying every simulated bunker built by Mr. Blair's company, the Air Force bombing crews learned what it would take to destroy existing German weapons facilities on the French coast. To this day, the use of those targets is given credit for much of the Allied success in softening the German defense, thereby making successful the invasion of Europe months later."

Algernon Blair was a man of great accomplishments, but knowing that this project helped to save countless lives and to end World War II must have given him a great deal of satisfaction.

Hugh Alsabrook, Archivist

Children's Ministry

Godly Play Teachers (PreK and K) and ELEMENTary Teachers (1st-6th)

We will resume in August after Kick Off Sunday, August 11. Until then all children can spend the Sunday School with supervised play in the Indoor Playground or the Outdoor playground as weather permits during the Sunday School Hour.

Confirmation for Sixth Graders!

Instead of attending the ELEMENTary class, our sixth graders this year will join with other middle schoolers to prepare for confirmation this May. *Confirmation is May 24, 2020.*

Children's Church Helpers, 10:15 Sundays

July 7: TBD

July 14: Glenn Sylvest

July 21: Lauren Greene

July 28: Shauna McGuire

Dates to remember....

July 16-18, 9:00 - Noon, Ascension Art Camp

August 11 Kick Off Sunday - Rally Day, Backpack Blessing, Picnic and waterslides!

August 18

Ascension Art Camp

July 16-18, 9:00 - Noon, Third Floor, rising K4 through sixth grade

Come hang out with us on the Third Floor and have some creative fun with art projects! Please be sure to wear play clothes that can take a stain or two. We will use smocks, but also some materials that might not wash out!

Kick Off Sunday - August 11

9:15 Rally Hour in Ascension Hall - Come see all the ministries that Ascension has to offer and who is participating.

During Eucharist - Regular Children's Church and Back Pack Blessing and Blessing Backpacks! - Everyone bring your backpacks for a school year blessing. We will also be donating backpacks and supplies to the Family Sunshine Center again! Please see your Sunday Tower for more information.

After Church - Followed by Picnic and Water-fun on the lawn after church. Corndogs, Chips and Snocones will be provided. Please bring desserts and fruit to share!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SUNDAY AUGUST 18 @ 9:15

While your kiddos meet in Sunday School for the first time, All parents are invited to meet with Tiffany in the Children's Church room on the third floor for an overview of Children's Formation for the year.

August 18 @5:05 - Family Biscuits Game

Biscuit Lawn Picnic and Game, Tickets are \$8 each, \$24 family maximum.

Call the office to reserve your tickets, 263-6332.



Clergy Book Recommendation and Class

We have started providing some materials to help you children engage in each service. 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.

Candice will also be leading us through this book during the Sunday School Hour in the Bread of Life class though out the summer.