



We believe in sharing love and grace with God and one another.

From the Rector...

"In the beginning... the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep." (Genesis 1:1) For some, the void and darkness are poetic language meant to illicit the idea of chaos. God's first creative act is to take that chaos and bring order to it.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see allusions to this theme of ordering chaos.

In scripture, water often serves as a metaphor for chaos and God "orders" that chaos in various ways. In creation, God breathes over the "face of the waters." The flood story illustrated both disordering and ordering chaos.

Moses parts the Red Sea—a divinely directed miracle that ultimately swallows up God's foes in the chaos. Jonah finds himself in a storm at sea, thrown overboard and swallowed by a whale—his refusal to heed God's call plunges him into chaos, which is only resolved when he is spit out on the beach, ready to follow God's directive. Even the Apostle Paul gets shipwrecked—a sign of the chaos that engulfs him after being arrested and taken to stand trial before Caesar.

The psalms are rich in water imagery. At times, the psalmist describes feelings of drowning or being overwhelmed by floods, depicting chaos and turmoil that threaten them. Unlike other biblical narratives, God doesn't always bring order to the waters of the psalmist' despair. These waters often seem uncontrollable, and we may not always know the outcome of the psalmist' cry for help and salvation. We do, however, know the hope they desire.



If the psalms teach us anything, it is the importance of hope and trust in God. Much of the water imagery in the psalms conveys peace, reminding us of God's provision, renewal, and blessing. The Twenty-third psalm, perhaps the most famous, speaks of God "leading [us] beside still waters." This image emphasizes God's care and concern for his "sheep." There are also several instances where God quenches our thirst, highlighting the true nature of God as provider and sustainer. These images nurture our hope and trust in God, even as they are juxtaposed with the more chaotic images of water.

Holding the chaotic imagery of water in tension with its stillness offers us a more holistic vision and understanding of who God truly is. We may desire a God that is all rainbows and butterflies, but our experiences tell a different story. God is not a tame god nor is his creation. But he is good. When we trust in that goodness, we realize that the waters of chaos may be threatening but they are not damning.

These past few days, our screens have been filled with apocalyptic scenes of water and its chaotic, destructive force. The images of flooding from Florida to the Carolinas and their aftermath are devastating. In such moments, it is natural to question God: Why does God allow such destruction and loss of life and property? Though we cannot know the answer, grappling with these questions help us embrace the mystery of God.

Too often we attempt to control God—desiring a deity that works within certain parameters or expected ways that we as mortals can comprehend, allowing us to exercise some power and agency. Yet, when disaster strikes, we find ourselves powerless to save ourselves or others. We turn to God in prayer and assume a compassionate stance, helping our neighbors and realizing our interdependence. Although images of water have flooded our feeds these past few days, so have images of those who bring aid and rescue.

I believe it was Mr. Rogers' mother who said, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." This is not merely a comforting platitude for children or adults; it reflects a deep and abiding truth about who God created us to be. Sadly, it sometimes takes a disaster for us to remember that we are made for relationships, to help one another, and to lift each other up rather than tear one another down. God will order chaos—and if we are already living an ordered life, we can view chaos as an opportunity to help rather than as a source of threat or fear.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

If you would like to donate to hurricane relief, please do so at a reputable and known organization like the [Red Cross](#), [Samaritan's Purse](#), or [Episcopal Relief and Development](#). Click on the name of the organization for a link to how you can give.

GROW



New Facebook Group!

An Ordered Life

A place to come and discern how God is crafting your inner disciple. Be encouraged to post thoughts and inspirations related to growing a spiritual rule of life that guides who you are at home, work, play, and church. This is a safe place where we treat one another with reverence and respect.

Click [HERE](#) to go to the Facebook group page and request access!

The Weekly WORD

RECLAIM

There are many ways to understand the meaning of RECLAIM. While it certainly implies a return to a former state, I believe it goes deeper than simply taking something back; I think it might be about how we are set free.

To RECLAIM an object is to assert ownership over it. To RECLAIM value, purpose, or direction in one's life is to order life in such a way as to offer us greater freedom and worth. God, through Moses, RECLAIMS the Israelites from Pharaoh. However, he does not liberate them simply to leave them unordered. The whole passage of freedom from Egypt to the Promised Land is designed to teach us about ordering, disordering, and reordering our lives. The Israelites once held a claim to the Promised Land, to RECLAIM it was not merely an act of liberation; it involved the liberation of one set of rules imposed by Pharaoh and the invitation to choose a different set of rules provided by God.

In the midst of their wandering in the wilderness, God offers the Israelites Ten

Commandments. Later these will grow into 613 laws of Torah. The Commandments and the Torah are a way of ordering life in relationship with God. To RECLAIM the Promised Land is to RECLAIM God and choose to order life on God's terms.

Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 AM on Thursdays



A rule of life is a deliberate set of commitments and practices crafted to enrich one's spiritual journey. In this series, we'll hear from various ecumenical clergy members who will share how they have created their own rules of life and how these practices have deepened their relationship with Jesus.

This week's guest speaker is The Rev. Duncan Johnston, St. John's Episcopal Church!

SERVE



Come support ADS by signing up to read to our students on Thursday's at noon! Please reach out to Murrey if you are interested.

Mercy House Volunteer Sign-up

A new sign up is now available for volunteers to help distribute lunches at Mercy House from August-December. You can view the sign up sheet by clicking [HERE](#). Since August of last year we have been working alongside our friends from St. John's on this outreach project, and two volunteers are needed from 11:00 - 1:00 every Thursday.



The Vineyard Bookstore

Come see what is new at the Vineyard!

You can now Venmo at The Vineyard! Just search for **@ChurchoftheAscension** and look for our logo. Make sure you tell us it is for The Vineyard and offer a brief description of your purchase. All proceeds at The Vineyard go to outreach initiatives.



WORSHIP

This Sunday!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 6 - 10:30 AM

Sunday Morning Schedule

Rite I Service - 8:00 AM - Nave & Livestream

Breakfast - 8:30 AM - Ascension Hall

Adult Forum - 9:15 AM - Upper Room

EYC & Sunday School - 9:15 AM - 3rd Floor

Rite II Service - 10:30 AM - Front Lawn

**The Sacrament of Order: A Preaching Series on
the Letter to the Hebrews
Sundays October 6 – November 17**

HEBREWS

JESUS  EVERYTHING

The letter to the Hebrews points us toward a future hope grounded in Jesus. Jesus is the one who sustains all things and proceeds from the One who created all things. When our life is ordered around Christ, the changes and chances of this world are less threatening, and we begin to discover opportunity and possibility.

NEW!

Barefoot Sunday - Oct 20th



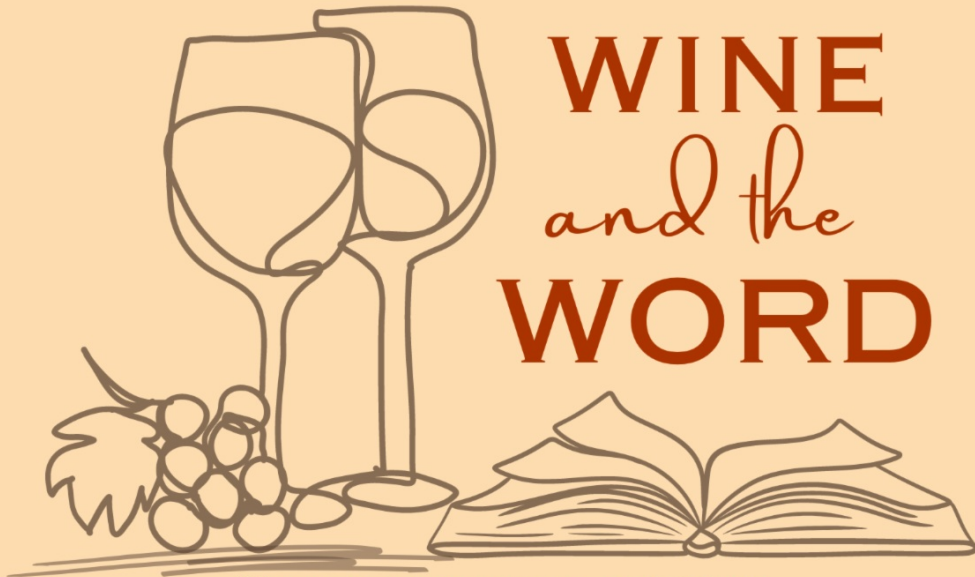
Bring your gentled loved shoes to donate and kick-off our stewardship campaign by Walking in Love and sharing freely with a world in need.

Attention Venmo Users



As electronic payments become more widely used we ask that anyone who uses Venmo to **please add a short summary of what the payment is for in the description field**. We now accept Venmo for Wednesday night dinner, Sunday morning breakfast, purchases in The Vineyard Bookstore, as well as for giving. This description will help us allocate the resources appropriately. Thanks!

CONNECT



WINE *and the* WORD

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:00 PM
IN THE SMALL DINING ROOM

GATHER FOR CASUAL THEOLOGICAL DISCOURSE WITH THE CLERGY
THIS WEEK'S THEME OF DISCUSSION IS
RECLAIM

WINE AND ALTERNATIVE BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.

WEDNESDAY

NIGHTLIVE

STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

4:30
REUNION GROUP
LIBRARY

5:15
DINNER
ASCENSION HALL

6:00
BREAD OF LIFE
WALDO GARDEN

6:00
WINE AND THE WORD
SMALL DINING ROOM

6:00
YOUTH ACIVITIES
3RD FLOOR YOUTH ROOM

6:00
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
4TH FLOOR CHOIR LOFT

6:00
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
LIBRARY

6:45
COMPLINE
4TH FLOOR CHOIR LOFT

Dinner Menu:

Taco Night!

\$8 per person or \$20 per family

This Saturday!

**PRAYER
WALK**

**HUNTINGDON
COLLEGE**
SAT., OCT. 5

Program – 10 AM
Gather 9:45 AM at Ligon
Chapel in Flowers Hall
(Parking lot on Jim Wilson Loop)

**OUR OUR
MGM MONTGOMERY**
FAITH + COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

[Click Here For Details](#)

Follow us on Instagram!



Our new Instagram account is up and running! Follow us [HERE!](#)

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not



Stewardship Update 2024

If you haven't turned in your pledge card it is not too late. You can drop in in the basket during service or bring it by the church office, For more information on pledging click [HERE](#).

Financial Gifts Offered This Week	Financial Gifts Offered This Month	Financial Gift Target Monthly
\$1,723	\$55,690	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2024 - \$1,025,396
Total Collected Amount for 2024 - \$677,360



Dear members of Ascension,

As you may remember, last fall the Vestry and Rector, in consultation with the bishop, hired a consultant to review our governance amongst other tasks. In response to the governance recommendations made by this consultant, a Governance Task Group (GTG) was appointed by the Vestry. This group consisted of Ellen Brooks (chair), Young Boozer, Elizabeth Conner, Jenny Garrett, Christopher Turner, Candice Frazer (Rector), April McKay (Vestry), Smitty Smith (Vestry), Dorman Walker (Vestry), and Tim Marquardt (Chair of Roles and Responsibilities Committee). The GTG met fourteen times over the

course of seven months (February – August 2024). In August they submitted their final report along with a draft of proposed bylaws for The Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

Your Vestry has since reviewed these bylaws as to their efficacy for our governance and ensured that they meet national and diocesan canonical standards. We now submit them to you, the parish at large, for comment, questions, and suggestions as we prepare for final approval by the Vestry. Please feel encouraged to speak with a member of the GTG, the Vestry, Drew, or me for clarifications or suggestions (noting that all comments and their authorship will be shared with the Vestry and clergy). You may also submit any questions or comments via email at staff@coascension.org. **There will be two parish wide meetings for open discussion, education, and feedback on the proposed bylaws: Sunday, October 27 immediately following the 10:30am service and on Wednesday, October 30 at 6pm. Both meetings will take place in Ascension Hall.**

Bylaws are an important part of how the church functions and fosters good relationships among members. The Vestry and clergy are eager to receive your feedback and participation in this significant step forward in the life of The Episcopal Church of the Ascension. We invite you to be a part of this process and hope you will join us in discerning this work of the Holy Spirit by reading the proposed bylaws and attending one of the parish wide meetings if at all possible.

Light and Life,

Candice+

CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ THE PROPOSED BYLAWS

Investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe

The planning committee for the investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe has released a batch of resources to aid Episcopalians in hosting local watch parties during the churchwide virtual event at 11 a.m. ET on Nov. 2.

The service will be livestreamed on the [event webpage](#) as well as [The Episcopal Church's Facebook page](#).



ALABAMA CURSILLO

Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

2024 Cursillo Dates

September 12-15 (Drew+ on staff)
October 17-20 (Will & Amy McQueen on staff)
Staff Training - November 9th

2025 Cursillo Dates

April 3-6
June 5-8 (Steve & Candice+ on staff)
October 9-12

Contact Steve Frazer or Sharon Massey for more information.

Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector candice@coascension.org
The Rev. Drew Brislin, Associate Rector drew@coascension.org
Becky Taylor, Music Ministry beckytaylor@coascension.org
Will McQueen, Facilities Manager will@coascension.org
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Laura Mielke, Children Family & Faith Formation Minister laura@coascension.org
Nick Mielke, Youth Family & Faith Formation Minister nick@coascension.org
Fay Worriow, Administrative Assistant fay@coascension.org

PRAYER FOR THE ASCENSION

Almighty and everlasting Father, we stand in your presence, awed and silenced by your goodness and wisdom. We rejoice in the outpouring of your Spirit on the Ascension and our ministries. Help each of us to remember that we are walking in your sight, and that you are present with us at every moment. Through your Holy Spirit, guide us in our prayers and enable us to focus our thoughts on you, so that we may be filled with the knowledge of your will. Grant us the wisdom to ask what you would have us do; the strength and courage to carry out your work; and the grace to show our gratitude through good stewardship of your gracious gifts. We ask all things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Church of the Ascension | 334-263-5529 | staff@coascension.org | www.coascension.org

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