



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

From the Rector...

Another Lobsterfest in our bellies. It is always a joy to be part of such a vibrant event that relies on the combined efforts of old and young, men and women.

Our lobster queens—Susan Copeland, Laura Walter, and Laura Lee Blackwell—began planning this spring and after months of hard work and preparation, everything culminated in one spectacular night. It's a little like the Oscars for lobsters. They get invited to a fun party, flown in as the guests of honor, celebrated and enjoyed by those who appreciate their contribution. One lobster never seems like enough at dinner, and grandeur of the night makes us hunger for more—not just more lobsters but more opportunities to come together and do something meaningful. So, really, it's not like the Oscars at all; it's more like the kingdom of God.



That sounds crazy—the kingdom of God as a Lobsterfest. Isaiah speaks of a heavenly banquet where rich food and well-aged wines are served for everyone. He describes the feast as a time when God destroys the shroud of death that hangs over all people. At the feast, “God swallows up death forever” (Isaiah 25:6-9). To “swallow up death” is to render it powerless. God doesn't get rid of death; he removes its grip on us.

God seeks to demonstrate the power of life—especially a life in God—has for us. I think that is why Isaiah uses the imagery of feasting and the heavenly banquet. When we are gathered with others in celebration at a grand feast we are reminded of our hope and joy with one another through God. Lobsterfest was exactly that—a place of hope and

celebration and joy with one another.

Too often we get bogged down in how much money we raised or how many lobsters we sold or if we did better or worse than the year before. While these tangibles matter, in the kingdom of God, hope and love are paramount. The real measure of success is how much your heart sang, how many laughs you shared, and how many new connections you made. It's the relationships that really count—at least when you are measuring success according to God's standards.

This year's event was filled with people from all over the River Region, including a table from California! (Granted our Lobsterfest wasn't the sole reason for their visit.) The smiles and joy were evident on the faces of those who attended. Many told me that this was THE BEST ONE YET! I have to agree. Not only was the atmosphere exciting for the participants but seeing so many of you come together and contribute in whatever way you could offer was a witness to the joy of the feast. That spirit of coming together, empowering one another, and building one another up was what made this one the best yet.

Isaiah refers to God as the "Lord of hosts" who makes the feast of rich food. All who volunteered, purchased tickets, and participated in some way—big or small—reflected this divine presence at Lobsterfest. You did that through sharing love and grace with friend and stranger alike. That is what instills hope in us. That is the embodiment of the life we are called to live. The greatest joy of Lobsterfest for me, is witnessing our parish working together—each in his or her own way—to welcome others and offer hospitality to all those who would come to this little corner of the kingdom for a feast of rich food. Last Friday night at CoA, we weren't focused on the shroud of death; we were immersed in the joy of life.

Light and Life and thank you to everyone who participated in Lobsterfest 2024!

Candice+

[candice@coascension.org](mailto:candice@coascension.org)

**Thank you so much for all of the volunteers and support staff that helped make Lobster Fest such an amazing event. Click the logo below to see a recap!**



## WORSHIP

### Sunday Morning Schedule

Rite I Service - 8:00 AM - Nave

Summer Breakfast - 8:30 AM - Ascension Hall

Clergy Forum - 9:15 AM - Upper Room

Rite II Service - 10:30 AM - Nave



# GOOD VIBRATIONS



**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH**

Pick out your favorite Hawaiian shirt and join us for our second annual "Good Vibrations Sunday." There will be a BBQ potluck, water slides & games, music, and a ministry fair. Join us after the 10:30 a.m. service for all the fun!



POTLUCK  
GUIDE

A-H: Sides  
I-P: Desserts  
Q-Z: Appetizers

## 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**



# Baseball With the Bishop

Sunday August 25th is **Episcopal Day @ the Park** at the Montgomery Biscuits. Bishop G will be here to throw out the first pitch and watch the game with Episcopalians from the River Region. Tickets are \$15 for all ages and include a buffet meal from 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Boxcar picnic area. Game time is 3:30 p.m. that day. You can reserve your tickets online through the diocese website by scanning the QR code above.

# EPISCOPAL DAY



# AT THE PARK

**MONTGOMERY BISCUITS**  
AUGUST 25



Children and Youth  
**PARENT MEETING  
& Family Supper**

Wednesday September 4, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Chicken and Mac provided!

Please bring a side to share.

We will pray for families &  
the new school year.

Hear about Fall programming :  
Sunday School, Children's Church,  
Wednesday Nights, and EYC

Ingather Items for ❤️  
Ascension Day School  
(check Enews for update supply list)

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*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 anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:8*



**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
\$7,073	\$12,542	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2024 - \$1,025,396  
Total Remaining Amount for 2024 - \$445,378



# ALABAMA CURSILLO

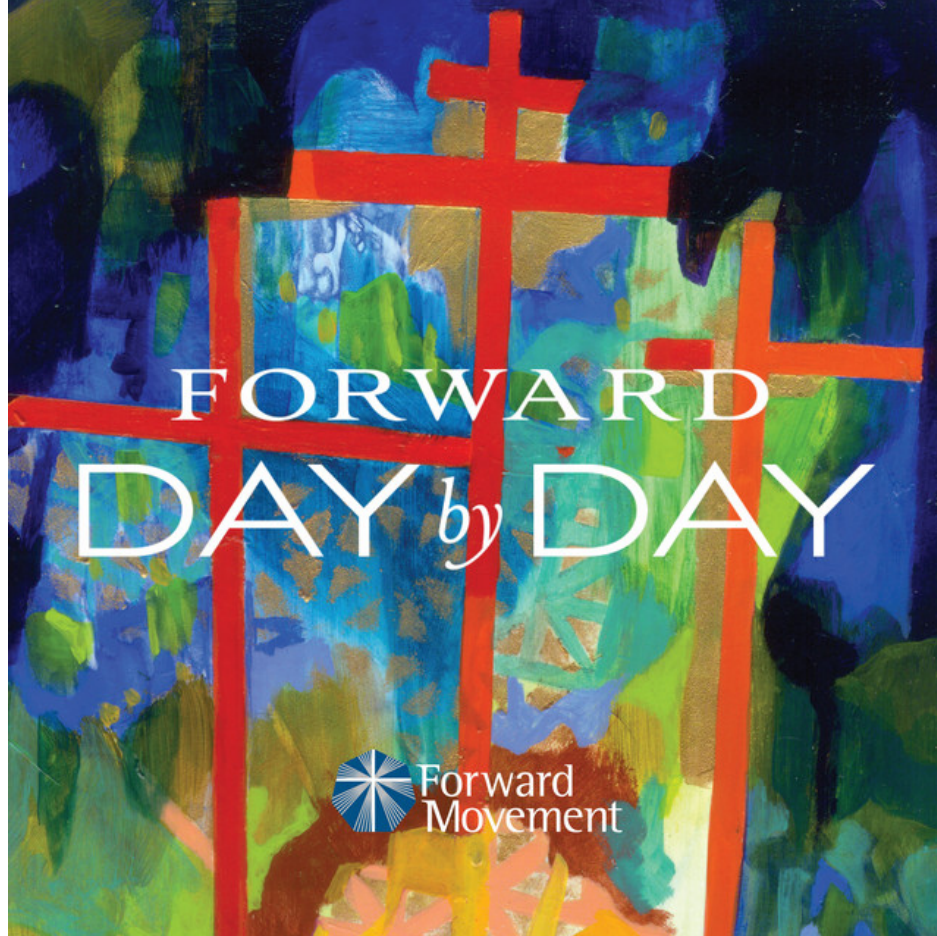
Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

## 2024 Cursillo Dates

September 12-15 (Drew+ on staff)  
October 17-20 (Will & Amy McQueen on staff)

Contact Steve Frazer or Sharon Massey for more information.

**GROW**



Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. You can find booklets in the office or in display racks in the nave. They can also be found online [HERE](#)

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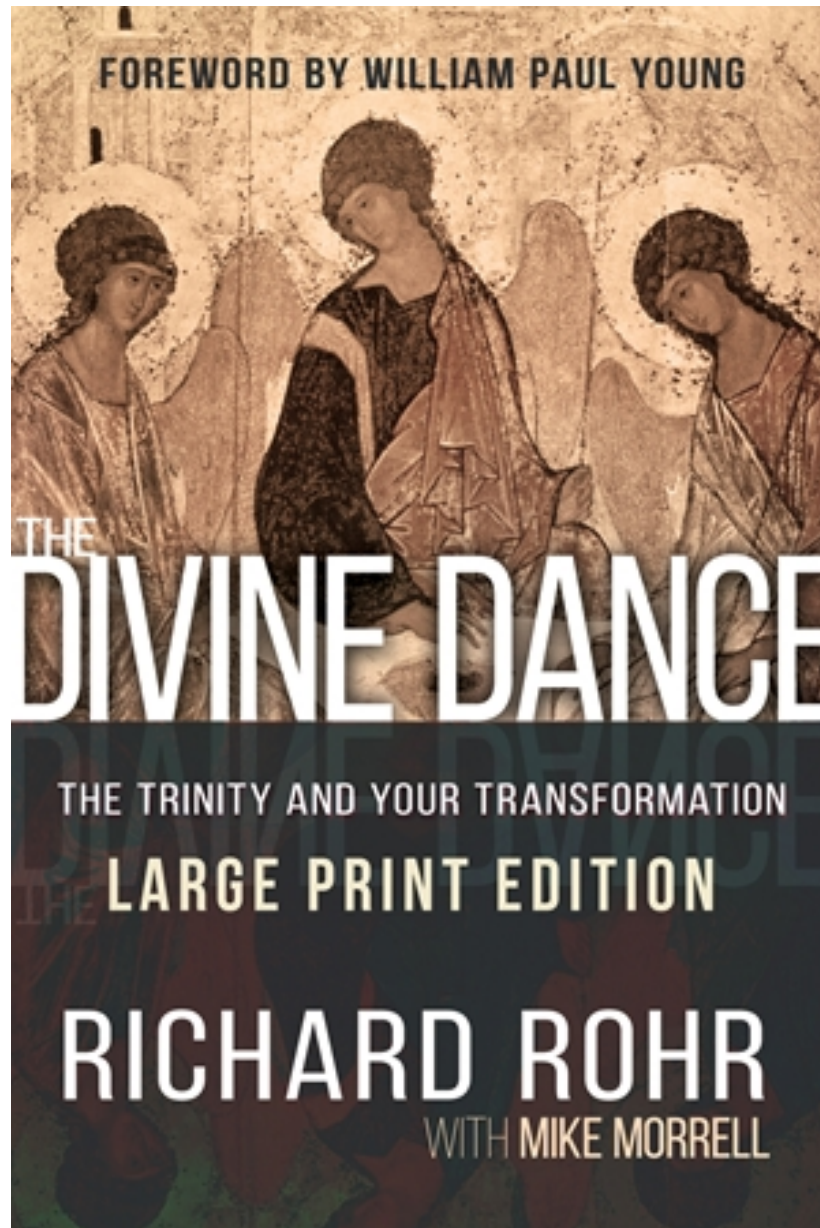


**Now Enrolling For Fall**

EfM is a four year study of scriptures, Christian history, ethics, and theology. Students



## Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:00 AM on Thursdays



Dive into a study about the Holy Trinity using the book *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell. The authors seek to open up for us the mystery of the Holy Trinity by revealing a God that is in community.

**SERVE**

**This Saturday! Volunteers Needed!**

# Food Box Ministry

Every 4th Saturday

8:30 am - 9:30 am

Church of the Ascension

Hull Street Parking Lot

Call 263-5529 to Reserve

Church of the Ascension does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, gender, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities.

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**Cub Scout Car Wash**  
**This Saturday - 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Lower Parking Lot**



Come get your car washed by Pack 1 and help us fund our activities for this scouting year! Suggested donation is \$10.

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# Walk in Love Ministry Fair! Sunday, September 8th



## New Beginnings!



New Beginnings is looking for tutor-mentors for the upcoming school year. Ascension volunteers meet with students at the church on Wednesdays for a group meal, conversation/play, and about an hour of one-on-one school-related work, which can be provided by the program. We ask that each mentor commit to being present for most

Wednesday evenings during the school year, except for holidays; some serve one year and others develop longer relationships. If you are interested in having a meaningful impact in this way on the life of a child, please call or text Mildred Wakefield (334-201-4854) or send an email ([wake7@me.com](mailto:wake7@me.com)): We will start the 2024-2025 school year around September 4, with an orientation meeting for volunteers before we begin meeting with the children.

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## IN-GATHERING BENEFITTING



**In July and August we invite parishioners to select items from the ADS Amazon wish list to bless our school and students this school year!**



**For further information, you can contact Christina Clark Okarmus or Brandie Johnson**

In the months of July and August, the In-Gathering Committee invites parishioners to select and purchase items from the [Ascension Day School Amazon list](#). The mission of ADS is to provide a safe, loving learning environment in which all children are encouraged to grow academically, socially, and spiritually. Help us to love our school by meeting their material needs for this school year! Purchased items can be dropped off in the Ascension Hall foyer.

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## 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.





### Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector [candice@coascension.org](mailto:candice@coascension.org)

The Rev. Drew Brislin, Associate Rector [drew@coascension.org](mailto:drew@coascension.org)

Becky Taylor, Music Ministry [beckytaylor@coascension.org](mailto:beckytaylor@coascension.org)

Will McQueen, Facilities Manager [will@coascension.org](mailto:will@coascension.org)

Tracy Hinton, Parish Administrator [thinton@coascension.org](mailto:thinton@coascension.org)

Jason Pate, Director of Communications [jason@coascension.org](mailto:jason@coascension.org)

Laura Mielke, Children Family & Faith Formation Minister [laura@coascension.org](mailto:laura@coascension.org)

Nick Mielke, Youth Family & Faith Formation Minister [nick@coascension.org](mailto:nick@coascension.org)

Fay WorriLOW, Administrative Assistant [fay@coascension.org](mailto: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.

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