



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

From the Rector...

This past Friday night, a young man died doing something he loved. Caden Tellier, the quarterback of his high school football team, Morgan Academy in Selma, was tackled around the knees. When he fell, he hit his head in such a way as to cause a brain injury, which ultimately led to his death. Caden wished to be an organ donor, and his parents are honoring that request. His mother writes, "Caden is still fighting hard in his earthly body to bring new life to others. We continue to pray for those whose lives will be forever changed by his gifts."



I can't imagine how difficult it must be to lose your son so early in his life, and to watch as he is taken into an operating room not to be saved him but to give his organs away. As much as Caden offers his body as gifts for others, his parents offer their spirit in releasing him, so that he and those who receive his organs, may find renewal.

There are no guarantees in this life. Death comes to us all, often when least expected. Some people have the opportunity to prepare for their deaths and approach death as a friend finding peace in the process. Others resist death and cling to life at all costs. I have witnessed both kinds of death in my experience as a hospice social worker and now as a priest. Grief always brings deep sorrow, but there is a difference in how that sorrow is expressed and can become suffering depending on how we approach death.

It doesn't take a cancer diagnosis or some other life-threatening event to address the fear and dread of death; it simply takes a life grounded in faith and trust in the promises of

God. This is evident in the Tellier family—their Facebook posts are filled with that trust in God. Although they must be deeply grieving, their sorrow is not compounded by a suffering of doubt or fear. It is okay to question God, even disagree with God, but ultimately, our faith and hope are built on a trust in things unseen and unknown.

Grief is hard. It has been over two and a half years since my father's death. Though I know he has received the promise of eternal life and believe that he is in that place of peace and joy where tears and pain are no more, I still grieve for his loss. Mostly, I miss my father and my heart hurts because I cannot be in his presence or share a funny story or hear his words of love for me. My grief is one of sorrow, but I do not believe that is the same as suffering. Suffering debilitates us, causing us to get stuck or lost in a place of blame and unrealized expectations, which contribute to our fear and limit our hope. Grief does not have to be that. Sorrow can be reverent and strengthen us in ways that suffering never will.

The witness of sorrow grounded in the strength of the Tellier family is powerful. Through that witness that they show us how to grieve and trust in the promises of God.

Caden embodied this strength in his own faith and witness to all who knew him and now to those who will share in his body. His spirit will be at peace—living in the resurrection of eternal life—and his body will offer renewal to all who receive the gift of him. “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For if we live, we live unto the Lord; and if we die, we die unto the Lord. Whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.” (Romans 14:7-9; BCP, p. 469)

Light and Life

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

CONNECT



Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Episcopal Day at the Park event on Sunday! Special recognition to Becky Taylor and the Ascension Choir for an amazing National Anthem. Click above for video!





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)

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
\$4,981	\$17,523	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2024 - \$1,025,396
Total Remaining Amount for 2024 - \$440,397



ALABAMA CURSILLO

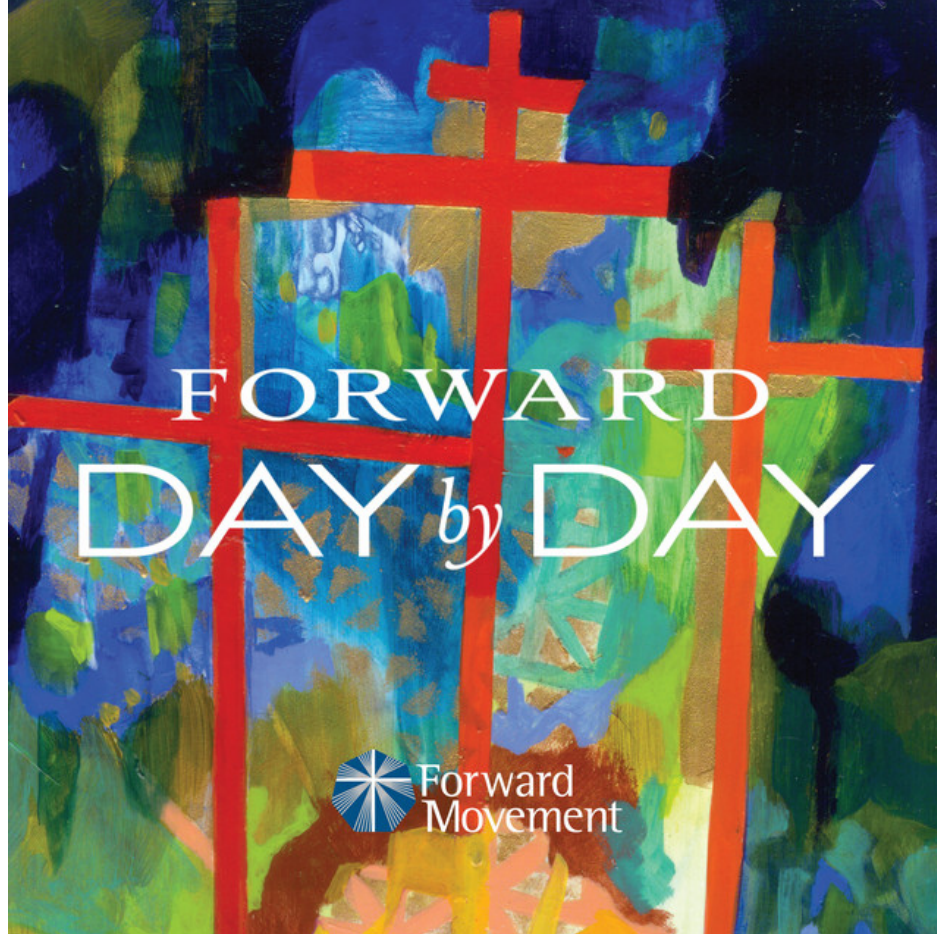
Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

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



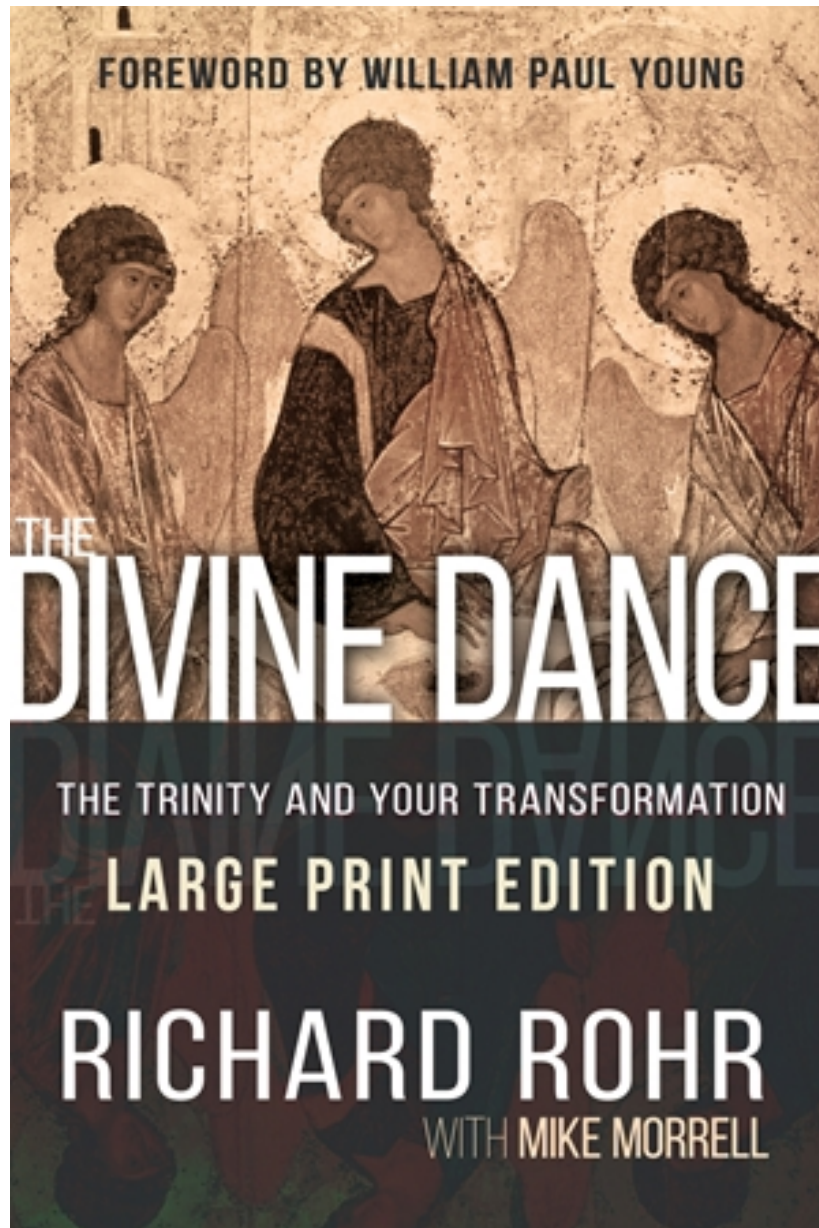
Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. You can find booklets in the office or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



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

Thank you so much for all of the volunteers and support staff that helped make Lobster Fest such an amazing event. We had nearly 100 volunteers and we sold 470 tickets! Final proceed numbers for ADS and Respite will be available soon!



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



Celebrate Ascension and all that we do to “walk in love as Christ loved us” at our Walk in Love Ministry Fair. Every household is encouraged to fill out a Walk in Love Works and Wisdom pledge card to be turned in and blessed at the 10:30am service on Sunday, September 15. By visiting the Ministry Fair, you can discover the abundance of mission and ministry at CoA and learn how to get involved. Those who are already part of a mission or ministry at CoA, get an opportunity to recruit new members and continue to grow laborers of Christ’s love in our mission field. Contact Smitty Smith or Nick Mielke (nick@coascension.org) for more information.

New Beginnings! Volunteer Meeting September 4th!



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 contact Mildred Wakefield (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.

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.

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.



Thursdays
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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

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!

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
Tracy Hinton, Parish Administrator thinton@coascension.org
Jason Pate, Director of Communications jason@coascension.org
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.

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