



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

From the Rector...

At the football game on Saturday, three helicopters flew over the field at the end of the National Anthem. Though none of the three were around in the Vietnam War, their presence connected me with my father in a way I had never truly appreciated before. I had a sudden, overwhelming realization that the only reason I was standing in Bryant-Denny Stadium was because of a helicopter and its courageous crew, in a jungle half a world away and a lifetime ago.

My father was Army Special Forces during the Vietnam War. Though he is officially listed as a postal clerk if you look him up, the only mail he delivered was in the form of Agent Orange. He sat on the Ho Chi Minh Trail and radioed in information related to convoys and logistic routes. One day his location was compromised. He skinned down the tree he had been sitting in and made a run for it. He had to swim across a river with a gunboat fast approaching. He made it to the other side, only to find his campsite compromised. He had already called in a chopper to pick him up and had to call back to meet at a secondary rendezvous point. By the time he reached the second location, he was under fire, and a gun battle ensued between the VC in the jungle and chopper crew in a clearing. My dad tried to wave them off, but they made it clear they weren't leaving without him. He made a run for it and was shot in the knee—one of two Purple Hearts, along with a Bronze Star he would receive during the war. The crew hoisted him on board and took off. They saved his life. Without them, neither my sister nor I would be here today.

There is a certain amount of irony in the world that we can never fully appreciate—a sort of symmetry in which the seams of our existence are woven together in unfathomable



ways. Because of the courageous actions, or perhaps stubborn resistance, of one chopper pilot, my life became possible. I will never know that man's name, or where he came from, or what his life circumstances might have been, but I owe him so much for giving me a father whom I have loved, honored, respected, and cherished.

God in his goodness has created us in such a way that we can never truly be independent of one another. Instead, our lives are intertwined in deep and abiding ways. We are interconnected and cannot survive, much less thrive, without one another. The bread I buy from the grocery store has literally hundreds of people responsible for its existence and my ability to purchase it—from the farmers in the Midwest who grow its grain, to the factory workers who bake it, to the truckers shipping it in every stage of its existence, to the stock boys and cashiers who sell it to me at the grocery store, to the construction workers who built the store, and the bank that processes my debit transaction. The list goes on and on. Did I say hundreds of people? More like thousands are engaged in this simple transaction of my purchasing bread.

The interconnectedness of our world is not limited to the here and now; it extends back through time. Our ancestors made choices—simple or complex—that determined our future. The Bible does an excellent job of tracing us back to the very roots of humanity—Adam and Eve—and connecting that long line of descendants all the way to Jesus and a little beyond. The implications of the Old Testament are woven throughout the New Testament.

The church has its own part to play in our interconnectedness as keepers of the faith and determiners of our hopes. We are called to participate in that work by remaining connected to the saints of old, even as we look to the future. Hebrews 12:1 calls this “the great cloud of witnesses”

that helps us remain steadfast in the faith while we do the work of growing and nurturing the kingdom of God.

When we are intentional about living as part of that great cloud of witnesses and remember that we—the whole world, both the living and the dead—are deeply interconnected, we grow in our compassion for one another and learn to extend grace in ways we might not otherwise be capable of doing.

Light and Life

Candice+

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SERVE

NEW!!

**Works and Wisdom Offertory
Sunday, September 15**

Works & Wisdom

We live out our beliefs and faith through the mission and ministry of Ascension. From Altar Guild to Pastoral Care, Outreach Grants to Rice and Beans and all things in between, our church is a vital part of the kingdom of God.

Works and Wisdom cards are available for you to fill out and place in a special collection plate on Sunday where they will then be brought to the altar and blessed as a symbol of our labor in God's vineyard and celebration of our commitment to ministry and mission at CoA. You can pick up a card from the church during the week or from the ushers on Sunday.

NEW!



This Sunday!



Cub Scout Pack 1

HELP SUPPORT THE SCOUTS!

Pack 1 Scouts will be selling popcorn
at Church of the Ascension
after the 10:30 am Service on:

September 8
September 15
September 22

Payment Options: cash, CC,
checks and Venmo

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

NEW!



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



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

Returns Tomorrow Night!

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
AN ORDERED LIFE SMALL GROUP
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:
Burger Night!
\$8 per person or \$20 per family

Follow us on Instagram!



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

NEW!



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
\$35,743	\$35,743	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2024 - \$1,025,396
Total Remaining Collected for 2024 - \$657,413



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 (Drew+ on staff)
June 5-8 (Steve & Candice+ on staff)
October 9-12

GROW

The Weekly WORD

REPENT

The question often arises as to whether repentance is necessary for salvation. The short answer is no. Jesus did the work of salvation for us on the cross at Golgotha two thousand years ago. However, while we are saved by God's grace and freely forgiven of our sins, repentance is crucial for fully embracing that grace, forgiveness, and salvation. To repent is not something we do because we want to be saved; rather, it is something we do to accept the forgiveness and salvation God has already offered. We repent to restore our right relationship with God—at least from our side of the equation. God has never fallen out of relationship with us. Repent, return, restore—that is the work we do to participate in this grace-filled relationship with God.



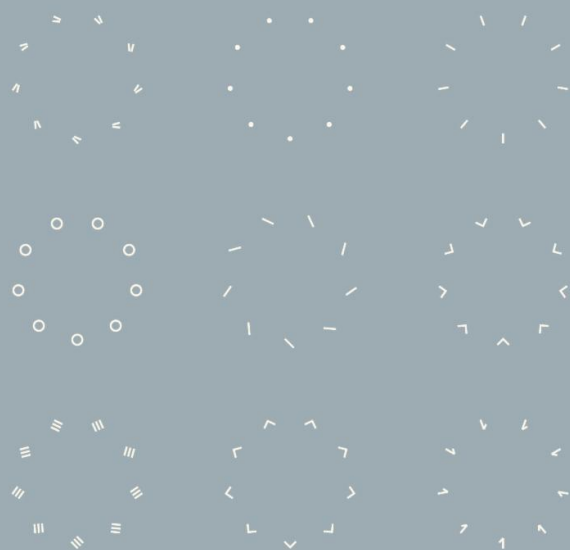
New Facebook Group!

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!

Men's Prayer Breakfast
7:00 AM on Thursdays



Rule of Life

BY PRACTICING THE WAY

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.

NEW!!

The Weekly Word Small Group

Wednesdays at 6pm

Small Dining Room

Each week we deliver a "Weekly Word" that represents some aspect of An Ordered Life (our theme for the 2024-25 program year). Join us on Wednesday evenings for an engaging speaker and small group conversation regarding the Weekly Word. You can also check your eTower or join An Ordered Life Facebook Group for more in The Weekly Word.

Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector candice@coascension.org

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Fay WorriLOW, 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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