



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

From the Rector...

When asked what your church is known for, many Episcopal churches would cite hospitality. Hospitality is something we strive to excel at—and we generally do—but often our approach to hospitality is misguided.

For most of us, hospitality on a Sunday morning typically involves taking a moment to speak to newcomers or visitors, usually after church. If it is the early service, we might not only talk to them, but also invite them to breakfast as a way of welcoming them and getting to know them better. This seems hospitable enough; it certainly meets the basic expectation of reaching out and welcoming the stranger. However, if this is where our efforts end, our approach might be more akin to rush than true hospitality.



Rush is a term used in fraternities and sororities to describe the period when members get to know potential new members just enough to decide whether they might fit in. If a person is deemed worthy after a brief, informal conversation, they might receive a second look. If they are found wanting, we remain polite and friendly but quickly move on. Rush involves judging people based on first impressions. While it may be useful for determining membership in a club, it is rarely effective in a church setting. If our understanding of hospitality is shaped by a “rush” mentality, we might miss out on deeper engaging with the broader body of Christ.

True hospitality is rooted in invitation, inclusion, and empowerment. It not only invites a visitor to breakfast but also seeks to understand what that person is looking for and helps

integrate them into the community. Although the interaction may begin as a one-on-one conversation, true hospitality broadens this interaction by including the stranger in other conversations, introducing them to more people, and working toward places of commonality. Invitation and inclusion are not enough though. Empowerment is crucial to hospitality.

Empowerment acknowledges and respects the other person's agency. It is nice to be invited to something and great to feel included, but empowering someone honors them and demonstrates respect. This is hospitality at its core, as it honors the individual, their past, and their future, thereby honoring humanity itself.

Rush doesn't honor humanity—it judges it. When our practice of hospitality resembles rush more than a generous spirit of invitation, inclusion, and empowerment, we are probably not living into our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being.

Genesis 18 provides one of the quintessential biblical stories of hospitality. Abraham and Sarah entertain three divine visitors. They don't merely offer them sustenance; they invite them into their home, feast with them, and laugh. Abraham and Sarah essentially include and empower these visitors, who then bless them with the promise of descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and grains of sand on the beach. That is the essence of true hospitality—it transforms lives.

The Catechism tells us that the mission of the church is to partner with God and one another. To fulfill this mission, we must always seek ways to invite, include, and empower one another as our primary work of hospitality. In so doing, we, like Abraham and Sarah, are entertaining angels and allowing our lives to be transformed.

Light and Life

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

WORSHIP

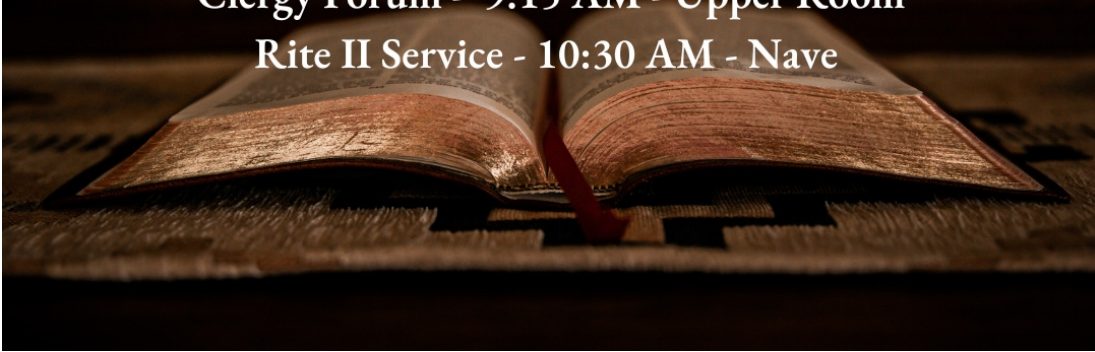
Sunday Morning Schedule

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



NEW!
October 6th!

A graphic featuring silhouettes of various animals (dog, chicken, rabbit, bird, turtle, cat) with yellow halos, set against a dark blue background with a white cross. The animals are arranged in two rows, with the dog, chicken, and rabbit on the left, and the bird, turtle, and cat on the right. The cross is centered behind the animals.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

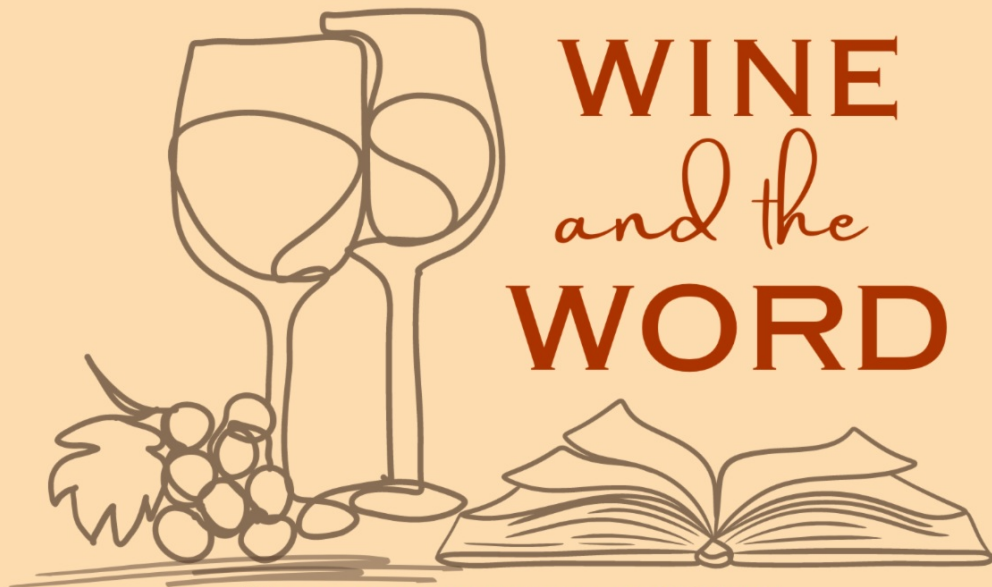
OCTOBER 6 - 10:30 AM

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
RECALL

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
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:

Lasagna

Salad

French Bread

\$8 per person or \$20 per family

Follow us on Instagram!



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

A black poster for an event titled "EPISCO PARTY". At the top center is a red cross with a blue and white background. Below it is a gold banner with a scalloped edge. The text "EPISCO PARTY" is written in a large, gold, serif font. Below that, the date and time "THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 6:00 PM" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Underneath is "HOSTED BY DENNIS & STACIA BAILEY" in white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, it says "CONTACT THE CHURCH FOR MORE INFORMATION & DIRECTIONS" in white, sans-serif font. The poster is decorated with gold confetti, stars, and two gold drums at the bottom corners. There are also gold decorative flourishes on the sides.

EPISCO
PARTY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
6:00 PM

HOSTED BY DENNIS & STACIA BAILEY

CONTACT THE CHURCH FOR MORE
INFORMATION & DIRECTIONS

NEW!



BREAD OF LIFE PRESENTS

FAMILY PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, September 29 - 5:00 PM
\$5/person or \$20/family

CONTACT TINA HARSTAD WITH QUESTIONS

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 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$13,503 | \$49,246 | \$85,500 |

Total Pledged Amount for 2024 - \$1,025,396
Total Collected Amount for 2024 - \$670,916



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

Contact Steve Frazer or Sharon Massey for more information.

The Weekly WORD

RECALL

In seminary, my best friend and I would study while training for half marathons. We carried our study notes and quizzed each other back and forth as we ran. We were actively practicing RECALL in more ways than one. Active RECALL doesn't require one to run, it simply requires an activated brain in its attempts to RECALL whatever information you need/want in that moment.

As a spiritual practice, active RECALL is a powerful way to make meaning and peace with one's life. Taking time each night to RECALL the day (not in a diary form where you list the events of the day) in a thoughtful manner in which one gives oneself permission to sit with that which went well and that which did not, allows a person to find closure and forgiveness with themselves. This leads to greater compassion for oneself. And it is only when we can be compassionate to our true self that we can begin to live in a compassionate way toward others.

Taking time to RECALL one's day in a loving manner towards oneself can be part of an ordered life.



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



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.

SERVE



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.



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.



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.





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 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.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Church of the Ascension | 315 Clanton Avenue | Montgomery, AL 36104 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!