



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

From the Rector...

My dogs have a ton of toys. Their toy box cannot contain the plethora of chewy, squeaky, big, little, hard, and soft toys that spill over onto the floor and find their way into every room and corner of the house. They love to play with their toys and can be heard squeaking a toy at all hours of the day and night. But their favorite toy is an empty toilet paper roll.

Petunia checks for empty toilet paper rolls daily. She makes her rounds of the bathrooms in search of an empty roll. She has yet to equate the empty roll with one that has paper on it, but I think she is starting to figure that out. For now, she leaves the toilet paper alone, seeking only empty rolls. It has become a bit of a game with her, when a roll is empty, I will put it on the lid of the bathroom trash can and wait and watch as she discovers it.



When Petunia was younger, she would try to grab the roll and run—almost as if she were trying to be sneaky and doing something she wasn't supposed to. Unfortunately for her, she would often hit the roll with her nose in her haste and it would fall between the trash can and the wall. The first couple of times this happened, I reached down and got it for her. Then, one day, I decided to see what would happen if I didn't help her. Sure enough, she came in the bathroom, knocked the empty roll off the can, and then turned to look at me as if saying, "Ok human, pick up the roll for me." I just looked back at her and told her to get it herself. After a few seconds, she began to sniff behind the trash can and finally, shifted the can out of the way, grabbed the roll, and took off to tear it into little pieces.

Over time, Petunia attempted various approaches to retrieving the empty roll off the can so

that it wouldn't fall in between can and wall. Some of them worked and others didn't. Lately she has figured out how to knock the roll off the can so that it lands in front of the trash can where she can easily pick it up and take it to the bed to chew it up. I admit, I am impressed with her problem solving skills and tenacity.

Petunia and her problem solving skills are more than a lesson in how smart dogs are, it is a witness to hope and faith. There is not an empty toilet paper roll on the trash can every morning, but Petunia checks every morning anyway. She doesn't know if or when there will be a toilet paper roll for her to play with, but that doesn't deter her from looking for one. She believes that eventually a piece of cylindrical cardboard will show up—she doesn't express disappointment when it isn't there, but she demonstrates pure delight when she finds one.

God is always around even when we aren't aware of his presence. If we hold onto our hope and exercise our faith by continuing to look for him, when we do find him, it is pure delight and our joy is made complete. Keep seeking and eventually you will find.

Light and Life,

Candice+

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

**The offices will be closed on Wednesday due to winter weather conditions Everyone stay safe!**

**WORSHIP**



# Weekly Worship Schedule



## Sunday Services

8:00 AM - Rite I, 10:30 AM Rite II



## Morning Prayer

Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - Facebook Live



## Compline

Wednesday 6:45 PM - Choir Loft & Facebook Live



## Sung Compline

3rd Sundays 7:30 PM - Nave

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## 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

**NEW!**



# DIOCESAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

CAMP MCDOWELL

Fri, Feb 28 - Sat, Mar 1

With Guest Speaker

**Dr. Amy R. Baxter**

*Assistant Professor of Leadership and Ethics at the  
Global College of Professional Military Education*



All women (clergy and lay alike) in the Diocese of Alabama are invited to gather for a time of fun, fellowship, relaxation, and leadership development at Camp McDowell.

Register Here:  
[bit.ly/DioAlaWomen](https://bit.ly/DioAlaWomen)





**Cursillo  
Open Reunion  
Group!**

**Meets Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.  
Church Library**

Contact [Laura@coascension.org](mailto:Laura@coascension.org) for more information

Wednesday January 8, 2025 at 4:30p.m. "Open Reunion" for those who have attended Cursillo is back! For anyone who has not yet attended Cursillo but would like to, please reach out to Steve Frazer or Sharon Massey.

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**No WNL this week due to winter weather. We will see you next week!**

**WEDNESDAY**

**NIGHTLIVE**

STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN US ON  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

**4:30**  
**REUNION GROUP**  
LIBRARY

**5:15**  
**DINNER**  
ASCENSION HALL

**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



If you haven't turned in your pledge card please do so as soon as possible. Thanks! If you would like to fill your pledge card out online click [HERE!](#)

**This Sunday!**

**ANNUAL MEETING &  
VESTRY ELECTIONS**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 - 9:15 AM  
ASCENSION HALL**



**We will gather for a parish picture at the Annual Meeting. Please make every effort to be present!**

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# EPISCO PARTY

IF YOU ARE WILLING  
TO HOST AN  
EPISCOPARTY IN 2025,  
PLEASE CONTACT  
SMITTY @

TONDSMITH@GMAIL.COM



**GROW**





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  
ENNEAGRAM - THE PEACEMAKER

WINE AND ALTERNATIVE BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.

**The Word**  
**Wednesdays, January 8 – February 26**  
**5:45pm in the Small Dining Room**

The Enneagram is an ancient understanding of our gifts as children of God. The nine personality types of the Enneagram help a person get out of their own way and become who they were created to be. Some say it helps us to “wake up” to our true selves and escape the prison of our past. Studying the Enneagram is a great way to reclaim your identity and rediscover your purpose. Each week we will discuss a different personality type in hopes that participants will discover and deepen their knowledge of self and others.

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**The Weekly WORD**



## **SNOW**

SNOW! There is a quiet beauty that comes with SNOW. It layers the earth as a blanket, covering it for its winter nap. It affords a sense of something just beyond our grasp that brings hope in renewal. It covers the "ugly" - the barrenness of the world - as the tulips sleep deep beneath the earth preparing for their time of emergence into the light.

SNOW is not the end. It is the beginning, the reminder that there is light in darkness and peace beyond understanding. Enjoy the SNOW and let it "winter" you in rest for renewal.

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## **Women's Bible Study**

### **In Trouble and In Wonder**

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Monday Nights - 5pm

The Library

January 27 - April 7

The wisdom sayings attributed to Jesus in The Gospel of Thomas open in us new ways of seeing the world. In this ten week study, we will explore various sayings and examine them in relationship to their counterparts in the Synoptic gospels.

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## **Men's Prayer Breakfast**





**Exodus: Movement of the People**  
**Thursdays at 7:15am**  
**Ascension Hall**  
**January 9 – February 27**

Order and disorder, life and chaos, are the means through which God moves his people and liberates them for his purposes. In the book of Exodus, Moses discovers his call in the ordering of God's chosen people and the power of God's purposes over those desired by man. Join us each week to nurture the body, mind, and spirit through breakfast, study, and community.

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**Cultivating Compassion**  
**Mondays, January 27-March 31**  
**7:00 PM in the Library**  
**Limited Space Available**  
**[Candice@coascension.org](mailto:Candice@coascension.org)**

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**Clergy Forum and BoL Sunday School**





**Jesus' Rule of Life  
The Upper Room  
January 5 - February 23**

Adult formation will combine this winter to study **Jesus' Rule of Life**. This eight week course will facilitate conversation around understanding Jesus' "Why" and motivation for his ministry and mission as a method of shaping our lives as Christians.

**SERVE**

**Get Involved!**





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

## Food Box Saturday

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH  
8:30 AM  
HULL STREET PARKING LOT  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!







The Food Box Ministry is asking for donations of empty cardboard boxes. Boxes around the size of office paper boxes are best and they need to be sturdy enough to hold about 40 pounds of food. Boxes can be dropped off in the foyer of Ascension Hall. Thank you!

## 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.



The Vineyard Bookstore has made its contributions in 2024 to the following local



ministries:

Respite for all Foundation  
Mercy House  
Family Sunshine Center  
Boys and Girls Clubs River Region  
Dream Court

Thank you for your continued support of our store, your purchases make this possible! We are blessed to be able to give back to those in need in our community.

#### 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.

Church of the Ascension | 334-263-5529 | [staff@coascension.org](mailto:staff@coascension.org) | [www.coascension.org](http://www.coascension.org)

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