



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

From the Rector...

Over the holiday, I read Tap Code by Smitty Harris, which recounts his life in the Hanoi Hilton and surrounding Vietnamese prison camps, as well as his wife's struggles in raising their children and ensuring their financial security during that time. It is a fascinating read and I highly recommend it.

The "tap code" was a communication method Harris taught to fellow prisoners. They used it to tap words on walls, windows, bowls—anything that would make a sound. They tapped words of encouragement, Bible verses, prayers, and practical communications. Using the tap code helped them identify the SRO—Senior Ranking Officer—no matter which camp they might be transferred to, and they were transferred several times during their captivity. The tap code also allowed them to identify which prisoners were in the camps with them, helping them establish communication networks in which they received news from home and the war effort as well as organize by rank.

The US military has a Code of Conduct for prisoners of war, with six rules to guide American POW's behavior while in captivity. These rules remind soldiers of their identity as Americans and strengthen their resolve. Article IV establishes order in capture. It designates the most senior ranking officer (SRO) as commanding officer and mandates that all lower ranking prisoners obey their orders as lawful. This article depends on being able to identify the SRO, and thanks to the tap code, the men in the Hanoi Hilton were able to do just that.

Harris' teaching of the "tap code" provided the POWs a method not only to communicate,



order themselves, and follow through with Article IV of the Code of Conduct, it gave them life.

The American POWs in Vietnam endured cruel and sadistic treatment by the North Vietnamese. They were beaten, starved, and tortured by their captors. They were often placed in isolation without light, heat, or ventilation in bug-infested cells. It's remarkable that only one U. S. airman died in the POW camps of North Vietnam. This was largely due to their ability to communicate—not just for moral support and encouragement of one another, but also due to the power of an ordered life.

Smitty and the other airmen who communicated through the “tap code” were able to order themselves by identifying their SRO. Once the SRO was known, he could issue orders based on the six articles of the POW Code of Conduct. Those orders included decisions about whether to attempt escape, levels of cooperation with their captors, which tunes to whistle or songs to sing and when, and when church services might be attempted. Once the other soldiers knew their orders, their daily life became about how to live out those orders—it gave them purpose and combatted their despair even when hope was all but lost.

We've spent the last several months exploring how an ordered life enhances our spiritual growth and anchors us in daily living. But there is more to the ordered life than simply what it offers us as individuals. The power of an ordered life is communal—it draws us together and connects us in common purpose. This doesn't mean we all value the same things or engage in the same activities; it means we work to order our lives together. The church provides a beautiful structure for this through the sacraments. We are baptized and confirmed as a statement of our faith. We come to church together each week and take communion to strengthen and nurture us as the body of Christ. We pray together, celebrate together, learn together, and work together. In this way we partner with God and one another in common purpose—the building up of God's kingdom. In this

way, an ordered life not only strengthens our individual faith but also unites us in purpose, helping to fulfill God's greater plan for his people.

Light and Life,

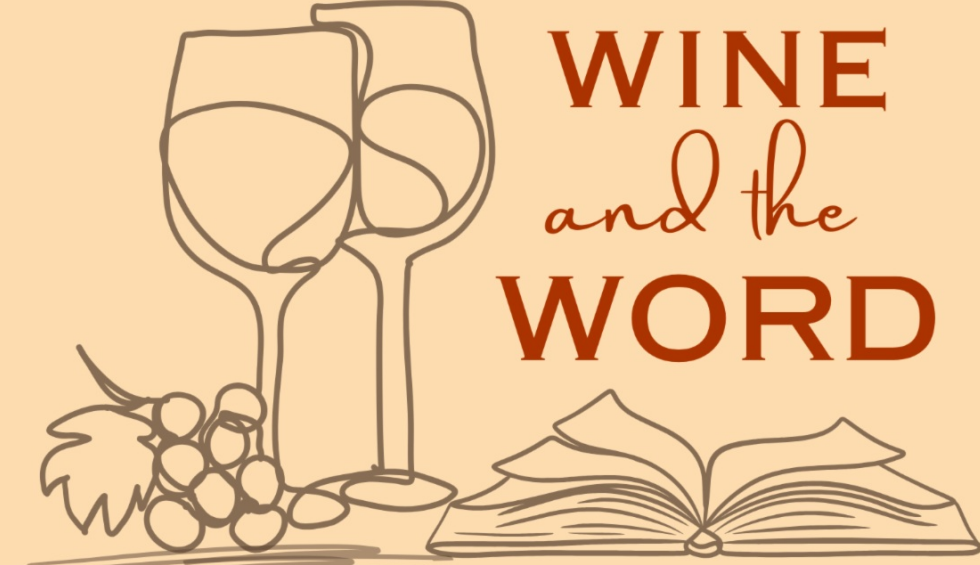
Candice+

candice@coascension.org



We have Poinsettias left over from Christmas and they are available to anyone who would like one. First come, first serve in the hallway outside The Vineyard!

GROW



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
ENNEAGRAM - THE CHALLENGER

WINE AND ALTERNATIVE BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.

Wine and 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.

The Weekly WORD

RISK

"It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to."-Gandalf

Every day invites us to take a RISK. Even if that RISK is simply stepping out your door and entering the world. Keeping your feet is not about not taking RISKS or allowing possibilities to evolve. Instead, it is about holding your identity and true purpose in unwavering fashion. If you know who you are and where you want to go, the journey may well be filled with RISK but it will not fail.

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.

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



NOMINATIONS

OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 10TH

It's that time of year already. It's time to nominate and elect our class of 2026! The Vestry Nomination form can be found [HERE](#). Forms need to be turned in to Fay and be received by Friday, January 10th. The new Vestry members will be elected at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26th.

Get Involved!



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



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.

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.

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

Attention Venmo Users



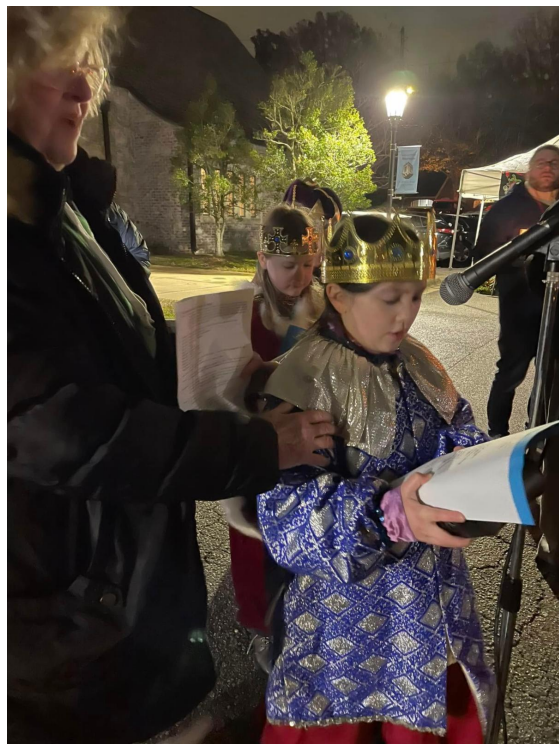
As electronic payments become more widely used we ask that anyone who uses Venmo to please add a short summary of what the payment is for in the description field. We now accept Venmo for Wednesday night dinner, Sunday morning breakfast, purchases in The Vineyard Bookstore, as well as for giving. This description will help us allocate the resources appropriately. Thanks!

CONNECT



Thank you to everyone who came out and to all the different teams, especially Troop 1 for helping with clean up!









WNL is Back!

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 ACTIVITIES
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

WNL Supper Time
5:15-6pm

Each Wednesday night we serve family style supper for parishioners and our New Beginnings tutors and students. Come sup with us and let the staff “dish up” a delight for your tastebuds. \$8 per person or \$20 for a family—cash, check, or Venmo accepted. In this new year, we are trying a different approach with the food line: the staff will serve the main dish, and a salad bar will be available separately.

Menu this Wednesday:

Pizza Night



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!](#)

ANNUAL MEETING & VESTRY ELECTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 - 9:15 AM
ASCENSION HALL





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.

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[Visit Our Website](#)

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