



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

From the Rector...

Last week I started noticing Christmas trees and decorations in people's homes. Maybe this has been the trend, and I just didn't realize it, but I always thought most people waited until after Thanksgiving to decorate. I wonder if the sudden increase in Christmas décor is connected to people's feelings about the election and the growing division in the country. Christmas has always been a symbol of hope—and looking at Christmas decorations tends to lift people's spirits, offering comfort and optimism for the future. It makes sense that, in the face of such challenges, people might want to start decorating early.



I don't condone this behavior, but neither do I judge it. Most of you already know my views on how Christmas should be celebrated. The Christmas season doesn't begin until December 25th and lasts through January 5th. I typically start putting up my Christmas decorations after Thanksgiving as part of my observance of Advent, adding something extra each week. On Christmas Eve, we finally decorate the Christmas tree. And yes, the leg lamp is lit starting with Advent I. I keep all my Christmas décor up through the twelve days of Christmas (which is more than just a song!) and take everything down on January 6th.

My approach to decorating is not simply about personal observance; it's a way of entering into a rhythm of ordered living. The preparations for Christmas are about anticipation and hope, which is, in large part, what Advent is all about. Given the contentious election cycle and ongoing economic concerns, there's an even greater need for hope and peace in a

year filled with chaos. Though my anticipation for Christmas grows steadily as Advent approaches, I am not ready to throw my disciplined observance of the season out the window. Instead, I plan, dream, and reflect on the deeper reasons for this longing for peace and hope—especially at this time of year.. But I'm also not judging those who do feel this need to express their own hopes and desires for peace by decorating early.

The origins of Christmas are deeply rooted in a pagan winter solstice festival that long predated Christianity or the birth of our Savior. These pagan festivals were meant to remind people that, even in the darkest days of winter, when light and food were scarce and survival was uncertain, spring would come. The world was growing lighter, and the darkness was beginning to recede. These festivals were meant to offer a reminder to hold on to hope. Christians adapted this pagan celebration, embracing its message of hope, peace, and light to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who promised he would come again. Now, it seems the pagans are reclaiming it (hahaha!), so we Christians can't really get all that upset about them taking back what wasn't originally ours.

Instead of getting worked up about how people are celebrating the holidays this year, or criticizing them for not observing the season the way we "liturgy snobs" like Mary Crowley might say is "proper," maybe this year we should cut each other some slack. Let's recognize that it's been a difficult year, and we could all do with a little holiday cheer, joy, and peace--focusing on our own celebrations of ordered living and the hope it brings us.

After all, whether you decorate now and secretly watch *The Grinch* or you're doubling down on the more traditional timing of seasonal celebrations, Thanksgiving seems to be the real loser in all of this. Maybe, this year, we should spend more time remembering what we are thankful for. In the end, our hope is tied to our gratitude. When we give thanks, we remember all that God has given us. If God has given us so much—or even just enough—why would we trust that he will continue to provide in the future?

Spread cheer, give thanks, and center your hope and trust in God. Have a holy, jolly Christmas this year!

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

P. S. If you want to plan other ways to prepare for Christmas, check out our Advent offerings at the end of today's newsletter.

NOVEMBER 10TH

 *Confirmation
Sunday*

&

BLESSING OF JOSHUA COMMONS



Candidates for Confirmation

Dylan Frank Curvin
Penelope Rose Daniel
Paul Daniel
Laura Daniel
Taylor Powell Dobson

Candidates for Reception

James Lee Harstad
Janan Hayden
Jon Brennan Hayden

Candidates for Reaffirmation

Christine Harrison
Shannon Howard

Bradley Miller Groce
David George Grandison
Claire Harrison
John Harrison
Tina Marie Harstad
Wren Wilson Mielke
Andrew Murkett
Jason Thomas Pate
John Andrew Porter
Kaye Taylor Porter
Juan David Morrell Ricon
Nolan Michael Wishum



CONNECT

Thanksgiving Concert Becky Taylor, Organ Hunter Dailey, Trumpet



St. John's Episcopal Church
Sunday afternoon, November 17, 2024
4:00 PM

Works by Cecilia McDowall, Charpentier J. S Bach, R. Vaughan Williams,
Indigenous American composer Connor Chee, J. Biery, G. Shearing, V. Fox, and
Jean Langlais

It will be wonderful to have many Ascension parishioners there!

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

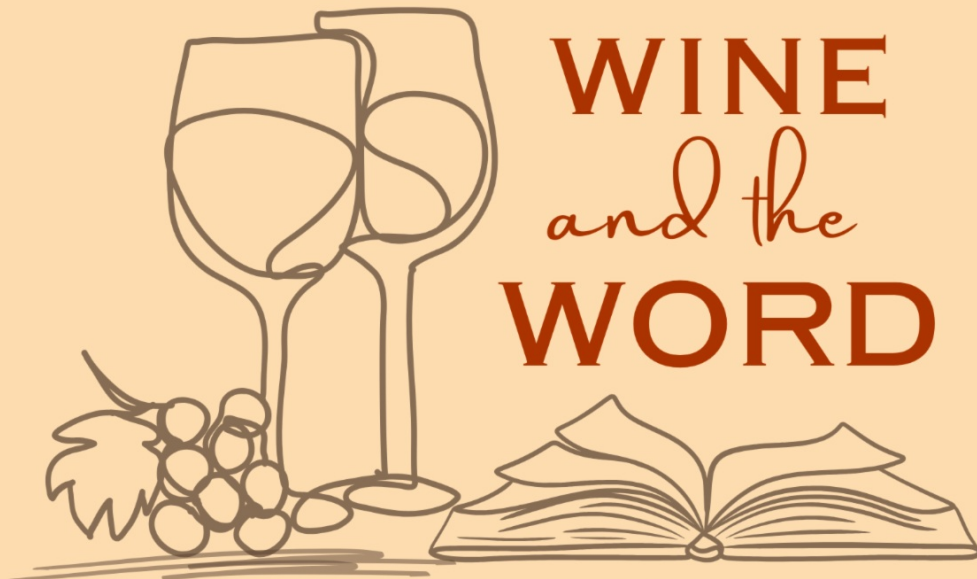
6:00
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
LIBRARY

6:45
COMPLINE
4TH FLOOR CHOIR LOFT

Dinner Menu:

BBQ Sanwiches
Corn on the Cob
Cole Slaw
Chips
Salad

\$8 per person or \$20 per family



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
RETURN

WINE AND ALTERNATIVE BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.

Newcomers Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 14 - 6:00 PM
Ascension Hall
All are Welcome!

HELLO!

New Members!

Follow us on Instagram!



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

Stewardship 2025!



Click [HERE](#) to see the 3rd installment of our Walk in Love video series!

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
\$4,964	\$21,042	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2024 - \$1,025,396
Total Collected Amount for 2024 - \$798,360



ALABAMA CURSILLO

Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

2025 Cursillo Dates

April 3-6

June 5-8 (Steve & Candice+ on staff)

October 9-12

If you would like to attend contact Steve Frazer or Sharon Massey for more information.

GROW



An Ordered Life

Forming Us in Faith

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!

The Weekly WORD

RETURN

When we discover we have lost our way...we RETURN.

When we find our hope has been placed in the wrong people or things...we RETURN.

When our joys is incomplete and our sorrows and sufferings overwhelm us...we RETURN.

We RETURN to the Lord again and again and again. Our hope, our trust, our joy is always in the way of the Lord. RETURN to the way whenever you wander away. For it is in the RETURNING that our true life in Christ is deepened and strengthened and sacred.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast
7:00 AM on Thursdays**

JESUS AND JOHN WAYNE

OCTOBER 31 -
DECEMBER 19

Thursdays

7am
Ascension Hall



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The myth of the American hero has caused us to “replace the Jesus of the Gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism.” This class will trace the history of popular culture and how it has transformed our understanding of Christianity and our communal life.

SERVE

ADS Christmas Baskets!

ADS is hosting a raffle for Christmas gift baskets! Raffle tickets cost \$5 each. You can purchase a ticket after 10:30 service this Sunday or by sending Venmo to @ascensiondayschool. For questions please email ads@coascension.org. A full listing of basket contents can be found [HERE!](#)





Milton Lewis Memorial Christmas Tree Project

Saturday, December 7th at 8:00 AM

Target @ Eastchase

Planned Give is \$100 per child

To Donate Contact Tracy Hinton

thinton@coascension.org



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.

**Outreach Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 12
6:00 PM - Small Dining Room
Everyone Welcome!**



Outreach Committee Meeting

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

Sunday Morning Schedule

Rite I Service - 8:00 AM - Nave

Breakfast - 8:30 AM - Ascension Hall

Adult Forum - 9:15 AM - Upper Room

EYC & Sunday School - 9:15 AM - 3rd Floor

Rite II Service - 10:30 AM - Nave & Livestream



Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service

Sunday, November 24th at 4pm



Venmo update!

If you are using Venmo please check and make sure your are sending payments to the Venmo account with the **FULL COLOR** logo with the name @ChurchOftheAscension-Montgomery. If you are sending it to the account with the **GOLD** logo with the name @churchoftheascension please change to the other account. The account with the gold logo is an old account and accessing funds from it is becoming more difficult. If you have any questions please contact Tracy!

CORRECT

◀ Church Of the Ascension Montgomery ○○○



Church Of the Ascension Mont...

@ChurchOftheAscension-Montgomer • 18 friends

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!

ADVENT

ADVENT 2024

TRAWICK-SCOTT ADVENT RECITAL SERIES

DECEMBER 4

12:05 PM

JOEL GREGORY, ORGANIST

DECEMBER 11

12:05 PM

PRESTON WINKLES, ORGANIST

DECEMBER 18

12:05 PM

**CONCERT IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH SEASON
THE ASCENSION CHOIR**

CHRISTMAS 2024

DECEMBER 3

MESSIAH SINGALONG

7:00 PM

JOIN THE MONTGOMERY CHORALE, ORCHESTRA, AND SOLOISTS IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION NAVE IN A GROUP SINGALONG OF HANDEL'S IMMORTAL WORK

DECEMBER 15

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

9:15 AM

JOIN CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ASCENSION HALL FOR THE TELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY.

DECEMBER 19

BLUE CHRISTMAS

12:00 PM

SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING GRIEF OR STRUGGLING WITH LOSS

DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY EUCHARIST

5:00 PM

CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST WITH THE ENTIRE FAMILY

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

10:30 AM

ANTHEMS AND HYMNS WITH THE ASCENSION CHOIR

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

10:00 AM

THIS SERVICE WILL NOT HAVE MUSIC

DECEMBER 29

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

10:30 AM

HEAR THE STORY OF GOD REDEMPTION WITH CAROLS AND ANTHEMS AND LESSONS READ BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ASCENSION MINISTRIES

JANUARY 6

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

5:30 PM

BONFIRE & CHILI COOKOFF

CLOSE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH WORSHIP AROUND THE BONFIRE, THEN JOIN US IN THE PARKING LOT FOR THE ANNUAL ASCENSION CHILI COOKOFF



Advent Wreath Party & Soup Fundraiser



Come join us in Ascension Hall on Dec. 1st after the 10:30 service to kick off the Advent season by making wreaths! We will also have a soup fundraiser to benefit our 2025 Youth Summer Mission Trip

All ages are invited to attend & participate.

A white silhouette of a nativity scene, including camels, a manger, and figures, set against a red glitter background. A bright star is visible in the sky.

Pageant Rehearsals:

- DECEMBER 4TH AT 9:15AM
- DECEMBER 11TH AT 9:15 AM

Rehearsals will be held in Ascension Hall

Christmas Tree Trim

Christmas Tree Trim
Wednesday December
11th after Wednesday
Night Family Supper
in Ascension Hall.



Progressive Dinner & Christmas Party Sunday December 22, 2024

Wear your favorite tacky Christmas sweater, bring a Dirty Santa gift (valued \$10 or less), and let's go eat some fun food and celebrate the season. We will meet at Ascension at 5:00 p.m. and your parents can pick you up there at 8:00 p.m.

From the Manger

A Family Advent Devotion Series



A series designed for families with children. Your packet contains weekly themes & devotions, discussion questions, prayers, and activities.

Advent One: Hope Grows

Advent Two: Peace Grows

Advent Three: Joy Grows

Advent Four: Love Grows

Christmas: Good News Has Come

To receive a digital or hard copy,
please email Laura@coascension.org



BSA SCOUT TROOP 1

CHRISTMAS TREE & WREATH SALE

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW!

**FRESH CUT FRASER FIRS ARRIVE THANKSGIVING WEEK
SCOUTS DELIVER TREES NOV 29TH**



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.

Church of the Ascension | 334-263-5529 | staff@coascension.org | www.coascension.org

[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!