



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

From the Rector...

I like to keep a gratitude journal in which every night I list those things I have experienced in the day that I am most thankful for. The list never explicitly names God because, for me, the list is always about those things which have made God manifest to me in various ways. As we approach Thanksgiving Day, I wanted to reflect on my top ten list of things I am thankful for this Thanksgiving.



10. The sounds of landscaping crews—I live in the middle of Old Cloverdale where there is not a lot of wildlife to wake you up in the morning. Occasionally I might hear the sounds of birds chattering outside my window in the early morning, but more likely I hear lawn mowers and leaf blowers. It breaks the stillness and offers me motivation—if they can be this productive in the morning, I can get my lazy self up and going too. Plus, it has the added bonus that if the rapture happened while I was asleep, I was not the only one left behind.

9. Bathrooms—Where else would I find the time to peruse all my social media accounts? Nothing says “good morning” like a dog video on TikTok!

8. Complaints—Sometimes I think my life is too perfect and then I get a text or an email that immediately brings me back to earth. My favorites are the ones regarding the bells on Sunday mornings that wake up the neighbors or that we are reading scripture too loud outside at Morning Prayer. I get it. Who wants to hear about God smiting the Israelites’ enemies on a Tuesday morning when you are already dealing with the guilt of not attending church on Sunday?

7. Water—The kind you drink, the kind you take a bath in, the kind you swim in, the water of baptism—I am thankful for all kinds of water except maybe swift flowing water that doesn't know its boundaries and floods people's homes and washes away their lives—I don't know that I am as thankful for that kind of water.

6. Recovery—Though I am not fond of natural disasters, I am grateful for people who help other people.

5. Curiosity—Basset hounds are naturally curious dogs. The Tweedles, Archie and Petunia (my basset hounds), temper their curiosity with their timidity. They love to discover new things but at the same time are terrified of anything new. The first time I showed them an empty toilet paper roll you would think I was pointing a revolver at them. Cuthbert, the golden retriever, came by and took it straight out of my hands without hesitation, which made the bassets all the more curious until they bullied it out of Cutty's mouth and proceeded to tear it to pieces. Now they hunt for toilet paper tubes in every bathroom. It's adorable.

4. Kind words—We all need to hear them and, even more, we all need to speak them.

3. Hallmark Christmas movies—I have actually never watched one, but I really appreciate how much Drew loves them.

2. Ascension—I can't even begin to express how grateful I am for this church, its people, and our mission and ministry. I am always amazed at how I get to live out God's call to me with all of you.

1. Steve and my family—We don't always agree, hold the same beliefs and values, or even have all the same interests which makes me even more grateful, as they are always stretching me and helping me to grow by examining my own beliefs and values, offering me new and varied perspectives, and helping me to break out of my own limited thinking even if and when, agreeing with them would make us both wrong. Most especially, I am grateful for their love of me regardless as to whether or not I deserve it.

That's my list. I would love to hear yours. Feel free to share with me at candice@coascension.org and have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Light and Life,
Candice+

This Sunday!

This Sunday December 1st following the
10:30 service, in Ascension Hall.



Summer Mission 2024 Team

Parish Advent Wreath Party & Soup Luncheon

*Dine in and carry out soup options will be
available.

This Sunday December 1st all members of the Parish are invited to Ascension Hall after the 10:30 a.m. service for a soup luncheon that will serve as a first fundraiser for the 2025 Youth Mission Trip. Soups served will be ham & potato, vegetable soup, and taco soup there will also be grilled cheese sandwiches and fixings for soups. Cost of lunch is donation only. There will also be carry out options available. Also during this time parish members are invited to make an Advent wreath, supplies provided, to take home and utilize during this season of advent as a part of an Ordered Life. This fun Sunday is for all parish members and we hope to see you there.



Christmas Pageant 2024

Walk-through Rehearsal

Sunday December 1, 2024 at 9:15 a.m.

Walk through for pageant participants in Ascension Hall.

Dress Rehearsal

Sunday December 8, 2024 at 9:15 a.m.

Ages 4 through 5th grade meet in the Children's Wing on the 3rd floor.

6th Grade & Youth meet in the Youth Room.

*more instructions will be sent

Pageant

Sunday December 15, 2024 at 9:15 a.m.

Ascension Hall



Stay Connected!

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.

The Weekly WORD

RIGHTEOUSNESS

In the classic, A Christmas Carol, Scrooge is confronted by his deceased partner, Jacob Marley. Marley clanks on to the scene, covered in chains, and warns Scrooge that he will be visited by three ghosts. If he doesn't change his ways, he, too, will be bound in chains through all eternity.

The three ghosts who visit Scrooge enact a sort of judgment upon Scrooge. That judgment is not one of hell and condemnation from God, it is one of Scrooge's own doing. The ghosts simply force Scrooge to take a closer look at his life. As Scrooge observes his past, present, and future he convicts himself for his behavior and choices.

The three ghosts serve to scourge Scrooge from his evil and guilt. Their intervention in his life serves as a sort of refiner's fire that draws him toward RIGHTEOUSNESS—an act of being freed from sin and guilt. Over the course of the night, the ghosts lead him along a path of darkness where his life has attempted to extinguish the light of Christ. When morning breaks, Scrooge finds himself freed of his sin, and seeking atonement.

The work of RIGHTEOUSNESS is our mission should we choose to accept it. We cannot make ourselves RIGHTEOUS, but we can release our ego and, setting our excuses aside, embrace the promise of God.

It is on-going work—this RIGHTEOUSNESS of God—holy work that never ends. To achieve RIGHTEOUSNESS is not about waiting on a hero, on someone else to come and save the day. It is about our willingness to put our trust in God and God's purposes for us, to examine our wrong doings and embrace our sufferings that we might learn and grow in ways that encourage us to live as Christ in the world.

We cannot be RIGHTEOUS of our own accord, but if we are willing, we can examine who we are and what we have done and discover that our chains are gone and we've been set free.

**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

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.



WORSHIP



69th Anniversary

MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

SPECIAL GUESTS

REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY
PASTOR JOHN P KEE
MONTGOMERY UNITED MASS CHOIR
AND OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024
6:00 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

HOLT STREET MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH
1870 S Court Street | Montgomery, AL 36104



ATTN: SINGERS, CHURCH CHOIRS AND GROUPS

You are invited to be a part of the

MONTGOMERY UNITED MASS CHOIR

The choir will make its debut at the
**69TH MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT
COMMEMORATION**

at the Holt Street Memorial Baptist Church
1870 S Court Street - Montgomery, AL

December 2, 2024 at 6:00pm

Rehearsal Dates

November 23 3:00pm

November 30 7:00pm

For more information MGMevents@montgomeryal.gov

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

**No meetings or activities this Wednesday!
Happy Thanksgiving!**

Follow us on Instagram!



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

Stewardship 2025!



Click [HERE](#) to see the 5th installment of our Walk in Love video series!

My Walk in Love

As the senior warden at the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery, Alabama, I am proud to Walk in Love with you in this beautiful space. Every major life event I have experienced happened inside these walls, and I am the person I am today because of the love and grace I received here.

My life's journey provides a unique perspective on stewardship. Over the years, I have been blessed to serve in many positions at Ascension. But I didn't feel qualified when I was elected to lead your vestry. I pledged to do my best. I have come to understand that my best is made better when I work in community with others to realize God's hope and love in the world.

Today, I am overcome with joy when I see our village at work—fostering a spirit of stewardship and service to a world in need.

As I reflect on the phrase Walk in Love, I am reminded of the profound impact that love can have when expressed through our actions. Walking in love demonstrates care and concern for others, fosters a sense of belonging, and builds a community rooted in compassion and empathy.

I approach my stewardship responsibilities this way. Just as I have been blessed, I must be willing to help someone else who may be in need. Stewardship is about more than financial contributions. It is about giving of oneself,



sharing our blessings, and nurturing a community of Godly and reverent people.

Virginia Humphrey

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.

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



Christmas Tree Trim

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



EGC

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.

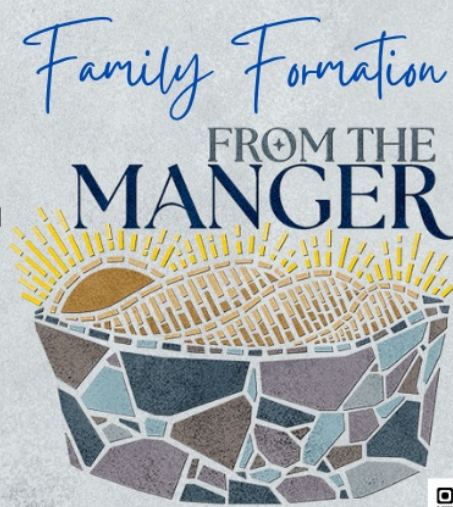
JOIN US THIS ADVENT

This year's "From the Manger" Advent devotional contains a weekly reflection, discussion questions, prayer, and family memory-making activity that easily integrates into already busy schedules.

Digital copies will be emailed to families on November 29, 2024 and hard copies are available upon request.

Laura@coascension.org

Use this QR code to help us stay connected!



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 Worrirow, 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

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