



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

From the Rector...

“Go Ahead to Galilee” was the theme of this year’s diocesan convention. While we didn’t actually go to Galilee, we did gather by a lake in Decatur, where we spent three days worshipping, singing, praying, listening, and conducting the business of the Diocese of Alabama. Part of that business included Bishop G’s calling for the election of the thirteenth bishop of Alabama. The Standing Committee is already hard at work selecting a search committee and has established a timeline for the process. Once Bishop G retires in June, the Standing Committee will serve as the ecclesial authority of the diocese until the next bishop is consecrated. Bishop G will continue to serve as assisting bishop during that time.



The convention also featured inspiring speakers, including Jim Davis and Michael Graham, who co-authored *The Great Dechurching*. The book examines who is leaving church, why they are leaving, and what it might take to bring them back. While they acknowledge the unprecedented numbers of people leaving church, they shared hopeful news. The number one reason people leave is due to moving to a new location. Of those who have moved, many are open to returning to church—they just need an invitation. The key takeaway is simple: invite the new family who just moved in down the block, the new co-worker, or anyone you meet to come to church. It doesn’t need to be pushy—a simple invitation and your presence can make all the difference. Of course, if they do show up, the rest of us need to do our part by engaging them in conversation and fostering connections that can lead to meaningful relationships within the church and beyond.

People are hungry for connection. The pandemic greatly contributed to our disconnection, but as Christians, it is our calling and responsibility to bring people together in healthy and holy relationships. When we see someone new at church, we should be ready to introduce ourselves and find ways to connect. We're not here to sell Jesus to anyone; rather we're here to extend the hand of fellowship and root ourselves in a shared human experience with one another. By growing our relationships beyond those that we currently have, we help grow God's presence in this world. There's an old saying, "Make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ." This is not about conversion—it's about preaching the gospel through our actions and love.

This year's theme of our convention is directly tied to our need for deeper relationships. Jesus tells his disciples, "Go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Matthew 28:10) After his resurrection, Jesus appears to his followers at the tomb, in the upper room, on the road to Emmaus, and by the sea—each time an unexpected encounter with Jesus. But in Matthew, Jesus is clear about where he wants the disciples to meet him. They go to the mountain in Galilee, where he gives them the Great Commissioning. He could have given this commission anywhere, why Galilee?

I wonder if Jesus sent the disciples to Galilee to help them release all the distractions of the past few days—the arrest, the trial, and even the crucifixion—and rediscover their purpose and life with him. They had been in Jerusalem, a bustling city full of distractions—streets and shops, consumerism and homelessness—where it was easy to lose focus. Going to Galilee allowed them to escape the distractions of the world and reconnect with nature and their roots. For many, Galilee was home, a place of comfort and a reminder of what truly mattered. It was where they first encountered Jesus and were called to be his disciples. In Galilee, Jesus taught, preached, healed, and cast out demons. It was there that he fed people, walked on water, and turned water into wine. Jesus told them to go to Galilee to remind them that true ministry is about how we treat one another.

Go to Galilee every Sunday, and invite anyone you can to come with you.

Light and Life,

Candice+

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

**GROW**



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 5:45 PM  
IN THE SMALL DINING ROOM

GATHER FOR CASUAL THEOLOGICAL DISCOURSE WITH THE CLERGY  
THIS WEEK'S THEME OF DISCUSSION IS  
ENNEAGRAM - THE HELPER

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.

---

**The Weekly WORD**



## RECOVERY

RECOVERY can elicit multiple images for people. Some of us think of RECOVERING from surgery or other health crisis. Then there is RECOVERY as a mechanism of sobriety. We might RECOVER valuables that have been stolen or documents lost on the computer. RECOVERY can refer to a return to mental stability or even spiritual health.

The possibility of RECOVERY is hopeful. It assumes that we will return to a particular state of being. The process of RECOVERY can be a little more challenging. We often face odds that can seem insurmountable in the process of RECOVERY. When we dig deep and don't give up, we are rarely disappointed. We may not achieve our desired results but we can rest in the knowledge that we have given our best effort.

We assume RECOVERY is a return to status quo but, in truth, it is a matter of resilience and a mindset of hope. Working toward RECOVERY draws us toward improved mental and spiritual health. It can make us less anxious and empower us to gain more control and security in our lives.

---

## 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.

---

## Men's Prayer Breakfast



**Exodus: Movement of the People**

**Thursdays at 7:15am**

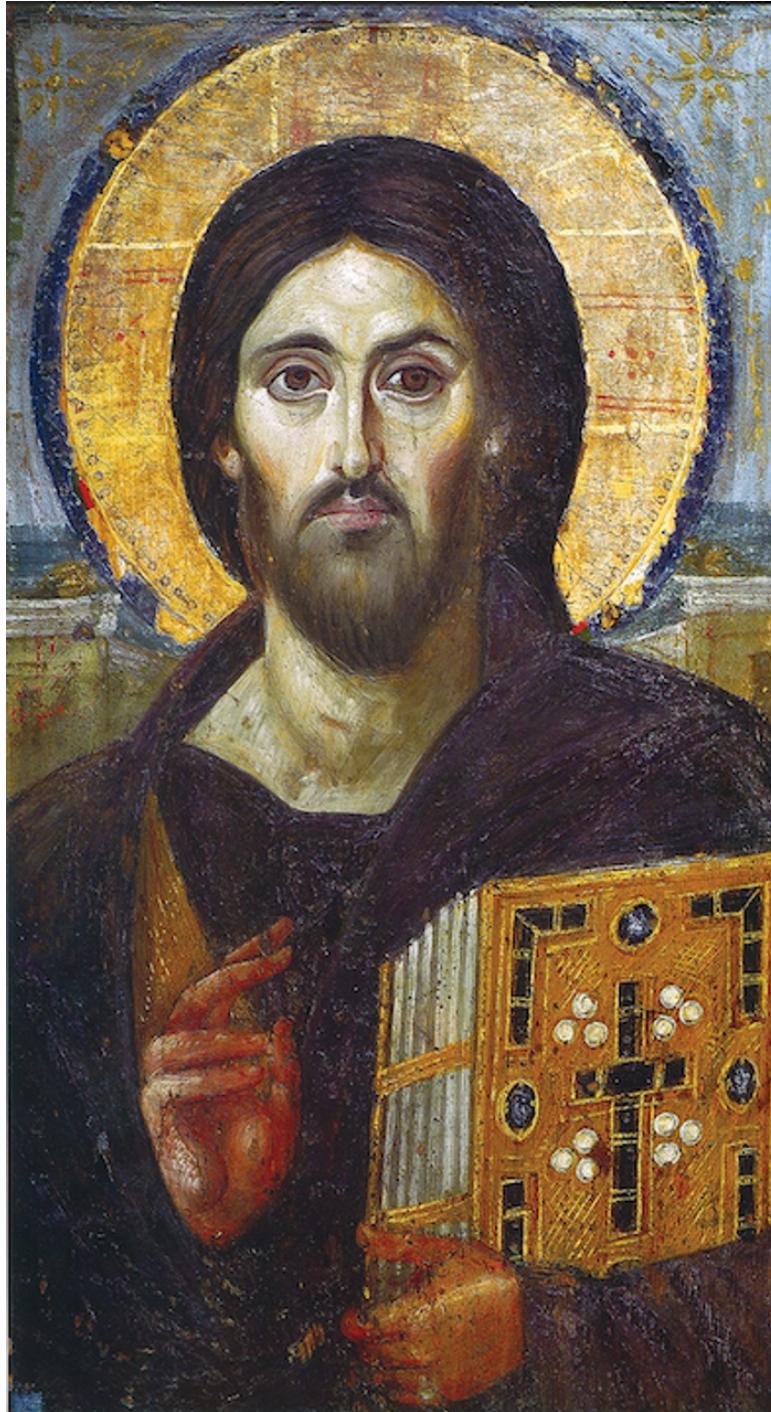
**Ascension Hall**

**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**

**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.

---

COME SERVE AT

# Mercy House

**Thursdays  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Questions? Call or text  
Stephanie Norrell  
at 334-467-6989



Mercy House is a day shelter at 2412 Council Street serving Washington Park and West Montgomery, providing access to food, clothing, shower facilities, and laundry. St. John's and Ascension members are working each week at Mercy House to help package and distribute a hot lunch to those in need every Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and we would love for you to join us! The staff at Mercy House prepares the food and handles the distribution, but they can always use help getting the prepared meals bagged and out the door. The link [HERE](#) will take you to the sign-up sheet, but if you aren't comfortable with using Sign Up Genius, you can call or text Stephanie Norrell to sign up at 334-467-6989.

---





McDowell Summer Camps at  
Bethany Village invites you to a



# MARDI GRAS BALL




supporting Special Session




Saturday, March 1st  
4-7PM



Good People Brewing Co.  
114 14th St. S.  
Birmingham, AL. 35233



Purchase tickets, donate, become a sponsor here:  
<https://mardigrasball.swell.gives>





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.

## 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**



# 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)



---

**Opt-In for Text Notifications!**



**Stay in the Know!**

**Contact [jason@coascension.org](mailto:jason@coascension.org) to opt-in for text messaging or click here!**



**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.

**WEDNESDAY**

**NIGHTLIVE**

STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN US ON  
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

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

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

**5:45**  
**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:

Spaghetti  
Salad  
Rolls

\$8 per person or \$20 per family!

---

EPISCO  
PARTY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20  
6:00 PM

HOSTED BY RICHARD NORRIS

CONTACT THE CHURCH FOR MORE  
INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

Ascensionaires

Love One Another Luncheon  
Thursday, February 13  
12:00 PM  
Small Dining Room  
\$10 per person

You are invited to lunch with Candice+ and Drew+ on Thursday, February 13 in the Small Dining Room. Reservations are appreciated. Contact [Fay@coascension.org](mailto:Fay@coascension.org) to reserve your spot. Ascensionaires is a ministry of fellowship for those who are retired or partially retired to connect with one another in a spirit of joy. We hope to see you there!





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!](#)

Financial Gifts Offered This Week	Financial Gifts Offered This Month	Financial Gift Target Monthly
\$17,916	\$155,827	\$85,500

**Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628**  
**Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$155,827**

#### 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)

[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!