



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

Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Wednesday Night Live - Wednesday , Mar 12 @ 5:15 PM
- Ascensionaires St. Patrick's Luncheon - Thurs, Mar 13 @ 12:00 PM
- Family Formations Potluck Club - Thursday, Mar 13 @ 6:00 PM
- Compline with Encore! - Sunday, Mar 16 @ 7:30 PM

From the Rector...

On Friday, March 13, 2020, the clergy in the Diocese of Alabama received an email from the bishop announcing that in-person worship services would be suspended indefinitely. The staff and I quickly scrambled to figure out how to livestream church on Facebook that Sunday. It was a disaster as churches everywhere were livestreaming and basically broke the internet. While we knew the coming weeks would be challenging, we had no idea how long the disruption of the pandemic would last or its full impact.



The weeks before churches “shut down” across the country, we watched the pandemic and its effects around the world. When it finally arrived, we had done some work to prepare for it. Becky Taylor and Tiffany Nishibun organized the parish into small groups of eight households that were geographically situated near one another. Each group had a leader who communicated with their group, intermittently, throughout the pandemic helping us maintain connection and offer support, even though some groups were more active than others.

Laura Walters researched an A/V and lighting system for livestreaming, which allowed us to create a visually appealing worship experience. Three new cameras, a new sound system, lights, and a production booth were installed early in the pandemic. We continue to use this system today for streaming and recording. Although we prefer in-person worship, we are grateful for the opportunity to connect and worship with those who cannot attend due to distance, travel, or being homebound.

Staying connected to people—through small groups and livestreaming—was central to our preparation. When we were told to stay home, it didn’t take too much for us to adjust. That first Sunday we livestreamed was the Third Sunday of Lent—it felt like the lentiest Lent ever. As the pandemic dragged on, we nicknamed it “The Great Pause.” We began offering “communion to go” in the back parking lot thanks in part to Steve Frazer’s idea to use small bottles to share communion wine. Tiffany created and delivered Sunday School kits to families’ front porches. We attempted Christian formation, coffee hours, and meetings on Zoom. The learning curve was steep, but we supported each other with grace.

By midsummer, we were allowed to hold outdoor services. Will McQueen painted circles on the front lawn, and we set up an altar and microphone for worship. These outdoor services were at 9am, following a 7:30am livestream. I am forever grateful to those who woke up early on Sunday mornings to participate in worship. I know it is challenging to sing first thing in the morning, yet members of the choir faithfully showed up. Volunteers learned the A/V system honing their skills to make online worship engaging. Families brought chairs and sat in tight circles, masked and enduring the heat, cold, and even a few rainy Sundays. Throughout “The Great Pause” there was a spirit of perseverance and commitment to worship God—giving him thanks and praise even in difficult times.

It is hard to believe that it has only been five years since that fateful week—it feels like a lifetime ago. But the lessons learned during that time have strengthened our faith and renewed our hope. As we enter into Lent this year, I invite you to reflect on how the pandemic affected you and your family and the lessons you learned. These lessons are the life lessons that continue to serve us whenever we face challenges and difficulties.

Light and Life,

SERVE



Food Box Ministry

Every 4th Saturday - 8:30 AM

Church of the Ascension

Hull Street Parking Lot

Call 263-5529 to Reserve

How You Can Help!

- Donate cardboard boxes
- Food bank trips
- Packing food boxes

The Food Box Ministry is in need of volunteers to assist in picking up food from local food banks or packing boxes for distribution. Any amount of time that you can give is appreciated! If you are interested in becoming a part of this rewarding and important ministry, or for additional information, please contact Fay.

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

Compline with *Encore!*

Sunday - 7:30 PM





lift up your voice

SINGING THROUGH LENT AND EASTER

In this devotional, each day, scripture and song inspires our hope in the midst of this season of Lent.

Booklets available in Ascension Hall and the Narthex.

Daily emails contain a link to the hymn of the day.

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



Ascensionaires

St. Patrick's Luncheon
Thursday, March 13
12:00 PM
Small Dining Room
\$15 per person

This Thursday!

A silver fork is positioned on the left side of the text, and a silver knife is on the right side. The text is centered between them. The background features a faint illustration of a plate with a floral border.

FAMILY FORMATION

"POTLUCK CLUB"

**FOR THE PARENTS OF
CHILDREN & YOUTH**

2ND THURSDAYS

MARCH 13, APRIL 10, MAY 8

Ascension Hall

6:00 - 7:30 pm.

Bring your favorite snack supper food
item to share
and your favorite beverage.
(tea & water provided)

**RSVP TO
NICK@COASCENSION.ORG**

Roof Work Continues!



Opt-In for Text Notifications!



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 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

Menu:

Chicken Tetrazini
Salad
Rolls

\$8 per person or \$20 per family



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
\$7,690	\$36,972	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$240,171

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 LOYALIST

WINE AND ALTERNATIVE BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.

The Word
Wednesdays, January 8 – March 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



RENEWAL

Lent is a season of RENEWAL. Whatever discipline we might follow in Lent—giving something up or taking something on—is an opportunity for us to RENEW our hopes and purpose in God.

It is important to mark this season in an intentional way—not so that we might beat ourselves up but that we might center our lives, purposes, hope, and trust in God.

As you enter into this season of Lent, how are you focused on your own RENEWAL?

Women's Bible Study

In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

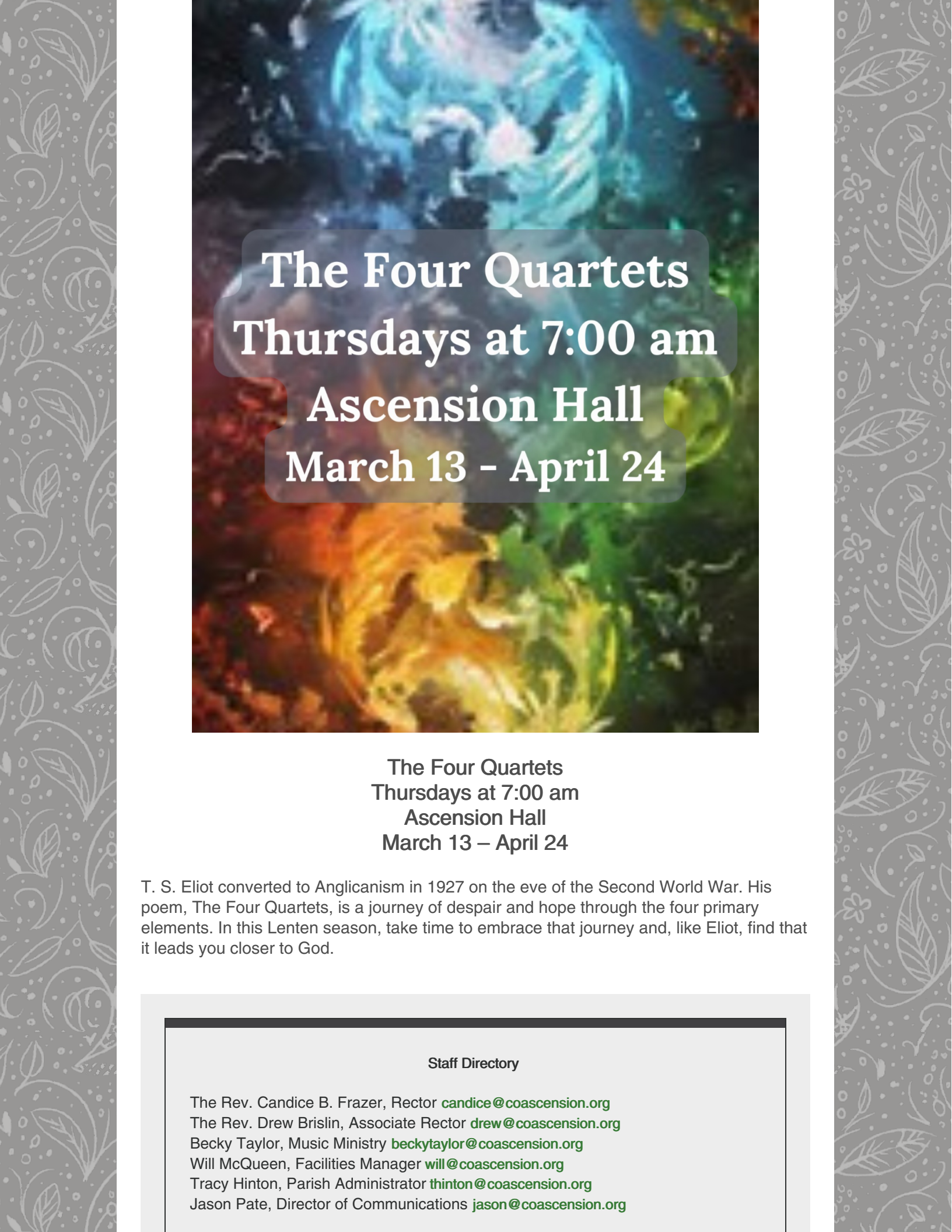
Tuesday Nights - 5pm

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



The Four Quartets
Thursdays at 7:00 am
Ascension Hall
March 13 - April 24

The Four Quartets
Thursdays at 7:00 am
Ascension Hall
March 13 – April 24

T. S. Eliot converted to Anglicanism in 1927 on the eve of the Second World War. His poem, *The Four Quartets*, is a journey of despair and hope through the four primary elements. In this Lenten season, take time to embrace that journey and, like Eliot, find that it leads you closer to God.

Staff Directory

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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.

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

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