



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

Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Wednesday Night Live - Wednesday, April 23 @ 5:15 PM
- ASU Memorial Concert - Saturday, April 26 @ 2:00 PM
- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat - Sun, April 27 @ 9:30 AM
- Youth Sunday with Covered Dish Lunch - Sun, April 27

From the Rector...

Years ago, before Cardinal Bergoglio became Pope Francis—when he was still the Archbishop of Buenos Aires—my father would often see him riding the bus. As many of you know, my father was an expat who worked all over the world. He lived and worked in Argentina for several years, and during that time, he often commuted to work by bus. Apparently, he and Archbishop Bergoglio took the same route.

Pope Francis became known as the “People’s Pope.” He was often seen riding in his



“Popemobile” around the Vatican or during visits to other countries. It was his habit to stop, bless children, and pray with women and those who were suffering. He reached out to migrants, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and survivors of sexual abuse within the Church. He consistently advocated for justice, even while upholding the more divisive doctrines of the Church. Though he maintained certain traditions, he seemed to prioritize relationships—working to find a path that honored both the individual and the Church’s teachings.

Pope Francis sought to understand people and to live and work among them—even as the highest figure in the Roman Catholic Church. When he was elected Pope, my father recalled his memories of this man. He had attended services where Archbishop Bergoglio presided over Mass, but what impressed him most was the Archbishop’s everyday connection to ordinary people. So it was no surprise to me that one of the pictures circulating in the media this week wasn’t just of Pope Francis in his white clericals, but also of Archbishop—and later Cardinal—Bergoglio riding the bus. There’s even a story from when he was first elected Pope about the Vatican having to stop him from using public transportation in Rome due to safety concerns.

When we think about leaders, celebrities, or famous figures, I often wonder what draws us to them—and what turns us away. Personally, I’m drawn to leaders with the kind of wisdom that can take the common experiences and sufferings of ordinary people and offer meaning and purpose. I’m sure others seek different qualities, but whatever we’re looking for, the ability to relate to someone matters.

Pope Francis was relatable. Though he worked at it, it also seemed to be an innate quality—something he cultivated within himself and his ministry. Each of us has the capacity to nurture the qualities we admire and aspire to. And yet, as the Apostle Paul wrote, we often “do that which we do not want to do.” In those moments, we don’t need to throw the baby out with the bathwater. Instead, we’re given the opportunity to grow and become more than we already are. Our mistakes make us human—and relatable—and they offer us the chance to become better.

I may never have ridden the bus with Pope Francis, but I’ve always felt a special kinship with him. One day, while riding the bus, my father asked the Archbishop for a blessing. Though my dad was an Episcopalian, he had been raised Roman Catholic and attended Catholic Mass in Argentina. The Archbishop blessed him right there on the bus. My father treasured that moment—and was not at all surprised when the Archbishop was later elected Pope. In my father’s words: “Here is a great man to everyman.”

May the soul of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace.

Light and Life,

SERVE

Sawyerville In-Gathering

Help us minister to Sawyerville Camp participants by filling the following needs:

- 20 Girls Swimsuits
One Piece Size L (10-12)
- 20 Boys Swimsuits Size L
- 40 Thin Pool Towels
- 40 Pool Noodles

**Donations can be dropped off in
Ascension Hall!**

Deadline April 30th!



It takes a village to make three sessions of Summer Camp happen, welcoming over 500 campers and nearly 300 staff members—and with 80 days left until the first bus unloads those excited campers at the front of Greensboro Elementary School, we have much to do to prepare for their arrival! We need snacks, cleaning supplies, swimsuits, towels, pool noodles, laundry detergent and more.

Our theme this summer will be “**Thanks be to God**”, where we will examine and practice gratitude—gratitude for creation, friendships, family, answered prayers, and even challenges. As we look forward to seeing how you will make an impact at Sawyerville this summer, we want to say, “thanks be to God for **YOU!**”

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.

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

Join us April 27th!



at the 10:30 AM service with covered dish lunch following

All Youth and families are invited!



Attention Venmo Users



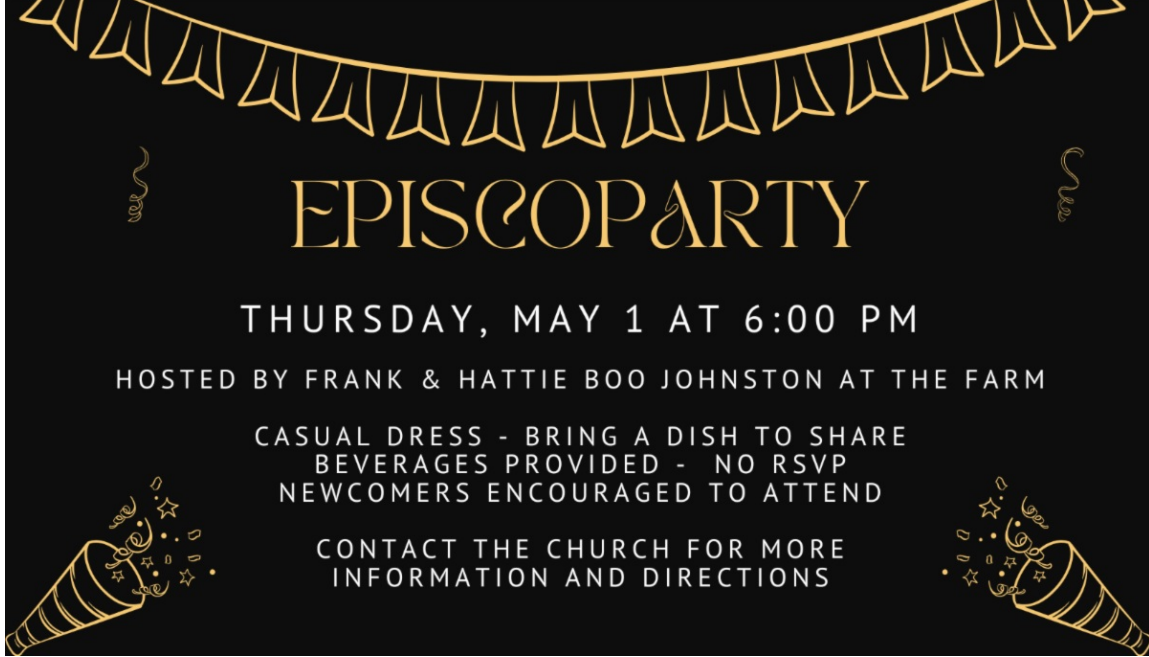
As electronic payments become more widely used we ask that anyone who uses Venmo to please add a short summary of what the payment is for in the description field. We now accept Venmo for Wednesday night dinner, Sunday morning breakfast, purchases in The Vineyard Bookstore, as well as for giving. This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

CONNECT

***The Church of the Ascension Choristers
and Friends from Rejoice! present***

**JOSEPH AND THE
AMAZING
TECHNICOLOR
DREAMCOAT**

***Sunday April 27, 2025
9:30 a.m. in the Nave***



The Ascension bus will be transporting those that want a ride to the Johnston's farm. There is room for 15 people and the spots are first come, first serve. Contact the church to reserve your seat!

This Saturday!



MEMORIAL CONCERT

WITH THE ALABAMA STATE

University Choir

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2025 | 2 PM CT

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

315 CLANTON AVE, MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

F E A T U R I N G

"DOVER BEACH"
BY SAMUEL BARBER FOR
STRING QUARTET AND BARITONE,
MR. TYRONE HAYES, SOLOIST

"ADAGIO FOR STRINGS" BY SAMUEL BARBER

"THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF THE UNARMED,"
FOR CHORUS,
STRING QUINTET AND PIANO
BY JOEL THOMPSON



**THREE GENERATIONS.
ONE JOURNEY TOWARDS JUSTICE.**



**APRIL 24 – MAY 4
ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL**

**BOOK AND LYRICS BY HARRISON DAVID RIVERS
MUSIC AND ADDITIONAL LYRICS BY TED SHEN
MUSIC DIRECTION BY DR. JOEL JONES
DIRECTED BY RYAN DOBRIN AND TYLER THOMAS**

Our own Ascension choir will be performing on May 2nd! Get your tickets [HERE!](#)

WEDNESDAY

NIGHTLIVE

STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

4:30
REUNION GROUP
RECTOR'S OFFICE

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 This Week:

Lasagna
Salad Bar
Bread

\$8 per person or \$20 per family. Cash, check or Venmo accepted!



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
\$27,204	\$58,220	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$317,204

Vacation Bible School 2025

June 2 – June 5 at Ascension!

8:30 – 12:00 p.m.



Register Your Children
Please register children
by May 12, 2025

Register as a Volunteer
Adults and Youth , part time
and full time help are welcome!

Click either link below and let Laura@coascension know if you have any questions.

It's here! The moment everyone looks forward to that marks the end of another school

year and the start of Summer! Vacation Bible School!

This year, our parish will be hosting God's children in Ascension Hall for a journey with Joseph!

Right now, use the links provided below to register children for VBS. Adults and Youth who wish to serve as volunteers, please register and fill out a form also!

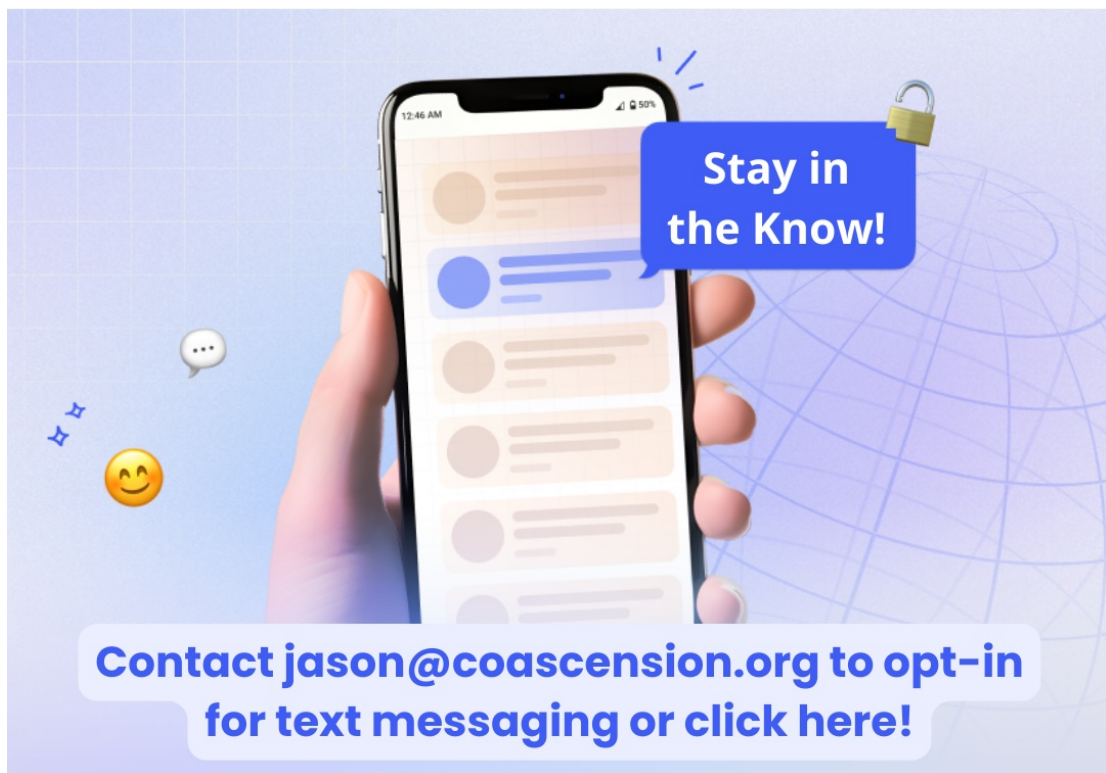
More information will follow in the coming days on specific ways you can serve in this ministry. Whether you are gifted in leading a small group, preparing snacks, or "floating" we welcome your talents!

Thank you in advance for making VBS 2025 so special!

[Click here to register your child.](#)

[Click here to register as an adult or Youth Volunteer.](#)

Opt-In for Text Notifications!



Cursillo Open Reunion Group!

Meets Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.
The Rector's Office

Contact 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.

GROW

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

Jon Meacham



THE HOPE OF GLORY


*Reflections on the Last Words
of Jesus from the Cross*

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The Word
Wednesday Nights
5:45pm in the Small Dining Room

In his book *The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross*, Pulitzer Prize winning author Jon Meacham explores the last seven sayings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels. Beginning this Wednesday evening April 23rd in the Word we will focus on key words in these sayings and reflect on them with assistance from Jon Meacham's book.

Men's Prayer Breakfast



And
God
Spoke

Wednesdays at 7am
Ascension Hall
April 24 – May 29
Men's Prayer Breakfast

And God Spoke
Thursdays at 7:00 am
Ascension Hall

"How can well-intentioned and intelligent persons come to such opposite conclusions about the same documents? Are the scriptures simply not clear? Are the parties to the debate interpreting the scriptures in different ways? And if so, what is the right way? Is there a "right way"? And what of "authority"-a notoriously slippery term? Is there a particular way in which the scriptures can or ought to be authoritative for the church's discourse, and if so, what is it?"

These are some of the questions that author Christopher Bryan asks and reflects on in his book *And God Spoke: The Authority of the Bible for the church today*. Bryan is an Anglican priest and the former C.K. Benedict Professor of New Testament at the School of Theology at the University of the South and editor of the *Sewanee Theological Review*. Beginning this Thursday, April 24th in Men's Prayer Breakfast, we will try to answer these questions among others with the assistance of Bryan's book.

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
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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.

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

[Visit Our Website](http://www.coascension.org)

Church of the Ascension | 315 Clanton Avenue | Montgomery, AL 36104 US

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