



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

Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Wednesday Night Live - Wednesday, April 30 @ 5:15 PM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, May 1 @ 12:00 PM
- EpiscoParty - Thursday, May 1 @ 6:00 PM
- Ascension Choir Performs at ASF - Friday, May 2 @ 7:00 PM

From the Rector...

As many of you know, Banshee—also known as Church Dog—died in February. She was seventeen years old and a beloved companion and member of our family. She loved going to the beach, rolling in dead fish, paddling around in the water, and nipping at anyone throwing the cast net. But her absolute favorite activity was barking from the end of the pier at boats passing by. People would often bark back at her, which was always hilarious. Yet no one ever stopped to pick her up and take her for a ride. So, when Steve and I discussed where to scatter her ashes, we both agreed that the end



of the pier was the perfect place.

Last week, after Easter services, we loaded up all the dogs—including Banshee—and headed for the beach. We had a great week with lots of boat rides and delicious seafood. On our last day, we went down to the pier early that morning with Banshee in tow. It was a calm morning with gentle waves. The sunlight sparkled like diamonds dancing across the surface of the water. Seagulls cried in the distance and the occasional mullet leapt into the air before splashing back into the bay. There was a gentle breeze. It was peaceful and serene.

We scattered her ashes there, and though we worried they might not sink, all but a very fine dusting did. We watched her remains form a delicate cloud, swirling in the water and slowly drifting away from the pier—out into eternity.

It has been difficult for me to capture the love and grief of that moment in words, but the time we spent watching her go, inspired the following poem. I offer it to you, not because it is perfect, but as a way of sharing my grief—and embracing the grief we all carry in our own lives

Banshee's Burial

When ash meets sea,
there you shall lie—
forever, an eternity.

Floating like a mist
you linger in the midst
Soul and Spirit swirling, twist.

Tides ebb and flow
drawing us close
even, as we must let go.

Time, though unending,
brings joy and sorrow
in nature's quiet tending.

In one last earthly sway,
she folds you in her arms
offering passage to guide your soul away.

Our love for you will never cease

anchored in trust and knowing—
that you will live in eternal peace.

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, p. 505)

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

SERVE

Deadline Extended Through Sunday!

Sawyerville In-Gathering

Help us minister to Sawyerille 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!



We Still Need:

11/20 Girls Swimsuits
11/20 Boys Swimsuits
19/40 Pool Towels
32/40 Pool Noodles

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!”



Saturday, June 28
6:00pm - 9:00pm

We are in need of sponsors, silent auction donations, and wine donations. If you would be interested in helping please contact the school.



ADS@coascension.org

Click [HERE](#) for sponsorship information!



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

Ascension Day
Thursday, May 29th
5:30 PM Evensong with
reception to follow





Camp Day **May 18**



CHURCH OLYMPICS

Sunday, May 18
9:15 AM - Front Lawn



**Contact the church to sign up
your team!**

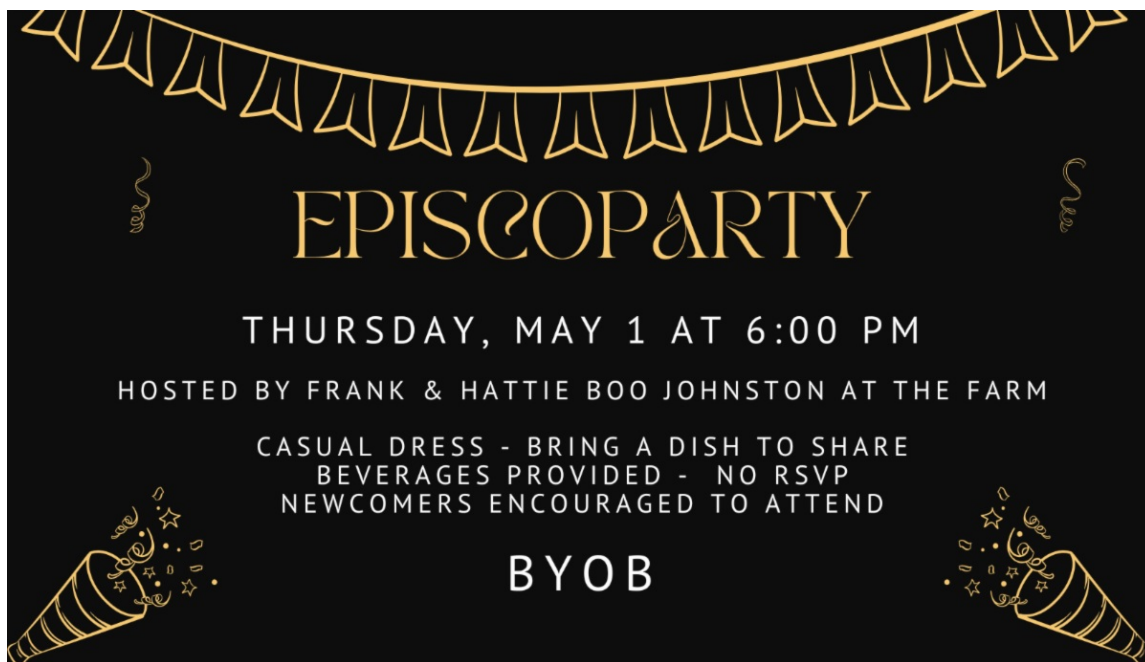
Attention Venmo Users



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

This Thursday!



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!

People riding the Ascension bus should meet in the lower church parking lot at 5:30 PM!

Directions to the Farm!

Go out I65 South

Turn right at exit 167 (Montgomery Airport exit)

Go five (5) miles past the airport and turn right on County Road 7 (Cantelou Road)

Go 1/3 miles to first gate on left

8134 Haw Branch Way.



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:

Pork Lion Roast
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Rolls
Salad Bar

\$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!

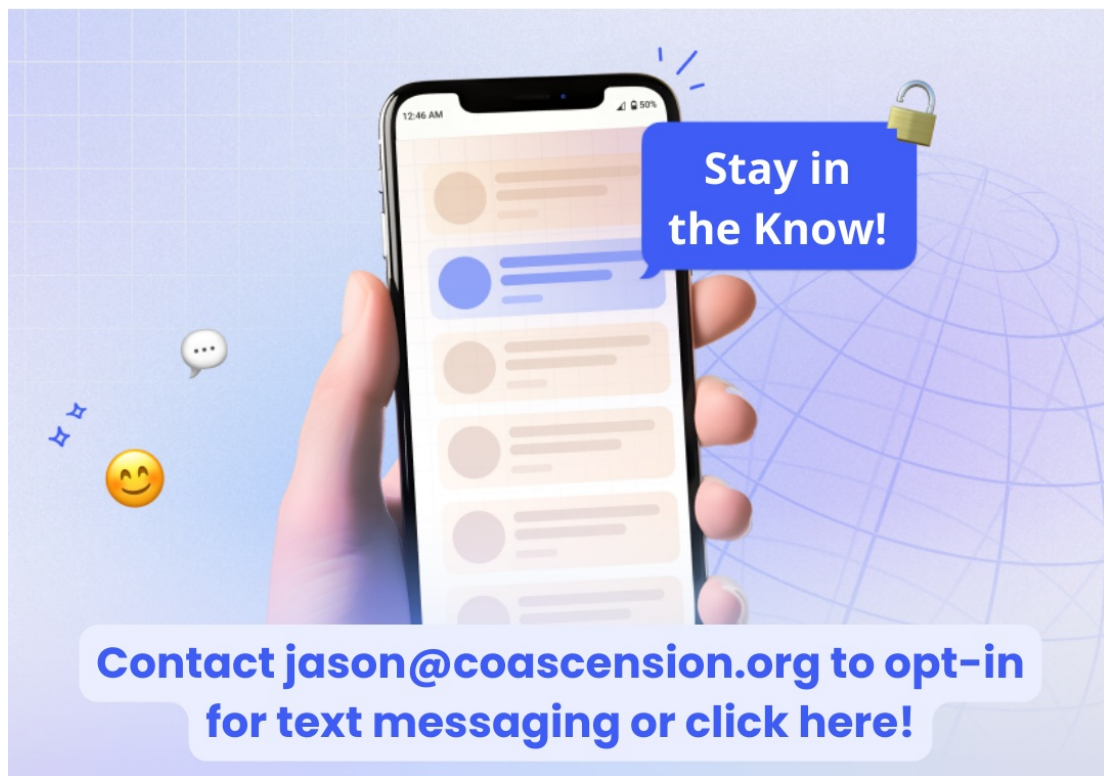
More information will follow in the coming days on specific ways you can serve in this ministry. Whether you are gifted in leading a small group, preparing snacks, or "floating" we welcome your talents!

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

GROW

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

Jon Meacham



THE HOPE OF GLORY

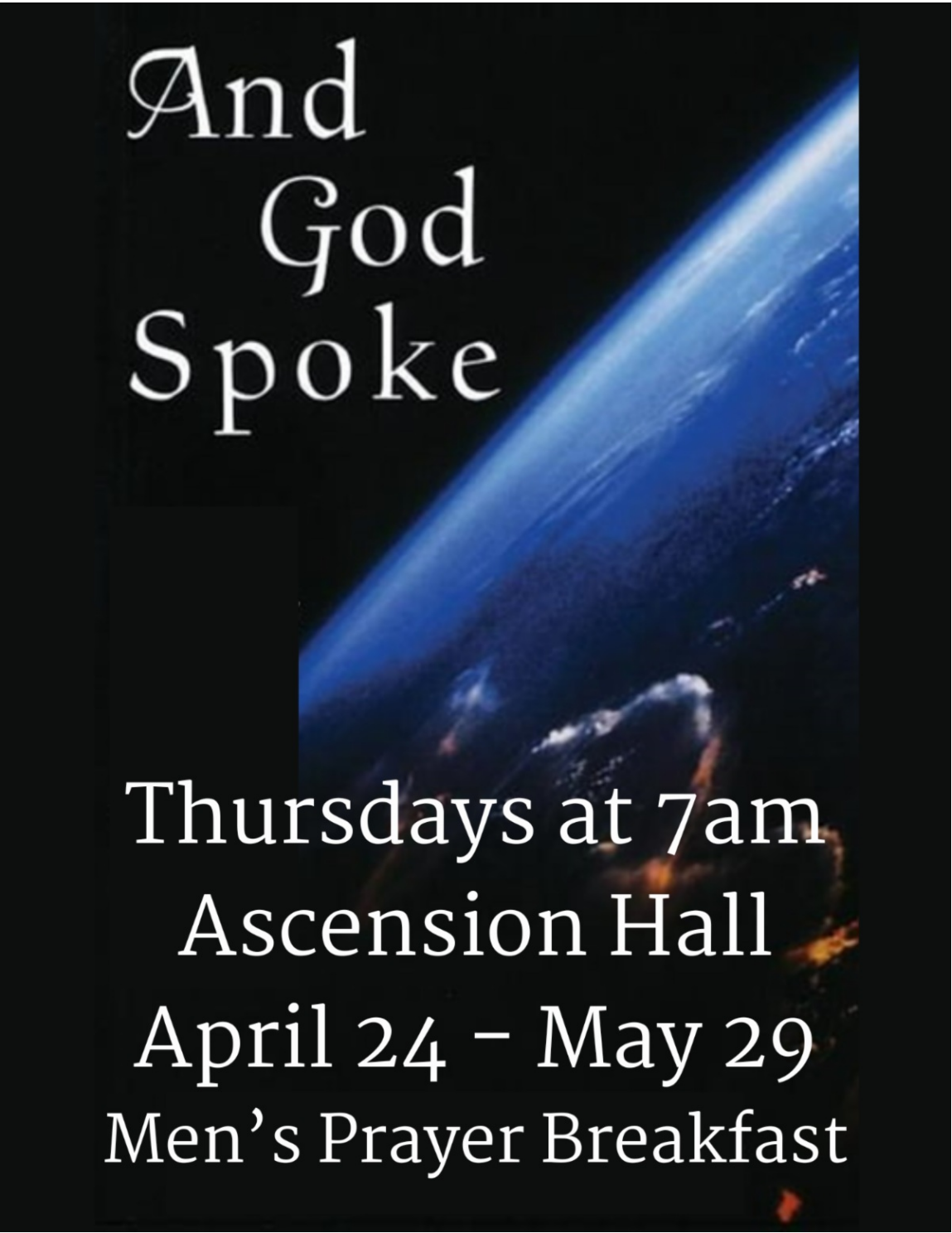
*Reflections on the Last Words
of Jesus from the Cross*

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

Thursdays 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.

Women's Bible Study

In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

The wisdom sayings attributed to Jesus in The Gospel of Thomas open in us new ways of seeing the world. In this study, we will explore various sayings and examine them in relationship to their counterparts in the Synoptic gospels.

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 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](#)

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