



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

Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Wednesday Night Live - Wednesday, April 9 @ 5:15 PM
- Family Formation Potluck Club - Thursday, April 10 @ 6:00 PM
- Spring Work Day - Saturday, April 12 @ 8:30 AM
- Palm Sunday Service - Sunday, April 13 @ 10:15 AM

From the Rector...

Almost every day, I see someone from our neighborhood sitting on a bench in the grounds or wandering through one of our gardens. It's always a beautiful sight and reminds me of the gift Ascension has been given to share with our neighbors and the community. We may take the beauty and tranquility of this place for granted, as we are so familiar with it, but take a moment to imagine if it were gone. What would the Garden District, Montgomery, or even the world look like with a little less beauty and peace?



It is said that the men who dreamed of Notre Dame wanted to build a place where even the peasants could look up and be assured of a heaven above. If you've ever been inside Notre Dame, that is the first thing you notice—the way your eye is drawn upward to the starscapes painted across its domed ceiling. It's a hopeful feeling to look up and realize there is something more to creation than what we can fully understand. I feel the same way about Ascension and its gardens.

When I see our neighbors lingering on our grounds, and take the time to sit and linger myself, I am filled with a sense of peace, even in this chaotic world—a peace that is beyond all understanding. I believe part of Ascension's purpose is simply to be a place where others can "be still and know that [God] is God." (Psalm 46:10) This is a profound experience of knowing the Almighty, one that many miss the opportunity to enjoy. To be still in this world of frenetic pace, where purpose and production dominate, and where more and more people are plagued by ADD and distracted by commercialism—is to be free to breathe. That is what Ascension offers to the world: space to breathe, and in that breath, to connect with YHWH, our Creator. When we are able to breathe, we realize there is more to creation than what we can know.

Hopefully, you've noticed the improvements we've made to our grounds over the years. When I arrived at Ascension, the Transfiguration Garden was being added, and now it blooms year-round, offering an oasis of flowers and herbs that welcome all who come to the Sunday school building. The Girl Scouts broke ground on a butterfly garden, and earlier this spring, they saw their first caterpillars. Recently, we revamped the Sundial Garden into an English Knot Garden, and we'll gather around it this Sunday for the Liturgy of the Palms. The Lay Weeders do an excellent job maintaining our Memorial Garden, as well as the outdoor chapel space and the entrance to the Nave, keeping them beautiful and inviting. Now, the entire parish has an opportunity to break ground on our next exciting project.

As many of you know, we purchased the land behind Joshua Commons with the vision of placing a labyrinth in its midst. That vision is still part of our overall plan, but it has expanded. We have recently acquired more property behind Joshua Commons, extending to the alley. We are working with the neighborhood and the city to gain permission to remove the house currently on the property, as it has suffered storm damage and has not been properly maintained. In the meantime, we will take down the fence separating the land and begin clearing debris during our workday this Saturday, April 12. Our expanded vision now includes a labyrinth that will lead into a wooded scripture path, further testifying to the peace, calm, and stillness that are so evident in this place.

We need your help. Please come and be a part of our latest cleanup and renewal effort for our church grounds. Wear long pants and sleeves, bring your gloves, and anything that cuts, mows, weed-eats, saws, drags, or carries. As we begin the effort to revitalize and

renew the northern part of our campus, we will create even more space for all of God's children to "be still and know God."

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

This Thursday!

Come celebrate the Ordination of our friend and former seminary intern Chris Paul!



GOD WILLING AND THE PEOPLE CONSENTING
THE RIGHT REVEREND GLENDA SHARP CURRY
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

WILL ORDAIN

CHRISTOPHER LYNN PAUL

TO THE SACRED ORDER OF PRIESTS

AND

H. MAWANDE MZONGWANA

TO THE SACRED ORDER OF DEACONS

ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

AT FIVE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE ARE REQUESTED

THE FESTAL COLOR IS RED

SERVE

This Saturday!

SPRING WORK DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Come one! Come all! Please come join us as spruce up the campus before Holy Week! We will be cleaning up the new property on Hull Street so if you have them bring gloves, loppers, limb saws, etc. We will also be removing an old fence behind Joshua Commons to open up the property!

- 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM - Meet in Joshua Commons
- Youth and Children will be spring cleaning the 3rd floor and folding palms in Joshua Commons!



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!”**”

A poster for Mercy House with a blue background. It features a photo of a man in a jacket. The text "COME SERVE AT" is in light blue, and "Mercy House" is in large white letters. Below that, it says "Thursdays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m." and "Questions? Call or text Stephanie Norrell at 334-467-6989". In the bottom left corner is the Mercy House logo, which is a blue house icon with a white dove and the text "MERCY HOUSE" below it.

COME SERVE AT

Mercy House

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

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



MERCY HOUSE

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



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.

Holy Week

SCHEDULE

Week of April 13 - 19

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 13

8:00 AM, Rite One

10:30 AM, Liturgy of the Palms

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER

8:00 AM, Chapel & On Facebook

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 17

5:30 PM, Foot washing

6:00PM, Eucharist

8:00PM - 11:00AM, Gethsemane Watch

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18

12:00 PM, Nave

6:00 PM, Stations of the Cross, Sundial Garden

HOLY SATURDAY

9:00 AM, Nave

In the midst of Lent, we look toward the cross and Holy Week. Join us each day in Lent for prayer, reflection, and communication in preparation of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection

JOIN US FOR

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13 | 10:15 AM

SERVICE WILL BEGIN IN THE
KNOT GARDEN

Maundy Thursday Foot Washing

April 17th at 5:30



Foot washing is part of the Maundy Thursday ritual that exemplifies Jesus' call to servanthood and an expression of how we love one another through humility. It symbolizes a spiritual cleansing and renewal that invites believers to embody the values of compassion and service. At CoA, we offer an opportunity to participate in this act each year before the Maundy Thursday service. It is a time of quiet contemplation in the chapel. All are invited.



The Gethsemane Watch: A Maundy Thursday Vigil

“Could you not keep awake one hour?” were the words of Jesus in reproach to his hapless followers in the first Gethsemane. Ever since, his disciples of subsequent generations have attempted to do better, and in some small way to make up what was lacking in the first bunch.



Sign Up





Easter Schedule

Saturday April 19

- Easter Vigil (Taize Service)
 - 7:15 PM

Sunday April 20

- Sunrise Service at Oakwood Cemetery
 - 6:30 AM
- Family Festal Eucharist Followed by Easter Egg Hunt
 - 9:00 AM
- Festal Eucharist
 - 11:00 Am

Easter Vigil Taize Service Saturday, April 19 at 7:15 PM



A Taizé service is a contemplative worship experience characterized by simple, repetitive songs and chants, reflective silence, and prayer, designed to foster a spirit of meditation and unity. Originating from the ecumenical Taizé Community in France, the service

encourages participants to encounter God's presence and find peace through communal singing and quiet reflection. The focus on simplicity and inclusivity makes it accessible to people from diverse Christian traditions, promoting reconciliation and spiritual renewal.

This style of worship leads to a fulfilling and contemplative Easter Vigil. It can serve as a quiet and reflective time of worship in contrast to the brightness of the Easter morning service. It is also a helpful way of transitioning from Lent and Holy Week to the joyous time of Easter and Resurrection. The service itself includes icons and candles in helping to prepare our hearts to receive Christ's gift of renewal.

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



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:

Chili Dogs
Hashbrown Casserole
Chips
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
\$19,530	\$31,016	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$289,996

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

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.](#)



The WORD

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
RETURN

WINE AND ALTERNATIVE BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.

The Word
Wednesday Nights
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



RETURN

One of my biggest disappointments is when I get a Christmas card in February stamped “RETURN to sender.” In part, my disappointment is related to the fact that whoever didn’t get my card won’t know that they were thought of at Christmas. But the other part is that it makes me realize how much I have lost touch with the person that I didn’t even know they had moved.

When we sin, we lose touch with God—we become disconnected from God and we can only reconnect by our willingness to RETURN. That usually means some form of acknowledging our sinfulness and some form of repentance. The RETURN to God helps us feel renewed in our faith and witness.

But I also wonder how it makes God feel. If I am that disappointed that I have lost touch with a friend, how much more so does God feel that he has lost touch with us. I wonder how many of us have a RETURN to sender stamped on our foreheads?

Women's Bible Study

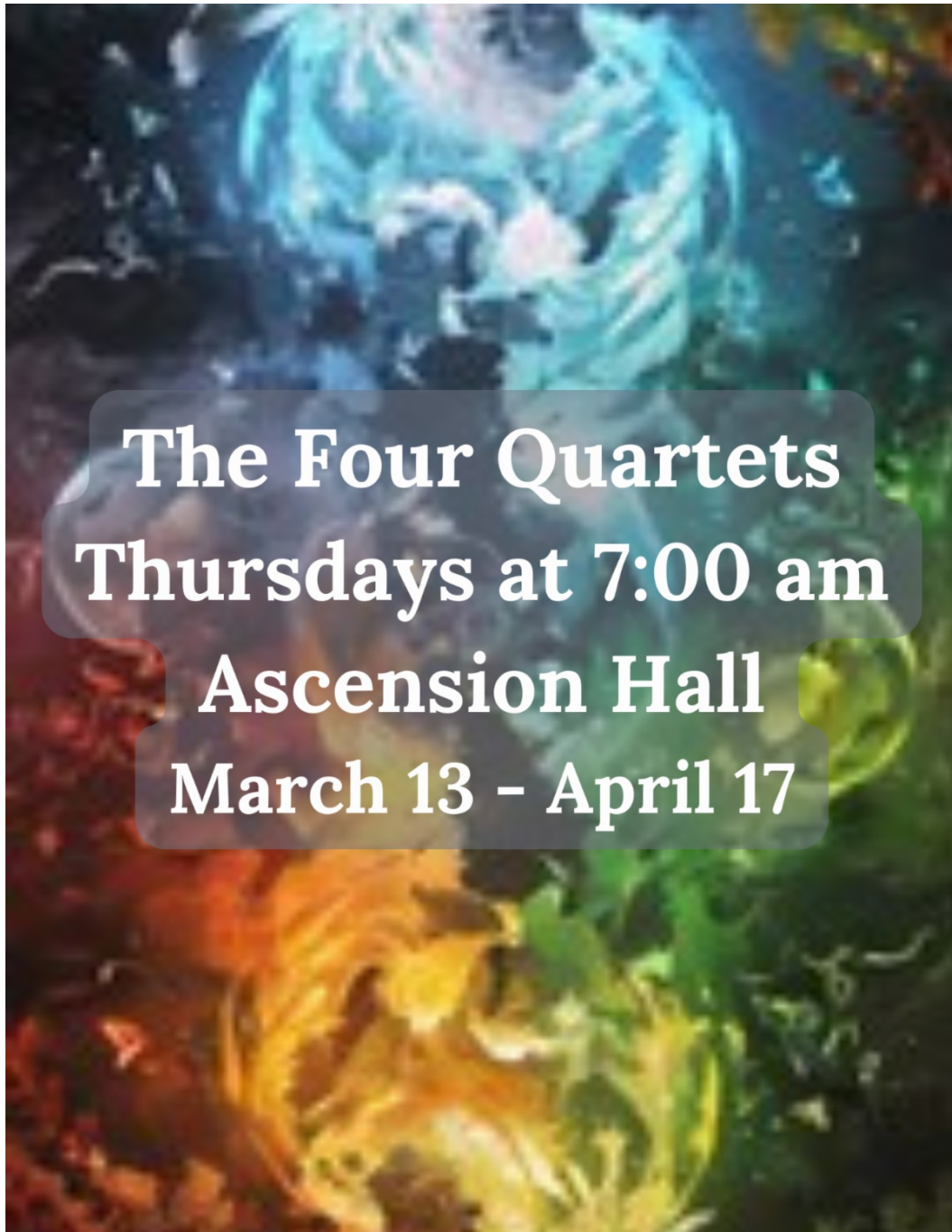
In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Tuesday Nights - 5pm
The Library
January 27 - April 15

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 17

The Four Quartets
Thursdays at 7:00 am
Ascension Hall
March 13 – April 17

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

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

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