



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

## Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, May 22 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, May 22 @ 12:00 PM
- Sunday Service - Sunday, May 25 @ 8:00 & 10:30 AM
- VBS Ingathering - Through June 7

From the Rector...

Fourth and First

De Colores!

"Fourth and First" is where the Fourth Day of your Cursillo journey meets the first day of grace. As St. Benedict says, "Always we begin again." What a beautiful truth—that each day offers a fresh start as we renew our Fourth Day and step into the first day of the rest of our lives.

The Fourth Day is the life pilgrims live after

their three-day Cursillo retreat. It's the ongoing rhythm of spiritual renewal that both refreshes and challenges Cursillistas. Through group reunion and Ultreya, we begin to see the world through grace—discovering a depth and wellspring of life we may not have known before.

If you've been to Cursillo, think back to when you were a pilgrim. Remember that spiritual high you felt in the weeks after? Maybe you left notes on co-workers' desks to remind them they were loved or brought M&Ms to every potluck (at Cursillo they are calorie-free!). You couldn't wait to share your Cursillo experience—with those who understood it and those you hoped would. But then, slowly, that feeling faded. After a few months, it felt like a memory you couldn't quite hold onto.



Living the Fourth Day isn't about reliving the retreat. It's about living into grace. C. S. Lewis wrote, "I believe in Christ like I believe in the sun—not only because I can see it, but because by it I see everything else." Cursillo helps us see everything by the light of grace.

Grace is the unmerited favor and love of God. It's what awaits us each morning—whether we leap out of bed or struggle to untangle ourselves from the covers. It gives us the chance to begin again. It allows us to shine the light of Christ into the dark places of this world.

Robert Fulghum tells a story about asking a profound question at a Greek Orthodox monastery in Crete. On the final day of a seminar, he asked teacher Alexander Papaderos, "What is the meaning of life?" Papaderos, shaped by his childhood under Nazi occupation, answered with a story. As a boy, he found a broken motorcycle mirror and polished it into a circle. He played a game of reflecting light into dark places that the sun's rays could not reach. Eventually, this became his life's metaphor: "I am not the source of light. But light... will only shine in many dark places if I reflect it."

That, I believe, is the heart of "Fourth and First." As Christians, we are called to reflect grace into the world. And because grace begins anew each day, we never need to give up. We need only begin again. Those who have been to Cursillo share in that reminder through Reunion Groups and Ultreya as they live out their fourth day.

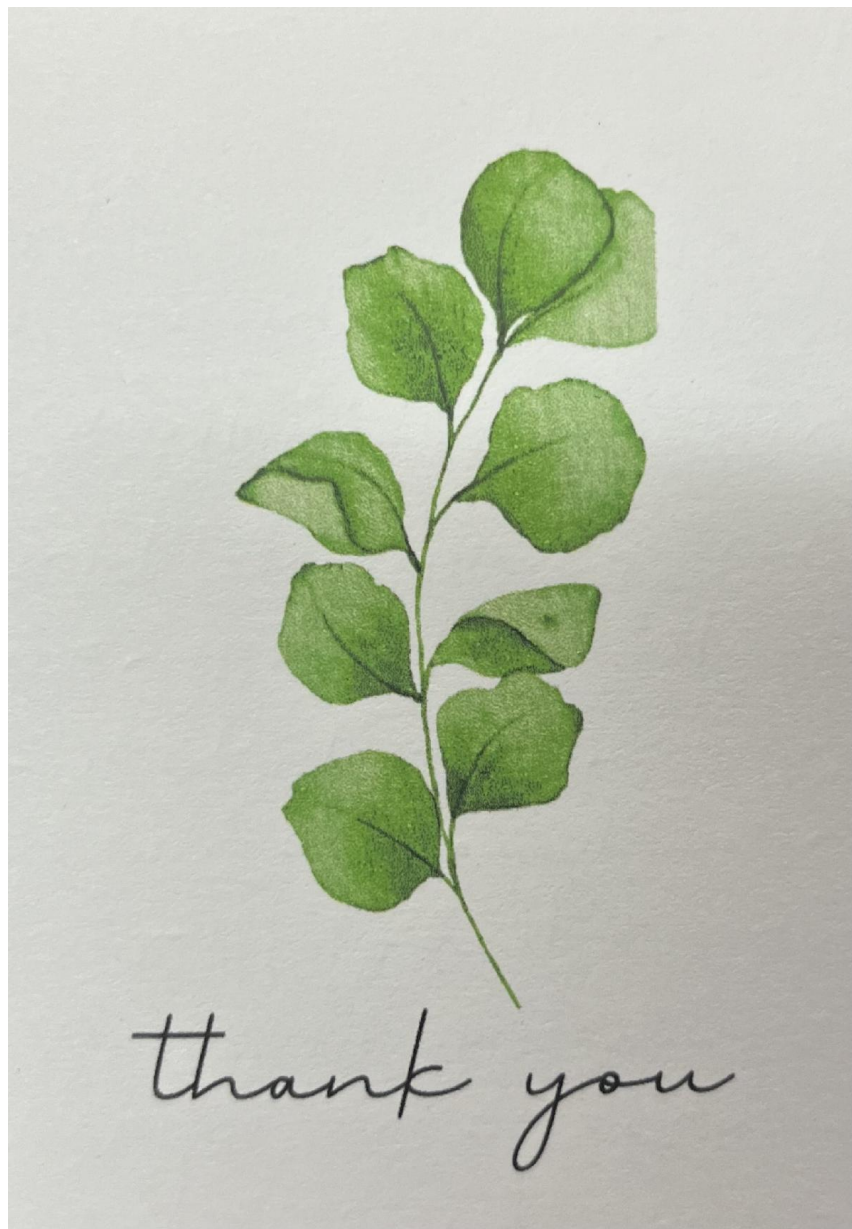
We would love you to be part of our Fourth and First journey. If you are interested in

attending a three-day spiritual renewal retreat at Camp McDowell called Cursillo, contact Sharon Massey, Steve Frazer, or Janan hayden (our Parish Lay Rectors)—or reach out to the church. For those Cursillistas who would like to reconnect with their Cursillo journey, join us for the Rector's Open Reunion Group on Wednesdays at 4:30 or contact our PLRs or the church.

Light and Life,  
Candice Frazer+  
Cursillo 118

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

## CONNECT



*Just about every year, we get the opportunity to host a family who has been assigned to one of the many colleges at Maxwell. This past year, we had the privilege of getting to know the Schmidt's—Rachel, Chris, Eloise, and Violet. They touched many of our hearts and we touched their hearts as well. The following is a note they sent to the parish last*

*week on their last Sunday with us. We wish them well and give thanks for their service to our country.*

Dear Candice, Drew, and our CoA Family,

Our family moved to Montgomery last summer with some reservations about Alabama and with the express intention of using this quick military assignment to allow our family some recovery time after two years spent largely apart due to Chris' work. From our first Sunday spent at CoA back in July, two things became clear:

1. You all (y'all!!) were going to force us to broaden our appreciation of the South. People do not get kinder than those fueled by sweet tea!
2. Our time here was not only going to be spent reclaiming closeness with each other as a family, but with God as Christians too.

Thank you for the community push to experience Montgomery outside of just our military bubble, and for providing us with constant examples of the love and acceptance that Jesus begged of us. It brought us back Sunday after Sunday and even had us cooking chili outside on one of the coldest nights of winter!

Our lives have been so enriched by our growth as Christians and Episcopalians with you all. We will miss CoA terribly, and will always appreciate the CoA call to live with grace, compassion, and above all, love. From this next move to DC onwards.

Thank You!

The Schmidt's, and the Schmidtle's!

P.S. Roll Tide!!!

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## **Bishop Search Listening Sessions**



# BISHOP SEARCH LISTENING SESSIONS

The Search Committee invites you to attend a Listening Session this summer!

The purpose of these sessions is simple but deeply important: to listen. Your input will help create a Diocesan Profile—an honest, prayerful portrait of who we are, where we've been, and who we are called to become. That profile will then be shared with prospective candidates for bishop to help them discern whether they are called to join us in this next chapter of ministry.

Questions to Consider:

1. What makes you proud of your church, the diocese, or our mission?
2. What does success look like in the next decade?
3. What strengths are most important for our next bishop—and why?
4. What are your hopes and expectations for our next bishop?
5. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian in Alabama?
6. What are our most important missions?

## Questions or Concerns?

Email:  
albishopsearch@gmail.com

## LISTENING SESSION SCHEDULE

**Sun, June 1**  
**2:00 PM - 3:30 PM**

**ST. STEPHENS,  
VESTAVIA**  
3775 Crosshaven Dr  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35223

**Wed, June 4**  
**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

**TRINITY,  
FLORENCE**  
410 North Pine Street,  
Florence, Alabama 35630

**Sat, June 7**  
**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
*For Episcopalians of Color.*

**ST. MARK'S  
BIRMINGHAM**  
228 Dennison Ave SW,  
Birmingham, AL 35211

**Sun, June 8**  
**3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

**ST. MICHAEL & ALL  
ANGELS, ANNISTON**  
1000 West 18th Street  
Anniston, AL 36201

**Wed, June 11**  
**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

**ASCENSION  
MONTGOMERY**  
315 Clanton Avenue  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Sun, June 15**  
**2:00 PM - 3:30 PM**

**CHRIST CHURCH  
TUSCALOOSA**  
605 Lurleen B Wallace N Blvd  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

**Sat, June 21**  
**1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

**NATIVITY  
HUNTSVILLE**  
208 Eustis Ave SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801

**Thurs, June 26**  
**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
*For clergy and seminarians.  
Zoom link will be available.*

**ST. LUKE'S  
BIRMINGHAM**  
3736 Montrose Road  
Mountain Brook, AL 35213

**Thurs, June 26**  
**7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**ZOOM**  
[bit.ly/DioAlaListeningSession](https://bit.ly/DioAlaListeningSession)

**Sat, June 28**  
**1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

**HOLY TRINITY  
AUBURN**  
100 Church Drive  
Auburn, AL 36830

**Sat, June 28**  
**2:00 PM - 3:30 PM**  
*For Youth & Young Adults.*

**TRINITY COMMONS  
BIRMINGHAM**  
1024 12th Street South  
Birmingham, AL 35205

**Fri, July 11**  
**9:45 AM - 11:30 AM**  
*For Youth & Young Adults at  
Camp McDowell for Senior  
Session.*

**CAMP MCDOWELL  
NAUVOO**  
105 DeLong Rd  
Nauvoo, AL 35578



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
\$5,876	\$53,012	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628  
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$370,846

# **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!

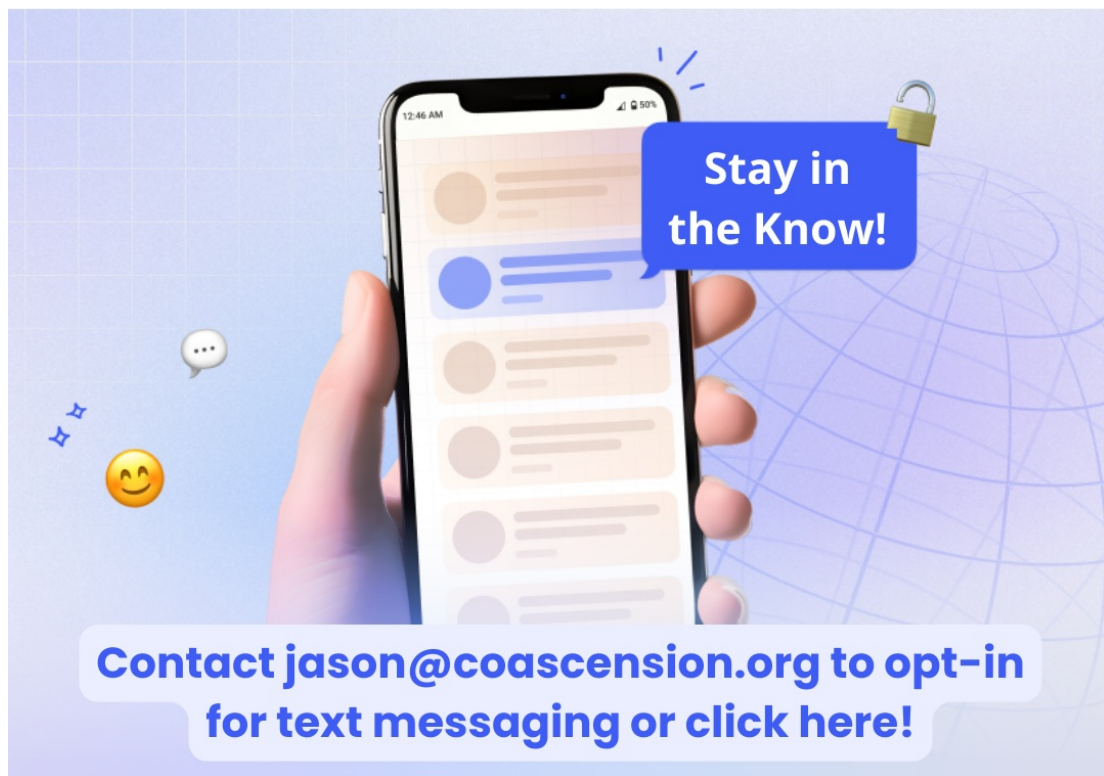
Thank you in advance for making VBS 2025 so special!

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

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

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## Opt-In for Text Notifications!



# Cursillo Open Reunion Group!

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

Contact [Laura@coascension.org](mailto:Laura@coascension.org) for more information

## GROW

**Summer with Psalms! Starts June 1st!**



THE  
GOOD BOOK  
CLUB

### Almost time for the Good Book Club!

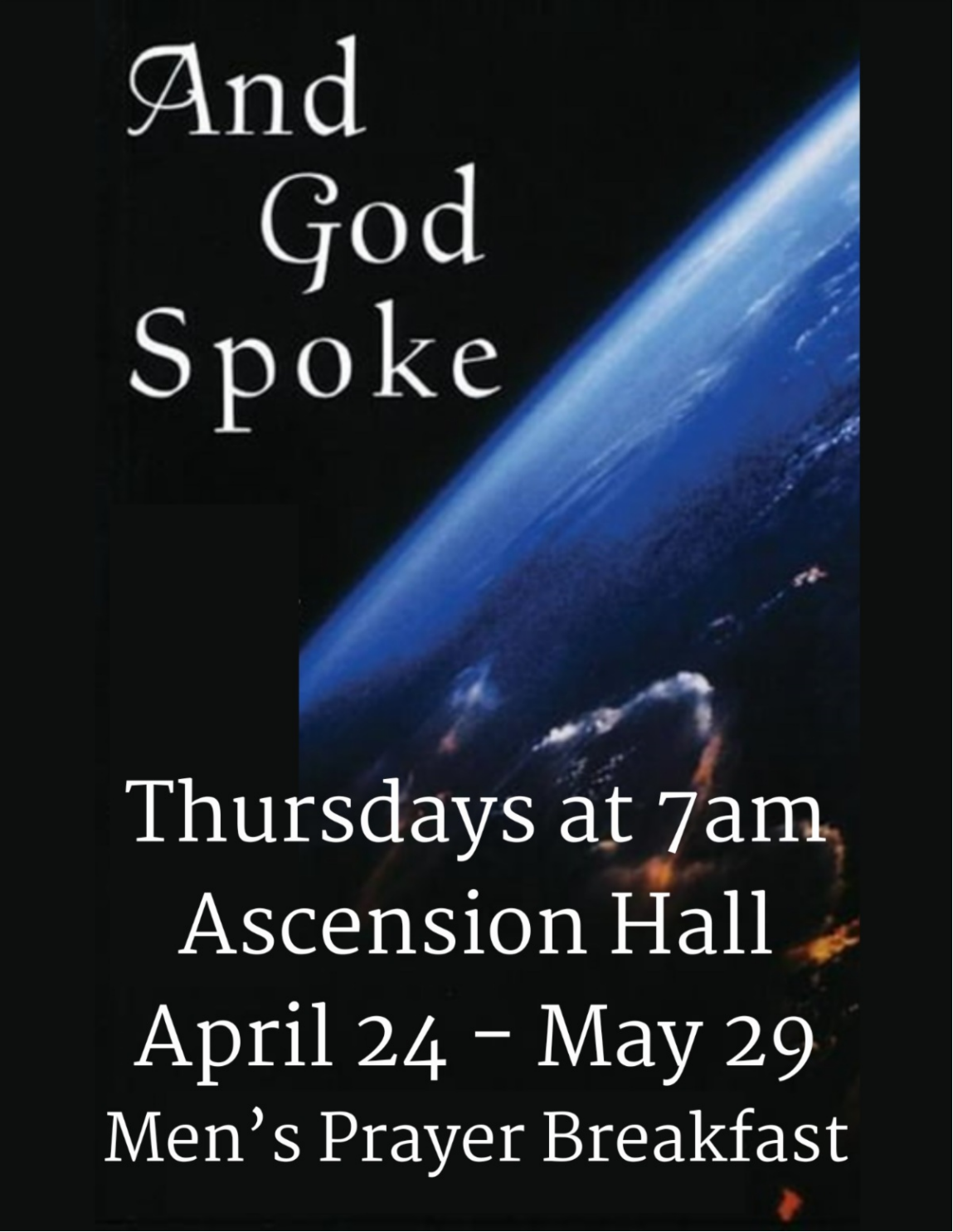
Are you ready for the Good Book Club to begin? Less than a month until we begin our Summer with Psalms!

The Good Book Club - an offering of [Forward Movement](#) - is simple and free. You can follow the [reading list](#) online for no charge, or follow along with your own Bible at home. Read one psalm a day on Track 1, or read through all 150 psalms on Track 2.

Download bulletin inserts from the Good Book Club's [Resources page](#) or right here in this email: [Track 1](#) | [Track 2](#)

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## 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

## 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.

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Cultivating Compassion  
Wednesdays, June 11-July 23  
5:30 PM in the Library  
Limited Space Available  
[Candice@coascension.org](mailto:Candice@coascension.org)



**May 1 – June 7, 2025**

## **Snacks for Kids:**

Please buy individually  
bagged items:

Cheez It Crackers  
Pirates Booty  
Goldfish  
Veggie Straws  
Sun Chips  
Whole Grain Crackers  
Skinny Pop  
Fruit Cups  
Juice Boxes  
8 oz. water

**\*NO Peanuts or Peanut Butter**

## **Snacks for Adult/Volunteers:**

Contact  
[Laura@coascension.org](mailto:Laura@coascension.org)  
to schedule a drop off  
time during VBS.

Charcuterie style trays  
Deli meat  
Cheese  
Olives & pickles  
Grapes  
Cheese Straws  
Pita Chips  
Homemade Dips  
Fresh Fruit  
16 oz. water



Scan to register your child:

**Collection bins will be located in  
the lobby near Ascension Hall**



Scan to register as a Volunteer:

During the month of May, show your love to our children and Youth by grabbing a snack or beverage the next few times you are at the store. Let's be honest, most children's favorite time of day is snack time with their friends. Who doesn't love a crunchy snack, a slice of fresh fruit, and good laugh with the people you love? Most of the items on this list are found in bulk at Costco or Walmart. If you feel led to provide fresh items like fruit, deli trays, or charcuterie for the adult volunteer staff you are welcome to drop those items off the mornings of Vacation Bible school between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m.

If you have questions about what to buy or where to deliver contact Virginia Humphrey or Laura Mielke. We (the children!) thank you for your generosity!



## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee is back! We will host our first event on Ascension Day. There will be a reception following the Evensong service on May 29th in the Knot Garden. We need 10 people to make their favorite pick-up sweet and to serve guests at the reception.

The Hospitality Committee is open to anyone who would like to be a member. Call or text Virginia Humphrey at 334-324-1135 for more information. Come and help celebrate the life of the wonderful CoA!

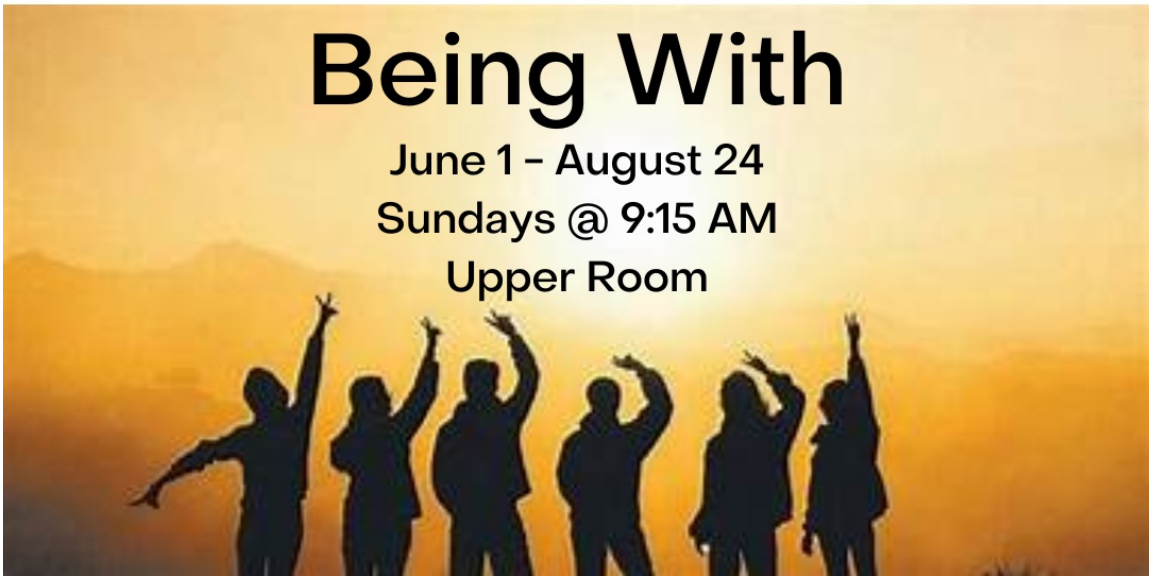
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## Being With

June 1 – August 24

Sundays @ 9:15 AM

Upper Room



There are a few routes toward membership in the Episcopal Church. if you are already confirmed as an Episcopalian, you need only contact the church office and have your letter moved. Otherwise, there are a few easy steps on the road to becoming Episcopalian and a member of Ascension. The journey begins with formation.

Each year we offer an Inquirer's Class for those who wish to know and understand more about what it means to be a Christian as an Episcopalian. Through the "Being With" class, part of the clergy forum on Sunday mornings, you get to engage in theological conversations around such topics like what Episcopalians believe about God, Sacraments, and Church Governance just to name a few. These classes are set in the context of Sunday School with those who are new to the church as well as those who have been members for years. The class is mixed to promote healthy conversation and learning from laity and clergy alike. In essence, we teach one another. The class is mandatory for those

seeking church membership.

Once the class has been completed and potential members have taken part in an Instructed Eucharist that teaches people the liturgical and theological underpinnings of our Sunday service, they are eligible for Confirmation or Reception by the bishop. Confirmation or Reception is the point at which a person becomes an official member of the church.

This year the bishop will be with us on September 7. As we prepare for that visit, we will offer the course "Being With" as our summer clergy forum. The class will meet at 9:15am in the Upper Room from June 1 through August 24 (taking a break on July 6). Anyone is invited and encouraged to take the class. Those wishing to explore the Episcopal Church and seeking membership in the church are required to take the class. If you would like more information, please contact [candice@coascension.org](mailto:candice@coascension.org).

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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](mailto:ADS@coascension.org)

Click [HERE](#) for sponsorship information!

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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.

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## 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



In the busyness of life and the brokenness of the world, Evensong offers a sacred pause—a time to slow down, reflect, and be renewed in God's presence. Rooted in rich tradition, this service blends scripture, music, and quiet contemplation, helping us center in worship and peace. What better way to mark our feast day and remember that in the darkness of this present time, Ascension shines the light of hope.

# 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!

## 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)

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