



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

## Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Wednesday Night Live - Wednesday, May 7 @ 5:15 PM
- The Word - Wednesday, May 7 @ 5:45 PM
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, May 8 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, May 8 @ 12:00 PM

From the Rector...

This week, I have the great honor of attending the National Security Forum at Maxwell's War College. In preparation for the three-day event, we were assigned extensive reading material on China, Russia, space, and the future. First, let me say I had no idea how big a threat China really is to our national security and the stability of the current world order. Second, because of that threat, I encourage you to stop buying all things made in China—which is impossible but even trying to reduce your spending on Chinese products and with Chinese corporations like Temu and Shein helps. The



reduction of spending is not about perfection, it's about intention. Every effort, no matter how small, contributes to a broader defense of our nation and values.

China is a significant threat and the current strategy exercised by the United States and her Pacific friends is a policy of deterrence—making the environment unfavorable for Chinese aggression to escalate. One of the ways the U.S. and other Pacific countries—think Australia, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Taiwan—maintain an environment of deterrence is through their partnership with one another. By standing together, these nations create an environment that discourages Chinese aggression, particularly toward Taiwan. Our strength lies in our unity and shared commitment to peace and stability.

One of our readings included a transcript from a recent U.S.–China Economic and Security Review Commission hearing. Testimony from representatives of the Philippines, Japan, and Australia emphasized the need to deepen alliances. Their message was clear: strong relationships are vital to this strategy of deterrence.

Though most of us don't live in a world in which geopolitical concerns are our daily bread, the comments and focus of the testimony reminded me how important it is that we too, cultivate relationships with those who are like-minded in our core values, especially as Christians.

We, too, are called to build and strengthen relationships grounded in shared values. As Episcopalians, we do this by showing up: for worship, for formation, for fellowship, and for service. Just as our national alliances signal strength, our presence within the Body of Christ strengthens our spiritual community and offers a visible sign of hope and love in the world.

Though we may not think about it often, we are engaged in a spiritual battle—a cosmic struggle between light and darkness. And like our national allies, we are stronger when we stand together. When we gather in faith, we reflect the light of Christ more powerfully than any one of us can alone.

In our unity, we nurture one another, bear witness to God's love, and help bring forth the kingdom of heaven here on earth. And in doing so, perhaps we also deter the forces that seek to divide and diminish us.

Light and Life,

Candice+

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



# 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!**

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# 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:

Beef Stroganoff  
Egg Noodles  
Steamed Vegetables  
Rolls  
Salad Bar

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

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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
\$20,296	\$20,296	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628  
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$338,130

# **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!

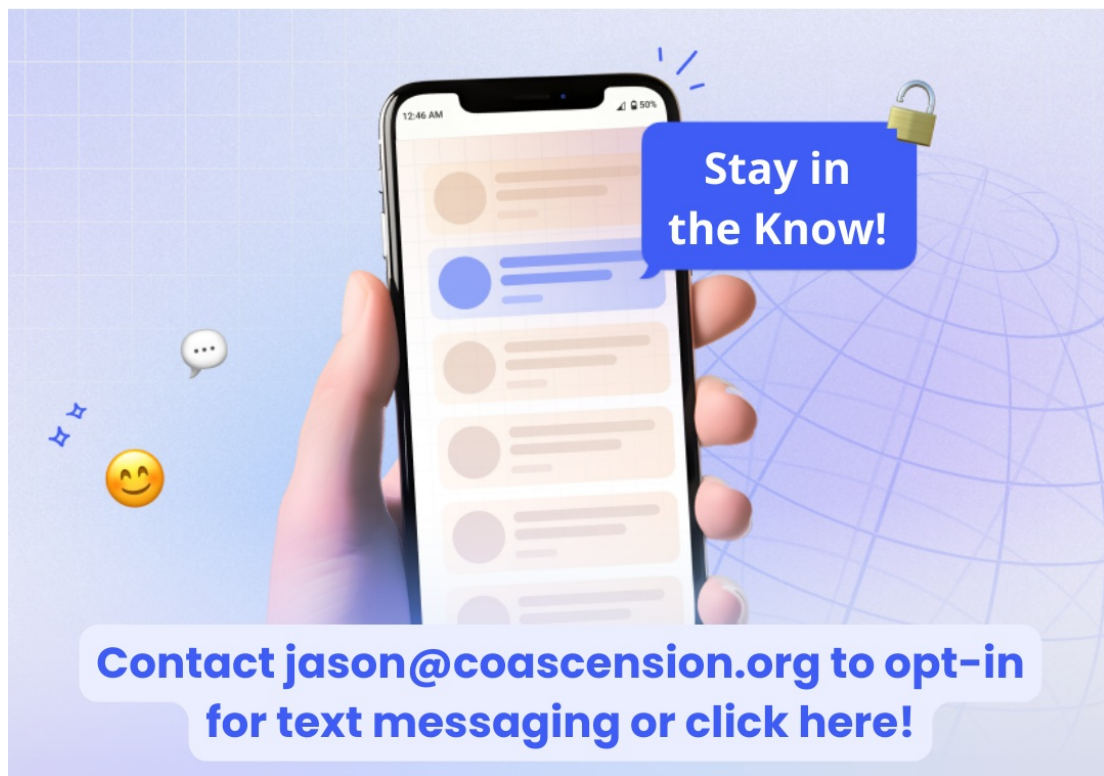
Thank you in advance for making VBS 2025 so special!

[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

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

Jon Meacham



# THE HOPE OF GLORY

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

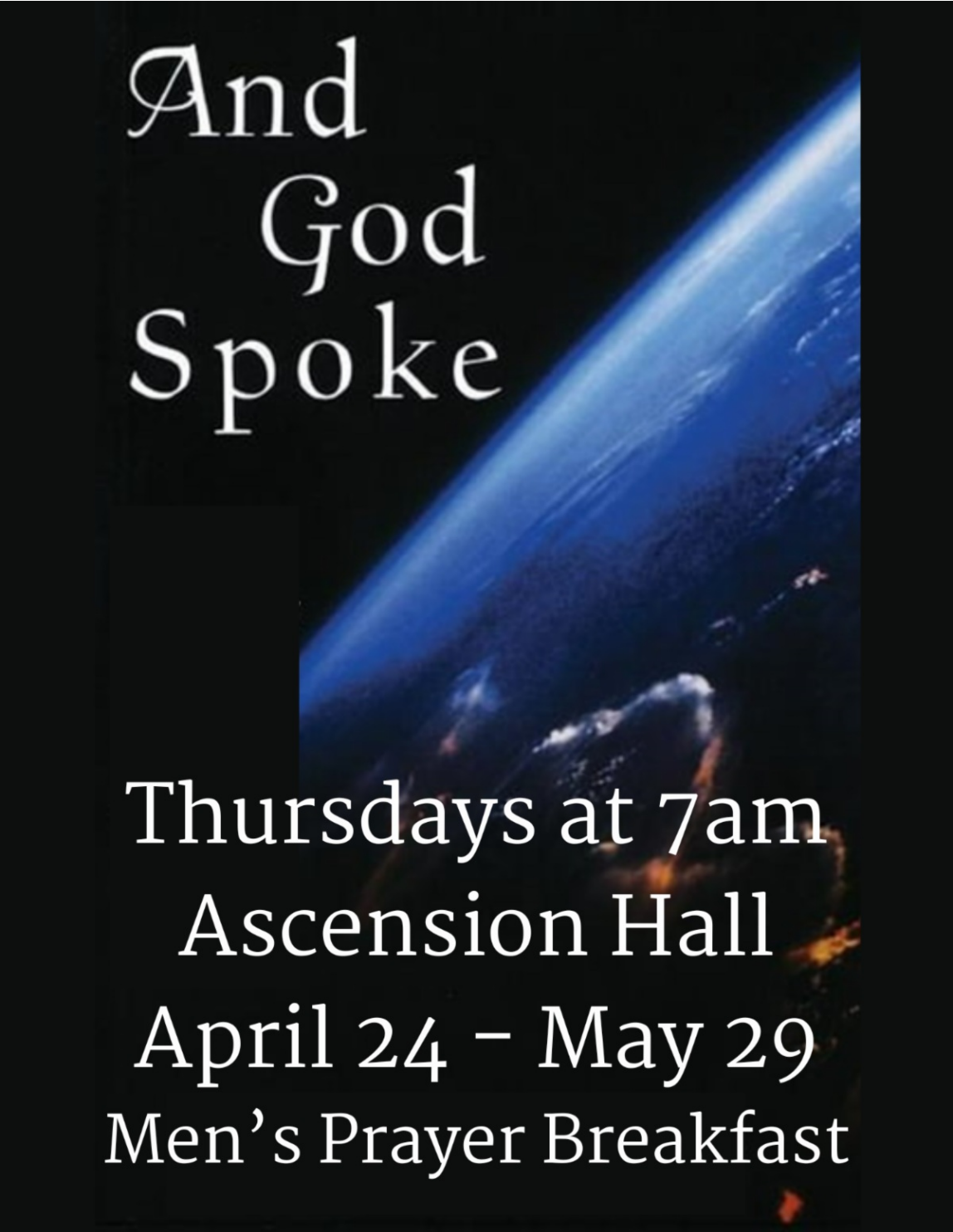
**NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**

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.

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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 questions among others with the assistance of Bryan's book.

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## 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.

**SERVE**



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.





### 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)  
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 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.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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

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