



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

## Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Bishop Search Listening Session - Wed, June 11 @ 5:30 PM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, June 12 @ 12:00 PM
- Community Connections Coffee Hour - Fri, June 13 @ 8 AM
- Being With - Sunday, June 15 @ 9:15 AM

From the Rector...

Last week, I had the privilege of participating in *The Best Cursillo Ever!* At least... until the next one.

One of my favorite parts of Cursillo is the *rollos*—short talks offered by both clergy and laity on core Christian themes such as faith, piety, study, action, and community life. These talks are deeply personal, often filled with stories that are both intimate and inspirational. They remind us why we're all on this journey together—and that we can only make it through life *together*.

Many of the stories shared glimpses into how the Body of Christ sustained and encouraged the speaker through times of struggle. We heard about tornadoes, family estrangement, and even the heartbreaking loss of a child. These stories were moving not only on a personal level, but also as reflections of Christ's light and love. They left those of us listening feeling hopeful and connected.

That's the beautiful truth about Cursillo: it works because people are willing to be vulnerable. They open their hearts in ways we don't often experience at work, at home, or even at church. At Cursillo, people let their walls come down—even if they start rebuilding them once they get home.



Why is it easier to be vulnerable there? Because compassion, not judgment, is the starting point. People share from a place of compassion, and others listen with the same spirit. Instead of evaluating whether someone did the “right” thing, we remember that we’re all beloved children of God who want to be free from suffering, fear, and anger—and to live into joy and peace. When we hear each other’s stories from that place, it transforms how we see and engage with one another.

That kind of compassion can be hard to find outside the retreat setting. It takes intentional effort to lead a life grounded in compassion. Many of us believe we’re compassionate people—until the restaurant gets our order wrong or we’re stuck in a long pharmacy line. We make snap judgments and often offer little grace to change our opinion of others. Perhaps that’s because most of us don’t *lead* with compassion.

But when we *do* lead with compassion, everything changes. We become less defensive, more open. We stop defining people by how they differ from us and start noticing what connects us. We stop measuring others by success or failure and begin to see that, just like us, everyone wants to be free from suffering, and everyone longs for peace and joy. To live from a place of compassion is to recognize our shared common humanity and to treat one another with the loving-kindness that God shows each of us. This kind of love delights in our very *being*—it lifts us up rather than tears us down. It takes practice and intentionality to center our lives on that kind of compassionate presence.

If you’d like to nurture that way of life, consider joining our upcoming **Cultivating**



Compassion Class, held Wednesday evenings from 5:30–7:00 PM for six weeks starting June 18. For more information or to register for the class contact

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

Light and Life,

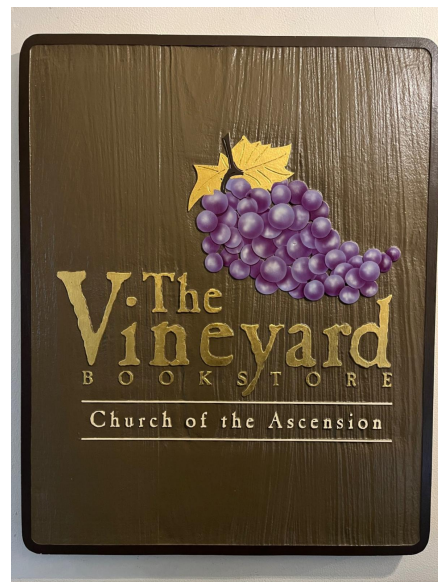
Candice Frazer+

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

## SERVE



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



## WORSHIP



# Tell Out My Soul

## A Special Note from Your Stewardship Committee

Your Stewardship Committee is excited to announce our theme for the 2025-2026 campaign: “Tell Out My Soul” – a call to consider all God has done for us, and to respond with joyful generosity. “Tell Out My Soul” reflects the giving heart of Mary and her willingness and eagerness to serve and remain faithful, even through the unknown.

We invite you to help us jumpstart our stewardship campaign as we head into summer. As this season arrives and we find time for rest, travel, and renewal, it’s important to remember that the life of our church continues – in worship, outreach, and care for our community.

Like many churches, we often see a dip in giving during the summer months, even as our ministries and expenses remain steady. If you are able to continue your current giving or make a gift during this season, it makes a meaningful difference and helps us stay strong and consistent in our work.

Summer gives us many opportunities to “tell out” to friends, family, and the community about the good work of Church of the Ascension. Your support helps ensure that our parish continues to be a place where that story is told boldly – in word, in service, and in love.

Thank you for being part of that witness.

Your Stewardship Committee

---



# 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

**CoA Hosting Tomorrow at 5:30!**



# 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](mailto: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

---

## Our Own Becky Taylor Performs Next Week!





Tommy Holliman  
St. Peter's Roman  
Catholic Church



Wayne Barr  
Tuskegee University



Becky Taylor  
Episcopal Church of  
the Ascension

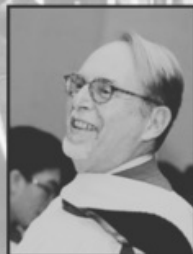


Jim Conely  
Huntingdon College

# BACH'S LUNCH

**ORGAN CONCERTS &  
CATERED LUNCH  
WEDNESDAYS IN  
JUNE AND JULY  
AT 12:05 PM**

Learn more and order lunches at  
[stjohnsmontgomery.org](http://stjohnsmontgomery.org)



Wallace Hornady  
Woodberry Forrest  
School



Shannon Mathai  
Trinity Presbyterian  
Church



Kelley Garrett  
Frazer Methodist  
Church



Jim Sadie  
Allen Organs

Announcing Bach's Lunch Summer Organ concerts at St John's.

25 minute Concerts **Wednesdays at 12:05pm** followed by lunch in the Parish Hall.

Lunches may be pre-ordered for \$15. *(Information available on the church web page - link below)*

Music lists, lunch menu, and ordering information available [here](#)

---

# Ascensionaires



Red, White, and Blue Luncheon  
Wednesday, June 25th

12:00 PM

Small Dining Room

\$10 per person

RSVP [Here!](#)

## Community Connections Coffee Hour

Friday, June 13

Joshua Commons

8:00 AM

RSVP:

334-263-5229

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



Join us for the very first monthly meeting to connect with fellow neighborhood leaders over coffee and conversation! This informal gathering is an opportunity to share ideas, discuss challenges, and collaborate on ways to strengthen the Garden District. Whether you're part of the GDPA, leading a local initiative, or have a business come build relationships and exchange insights with others working to make a difference.





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
\$9,218	\$9,218	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628  
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$435,462

---

**Opt-In for Text Notifications!**



## GROW

# 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).

---



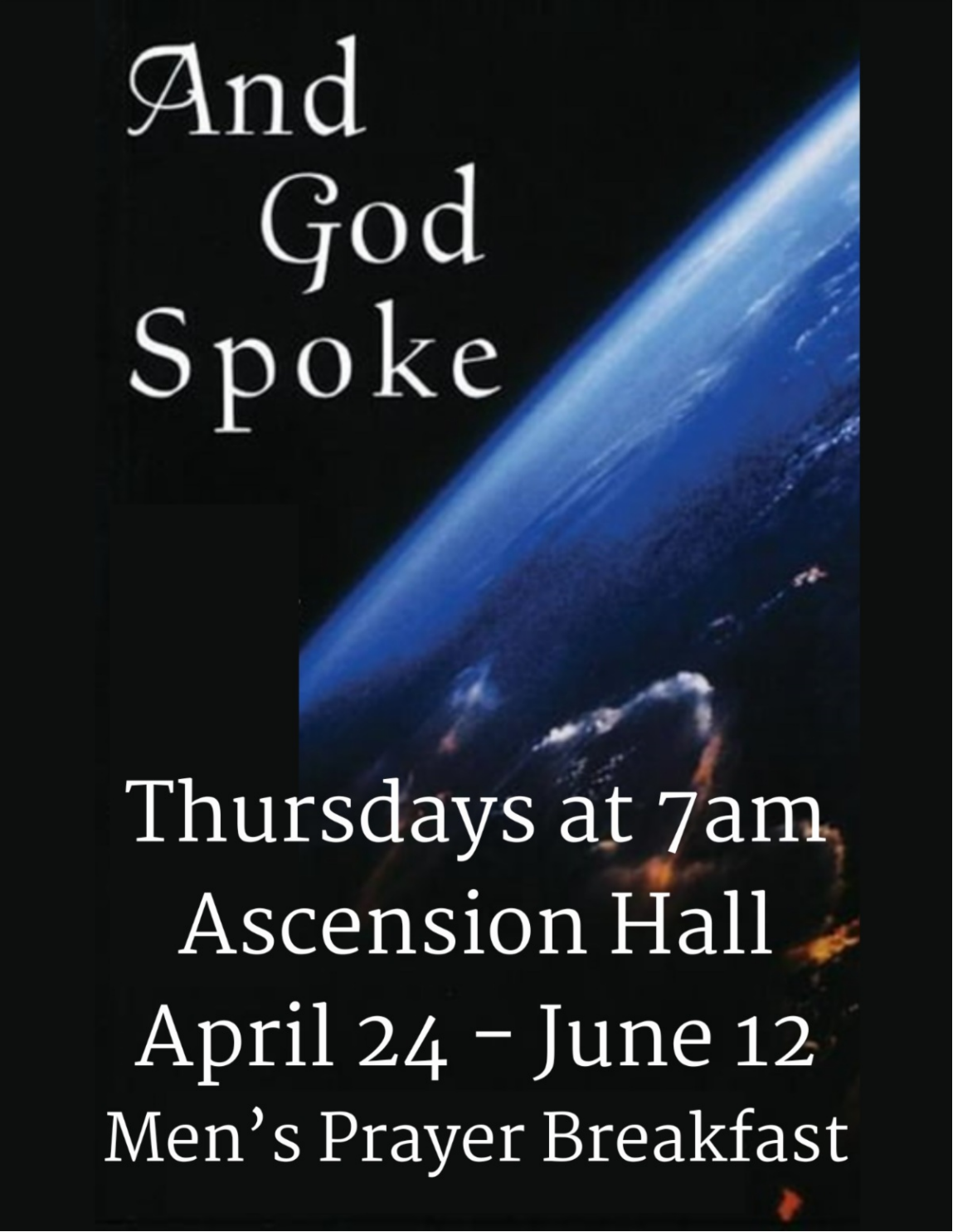
#### Almost time for the Good Book Club!

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](#)

---

## Men's Prayer Breakfast



# And God Spoke

Thursdays at 7am  
Ascension Hall  
April 24 – June 12  
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.

---

**Last Week To Register!**



**Cultivating Compassion**  
**Wednesdays, June 18-July 23**  
**5:30 PM in the Library**  
**Limited Space Available**  
**[Candice@coascension.org](mailto:Candice@coascension.org)**

#### 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 Worriow, 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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!