



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

Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, June 5 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study Cancelled This Week - Will Return Next Week
- Being With - Sunday, June 8 @ 9:15 AM
- Pentecost Sunday - Sunday, June 8

From the Rector...

In Judaism, the search for truths—not just a single truth—guides the study of the Talmud, the sacred text that includes what Christians call the Old Testament. While I'm not deeply familiar with Talmudic study, I've learned about a practice called *Chavruta* that captures my imagination.

What is *Chavruta*?

In *Chavruta*, students pair up to “teach” one another. One poses a question and offers an answer. The other listens and responds with another possible answer. The beauty of this

practice lies in the belief that the deepest truth often emerges not from one voice or the other, but from the dialogue between them. It's a living embodiment of the idea that two heads are better than one.

A Different Way of Listening

Imagine a world shaped by this approach—not needing to be right, not arguing to win or persuading others to our point of view—but instead, seeing differing perspectives as a path to greater truth than we could reach alone. What if we approached disagreements not as adversaries, but as friends? What might we discover if we entered conversations not to convince, but to connect?



A Moment That Changed My Perspective

I once witnessed this kind of dialogue around a sacred text. The person who posed the initial question and offered an answer stunned me with their clarity and insight. I was sure they were right. Then I heard a second answer—equally powerful and thought-provoking. As I sat with both perspectives, I realized I might have offered a third. None were “better.” All were rich, expansive, and full of possibility.

That's the kind of space I want to live in—a space where my world grows larger, not smaller. Where new ideas and possibilities multiply and more voices are welcomed. A space where difference isn't a threat, but a gift that holds us together.

The Challenge We Face

Many of us are tired of the division and brittleness in our culture. I don't expect *Chavruta* between political parties—especially in a world where even football rivalries can cause hurt feelings. But maybe that's part of the problem.

Our competitive culture teaches us to win at all costs. Even the smallest concession feels like failure. No compromise. No retreat. No room to yield. It's exhausting.

A Question for Us All

So here's my *Chavruta*-style question:

In a world resistant to listening and increasingly defined by division, what can I do or say that contributes to a healthier unity?

My answer:

Maybe I can choose to listen—without judgment—not only to the words, but to the story

behind them. Instead of rushing to speak my own truth, I can trust the Holy Spirit to create space for it, if I stay faithful to the relationship; willing to hear the other's truth. And maybe, I just might discover that the truest answer lies somewhere in between both of our answers.

So—what's your answer?

Light and Life,
Candice Frazer+

candice@coascension.org

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

Click [HERE](#) for sponsorship information!

Tickets go on sale Sunday at Noon!

Save
the
date



2025

Save
the
date

COME SERVE AT

Mercy House

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

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

The Mercy House logo is located in the bottom left corner of the poster. It consists of a blue house-shaped icon with a white dove inside, and the words 'MERCY HOUSE' in blue capital letters below it.

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

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday - Wear Red!



'When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.' Acts 2:1-4

It has been a tradition in recent years to emulate this important event in the church by having parishioners read this scripture aloud in different languages. If you speak a foreign language, please reach out to me or Candice+. We would love for you to participate in this fun tradition as we celebrate the birth of the church.

Blessings,
Drew+

drew@coascension.org



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 on June 11!



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

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
\$51,988	\$108,410	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$426,244

Opt-In for Text Notifications!



ALABAMA CURSILLO

Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

Please keep Shannon Howard, Kay Porter, and Drew Porter in your prayers this week as they attend Cursillo 237 as well as The Rev. Candice Frazer, head Spiritual Director. We welcome Janan Hayden and Jenny Wade as our new PLRs (Parish Lay Rectors). If you are interested in attending Cursillo reach to either of them, one of our clergy, or someone who has been to Cursillo.

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.



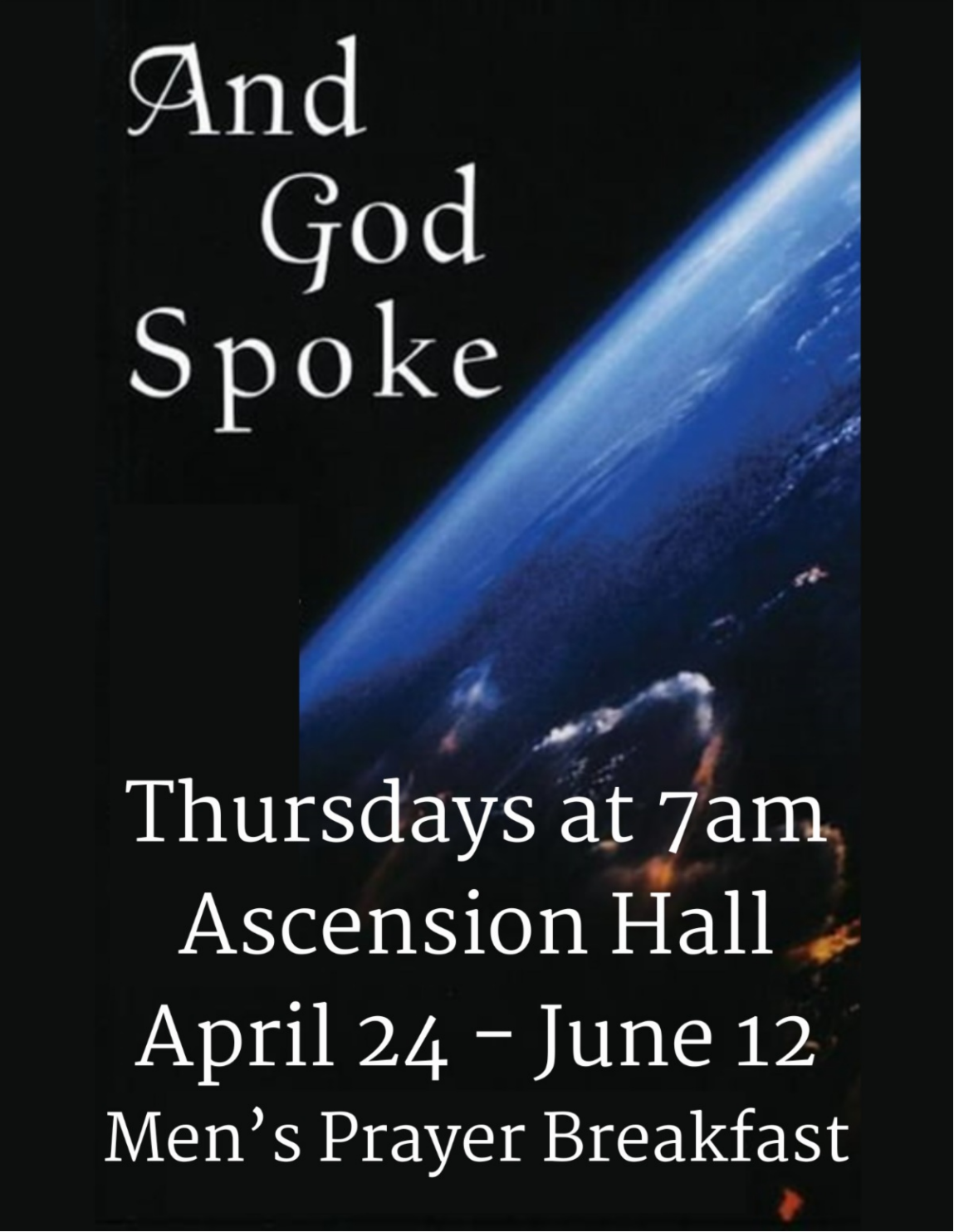
THE
GOOD BOOK
CLUB

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

Women's Bible Study **Not Meeting This Week!**

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.



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

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 Worriow, 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.

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!