



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

Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Becky Taylor Bach's Lunch @ St John's- Wed, June 18 @ 12:05 PM
- Cultivating Compassion - Wednesday, June 18 @ 5:30 PM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, June 19 @ 12:00 PM
- Being With - Sunday, June 22 @ 9:15 AM

From the Rector...

There's a memorable Quidditch scene in *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* in which a rogue Bludger has been enchanted to target Harry. Once his teammates realize the danger, they abandon the game and focus entirely on protecting him. Fred and George fly in circles around Harry, shielding him as best they can—while Marcus Flint of Slytherin takes full advantage of the distraction and scores goal after goal. The Gryffindors call for a timeout but ultimately decide not to report the incident, knowing that doing so would mean forfeiting the match. Harry, determined to end the chaos,

tells his teammates not to worry about him. The only way to stop the Bludger, he says, is to win the game quickly. Play resumes, Harry catches the Snitch, and Gryffindor wins.

I keep coming back to this scene as I try to make sense of our current social and political climate.

Like Harry's team, we've become so distracted by the Bludger—by immediate threats and disruptions—that we've lost sight of the game itself. We're reacting, not strategizing. And just like in the book, this Bludger isn't rogue; it's bewitched. Someone—or something—is controlling it. But that influence is often hidden, subtle, and goes largely unnoticed.



In *Chamber of Secrets*, it's Dobby the house-elf who has enchanted the Bludger—not to kill Harry, but to injure him just enough to force him to leave Hogwarts. Dobby's motivations, though misguided, come from a place of deep love and concern. He believes he's protecting Harry, even as his actions put Harry in danger. In other words, the threat is real, but it's powered by a distorted form of care.

I wonder if the same might be said of some of the forces shaping our world today. Are we being hit over and over by crises—social, political, cultural—that are actually being driven by a kind of misshapen love? A love of country, perhaps, or of tradition, safety, or identity—distorted into something harmful? When we fixate only on the Bludger—on the threats flying at us—we lose sight of who or what might be behind them. And we risk mistaking destruction for defense.

The truth is, the Bludger only has power if we let it. If we can pause to ask not only *what* is threatening us but *why*—and *who*—we may start to see a fuller picture. And in doing so, we might come to realize that neither Harry nor Dobby has the whole truth. Perhaps each of us holds a piece. If we could begin to talk to one another—really talk, across differences, across fears—we might discover a path toward mutual understanding.

The Gospel tells us that truth often comes not in shouting but in listening. Not in fighting distractions, but in focusing on the real mission. The good news is we still have a chance to catch the snitch. We can still win the game but only if we stop fighting the Bludgers and play with courage and clarity of purpose.

Light and Life,

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



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

Our Own Becky Taylor Performs Tomorrow!



Tommy Holliman
St. Peter's Roman
Catholic Church



Wayne Barr
Tuskegee University



Becky Taylor
Episcopal Church of
the Ascension

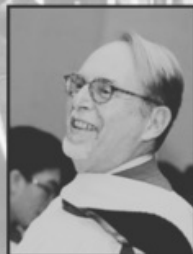


Jim Conely
Huntingdon College

BACH'S LUNCH

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

Learn more and order lunches at
stjohnsmontgomery.org



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!](#)



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**

\$28,850

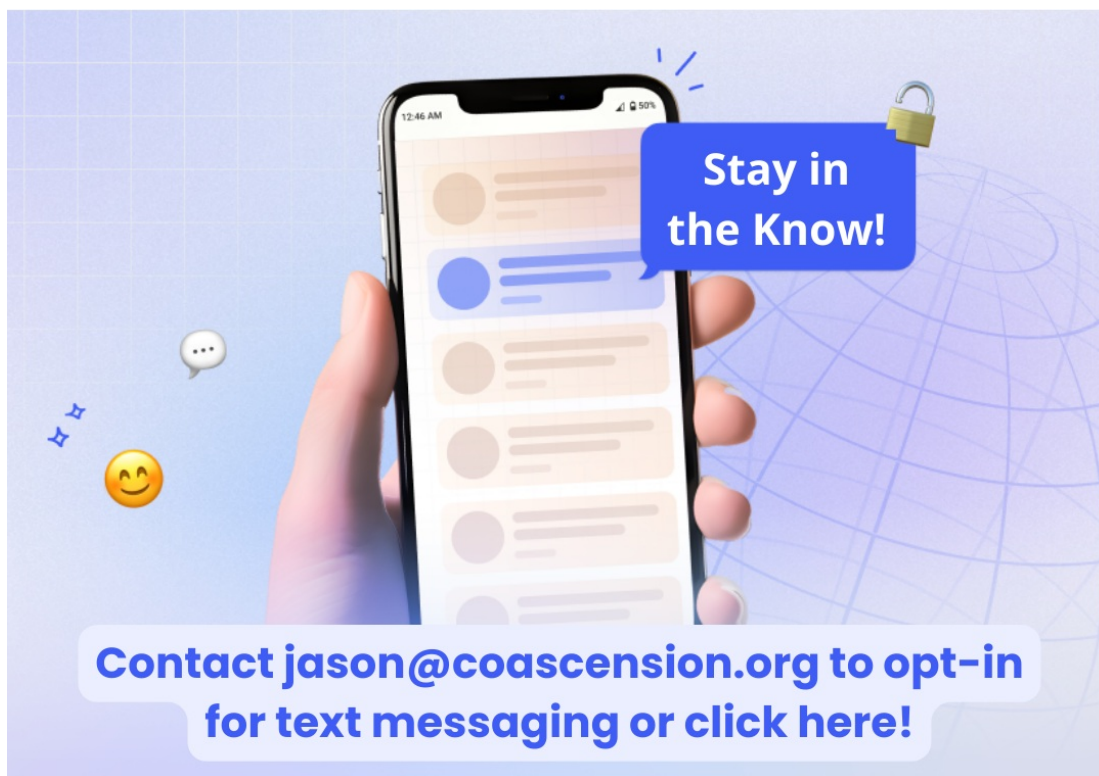
**Financial Gifts Offered This
Month**

\$38,068

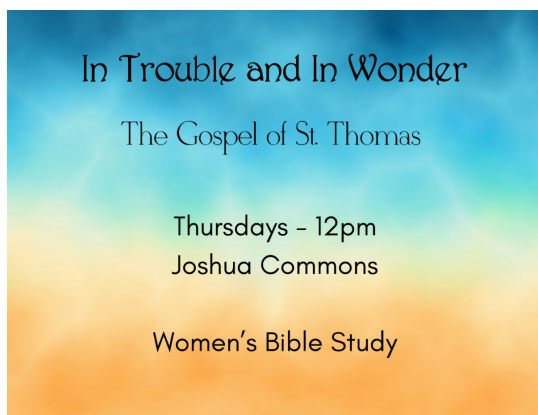
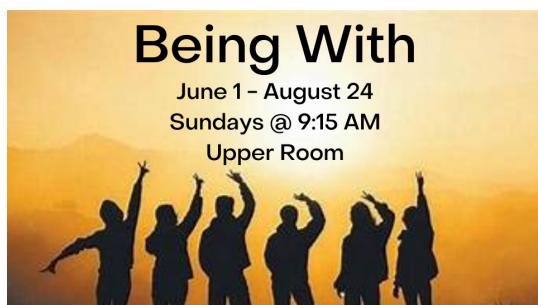
**Financial Gift Target
Monthly**

\$85,500

Opt-In for Text Notifications!



GROW





THE
GOOD BOOK
CLUB

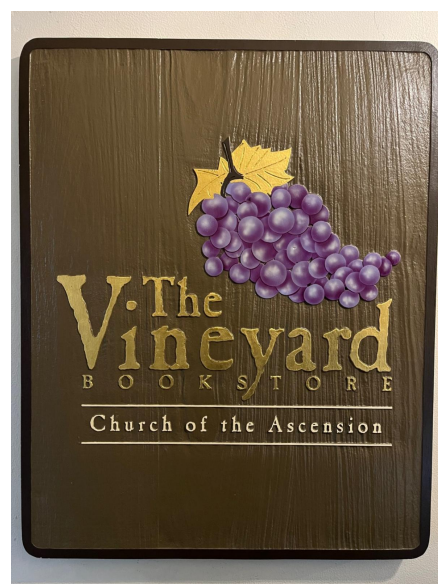
The Good Book Club - an offering of [Forward Movement](#) - is simple and free. You can follow the [reading list](#) online for no charge, or follow along with your own Bible at home. Read one psalm a day on Track 1, or read through all 150 psalms on Track 2.

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

SERVE



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



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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