



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



Ascension

Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, August 14 @ 7:00 AM

- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, August 14 @ 12:00 PM

- Lobster Fest! - Friday, August 15

- Being With - Sunday, August 15 @ 9:15 AM

From the Rector...

This Sunday we will celebrate Drew+ as he begins a new adventure as Rector of St. Joseph's on the Mountain in Mentone, Alabama. Drew+ has served with us for five years, arriving in June 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. On his first Sunday, he preached to an empty church as we were still social distancing, and church was online only at the time. Other than a couple of choir members, Becky, Clark Waggoner behind the camera, and myself everyone else welcomed him from home.

To make things even more unusual, that first sermon wasn't delivered live—it was pre-recorded. At the time, social media platforms struggled to handle the flood of Sunday livestreams from churches around the world. To ensure our service streamed smoothly, we recorded on Friday mornings. Laura Walter would then spend all day Saturday uploading the service so it could be released Sunday morning. Though we wrestled with this decision as it was not an ideal situation, it wasn't until Steve Frazer told me that the only reason he stayed tuned was because I was his wife, otherwise, he would have given up on trying to stream the service.



Pre-recording services also meant we didn't have to be in Montgomery on Sundays. So,

on Drew's first Sunday "with us," he was actually still in Austin, Texas, finishing preparations for his and Allison's move. After the service aired, we held a Zoom coffee hour in which someone asked how Drew+ was enjoying Montgomery. Drew+ confessed he was still in Texas. There was more than a little surprise, but those were the strange realities of ministry in the early COVID days.

Over the past five years, Drew+ has been a faithful partner in ministry—helping guide Ascension through the challenges of COVID and the joyful work of rebuilding the full life of our parish. He has shared in our celebrations and sorrows, offering wisdom, perspective, and prayer at every turn.

During his tenure, Drew+ has strengthened our ministry in countless ways. He designed and implemented our Lay Eucharistic Visiting ministry, enabling trained lay ministers to bring the sacrament to the sick and homebound each week. He has mentored and empowered our acolytes, encouraging them to grow as leaders at the altar. He expanded our mission reach, introducing our youth to ministry in Navajoland and advancing racial reconciliation efforts—particularly through his work with the Seminary of the Southwest and the Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage. And, of course, he has poured himself into preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and building fellowship within our community.

Although Drew+ begins his ministry at St. Joseph's in September, his final Sunday with us will be August 17. We will mark the occasion with a reception in Ascension Hall following the 10:30 a.m. service. I hope you will join us in packing the pews that morning so his last Sunday will be the exact opposite of his first—full to the brim with the faces and voices of those whose lives he has touched. Together, we will send him off with gratitude, joy, and God's blessing for the journey ahead.

Light and Life,
Candice Frazer+

candice@coascension.org

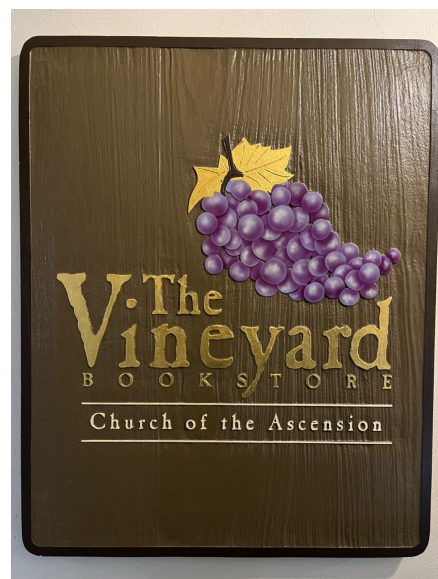
SERVE

Lobsterfest This Friday!



We need volunteers this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday to help with final preparations. Please plan to meet at 10:00 AM in Ascension Hall. We also want to remind everyone that child care is not available during Lobsterfest so attendees and volunteers will need to make other arrangements. We can't wait to see everyone on Friday!

Volunteers will be sent an email this week regarding their job position and duties. If you do not receive one, please contact Susan Copeland [HERE](#)



New Beginnings for 2025-26 School Year!



New Beginnings is looking for tutor-mentors for the upcoming school year. Ascension volunteers meet with students at the church on Wednesdays for a group meal, conversation/play, and about an hour of one-on-one school-related work, which can be provided by the program. We ask that each mentor commit to being present for most Wednesday evenings during the school year, except for holidays; some serve one year and others develop longer relationships. If you are interested in having a meaningful impact in this way on the life of a child, please call or text Mildred Wakefield (334-201-4854) or send an email (wake7@me.com): we will start the 2025-2026 school year with an orientation meeting for volunteers—tentatively scheduled for Wednesday September 3—before we begin meeting with the children, probably beginning September 10.

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Schedule

Rite I Service: 8:00 AM - Nave

Breakfast: 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM - Ascension Hall

Clergy Forum - 9:15 AM - Upper Room

Rite II Service: 10:30 AM - Nave



MORNING PRAYER

8:00 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY

LIVE ON



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

INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST

**Wednesday, September 3rd
5:30 - 7:00 PM**

**Learn the history, theology,
and symbolism of our worship**



Bishop's Visit and Confirmation – Sunday, September 7



Bishop Prior will be with us Sunday, September 7 at the 10:30am service. He will preach and celebrate and share the Good News of God in the Diocese of Alabama. He will also confirm, receive, or reaffirm all those interested. Confirmation or Reception is necessary for full membership in the Episcopal Church—which means at some point in your life a bishop laid hands on your head and said something about grace and sustenance in a church service. If you are not sure of your membership status, please contact the church office. If you would like more information regarding confirmation or reception, please contact candice@coascension.org.



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

You're Invited to Band Practice!



The Recreators
Second and Fourth Tuesdays at 7pm
Joshua Commons

In the months of August and September, *The Recreators* will be practicing in Joshua Commons. BYOBeverage and enjoy an evening of good music and fellowship. This is open to anyone who attends CoA, lives in the Garden District, or is friend of the congregation.





Celebrate mission and ministry at CoA with our Surf's Up Ministry Fair! At the Ministry Fair you will have an opportunity to check out a variety of ways that Ascension is involved in the community, the neighborhood, and the church. Wear your Hawaiian shirts for a fun photo opportunity as well as pick up some swag from your favorite ministries. Hang ten! Hope to see you there.

*Ministry leaders should be on the lookout for an email describing how your ministry can be involved with the Ministry Fair. If you do not receive one, please contact Fay@coascension.org



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
\$8,900	\$34,443	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$552,656

Opt-In for Text Notifications!



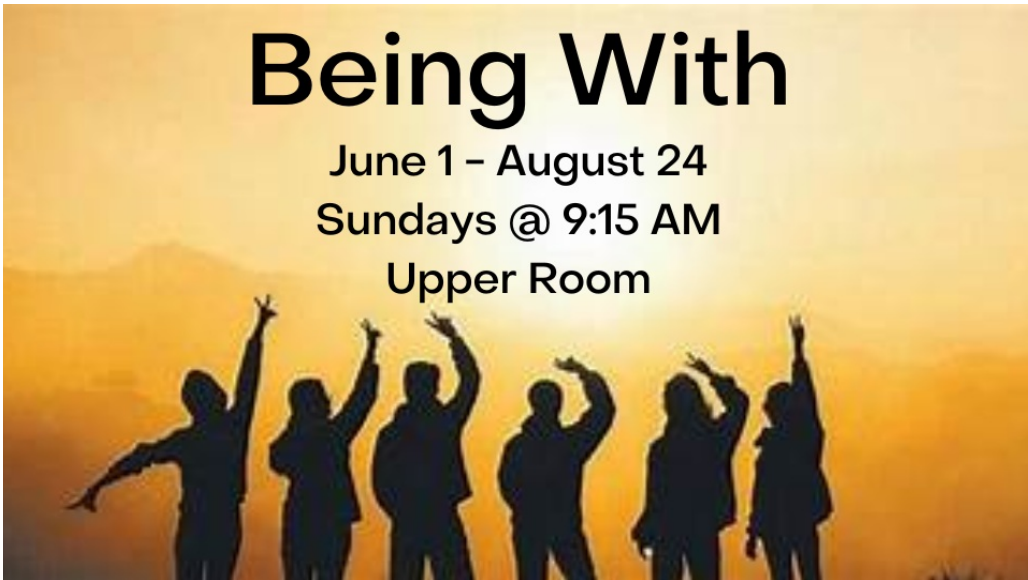
GROW

Being With

June 1 – August 24

Sundays @ 9:15 AM

Upper Room



In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

SIMON PETER

**Men's Prayer Breakfast
Thursday Mornings**

7-8 AM

FLAWED BUT FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

In this six-week course, we explore *Simon Peter* by Adam Hamilton—a powerful look at how an ordinary man with doubts and failures became a bold leader of the early Church. His story reminds us that God uses imperfect men to do extraordinary things. Our discussion themes center around courage and leadership, faith in the face of fear, brotherhood and accountability, forgiveness and redemption. You do not need to have read the book to participate, though it is encouraged.

EfM

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Church of the Ascension is pleased to provide an opportunity for participation in EfM (Education for Ministry), a " .. a unique four-year, small-group formation program based on study and practice in theological reflection ..." that is offered through the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee. "EfM helps the faithful discover the Christian tradition, bringing it into conversation with their experiences of the world. EfM seminar groups develop theologically informed, reflective, and articulate seekers of God." Ascension's class begins after Labor Day and meets on Wednesday evenings, running through May. For more information please contact Andy Akin (andrewmacakin@gmail.com) or Eric A. Kidwell (ericakidwell31@gmail.com)



Three Dioceses of Northern New England (Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont) are offering an 11-week study exploring race and faith beginning this fall. Sessions will take place on Zoom and are open to Dioceses around the country. There will be at least three circles that will meet at different times and on different days. Previous offerings of Sacred Ground that involve multiple Dioceses have benefited greatly from the regional diversity and the different backgrounds represented.

Sacred Ground is a curriculum developed by The Episcopal Church to explore the history of racism in our country as well as the economic and social legacies that continue to underlie divisions among us. To learn more about Sacred Ground, please view the Sacred Ground Invitational video "We Bless You" (22 Minutes) [Click here](#), or for more general information, visit the Sacred Ground website [here](#).

To register:
[Registration Link](#)

For more information: Amy Hastings, amymiddlebury@gmail.com

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 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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