



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 21 @ 7:00 AM

- Women's Bible Study – Thursday, August 21 @ 12:00 PM

- Being With – Sunday, August 24 @ 9:15 AM

- EYC Pool Party – Sunday, August 24 @ 4:00 PM

From the Rector...

The other morning, after my swim, I settled into a pool lounge and looked up. A vast cloud formation stretched across the sky in the unmistakable shape of a dove. The half-moon, still visible in the early light, was a mere speck beside it. Even a plane flying beneath the great white wings seemed no larger than an ant, though I could still see the curve of the plane's wings and the silver glint of sunlight along its underbelly.

I was captivated. The sight filled me with a deep and quiet peace. My mind turned immediately to Scripture: to the dove descending at Jesus' baptism, to the dove that returned to Noah with an olive branch of hope and promise, to the Spirit alighting on the disciples at Pentecost. I could not look away from that immense cloud-dove in the sky. It seemed heaven-sent.

As I gazed upward, the dove seemed to shift ever so slightly. Its head, breast, and torso lengthened, stretching into the form of an angel. Not a cherub, soft and sweet, but a fierce divine being—radiant with strength and grace. It carried a kind of fearless assurance, as if declaring, "I will protect you. You are not alone." I hadn't realized until that moment how much I needed to hear those words—how much I longed to be reminded of God's



presence and power.

The world seems heavy with anxiety right now. The changes and chances of life have come so quickly, so chaotically, that they can leave one feeling powerless. And in that space of powerlessness, despair is never far behind. We may not simply lament that sense of powerlessness; we can begin to feel threatened by it. Fear makes us vulnerable to thoughts and choices we might not otherwise embrace. So, when the angel in the sky offered reassurance, I wanted to accept it fully as peace and hope painted by God's own hand in the sky that morning.

A dove and an angel—it was enough for me, but not for God. As I continued to gaze upon the heavenly being, the angel shifted once more—this time into the shape of Christ upon the cross. The wings stretched into crossbeams, the body twisted and suspended upon them. The vision carried power beyond words: a reminder that through Christ, all is redeemed, all is held, all is well.

We are not left to face this life alone. We are surrounded—by Christ himself, by the Spirit moving among us, by the unseen company of heaven. The Spirit does not remain in the clouds but moves and breathes through us, drawing us nearer to God and God nearer to us.

We are not alone. We are braver than we know. We are capable of deep love. We are enough. Live into that truth and share it with the world—for in doing so, we manifest the presence of God.

We've got this. And, more importantly, God has us.

Light and Life,  
Candice Frazer+

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

# SERVE

## Lobster Fest 2025!

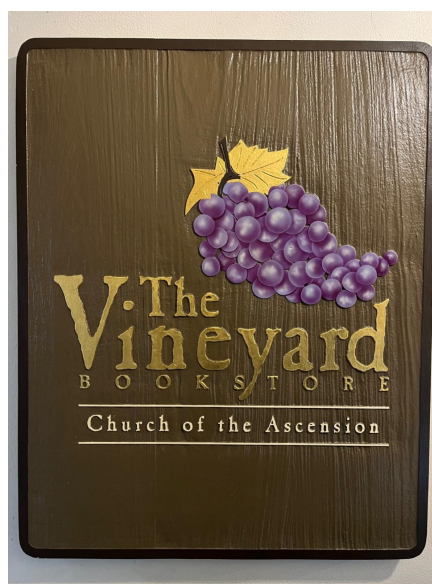








Our 7th annual Lobsterfest was the biggest year yet! **572 lobsters were purchased!** Thank you to everyone who supported the event through ticket purchases and volunteer hours. We can't thank you enough! It was a great night for Ascension as well as for ADS and Respite!



**New Beginnings for 2025-26 School Year!  
Volunteers Needed!**



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](mailto: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





We had a great day on Sunday celebrating Drew+. We wish him and Allison and the folks at St. Joseph's on the Mountain in Mentone all the joy and love as they begin their new adventure together. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the purse!

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# 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

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# **INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST**

**Wednesday, September 3rd**

**5:30 - 7:00 PM**

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



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

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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

**This Sunday!**



Pick out your favorite Hawaiian shirt and join us for our 3rd annual Good Vibrations Sunday! There will be a BBQ potluck, water slides & games, music, and a ministry fair. Ministry fair is at 9:15 and the celebration will begin after 10:30 service! Bring a side dish or appetizer of your choice!





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](mailto:Fay@coascension.org)

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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
\$2,684	\$37,127	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628  
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$555,340

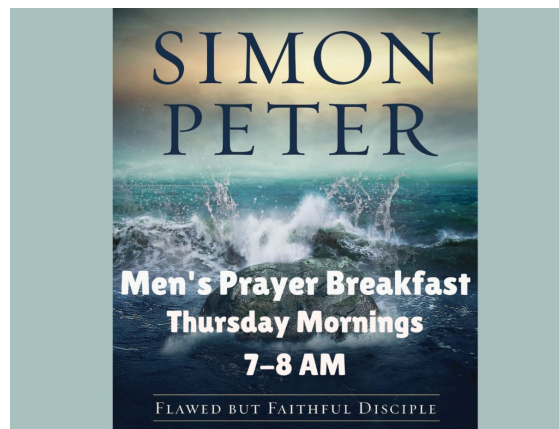
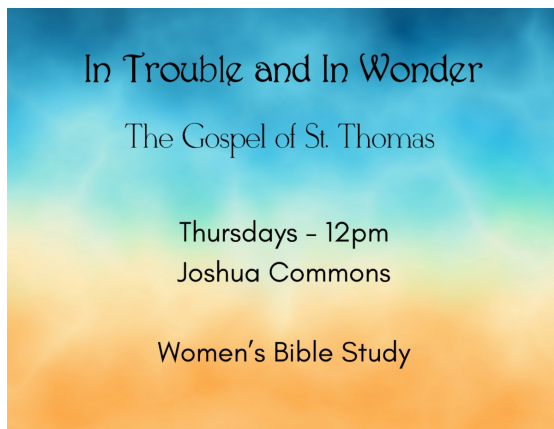
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**Opt-In for Text Notifications!**



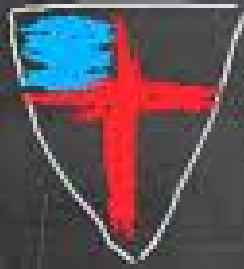


## GROW



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**NEW!**



# Episcopal 101

**Membership Inquirer's  
Sunday, August 24  
2pm in Joshua Commons**

Interested in learning more about what it means to be an Episcopalian? Wanting to become a member of The Church of the Ascension? Then join us Sunday afternoon for an Episcopal 101 class that prepares you for Confirmation or Reception (membership into the church). This welcoming space will touch on our faith, traditions, and community. Whether you're new, seeking baptism/confirmation, or simply want to ask questions, this is a time for you.

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# EfM

E D U C A T I O N F O R M I N I S T R Y

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](mailto:andrewmacakin@gmail.com)) or Eric A. Kidwell ([ericakidwell31@gmail.com](mailto:ericakidwell31@gmail.com))

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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](mailto:amymiddlebury@gmail.com)

#### Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector [candice@coascension.org](mailto:candice@coascension.org)  
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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.

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