



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 28 @ 7:00 AM

- Women's Bible Study – Thursday, August 28 @ 12:00 PM

- Being With – Sunday, August 31 @ 9:15 AM

- Sunday Breakfast – Sunday, August 31 @ 8:30 AM

From the Rector...

"There is a dead body somewhere in this house."

They say our dreams can reveal something buried deep in our psyche—or even come as messages from God. Last night, I dreamed there was a dead body hidden somewhere in my house. It wasn't my current house, or any house I've ever lived in. I wasn't even my adult self, but a younger me, still living with my parents and sister.

In the dream, we were moving into a house with a large storage area in the middle.

Somehow, someone was already living there and threatened my sister and me. In the struggle, he fell, lost his arm, and died. Kelly and I didn't know what to do. We were in shock and a little terrified. We hid his body in the storage space while we tried to figure out what to do, feeling guilty even though he had attacked us.

Days passed as though nothing had happened. Kelly and I seemed to have forgotten all about it. At some point, it began to dawn on me that we had hidden a dead body in the house. When I asked Kelly, she looked at me blankly, and I thought perhaps I had imagined it all. Relief washed over me—until our mother appeared, calmly telling my



father, “There is a dead body somewhere in this house.” My sister and I looked at one another in horror.

We searched through boxes, closets, and cabinets. At last, my father opened the storage area. Just when it seemed we wouldn’t find anything, he pulled back a cart—and there it was. The body. The truth we had hidden.

I woke up in that half-dream state, heart pounding, unsure if it had been real. Slowly, I remembered: no attack, no death, no hidden body. Just a dream. But the unease lingered. What was I supposed to learn from this?

The more I reflected, the clearer it became: this dream was about hiddenness. We had tried to hide the body. Then we tried to hide even the knowledge of it from ourselves. It was only when I was willing to “wake up” and face it that the truth came into the light.

How often do we do the same in life—stuffing away the things that scare us, hurt us, or shame us? But what is hidden festers in the dark. It is only by bringing it into the light that healing and redemption become possible.

We all carry things hidden deep within—sometimes fear, sometimes shame, sometimes the weight of the world itself. But God does not leave us there. God enters the shadows, draws us out, and promises us strength to face whatever is hidden. Hear the words of Isaiah: “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

Right now, many of us feel threatened by the brittleness and incomprehensibility of the world. Fear whispers to us: Hide it. Don’t look. Pretend it isn’t there. My dream seems to be telling me that hidden things remain in the dark and fester anxiety in the soul. If we are willing to bring them forth into the light, we might find redemption for ourselves and for the world. The prophets remind us again and again—fear leads to death, and life is found in the light. Christ himself is the light that shines in our darkness. When we dare to name what is hidden and bring it to light, we find freedom, hope, and the courage to live again.

Light and Life,
Candice Frazer+

candice@coascension.org

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

Thank you to Matt & Christine for Hosting!



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! Kids don't forget your bathing suits and beach towels!



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



Sunday, September 7 at Grace Episcopal Church in Pike Road!



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

\$37,627

Financial Gifts Offered This
Month

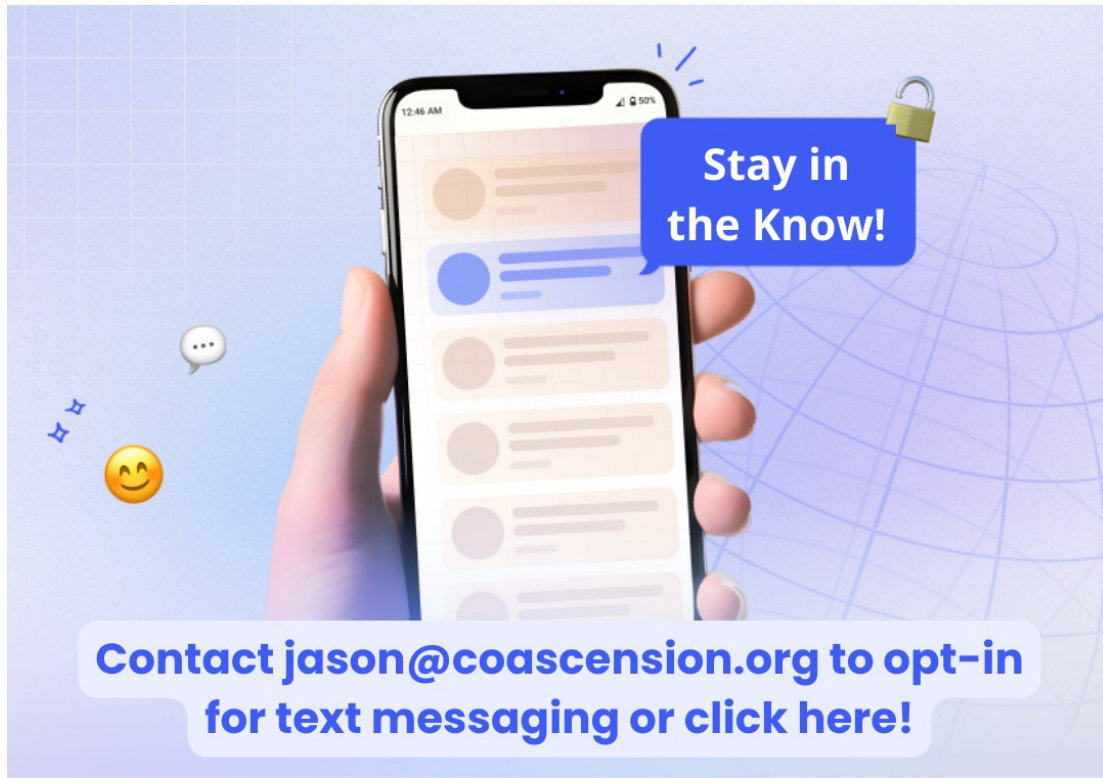
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Financial Gift Target
Monthly

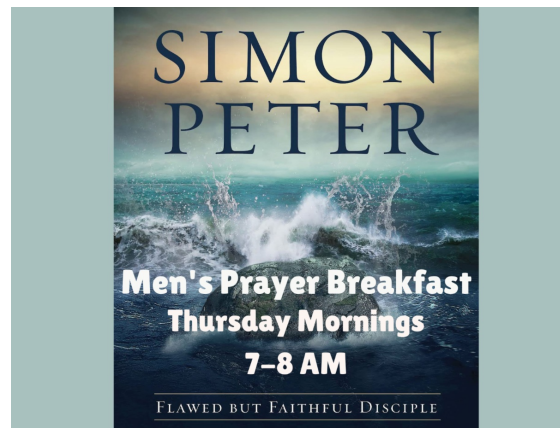
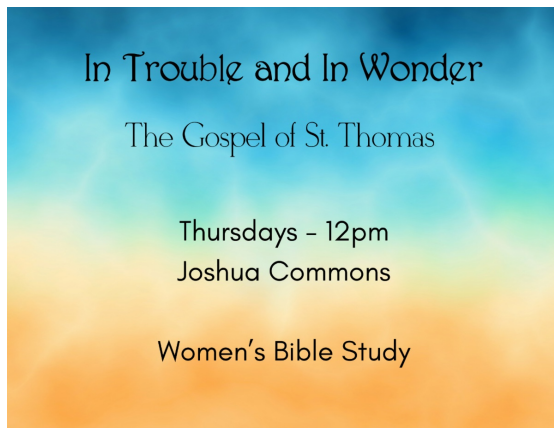
\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628
Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$592,967

Opt-In for Text Notifications!



GROW



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)



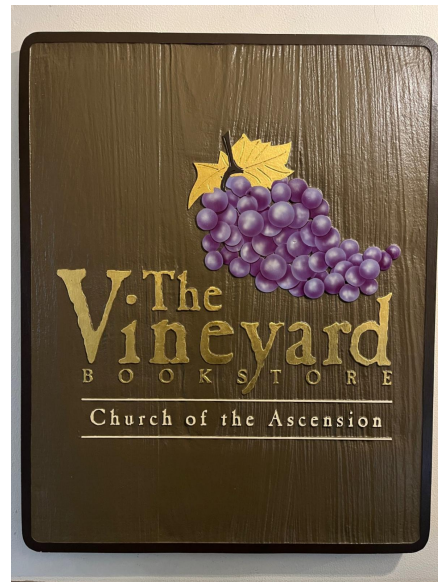
Three Dioceses of Northern New England (Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont) are offering an 11-week study exploring race and faith beginning this fall. Sessions will take place on Zoom and are open to Dioceses around the country. There will be at least three circles that will meet at different times and 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

SERVE



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](tel: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.

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.

Church of the Ascension | 334-263-5529 | staff@coascension.org | www.coascension.org

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