



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



Ascension

Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Trawick-Scott Advent Recital - Wednesday, Dec 3 @ 12:05 PM

- Wednesday Night Live - Wednesday, Dec 3 @ 5:15 PM

- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, Dec 4 @ 12:00 PM

- Messiah Sing-a-Long - Thursday, Dec 4 @ 7:00 PM

From the Rector...

"Everything I touch seems to get ruined."

Though desperately sad, this has always been one of my favorite lines from Charlie Brown. In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, he has just bought a pitiful but very real little tree. His friends have laughed at him for choosing it, and when he takes it home and hangs a single ornament on it, the poor thing falls over. He frowns, shakes his head in defeat, and says, "I've killed it. Everything I touch seems to get ruined."

Of course, we know the rest of the story. Linus and Snoopy swoop in, decorate the tree, and remind everyone that it wasn't "such a bad little tree" after all. As Linus says, "It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love."

Whenever I am feeling defeated or disappointed, I remember those lines, "Everything I touch gets ruined." Then, I remember that it isn't really about me at all. When my expectations aren't being met, it is usually because I have been focused on my own ego—my self-centered desires and wants—rather than being God-focused. When my attention shifts back to God and I trust that His purposes are being worked out, I remember that first and foremost, it is always about love. Everything else stems from that love.



Charlie Brown may think that everything he touches gets ruined, but more likely it is his expectations that are at fault. When he chose the tree, something stirred in his heart. He connected to something deeper than simply a scrawny Christmas tree that drops its needles every time it is touched. His mistake is not that he chose a bad tree; the real problem is that he expected others to be moved in the same way by his choice in trees. His disappointment is not in the tree. His disappointment is in others and their failure to meet his expectations.

Isn't that often our challenge. We expect others to agree with us, or do what we want, or fit our idea of who they should be instead of accepting people for who they are. When they don't meet those expectations, we get frustrated or angry or sad—everything seems to be ruined.

We do the same with God. When our plans don't work out, when illness strikes, or when someone we love dies, we blame God. We may even get angry with him, or, at times, stop talking to him altogether. When God doesn't meet our expectations, we treat him as though he has somehow failed us.

Putting our expectations on others—even on God—is often a sign that our ability to love has become tangled or wounded. And this kind of broken love harms not only those around us but ourselves as well. When people don't meet our expectations, we start doubting our own worth. We question our motivations, our beliefs, even our abilities. We forget to love ourselves—and if we cannot love ourselves, how can we truly love anyone else?

Linus is right. When life feels defeated and desperate, that is the time when we most need to love—to love God, to love ourselves, to love one another.

Advent is a season of expectant waiting. I hope and pray that your waiting is in love.

Light and Life,

Candice+

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



ADVENT 2025

TRAWICK-SCOTT ADVENT RECITAL SERIES

- DECEMBER 3** **ADONIS GONZALEZ, PIANO**
12:05 PM CONTEMPLATIVE MUSIC FOR THE PIANO IS PERFORMED BY INTERNATIONALLY
ACCLAIMED PIANIST ADONIS GONZALEZ, PROFESSOR OF PIANO AT ALABAMA STATE
UNIVERSITY
- DECEMBER 10** **MICHAEL DELFIN, HARPSICORD**
12:05 PM VERSATILE AND CELEBRATED EARLY MUSIC SPECIALIST AND PERFORMER OF
HISTORICAL AND MODERN KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS, MICHAEL DELFIN,
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, PRESENTS MUSIC FOR HARPSICORD.
- DECEMBER 17** **ADVENT: SING OF HOPE**
12:05 PM THE AUDIENCE SING SONGS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS OF LOVE, JOY, AND HOPE
TO A WEARY WORLD.

CHRISTMAS 2025

- DECEMBER 4** **MESSIAH SINGALONG** **7:00 PM**
JOIN THE MONTGOMERY CHORALE, ORCHESTRA, AND SOLOISTS IN THE CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION NAVE IN A GROUP SINGALONG OF HANDEL'S IMMORTAL WORK
- DECEMBER 19** **BLUE CHRISTMAS** **12:00 PM**
SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING GRIEF OR STRUGGLING WITH LOSS
- DECEMBER 21** **THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** **9:15 AM**
JOIN CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ASCENSION HALL FOR A NEW TELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS
STORY, INVITING LOVE TO BE BORN IN OUR HEARTS
- DECEMBER 24** **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY EUCHARIST** **5:30 PM**
CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST WITH THE ENTIRE FAMILY
- FESTIVE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST** **10:15 PM**
THE ASCENSION CHOIR WILL OFFER ANTHEMS OF THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS
BEGINNING AT 10:15 PM. EUCHARIST TO BEGIN AT 11:00 PM
- DECEMBER 25** **CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST** **10:00 AM**
THIS SERVICE WILL NOT HAVE MUSIC
- DECEMBER 28** **CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS** **10:30 AM**
HEAR THE STORY OF GOD'S REDEMPTION WITH CAROLS AND ANTHEMS AND LESSONS READ
BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ASCENSION MINISTRIES
- JANUARY 6** **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY** **5:30 PM**
 BONFIRE & CHILI COOKOFF
CLOSE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH WORSHIP AROUND THE BONFIRE, AND JOIN US IN
THE PARKING LOT FOR THE ANNUAL ASCENSION CHILI COOKOFF



This Thursday!



Messiah Sing-a-Long

DECEMBER 4TH
7:00 PM

MORNING PRAYER

8:00 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY

LIVE ON



Last Children's Compline of the Year!



Children's Compline! Wednesday Nights! 6:50 PM in the Choir Loft and on Facebook Live!



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

Tomorrow at 12:05 PM!

Trawick-Scott Advent Recital Series

Wednesdays in Advent at 12:05 PM

December 3 - Adonis Gonzalez, Piano

Contemplative music for the piano is performed by internationally acclaimed pianist Adonis Gonzalez, Professor of Piano at Alabama State University

December 10 - Michael Delfin, Harpsicord

Versatile and celebrated early music specialist and performer of historical and modern keyboard instruments, Michael Delfin, University of Alabama, presents music for harpsichord.

December 17 - Advent: Sing of Hope

The audience sing songs, hymns and spiritual songs of love, joy, and hope to a weary world.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIVE

STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

5:15
DINNER
ASCENSION HALL

5:45
THE WORD
SMALL DINING ROOM

6:00
YOUTH ACTIVITIES
3RD FLOOR YOUTH ROOM

6:00
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
4TH FLOOR CHOIR LOFT

6:00
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
LIBRARY

6:45
COMPLINE
4TH FLOOR CHOIR LOFT

Dinner Menu:

Breakfast for Dinner!

\$8 per person or \$20 per family!



Bring a dish to share and beverages will be provided!

ASCENSIONAIRE'S



Christmas LUNCH

DECEMBER | 16 | 12:00P.M.

PLEASE BRING A WRAPPED GIFT FOR
SILLY SANTA, \$5 LIMIT
RVSP TO FAY

Let's celebrate!

Host the Holy Family this Advent Season



Las Posadas

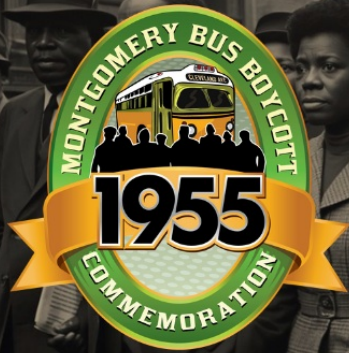
*A special tradition comemmerating the journey of
Mary and Joseph before the birth of Jesus.*



Scan the QR code to choose a night your family will receive the Holy Family. The stable, donkey, and Holy Family comes with The Night of Las Posadas by Tomie DePaola - an illustrated book that tells the story of Las Posadas.



Ascension's bells were ringing at 6:06 PM last night in honor and remembrance of Rosa Parks. Candice also offered the closing prayer in the Rosa Parks Day Closing Convocation.



70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

NOVEMBER 29TH – DECEMBER 6TH

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

SACRIFICE. RESILIENCE. HOPE.

NOV 29

SATURDAY / 10:00AM

YOUTH LEADERSHIP
BRUNCH

NOV 30

SUNDAY

382: A CITYWIDE
MOMENT OF REFLECTION

DEC 01 – 05

MONDAY – FRIDAY

FREE ENTRY TO THE
ROSA PARKS MUSEUM

DEC 01

MONDAY

UNITY WALK FOR PEACE & JUSTICE / 5:30PM

WORLDWIDE TOLLING OF THE BELLS / 6:06PM

ROSA PARKS DAY CLOSING CONVOCATION
& AWARDS PRESENTATION / 7:00PM

DEC 02

TUESDAY / 7:00PM

WOMEN IN HISTORY
PANEL DISCUSSION
*REFRESHMENTS AT
6PM

DEC 03

WEDNESDAY / 6:00PM

A MUSICAL
INTERPRETATION OF
BLACKS' PROTEST
AGAINST SEGREGATION IN
MONTGOMERY, AL

DEC 04

THURSDAY / 6:00PM

FILM PREMIERE: THE
SKIN YOU'RE IN

DEC 05

FRIDAY / 5:30PM

MASS MEETING –
WHERE DO WE GO
FROM HERE?

DEC 06

SATURDAY

ROSA PARKS & ELLA BAKER YOUTH
CALL TO ACTION SUMMIT / 8:00AM

ROSA L. PARKS GALA AND AWARDS PROGRAM / 7:00PM

JOIN US FOR A CURSILLO CHRISTMAS PARTY

THIS IS AN OPEN INVITATION FOR ALL WHO ARE
INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A CURSILLO WEEKEND
AND THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED A WEEKEND.
PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO
SHARE.

**December
20th
6-8 P.M. at
The
Hayden's**



Thanks to all for the turnout on Sunday!



Advent Wreath Party & Soup Luncheon



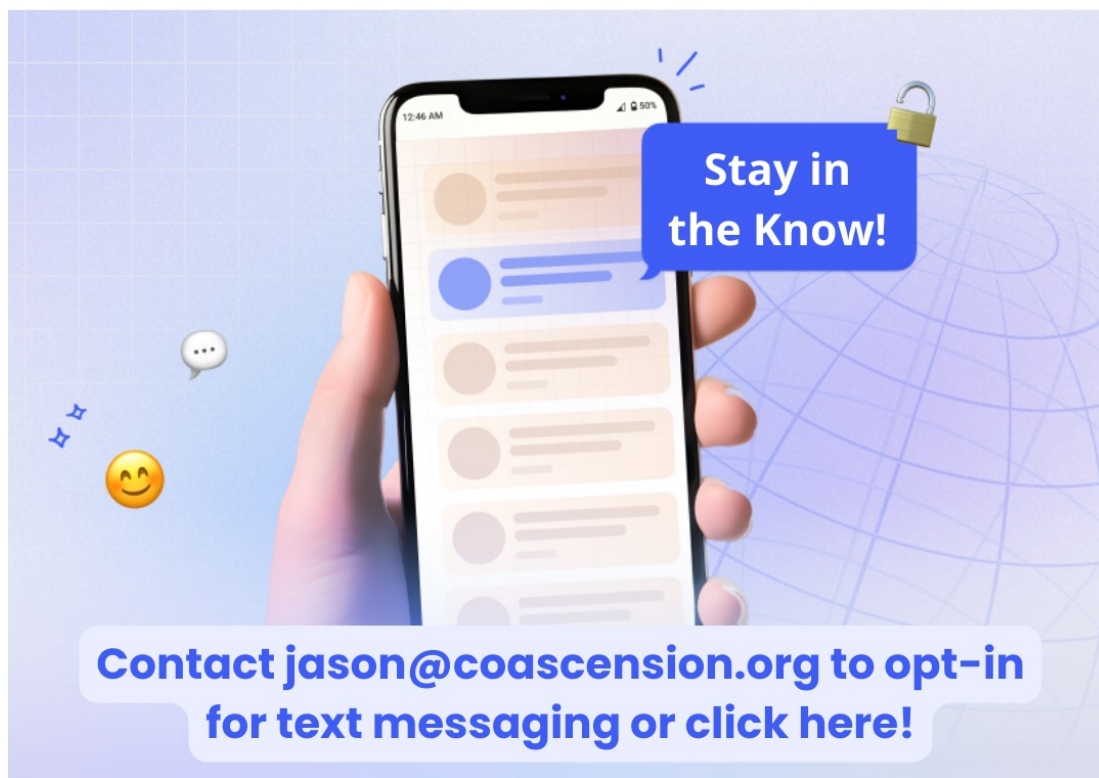
November 30, 2025
Ascension Hall following 10:30 Service







Opt-In for Text Notifications!



GROW

A CHILD *is* BORN

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO NATIVITY STORIES



Sundays at 9:15am
Upper Room
Nov 30 - Dec 14

LIGHT *in the* DARKNESS

Thursdays at 7am
Ascension Hall
Dec 4 - Dec 18



In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm
Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Christmas Pageant

PARENTS: Please complete the Christmas Pageant survey ASAP! If you would like for your child(ren) to participate, please contact Becky Taylor (beckytaylor@coascension.org) or Laura Mielke (laura@coascension.org)

NEW PAGEANT THIS YEAR!



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Presents

CROSS AND CURRENTS

On exhibit in the nave through December 18!

Like boats upon the sea, we navigate the currents of life, journeying toward a deeper connection with the divine and each other. As Jesus taught his disciples about the challenging life of love, this workshop invites us to reflect on our own journeys as we travel through still and stormy waters.

SERVE

Calling All Stewardship Cards!



Tell Out My Soul

Many thanks to all who made Celebration Sunday a rousing success, and a heartfelt thanks to all who have turned in their pledges and all who have donated to our Aid to Inmate Mothers effort.

The campaign is not over-our goal of 100% participation remains, and we need all pledges in by December 10 so that work can begin on time for our 2026 budget.

Thank you again for your continued service and support to our wonderful church.

Best regards,
Smitty Smith & Julia McNair
Campaign Co-Chairs



Milton Lewis Memorial Christmas Tree Project

Saturday, December 13th at 8:00 AM

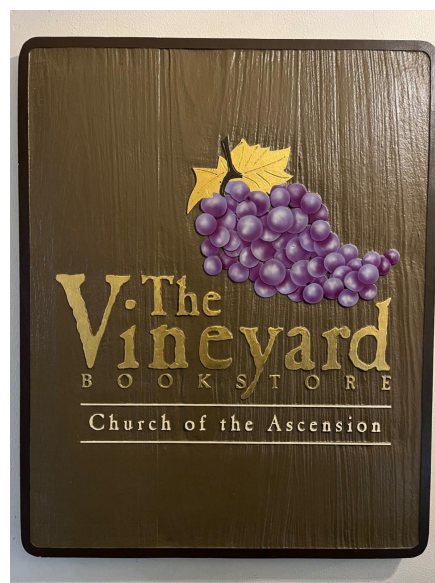
Target @ Eastchase

Planned Give is \$100 per child

To Donate Contact Tracy Hinton

thinton@coascension.org

Each year we get to “play Santa” to our New Beginning’s tutoring kids by donating and/or shopping for them at Target. The kids create a wish list, and we get to play Santa’s helpers by fulfilling those wishes. You can be a part of the Milton Lewis Christmas Tree Project by helping us shop or donating to the cause. The suggested donation amount is \$100.00 per child. It’s a great family activity to start the season remembering the reason! Contact the church office or Elizabeth Conner for more information.



Saturday Sidewalk Volunteers Needed!



Blow off leaves and debris before Sunday services! Sign up below!



Double Duty! Advent, Food, and Music

If you are looking for a specific event that you can be part of to feed the hungry and prepare for a new birth of love in your heart, we have a great answer!

You invited to be on one of three teams who will cook soup for the Advent Recital lunches and for the Food Ministry. Grab two or three of your friends! Make a fun time to get together and cook an abundance of soup that will serve as lunch on Wednesdays in Advent, and then be passed on to MACOA or the food banks to meet the needs of those who are hungry.

Please contact Becky Taylor ASAP if you are interested and willing, or for questions. beckytaylor@coascension.org.



Cardboard Boxes Needed!

We are in need of cardboard boxes for our Food Box Ministry for our distribution on November 22. Boxes strong enough to support 10 pounds of food such as those made for books or wine bottles are preferred! Boxes can be dropped off in either the office or Ascension Hall lobbies.

Graphic Novels for New Beginnings



New Beginnings would like to create a library of graphic novels to circulate among our young friends who come for tutoring on Wednesday nights. If your family has graphic novels that need a new home, please leave them in the donation box outside the children's library on the third floor!



Frozen Meals Ministry

If you are interested in preparing or packaging meals contact [Candice](#) or [Will](#). More information to follow next week!

Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector candice@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

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

[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!