



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



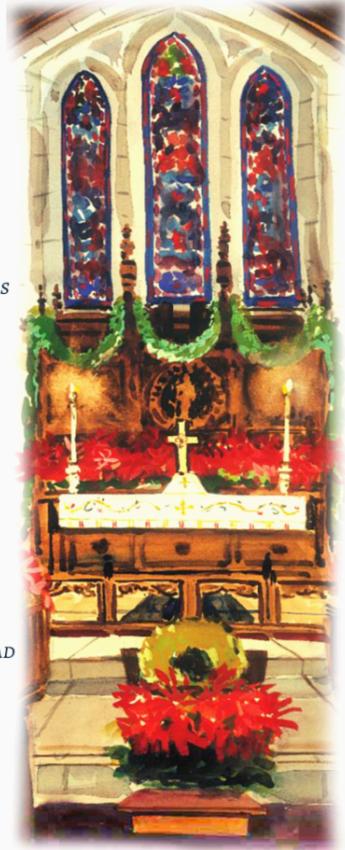
# ADVENT 2025

## 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



# Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Trawick-Scott Advent Recital - Wednesday, Dec 17 @ 12:05 PM

- Blue Christmas - Friday, Dec 19 @ 12:00 PM

- Food Box Distribution - Saturday, Dec 20 @ 8:30 AM

- Christmas Pageant- Sunday, Dec 21 @ 9:30 AM

From the Rector...

Hygge—or Holy Hygge, as I am calling it this Advent—has been a beautiful reminder of the importance of taking time to simply be cozy. Life can get a little crazy this time of year, with the holiday rush and the increased expectations we place on ourselves. We know it is a good idea to slow down and settle in, but there always seems to be far too much to do.

Sometimes I wonder if the church unintentionally piles on an extra layer of shame and guilt during this season. When there are still presents to buy, trees to decorate, and food to prepare, who really has time to be still?

And yet, the church's call to remember that this is not quite Christmas is an important one. It helps us situate the busyness of the season as preparation rather than mere consumerism. While the world tells us this is simply the holiday shopping season, the church reminds us of a deeper truth: this is Advent—a season of waiting and preparation for Christ's coming.

Christ's coming is not only a call back to a babe in a manger; it is also a call forward, toward Christ's return—his second coming. We may fill our homes with nativity sets and place stars atop our trees, but we are also invited to look to the skies. The deeper truth of



this season is not simply remembering the birth of a baby, but holding fast to the promise of a Savior who will come again.

It's hard to remember this deeper truth when we are rushing from store to store or activity to activity. If we can take the time to sit, even for a moment, and reflect on that truth we just might find it leads to a greater purpose than that defined by decorations and cookies. This is where Holy Hygge finds its place in the Advent season.

Hygge is an art form—the art of coziness. If you have been following along in our Advent devotional series, you know that this week we are invited to create a space for hygge in our homes. A cozy spot where we can sink into a comfortable chair and stare out the window, gaze into a fire on a cold night, read a book, or simply listen to Christmas music while wrapped in a soft, warm blanket and sipping hot cocoa.

Hygge is not meant to inspire guilt or shame for the rushing around you've been doing all day long. Instead, it offers permission to pause and breathe—to remember what it means to simply be. Turn off the screens. Snuggle with your kids, your spouse, your dogs—or all three at once. Enjoy the glow of the tree and the home you have worked so hard to create. Allow yourself a little cozy time and release the pressure and stress of an anxious world.

Too often we are led to believe that the Second Coming of Christ is something we should fear. I wonder if we spent a little more time enjoying one another and the life that we have been given, we might remember that God's love for us is not about destruction but about the beauty and coziness of a life well enjoyed. Maybe the Christ that will come again is waiting for us to remember that too.

Light and Life,

Candice+

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

**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



**Women's Bible Study will return Dec 18!**

## In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study



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**



## **NOMINATIONS**

**OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 9TH**

Click [HERE](#) for the Vestry Nomination form!

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**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 17 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

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# 2025 Christmas Decorating Time



Please meet in the nave of the church on **Sunday, December 21**  
**immediately after church.** Lunch will be provided.

Don't forget to bring your clippers, gloves, and greenery!

**All Are Welcome!**

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Bamman at 334-391-0747.

Thank you for your dedication, time, and talent.

**Merry Christmas!**

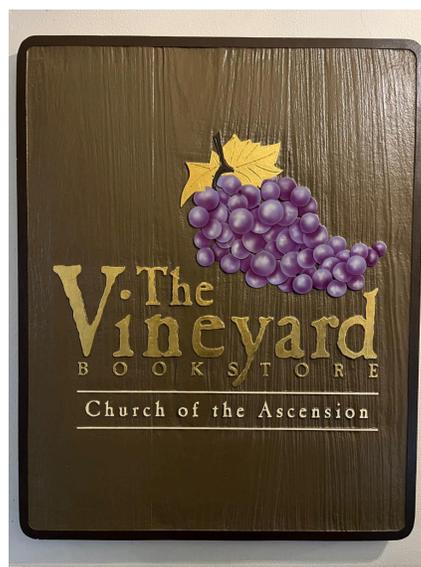


COME SERVE AT

# Mercy House

Thursdays  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Questions? Call or text  
Stephanie Norrell  
at 334-467-6989





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.

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## **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!

## WORSHIP



# Music Survey

Your Music Search Team has been hard at work this fall outlining a strategy and timeline as we begin the search for our next organist/choir director. As part of our work, we want and need to hear from you. This link to a music survey will help us to understand how you—the parish—understands and prioritizes music at Ascension.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey by clicking on the button below. Not only will this help the Music Search Team to gain a better understanding of music at Ascension, it will also help us to put together a profile that will be used in our nation-wide search beginning in February.

Thanks for your time and feedback. We look forward to hearing from you.

Members of the Music Search Team include:

Bryan Reeves (captain)  
Jan Davis (co-captain)  
Evans Bailey (secretary)  
Mark Bullock  
Nan Barganier  
Richard Norris  
Rev. Candice Frazer

[Click Here For Survey](#)

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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



# Attention Venmo Users



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, Harpsichord

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.

Host the Holy  
Family this  
Advent Season



## Las Posadas

A special tradition commemorating 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.

# 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**



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**Save the Date!**



## & Bonfire for The Feast of the Epiphany

For more info or to sign up your team contact Gina Curvin [HERE](#)

### Staff Directory

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

Becky Taylor, Music Ministry [beckytaylor@coascension.org](mailto:beckytaylor@coascension.org)

Will McQueen, Facilities Manager [will@coascension.org](mailto:will@coascension.org)

Tracy Hinton, Parish Administrator [thinton@coascension.org](mailto:thinton@coascension.org)

Jason Pate, Director of Communications [jason@coascension.org](mailto:jason@coascension.org)

Laura Mielke, Children Family & Faith Formation Minister [laura@coascension.org](mailto:laura@coascension.org)

Nick Mielke, Youth Family & Faith Formation Minister [nick@coascension.org](mailto:nick@coascension.org)

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.

Church of the Ascension | 334-263-5529 | [staff@coascension.org](mailto:staff@coascension.org) | [www.coascension.org](http://www.coascension.org)

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