



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



# Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Christmas Eve Family Eucharist - Wednesday, Dec 24 @ 5:30 PM
- Festive Christmas Eucharist - Wednesday, Dec 24 @ 10:15 PM
- Christmas Eucharist - Thursday, Dec 25 @ 10:00 AM
- Lessons & Carols - Sunday, Dec 28 @ 10:30 AM

From the Rector...

"Let every heart prepare him room." This line from one of my favorite Christmas hymns was also the inspiration and title for our Christmas tableau, which premiered last Sunday in the nave of the Church of the Ascension. I knew it would be something special—and it was more than that. Our youth and children offered a profound witness to this long-told story. Their care in telling it again was both powerful and purposeful. It truly felt like preparation for something bigger than any of us can fully understand or name.

It's easy to assume we know what the Christmas story is all about. A pregnant woman and her husband. No room in the inn. Shepherds keeping watch by night. Wise men traveling from the Far East. Angels. A baby born in a stable. It's a familiar story—one we have heard over and over again, especially if we grew up in the Church. Yet, I wonder if, because of that familiarity, we sometimes lose touch with its mystery and wonder.

How marvelous it is that a star would shine so brightly in the heavens that it could guide three men across great distances to a foreign land—and then give them the courage to defy a dangerous and unstable king. Shepherds, standing watch over their flocks by night, are visited by angels who announce the birth of a new king and tell them that they—the



lowliest of all—are the ones chosen to go and pay him homage in a stable in Bethlehem. Even Mary and Joseph, each visited by divine messengers, embody extraordinary faith and trust in a God who completely disrupts everything they thought they knew about life and its possibilities.

When we stop and truly think about these responses, none of them make much sense by worldly standards. The wise men were not Jewish. The shepherds held no status or power. Mary and Joseph were not people of wealth or social standing. And yet, none of that mattered to God. What mattered was their faithfulness.

Faith is born of desire and discipleship. It is the willingness to choose God every moment of every day. It is a life of God and is lived with God before it is ever about ourselves or even one another.

The Church, at its best, is a place of that kind of faithfulness. It bears witness to God's work in the world and gathers those who long to be part of it. Through worship, story, and sacrament—especially the story of the Incarnation—we are reminded that our lives are grounded in God's larger story. We are gently de-centered, our egos softened, and our sense of self reoriented toward love.

Too often, we become caught up in the story of our own lives—our families, careers, children, and dreams—and forget that we are part of something much bigger. We are participants in God's story, not its stars. Christmas reminds us of this truth year after year, which is why we tell the same story again and again.

I hope to see you in church this Christmas, hearing this familiar story once more and remembering that though it is not about us, we are still vital to it—and to the kingdom God is bringing into being.

Light and Life and blessings for a Christmas filled with peace,

Candice+

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

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## **Election of the Thirteenth Bishop of Alabama**



The Reverend Candice Frazer  
Rector, Church of the Ascension,  
Montgomery, AL



The Very Reverend Richard T. Lawson III  
Dean, Saint John's Cathedral,  
Denver, CO

Walkabout – January 3 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Birmingham, AL and livestream  
Election – January 24 at Church of the Advent, Birmingham, AL and livestream

The Electing Convention for the next bishop of Alabama is made up of the delegates to the 194<sup>th</sup> Convention held last February 2025 and canonically resident clergy of Alabama. The delegation for the Church of the Ascension includes: Camila Austin, Bill Garrett, Anne Kimzey, Richard Norris, Christine Harrison, April McKay, and Christopher Turner along with the Rev. Candice Frazer and the Rev. David Hall. Please keep them, along with all other delegates and clergy who will vote in this convention, in your prayers. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide them in this election.

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for The Diocese of Alabama, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read a message from Candice [HERE](#)

**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

**SERVE**



# **NOMINATIONS**

**OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 9TH**

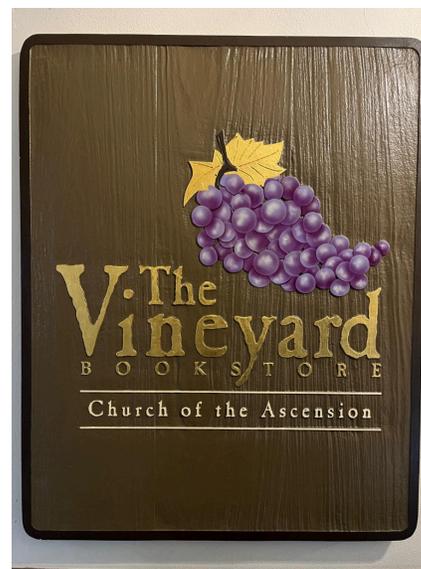
Click [HERE](#) for the Vestry Nomination form!

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**Tell Out  
My Soul**

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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!

## WORSHIP

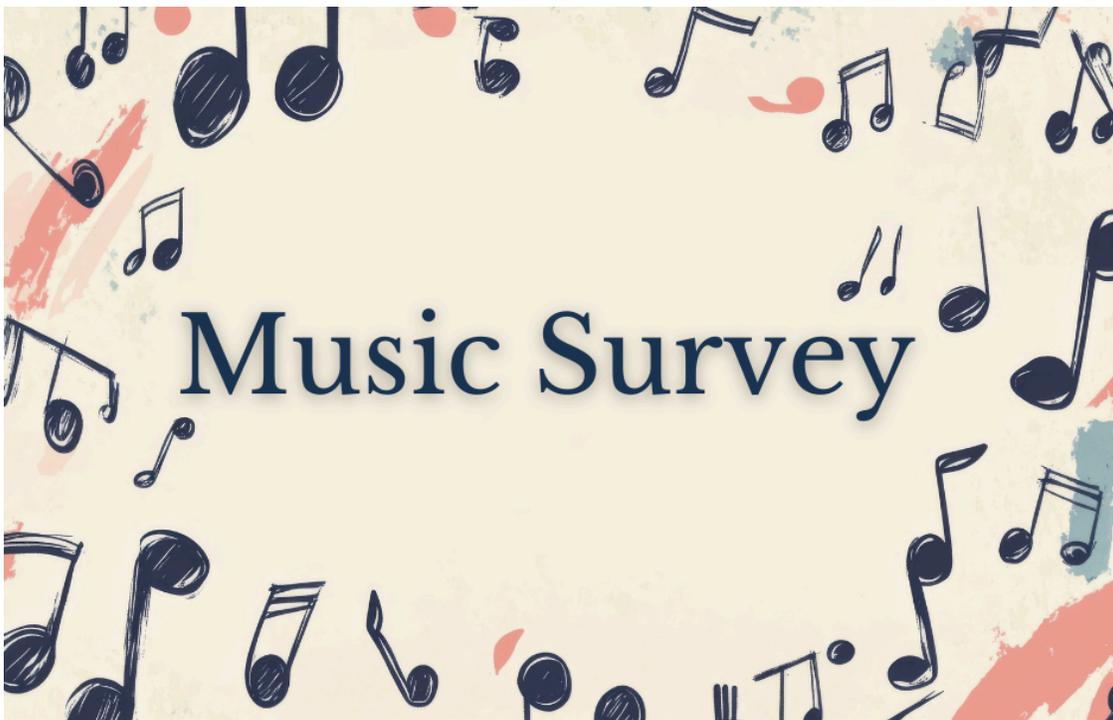
A musical Christmas Pageant presented by  
the Youth and Children of Church of the Ascension

LET EVERY  
HEART   
PREPARE  
HIM ROOM

December 21, 2025  
9:30 a.m. in The Nave







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](#)



# 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



& 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)

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