



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



✕ ✨
Happy
New Year
✨ ✨

The office will close at noon on
Dec 31st and reopen on Jan 2nd

From the Rector...

"In my end is my beginning."

This line from T. S. Eliot's poem *East Coker* was first spoken by Mary, Queen of Scots. You may remember the story of Mary, her sister Elizabeth I, and their father, Henry VIII. Mary was the legitimate heir to the English throne, but because she was not male, her half-brother Edward ascended first. His reign was brief, and upon his death Mary inherited the crown. At her coronation, she declared England a Catholic kingdom. Her rule, however, was short-lived. She was eventually overthrown and executed, and her sister Elizabeth was crowned, restoring Anglicanism to the realm.



Mary was a faithful Catholic, and her words—"In my end is my beginning"—are not simply an allusion to her death. They reflect an awareness of legacy and a profound understanding of life's cyclical nature of death and renewal. The phrase invites us to think of life not only in linear terms but also in sacred cycles. It reminds us that the spiritual

journey is one of continual renewal, where endings make room for new beginnings and the fleeting nature of earthly life is held within the promise of divine eternity.

When I reflect on these words, I am reminded that the worst things are never the last things—and that even the last things are not truly the end.

So often, we become focused on moving from one appointment to the next or simply getting through the day. In the process, we miss the quiet renewal happening all around us. We rely on GPS maps to get us from point A to point B. We structure our lives around career ladders, promotions, and measurable progress. Our human world rewards linear thinking: school years move from first grade to twelfth, each year building upon the last. We define developmental stages and social hierarchies that reinforce the idea that life moves forward in a straight line.

There is nothing inherently wrong with understanding the world this way. Linear thinking serves us well in many aspects of daily life. But it can also limit our imagination, trapping us in a mindset of beginnings and endings. While that may work for human systems, it is not how God created the world.

God created a cyclical world. The planets circle the sun. The seasons follow one another year after year—winter, spring, summer, and fall. Plants move through cycles of birth, death, and rebirth. Even the animal kingdom understands this great circle of life—just ask Simba.

We are born. We grow old. We die. Yet in God's economy, this is not the end—it is the beginning.

Today is the final day of 2025, and it gives birth to a new year filled with possibility and hope. I pray that in your ending, you may discover your beginning: a renewed way of embracing God, one another, and all of creation. May your new beginnings draw you into deeper truth, greater joy, and the quiet assurance of God's ever-present love.

Happy New Year!

Light and Life,
Candice+

candice@coascension.org

Election of the Thirteenth Bishop of Alabama



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

[Resume](#)
[Video](#)



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

[Resume](#)
[Video](#)

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 194th 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](#)

CONNECT



& Bonfire for The Feast of the Epiphany

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



Three members of our diocesan Youth Department (Margie Anne Prescott, Ann Harman Hornbuckle, and Eleanor Couch) traveled with adult advisors Kathleen Hanson (YD Advisor from All Saints Homewood) and Tammy Spake (Youth Minister at Trinity Florence) to represent our diocese at the annual Province IV Youth Leadership and Networking Event. This year, the delegations gathered at Haw River State Park in the Diocese of North Carolina. They spent time worshipping, praying, playing, and learning together.

GROW

- **No Christian Formation this week**
- **Men's Prayer Breakfast and Women's Bible Study will return on Thursday, January 8**
- **Sunday School will return Sunday, January 11**

SERVE

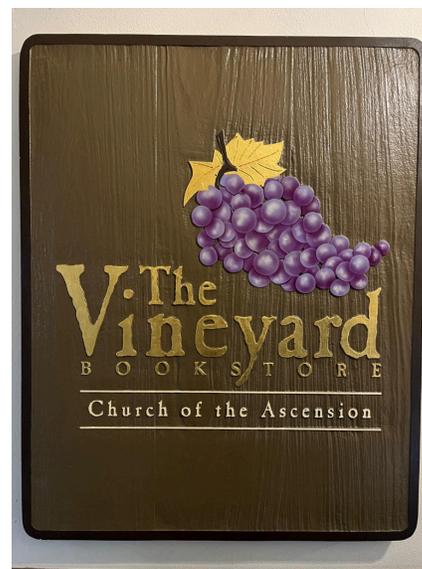


NOMINATIONS

OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 9TH

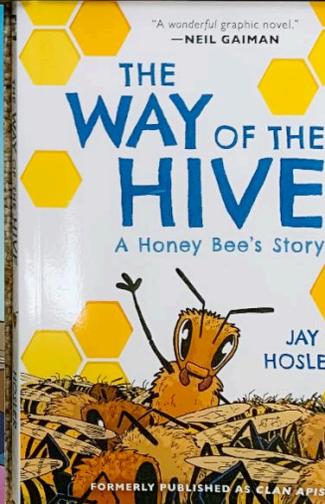
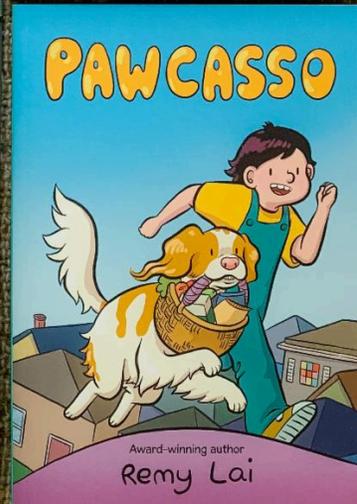
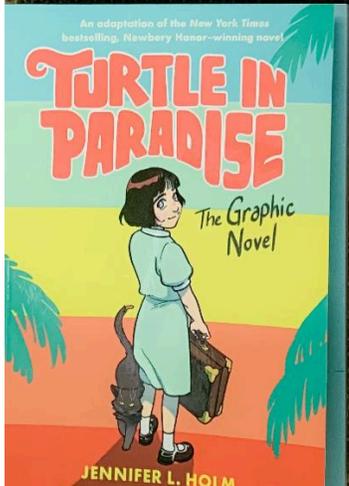
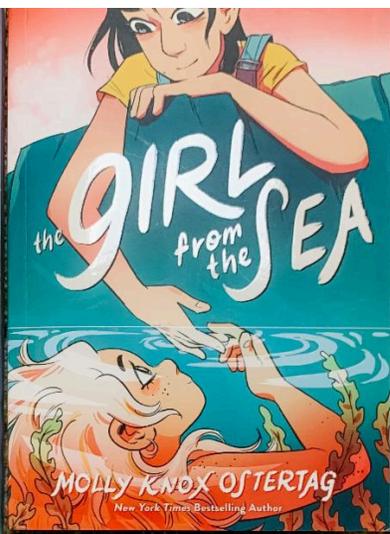
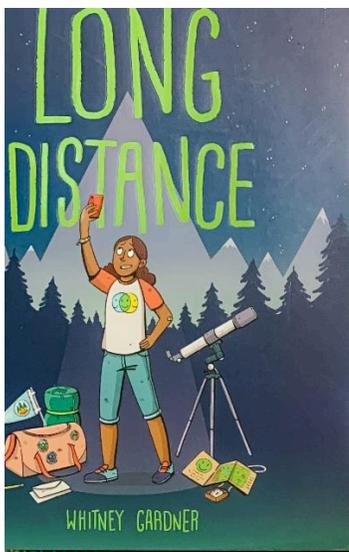


**Tell Out
My Soul**



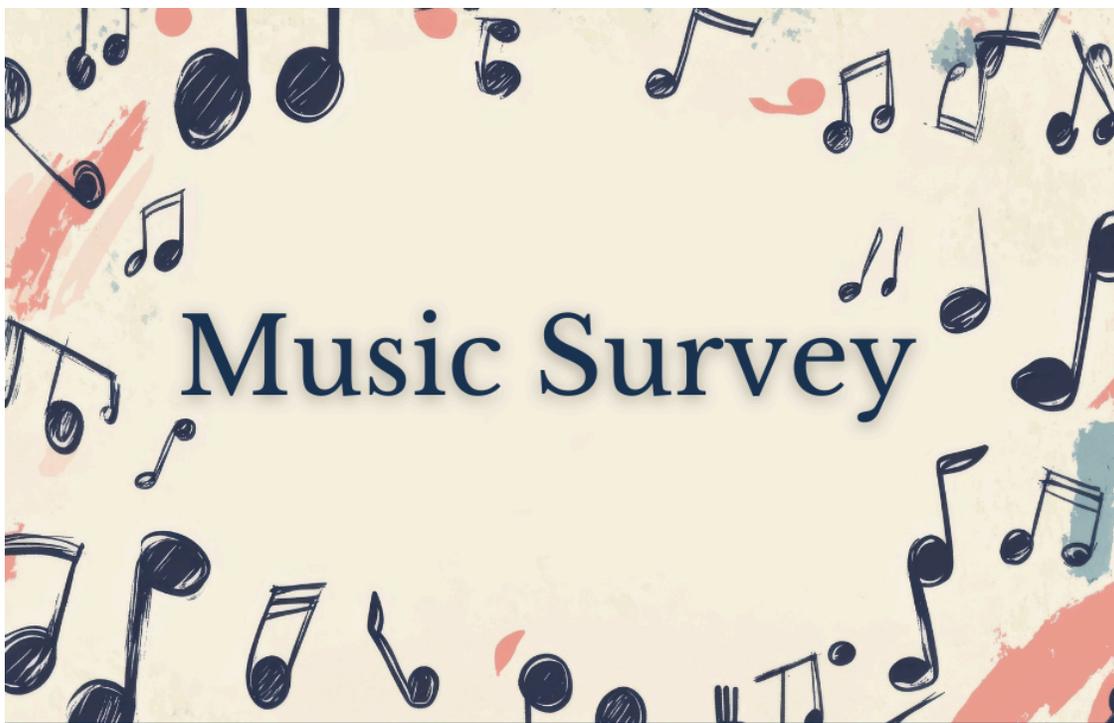
We are in need of cardboard boxes for our Food Box Ministry for our distribution on November 22. Boxes strong enough to support 10 pounds of food such as those made for books or wine bottles are preferred! Boxes can be dropped off in either the office or Ascension Hall lobbies.

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



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](#)

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!

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

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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