



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 10 @ 12:05 PM
- Christmas Tree Trim – Wednesday, Dec 10 @ 5:30 PM
- EpiscoParty! – Thursday, Dec 11 @ 6:00 PM
- Milton Lewis Christmas – Sat, Dec 13 – 8:00 AM @ Target

From the Rector...

Darkness often gets a bad rap. We are afraid of the dark. Our parents warn that nothing good happens after dark. The Church often contrasts light as good and darkness as less so. But I wonder if these negative associations are a bit unfair.

In creation, God separated night from day and gave each its own celestial lamp—the sun for the day, the moon and stars for the night. Without darkness, we would never know the wonder of the night sky, the brilliance of starlight, or the beauty of the lunar cycle. Day would simply be all we ever knew.

Darkness also gives us space to experience coziness. A fire on a cold night brings comfort and warmth. A single candle flame becomes mesmerizing against the shadows. We dim lights to create intimacy, romance, or simple rest.

Darkness, then, is not always something to fear, but something to appreciate. It can offer joy, hope, and peace. It creates room for comfort. Instead of seeing darkness and light as either/or, we might recognize that darkness is not merely the absence of light—it can hold its own gifts.



Advent leans deeply into this imagery of light shining in darkness. It is a natural metaphor, arriving as it does at the darkest time of the year. Christmas Day falls close to the winter solstice, when daylight is brief and night is long.

Long before Christianity, pagan communities marked this season with winter festivals. Food was scarce, survival uncertain, and people needed hope to sustain them through the long nights. Darkness slowed their bodies, drawing them into more rest and less activity—a natural rhythm that helped them endure.

With the rise of Christianity, Christmas became a symbol of hope in the midst of darkness, bringing comfort and peace to the world. The simple joys of cozy blankets, hot cocoa, warm fires, candlelight, and even the glow of modern Christmas lights reminds us that light not only shines in the darkness but is given meaning and purpose by it. The darkness makes space for beauty, hope, and comfort.

This Advent, we are embracing Hygge (hoo-ga), the art of coziness. Instead of dismissing or fearing the dark, we are invited to appreciate what it makes room for: rest, reflection, quiet, and warmth. In many ways, this is what Advent is about—making room for Christ in our own hearts.

As you prepare for Christmas, consider creating coziness in your home and heart. Let it soften the edges of this busy season and offer you moments of peace. In that stillness, Christmas becomes more than presents, food, or decorations. It becomes a season of hope and renewal where we focus on the light of Christ amidst the darkness of this world.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

P. S. If you would like a copy of the Hygge Advent devotional, contact the church office and we will print or email you one.

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.

Tomorrow Night!

Christmas Tree Trim

DECEMBER 10TH, 5:30 PM

Come join us for fun and fellowship at our annual Christmas Tree Trim in Ascension Hall!

Dinner Menu:

Grilled Chicken Drumsticks

Mashed Potatoes
Baked Beans
Salad

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

This Thursday!



Bring a dish to share and beverages will be provided!

RSVP by December 12!

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.



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**



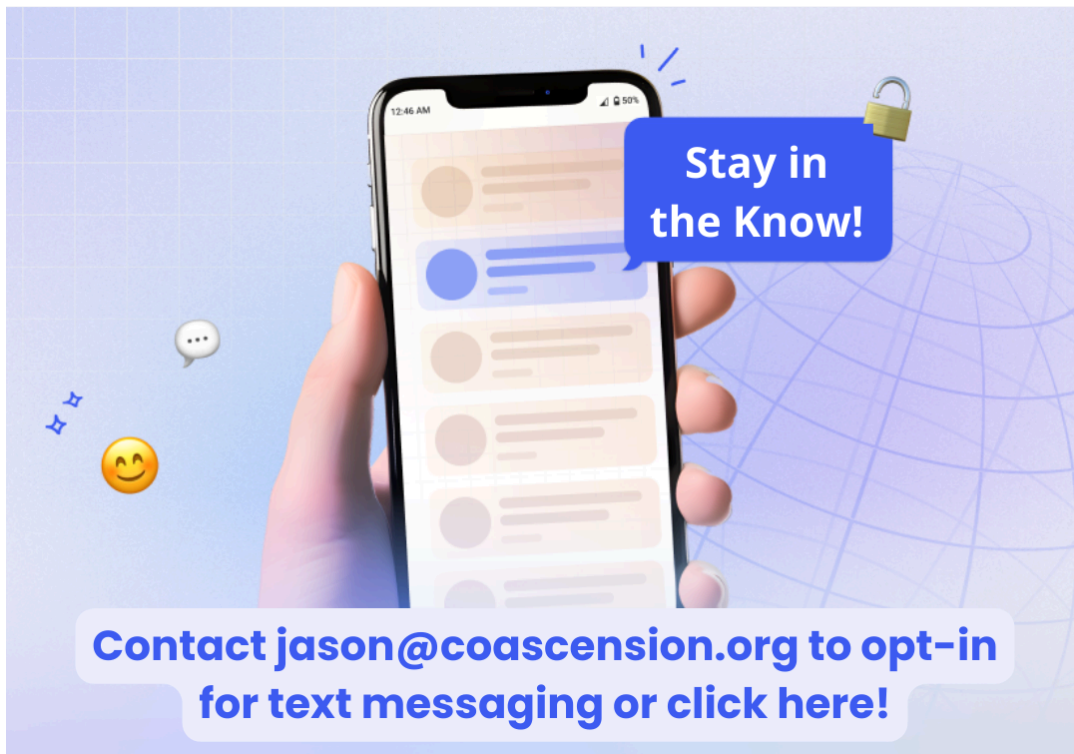
Save the Date!



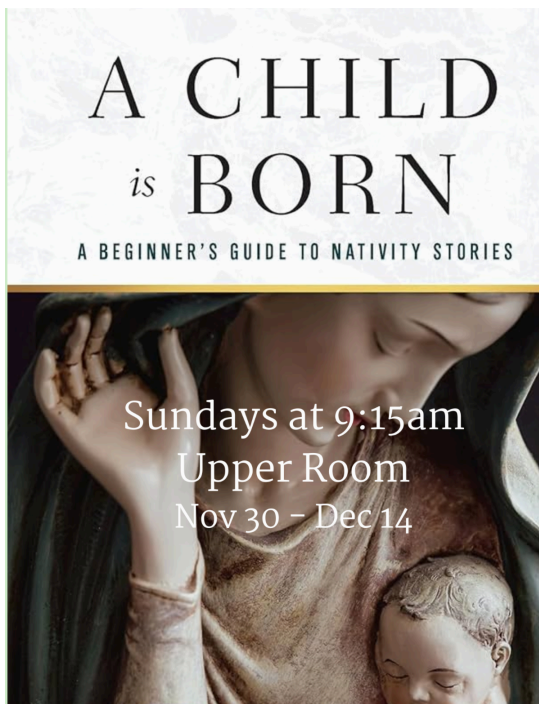
& Bonfire for The Feast of the Epiphany

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

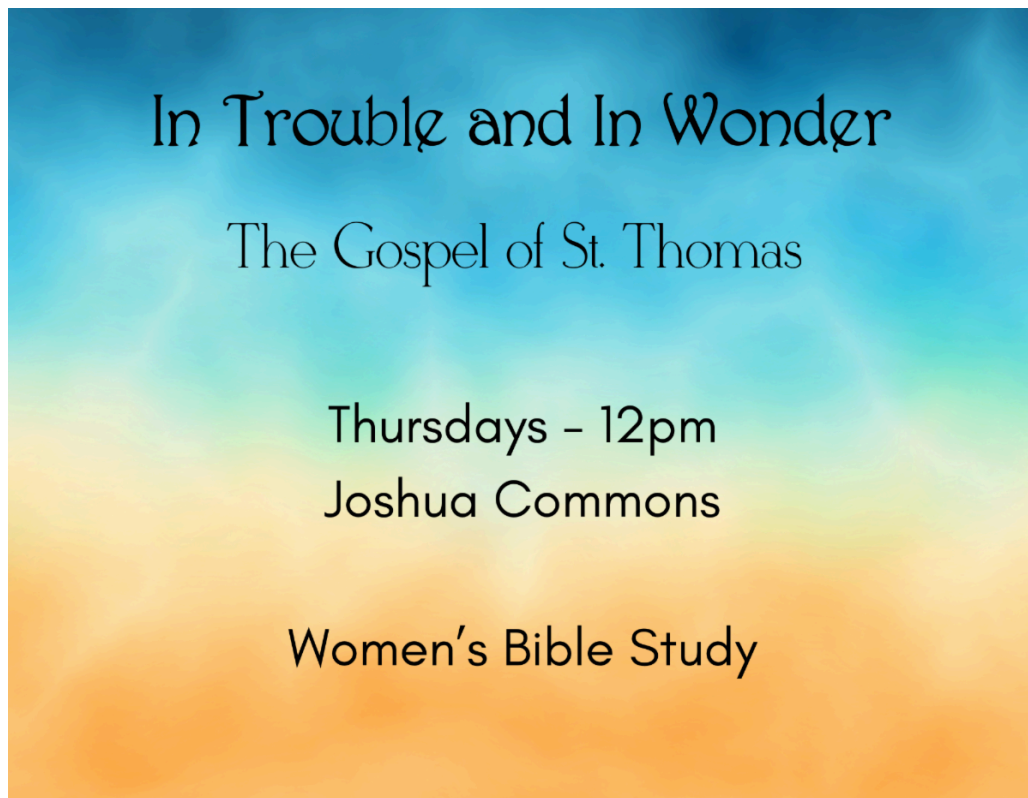
Opt-In for Text Notifications!



GROW



Women's Bible Study will return Dec 18!





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

This Saturday!



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.



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.

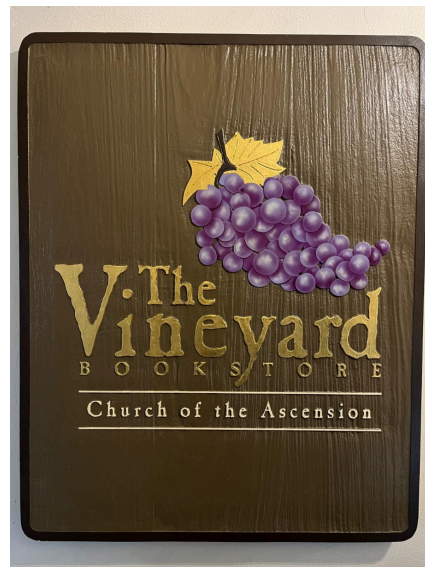
Merry Christmas!





NOMINATIONS

OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 9TH





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.

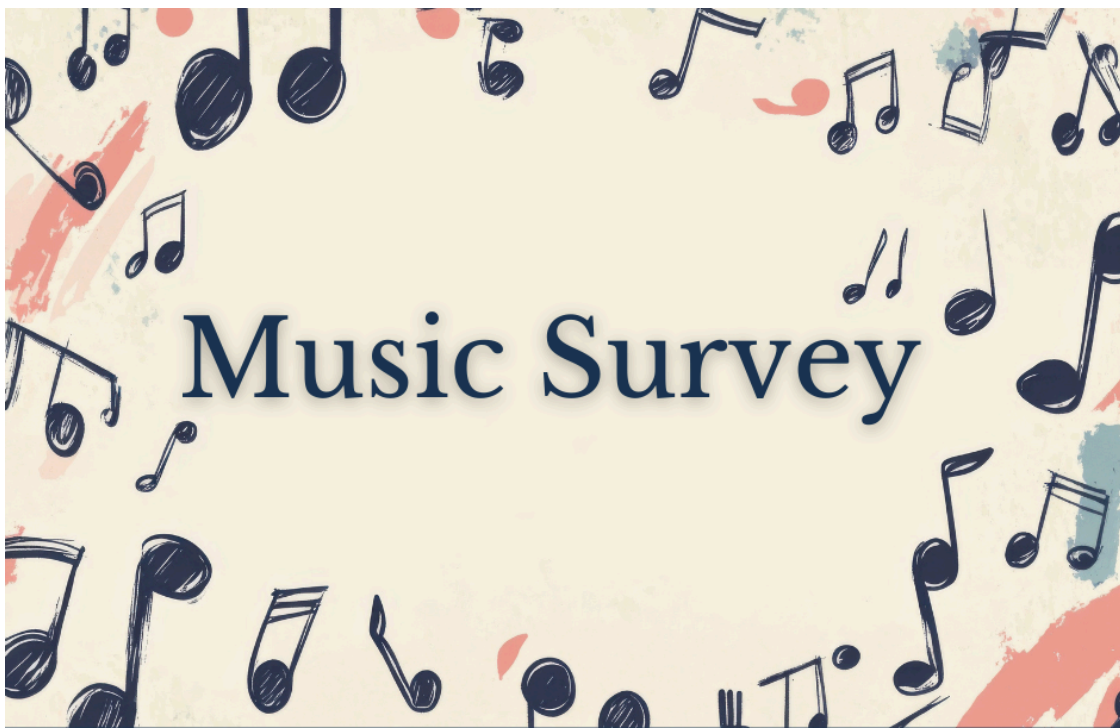
Graphic Novels for New Beginnings



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

NEW!



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](#)

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



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.

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

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