



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



Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Wednesday Night Live - Wednesday, Jan 14 @ 5:15 PM
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, Jan 15 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, Jan 15 @ 12:00 PM
- Office Closed Monday, Jan 19 - Will reopen on Tuesday, Jan 20

From the Rector...

When I was in fourth grade, one of my friends' parents picked us up from school and took us to the bookstore in the Selma Mall. He led us to the children's section and encouraged us to choose one of the *Chronicles of Narnia*. I had never heard of the series and asked which one I should read first. He suggested *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and in doing so sparked a lifelong love of all things C. S. Lewis.

Lewis wrote the *Chronicles of Narnia* as an imaginative expression of what he believed God looks like in the world. The books are not Christian allegory in the strict sense, as some might suggest. Instead, Narnia is what Lewis called a "supposed" place. Suppose there was a world like Narnia. Suppose that world needed saving. Suppose the Son of God entered that world—what might that look like?

I love this way of thinking about God. Rather than searching for simple analogies or proofs of what the Kingdom of God might be, Lewis gives us permission to imagine. And not just about Narnia, but about our own world as well.

Suppose there was a kingdom of heaven on earth. Suppose that kingdom needed saving. Suppose God entered that kingdom and invited us to join in God's work of reconciliation. What might that look like?



Of course, Christians believe this has already happened. Two thousand years ago, Jesus entered the world and proclaimed that the Kingdom of God was already here. He came at a time when salvation was desperately needed—not only so that we might someday go to heaven, but so that we might experience salvation as liberation even amid the darkness and despair of this world.

In Jesus' day, life was shaped by the power of the Roman Empire. Caesar was proclaimed a god, infallible and supreme. Rome ruled through might and intimidation, stationing soldiers throughout conquered lands, including Judea, Galilee, and Jerusalem. These soldiers enforced order through their presence and, when necessary, through violence.

Jesus' ministry, however, was not about defeating Rome—just ask Judas. Instead, Jesus's ministry was about bringing the kingdom of God to us. He did so by gathering a community of those who shared his concern for the world. He taught them what good news really meant and sent them out to proclaim it. Rather than responding to violence with violence, Jesus absorbed it, even to the point of death on a cross—the ultimate symbol of Roman power and brutality.

When I imagine our world as the kingdom of heaven, I wonder what Jesus' life and witness reveal to us now. In the kingdom of heaven that I suppose, there is no room for oppression or condemnation—only space for love, mercy, and transformation. And in this kingdom, just like in Narnia, Aslan is on the move.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

GROW

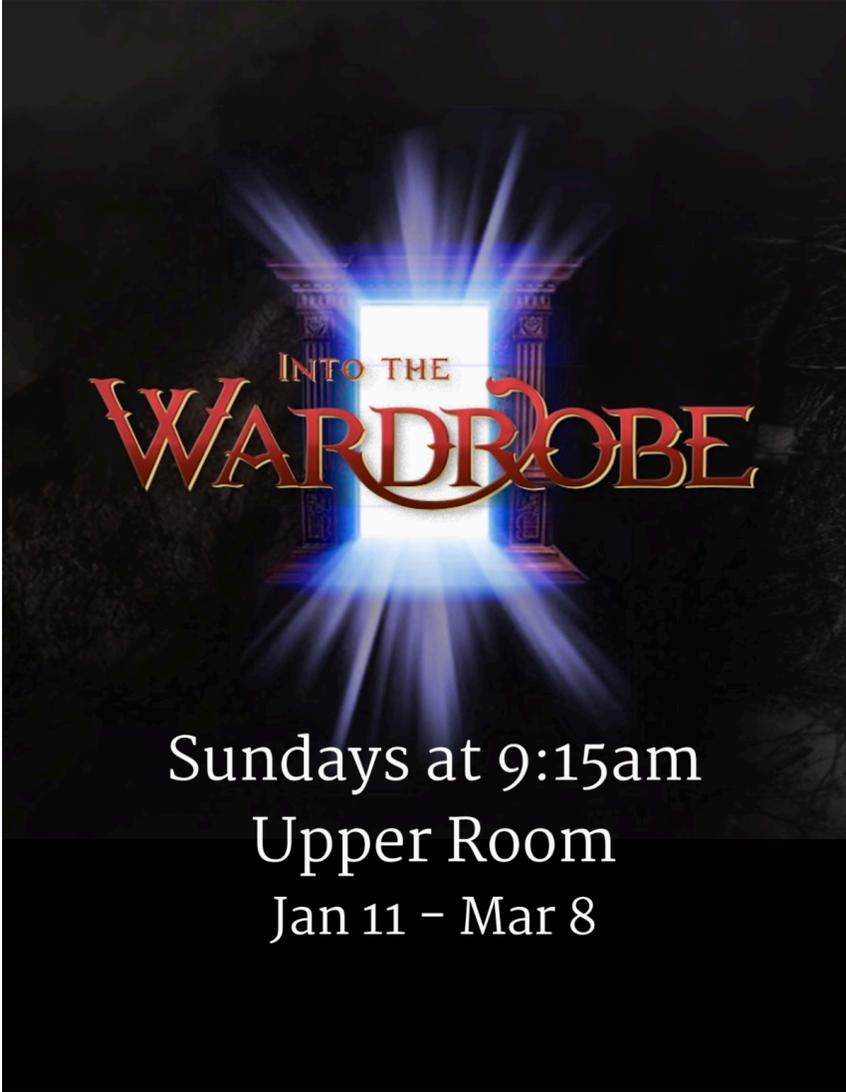
The Word! NEW!

BIBLE BITES



Wednesdays at 5:45pm
Small Dining Room
Starting January 14

As Christians, studying the Bible is part of how we grow spiritually and form our Christian ethics. Take some time to explore a variety of ways of studying this sacred text through practices like Lectio Divina, Chavruta, and The Examen. Each week we will pick a different practice and text that can help participants enrich their personal Bible study.



INTO THE
WARDROBE

Sundays at 9:15am
Upper Room
Jan 11 – Mar 8

Journey into the Wardrobe as we explore C. S. Lewis' world of Narnia this winter. Each week we will take an in-depth look at one of the seven books that comprise the Chronicles of Narnia to discover faith, courage, and redemption.



BRITTLE, ANXIOUS, NON-LINEAR, INCOMPREHENSIBLE

Christian Leadership in a BANI World

Thursdays at 7:00am
Ascension Hall
Jan 8 - Feb 12

In a BANI world—brittle, anxious, non-linear, and incomprehensible—Christian leadership requires more than confidence and control. In this six-week series, we will explore how God-centered leadership calls us to faithfulness, humility, and courage amid uncertainty. Together, we'll discover how God equips us to lead wisely when the world feels unstable.

In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

SERVE



NOMINATIONS

2026 Nominees Are:

- Nan Barganier
- Mark Bullock
- Malin Hill
- Robert Prescott
- Christopher Turner

Click [HERE](#) For Nominee Bios!

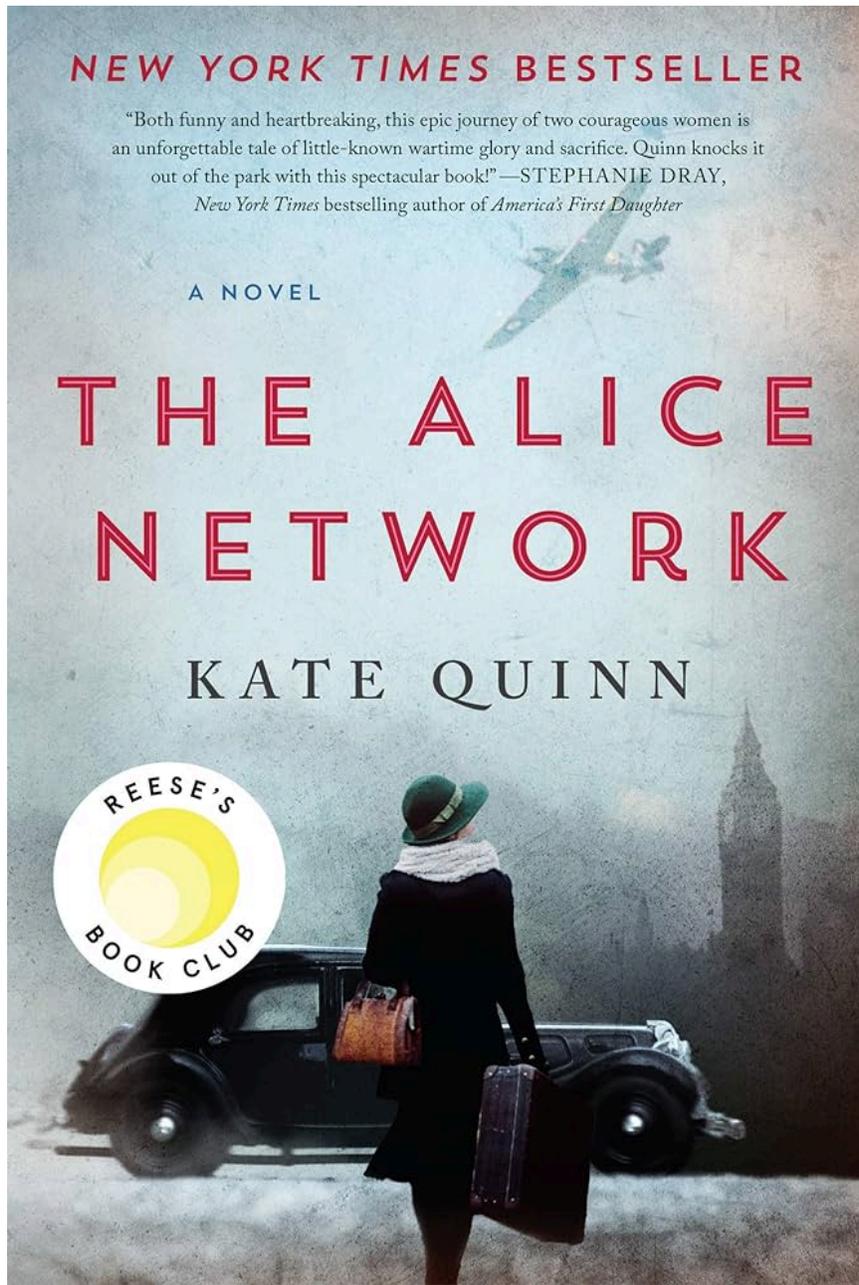
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

"Both funny and heartbreaking, this epic journey of two courageous women is an unforgettable tale of little-known wartime glory and sacrifice. Quinn knocks it out of the park with this spectacular book!"—STEPHANIE DRAY,
New York Times bestselling author of *America's First Daughter*

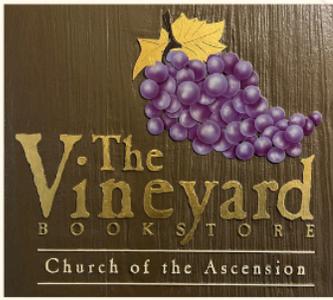
A NOVEL

THE ALICE NETWORK

KATE QUINN



ESL Book Club for Internationals will be meeting starting this week. For more information click [HERE](#) or contact Susan Depaola [HERE](#)!



Celebrate the New Year BIG!
with
The Vineyard Bookstore's
50% OFF SALE!

Come shop with us beginning 8:00 AM on
Sunday, January 25th

Cash/Check/Venmo Accepted!



We are in need of cardboard boxes for our Food Box Ministry. 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.

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Schedule

Rite I Service: 8:00 AM - Nave

Coffee Hour: 9:15 AM - Ascension Hall

Clergy Forum - 9:15 AM - Upper Room

Rite II Service: 10:30 AM - Nave

Compline: 7:30 PM - Nave

This Sunday!

Compline with *Encore!*

Sunday - 7:30 PM



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

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:

Spaghetti
Salad
Garlic Bread

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

ANNUAL MEETING & VESTRY ELECTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 - 9:15 AM
ASCENSION HALL



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.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Church of the Ascension | 315 Clanton Avenue | Montgomery, AL 36104 US

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