



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



# Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Ascensionaires Field Trip – Wednesday, Jan 21 @ 10:30 AM
- Wednesday Night Live – Wednesday, Jan 21 @ 5:15 PM
- Food Box Distribution – Saturday, Jan 24 @ 8:30 AM
- Annual Meeting & Vestry Election – Sunday, Jan 25 @ 9:15 AM

**Due to Winter Storm Warnings the Election  
has been postponed until January 31st!**

**SPECIAL CONVENTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP**  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24  
1:00 p.m.  
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT, BIRMINGHAM, AL

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**THE CANDIDATES**



**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

We invite you to join us in person or online on **Saturday, January 24**, at the **Cathedral Church of the Advent (2017 6th Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203)** for the Special Convention for the Election of the 13th Bishop of our Diocese.

Parking options include:

- Street parking around the Cathedral Church of the Advent
- The Advent Day School teachers' parking lot, located at the corner of 5th Ave N and 21st Ave N, diagonally across from the Redmont Hotel
- The city parking deck at 2012 5th Ave N

For those unable to attend in person, the event will be livestreamed on the [Diocese's YouTube channel](#). A direct link to the stream is available below. Please contact Anne Tippet at [atippet@dioala.org](mailto:atippet@dioala.org) for any questions.

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From the Rector...

Every morning, Petunia, Archibald, and Cuthbert serenade the neighborhood with the song of their people. Petunia has a beautiful baying alto voice. Archie offers a deep, barking bass—he hasn't quite learned how to bay yet. And Cuthbert contributes the high-pitched yip of the coyote. Steve and I love to hear them sing each morning, but it is even more fun to go outside and sing with them.

I have had the privilege of singing with generations of Frazer dogs. Our very first basset hound, Flash, learned to sing whenever the firetruck sirens went by. Since then, a succession of bassets and mixed breeds has passed through our home, each contributing the beauty of their own unique voices. Granted, they may not have perfect pitch, but they certainly know how to make a joyful noise.



It is this joyful noise that always draws me in. I know it is a little silly to bay like a hound dog, but it is also so much fun! Whenever I start singing with them, Petunia immediately comes running and jumps onto my lap to express her enthusiasm. Cutty doesn't move from his place on the end of the couch, but he sings all the louder and watches me intently as we sing together. Archie continues his deep bark, keeping time with the steady thump of his tail. It is, quite simply, delightful.

Watching the dogs sing is entertaining. But singing with them is a joy that resonates much deeper, within all of our spirits.

C. S. Lewis helps name this difference by distinguishing between contemplation and enjoyment. He tells the story of standing in his tool shed and noticing a beam of light streaming through a crack above the door. As he looked at the beam, he could observe its angle and see dust particles floating within it. But when he shifted his position to look along the beam of light, he could no longer see the beam itself. Instead, he found himself immersed in the sunlight. Lewis described this contrast as the difference between contemplation and enjoyment.

Contemplation is the act of looking at something. Enjoyment, by contrast, is entering into the experience itself. When I listen to the dogs' morning concert, I am contemplating it. But when I begin to sing with them, I move into enjoyment—I become part of the music rather than a spectator.

For Lewis, this is a helpful way to understand our life with Christ. We can contemplate how God is moving and acting in the world, and in doing so we may grow in appreciation and understanding of God's work. But when we move into a life of enjoyment—sharing in and participating in God's work—we are drawn into something far greater than ourselves. In that place, we discover joy, meaning, and a deeper sense of who we are as God's beloved children.

Contemplation and enjoyment are both important and life-giving practices of faith. Yet Lewis might suggest that to truly know God, we must participate in God's joy in the world, not merely observe it. And on those mornings when I sing with the dogs, I find myself wholeheartedly agreeing.

Light and Life, and aaaa-rhoooo!

Candice+

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

## SERVE

**This Sunday!**

### ANNUAL MEETING & VESTRY ELECTIONS

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 - 9:15 AM  
ASCENSION HALL**





## NOMINATIONS

2026 Nominees Are:

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

Click [HERE](#) For Nominee Bios!

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### Welcoming Visitors

# HELLO!

## *New Members!*

Dear Parish Family,

In an effort to enhance the experience of visitors to our church, the Newcomers Committee is requesting your help.

For those visiting who are not Episcopalians and sit by you, would you kindly assist them with our Prayer Book if they look lost or awkward in finding the service or right page?

Simply offer to help in a warm, welcoming way. Also, if they seem unsure about taking communion, invite them to partake.

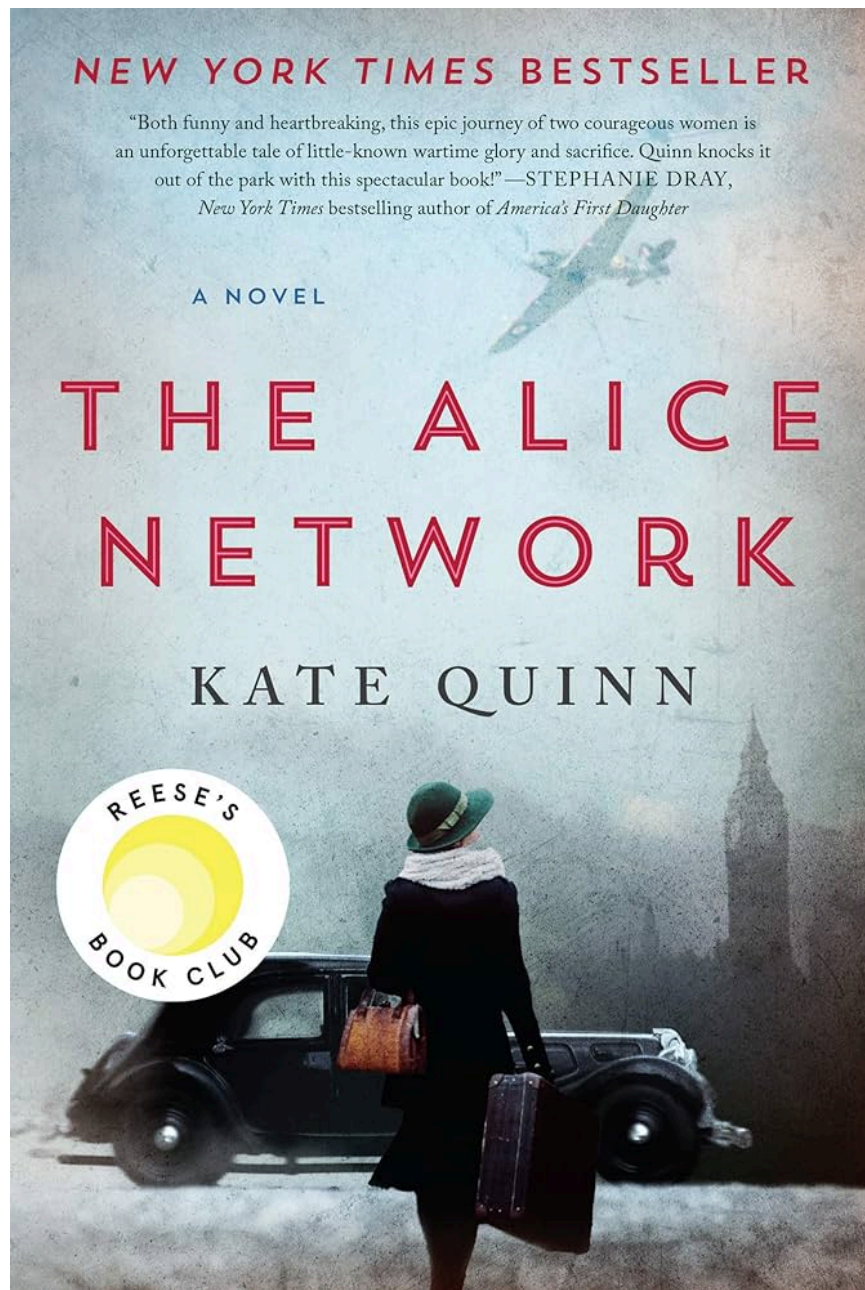
We want all of our visitors to feel welcome, and these simple measures of hospitality will enhance their worship experience while making a positive first impression of our church.

Thank you for your support in this important matter.

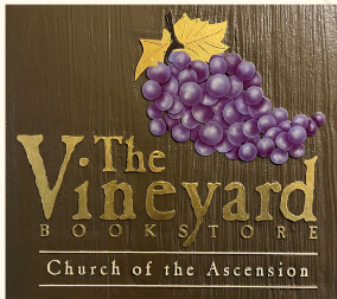
Smitty Smith  
Chair, Membership Committee

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## ESL Book Club Every Other Thursday 9:30 AM in Joshua Commons



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!



# Food Box Saturday

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH  
8:30 AM  
HULL STREET PARKING LOT  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!





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

Breakfast: 8:30 AM - 10:15 AM - Ascension Hall

Clergy Forum - 9:15 AM - Upper Room

Rite II Service: 10:30 AM - Nave



# Formed, Not Conformed

PAUL'S WISDOM IN A WORLD LIKE OURS

A Preaching Series

Sundays January 18 - February 8



This four-week Epiphany preaching series will focus on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. The series will explore how Paul uses adaptive leadership styles that include leading with listening and humility in his approach to evangelism. Paul's work in Corinth is first described in the Book of Acts (Ch. 18) and further developed in his two letters to the church he establishes there. This series will dive into the first two chapters of his first letter to the Corinthians.



**Children's Compline! Wednesday Nights!  
6:50 PM in the Choir Loft and on Facebook  
Live!**

# 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:

Breakfast for Dinner!

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

**GROW**

**BIBLE BITES**



Wednesdays at 6:00 pm  
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.

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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.

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# In Trouble and In Wonder

## The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

### 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.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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

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