



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



# Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Wednesday Night Live - Wednesday, Jan 28 @ 5:15 PM
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, Jan 29 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, Jan 29 @ 12:00 PM
- Bishop Election - Saturday, Jan 31 @ 1:00 PM

## SPECIAL CONVENTION FOR THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

1:00 p.m.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT, BIRMINGHAM, AL

### 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 31**, 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 Tippett at [atippett@dioala.org](mailto:atippett@dioala.org) for any questions.

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From the Rector...

The wind began to shift; the lights began to pitch—Sunday morning felt a little like The Wizard of Oz. We may not have been swept up by a tornado or spotted a witch flying by on her broomstick, but there was drama enough as the lights blinked on and off and the sound system failed. During communion, I was told we were under a severe thunderstorm warning until 12:15 p.m. When I looked out the Gospel side door—the side of the church where the Gospel book is placed—the rain was coming down so hard that all I could see was white.

On my way home, I began dodging fallen trees and power lines around Cloverdale Park.

Agnew Street looked like a war zone, with several power poles snapped in half by the storm. At our house, we had one limb down but no damage, though the power was out. We lit candles, built a fire, and settled in. Needless to say, it was a three-dog night in the Frazer bed.

Alabama Power crews worked throughout the night to replace poles and restore service. I am grateful for the men and women who sacrificed a good night's sleep in a warm bed so others could have light, heat, and safety. I am also grateful for our neighbors, who checked on one another and cleared limbs or cut trees to help each other out. When disaster strikes, people reach out and offer a helping hand. That instinct reveals something essential about who we are.

We live in a brittle world. Systems fail. Institutions falter. The things we think we can rely on are not always there when we need them. That reality can leave us anxious and uncertain. In the face of brittleness and anxiety, we are called to be adaptive and resilient.

Resilience, however, is not simply individual grit or stubborn perseverance. While those qualities can help us endure hardship, resilience is something deeper and more communal. It grows out of our ability to adapt together when familiar supports no longer hold. The more uncertainty we face, the more we must rely not only on our own strength, but on one another.

Disasters have a way of making that truth visible. They draw communities together in ways that everyday life often does not. When Birmingham was shut down by a snowstorm several years ago, Chick-fil-A began delivering free food to people stranded in their cars.



When a tornado struck Selma in 2023, neighbors immediately began helping one another, and people from outside the city—including many of you—came with chainsaws and willing hands to clear roads and repair homes.

In moments like these, we see that resilience is not something we muster alone. It is sustained by relationships, generosity, and shared purpose. The strength of our resilience is closely tied to the strength of our community.

The apostle Paul understood this well. Again and again, as he faced threats, imprisonment, and attempts to silence him, Paul named the people who supported him. Some might say he was establishing his credibility. But I wonder if he was also reminding himself—as well as the church—that none of us stands alone. Resilience, like faith, is stronger in community.

When the world feels brittle and anxious, it is easy to lose hope or slip into despair. Yet we are called to remain resilient: rooted in God, sustained by one another, and trusting that the worst things are never the last things.

Light and Life,  
Candice+  
[candice@coascension.org](mailto:candice@coascension.org)

## SERVE

### 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.

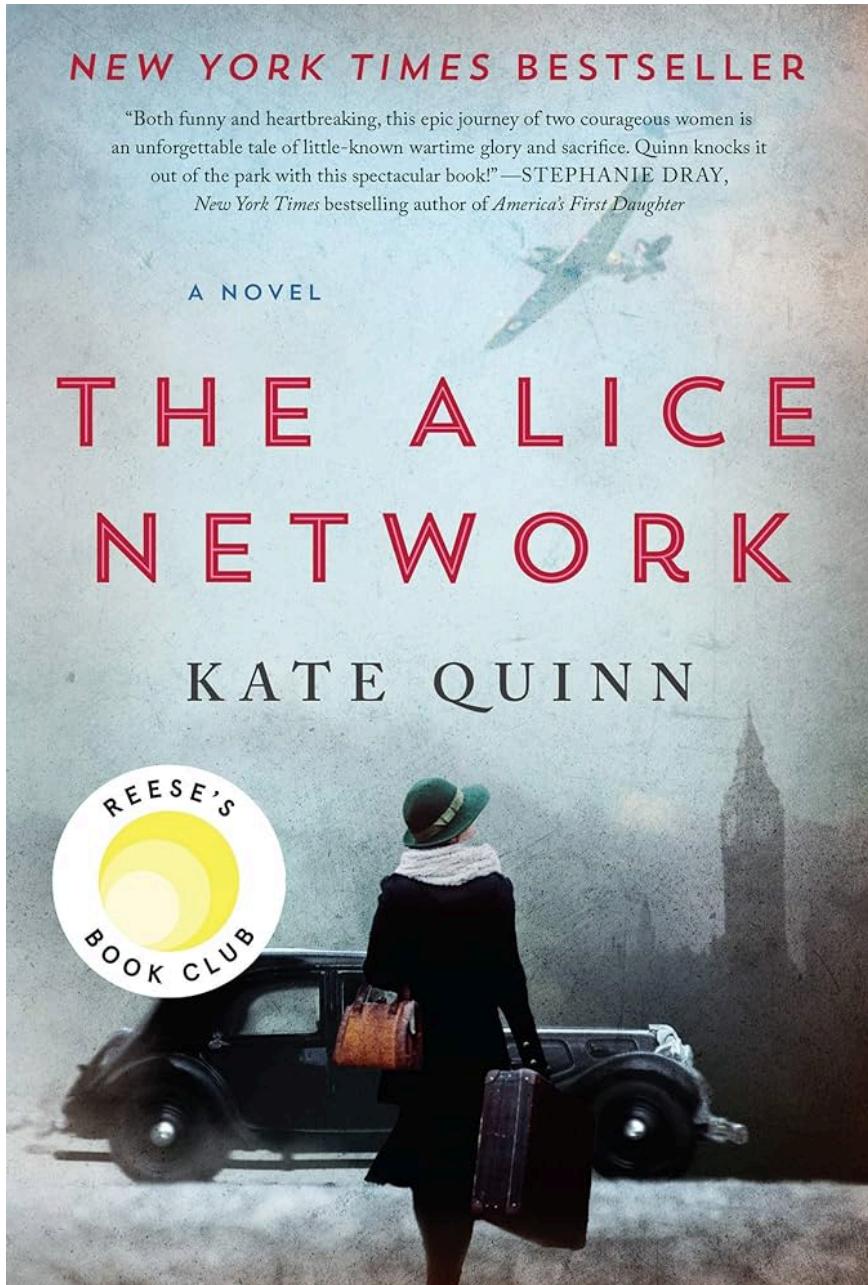
We want all of our visitors to feel welcome, and these simple measures of hospitality will enhance their worship experience while making a positive first impression of our church.

Thank you for your support in this important matter.

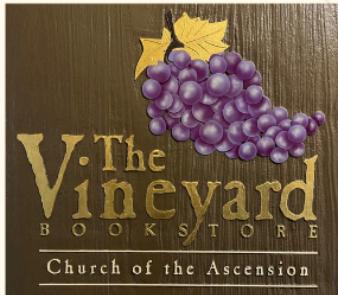
Smitty Smith  
Chair, Membership Committee

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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!

**50%  
OFF**



**Cardboard  
Boxes  
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.

## 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.

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

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# 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:

Taco Night!

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

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ASCENSIONAIRES  
VISIT  
TO ASF FOR  
THE LEHMAN  
TRILOGY



Wednesday,  
February 11th  
2:00PM

**THE COST IS 30 DOLLARS PER PERSON.  
THERE WILL BE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR  
WHEELCHAIRS AND WALKERS.  
THIS PLAY WILL HAVE 2 INTERMISSIONS. (IT  
IS 3 ½ HOURS LONG)  
PLEASE RSVP BY MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>.  
I WILL BE PURCHASING THE TICKETS NO  
LATER THAN TUESDAY, FEB. 3<sup>RD</sup>.**

GROW



Grace Episcopal Church  
906 Pike Road (Pike Road)

# Lenten Women's Retreat 2026

Planting our gardens together: A retreat on rootedness

- ◆ Drawing on the Benedictine principle of Ora et Labora (prayer and work) and the spiritual practices of art, dance, silence, and rest, we will
- ◆ explore how to recognize God's presence within the rhythms of our daily lives—whether in household tasks or corporate responsibilities.

**FEB 21**  
**9:00 - 12:00**

#### For More Information

Rev. Mawande Mzongwana  
[curate@graceepiscopalpikeroad.org](mailto:curate@graceepiscopalpikeroad.org)  
334.472.1413

**Register by Jan 31st!**



# 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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