



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



From the Rector...

Saturday night, after the bishop election, I came home and had the gift of celebrating a baptism. While the baptismal liturgy is, of course, about welcoming another child into the kingdom of God, for me it also became a moment of covenant renewal—a recommitment to my call to serve God in a place that I love deeply.

I love Ascension. I love all of you. I love doing ministry and mission in this place with all of you. I am not disappointed to get to continue being your rector. I hope you're not disappointed that I get to stay.

Putting my name forward in the bishop discernment process was one of the most vulnerable things I have ever done. I'm not yet sure what all I will learn from this experience, but I do know this: disappointment creates space for grief, and grief is something we need to help us heal. At the same time, grief is not meant to be a permanent dwelling place. If we remain there too long, our hearts can become so weighed down that repair begins to feel overwhelming.

Grief is subjective. It looks different for every person. Still, there are signs that grief has moved beyond what is healthy. Prolonged social withdrawal, suicidal thoughts, feeling paralyzed and unable to function at work or at home, believing life is meaningless, or carrying a debilitating sense of guilt can all signal that grief has become something more. If you ever find yourself falling into this kind of darkness, reach out—to a counselor, a priest, or a trusted friend—and begin to seek the help you deserve. This kind of brokenness is not meant to be healed alone. It takes others lifting us up and holding us steady until we can stand again on our own two feet.



That is who we are as the community of Christ. And that is exactly who you have been for me over these past several days. The many texts and emails, your words of encouragement, and even your applause during announcements on Sunday have lifted me up as I have worked through my own feelings about this election. My grief has been minimal because my joy has far outweighed it—joy in continuing parish ministry and joy in remaining part of your lives, just as you continue to be part of mine.

Steve and I are taking this week to rest and reflect, so that we may return renewed and ready to move forward into all that God has in store for us and for Ascension. I have trusted the Holy Spirit throughout this entire process, and I know that the Spirit is alive and well here at the Church of the Ascension.

Thank you again for your prayers and concern with which you have held Steve and me over these past several weeks. I am excited to continue to share love and grace with God and all y'all!

Light and Life,
Candice+

candice@coascension.org

SERVE

Welcoming Visitors

HELLO!

New Members!

Dear Parish Family,

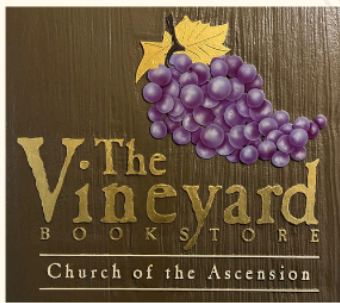
In an effort to enhance the experience of visitors to our church, the Newcomers Committee is requesting your help.

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



50% OFF SALE CONTINUES!

Come grab a cup of coffee and
shop with us.

Stock up on gifts for
Valentine's Day, Easter, and
Mother's Day

Cash/Check/Venmo Accepted!



BLOOD DONATION SAVES LIVES

Church of the Ascension

Blood Drive

Sunday, February 15th

In the bloodmobile

315 Clanton Avenue, Montgomery

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.



\$25 e-gift card
and tote bag
for all February
blood donors!

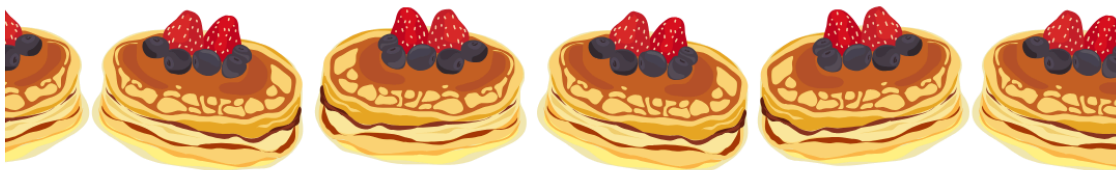
LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers



**\$25 e-gift card
and tote bag
for all February
blood donors!**



colors may vary • while supplies last



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and ADS Art Show

Tuesday, February 17th

4:30pm - 6:30pm

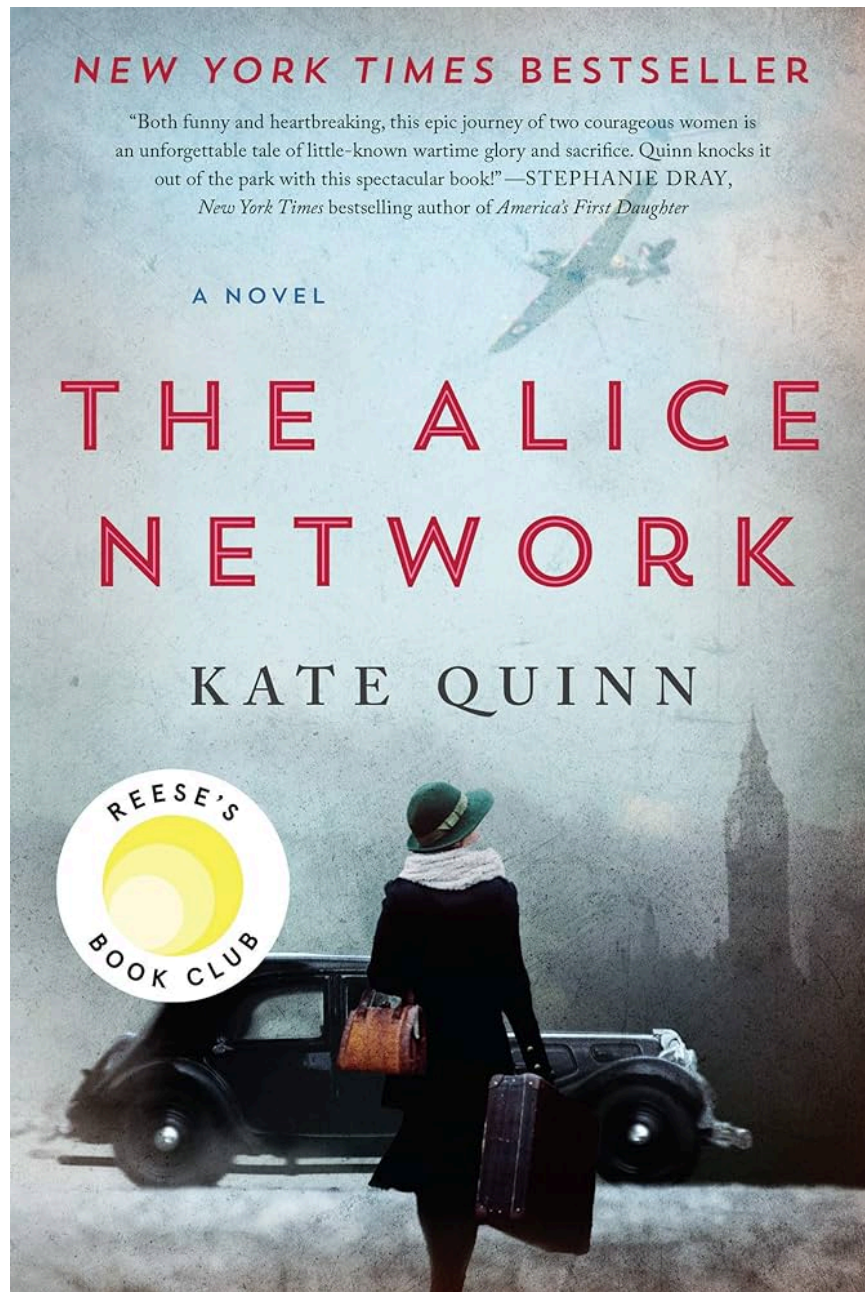
\$5/person or \$20/family

Come support our ADS families and get to know
them a little better! All proceeds benefit ADS.



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](#)!



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



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18th
Services at
7:00AM, 12:05PM, 5:30PM
5:30PM will be livestreamed

The imposition of ashes alongside
Holy Eucharist is designed to
help us remember not simply that
we are dust—but that we are
God's dust



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!



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:

Chicken Pot Pie
Green Beans
Salad
Rolls

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

**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 2ND.**

**I WILL BE PURCHASING THE TICKETS NO
LATER THAN TUESDAY, FEB. 3RD.**

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
334.472.1413

Register by Jan 31st!

Cancelled this week but will return next week!

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.

Cancelled this week but will return next week!



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.

Cancelled this week but will return next week!

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

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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