



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



Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- FaceBook Morning Prayer - Mon-Fri, @ 8:00 AM
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thur, Mar 19 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study - Thur, Mar 19 @ 12:00 PM
- The Great Divorce Lenten Study - Mon-Fri @ Your Leisure!

From the Rector...

Years ago, I had the honor and delight of escorting a group of youth to Taizé, France. Life in Taizé is ordered around communal prayer three times a day—morning, noon, and evening. The prayers are sung, rooted in Scripture, and each service holds a generous silence. A week of living that rhythm—prayer, silence, community—changes a person. I remember coming home and telling Steve I was quitting my job and would one day return. More than twenty years later, I hope to do just that as part of my sabbatical in the summer of 2027.



Last week, I wrote about the importance of sabbatical as a sacred season of rest, renewal, and reorientation—what our tradition might call a kind of extended Sabbath. I also shared my intention to apply for a Clergy Renewal Program grant through the Lilly Endowment. This week, I invite you to dream with me about what that sabbatical might look like and to hold both my application and the committee's discernment in your prayers. The submission deadline is March 18, with awards announced in August—a long wait in hopeful anticipation.

If awarded the grant, I plan to begin with a silent retreat in Taizé, grounding myself in contemplative prayer and the steady cadence of daily office. From there, I will meet my

sister, Kelly, and together we will walk the French Way of the Camino de Santiago. Over 34 days, we will journey on foot to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, joining countless pilgrims who, since the ninth century, have traveled to the shrine of Saint James.

Pilgrimage is deeply woven into our Christian story. Like the liturgical year, it forms us over time—step by step—through prayer, humility, and trust. The Camino offers space to listen more closely for God’s voice, to walk in companionship, and to rediscover the heart of ministry as a response to grace rather than effort alone.

Walking the Camino with my sister is itself a gift. Life has taken us in different directions, and this pilgrimage offers a sacred opportunity to reconnect, to share stories, and, no doubt, to laugh along the way. She has long been a source of joy and encouragement in my life.

At the end of the Camino, we will meet our spouses, Steve and Adam, and travel to Portugal for a few days of rest along the southern coast. Afterward, Kelly and Adam will return home, while Steve and I will spend time in the Douro Valley. This region is known for its port wine—the same we use at Communion on Sundays—and for its *Maria Lactans* iconography, tender images of Mary nurturing the Christ child, reminding us of God’s sustaining presence.

The final portion of my sabbatical will be spent stateside, between home and Orange Beach. This time will be intentionally restful—playing with the dogs, enjoying time with Steve, and simply being near the water.

I will conclude as I began, with a silent retreat at the Order of the Holy Cross in West Park, New York. Their Benedictine rhythm of prayer will offer space to reflect on this journey and to prepare to return to ministry at Ascension with renewed joy and a deepened sense of calling.

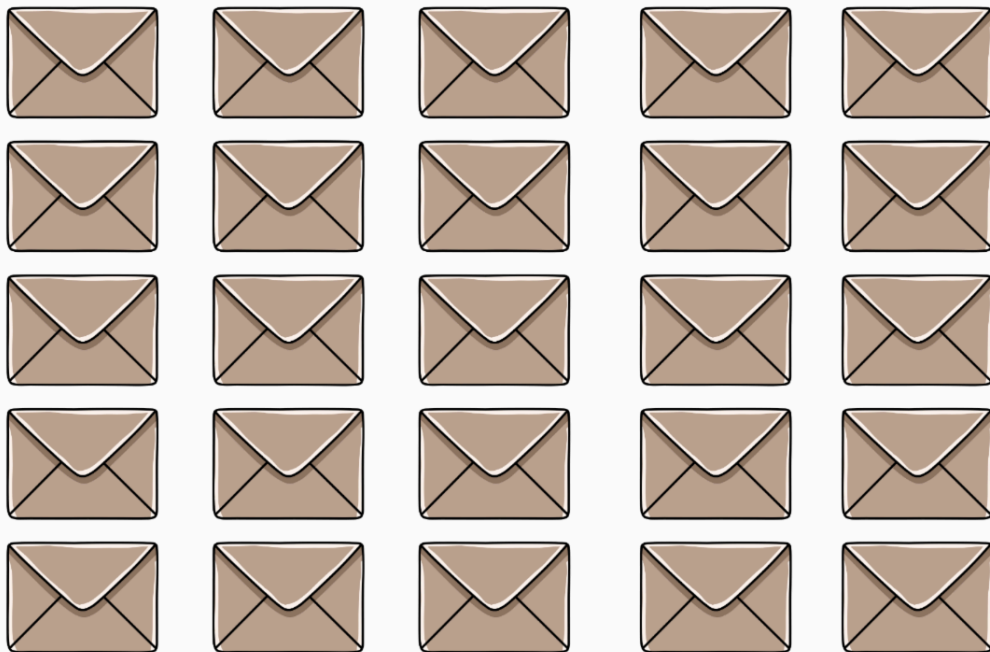
I am grateful for your prayers and encouragement. You have been more than kind in your well wishes and in the joy you have expressed about this opportunity. Thank you for being such a generous and grace-filled community—that is one of the things I love most about our church family.

Light and Life,
Candice+

candice@coascension.org

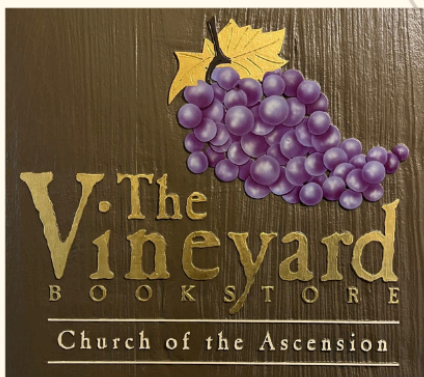
SERVE

Youth Mission Envelope Fundraiser!



The Youth Envelope Fundraiser is back! Once again we are raising money for our summer mission trip to Hinton Rural Life Center in North Carolina. We will have 100 envelopes numbered 1-100 and ask members to select their favorite number (or group of numbers) and donate that amount of money to our trip! Each donor will receive a thank you note from our trip as well as updates along the way!

50% off Sale!



New Easter basket items in now
and more arriving next week.

Shop with us for your birthday
gifts too!

All proceeds support local
organizations.

**CALLING ALL
BUNNIES!**

Cash/Check/Venmo Accepted!



SPRING WORK DAY



SATURDAY, MARCH 28

8:30 – 11:00 AM

Come one! Come all!

Please come join us and spruce up the campus before Holy Week! We will be trimming up the bushes, shrubs and cleaning up the whole campus. We will also be spreading pine straw in the beds around the property! Bring your favorite yard tools and let's get going!



We will also need help folding palm crosses in Ascension Hall!



WSFA 12
A TELETHON BENEFITING



MOWMAMA

MEALS on WHEELS
MONTGOMERY AL METRO AREA
MAR 19TH 5:30AM-6:30PM



Two green forks are shown. The left fork has a red tomato on it, and the right fork has a slice of orange on it.

We are excited to share that Meals on Wheels Montgomery AL Metro Area (MOWMAMA) has been selected as the featured organization for WSFA's Spring Philanthropy Telethon.

On March 19, 2026, from 5:30am to 6:30pm, WSFA will highlight our mission throughout the day during their live newscasts, encouraging the community to support local seniors in need. Since 1972, MOWMAMA has served more than 5 million meals to homebound seniors facing food insecurity and isolation across the Montgomery Metro Area.

We invite you to join us during the telethon by making a donation to support this important work. Your generosity helps ensure that no senior in our community goes hungry or feels forgotten.

Please consider making a donation today using the link [HERE](#)

Thursday April 2 - Friday April 3



The Gethsemane Watch: A Maundy Thursday Vigil

“Could you not keep awake one hour?” were the words of Jesus in reproach to his hapless followers in the first Gethsemane. Ever since, his disciples of subsequent generations have attempted to do better, and in some small way to make up what was lacking in the first bunch.

[Sign Up](#)





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

Name Tags This Sunday



When Father David came to us, we began wearing stick-on name tags so he could learn our names. In so doing, it helped many of us learn and remember names of church members we don't see or sit close to. It also helped us in our interaction with newcomers.

Parishioners have approached us about again wearing name tags. So this Sunday, and once (twice) a month, we will offer name tags at our doorways to the Nave for you to fill

out and wear.

Name tags are part of our “connective tissue” by which we know and embrace one another, and by which become a more welcoming presence to those visiting our wonderful church.

Thanks for your support.

Smitty
Newcomers Committee

Holy Week

SCHEDULE Week of Mar 29 - Apr 4

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 29

8:00 AM, Rite One

10:30 AM, Liturgy of the Palms

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER

8:00 AM, Chapel & On Facebook

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 2

6:00PM, Eucharist

8:00PM - 10:00AM, Gethsemane Watch

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 3

12:00 PM, Nave

6:00 PM, Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 4

9:00 AM, Holy Saturday Liturgy

7:07 PM, Nave

In the midst of Lent, we look toward the cross and Holy Week. Join us each day in Lent for prayer, reflection, and communication in preparation of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection



Easter Schedule

Saturday April 4

- Easter Vigil
 - 7:07 PM

Sunday April 5

- Sunrise Service at Oakwood Cemetery
 - 6:00 AM
- Family Festal Eucharist Followed by Easter Egg Hunt
 - 9:00 AM
- Festal Eucharist
 - 11:00 AM

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

No WNL This Week!

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

Picture Taking After 8 O'Clock Service

For those attending this Sunday's 8:00 service, Ron Wright and Paula Smith will take your pictures for the Pictorial Directory immediately following the service, regardless of your place in the alphabet. By doing this, you will not need to return for picture taking after the 10:30 service.



Let's take Pictures!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



This spring, Church of the Ascension will field a pictorial directory. Step One is to get everyone's picture. We will do so over four Sundays in March and April.

Here's the plan: Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service, family/individual photos will be taken in the Nave at the base of the altar steps. Each session will cover a segment of the parish broken out alphabetically as follows:

- Sunday, Mar 8: Terry Abner - Clyde Eller
- Sunday, Mar 15: Lee & Nancy Ellis - Becky Lewis
- Sunday, Mar 22: Bob Lewis - Inglesmay Rose**
- Sunday, Apr 12: Pat Rutland - Drew Zimmerman

Parishioners in each session are to remain behind in the Nave for their picture to be taken, then may leave.

Parishioner Ron Wright, an experienced photographer, assisted by Paula Smith, will take the pictures. The intent is to get a family/individual's picture quickly without the usual lengthy posing in order to move the process along efficiently.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation and participation in this important project. Please contact me, Smitty, at 334-590-2865 with any questions.

Lent Madness!

The image is a tournament bracket for the 2026 Lent Madness.org event, titled "THE GOLDEN HALO". The bracket is set against a purple background and shows a progression from 32 saints in the "ROUND OF 32" to a final winner. The saints are grouped into categories: "Denomination Dominators" (John Wesley, Martin Luther, Richard Hooker, Thomas Cranmer, Gregory the Illuminator, Nino of Georgia, Joan of Arc, Marina the Monk), "Apostles and Allies" (Constance and her Companions, Martyrs of Uganda, Cosmas and Damian, Priscilla and Aquila, Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, Thomas the Apostle, Paul the Apostle, Peter the Apostle), "Founders & Fellowship" (Benedict of Nursia, Basil the Great, Anthony the Great, Paul of Thebes, Clare of Assisi, Scholastica, Julie Billiart, Blessed Gerard), and "Modern Mercifuls" (Brother Roger of Taizé, Damien of Molokai, Janani Luwum, Wang Zhiming, Amy Carmichael, Edith Stein, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Desmond Tutu). At the bottom, a row of 32 diverse, colorful illustrations of saints is shown, each with a golden halo. The Forward Movement logo and website (www.forwardmovement.org) are in the bottom left corner.

Each year Forward Movement hosts Lent Madness as a way to learn about the various saints in the Christian experience. You are invited and encouraged to go online by clicking the above image to vote for your favorite saint!



Camp Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
10 A.M.

Riverwalk Stadium

200 COOSA ST, MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

**FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS, AGES 5-16
THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED A DEATH IN THEIR LIFE**

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9 A.M.; CAMP BEGINS AT 10 A.M.

Camp Celebration provides children, teens and their families with the opportunity to learn coping skills they can use during the ongoing grief process. The camp's daylong program helps children and teens face their grief and express emotions through a variety of activities, games and crafts.

Most importantly, children learn they are not alone in their grief. The camp allows campers and families the opportunity to meet others who have also experienced loss. A memorial service will be held prior to the conclusion of camp; parents and guardians are invited.

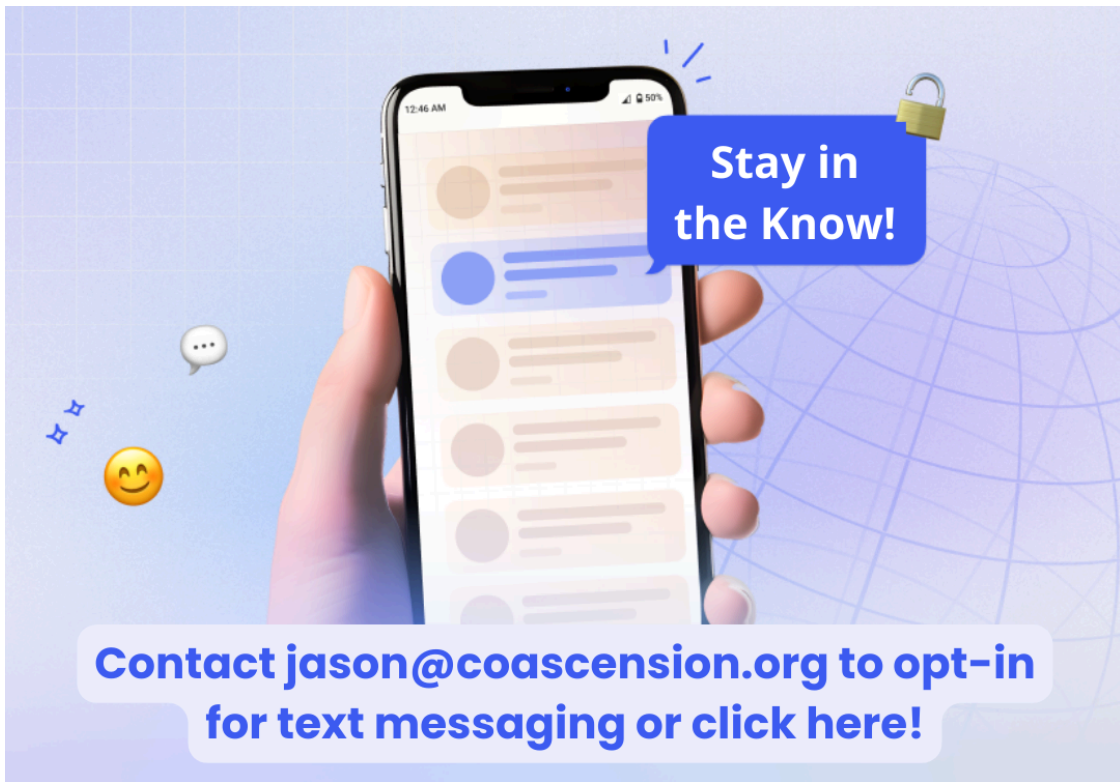
Lunch is provided and each participant will receive a Camp Celebration t-shirt.

Camp Celebration is presented by Baptist Hospice. There are a limited number of spaces for this event, so if your child is interested in attending camp, you must contact Mona McDermott, Bereavement Coordinator with Baptist Hospice, at (334) 747-5000, or email mhmcdermott@baptistfirst.org for more information.

camp
celebration



Get Signed Up Today!



Stay in the Know!

Contact jason@coascension.org to opt-in for text messaging or click here!

GROW



The Great Divorce – A Lenten Practice

Daily Reflections by the Rev. David Hall

February 19 – March 27

Contact Jason@coascension.org to receive daily emails or listen at Church of the Ascension on your favorite podcast channel

holy week with jesus

A Holy Week Daily
Text Experience

 **TRYTANK**
Research Institute

Holy Week With Jesus is a text message experience that walks participants through the final days of Jesus's life, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, with messages arriving at the actual hours the events unfolded.

To sign up, click [here](#) or go to www.HolyWeekWithJesus.com

DISCOVER THE
POWER OF



March 5 - April 2
Men's Prayer Breakfast
to deepen your Lenten journey.

Thursdays at 7 am:

ASCENSION HALL

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 Worriow, 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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