



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



# Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Wednesday Night Live - Wed, April 8 @ 5:00 PM
- Youth Sunday Service - Sun, April 12 @ 10:30 AM
- It's All About Love - Sun, April 12 @ 12:00 PM
- Morning Prayer - Mon - Fri @ 8:00 AM Live on Facebook

From the Rector...

Years ago, I served as a deputy at General Convention in Austin. One morning, deputies and bishops gathered in a park to pray before boarding buses to an immigration detention center where women who had crossed into the country were being held. It was not a protest or a demonstration. Instead, upon arrival, Michael Curry led a prayer service outside the walls.

I don't know that the women inside fully understood what was happening, or why so many Episcopalians had come to pray—much less what Episcopalians are. But I do remember the signs they held up in the windows—hand-lettered, pressed against the glass. Sadly, we were too far away to read them. Later, an immigration lawyer told us that many of the signs expressed hope, gratitude, and appreciation that someone knew they were there. Others listed the names of children and spouses from whom they had been separated, not knowing what had become of them.

The women believed they had been forgotten in a strange place, far from home. They did not know if they would ever be released—or if they might die there, alone, separated from their families. I must admit, my heart broke a little when I heard that.



Over Holy Week this year, the Episcopal Church's Asiamerica Ministries issued a call for Episcopalians to make and send origami cranes to be hung outside a detention center in Tacoma, Washington where their annual retreat is being held. There, they will gather again for prayer and leave the cranes—strung together—as a visible reminder of peace and solidarity.

The cranes, known as tsuru in Japanese, symbolize transformation, healing, and nonviolence—fitting themes in the Easter season. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ stand at the center of our life and belief as Christians. To offer this symbol to those who are imprisoned, afraid, and uncertain of what the future holds is especially poignant. Jesus faced the cross without violence or anger. Even to the end, he healed others. His resurrection is the most powerful sign of transformation we know. To hang these cranes outside a detention center is to do more than offer hope; it is to proclaim—to them and to ourselves—that the worst things are never the last things.

The cranes are said to embody a wish for the world's healing and their wings are believed to provide protection. There is even a traditional prayer that mother's who are concerned for their children offer:

*O flock of heavenly cranes, cover my child with your wings.*

At Women's Bible Study last week, several women gathered to fold cranes and send them to the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia as part of this expression of hope—this witness to a future greater than the present. Their willingness was not without challenge; origami is not easy. Nor was this, in any way, a political statement. Instead, they embraced a simple and beautiful opportunity to remind others that they are seen and not forgotten.

I am thankful for Jenny Garrett, who led the group in learning to fold the cranes; Janan Hayden, who shipped them; Mary Ann Martin, for her encouragement and enthusiasm; and Palmer Smith and Babette Bartmettler, for their patience and dexterity. I am grateful for their quiet sharing of the Good News—the love and hope of Jesus Christ, who reminds us that we are never alone.

Light and Life,  
Candice+

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



## WORSHIP



**The Ascension Children's Choirs present**



**Sunday, April 12, 2026  
"Children & Youth Sunday" at 10:30a.m.**

# 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**



Friday, May 1st  
6:00pm - 9:00pm

We are in need of sponsors, silent auction donations, and wine donations. If you would be interested in helping please contact the church.



Sponsorship Form [HERE](#)  
Silent Auction Form [HERE](#)

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**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:**

Pizza  
Salad

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

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# 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](mailto:mhmcdermott@baptistfirst.org) for more information.

**camp**  
**celebration**



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**Get Signed Up Today!**



**GROW**

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

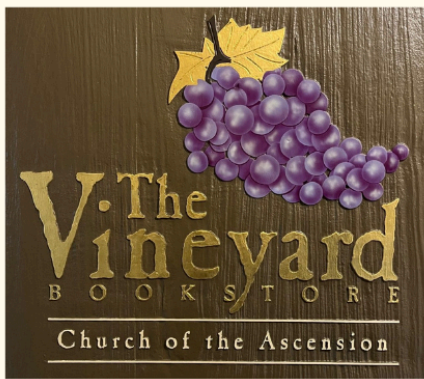
**SERVE**

## Sawyerville In-Gathering

- 20 Girls Swimsuits, One Piece Size Large (10-12)
- 20 Boys Swim Trunks, Size Small
- 100 **Thin & New** Pool Towels
- 20 Clorox Wipes

**Donations can be dropped off in the  
Ascension Hall Foyer !  
Deadline May 15**





**Calling All Cooks!**

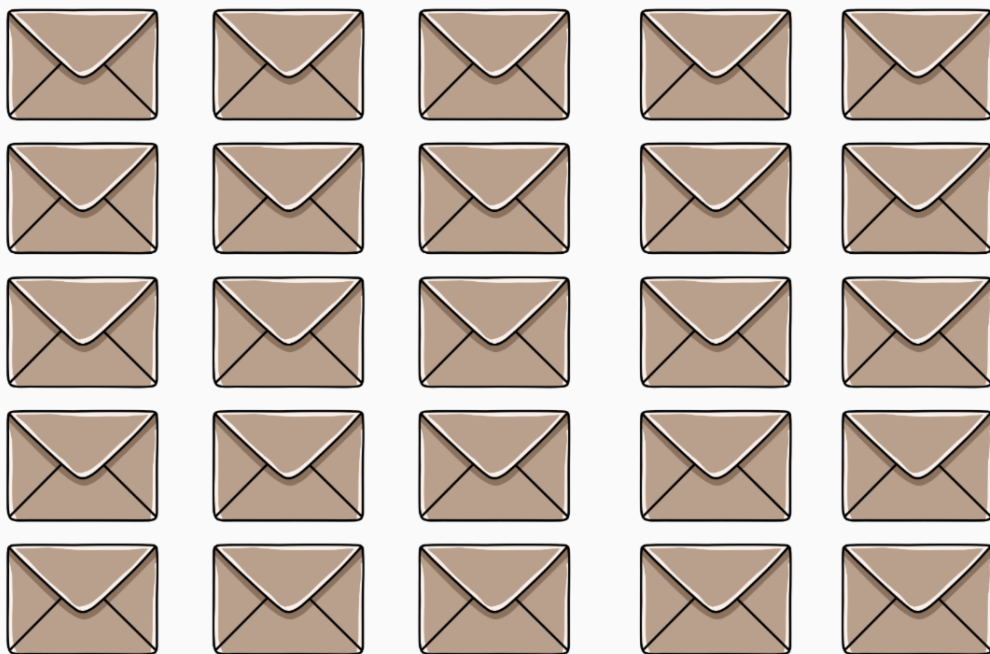
**LA Kitchens Cheese Straws  
from Fairhope NOW in The  
Vineyard.**

**Grab a bag, or two, for your  
spring and summer soirées!**



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**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!

#### 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)  
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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 Worriow, 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.

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