



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



Ascension Highlights

What's Happening This Week

- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, June 18 @ 7:00 AM

- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, June 18 @ 12:00 PM

- Office Closed - Friday, June 19

- Sunday Services - Sunday, June 21 @ 8:00 & 10:30 AM

From the Rector...

Last week in a 3-1 margin, the Southern Baptist Convention voted to formally ban women pastors in its denomination. The decision reflects a longstanding conviction within much of the denomination that preaching and certain forms of church leadership are reserved for men. Supporters of this position often point to passages such as I Timothy 2:12 where women are not permitted to teach or have authority over men, or I Corinthians 14:35 where it is shameful for women to speak in church. They would also note that the twelve disciples were all men (they were also all Jewish but that doesn't seem to fit into their criteria for leadership) and that, though the genders are equal, leadership is ordered differently according to gender roles.



I am not going to spend a lot of time arguing these positions for a few reasons. First, there are a significant number of scriptures that point to women preaching, teaching, prophesying, and leading throughout the Bible. Second, without women, Jesus Christ would not have been born (Mary), revealed to the world as the Messiah (Elizabeth and Anna), or proclaimed as risen from the dead (Mary Magdalene). Third, Paul—who is credited with the letters to Timothy and Corinth—relied on women to deliver and read his

letters to local churches. He worked alongside women such as Pheobe, Priscilla, Junia, and others in engaging and empowering them in the life and leadership of the early church.

What interests me is not winning an argument. I'm tired of arguing. I want to grow to live faithfully with people whose convictions differ from my own. I don't agree with the SBC decision. As an Episcopalian, I believe God calls women and men alike to preach, teach, and serve in ordained ministry. My own vocation is rooted in that conviction. Yet the SBC's decision does not threaten my relationship with God, nor does it change the way I understand the Gospel or my call to serve the Church.

Since the news broke about the vote, I have seen a number of beautifully written pieces regarding whether women should be allowed positions of authority in church. What I haven't seen is anyone writing to say that the SBC gets to believe what they want to believe and we Episcopalians get to believe what we want to believe. Neither of these beliefs are better than the other, one is more "right" for one and the other is more "rite" for the other. (Pardon the pun!)

Why can't we both be right? If you don't like women in the pulpit, go to a church where they aren't in the pulpits. And if you don't like the exclusion of women from the pulpit, come to Ascension—we would love to have you!

In a couple of weeks, I will get to spend some time with my nephew-in-law who is a Southern Baptist pastor and attended the SBC Convention that voted on the ban of women from the pulpit. I don't know how he voted, though I suspect his views may differ from my own. What I do know is that I enjoy spending time with him and most of my Southern Baptist in-laws. We don't have to agree on church issues and typically avoid discussing them. Instead, we can laugh and share a meal together and appreciate one another as people all trying to live and love as best we can.

There is something deeply Christian about that. We can hold strong convictions and still recognize the image of God in one another. We can disagree and still choose kindness. We can worship differently and still trust that God is at work in ways larger than any one denomination. It seems to me that is a much better way of being in relationship with one another regardless of what we believe.

Light and Life,
Candice+

candice@coascension.org

WORSHIP

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



We will have spaces set up both inside Joshua Commons and out in the back parking lot!

ASCENSIONAIRES
SUMMER
LUNCHEON

JUNE 24TH

12:00 P.M.

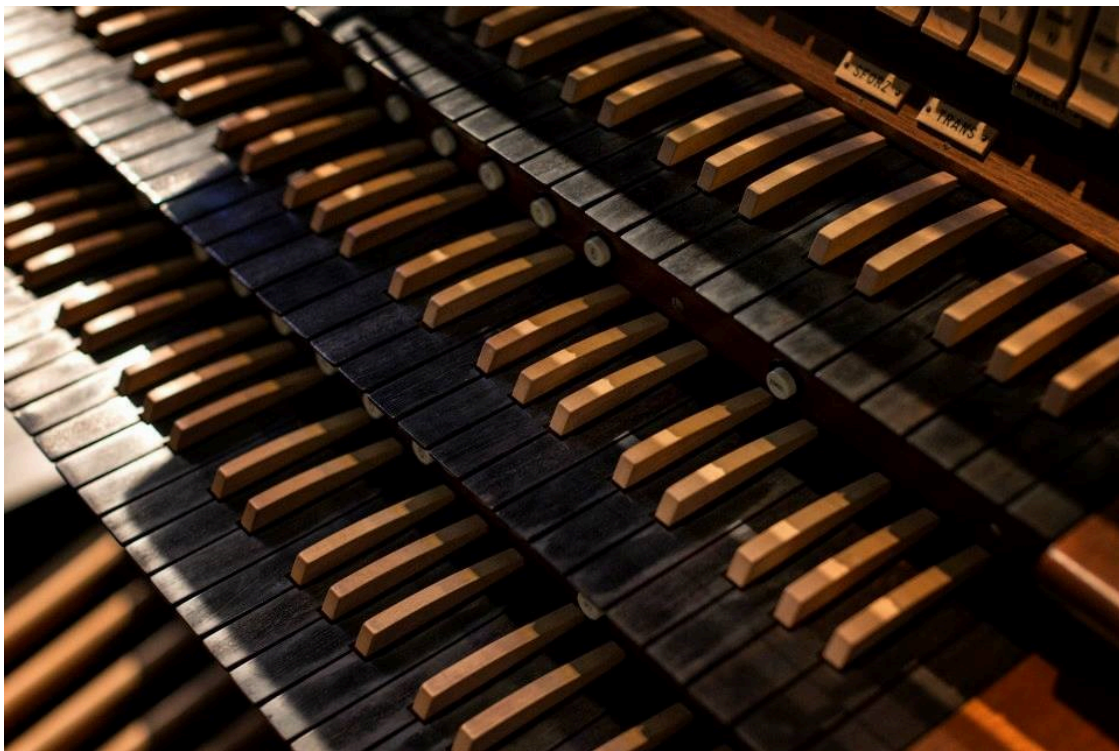
RSVP to Fay Worrilow

fay@coascension.org,

or Janan Hayden

haydenjanan@gmail.com

10 Dollars



Church of the Ascension is excited to be jointly hosting the **2026 Bach's Lunch Summer Organ Festival**. **St. John's First United Methodist, Trinity Presbyterian, and Church of the Ascension** will be jointly hosting a Summer Organ Festival featuring great organists of our city during the **months of June and July**. Our own Becky Taylor is featured as an artist. Concerts are at noon on Wednesdays rotating throughout the churches followed by a light lunch for \$10. **Please see agomontgomery.org for full information.** The festival is sponsored by the Montgomery Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

COLORS OF CREATION
Creativity
Camp

Ascension Children
Rising Kindergarten through Rising 5th Grade

July 7, 8, 9th
9:00-12:30

Click the code to register:



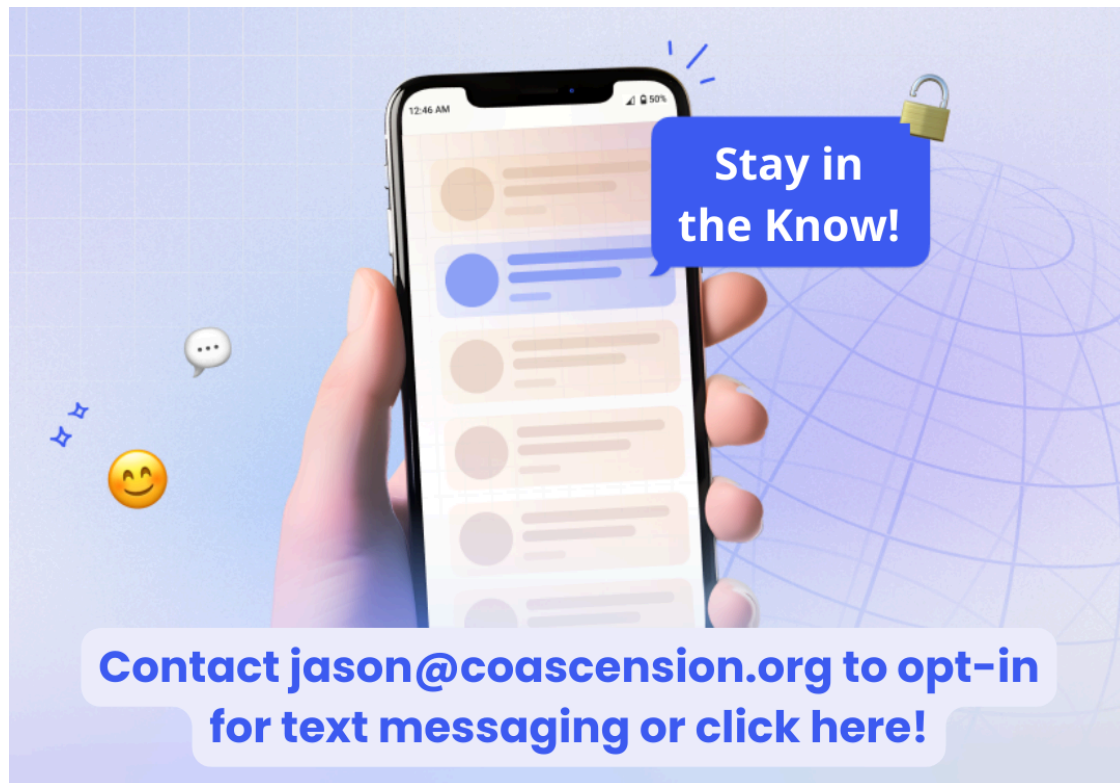
Ascension Children!

Let's beat the heat together and explore what it means to be co-creators with God as we engage in various creative projects and mindful exercises! COC Camp will meet in Joshua Commons. More information will be sent to you closer to camp time.

To register your child, use the QR code or follow this link:

[REGISTER for Camp!](#)

Get Signed Up Today!



GROW

The **Forgotten Books**

Scripture Between the Testaments



Every Thursday - 7 AM
Breakfast & Bible Study
Ascension Hall
Men's Prayer Breakfast

In Trouble and In Wonder

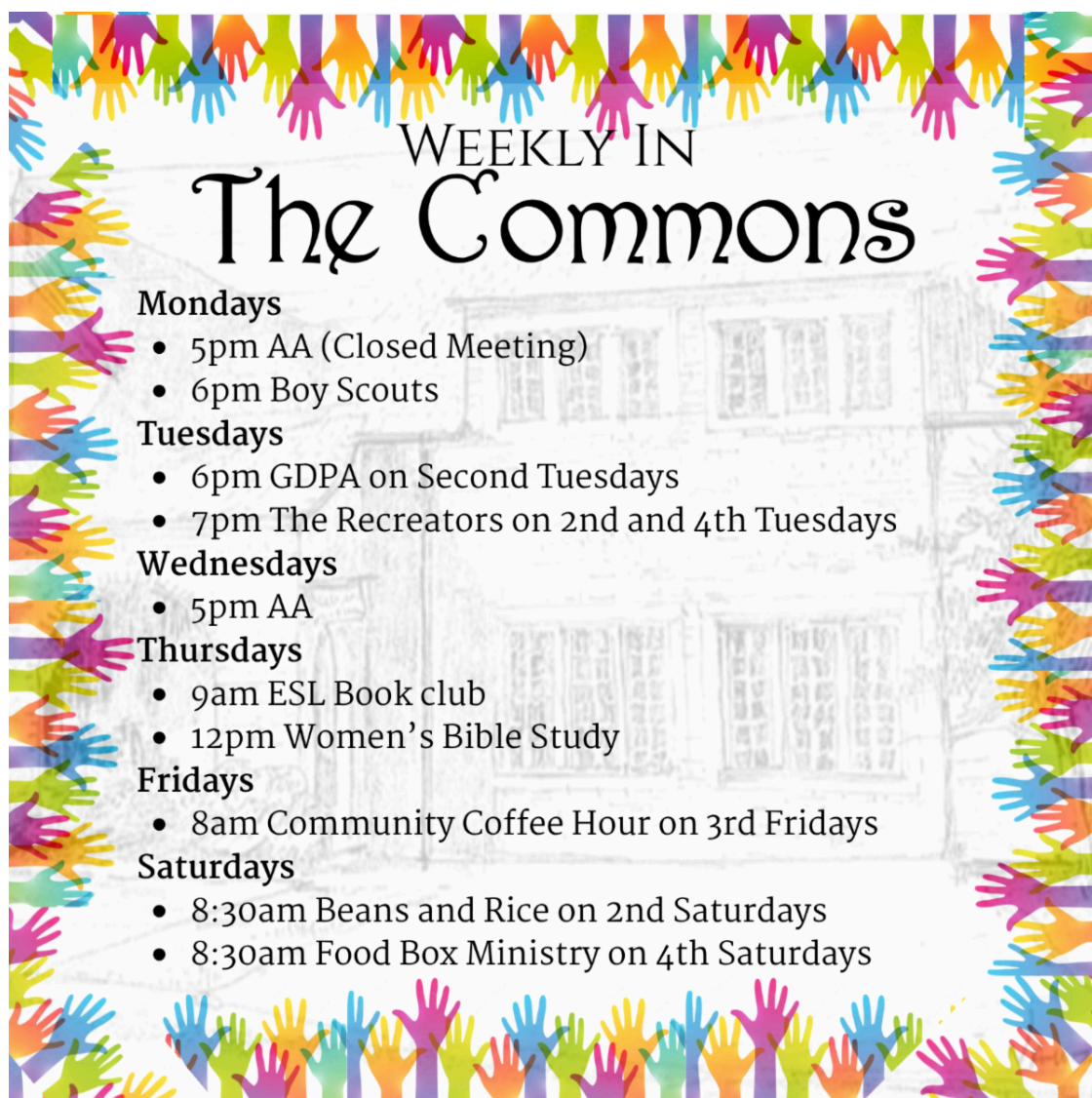
The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

SERVE



WEEKLY IN

The Commons

Mondays

- 5pm AA (Closed Meeting)
- 6pm Boy Scouts

Tuesdays

- 6pm GDPA on Second Tuesdays
- 7pm The Recreators on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays

Wednesdays

- 5pm AA

Thursdays

- 9am ESL Book club
- 12pm Women's Bible Study

Fridays

- 8am Community Coffee Hour on 3rd Fridays

Saturdays

- 8:30am Beans and Rice on 2nd Saturdays
- 8:30am Food Box Ministry on 4th Saturdays

EfM

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

As we look forward to a new year together, EfM (Education for Ministry) extends an invitation to anyone interested in a community experience that is a "... unique four-year, small-group formation program based on study and practice in theological reflection." Ascension's EfM year begins the week after Labor Day and runs through the month of May (please note that you don't have to be an Ascension member to participate, and you can commit to participating on a year-by-year basis). You can find information about the program on Sewanee's website at <https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/>, or by contacting co-EFM Mentors Eric A. Kidwell (ericakidwell31@gmail.com) or Russ Wishum (russ.wishum@gmail.com), who will be happy to answer your questions.

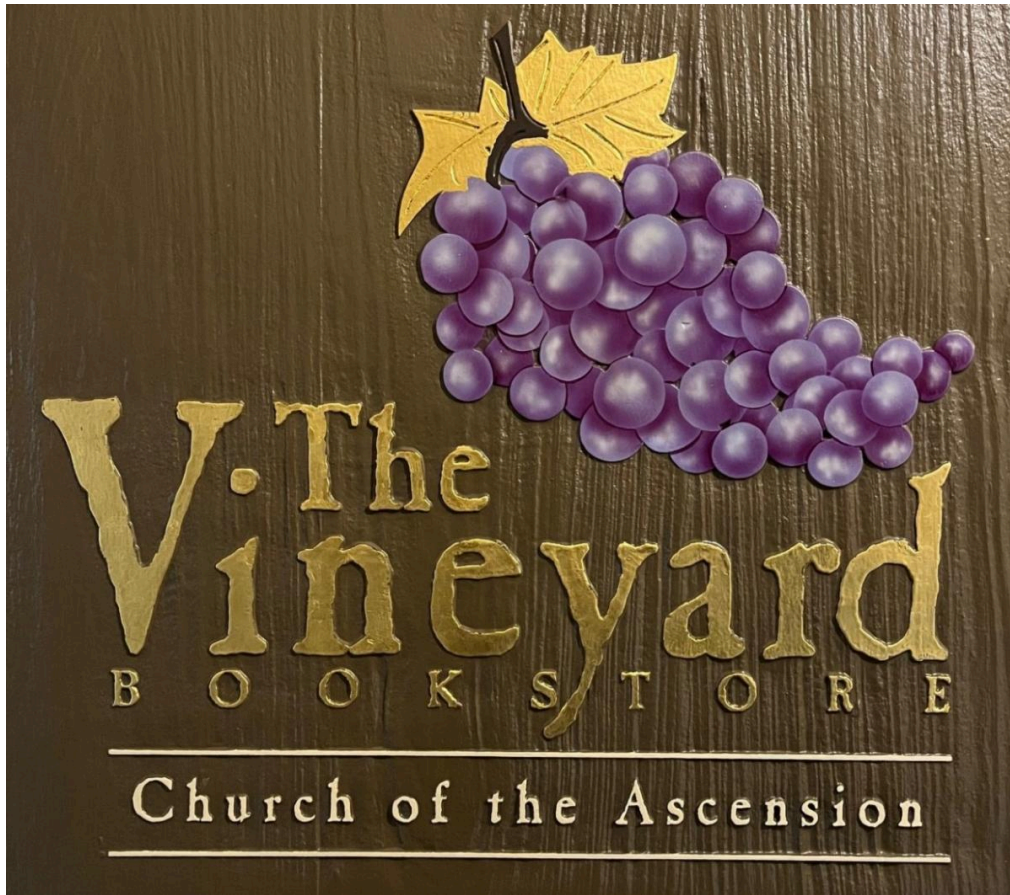


Financial Obligations Don't Take Vacations

Historically, pledge fulfillment at Church of the Ascension declines during the summer months, because of vacations and travel. Yet, our church consistently operates on \$90,000 each month year round, paying for salaries, church maintenance and ministry expenses. We need to avoid a shortfall this summer.

To all, as you plan your summer activities, please consider your stewardship obligations in order that our church can meet its obligations and our hard working employees, facilities and ministries are properly supported throughout the season.

Thank you for your consideration,
COA Finance Committee

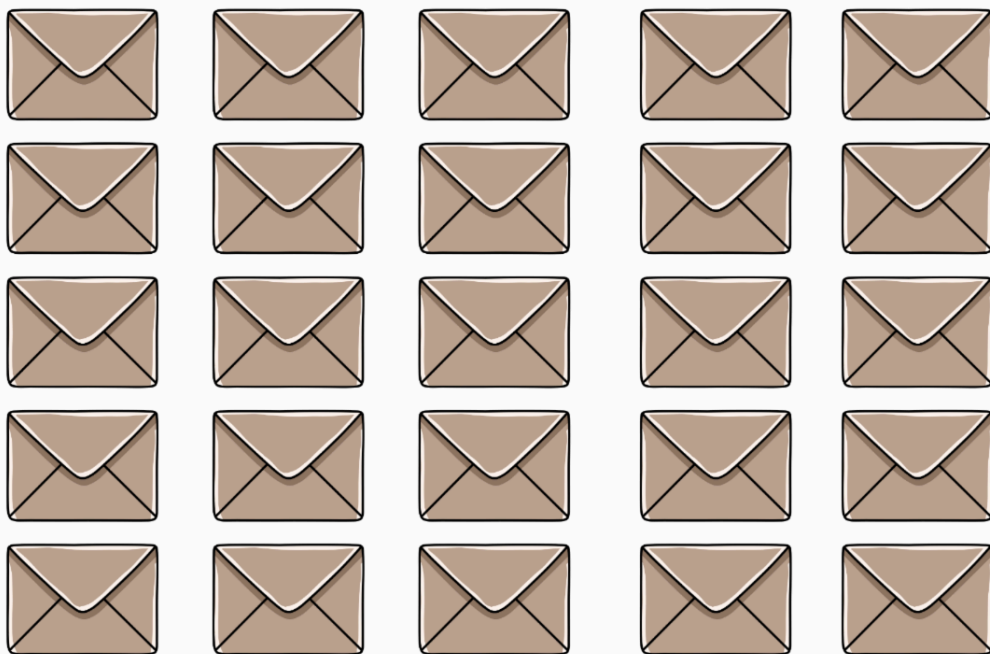


Downsizing? Decluttering?
The Vineyard is opening a new branch!

The Vineyard Treasure Shop

Please bring your “nice as new” items: home decor, artwork, antiques, serving pieces, decorative items, etc... to the small Vineyard room this summer. We will price and display everything for our Fall kick-off. Want to join the Vineyard Bunch? Call or text Lang Cardinal with questions or to volunteer.

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
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.

Church of the Ascension | 334-263-5529 | staff@coascension.org | www.coascension.org

Visit Our Website

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