



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



Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- EpiscoParty – Tuesday, June 23 @ 6:00 PM
- Ascensionaires Summer Luncheon – Wed, June 24 @ 12:00 PM
- Bishop Consecration – Saturday, June 27 @ 10:00 AM
- Vestry Meeting – Sunday, June 28 @ 12:00 PM

From the Rector...

On our trip to the Holy Land several years ago, we had the opportunity to visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the traditional site of Jesus' birth. Inside the church, there is a small opening in the floor through which pilgrims can look down and see the place believed to be his birthplace. One after another, people kneel, peer through the opening, and offer quiet reverence for this sacred place. As moving as that experience was, it was the doorway into the church that captivated me even more.

To enter the church, you must stoop. The entrance is a small rectangular opening that allows only one person through at a time. But when you step back, you notice that it wasn't always this way. The original entrance was enormous—more like a gate than a door. It was tall enough for a giraffe to walk through with room to spare and wide enough for two or three elephants standing side by side. Later, a second doorway was built about half that size. It is a beautiful stone arch through which several people could have entered comfortably without ducking their heads. Today, however, both of those entrances have been filled in, leaving only the tiny rectangular opening cut into the masonry.



The moment I saw the church and its three doorways, I immediately thought of Jesus' words in Matthew: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God" (Matthew 19:24). Not because of Jesus' comments about wealth, but because of the doorway's size. It is even called "the Eye of the Needle." (Though this door would not have existed in Jesus' day.)

Standing there, I found myself wondering why the entrance had become smaller over the centuries. The answer, most likely, was security. The caretakers of the Church of the Nativity were not trying to keep pilgrims out; they were trying to control access. By narrowing the entrance, they could better protect both the church and those who came to worship. That realization caused me to hear Jesus' words differently.

For most of my life, I have read this passage primarily as a warning about wealth. Certainly, Jesus recognizes that riches can become a spiritual obstacle. But I wonder if his point is less about actual gates and more about wealth as a distraction from God.

Wealth has a way of convincing us that we are self-sufficient. It tempts us to trust in our own resources rather than in God's provision. Financial security can give us the illusion that we control our future, when in reality our lives have always rested in God's hands. We begin to rely more on our own strength than on God's grace.

I wonder if Jesus' image of the camel and the eye of the needle is less about keeping certain people out of the kingdom and more about inviting all of us to lay down whatever burdens keep us from depending on God. Whether those burdens are wealth, pride, fear, or the illusion of control, they must be set aside before we can pass through.

Entering the Church of the Nativity requires a bit of stooping. There is something beautifully fitting about that. We enter the place where Christ came into the world by bowing low. Perhaps the kingdom of God is entered the same way—not through self-sufficiency, but through humility, dependence, and trust. It may require us to stoop a little, but what awaits on the other side is more than worth the effort.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

CONNECT

TONIGHT!



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

Bach's Lunch 2026

June 24 – Jacob Taylor - Trinity Presbyterian Church

July 8 – Wallace Hornady - St John's Episcopal Church

July 15 – Shannon Mathai - St John's Episcopal Church

July 22 – Jim Sadie - Church of the Ascension

July 29 – Becky Taylor - Church of the Ascension

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

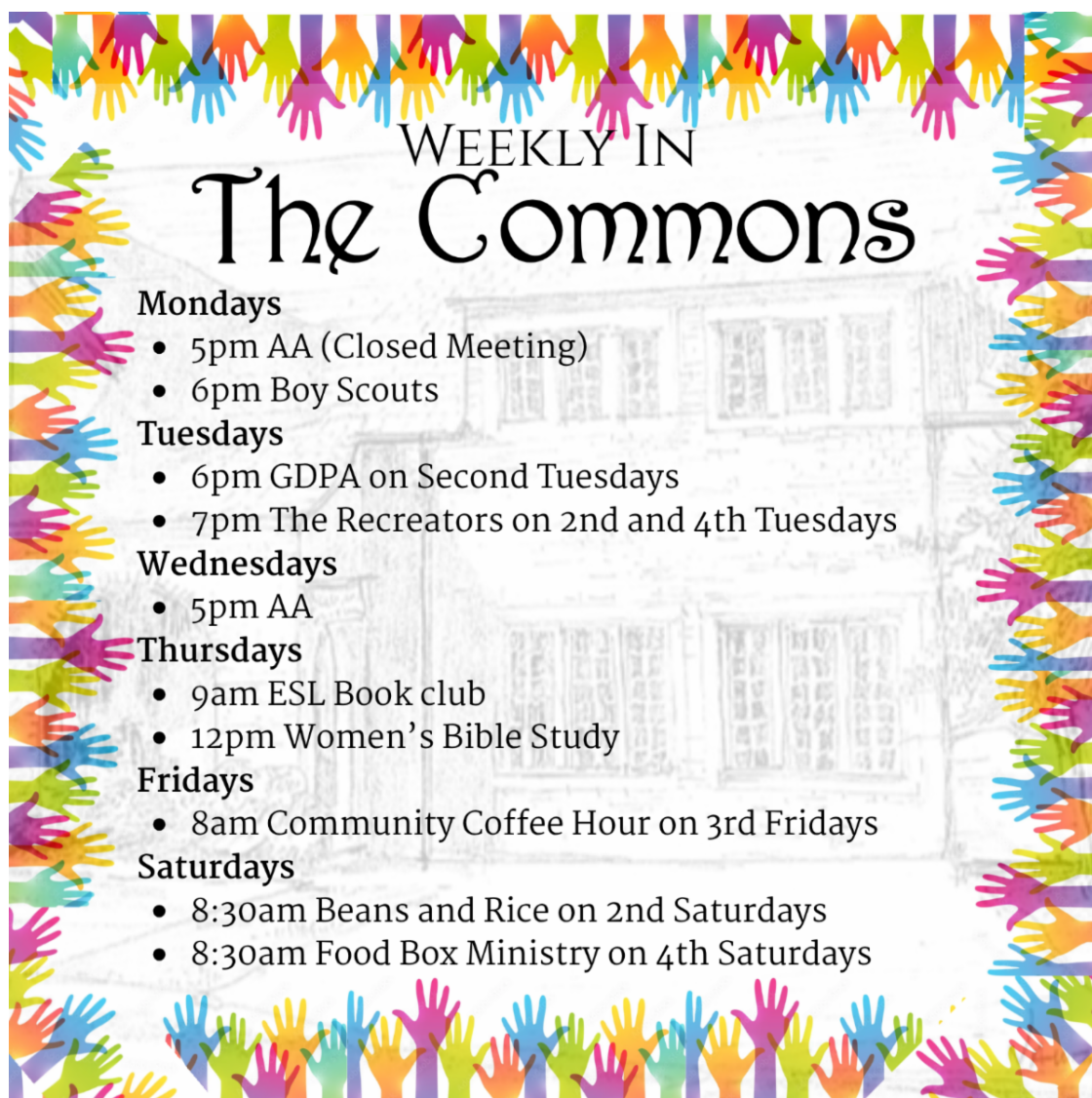
The Gospel of St. Thomas

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.

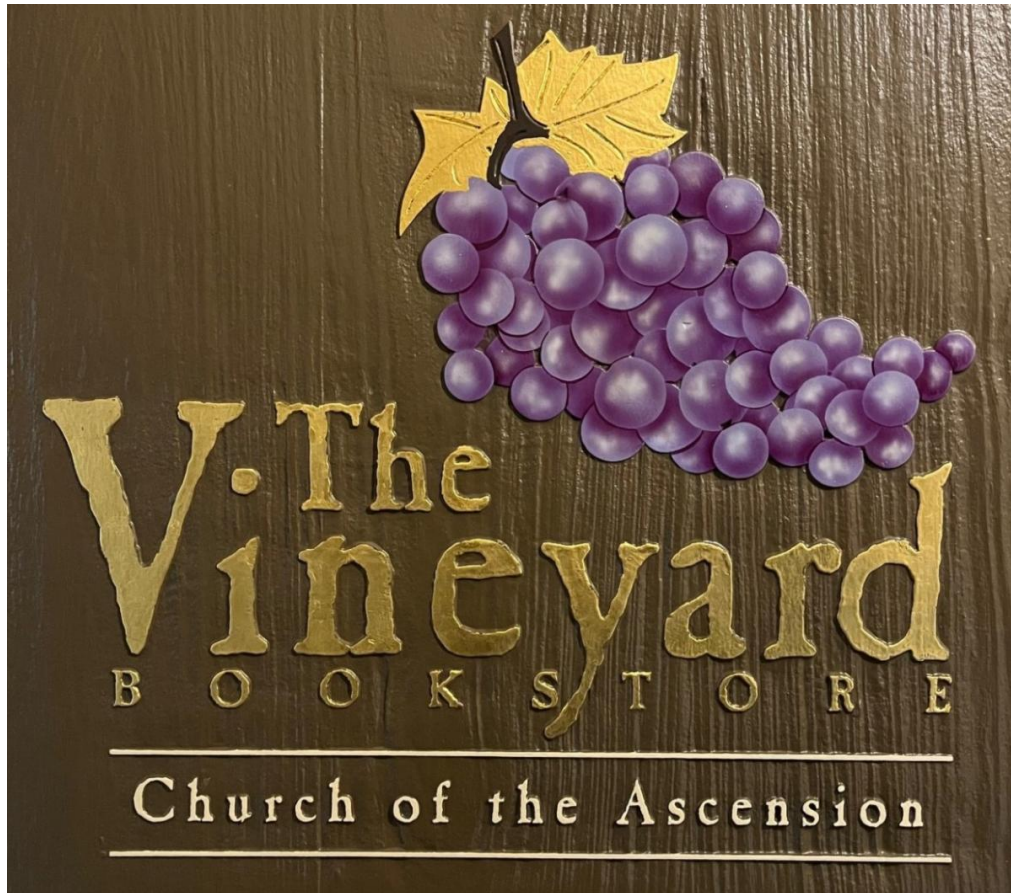


Financial Obligations Don't Take Vacations

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

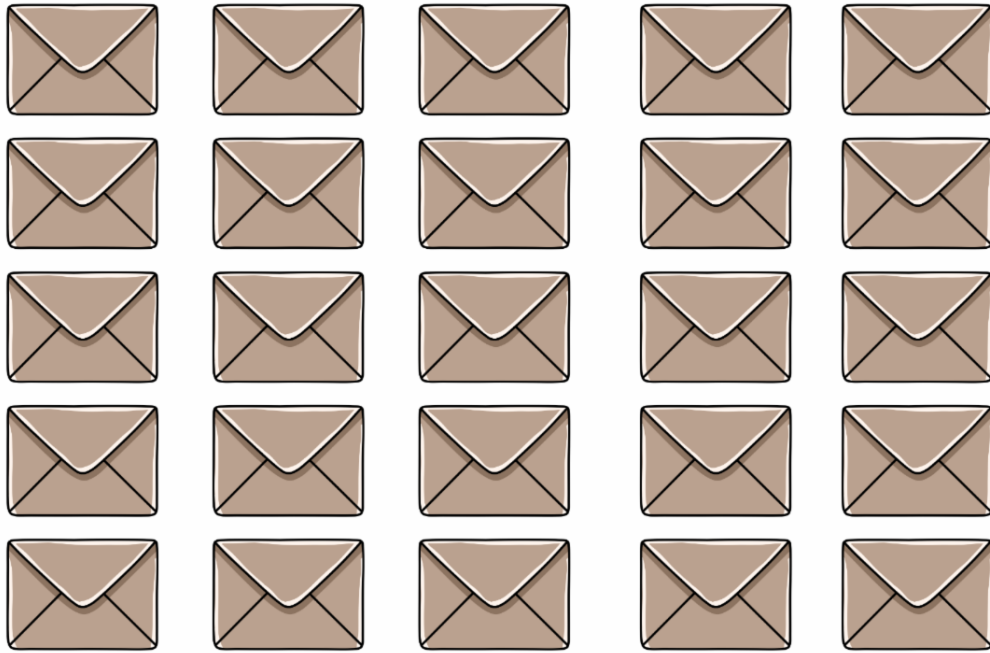


Downsizing? Decluttering?
The Vineyard is opening a new branch!

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!

WORSHIP



Ordination and Consecration

of the 13th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

Saturday, June 27, 2026



The Episcopal
Church
in Alabama

The service will be livestreamed on three platforms: (1) the Diocesan Facebook page, (2) the YouTube channel, and (3) the consecration webpage. A recording will also be posted and shared afterward.

Your prayers and presence are warmly requested as we gather to celebrate this significant moment in the life of our Diocese.

[YouTube](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Webpage](#)

We pray for our next Director of Music Ministry:

O God, who has blessed and sustained us through the years; we ask that you continue to lead us, stretch us, and direct us in our search for a new director of music. Raise for us, we pray, someone who will faithfully serve your people with love and compassion, leading us to be more deeply engaged in worship, that we may continue to grow in the likeness of Christ and be a beacon of love and hope to our community and the world. To the glory of your Holy Name.

Amen

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!

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.

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

[Visit Our Website](#)

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