



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



Ascension

Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Morning Prayer - Daily @ 8:00 AM on FaceBook
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, July 16 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, July 16 @ 12:00 PM
- Becky's Last Compline - Sunday, July 19 @ 7:30 PM

From the Rector...

Our dogs' favorite toy is a little squeaky red ball with white and green polka dots. I'm not sure why they all love it so much, but if one dog is playing with it, you can see all the others watching closely, calculating the perfect opportunity to steal it. It's like the One Ring from The Lord of the Rings. It is their "precious."

The ball itself isn't anything special. It's just a toy. Amazingly, there is never a dog fight over it. The others patiently wait and watch the one playing with it until it gets tossed too far or rolls under the couch. Then it's fair game.



Of course, when the ball disappears beneath the couch, every dog in the room springs into action. They shove their noses underneath, leaving nothing visible but furry backsides and wagging tails. Their reasoning skills leave a little to be desired because every paw they stick under the couch only pushes the ball farther away.

Eventually, Steve or I take mercy on them and retrieve the ball. They are always eager to help, sticking their noses in our faces to make sure we know exactly where the ball is hiding. Once we rescue it, they all sit expectantly, waiting to see who gets it next. Usually,

we give it back to the dog who had it last, though every now and then we show a little favoritism to the one who seems most left out.

Watching this unfold reminds me how easily we become captivated by things that are, in themselves, perfectly good. The red ball isn't evil. But it becomes the center of the dogs' little world. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Careers, hobbies, politics, possessions, even ministries can quietly become our own version of "the precious." None of them are bad. The danger comes when they begin to command our attention and shape our identity more than God does.

The scene under the couch also feels surprisingly familiar. The harder the dogs try to rescue the ball themselves, the farther away it rolls. Isn't that often true for us? We exhaust ourselves trying to fix every problem through our own effort, forgetting to pause, pray, and ask for God's help. Like Paul in Romans 7:15, we discover that our best intentions and our own strength are not always enough.

The good news is that God does not stand at a distance, waiting for us to figure everything out. God enters our predicaments with grace. Like a loving parent stooping to retrieve a toy just beyond a child's reach, God comes alongside us—not to scold us for getting stuck, but to help us find our way again.

When Steve or I return the ball, we do it with affection. We aren't annoyed by the dogs' delight because their joy brings us joy. I suspect God is something like that. God delights in our happiness and also loves us enough to keep redirecting our hearts whenever we mistake one of God's gifts for the Giver himself. In the end, true joy is found not in clutching our own "precious," but in resting in the One who treasures us most.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

WORSHIP

Becky's Last Compline! This Sunday at 7:30 PM!

Compline with *Encore!*

Sunday - 7:30 PM



This Sunday evening, at 7:30 pm, (yes, right before bed!) *Encore!* and Becky Taylor will celebrate their many years together offering Compline to our community. There will be a little more music, but mostly the love in our worshipping together. These men have volunteered their time and talent for these years, and we hope that you will come and enjoy this service, and say thank you. The service is only about 30 minutes long and we all will be blessed by your presence.

Becky's Last Sunday

August 9th



Come and celebrate Becky Taylor's 40 years at Ascension for one last Sunday! A pre-worship concert will begin at 10:00 AM and we will have a reception following the 10:30 service!

Backpack BLESSING

Sunday, August 16th



Children and teachers are invited to bring their bags or backpacks to the service to be blessed for the upcoming school year!



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



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

This Wednesday, St. John's Episcopal Church
Shannon Mathai, 12 Noon

Bach's Lunch 2026

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.

Ascensionnaires'
MMFA Tour
with Alice
Novak
August 5
10:00 a.m.

**Please RSVP to Fay by August 1st.
If you need a ride, please let Janan
know at 334 391-9108**

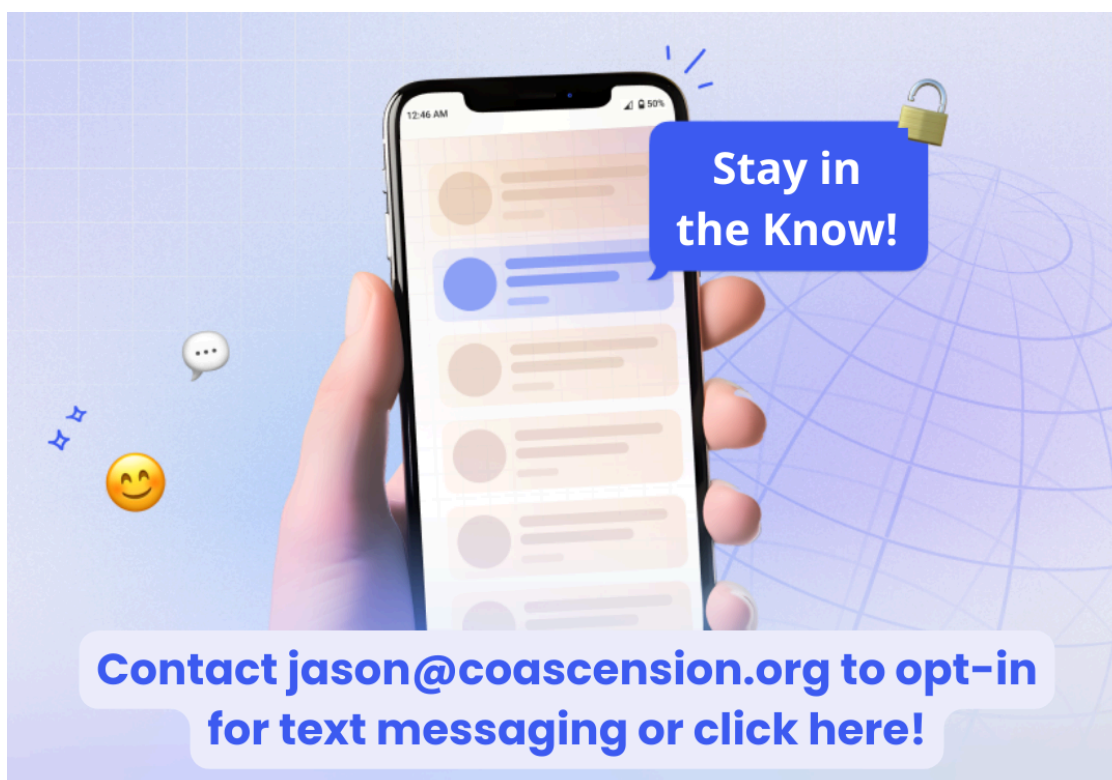
Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage



2026 Pilgrimage Event Details

- Event Date: Saturday, August 15, 2026
- Guest Preacher: The 13th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, Richard Lawson
- Location: Lowndes County Courthouse Square (1 South Washington Street, Hayneville, AL 36040)
- Time: 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m

Get Signed Up Today!



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

COLORS OF CREATION Creativity Camp

Our Colors of Creation camp was a huge success! Laura and Nick did a great job putting the program together and a huge thank you to Rachel Wishum, Janan Hayden, and Nancy Blount for their volunteer work. We couldn't have done it without you!





Date Change! Now July 23rd!
Ascensionaire's Selma Field Trip!
RSVP by July 16th!

Included in your
Retreat is a
Delicious
Fresh Food Buffet
where each dish and
baked goods are
made in-house
using local
Ingredients

Food Restrictions
are honored
on the
5&Dime Spread

Gluten Free
Lactose Free
Nut Free
Vegetarian
& Vegan
Diners will
Also find many
options from
which to choose


201 Broad Street
Selma, Alabama 36701
334-375-3838

July 16 10am-2:30pm 201 Broad St

5&Dime
One Day
Creativity
Retreat

Come spend a Day
in Selma, Alabama

at the 5&Dime's
OneDay
Creativity Retreat

We invite
YOU
to Come Play
while slipping
into the
Right side of
Your Brain

You will be
PLAYING with
Cyanotype (sunprints)
and
Collage

It is Impossible
to Mess Up!!!

No Art Experience
Required
(Infact, being a beginner
may be a benefit)

During Lunch
YOU get to
Break Bread
&
Listen to
Two Selma
Special Guest
Stars:
Joyce O'Neal
&
Henry Hudson
Share their
unique
Selma Story

Thursday
July 16
10am-
2:30pm

Arrive
10:00

Playtime
10:00-
11:30

Lunch &
Talks
11:30-
1:30

Finish
Projects
1:30-
2:30

Depart
2:30

\$50 Per
Person
Contact
Fay
Worriolow
By July 9

The **Forgotten Books**

Scripture Between the Testaments



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

Register Now!

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.

In Trouble and In Wonder

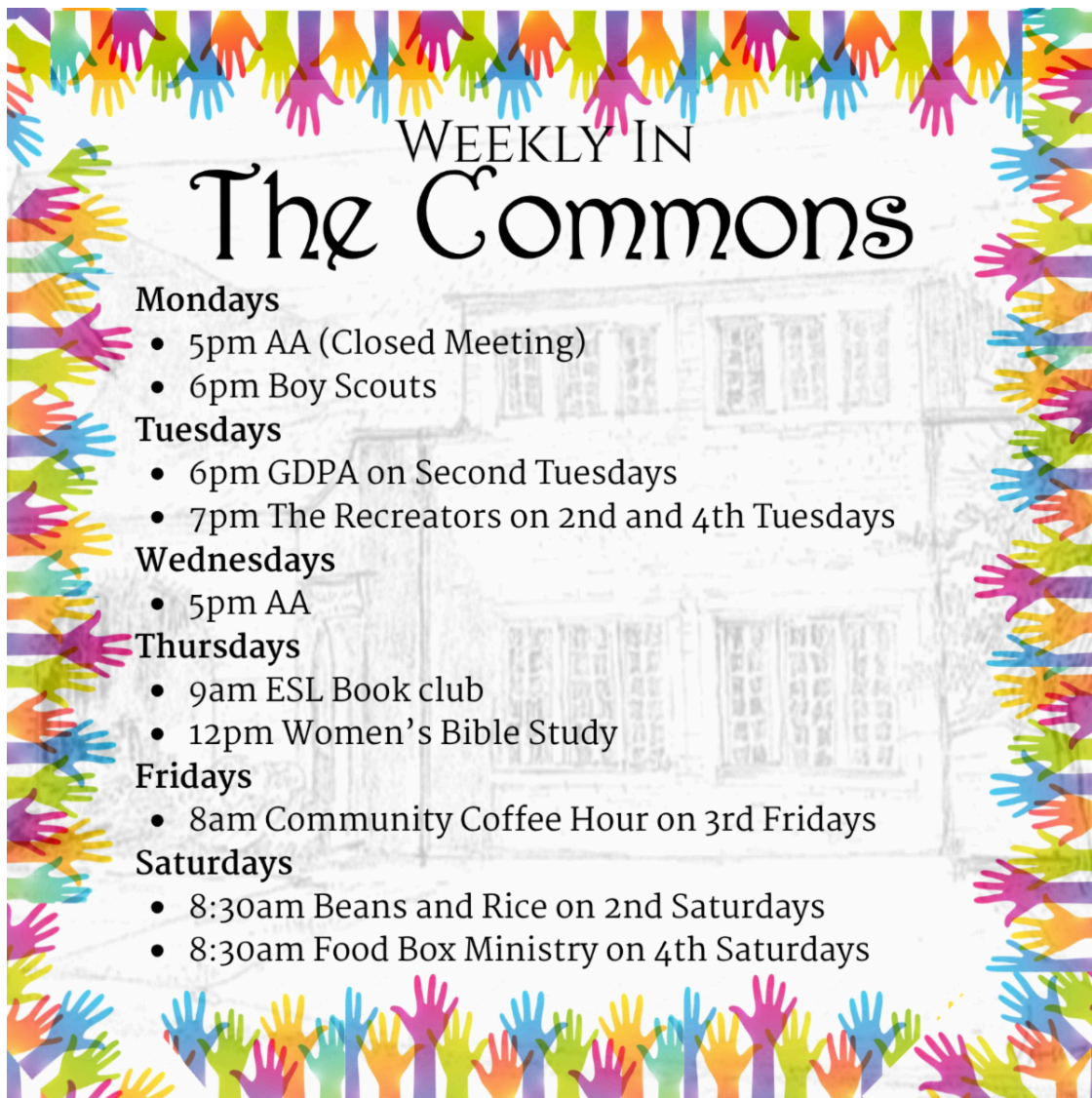
The Gospel of St. Thomas

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



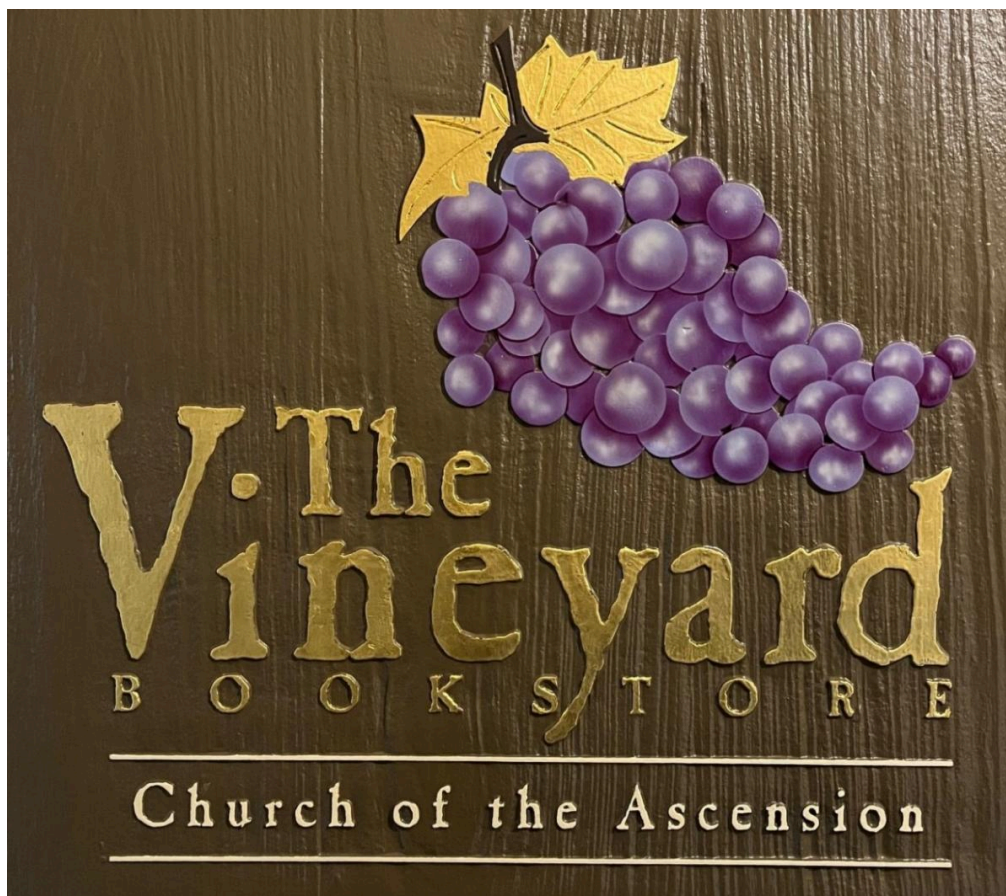
Financial Obligations Don't Take Vacations

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

The Vineyard will Reopen on September 13

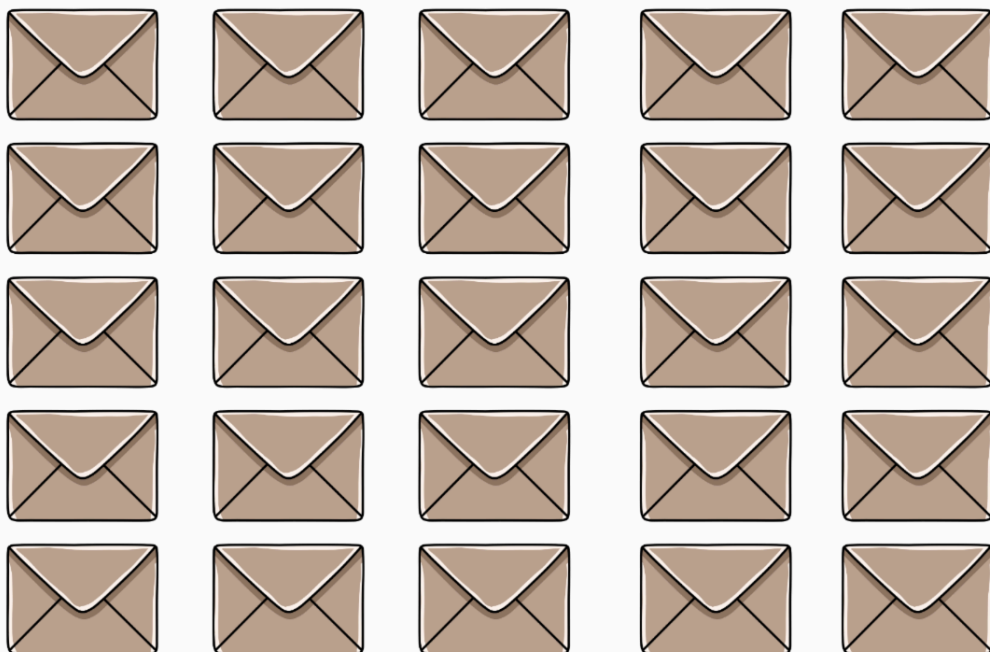


Downsizing? Decluttering?
The Vineyard is opening a new branch!

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

Church of the Ascension | 315 Clanton Avenue | Montgomery, AL 36104 US

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