



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



Ascension

Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Bach's Lunch Performance - Wednesday, July 29 @ 12:00 PM

- Youth Mission Trip - All Week

- Morning Prayer - Daily @ 8:00 AM on FaceBook Live

- Sunday Services - Sunday, August 2 @ 8:00 & 10:30 AM

From the Rector...

You've heard the old saying, "Curiosity killed the cat." Originally, the idiom was "Care killed the cat." It meant that when you nosed around in another person's business, you often found yourself in trouble. The word "care" was changed to "curiosity" in the early 1900s to suggest that inquisitiveness itself was dangerous, though people often forget that the original saying ended with, "...but satisfaction brought it back."

I wonder if we've lost our sense of curiosity. Maybe it is because we've been told that asking too many questions will only get us into trouble. Or maybe it is because we learn from an early age not to ask them. (The favorite word of just about every two-year-old is "why," to the point that parents eventually throw up their hands and respond, "Because I said so.") Either way, our lack of curiosity has consequences, not the least of which is that it limits our imaginations and impairs our relationships.

Imagination requires curiosity. It requires us to ask "wondering" questions like, "I wonder what the world could be like if there were no poverty or crime?" Those kinds of questions awaken parts of our brain that encourage possibility instead of resignation; hope instead of despair.



The same is true of our relationships. Instead of trying to control the thoughts and beliefs of others, approaching them with wonder and curiosity allows us to appreciate our differences. It makes room for listening, learning, and even growing together.

Jesus knew this. He consistently encouraged people to wonder about what the world could be—or perhaps more accurately, what it already was if they only took the time to truly see it. His parables were designed to elicit curiosity. Comparing the kingdom of God to mustard seeds, pearls, yeast, and treasure hidden in a field invited people to imagine their world in entirely new ways. But that was not what the authorities wanted.

Again and again, when the scribes and Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they became angry and began plotting ways to silence him. It wasn't because what Jesus was saying was wrong. It was because what he was saying threatened the status quo. To encourage people to wonder—to cultivate curiosity instead of simply accepting the world as it was—threatened the stability that those in power depended upon for their comfort and their false sense of security. If the masses—the poor and marginalized, and even those who simply struggled to get by—ever began to imagine that there was more to life than the place society had assigned them, then the rich and powerful might have to loosen their grip on wealth, privilege, and power. And that is always threatening.

The priestly and ruling class of Jesus' day made up less than one percent of the population, yet they exercised extraordinary influence over daily life. Even under Roman occupation, they understood that as long as they could manage the expectations and imaginations of the people, they could preserve their own positions.

As Christians, curiosity and imagination are necessary acts of discipleship. Continuing the work of Jesus Christ means not only imagining God's kingdom, but proclaiming the good news that another way of living is possible—a vision in which everyone belongs. If we have fallen for the big lie that this world is as good as it gets, or that there is nothing we can do to make it better, then we have stopped seeing the world the way Jesus did.

The kingdom of God has always begun with people willing to wonder if God's dream for the world might actually be true—and then live as though it is.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

CONNECT

This Wednesday, Church of the Ascension

Becky Tayler, 12 Noon

Christmas in July!

Bach's Lunch 2026

July 29 – Becky Taylor - Church of the Ascension

Following the 25-30 minute concert, lunch from Scott Street Deli will be available for \$12.



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**



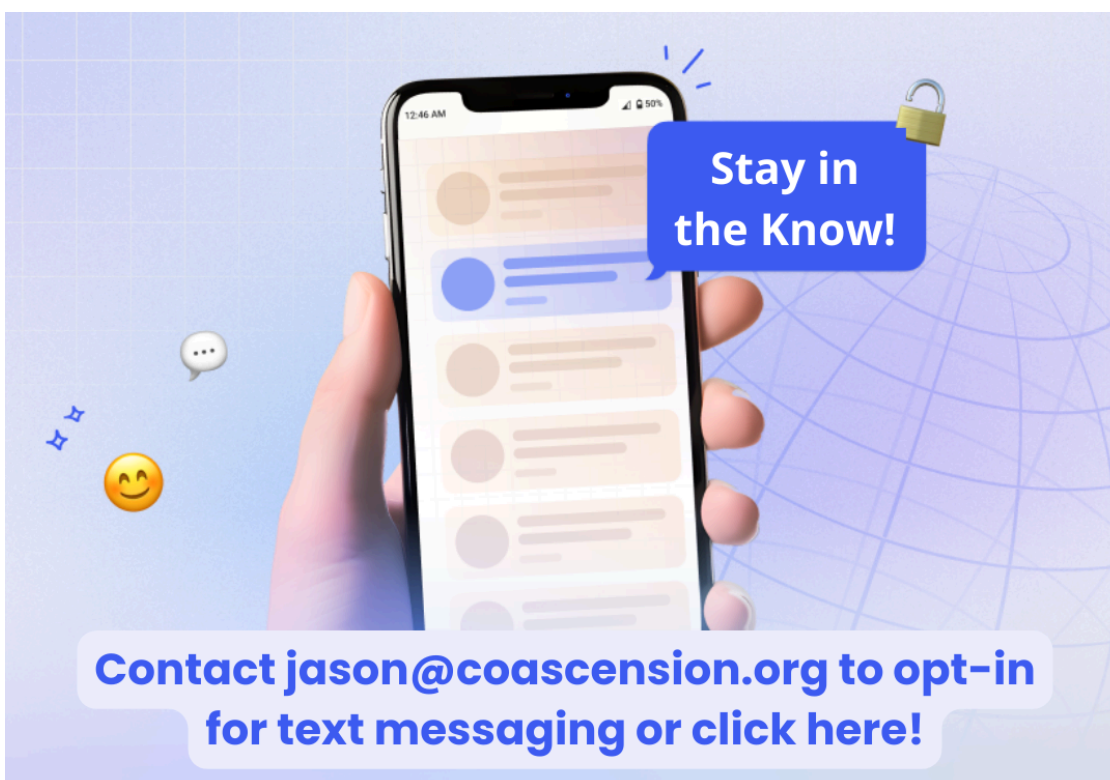
Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage



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!**

GROW

No Men's Prayer Breakfast This Week!

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.

No Women's Bible Study This Week!

In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

SERVE

HELP WANTED!

The Hospitality Committee is busy preparing for Becky's retirement reception on August 9th following the 10:30 service. We need your help!

We will be prepping on Friday August 7th and serving on August 9th. Contact Virginia Humphrey (334-324-1135) or Elizabeth Goodwyn (205-542-5778) if you would like to volunteer.

CHANGE OF CLAWS!

OUR LOBSTER FEST IS MOVING!

AUGUST

OCTOBER 8

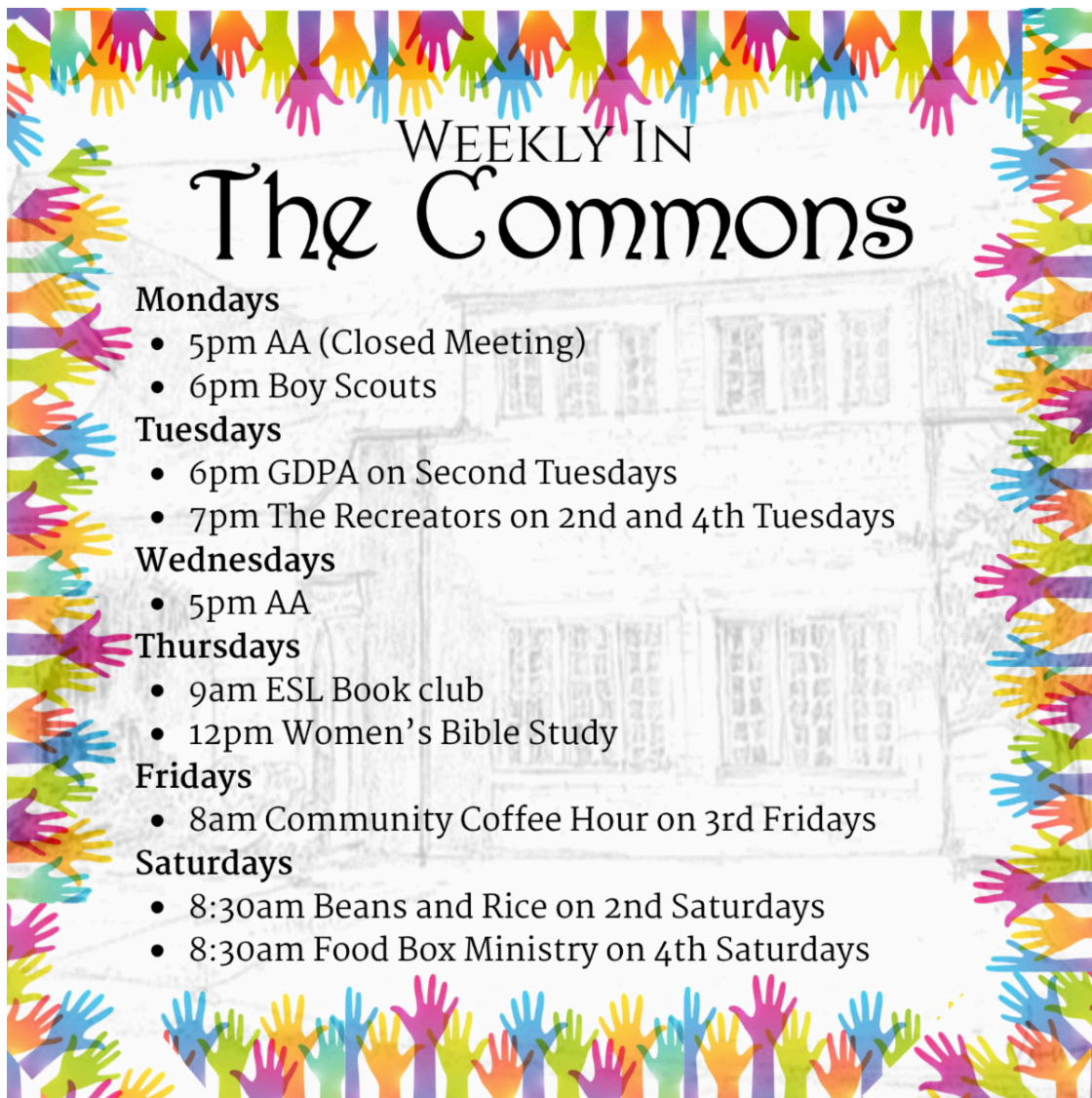
NEW DATE: OCTOBER 8!

- 🍁 COOLER WEATHER.
- 😎 HAPPIER LOBSTERS.
- ❤️ SAME GREAT FEST!

RIVER REGION LOBSTERFEST

GOOD FOOD. GOOD TIMES. GOOD COMPANY.

WE'LL SEA YOU THERE!



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



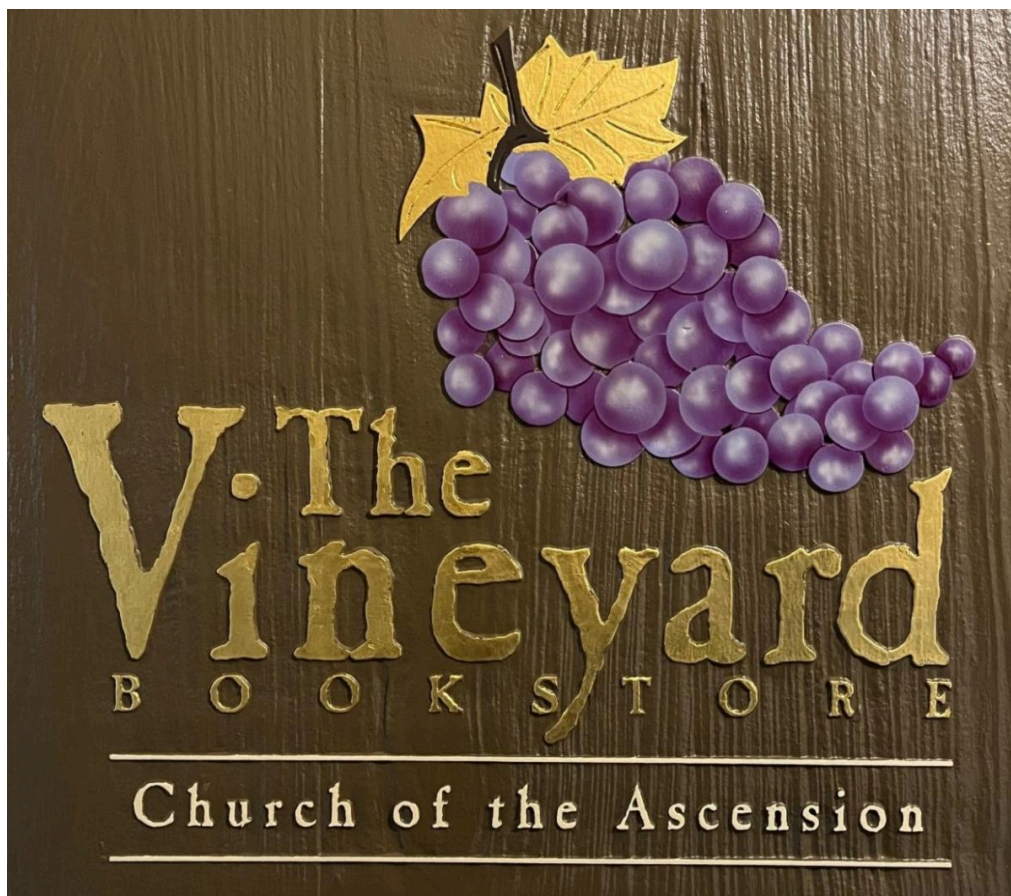
Financial Obligations Don't Take Vacations

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.

WORSHIP

Guest Preacher - The Rev. Katie Pearson

This Sunday at 10:30am

Katie serves as Canon to the Ordinary and chief of staff to Bishop Richard Lawson. In this role, she oversees clergy search processes throughout the Diocese of Alabama and works closely with clergy, parishes, diocesan staff, and diocesan leadership to support the mission and ministry of the diocese.

Before joining the Diocese of Alabama, Katie served as Vicar of Saint John's Cathedral in Denver, Colorado. She brings extensive experience in parish leadership, administration, pastoral care, and organizational leadership. A graduate of the University of the South at Sewanee, Katie has maintained a longstanding commitment to the university through her service on its Board of Regents and as co-chair of the search committee for its 18th Vice-Chancellor.

Katie is passionate about helping congregations and clergy flourish as they discern God's call and pursue faithful ministry together. She is committed to supporting the work of the bishop while strengthening relationships across the diocese through collaboration, thoughtful leadership, and pastoral presence.

Katie is married to Don, and they have three adult children.



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!

Celebrating 46 Years of Faithful Music Ministry

After 46 years of faithful service to the Church of the Ascension, our beloved Becky Taylor is preparing for a well-earned retirement. For nearly half a century, she has led us in song, enriched our worship, and marked countless baptisms, weddings, funerals, feast days, and ordinary Sundays with beautiful music offered to the glory of God.

As a parish family, we have the opportunity to express our gratitude in a tangible way. We will be collecting contributions for a retirement purse that will be presented as a gift of thanksgiving in recognition of her extraordinary ministry at her reception on Sunday, August 9.

If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to Church of the Ascension and write "Retirement Purse" in the memo line, or use Venmo and designate "Retirement Purse" from the fund options. Contributions may be made through **Thursday, August 6.**

Thank you for helping us honor a remarkable legacy of faithful service and for joining us in celebrating Becky.

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!

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

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