



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



Ascension

Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Colors of Creation Camp - July 7-9
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Thursday, July 9 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study - Thursday, July 9 @ 12:00 PM
- Beans & Rice Distribution - Saturday, July 11 @ 8:30 AM

From the Rector...

Years ago, I took a group of youth on a pilgrimage to Rome. We toured the Vatican, the Colosseum, and countless churches filled with relics, breathtaking art, and rich history. The experience was both sacred and joyful. We learned, prayed, and, of course, ate—a lot.

Although I planned the itinerary, each young person was responsible for researching one site, sharing what they learned with the group, and leading a devotion connected to its history. Every day we learned from one another, discovered fascinating stories (including the legend of a female pope who supposedly gave birth during a papal procession), and prayed together. Sharing the spiritual leadership transformed the trip from a European vacation into a true pilgrimage. When we returned home, even our priest and verger noticed something different. The youth approached worship with greater reverence and a deeper sense of faith.

Yet one of my favorite memories had very little to do with churches.

We were riding the metro to St. Paul's Outside the Walls when it began filling with young Italians dressed in blue, many with face paint and soccer balls. They excitedly told us they



were heading to the Circus Maximus to watch the World Cup final between France and Italy on giant outdoor screens. Several of our youth played soccer and quickly convinced the rest of us to change our evening plans and join what would become nearly 300,000 of our newest friends.

It was unforgettable.

The match between Italy and France ended in a 1–1 draw before Italy won in penalty kicks. The moment the final kick went in, the crowd erupted. Within seconds, strangers were embracing, singing, and celebrating together. It was chaotic, but it never felt unsafe. It felt like pure joy spilling into the streets.

Our hotel was only fifteen minutes away, yet it took more than two hours to walk back. Every fountain was filled with celebrating young people. Tiny cars overflowed with waving flags, scooters zipped through jubilant crowds, and it seemed as though every person in Rome had poured into the streets. The victory united an entire nation.

What struck me most was the diversity around us. We were surrounded by people from all over the world who shared no common language, yet for one evening we belonged to the same joyful community. Just days earlier we had witnessed police arresting immigrant street vendors. That night those same officers simply kept watch over the celebrating crowds, allowing joy to take precedence over enforcement.

Watching the United States host this year's World Cup has reminded me of that evening in Rome. While I was disappointed to see the U.S. eliminated, I've been encouraged by the stories visitors have shared about their experiences here. Through their eyes, we've been reminded that our nation is more than its divisions. Hospitality, generosity, curiosity, and welcome are still part of who we are.

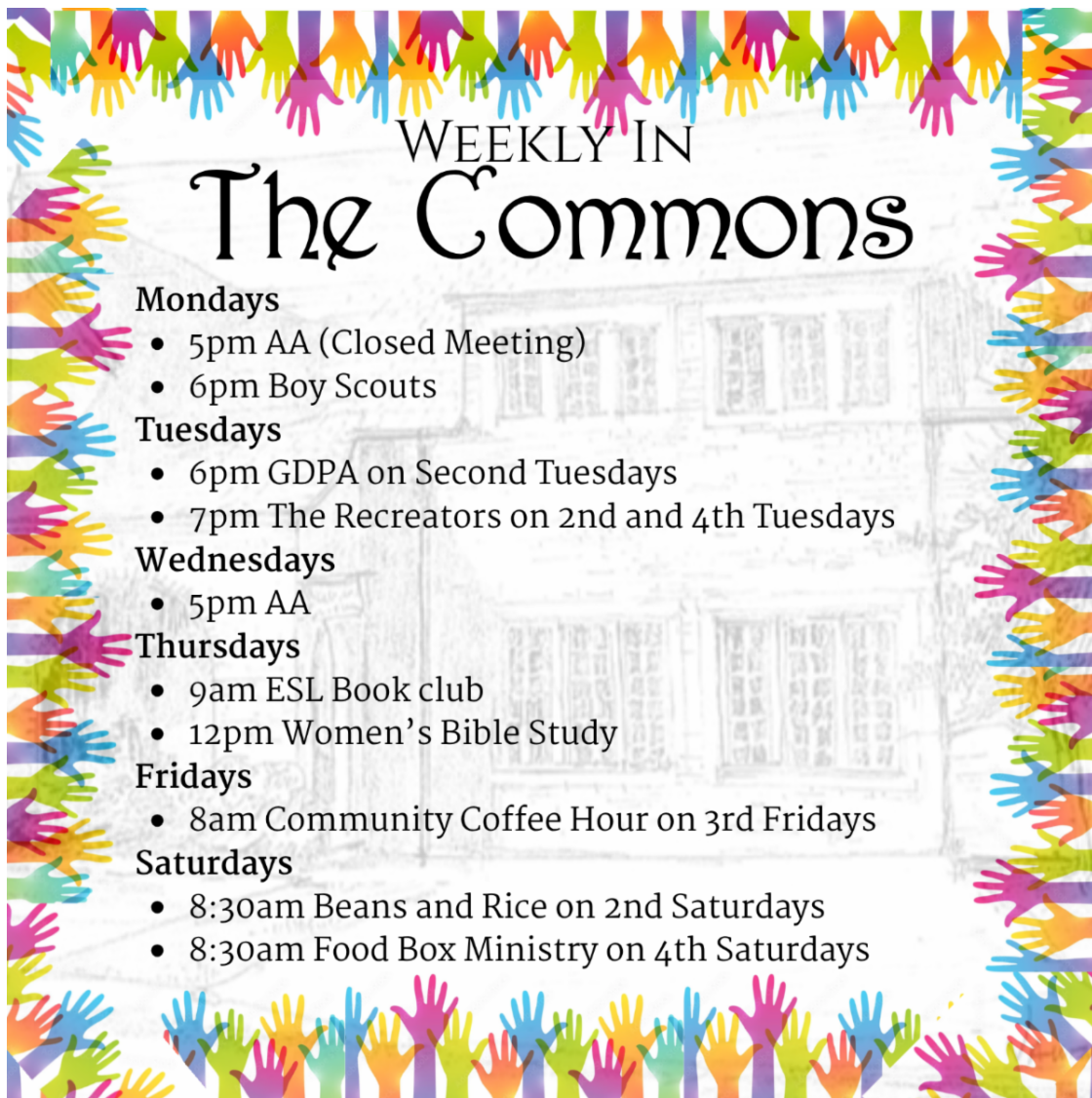
Perhaps that's one of God's quiet gifts: moments that remind us our deepest identity is found not in what separates us, but in the shared humanity that reflects the image of the One who celebrates us all.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

SERVE

A decorative border at the top and bottom of the page, featuring a repeating pattern of colorful hands in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink) reaching upwards. The background of the entire page is a light gray with a subtle, repeating pattern of stylized leaves and vines.

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

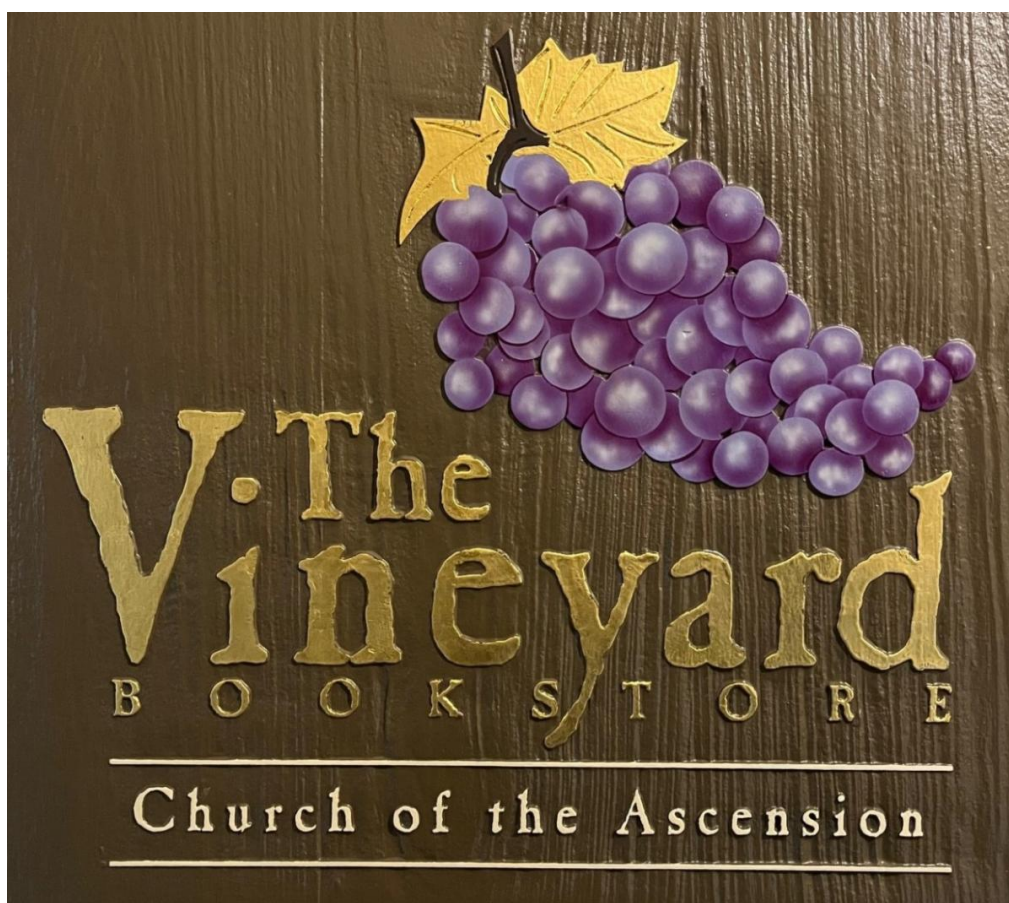
Capital Campaign!





The last phase of our The Way, the Truth, and the Life Capital Campaign has begun! We will clear out the lots behind The Commons (keeping the appropriate trees) and then begin the improvements on the land. The final goal is a beautiful labyrinth set amidst a Holy Wood. Please continue to hold this work in your prayers. And thank you to so many of you who have donated to this cause. We could not do it without you.

The Vineyard will Reopen on September 13

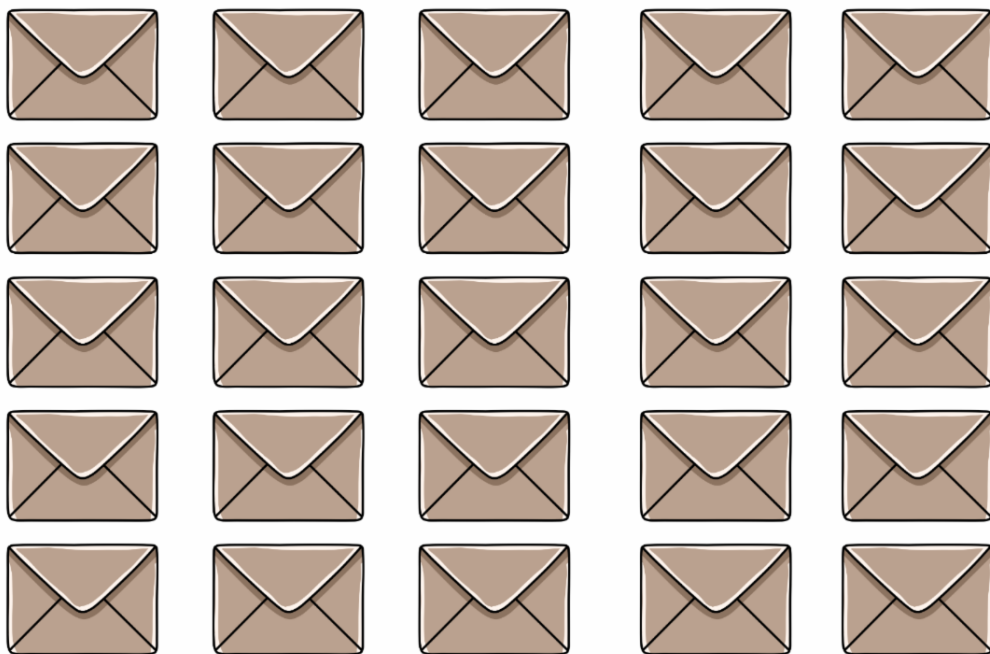


Downsizing? Decluttering?
The Vineyard is opening a new branch!

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!

WORSHIP



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,

CONNECT



**This Wednesday, St. John's Episcopal Church
Wallace Hornady, 12 Noon**

Bach's Lunch 2026

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

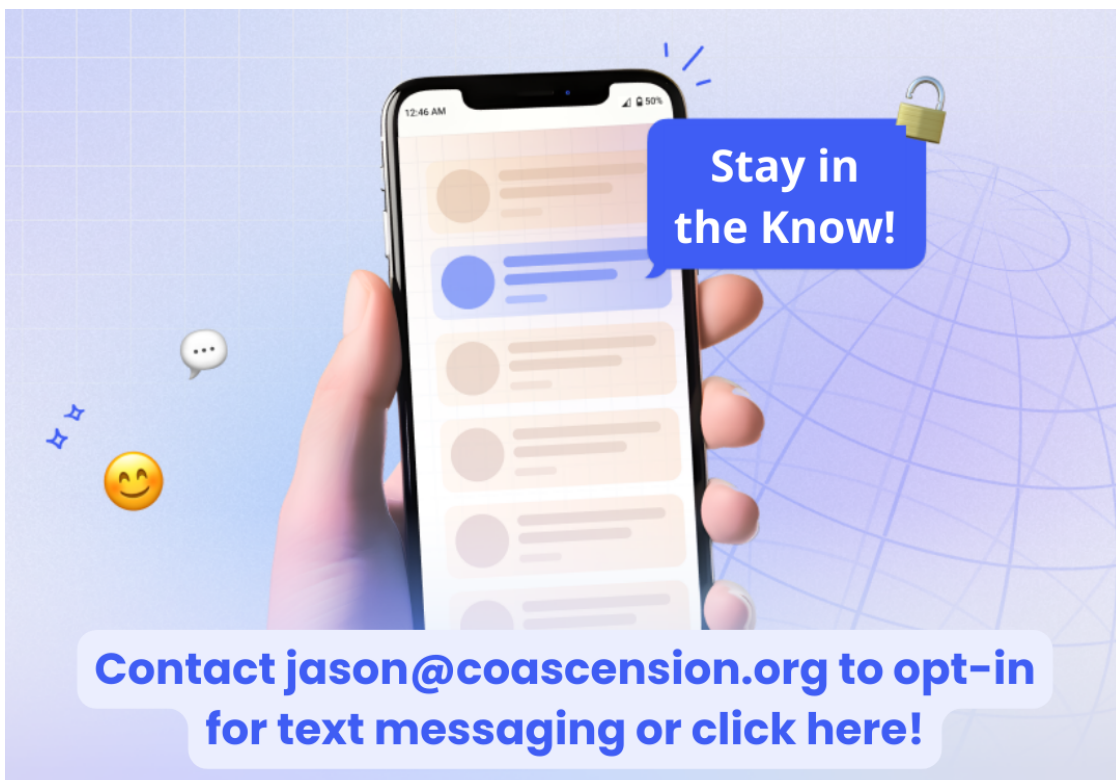
July 15 – Shannon Mathai - St John's Episcopal Church

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.

Get Signed Up Today!



GROW

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

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.

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