



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



Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Becky's Last Sunday Concert – Sunday, Aug 9 @ 10:00 AM
- Ascensionaires MMFA Tour – Wednesday, Aug 5 @ 10:00 AM
- Men's Prayer Breakfast – Thursday, Aug 6 @ 7:00 AM
- Beans & Rice Distribution – Saturday, Aug 8 @ 8:30 AM

From the Rector...

"Fishes and loaves" is one of my favorite expressions. It reminds me to stay focused on abundance and to release my worries that there might not be enough. And it works. As a youth minister, there were occasions when I thought we might not have enough food for everyone, yet, amazingly, there was plenty—"fishes and loaves." As a priest, I have found myself worrying about stewardship or monthly giving, knowing how much we had and how much we needed to make payroll and pay the church's bills. Somehow, the money always shows up—"fishes and loaves." Even in my personal life, when I am stressed about not having enough time, money, opportunity, or whatever else, things always seem to work out—"fishes and loaves."



Too often, I allow myself to become rooted in the material world—the one in which fear, scarcity, and anxiety manipulate my choices—instead of being rooted in the divine, where possibility, abundance, and peace inspire my beliefs and decisions. That was the experience of the disciples on the hillside when Jesus fed more than five thousand people with plenty left over. Motivated by fear, they urged Jesus to send the crowds away because there would not be enough to eat. Their assumptions about the world outweighed

the possibility that there just might be enough for everyone. Jesus responds by opening the door to possibility, inviting them to trust that there could be something more.

The narrative of the world today is that there is never enough and that this is as good as it gets. But the truth is that when we are concerned only for ourselves as individuals, there will never be enough. And when we live only for ourselves, the world is as good as it gets. Yet when we discover the strength of our relationships and the value of our communities, we discover there is actually more than enough, and the world keeps getting better. To limit the world of our concern to ourselves and our families is to live in a limited world.

Jesus reveals the abundance of God's kingdom, where grace is found in both receiving and giving. He takes the paltry offering of five loaves and two fish, blesses the food, breaks it, and gives it to the people until everyone has eaten their fill, with twelve baskets of leftovers gathered afterward. These are the actions of the Eucharist that we participate in every Sunday: take, bless, break, and give. How different they are from the actions of the world, which so often become: take, bless, break, and keep.

"Fishes and loaves" is more than a simple saying of trust. It is a reminder of the power of relationships when our concern extends beyond ourselves. It reminds us that all we have received is a gift from God. To receive those gifts and then give them away is one of the truest expressions of our free will and is essential to our life of faith. It is to be rooted in the divine, trusting not in scarcity, but in possibility, abundance, and peace.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

GROW

Men's Prayer Breakfast Returns 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.

Women's Bible Study Will Return August 20th!

In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

SERVE

Our youth had another successful and productive mission trip to Hinton, NC! Thank you to everyone who helped make the trip possible!



CHANGE OF CLAWS!

OUR LOBSTER FEST IS
MOVING!



NEW DATE:
OCTOBER 8!

- COOLER WEATHER.
- FRESH MAINE LOBSTER.
- SAME **GREAT** TRADITION!

RIVER REGION LOBSTERFEST

GOOD FOOD. GOOD TIMES. GOOD COMPANY.

WE'LL SEA YOU THERE!



HOSTED BY
**CHURCH OF
THE ASCENSION**

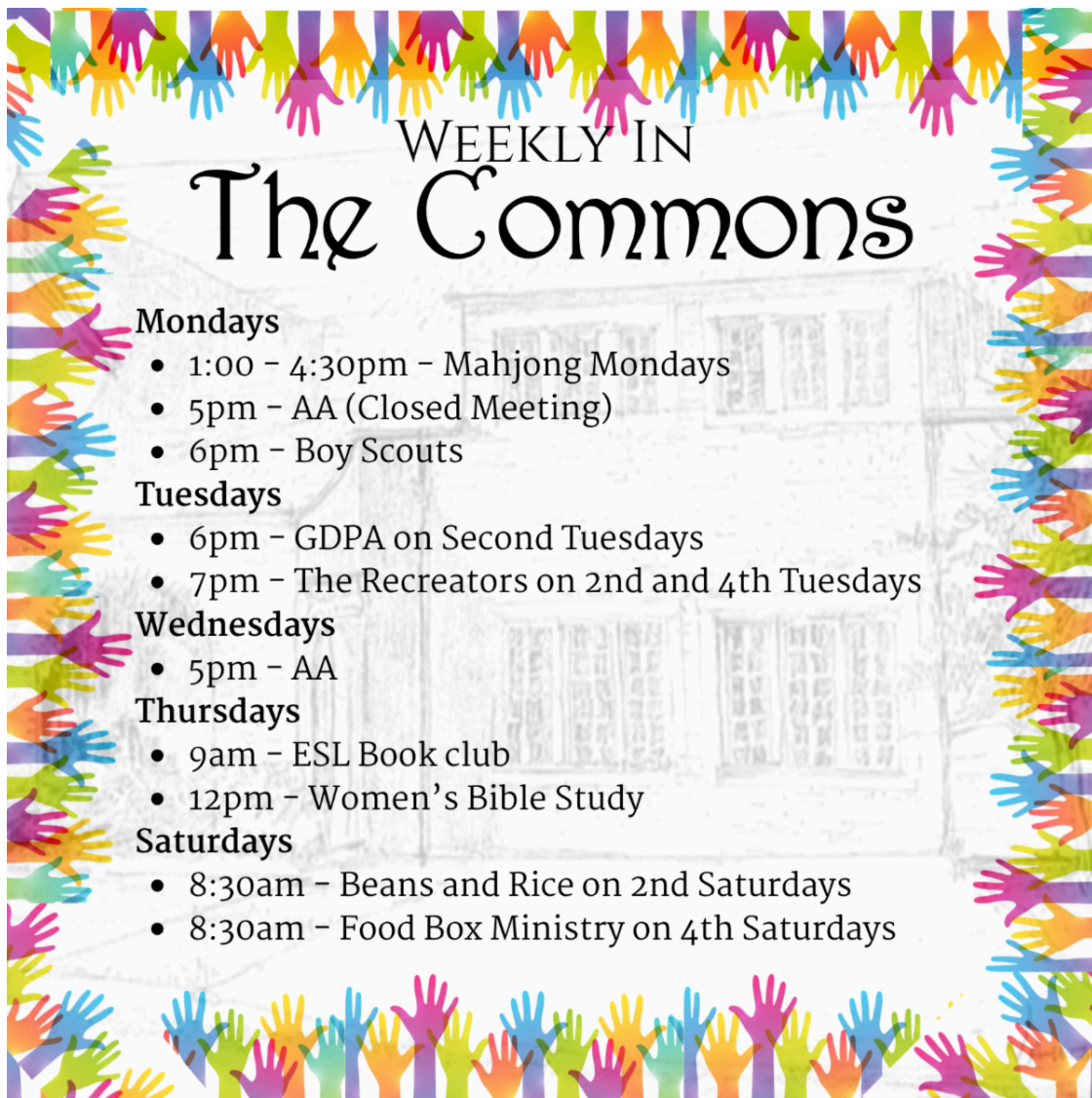


BENEFITING
**ASCENSION
DAY SCHOOL**



THE
**RESPITE
MINISTRY**

ORDER TICKETS & LEARN MORE: RIVERREGIONLOBSTERFEST.ORG

A decorative border at the top and bottom of the page, consisting of a row of colorful hands in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink) reaching upwards.

WEEKLY IN The Commons

Mondays

- 1:00 - 4:30pm - Mahjong Mondays
- 5pm - AA (Closed Meeting)
- 6pm - Boy Scouts

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

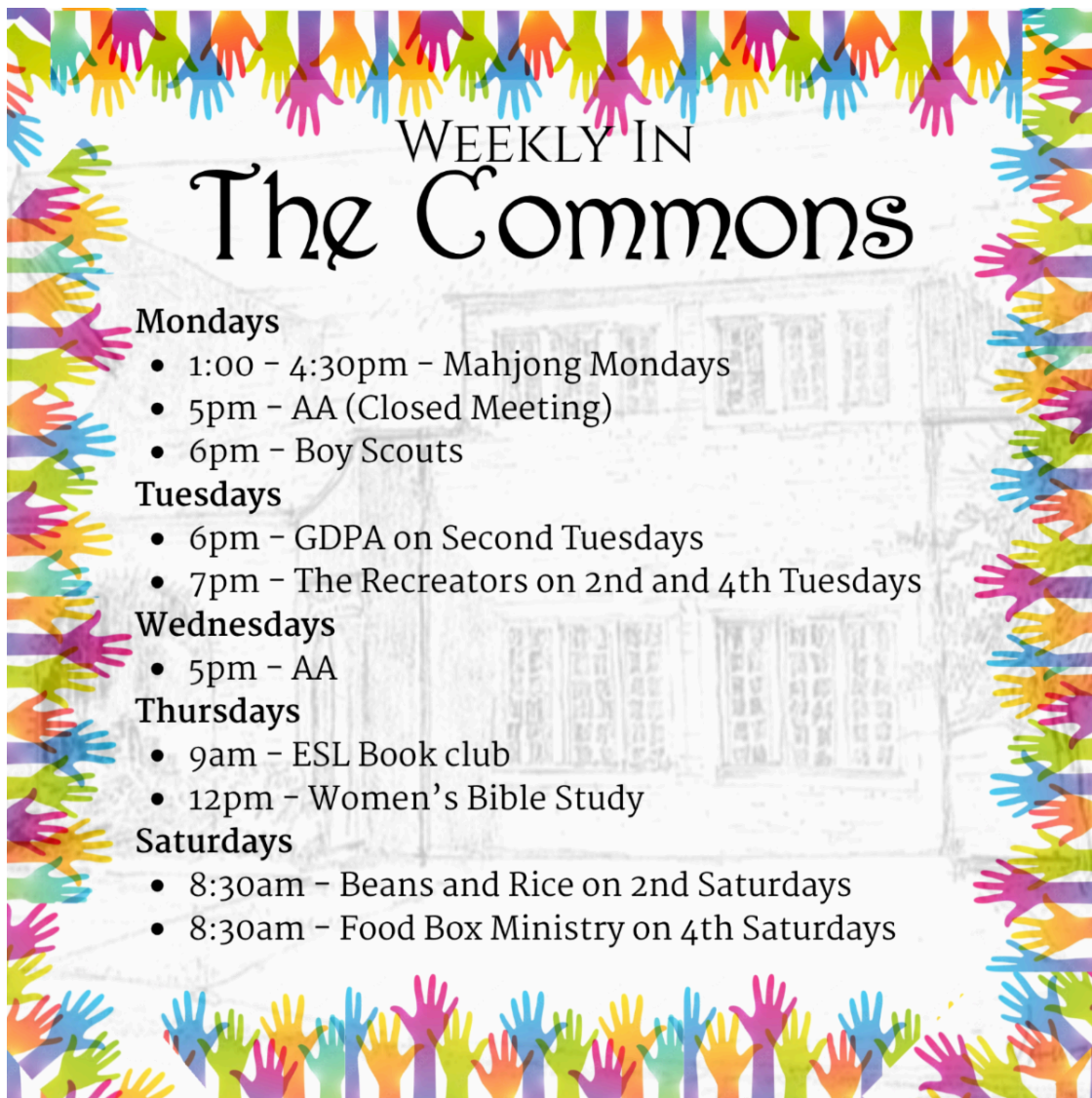
- 5pm - AA

Thursdays

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

Saturdays

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

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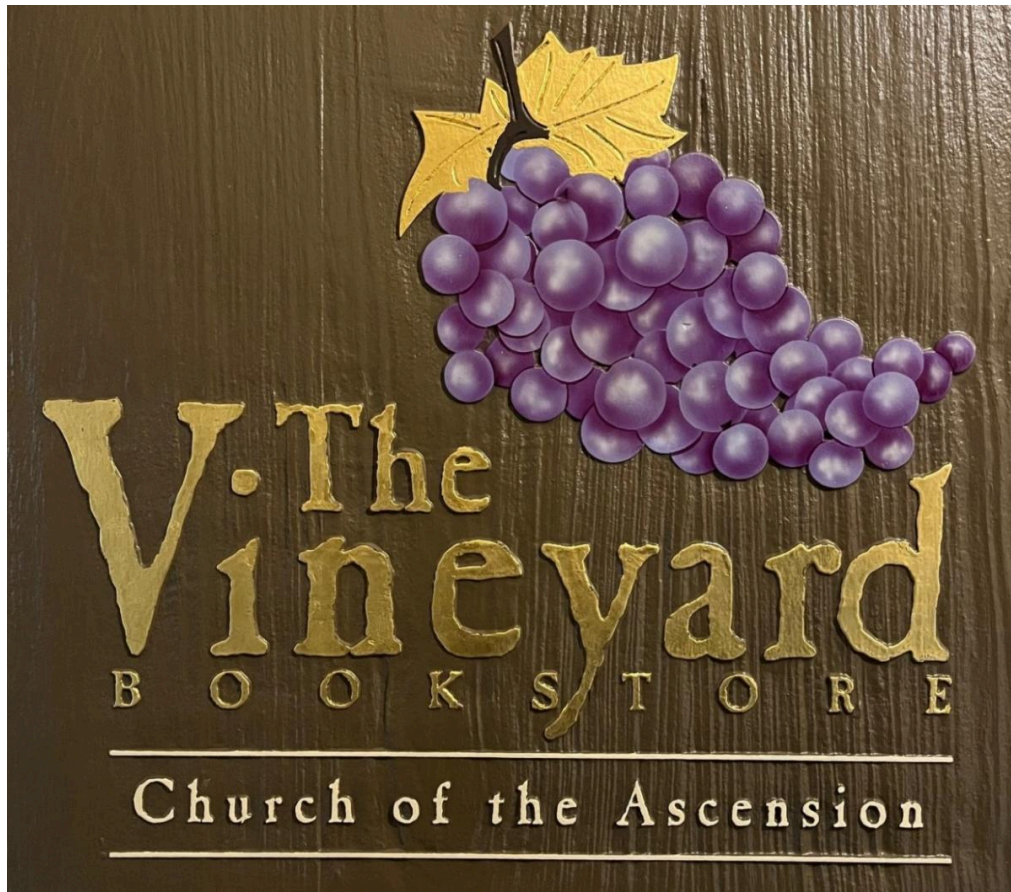
Financial Obligations Don't Take Vacations

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

This Sunday!

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!



Ministry leaders reach out to [Fay](#) in order to reserve your table at the Ministry Fair by Thursday, September 10th!

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**



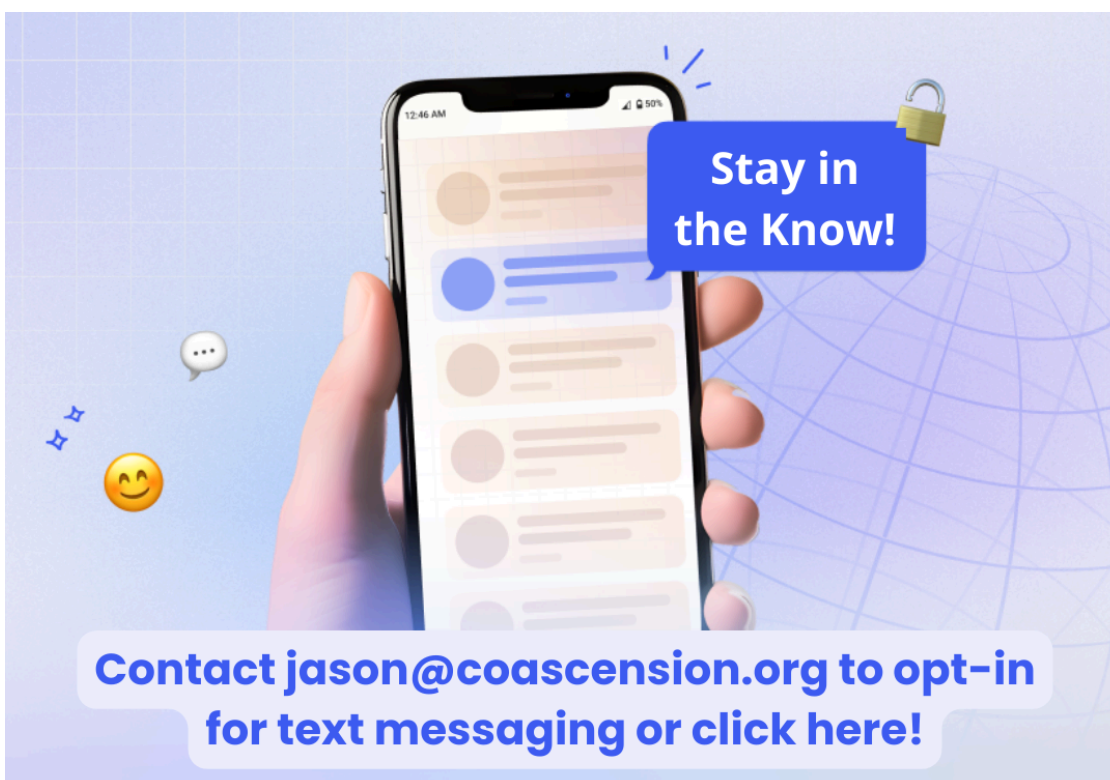
Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage



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!



Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector candice@coascension.org

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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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