



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



Ascension

Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Stewardship Canvasser Meeting – Wed, Sep 2 @ 5:30 PM
- Men's Prayer Breakfast – Thursday, Sep 3 @ 7:00 AM
- Women's Bible Study – Thursday, Sep 3 @ 12:00 PM
- Labor Day – Office Closed – Monday, Sep 7

From the Rector...

The newest Frazer fur baby, Charlie, is learning how to walk on a leash. When we got him, he already knew sit, stay, and down. He had obviously been on a leash, but I'm not sure he had ever been on "walks"—at least not neighborhood walks for exercise.

At first, Steve would take him separately from the rest of us. I would leash up the other three and go one way while Steve took Charlie in the other direction. That worked until it didn't. One day, Charlie broke out of the back door before Steve could get him leashed. In his excitement, he ran into the street to greet a neighbor who happened to be walking by. Then he saw me and the other dogs and took off down the road to join us. I was able to put Cutty's lead on him and get us all safely home, but Steve and I decided it was time for all of us to walk together.

Walking all four dogs at the same time turned out to be more challenging than we anticipated. I continued to walk Cutty and the Tweedles while Steve walked the Kraken. Cutty is a great walking buddy, but Petunia and Archie bring a lot of drama. They are easily distracted by birds, squirrels, cats, other dogs, patches of grass—you name it. They love to walk and are high energy. What we didn't take into account was how much Charlie



would feed off their energy. Where he did pretty well with Steve on solo walks, he was now like a golden seismograph—detecting the other dogs' excitement and magnifying it by about 400%.

On our walks, Charlie acted like a toddler who had missed his nap and been given a Red Bull. He was akin to the guy who gets ejected from a Waffle House at 2 a.m. He was still sweet, but in all his excitement, he resembled more an emotional support tornado than a Golden Retriever. We knew we needed to get more serious about his leash training, so I started walking him before taking the other dogs out.

There are several methods for leash training, but I like keeping the lead directly under his chin and changing directions whenever he starts to pull. That first day, we didn't get far. We made it around the corner, but not down the street. We stopped, started, and changed directions so often that I got confused about which way the house was. Though we hadn't even gone around the block, by the time we got home we had walked more than a mile—much of it over the same ten feet of terrain. The second day was a little better, though not by much. But now, a couple of weeks into it, Charlie seems to be getting the hang of it. This morning, we only had to change course twice and covered a lot more ground in one mile than we had before.

Discipline is hard. I know Charlie is doing the best he can, and he is a quick learner for the most part. But my patience gets worn thin, and my arm starts to hurt from correcting him and the tension he puts on the lead. Some days I think I should just let him walk like a Kraken running amuck through the neighborhood. But I want him to be able to walk with our pack. That will take time and discipline. Though the training is hard, I know the payoff will be great. My other dogs are proof of that.

Christian discipleship is a lot like learning to walk on a lead. It requires discipline, patience, and practice. It takes time and space in our lives, and we rarely see immediate results. But slowly, almost imperceptibly, we begin to learn a different way of walking. We become less reactive, more attentive, and more able to follow where God is leading us. The payoff is a life marked by greater joy, hope, and love—a life that is fuller because we have learned to walk with God and with one another.

Charlie brings plenty of that joy, hope, and love into our lives too, even in the midst of all the training and frustration.

Light and Life,
Candice+

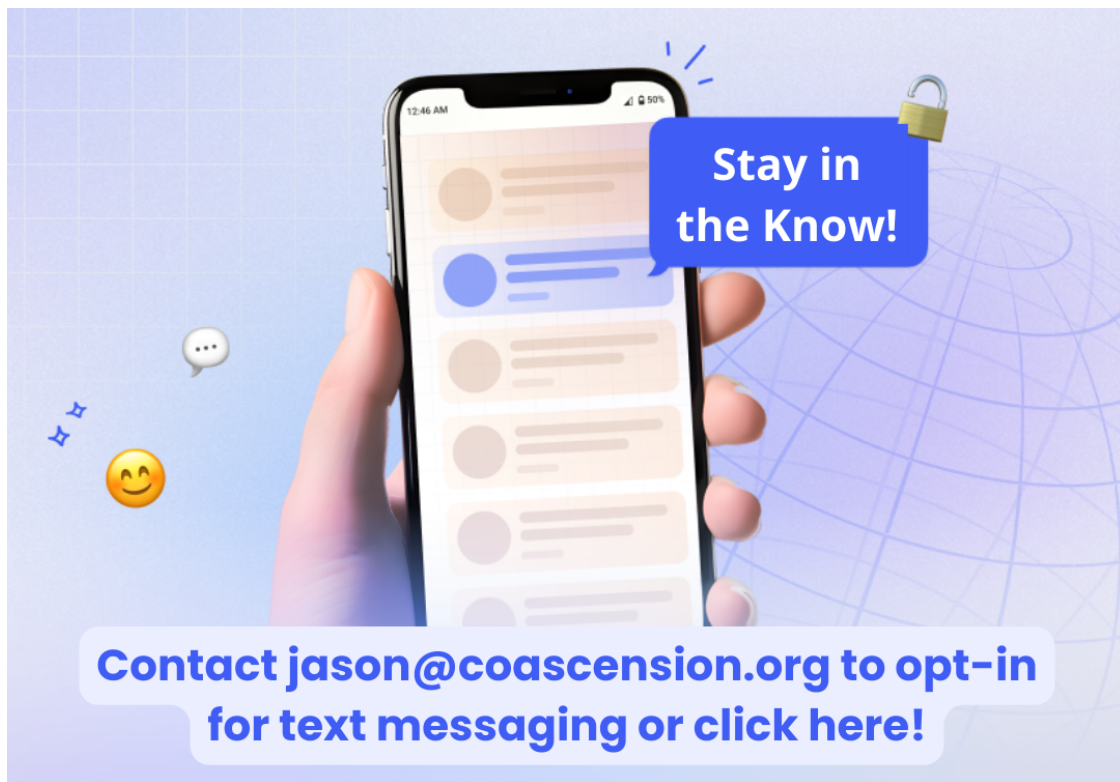
candice@coascension.org



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

All ministries that will be hosting a table at the Good Vibrations ministry fair are asked to come by the church office and pick up a coconut to decorate and display on your table that day. There will be judges and prizes for the best decorated coconuts and we will display them around the church this fall!

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

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



Our Fall Formations brochure is coming soon! Be on the lookout!

SERVE

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

Contact Monique Walker if you would like to volunteer!

Get on Board!

Giving blood saves lives.



Church of the Ascension Blood Drive

Sunday, September 13th

In the bloodmobile

315 Clanton Avenue, Montgomery

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.



LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers

Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.

Bring Youth a Meal!



EYC season is almost upon us and one of the great services of the church is feeding our youth on Sunday evenings when we get together. Youth parents help provide meals but we also would love help from members of the parish who may not have a teenager at home anymore but can still sympathize with the plight of a hungry group of young people. If you would be willing to provide supper on a Sunday night please click the link [HERE](#) and go to our sign-up page to select your Sunday.

New Beginnings!



Ascension-New Beginnings is looking for tutor-mentors for the upcoming school year. Ascension volunteers meet with students at the church on Wednesdays for a group meal, conversation/play, and about an hour of one-on-one school-related work, which can be provided by the program. We ask that each mentor commit to being present for most Wednesday evenings during the school year, except for holidays; some serve one year and others develop longer relationships. If you are interested in having a meaningful impact in this way on the life of a child, please call or text Mildred Wakefield ([334-201-4854](tel:334-201-4854)) or send an [EMAIL](#). We will start the 2026-2027 school year with an orientation meeting for volunteers—tentatively scheduled for Wednesday September 2— before we begin meeting with the children, probably beginning September 9.

Flower Vases Needed!



The Altar Guild is requesting medium and large flower vases! If you have vases you would like to donate please bring them and leave them in the Flower Room!

A decorative border at the top and sides of the page, featuring a repeating pattern of colorful hands in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) reaching upwards. The background of the page is a light gray with a faint, stylized illustration of a building with many windows.

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

- 12pm - Women's Bible Study

Saturdays

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



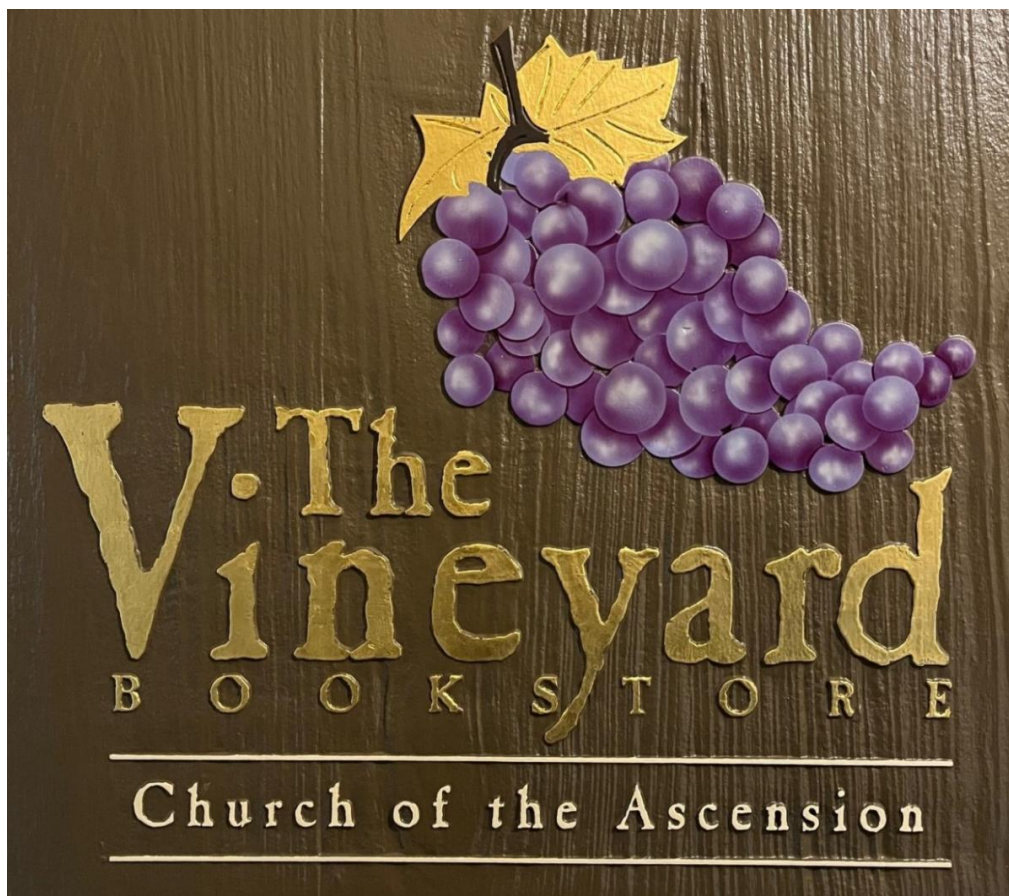
Financial Obligations Don't Take Vacations

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 20



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



There will be a covered dish lunch immediately following 10:30 service. Please see below for details on what to bring:

Last Name A-M: Side Dish

Last Name N-Z: Dessert

You can drop your dish off in the kitchen prior to service. The church will provide fried chicken and beverages!

New Director of Music Ministries!



We are delighted to announce Joel Gregory as our new Director of Music Ministries. Joel's first Sunday will be October 18. Sing a song of gladness!

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

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

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