

THE TOWER



ADS is the Best!

About three months into the pandemic, when we had started meeting on the front lawn for Sunday morning worship and the school had reopened with lots of precautions, I began to hear a strange sound in my office every afternoon. It was a quiet, musical sound that was peaceful and a little ethereal. I couldn't find the source of the music and thought maybe I was hearing things. The church had grown very quiet in those early months with no volunteers or other folks entering the buildings so I wondered if I might be imagining the sound and if the pandemic was starting to "get to me."

The noise continued and after a couple of days, I asked Tracy to come in my office and see if she could hear anything. She didn't come too far in—social distancing and all—and she couldn't hear anything. The next day I asked Will to come listen; he couldn't hear anything either. I assumed I was just imagining things and thought about counseling but chalked it up to how much I missed the hubbub of people who would often come to see us and now were sheltering at home.

It was months before I realized that the noise was coming from the Pre-K 5 classroom right below my office. Every afternoon they would play quiet, restful music during nap time. I admit I was relieved to realize that I wasn't hearing things, and this was not all in my head. I also realized how much I had missed the children in those first three months of pandemic. It had been quiet—too quiet—and now that they were back, I loved hearing their little voices on the playground, their crying in the hallways, and the tinkling of their music at nap time.

ADS is a big part of the life and vitality of Ascension. The children who attend pre-school and day care here are given a loving environment in which to grow. The school focuses on the physical, spiritual, mental, and intellectual development of every child. With the advent of Murrey Zimmerman's tenure, the children will now also be screened twice a year and have access to greater resources to promote positive childhood development.

Continued on Page 2

Inside This Issue

GIVING & DONORS.....	2
CLERGY & STAFF.....	2
ADS HIRING.....	2
MUSIC NOTES.....	3
CHILDREN'S CHOIR.....	3
ASCENSION DAY SCHOOL.....	4-5
EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY....	6
CHILDREN'S NEWS.....	7
VESTRY.....	7
CONTACT.....	8

Church of the Ascension Podcast



Subscribe & Listen TODAY!!

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Candice Frazer
Rector

The Rev. Drew Brislin
Associate Rector

Rebecca Taylor
Organist/Choirmaster

Tracy Hinton-Adams
Parish Administrator

Will McQueen
Facilities Manager

Jason Pate
Director of Communications

Audrey Mercer
Family & Faith Formations Minister

Fay WorriLOW
Administrative Assistant

Octavio Gomez-Jimenez
Sexton

Ryan Hall
Sexton

Those resources include educating and helping parents to stimulate their children's growth and development as well.

Chapel is another aspect of the life of the school. Every Thursday, the older children meet in the Nave with either Drew+ or Candice+ or Audrey to learn about Jesus and talk about what it means to be a beloved child of God. They even get to sing silly songs and laugh in church.

Children of church members have the advantage of always being put at the top of the waiting list. And often, those who don't have a church home find themselves drawn to Ascension after their children have left because they have fond memories and a good experience with the school and by extension, the church. The church grows the school, and the school grows the church in a beautiful dance of interconnectedness.

Throughout the year, the church has opportunities to support and build relationship with the school.

One of those opportunities is Lobsterfest. Half of the proceeds from Lobsterfest go to the school and help them to pay for resource teachers to instruct music and art. Later this fall, they will hold their annual gift basket raffle and we will be invited to take a chance to win a gift basket. On Fat Tuesday, the school hosts our Pancake Supper and Art Show, and Ascension Hall is filled with church members and school families.

Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me." We do just that with our little school.

Thank you for all the ways you support Ascension Day School. Be on the look-out or contact the church or the school for more ways in which you might get involved with ADS including as a substitute teacher, reading stories during library time, preparing teacher appreciation swag, and other opportunities coming this fall.

Light and Life,
Candice+

LOVED INTO BEING

Giving

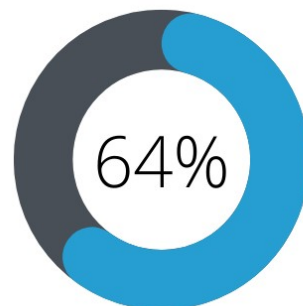
2022 Stewardship Update

Pledged amount for 2022

\$1,044,138

2022 Pledges Collected To-Date

\$672,347



August Donors

Music Donations
Pat & Jim Franklin
Melanie & Daniel Morris Jr.
Kelly & Jason Pate

Drew's Discretionary Fund
Kelly & Jason Pate

In Memory of Glenn Cain
Jan & Paul Davis



Now Hiring

Teacher Aid, Ages 0-5

If interested, email ads@coascension.org

or Text/Call (334) 557-9688

Music Notes

Sing to the Lord a New Song

Singing Spirituals!

In choral music, one of the genres that is loved by both singers and audiences/congregations is the Spiritual. Think "There is a balm in Gilead", "Poor man Laz'rus", or "Go tell it on the mountain". Spirituals have a rich musical, historical, and theological history, but in this note, I want to talk about why singing them is good for us, for our own theologies, and for our corporate spirituality. Our lectionary series this year is full of opportunities to sing these musical treasures.

There are several musical elements that make spirituals accessible to diverse groups of people: strong rhythms, beautiful elemental melodies and harmonies, and deep emotional expression. For today, for these times, spirituals offer us a common language of longing for reconciliation, salvation, peace, guidance, and harmony in the face of great divisions and diversity of opinion.

When we sing spirituals, we touch the deepest parts of ourselves. At our true selves, when Jesus asks "Do you want to be well?" we answer with an unreserved "Yes, Lord." We want to be reconciled with each other. We long to be the Body of Christ in the world. When we listen to and sing spirituals, we call on the experience of a people whose faith has endured through years of tribulation, trial and persecution, and it has endured with love, patience and determination for a better world for all people, depending on the Love of God.

I am so thankful that we share this beautiful branch of the Body.

With love and appreciation,

Becky Taylor
beckytaylor@coascension.org
334-414-1514



Music Contributions

Thank you to all who support the Music Ministry at the Ascension, by your prayers, presence and gifts. Especially for gifts from the following:

Special thank you to these regular contributors to the Music Discretionary Fund, which was established to provide special resources for the Music Ministries of Ascension. Memorial and Appreciation contributions are welcome and anthems may be purchased with donations.

Sustainers 2022

Karen and Marvin Campbell
Emily Caruso
Paul & Jan Davis
Pat and Jim Franklin
The Hobbs Foundation
Patty and Carlton King
Melanie & Dan Morris
Emilie and Bruce Reid
Diane and Dent Williams



Children's Choir
For children ages 4-12
• **Begins Wednesday, September 14th**
Dinner offered at 5:15; Choir 6-6:45
We will have activities for parents while the children sing
Please Join Us!!!

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing songs, hymns and spiritual songs to God.

COLOSSIANS 3:16



Our mission at Ascension Day School is to provide a safe, loving, learning environment in which all children are encouraged to grow academically, socially, and spiritually.

Ascension Day School offers excellent educational programs and opportunities for development to children ages 10 weeks through K5. We strive to provide a nurturing Christian environment that gives our children the finest preparation for life and further education by fostering self confidence, an enthusiasm for creativity and learning and a clear sense that they are children of a living, loving God.



Staff



Murrey Zimmerman
Director



Jennifer Watson
Assistant Director



Bernadette Williams
Office Assistant

Classroom Teachers



Cricket



Ladybug



Centipede



Caterpillar



Firefly



Miss Felicia



Miss Beverly



Miss Leigh



Miss Keylani



Miss Shan



Miss Lexie



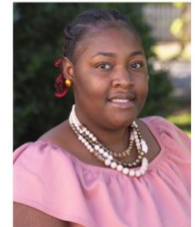
Miss Queshia



Miss Nessa



Miss Nina



Miss Jasmine



Miss Margaret



Miss Veronica



Bumblebee



Butterfly



Grasshopper



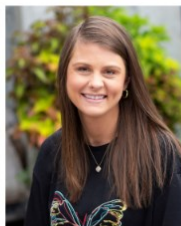
Dragonfly



Teachers Aids



Miss Beth



Miss Courtney



Miss Jordan



Miss Leigh



Miss Savannah



Miss Tamara



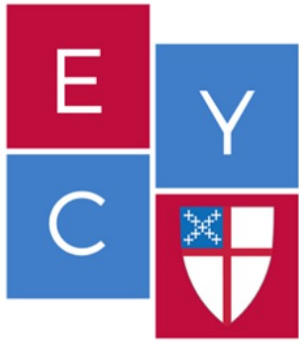
Miss Sally



Miss Shai



Miss Stephanie



What's Happening in EYC?

EYC is a wonderful opportunity for youth aged 6th-12th grade to become plugged into church life and the Diocese. EYC gives the youth the opportunity to grow in God's love and fellowship with one another. EYC is where youth can meet lifelong friends and create lasting memories. This youth group is a special place where everyone is welcomed and there is no judgement harbored to anyone. Youth are free to be themselves and invited to grow in God's grace.

September is a very exciting month for EYC! It is the start of a new year and the youth are excited to see their friends once again while also getting to know the new faces at youth group! **September 11th** is Ascension's "Kickoff Sunday" and it is also EYC's first Sunday back! Kickoff Sunday will be filled with fellowship and fun. The youth will be able to get to know one another better while also having the time of their lives playing on bouncy houses and waterslides! We look forward to seeing everyone at Kickoff Sunday!



Monthly Schedule

1st Sunday of the Month: Youth are invited to a Formation Class tailored to their generation. This will be a time where the youth can grow closer to the Lord while also being taught in a fun and captivating way!

2nd Sunday of the Month aka "Fundays": Youth are invited to the church to take part in fun games such as GROG, which is a form of flashlight tag. This gives the youth the opportunity to grow together in a relaxing and fun filled environment!

3rd Sunday of the Month: Youth can participate in "Pass the Plate!" where they can experience different cuisines from around the world such as American, Asian, Italian, Indian, etc.! The youth will meet at different restaurants each month to be able to experience different food and culture!

Last Sunday of the Month: Youth will have the opportunity to participate in various outreach ministries. Some include working in a soup kitchen or volunteering at an animal shelter. Youth participation in outreach is extremely important. This gives them the opportunity to grow in God's love and grace while helping the less fortunate. Youth participating in outreach will help them better understand the world while also teaching them values that will stick with them for the rest of their lives.

Sunday School & Children's Ministries

September is an exciting time for the children's ministries at Ascension! Old and new faces get to grow in God's love together again. September 11th is Kickoff Sunday for Ascension! After the festivities, the children will be able to meet in their classrooms to have their own personal kickoff party with cookie decorating! There the children will get to meet their teachers and make new friends!



Godly Play is the Sunday School program for **K3-K5 children**. There the children will have the opportunity to grow in faith through fun hands-on activities that are tailored to them. Throughout the year, children will learn about Noah's Ark, Moses, the season of Advent, Easter, and why the church prays! Godly Play is an excellent way for your children to grow in faith.

ELEMENTary is the Sunday School program for **1st-5th grade** students! ELEMENTary's curriculum takes a deeper dive into understanding the events and people from the Bible. While still having the element of fun, children will be able to have a better understanding of the Bible and God. The year will start off with learning about the judges and kings within the Bible. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to continue in their walk of faith with the Lord!

*Loving God, your Son told his disciples to become like little children.
Lead us to work for the welfare and protection of all young people.
May we respect their dignity that they may flourish in life, following
the example of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Vestry

2022

Elizabeth Conner

Frank Johnson,
Senior Warden

Gil Steindorff

Peter Waldo

2023

Ellen Brooks,
Junior Warden

Tim Marquardt

Liza Simpler

Mary Lee Yelverton

2024

Scott Bamman

Virginia Humphrey

Philip Sellers

John Wilson

Robert Gould,
Treasurer

Matt Bledsoe,
Clerk of the Vestry



Church of The Ascension

315 Clanton Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104

(334)-263-5529

www.coascension.org

 @Ascensionmontgomery

BULK MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Church of The Ascension

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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 18
Montgomery, Ala

Southern District Episcopal Churches

Starting April 1



Zoo

Blessing of the Animals

Save the Date!
Sunday Oct. 2, 2022 from 1:00 - 4:00
at the Montgomery Zoo