



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

From the Rector...

We like order. It helps us to know what to expect and what is expected of us. It offers a sense of security and comfort. We don't like disorder—that feels chaotic. As Creator, God is also an organizer. He takes the chaos and orders it in a particular way to invite structure and security into the world he creates. The trouble is that his order is not static. Part of creation's structure is disorder followed by a reordering of the world. History tells this story again and again. Science affirms this process. We experience it. God never meant for creation to be static. Instead through the process of order, disorder, and reorder we are invited into growth and opportunity—into the new thing God is always doing in the world.



Order – Disorder – Reorder is an ancient expression of how to understand God. It comes fully into realization in the words we profess in the Eucharistic Prayer each Sunday, “Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.” We understand the order of life as birth and death. The language “Christ has died” highlights what we understand about the order of life. To say “Christ has risen” is to give voice to the disordered world that is suddenly turned on its head. The order of life is not death then birth, yet Christ does just that—he disorders what we understand about life and death. Finally, Christ reorders our thinking and experience by telling us that he “will come again”. Now we know the new ordering, or the reordering, of life. We are to live into his coming not into death. We are not preparing for death in this life, we are preparing for eternal life with Christ.

There are many examples of this “order – disorder - reorder” structure in scripture and our

prayer book. Their purpose invites us into a deep theological truth about God—God is always creating. God created in the beginning and God continues to create and calls us into partnership with him as co-creators. When we get stuck in a static place and resistant to those things which are different or new, we fall out of relationship with God. We discover life becomes dis-eased and it is difficult to know that peace beyond all understanding that God promises us much less to participate in whatever “new” thing God is doing.

None of us likes disorder, but the more resistant we are to the disordering, the less accepting we are of the reordering. There are a lot of things I dislike about the current order of things, but living into disorder can feel scary and overwhelming at times. Knowing that the disorder is a requirement for reordering offers some hope and peace that though things will be different that doesn't mean they will be worse or better—they will simply be different, and we will learn to navigate this new aspect of life. This is the way that growth happens. It is the way that the creative processes of God play out through us and all of creation.

This order – disorder – reorder structure affects us as individuals as well as in the community. We experience periods of disorder throughout our life. We can look back at those moments in life that we might call turning points—times when we shifted our approach to the world. There are the big moments like graduation, moving, marriage, birth, retirement, death and there are all the small moments that have powerful impact and determine how we want to live in the world.

Right now, I think we are living in a period of disorder. The amount of technology and information we are exposed to has reshaped our world. We have allowed ourselves to devolve into anxiety, despair, and darkness. Instead of seeking a life of appreciation and gratitude, we complain that our expectations are not met and do little to transform unjust structures or even work toward solutions in our neighborhoods and communities. I don't think it is because we don't want to help. I think we have been so focused on the disorder of the world, we haven't been intentional in seeing the possibilities for the reordering of the world, clinging only to the nostalgic sense of order that looks to the past instead of to our future.

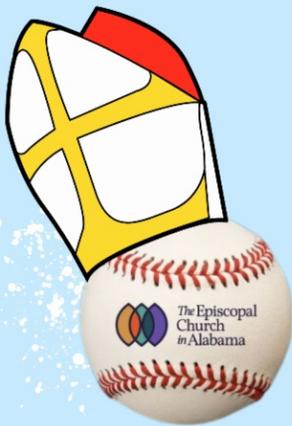
Trust in God's creative and ever unfolding purposes. Look for the order – disorder – reordering of life not only personally but in the world around you. It will only serve to increase your hope and discover your peace.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

CONNECT



Baseball With the Bishop

Sunday August 25th is **Episcopal Day @ the Park** at the Montgomery Biscuits. Bishop G will be here to throw out the first pitch and watch the game with Episcopalians from the River Region. Tickets are \$15 for all ages and include a buffet meal from 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Boxcar picnic area. Game time is 3:30 p.m. that day. You can reserve your tickets online through the diocese website by scanning the QR code above.

This Wednesday!



Swell R. Pos. Pedal

Add beauty and music to your week!

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU TO

BACH'S LUNCH

SUMMER ORGAN
CONCERTS

WEDNESDAYS
JUNE 12, 19, 26
JULY 10, 17, 24
12:05-12:30 PM

Order a box lunch for \$10 or bring your own. Scan here to see this week's music selections and lunch option:



Please order your lunch by Monday at noon.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17:8



Stewardship Update 2024

If you haven't turned in your pledge card it is not too late. You can drop in in the basket during service or bring it by the church office, For more information on pledging click [HERE](#).

Financial Gifts Offered This Week	Financial Gifts Offered This Month	Financial Gift Target Monthly
\$12,500	\$41,162	\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2024 - \$1,025,396
Total Remaining Amount for 2024 - \$461,515



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Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

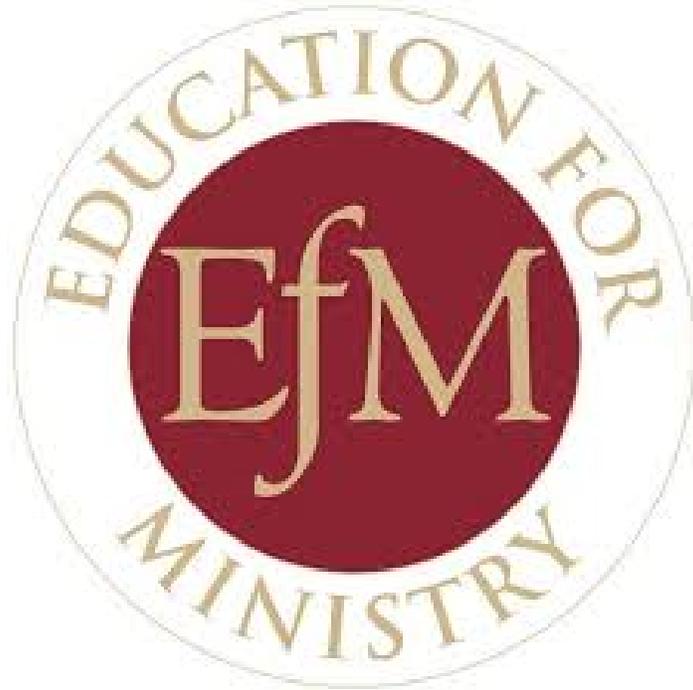
2024 Cursillo Dates

September 12-15 (Drew+ on staff)

October 17-20 (Will & Amy McQueen, and Richard Norris on staff)

If you would like to attend, please contact Steve Frazer or Sharon Massey for more information.

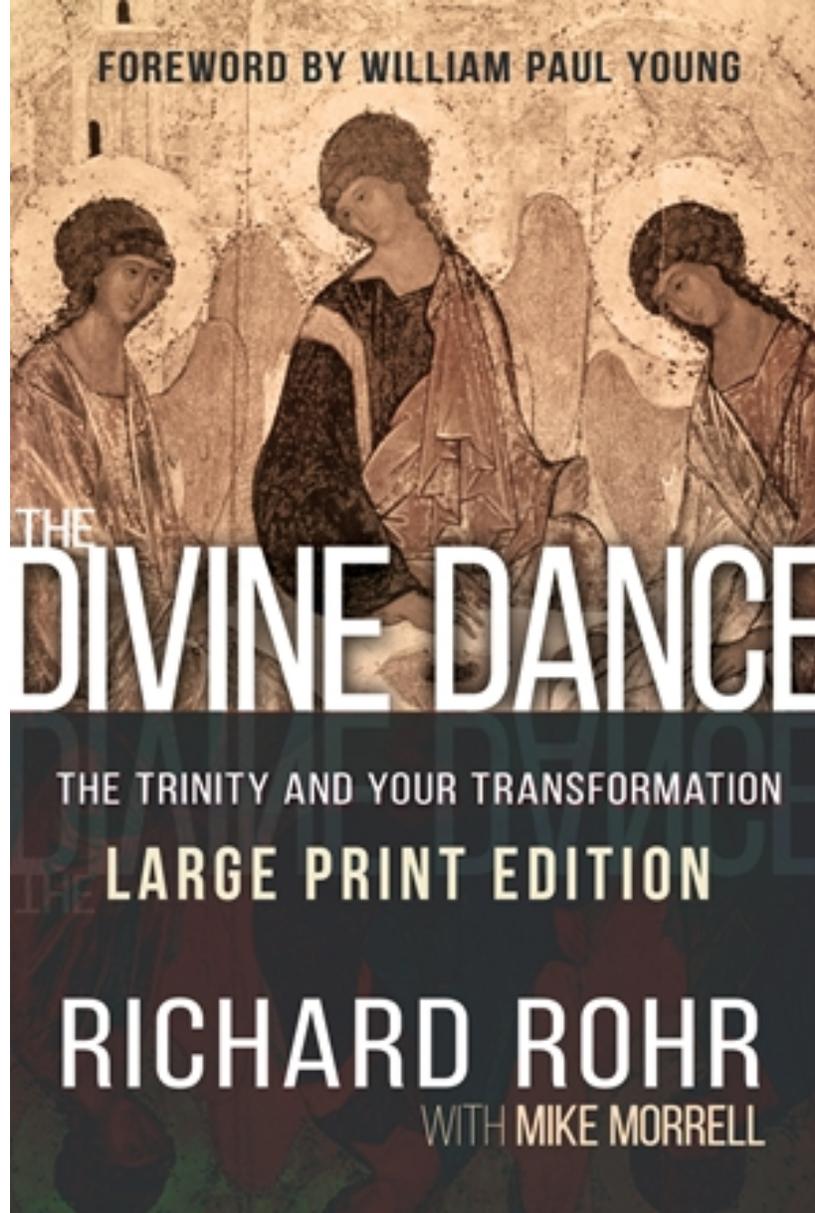
GROW



Now Enrolling For Fall

EfM is a four year study of scriptures, Christian history, ethics, and theology. Students commit to one year at a time. To find out more or enroll for this fall, contact Andy Akin.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast
7:00 AM on Thursdays**



Dive into a study about the Holy Trinity using the book *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell. The authors seek to open up for us the mystery of the Holy Trinity by revealing a God that is in community.

SERVE

Lobster Fest!



Click [HERE](#) for Tickets - Deadline Aug 12th!

All proceeds go towards Respite Ministry &
Ascension Day School!

IN-GATHERING BENEFITTING



In July and August we invite parishioners to select items from the ADS Amazon wish list to bless our school and students this school year!



For further information, you can contact [Christina Clark Okarmus](#) or [Brandie Johnson](#)

In the months of July and August, the In-Gathering Committee invites parishioners to select and purchase items from the [Ascension Day School Amazon list](#). The mission of ADS is to provide a safe, loving learning environment in which all children are encouraged to grow academically, socially, and spiritually. Help us to love our school by meeting their material needs for this school year!

**LOVE IN
MOTION**

From Compassion to Action, Volunteering is just Love in Motion.....

Be on the lookout for ways you can serve both here at Ascension and in our community! More details to come!

Mercy House Volunteer Sign-up

A new sign up is now available for volunteers to help distribute lunches at Mercy House from August-December. You can view the sign up sheet by clicking [HERE](#). Since August of last year we have been working alongside our friends from St. John's on this outreach project, and two volunteers are needed from 11:00 - 1:00 every Thursday.



The Vineyard Bookstore

Come see what is new at the Vineyard!

You can now Venmo at The Vineyard! Just search for **@ChurchoftheAscension** and look for our logo. Make sure you tell us it is for The Vineyard and offer a brief description of your purchase. All proceeds at The Vineyard go to outreach initiatives.





WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Schedule

Rite I Service - 8:00 AM - Nave

Summer Breakfast - 8:30 AM - Ascension Hall

Clergy Forum - 9:15 AM - Upper Room

Rite II Service - 10:30 AM - Nave



50th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Eleven
July 29, 2024
Watch the movie on-line



The Philadelphia Eleven were the first women ordained to the priesthood in The Episcopal Church. Monday, July 29 marks the fiftieth anniversary of their ordination. Though female clergy are accepted as a norm in our current time, fifty years ago these women and the bishops who ordained them experienced death threats, defrocking, and other retribution for their desire to follow God's call in service of him and his people. Learn more about The Philadelphia Eleven and watch the movie [HERE](#).

Altar Guild - Vases Needed!



The Altar Guild is running low on flower vases. We use them to take Altar flowers to our members on the prayer list. If you have any you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Clanton Street entrance. There will be a box by the door marked Altar Guild. Medium sized vases are preferred, similar to the size in the pictures above. Thank you!

Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage!

Saturday, August 10th

Hayneville Courthouse Square – 11am



Jonathan Daniels was an Episcopal seminarian who was active in the Civil Rights Movement to register black voters in Central Alabama. He was shot and died after being arrested and released from prison for his work of activism. Each year, on the Saturday closest to his feast day, people from across the diocese and the country gather to remember his act of sacrificial love. It will be hot—dress casual and cool.



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
The Rev. Drew Brislin, Associate Rector drew@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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