

# weekly announcements

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Making Christ Known by our Love for All



Third Sunday of Advent | December 14, 2025

## Advent Wellness Group | TODAY & 21

This Advent, explore “Practicing Generosity with all your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind” through Living Compass. Pick up a devotional booklet for personal use, and/or join a small group on Sundays at 4:30–5:30 p.m. for discussion and reflection. We will meet in the McDowell Suite. Contact Mary Beth Basu at [marybethbasu@gmail.com](mailto:marybethbasu@gmail.com) for details.

## Advent Lessons and Carols | TONIGHT

Join the Ascension and St. John’s Choirs at 5:00 p.m. for a beautiful service of Advent Lessons and Carols as we prepare for the coming of our Savior. A reception with light refreshments will follow in the Terrill Foyer. Invite your friends and neighbors!

## Ascension Women's My Favorite Things Party | December 16

Back by popular demand! Join us on Tuesday, December 16th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for a My Favorite Things Party. Please bring a new, wrapped version of one of your favorite things that costs between \$20-30. We'll take turns opening items, and everyone will get to take home someone else's favorite thing (think White Elephant, but with gifts you'll be happy to take home). Bring a snack to share, your preferred beverage, and a friend! All are welcome. Questions? Contact Emily Collette at [emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org)

## Soup Social | December 17

Join us for soup and fellowship, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Ware Hall. No cost—just come and enjoy! This month: Chicken & Corn Chowder as well as Christmas treats!. Contact Kathy Lounsbury at [lounsbury.k@icloud.com](mailto:lounsbury.k@icloud.com).

## Ascension Men's Gathering | December 17

Mark your calendars! The Ascension Men's Gathering will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 5:30 PM at Fairway Social (114 13th Street South Birmingham , AL 35233) Come enjoy good conversation, community, and a great mid-week break. Questions? RSVP in Realm or by emailing Martin Hoerner at [mhoerner@gmail.com](mailto:mhoerner@gmail.com).

## Pier 23 Christmas Cookie Swap | December 21

Join us on December 21st from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for a Christmas cookie swap hosted by Callahan Thompson (RSVP to Emily Collette, [emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org) for the address). Bake one to two dozen cookies to share with your friends, and bring home cookies made by other Pier 23 (20s/30s group) members! Dinner will be provided.

## EYC Christmas Party | December 21

Cozy and Crazy Christmas! Join us December 21 from 5:30–7:15 p.m. at Ascension for festive fun, a hot cocoa bar, cookie decorating, games, and a Dirty Santa gift exchange (max \$10). Wear your favorite Christmas PJs, ugly sweater, or holiday socks! *EYC is for those in 6th - 12th grades.*

## Christmas Eve Services | December 24

Join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth. Our Family Service with Eucharist begins at 3 p.m., perfect for worshiping together with children. At 5:30 p.m., enjoy the Music of Christmas, a beautiful prelude of carols and instrumental pieces. Then at 6 p.m., we gather for a Traditional Service with Eucharist, filled with candlelight, scripture, and song. *Nursery available at both services!*

## Parish Retreat | January 3-4

Join your parish family for fellowship, meals, and our Saturday night Three Kings Party potluck! The retreat begins at 11 a.m. Saturday and ends after Sunday worship, with an optional Friday night stay. Lodging: \$140/room per night; meals: \$15/adult or child 5+, \$1 ages 1–4, free for infants. **Register in Realm by Dec. 31.** Contact Rev. Jack Alvey for financial assistance: [jack.alvey@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:jack.alvey@ascensionepiscopal.org).

## **Episcopal Church 101 | Begins January 11 - February 22**

Beginning in January, join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m. to learn about the Episcopal Church and what it means to follow Jesus in our tradition. Required for those seeking confirmation or reception, and open to all who want to learn more. The bishop will visit on March 1 for confirmation. Email [jack.alvey@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:jack.alvey@ascensionepiscopal.org) to enroll or with questions.

## **MLK Day of Service | January 19**

Ascension invites you to participate in a day of community service and engagement on January 19th, MLK Day. We will meet at Ascension at 9:00 a.m. for a quick breakfast and prayer service, then head to various volunteer locations in the Birmingham area until noon. Please register to attend by Monday, January 12th. Contact Emily [emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org) for more information.

## **News & Notes**

### **Bake Sale | Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who prepared homemade soups, casseroles, candy, cookies and other goodies. The Bake Sale netted \$1355.00 for the Ascension Scholarship Fund. Thanks to your donations and purchase of goods, this is 100% profit. Thank you to Grace Thompson, Barbara Hash, Eileen Dawson and Sue Busbin for volunteering during the sale. We appreciate each person who contributed to the success of this project. Jeannie Duke and Mary Marshall Jones

### **Christmas Pageant Costume Crew**

A dedicated group of women are busy sewing new costumes for this year's Christmas Pageant—and they'd love your help! Join us on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon in Ware Hall. There are opportunities to cut, sew, or iron.

### **The Abbey Volunteers**

Help pack lunches Wednesdays or distribute Thursdays in Avondale. Sign up in Sign-Up Central or contact [rossparker@att.net](mailto:rossparker@att.net).

### **First Light Volunteers**

Serve a meal to women and children at First Light Shelter. Sign up in Sign-Up Central or contact [caralynmcdaniel@gmail.com](mailto:caralynmcdaniel@gmail.com).

### **Threads of Love | Fridays**

Bring your knitting, crochet, or needlepoint project and enjoy fellowship Fridays, 1–3 p.m. in the Sunshine Room. Contact Marguerite Handlin at [kinneym@bellsouth.net](mailto:kinneym@bellsouth.net).

*Scan to see announcements on website*



**A/V Guild Volunteers Needed!**

The A/V Guild is looking for a few new recruits to help stream our Sunday services. Members would typically be responsible for one Sunday per month. You don't have to be a computer wiz to figure it out but some computer skills are required. This ministry helps connect people to the gospel who would otherwise not have access to church. Please reach out to Matt Hottle ([matthewshottle@gmail.com](mailto:matthewshottle@gmail.com)) to find out more.

**Breakfast Teams**

Join a Breakfast Team! We're looking for team members (men and women) to help cook breakfast on a rotating basis every 4 weeks before Sunday School. Team leaders are already in place—we just need you! If you're interested or have questions, email Christy at [christy.smith@ascensionepiscopal.org](mailto:christy.smith@ascensionepiscopal.org).