

weekly announcements

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Making Christ Known by our Love for All



First Sunday After Christmas | December 28, 2025

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.

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 to enroll or with questions.

Giving Hope January

This month for our Giving Hope Outreach we are collecting donations to support the food pantry at Grace Episcopal Church in Woodlawn. Most needed items include rice, canned soups and vegetables, cereal, oatmeal, and granola bars. Thank you for your support!

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) for more information.

News & Notes

Parking Lot Construction

Both parking lots are scheduled to be re-striped on Monday, December 22nd. If you plan to come by the church on Monday, know you may need to park at Publix or the City Center. You can also call ahead to see if the work is complete before driving to church. Thanks for your patience.

Holiday Church Office Closures

December 24 - 26, 2025 and January 1, 2026

Faith Formation Update

Faith Formation (Sunday School) for all ages is taking a break until Sunday, January 6th when all regular formation will resume at 9:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation will feature two classes. Episcopal 101 will meet in the Sunshine Room (start time of 9:15 a.m.) and Seven Signs in John's Gospel will meet in Ware Hall at the usual formation time. Breakfast will also resume on January 6th.

What's New in Faith Formation in 2026?

- **Rector's Bible Study – *A Who's Who of the Bible*** - Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Sunshine Room. Begins **January 6**.
- **Adult Faith Formation – *Seven Signs in John's Gospel*** - Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Ware Hall. Begins **January 11**.
- **Women's Bible Study** - Continues on Tuesdays at 12 p.m. in the Sunshine Room. Resumes **January 6**.

The Abbey Volunteers

Help pack lunches Wednesdays or distribute Thursdays in Avondale. Sign up in Sign-Up Central or contact 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.

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.

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) 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.

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