

August
September

Kickoff Edition | August/September 2025

Ascension on the Mountain



Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Glenda S. Curry,
Bishop of Alabama
The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior,
Assisting Bishop
The Rev. John "Jack" T. Alvey, Jr.,
Rector
The Rev. Emily C. Collette,
Associate Rector

Program Staff

Mike Sparks,
Organist & Choir Master
Kathy Lounsbury,
Parish Life Coordinator
Ashley Monachelli
Director of Family Ministries
Sam Herman,
Youth Minister
Rebecca Posey,
AEDS Director

Support Staff

Karyn Watts,
Administrative Assistant
Sarah Stevens,
Communications Director
Paige Reese,
Nursery
Katherine Barrow,
Nursery

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Dear Friends,

One of the fundamental responsibilities of a parish staff is to create space for the congregation and the wider community to experience the grace of God in Christ. Members of the staff have been working hard this summer to prepare that space ahead of the return of the program year. In addition to collaborating with each other and the Vestry, the staff works with various lay leaders who oversee our programs and ministries.

It truly takes a village to do all that we are able to do in the name of Christ, and it is remarkable to see the impact Ascension is able to make in the community and beyond. This is not only a testament to the faithfulness of so many in the congregation but also a witness to a God who can multiply our offerings of time, talent, and treasure - exponentially. With that said, I hope you'll take a minute read about what is coming so that you can further discern how it is God is calling you into Christ's service and fellowship through Ascension.

As most of our children return to school on August 7 or 8, we will have our annual **Backpack Blessing** during the 10:30 service on Sunday, August 10. Teachers will also be invited forward! Following the service, join us in Ware Hall as our various ministry leaders host a **Ministry Fair**. This year our theme is *Sharing the Fruits of Your Spirit*. In addition to learning more about how God is using Ascension to proclaim the good news of Christ in word and deed, there will also be finger foods available. These are free gifts not bribes!

Additionally, the **women's and men's fellowship groups** will get together on a regular schedule.

Rector's Letter

Both groups are committed to meeting at least once a month. The Men's Fireside Chat returns on Tuesday, August 12th at 7:30 p.m. The Women's Group will gather at Monday Night Brewing from 6-8 on Tuesday, August 19th. Generally speaking, the men will meet on 2nd Tuesdays, and the women will meet on 3rd Tuesdays. Also, the men are invited to a monthly prayer breakfast on 4th Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

On Sunday, August 24th from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. the congregation is invited to a special **Sunday School Open House for All Ages**. Join us on the education hallway to learn more about how we are forming children, youth, and adults in the knowledge and love of God in Christ. In addition to learning about the curriculum and topics for discussion, you'll also have the chance to meet our teachers including Ashley Monachelli, who is our Director for Family Ministries, as well as Sam Herman, our new Youth Minister. Later that day, the **EYC** (6th-12th graders) will have their kickoff event at 5:30 p.m. Encourage them to invite a friend!

On the Sunday following Labor Day (September 7), we will have **Kickoff Sunday** and return to our full program schedule. We will resume serving a **hot breakfast** in Ware Hall from 8:45 - 9:15 a.m. **Sunday school for all ages returns** from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. with the Nursery opening at 9:15 a.m. We will also be starting a new tradition and present our **3rd graders with a Bible** during the 10:30 service. Since this is our first year, we invite all **Club 345'ers (3rd-5th graders)** to be a part of this rite of passage. We will also commission our Sunday school teachers. Following worship, Pier 34 will host a **Tailgate Lunch** in Ware Hall - bring your favorite tailgate snack to share and wear your team colors!

As a reminder, our **Peer Groups** are loosely organized into age groups or "piers." In addition to building relationships with those in similar life stages, these piers also make space to get involved with other ministry opportunities in the parish and beyond. If you've never attended a pier event, I hope you'll try one this year.

- Pier 23 is for those in their 20s and 30s.
- Pier 34 is for those in their 30s and 40s.
- Pier 45 is for those in their 40s or 50s.
- Pier 60+ is for those 60 and older.

These are just a few ways in which God is gathering and strengthening the body of Christ through Ascension. I invite you and your family to pray about how you might be a part of how God is healing a broken world through Ascension. Please don't hesitate to let a member of the staff or myself know how we can help facilitate your involvement. Regardless of how much or little you participate, you are a vital part of this congregation. We truly would not be the same with you! Thank you for making Ascension your parish home.

Faithfully,
Jack+

Financial Summary - YTD June 2025

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 316,170	\$ 319,418	\$ (3,248)
Other Income	\$ 65,846	\$ 60,547	\$ 5,299
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 382,016</u>	<u>\$ 379,965</u>	<u>\$ 2,051</u>
 Personnel	 \$ 234,777	 \$ 231,359	 \$ (3,418)
Program	\$ 14,771	\$ 18,862	\$ 4,091
Outreach	\$ 29,386	\$ 30,672	\$ 1,286
Admin & Bldgs & Grounds	\$ 102,208	\$ 115,786	\$ 13,578
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 381,143</u>	<u>\$ 396,679</u>	<u>\$ 15,536</u>
 Net Surplus / (Deficit)	 \$ 873	 \$ (16,714)	 \$ 17,587

BIRTHDAYS & Anniversaries

August Birthdays

2 Justice Allen	23 Jon Hornbuckle
3 Stacey Sparks	23 Sophie Ogiba
3 Jimmy Young	24 Tom Cochran
4 Jeannie Duke	24 Kathy Lounsbury
5 Olivia Thompson	25 John McDaniel
6 Sterling Evans	25 Mia Taylor
6 Chris Durst	26 Rachel Young
9 Eva Austin	27 Roxanne Coleman
11 Tom Tyree	27 Janis Ware
17 Pearl Ennis	28 Sue Busbin
17 Laura Pate	28 Walker Sorrell
17 Clara Wilson	29 Robby Colvin
18 June Brennan	29 Catesby Jones
19 Dorrance Wedell	30 Hagen Gould
19 Ruth Snow	31 Ann Carr
19 Ashley Greene	31 Ross Parker
22 Lee Ann Fieselman	31 Jack Searcy
23 Katherine Manush	



September Birthdays

1 Bill Oyston	15 Barbara Cochran
2 Lori Ennis	18 Gabe Nelson
2 Race Banks	19 Phyllis Peppenhorst
2 Lane Morton	19 John Wuska
2 Ted Witiak	19 Vivve Ryan
2 Jean Bottsford	20 David Snow
3 Hope Hendricks-Bacon	20 Jean Marie Banks
5 Alex Gould	23 Tonya Orr
6 Mary Gillespie	23 Lawson Grimes
7 JT Ennis	23 Jim Loop
7 Milla Morton	24 Mary Downey
7 Kristen Griffin	25 Gregg Bennett
8 Cille Spader	25 Ashley Copeland
11 Matt Hovey	26 Grey Mansour
12 Macon Bradley	27 Libby Burke
12 Sulli Bradley	28 Charlotte Hottle
	29 Rebecca Posey
	30 Katie Chancellor

August Anniversaries

2 Anna & Robby Colvin
 8 Kaitlin & Ben Rothschadl
 9 Marcia & Howard Poarch
 10 Meredith & Jeff Lees
 11 Hope & Matt Hovey
 18 Ashley & Charles Greene
 20 Susan & Rick Phillips
 26 Paige Bradley & Karen Fleming
 30 Nancy & Ron Rowell
 30 Conny & Dorrance Wedell



September Anniversaries

1 Caroline & Matt Hottle
 1 Lucy & Price Evans
 2 Kate & Marty Solomon
 3 Sami Ashley & Laura Tucker
 3 Stacey & Mike Gregory
 7 Sarah & Roger Jones
 11 Kelly & Tim Burke
 11 Dee Anne & Scott Poehler
 14 Melanie & Neville Crowson
 15 Caralyn & John McDaniel
 18 Betty Jean & Harold Quattlebaum
 21 Emily & Chris Tyree
 23 Katy Mac & Brent Dillon
 24 Chris & Christopher Lambert

Anniversary Prayer

O God, You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Birthday Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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u p c o m i n g e v e n t s



Rummage Sale

August 1 & 2



Ministry Fair

August 10



Club 345 Bible Presentation

September 7



EfM Begins

August 7



Men's Group - TBD

September 9



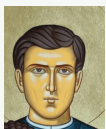
Men's Fireside Chat

August 12



Newcomer Coffee

September 14



Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage

August 9



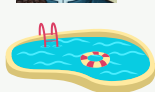
Women's Group

August 19



Women's Group - TBD

September 16



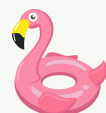
Pier 34 Pool Party

August 9



Sunday School Open House for All Ages

August 24



Pier 23 Pool Party

August 10



EYC Kickoff Party

August 24



Souper Wednesday

September 17



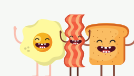
Blessing of the Backpacks

August 10



Kickoff Sunday/Tailgate Lunch

September 7



Men's Breakfast

September 24

[TO REGISTER, RSVP, OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE EVENTS, PLEASE VIEW THEM IN REALM OR VISIT THE ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE](#)