



The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Hattiesburg, Mississippi



Parish Profile Table of Contents

Welcome	3
Our worship	4
Our history	4
Our ministries	5
Our new Rector	8
Gifts we offer	9
Leadership & staff	11
The Diocese	12
Hattiesburg	13
Who we are	14
A Call to Ascension	14



Welcome

We at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Hattiesburg, Mississippi welcome you to our church, to our community and to sharing in our faith-filled relationship with God. Thank you for reading more about this congregation and our hopes for the future.

Our mission statement is the basis of who we are as individuals and as a loving, caring body of Christ. We are excited about future opportunities as we move through this transition in seeking our new rector and realizing anew God's plans for us. We are enthusias-

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Where unity does not mean uniformity;
Where diversity does not mean division;
Where grace abounds.*

tic about new insights, growth in spirituality, discipleship, membership, and involvement with students at the University of Southern Mississippi.

One parishioner described this parish "as an outstanding, healing, accepting citadel of comfortable

challenge."

Another stated "We work to be a model for spiritual life and growth in following and practicing God's command to love our neighbors as ourselves and to respect the dignity of every human being."

You are welcome to this place and to experience God's love and grace as expressed through the Church of the Ascension.

Know that prayers are said daily for the person who is to become our new rector, and for others seeking a church home.

We invite you to "Come and See".

Our history

An Episcopal mission church to serve the western part of Hattiesburg and the University of Southern Mississippi was conceived in February 1964 by Bishop John Allin. By May, "Church of the Ascension" was chosen as the name for the new mission. The first service was held on June 7, 1964 at St. John's Lutheran Church and Bishop Allin officially dedicated the mission on July 16, 1964.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Wesley Foundation at USM and University Baptist Church served as host meeting sites for the new mission until August 6, 1967 when the first service was held in the new church building. On October 22, 1967, Bishop Allin officially dedicated the building as our church.

The initial parish hall-type building of cinder block used as the church became the Parish Hall. The building of the sanctuary was completed and then consecrated in October 1994. In 2017, Grace House was dedicated as the administrative and education building.

As originally conceived, the vicar of Ascension was also the Episcopal chaplain on campus, ministering to the needs of the students and faculty at the University, as well as the congregation. On August 1, 2004, the Rev. Bill Barfield became the first full time Chaplain to

the University. When he answered the call out of state in September 2008, the sacramental presence and the students of ECUSM have been 'shared' between the priests and congregations of the Episcopal churches in Hattiesburg, Church of the Ascension and Trinity Church.

Milestones over the years include Ascension's becoming a parish under the leadership of the Rev. Doctor Susan D. Bear in January 2006. We remind ourselves that we became "a parish, but our mission has continued."

As part of the 50th year celebration in 2014, the decision was made that it was 'A Time to Build' space to serve administrative, education, and other purposes. The Grace House was built and was dedicated by Bishop Brian Seage on June 25, 2017. This building represents our expression of hope, of fulfilling the vision of what is and what can be for this parish, the community and God's will for us.

Ascension continues to be a friendly, family-oriented church that has a central and unifying concern for outreach, and an acceptance of all who want to grow in the love of Christ and experience God's grace. We adhere to the tenet that everyone is welcome to this holy place and we ask that you ... "Come and see".



Our worship

Our worship life is centered around Sunday services at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM which are a continuation of the broader Episcopal Church traditions. Our 8:00 service is a more intimate, reflective Eucharist service using Rite I liturgy. Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with music, follows at 10:30 AM. Morning Prayer services are conducted infrequently, though we have come to more fully appreciate the beauty of that service during this current transition.

At other times in the church year, we gather as community to worship and have fellowship during special observances, such as Advent and Lent. We have services, a meal and program each Wednesday evening of Advent and Lent. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist is celebrated.

Services are held during Holy Week from Wednesday evening through Saturday. On Sunday we celebrate joyfully Christ's Resurrection.

Our worship ministry is composed of vergers, acolytes, worship

(Continued to the next page)



(Continued from the previous page)

leaders and choir. Parishioners participate in the services by reading lessons and the prayers of the people, assisting as chalice bearers and as ushers presenting the elements and offerings. The choir is a vital part of our worship services and parish life.

During July, Heritage Month is celebrated. This is a time when parishioners request favorite faith hymns from their past to be sung during services. Singing of the older familiar hymns with praise and thanksgiving, often with tears, is a highlight of summer. We complete Heritage Month with Sunday "Dinner on the Grounds Potluck" inside the Parish Hall!

Our ministries

Ascension Outreach

Breadbasket is a longstanding ministry of providing food to those in need in Hattiesburg. This ministry began in February 1981 when nearby Westminster Presbyterian Church initiated the project with six other churches to fulfill the goal of being a witness of Christ to those people that are helped and fed by this interfaith group of volunteers in Hattiesburg. Ascension has been actively involved in this ministry since its inception.

Daughters of the King provide the monthly provision of meal bags for the Fieldhouse, a local shelter for the homeless. Gifts at Christmas are also given. Additionally, DOK makes comfort crosses, hand shaped by members, for giving to individuals and groups.

We also take in donations of various items and money that are made at the Blessing of the Pets and donated to local animal rescue shelters.

ECUSM (Episcopal Church at University of Southern Mississippi) Canter-

bury meets weekly at Ascension for worship, fellowship and a meal together. Once monthly Holy Eucharist is celebrated. This outreach is a shared ministry with Trinity Episcopal Church.

A popular outreach ministry of COA is Halloween Hoe Down, which provides a safe trick or treat site with games, fun and treats for our community ghosts, goblins, princesses and super heroes. We have been joined by neighbors at University Baptist Church as well as the University Heights Neighborhood Association and students from USM Canterbury in providing this event.

Ministry of the Pots is a signature ministry of Ascension. It is all about our famous GUMBO! This event is a large fundraiser for our parish with monies being evenly designated for outreach and parish operations. The cooking, packing and selling of gumbo serves as fellowship and the



opportunity to "stir the pots" with our fellow parishioners! Gumbo time occurs every November and January.

National Night Out, sponsored by the City of Hattiesburg, is hosted by our parish annually, with involve-

ment from University Heights Neighborhood Association. The evening recognizes law enforcement, firefighters, first responders, and city officials as neighborhood associations in our city come together as individual neighborhoods for a night of interacting with each other.

Our facilities are available for community use as meeting spaces. There are four recovery groups that meet here weekly (Al-Anon, AA and Life, Faith, Freedom). The neighborhood association meets every other month in the parish hall, and the sanctuary is used by University of Southern Mississippi music students for recitals.



Diocesan Outreach

We participate in African Team Ministries annually. Handcrafted items are received from Kenya and two neighboring countries. These items are sold before Christmas and the funds from purchases are returned to the artists in participating countries. Teach Them to Fish Ministry, housed at Trinity Episcopal Church, brings glass work crafted by members from Trinity and Ascension to sell before Christmas. Funds from the purchases are routed to Roatan, Honduras to provide supplies and training in glass work as a source of income for the residents who participate.

We are contributors to the Honduran

Medical Mission, Episcopal Relief and Development, Camp Bratton Green/Gray Center, and Sewanee Seminary Fund. A scholarship to Camp Bratton Green's Special Needs Camp is donated annually by DOK.

Renewal Ministry – Cursillo

Many members of this congregation have attended and have been actively involved in the renewal/leadership ministry of Cursillo. Members have attended as participants, served as staff, rectors, spiritual directors and on the Secretariat. Cursillo group reunion meets weekly. Our parish also promotes and supports Diocesan ministries such as Happening and other retreats/offerings at Gray Center.



Inreach Ministries

Pastoral Care is interwoven into the life of Ascension. Individuals call on friends and other members to 'check on them' during and following illness, loss, and change events in life. Confidential counseling for personal or spiritual needs is available.

Added to Prayers of the People are prayers for the rotation of church members through the Ascension Cycle of Prayer. Weekly prayers for family members, friends, and situations of national or international hardships are included as well.

Daughters of the King pray daily for those on their prayer list as well as the



list of those needing prayer found in the Sunday service sheet. There is a small box in the narthex where people can add names or situations for inclusion on the DOK prayer list.

Centering Prayer is conducted every Monday morning in the Sanctuary.

Simon Ministry is a food ministry where parishioners prepare and provide meals during times of illness, following surgery, the birth of a child, or other times of need. Lazarus Ministry is similar; however, it is focused on the preparation and provision of meals/food for the family following a death. This ministry is provided either in the home or for a visitation/reception.

(Continued to the next page)

(Continued from the previous page)

Eucharistic Lay Ministers are available to provide Holy Communion in the home or hospital as requested.

Over the years, there have been individuals who have offered their skills as a ministry for the enhancement of our sanctuary and worship. These gifts have become part of our history and congregational “stories”.

Other ministries include the A-Men’group which is involved in Biscuits ‘n Bibles cooking and serving after the 8:00AM service. This men’s group meets for fellowship and breakfast once a month and does projects for the church. DOK provides Coffee and Cookies after the 10:30AM service each Sunday.

Christian Formation

Homilies given each Sunday are a primary source of inspiration and guide us along our path for living daily as Christians. The homily helps us hear the Scriptures from a different perspective depending on where we are in our own lives.

The spiritual journey of adults in our congregation has been enhanced by the Sunday Morning Bible Study which meets from 9:15 until 10:15. Scriptures for the day from the lectionary are the source for discussion. Members of the class have assumed responsibility for leading the class during our transition.

On Tuesday morning, the Ladies Bible Study

Group meets with individual members prepared to lead discussion on specific books of the Bible. Monthly, they enjoy fellowship by having a meal together at a nearby restaurant.

Daughters of the King include in their monthly meeting discussion of a book that has been chosen by the members.

A significant challenge continues to be related to Children’s Education. Small children have a lesson, do art work during the 10:30 service, then join their parents for Holy Communion. Attendance has been inconsistent. Communion is given to the children, with parents’ permission. The joy of the children as they come to the altar, kneel, and hold their small hands out for communion is a moment of truly knowing God’s presence

In 2016, an organized Sunday school program was designed. Though there is a desire to provide Sunday school programs for the children and youth, there has been a lack of children available to be served. We are prayerful that increasing young families as members at COA will help us meet this challenge.

An Ascension member has recently completed the Journey Partner Program for Spiritual Direction. Another has entered the discernment process for the priesthood. Several members of our congregation have been involved and have completed the EFM Program. These individuals have sought a different path to enhance their Christian formation on a deeper level.





Our new Rector

What are we seeking?

Our parish has identified these areas as gifts we hope the new rector possesses:

- **Preaching** – Ability to make scripture relevant to people's lives through clarity in preaching.
- **Theology** – Ability to demonstrate and impart a disciplined understanding of biblical and historical revelation and the recognition of God's activity in the world.
- **Church Growth and Development** – Ability to re-shape existing programs and introduce new ones.
- **Pastoral Care** – Ability to care for people so that they feel nurtured including hospital, nursing home, hospice and home visitation.
- **Spiritual Growth** – Ability to lead others in the formation and development of a deeper spiritual life.
- **Counseling** – Ability to help parishioners with problems, both personal and spiritual.
- **Administration** – Ability to manage the affairs of the parish.
- **Worship** – Ability to plan and conduct worship services as a central event of the congregation.

During Listening Sessions, parishioners have emphasized we would like to find an individual who is spirit-filled, knowledgeable of scripture, accepting of others, diverse, creative, motivated, genuine, caring, and funny. We are hopeful that our new rector will be patient, honest, a good listener and communicator, and a leader.

It is important that we find someone who is inter-

ested in guiding and assisting our congregation in building our youth program, from toddlers to college students. We are hopeful to connect with someone who is family oriented, who perhaps has a young family, who loves being out in the community and connecting with people of all ages.

We have been praying for someone who lives, preaches and teaches based on the Gospel. We hope this person can guide us to continue growth and to be active in following God's command to 'love our neighbors as ourselves', to be 'a visible sign of a spiritual and inward grace'. We are seeking someone who models 'respecting the dignity of every human being' as expressed in our baptismal vows, and who welcomes all to the Lord's table. Though there is diversity among people, we are praying for someone who recognizes each individual as a child of God, not just as a label, in being and becoming a part of Ascension.

An additional gift of ministry for which we are praying is the ability and genuine interest in working with the Canterbury students at the University of Southern Mississippi. As Church of the Ascension is in a mutual discernment process of seeking a rector and because of the historical roots of Ascension's connection with USM, we are excited about the opportunity of resuming the primary responsibility for USM as part of the new rector's ministry at COA. The collaborative nature of our two Episcopal Churches in Hattiesburg will continue as both congregations want continued growth of Canterbury at USM.

Another opportunity is making connections with Episcopal students at local community colleges.

Gifts we offer

Our new rector will find that our congregation and campus have many gifts to offer. Our parishioners can be described as caring, warm, welcoming and involved. We are a friendly, open-minded, Christ-worshipping group of people with a history of positive, non-toxic relationships and respect for each other. We are a prayerful, resilient congregation who “like best” receiving communion, worshipping in the Episcopal tradition, hearing inspiring sermons, being with friendly, loving people and experiencing personal spiritual growth and inspiration.

Our older members are a treasured part of the church family who have much to offer newcomers and who are enthusiastic to serve as mentors. We are especially excited about our shared vision of COA's lovely campus becoming the church home of young families with children and the joy they bring as we participate in their Christian formation.

Parishioners are excited and looking forward to the future of Ascension. We welcome new members, and are open to new ideas that are Christ-centered. In the process of self-study during this transition, we realized we are looking forward to future growth in outreach and service projects. Our new rector will be encouraged to bring new and creative ideas while maintaining some of our traditions, nurturing our parishioners and mentoring new members.

Our prayer is that God will send us a rector who is as enthusiastic about growing our congregation as



we are, and that together, we will listen to and fulfill God's purpose for this parish.

Come and see!

Stewardship and Finances

The annual stewardship campaigns for Ascension have had different themes over the years; however, core to each year's campaign is the belief that stewardship is about being grateful, responsible for the blessings and gifts we have received from God, and returning to God thanksgiving for all He has given us.

This congregation has generous hearts and gives from abundance of blessings rather than giving from scarcity.

Stewardship involves not only the financial reality of a church budget, but also includes our being good and faithful stewards of our environment, our relationships, our time, our talents, our bodies, our families, and neighbors all year long. Stewardship is giving to others, through ministries of this church to those in our community, our diocese, the state, the nation, and across the world.

We are a fiscally responsible congregation, basing our budget on careful, prudent planning and being

(Continued to the next page)



(Continued from the previous page)

aware of frugality in expenditures. When plans were being developed for the building of Grace House, a capital campaign entitled “A Time to Build” was initiated. That campaign had pledges and collections of \$500,000 for costs of the building and ended in December 2018.

On January 1, 2019, a debt retirement campaign entitled “Fulfilling the Vision” was initiated and \$300,000.00 was pledged over the next three years to reduce the remaining debt on the Grace House. At this time, approximately 43% of those pledges have been collected. Even with the two successful campaigns, decisions will need to be made on management of the remaining debt when the second campaign ends in 2021. The

building of the Grace House reflects this congregation’s generous hearts and the hope for the future to have adequate space for children’s and adult’s Christian education.

The 2020 Stewardship Campaign conducted in October 2019 had as its theme “Honoring the Past. Embracing the Present. Planting the Future”. This is a reflection of where we are as a parish during this time of transition.

Our facilities

The Church of the Ascension is known as the ‘beautiful church on the corner’ of Arlington Loop and South 36th Avenue in the University Heights Neighborhood. The campus faces a busy street

and is open visually to people who pass by. There are three buildings on our campus, each connected by a covered walkway. The courtyard is surrounded by crepe myrtles and beautiful landscaping, as is the rest of the campus.

The Parish Hall, which was the original sanctuary, is to the left when facing the sanctuary. Nestled between the Parish Hall and Sanctuary is the recent addition to the campus, the Grace House. Our campus includes a labyrinth, which is open to the public on the street side of the church. There is a columbarium as well, which is a place for prayerful, quiet reflection.

The Parish Hall serves as the center of our parish life and is used for meetings, fellowship, work of the parish, and even the Halloween Hoe Down!

Grace House, dedicated in 2017, fits our campus as though it has been there for years. The building houses administration offices, classrooms and meeting space for the parish, as well as for the community. Betty’s Place, a playground for young children, can be found behind and directly connected to the building. Our activity porch is of high importance as it is the site for cooking our famous gumbo.

The Sanctuary is our place of quiet, peace, prayer and worship. It is where we renew our connection with God and each other. It is a place of love and where all are welcome to be with God and to feel His presence. It is a place from which we go forth into the world to spread Christ’s teaching, to love our neighbors, and to let others know of Christ’s grace, mercy and forgiveness. Come and see.....

Leadership and staff

The foundation of our leadership at COA is based on our belief that we are followers of Jesus, and are to be Christ-like in all we do. We each have Christ within us, and we should all follow His example of having a servant's heart and being servant leaders, each with our own gifts and skills. There are those who serve more visibly in various positions at the church; however, many members serve as leaders in more subtle ways, including praying for others and serving others' needs without the expectation of being noticed.

We are fortunate to have an efficient, organized Office Administrator who works 4 days per week. Our Choir Director and Organist are devoted part-time staff, as is our Sexton. Each of our staff members have been employed for several years and are very knowledgeable of their positions and skills.



Our Vestry



Barbara Hammer, Senior Warden
Ben Bryan, Junior Warden
Ken Cantrell, Treasurer
Jane Lee, Clerk (not pictured)

Ralph Beman, Vestry Member
Pam Cameron, Vestry Member
Randy Germany, Vestry Member
Jim Gray, Vestry Member

Joe Hardman, Vestry Member
Carolyn Kazelskis, Vestry Member

The Search Committee

Jeannene Garbee
Joe Hardman

Jason Niblett
Beth Robertson

Joe Townsend
Pam Cameron, Chair



The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension is a contributing member of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. The Diocese is part of Province IV of The Episcopal Church's organizational structure. Its official name is the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Mississippi and was established in May 1826. In November 1826, our diocese was accepted by the General Convention held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Rt. Rev. Brian R. Seage currently serves as the Ecclesiastical Authority for the Diocese of Mississippi. He is the 10th Bishop of Mississippi. He was consecrated on September 27, 2014 and assumed ordinary jurisdiction on February 8, 2015. Bishop Seage is the 1085th bishop in the American Succession.

The Diocese has a solid history in ecumenical and interfaith relations:

- The Episcopal, United Methodist and Roman Catholic bishops meet

regularly and work closely on various initiatives

- Since the days of the Committee of Concern in the 1960s, the Diocese has enjoyed a strong relationship with Temple Beth Israel, the only synagogue in Jackson.
- The Diocese is a member of the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference, a statewide interfaith organization that crosses the lines of religion, age, gender and race.
- The Diocese participated as a major supporter in the development of the Museum of Mississippi History and the Civil Rights Museum.

The Diocese of Mississippi has many robust ministries. Each name in blue is clickable (in the digital edition of this profile) to be directed to more information:

- [Camp Bratton Green \(CBG\)](#)
- [The Gray Conference Center](#)
- [Happening, Division of Youth \(DOY\)](#)
- [Cursillo](#)
- Episcopal communities on our college campuses
- [2018 Task Force on Racial Reconciliation Conference](#), "55 Years Later: Becoming the Beloved Community in Mississippi"
- [Annual Conference on Church Music and Liturgy](#)
- [The A.C. Marble School for Spiritual Formation](#)
- [Honduras Medical Mission](#)

Hattiesburg: The place we love to serve

The City of Hattiesburg was founded in 1882 by civil engineer William H. Hardy and was named in honor of Hardy's wife, Hattie. The town was incorporated two years later with a population of 400. The town expanded as it became a center of the lumber and railroad industries in the late 1800s. The nick name of 'Hub City' was given the town because Hattiesburg is located approximately 100 miles from the state capitol of Jackson, as well as from the Mississippi Gulf Coast; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Mobile, Alabama.

Early railroads and highways intersected in Hattiesburg and stimulated a lumber boom in 1897 because of the dense pine forests being harvested at a rapid pace. This area of Mississippi also has become known as 'The Pine Belt' because of the density of pine forests in Forrest and surrounding counties.

Hattiesburg is the county seat of Forrest County and the city boundaries extend west into Lamar County. The 2010 census showed a population of 46,989 in the city, but the population expands greatly when one considers the metro area. The area has continued to grow and thrive. According to a census in 2017, the population of Forrest County has increased to 75,471 and the population of Lamar County has increased to 61,374.

Hattiesburg is home to the University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey University. Camp Shelby, the largest US National Guard training base east of the Mississippi River, is located south of the city.

A surge of development is occurring at this time, especially in the area of our church with the planned redevelopment district called [Midtown](#).



Get linked!

Click the following categories in blue for more information (available in the digital edition):

- [Healthcare](#)
- [Tourism](#)
- [Education](#)
 - Public Education, grades K-12
[Hattiesburg, Forrest County School District, Lamar County School District, Petal School District](#)
 - Parochial and Private Schools
[Sacred Heart Catholic School, Presbyterian Christian School](#)
- Universities and Community Colleges
[University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University, Pearl River Community College](#)
- [Transportation](#)
[Hattiesburg/Laurel Regional Airport](#)
[Amtrak](#)
- [Activities for children and families](#)

Things to do

The Hattiesburg Zoo, recently named #1 in the state; Longleaf Trace, a Rails-to-Trails offering for walkers, hikers and bicycle riders; Paul B. Johnson State Park; Leaf/Okatoma River canoeing; NCAA Division 1 athletics at Southern Miss, art shows, plays, choral events, band and classical concerts and other performances at Southern Miss. Other places to go are Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at

Camp Shelby, African American Military History Museum, Hattiesburg Saenger Theatre, two regional movie theaters, Hub Bowling Lanes, shopping at Turtle Creek Mall and Turtle Creek Crossing. In the area are also Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Landrum's Homestead and Village, Veterans Memorial Museum in Laurel; Red Bluff in Columbia and Grand Paradise Water Park in Collins. Hattiesburg is a happening kind of place!

Who we are

Statistics of the Parish Survey completed in 2019 by 57 parishioners show:

- 27 members have been in this parish for greater than 20 years. Eleven people have been members for 11-20 years.
- 37 members have been confirmed for greater than 20 years and 10 members have been confirmed for 11-20 years.
- 48 parishioners attend Sunday services 3 or more times per month.
- Contributing financially in 2018 are 56 members of this congregation.
- For the current year, 50 members have made financial pledges.
- Graduate degrees are held by 30 parishioners and 18 parishioners have a college degree.
- There are 34 female parishioners and 23 males.
- Age of parishioners:
 - Over 80 years: 7
 - 71-80 years: 11
 - 61-70 years: 20
 - 51-60 years: 9
 - 41-50 years: 7
 - 31-40 years: 3
 - 11-18 years: 3
- 31 members strongly agree to support the Chaplaincy at USM with 17 members agreeing to support this ministry.

A Call to Ascension

Thank you again for visiting our website and learning about the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. This Parish Profile provides information about us, our hopes for the future, and what we are seeking in a new rector. We extend to you a welcome to join us and to become part of the future with us.

*“We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe,
by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are,
but by showing them a light that is so lovely,
that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.”
- Madeleine L’Engle*

If you sense that God may be calling you to Church of the Ascension, please send your application documents (cover letter, resume and OTM Profile) to COAHBGsearch@gmail.com with a copy to the Canon for Transition on Ministry, Canon Paul Stephens, at pstephens@dioms.org by February 3, 2020 with Church of the Ascension, Hattiesburg on the subject line.

COME AND SEE. LET US SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST!





Did you know?

Worship during the pandemic

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have followed all the guidelines for health and safety set by Bishop Brian R. Seage, Diocese of Mississippi, on closing and re-opening our doors to worship in person.

While we were closed, initially prerecorded services were provided digitally for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services. We now have a live broadcast every Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. service. This service can be found on Ascension's Facebook page by searching Ascension – Hattiesburg.



CANTERBURY
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
— at —
SOUTHERN MISS

The Episcopal Church at USM

As the University of Southern Mississippi has re-opened, following COVID-19 safety and health guidelines from Governor Tate Reeves, we welcome ECUSM back. Our campus ministry with Episcopal students has resumed with a weekly service at Ascension on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

This involved group has maintained contact with each other through Zoom meetings and other social media throughout the spring and summer from their homes.



In August 2020, it was announced that the City of Hattiesburg has been named the Most Educated City in the State of Mississippi for the second year in a row by Insurify, a Cambridge, Massachusetts-based insurance comparison website.