



The SPIRE

The Newsletter of the
Episcopal Church of the Ascension,
Sierra Madre, California



April 2018

Upcoming Events

Easter Day April 1

The Great Vigil and
1st Eucharist of Easter 6:00 AM
Festival High Mass 10:15 AM



**Easter Day Brunches
& Egg Hunts**

8 AM & 11:30 AM

**April 10th – VOTING IN
HAWKS HALL**

**April 15th— Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting**

**April 17th – 7pm/Hall
Vestry Meeting**

Hooray for Chris P. Bacon

Thanks to his leadership, many little pigs will be going to third world families. Together we raised \$900 for Episcopal Relief & Development which should fund at least 9 pigs and the necessary training for their care and feeding.

A special thank you to Scott Callihan for his leadership.



Pledge Payment Snapshot

March 2018



**Budget Amount:
\$211,001**

**YTD Budget:
\$52,750**

**YTD Actual:
\$72,700**

**Difference:
\$+19,950**

From the Rector

As one might expect, our new Bishop – John Taylor – has shared a theme for the coming year – “Welcome home.” The theme covers a number of initiatives and concerns.

One element refers to the ongoing work of reconciliation following the tumultuous final years of Bishop Bruno’s tenure. The diocese has engaged the services of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center to facilitate educational opportunities around family systems theory and listening/story telling sessions to help the various parties involved or party to the conflict that emerged surrounding the disposition of the church property in Newport Beach come to some sense of beginning anew.

Still another element is engaging in the larger issues around housing, including the dilemma of homelessness, affordable housing, and transitions for seniors.

At a more basic level, the theme of “Welcome home” speaks to the opportunity in front of us to embrace newcomers to our congregations. Bishop Taylor believes, and I concur, that there is a whole new generation of seekers who are ready to fall in love with the Episcopal Church. I would ask us all to consider what makes the Episcopal Church, and Ascension in particular, “home.” And then ask ourselves, who do we know and care enough about, to invite them home?

Blessings, MAB+



“Welcome Home”



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY ON EASTER SUNDAY! 2018 Parish Directory Photos

It’s that time of year again. When you look at your directory picture, do you recognize yourself? Your kids? Do your friends recognize you? If not, it is time for an update! **Come in your 'best dress' on Easter Sunday and get your picture taken.** They will be taken between the services and after the 10:15 service in the child care room. Please add the photo shoot to your Sunday schedule so that we have an up-to-date picture of you and your family. **Thank You!**

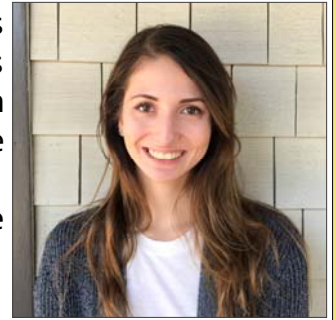
Clothing Drive for Women's Room at Friends In Deed Starting April 8

Bring your used clothes to Church as donations! You must have some things in your closet that are too old, too big, too small, or you haven't actually worn in a long time.

Ascension volunteers will transport the items to a thrift store in Pasadena. In turn, the thrift shop will provide vouchers to the Friends In Deed Women's Room. The patrons of the Women's Room will be able to use the vouchers at the thrift store and choose whichever clothes they need. Don't sweat the details, just bring your used clothes to Church in April or May and we'll handle the rest!



Welcome to **Sarah Duffy** as she begins her service as childcare staff and kitchen help at Ascension. Sarah is majoring in Psychology with a minor in criminal justice at Cal Poly Pomona. She works at In-n-Out, loves going to museums, the beach and taking her dog hiking. She has hiked up Mt. Wilson 3 times.



Thank You To.....

- ◇ Meg Cox for getting our new website up and running
- ◇ Gordon Tomaske and the Vestry Marketing Committee whose ideas shaped the new website
- ◇ Mike Beach for getting the palms that decked the church on Palm Sunday
- ◇ The ladder climbers that helped put up the palms and the white linen on the cross
- ◇ Reid Hanson for creating the Palm Sunday bulletin cover
- ◇ The Altar Guild who has worked unceasingly throughout the many services of Holy Week
- ◇ Nicole Hanson for organizing the Easter brunches
- ◇ Jobi Harrell and the Youth for their clean out activities in the Parish House and the basement
- ◇ The acolytes who came for training and those who were instrumental in training them – Allen Stauffer, Chris Bamberger, and Jay Calleton
- ◇ Our Youth for dyeing and stuffing eggs and for organizing the Easter egg hunts
- ◇ Scott Callihan and Chris P. Bacon and all those who contributed to the pig fund
- ◇ Carol Rasmussen for organizing the Meal Train and Sandra Dickey and Nicole Hanson for initiating the idea of starting up the Meal Train again
- ◇ Our Parish Administrator Kim Lumino for all the extra mailings and publications that come with Lent and Easter
- ◇ Maggie Outhouse for tracking down and signing up the many lay volunteers needed for our Holy Week services
- ◇ All the lay folk who have read, ushered, been acolytes and Eucharistic Ministers at our many services.
- ◇ Our choir for providing music at Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and to Dr. Deb who makes the long drive to play and conduct.
- ◇ And to all of you who showed your support by contributing to the Flower and Music Fund, brought flowers for the Watch at the Altar of Repose, donated to the Lent and Easter special offerings, and bought some pigs. Your presence and support make all the difference. ***Well done, ALL!***

Thank You

Vestry Focus – Expanding Our Role as “the Village Church”

At our February and March meetings, your Vestry members have focused on determining what Ascension’s goal should be for 2018. I’d like to share with you some of our conclusions.

Our 2018 focus will be on expanding our role as “The Village Church.” We believe that we need to reach beyond our campus and out into the local community and beyond.

We already have several existing outreach projects including the ER&D Pig Project, the ER&D Lent Offering, the current re-organization of the Parish Meal Train for our own families, and now the ECPAC Clothing Drive which will start on April 8th.

In submitting Ascension’s Parochial Report for Vestry approval, Father Michael pointed out that as a result of the many 12 steps groups that use the Parish House, we are touching the lives of approximately 1100 people each year.

Over the coming months, we will be looking into several suggested projects including Laundry Love, continued participation in Habitat for Humanity work days, providing Senior Care Services for our own parishioners, creating homeless bags for ECPAC food distribution, and finding some way Ascension can be part of addressing the Homeless Crisis.

We welcome any suggestions you may have as to ways we can reach out to others.

Jean Rowe, Senior Warden



Thank You to Elizabeth Cundiff, Meg Cox, and Cameron Cox who created this year’s beautiful Paschal Candle.

Photo Credit:
Fr. Michael

A heartfelt thank you from St. Anne's Altar Guild to all those who so generously donated to the Easter Flowers and/or brought flowers for the Altar of Repose. The results were truly beautiful, and we couldn't transform the church without all of you...Happy Easter !
He Is Risen!!

Thank You

St. Anne's Altar Guild

Ascension’s Altar of Repose



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT WWW.ASCENSION-SIERRAMADRE.ORG



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Happy Easter! Your Ascension musicians look forward to bringing you an April 1 service of magnificent music, which we have been privileged to rehearse for the past several weeks. Our festival choir will be joined by trumpeter Carlos Ramos and oboist Sean Dougall to present:

Most Glorious Lord of Life, a relatively new anthem by John Rutter;
 Festival setting of *We Know that Christ Has Died*, for congregation and choir;
Awake, My Lute, music by Jane Marshall, poetry by George Herbert;
Fanfare and Easter Hymn, as always!

At the 10:15 service I'll be opening with *Easter Morning*, written by late nineteenth-early twentieth century Danish composer, Otto Malling – I think you'll be able to discern the musical symbolism of this work. Trumpeter Carlos Ramos will then join me in the exciting *Marche Joyeuse* by John H. Head, contemporary composer from Kensington, Liverpool. Both services will conclude, per usual, with the Widor *Toccata in F Major* from *Symphony No. 5*.

April 8 – Second Sunday of Easter (Thomas Sunday)

How Shall I Sing that Majesty, arranged by John Ronald Daniels;
 Walter Pelz' lush setting of *Peace I Leave With You*.

April 15 – Third Sunday of Easter

Now the Green Blade Rises - traditional French tune, arranged by Alan Bullard;
 David Ashley White's *O God Unseen*.

April 22 – Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

The Lord's My Shepherd by contemporary British composer, Bob Chilcott;
 The popular *Shepherd Me, O God*, by Marty Haugen.

April 29 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Contemporary American composer Bruce Bengston's *O Sing to the Lord A New Song*;
If Ye Love Me by sixteenth century composer, Thomas Tallis.

As I review the above-mentioned anthems, each of which carries its own special significance, I must express my deep appreciation to:

~our Ascension choristers and oboist Sean Dougall, without whom none of the above would be possible – it's my distinct privilege to make music with you;
 ~our Easter guest singers and trumpeter, who add a certain magnificence to our choral music;
 ~all who have contributed to the Easter music fund, making such music possible.



I look forward to Sunday and to celebrating together our most glorious Lord of Life!

Rise, heart, thy Lord is ris'n; sing his praise without delays.

~ George Herbert

Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist



Do you have a junk drawer in your house? You know, a drawer that serves as a catch-all for all those items you find lying around -- the random key, marble, screw, book mark? Don't know where to put something...put it in the junk drawer. We all have them. Maybe yours is in a desk or somewhere in the garage or kitchen. Personally, I have a few and I just located another – the glove box in my car.

Stuff we don't know what to do with we hide in our junk drawers. But what about the people in our lives that we want to hide? Where do they go? Instead of the junk drawer, let's call it our "relational" drawer. The relational drawer is the place where we put the people who baffle, annoy, irritate, or scare us. It's that place in our heart where we stow people we can't get out of our life, but whom we'd rather not deal with at the moment—or ever. It's the dark place in our hearts where we stuff people when we don't know how to deal with their quirks or shortcomings.

This month we'll consider why we have physical junk drawers. In May, we'll consider our rational junk drawers: why we have them and the problems with them. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. What about those junk drawers and what do they all have in common?

The junk drawer is the spot where we put something when we don't know where else to put it. It's the spot where we hide stuff because we like to appear neat and orderly on the outside. It's the spot where we leave items because it's easier to throw something in a drawer than it is to put it in its proper place. In other words, we're a bit lazy at times.

And like our refrigerators when the door is closed or in the case of when the junk drawer is closed, it's dark. Or is it?

Live well, live blessed, live curiously.
Deacon Ed+

Thanks to all who
 donated for the
 Easter egg hunts!



**Installation of
 The Rev. Mark Bradshaw at St.
 Barnabas in Pasadena.
 March 24, 2018**



Acolyte Training
Thanks to Ian Cox & Chris Bamberger for leading.



Palm Sunday



Thank You to the 'World's Best Altar Guild' for preparing our church for Easter Sunday.





A little humor to share as Ascension prepares for Easter. Enjoy!



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EASTER OCCASIONALLY FALLS ON APRIL 1ST:



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St. Swithin's

by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham

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APRIL 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <u>Easter</u> The Great Vigil & 1 st Eucharist of Easter 6:00 AM Festival High Mass 10:15 AM <i>Brunches & Egg Hunts</i> <i>8 AM & 11:30 AM</i>	2 Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/Clergy Support Group	3 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	4	5 7am Mass	6	7
				Fr. Bamberger Out of Office—COM Retreat at Camp Stevens		
8 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass <i>2pm EFM Mtg/Library</i>	9 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	10 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group SIERRA MADRE CITY VOTING IN HAWKS HALL	11 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 3:30-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	12 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall <i>10:30am Staff Mtg</i>	13 Private Spiritual Direction 10:30am Rectors Office	14
15 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass Noon-PMC Mtg/Library <i>2pm EFM Mtg/Library</i>	16 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary	17 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group Private Daisy Troop Meeting 4:30—6pm Hall Vestry Meeting 7pm Hawks Hall	18 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 3:30-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	19 7am Mass	20 Private Spiritual Direction 1pm—2pm Library	21
22 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass <i>2pm EFM Mtg/Library</i>	23 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	24 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	25 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 3:30-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	26 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall <i>10:30am Staff Mtg</i>	27 Private Spiritual Direction 1pm—2:30pm Library	28
29 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass <i>2pm EFM Mtg/Library</i>	30 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary					
				Fr. Bamberger Out of Office—Clergy Conference		