



The August 2022 SPIRE

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



Upcoming Events

Please see the calendar on page 4 for an updated list of events.



"Here's a unique way to support our parish! If you have a car, truck, boat or other vehicle that's become a nuisance, you can now donate that vehicle to Ascension. You'll be able to write the value of the vehicle off as a tax deduction and Ascension will benefit from the proceeds of its sale. Simply call **855-500-RIDE** or visit

<http://www.careasy.org/nonprofit/the-episcopal-church-of-the-ascension>

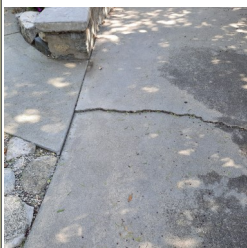
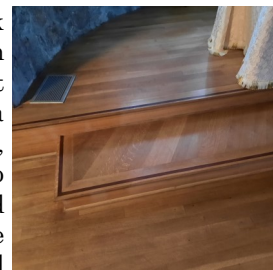
to schedule a free pickup. All you need is the vehicle's title--the CARs service will handle the rest."

CARS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

From the Rector

Safety First!!! It's my hope that whenever we have a chance to make things safer, we take the opportunity. Here at Ascension, we have just finished one project and are getting set for another.

Last week, after quite a bit of planning, we installed dark mahogany strips along all of the steps in the sanctuary. When we put in the oak hardwood floors back in 1998, we didn't anticipate that it would be easy to miss a step. After having a few people fall, and having one person pretty seriously hurt, we began thinking about options. We came up with the plan to have our flooring guy rout out a strip along all the edges and put in a dark piece of wood in order to make it easier to notice the steps. This new addition has worked out beautifully; and even the first Sunday, I noticed a distinct difference. And thank you to the generous donor who made the project possible.



The next project we are embarking on is to reduce the trip hazards out in the Memorial Garden. Over the years, the concrete slabs in the walkways have shifted where they meet, and a couple of the slabs have cracked. At the suggestion of our gardener, we plan to cut slabs where they meet and put in smooth stones with gravel filler. Doing this will make for more visible and smoother gaps. We're hoping to get started in the next couple of weeks.

Finally, a word about Covid safety. We know that Covid is still part of our reality. Here at Ascension, we continue to follow Los Angeles County Health Department guidelines. Masks are strongly recommended at worship. In addition, many of us are testing regularly, even though we don't have any symptoms. I would encourage anyone and everyone to stay home if you're feeling unwell. Keep Deacon Ed and me posted if you should become ill. (True of any illness -- not just Covid...) I continue to pray that we'll get into a new normal that will feel safe and comfortable.

Father Michael+

JULY 2022 Pledge Payment Snapshot



2022 Budget \$210,000

YTD Budget:	\$122,500
YTD Actual:	\$118,720
Difference:	\$-3,780

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

We would like to remind everyone that you can now sign-up for altar flowers and sanctuary candles online through Signup Genius. You can also sign-up on the sign-up sheets in Hawks Hall.



****Payment should be made by CHECK (\$40.00 for flowers and \$15.00 for a candle) **payable to Church of the Ascension.** **** Please include a note giving the date that you signed up for and any dedication.

Here are the sign-up genius links:

Sanctuary Candles:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a4a628a7f94-sanctuary>

Altar Flowers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a4a628a7f94-altar>



As you can see from the photo, my house is going through a major renovation. This renovation started with a burst hot water pipe and mushroomed into a project throughout the entire house.

We're currently living at the Residence Inn for who knows how long; yes, it's that disruptive. More about all that another time. And for the record, don't look for us on HGTV.

The point is that my first inclination was to see my personal chaos as an excuse not to write a Spire article this month. You can thank me for letting my plain and simple old fashioned "guilt" take over and made me keep writing. It dawned on me that through this renovation process I'm learning a lot of lessons that would be valuable to share as we all go through personally disruptive times in our lives.

The Serenity Prayer has been an important part of my life and consciousness particularly during the last fourteen years that I've been in recovery. My current situation has taught me that recovery can be about many different things at different times in my life.

An important part of life is knowing that there is always something to recover from, something that needs my attention, something that needs fixing, something that needs change, something that needs to be put in my rearview mirror so that I can look forward and get on with the work at hand.

Prayer for Serenity

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
taking as Jesus did,
this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen (Reinhold Niebuhr)

Be well, be blessed, surrender.

Deacon Ed +



Friends In Deed is lower than ever on food. Please join in Ascension's monthly collection of specific "Gold Items". For the month of August we will be collecting rice.

Look for the donation bin at the back of the church.

The Gold Item for August is RICE!





MUSIC_{AT} ASCENSION

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

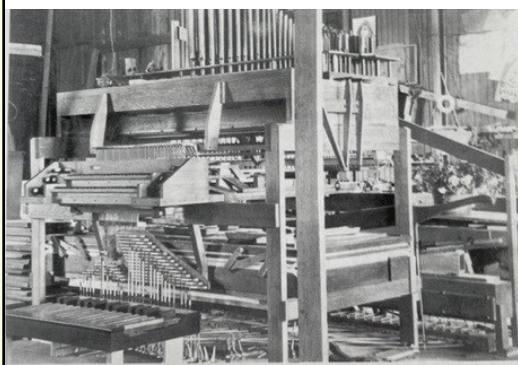
Mr. Robert L. Williamson

Organist-Choirmaster



Join the Choir

As we gear up for the fall, I would like for everyone to consider joining the choir. The commitment is one day a week (Sunday mornings) and includes rehearsal and singing for service. We meet from September to June each year and sing from Christmas to Easter. If you enjoy singing, then please see me about joining the choir. As a church we are in a rebuilding process after covid and the music program needs your help, so please consider.



Murray M. Harris

Over the summer, I have been reading a book written about the famous California organ builder Murray M. Harris. Mr. Harris was a prominent Los Angeles builder from 1894 to 1913. While reading this book, I discovered that in 1895 our original church organ was the first organ built by this builder. The instrument was small in nature and resided at the front of the church (the front wall outside of the sacristy) until 1949 when the decision was made to remove the instrument and install an electronic organ.

The pipes were purchased by Dr. Hunter Mead and were the basis for his large residential organ in Pasadena, California. His organ was a large instrument, consisting of 110 ranks of pipes. The organ is no longer in existence.

The photo on the left shows our organ (Opus 1) being assembled in the Murray Harris shop, prior to the installation at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

Organ	Offertoire in G	Wely
Song	Mr. H. C. Fletcher Angels' Serenade	G. Braga
	Miss Mable De Pensier	
Organ	Violin Obligato [sic] by Miss Edith Blumer	
	(a) Hymn of Nuns	Wely
	(b) Grand Chorus in D	Guilmant
Flute Solo	Mr. H. C. Fletcher Le Babillard, op. 23	Terschak
Organ	Mr. M. M. Harris Grand Offertoire de St. Cecilia	Batiste
Song	Mr. H. C. Fletcher Rest in the Lord	Handel
Organ	Mrs. Partridge Triumphal March	Buck
	Mr. H. C. Fletcher	

On December 27, 1895, the first organ recital was given at the Church of the Ascension by Mr. H.C. Fletcher of the organ company. The program consisted of organ, instruments, and vocal songs of that period. Above is a copy of the program from the recital with the composer and performers. Please note that the photo and excerpts are taken from the book *Murray M. Harris and Organ Builders in Los Angeles, 1894-1913*.

*Qui Deo
Gloria*

Our vision is that *The Episcopal Church of the Ascension* serves Christ today for those who will come to know Christ tomorrow.

WORSHIP, FORMATION, PASTORAL CARE, FELLOWSHIP, OUTREACH, PRESENCE
25 E. Laurel Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024 ~ 626-355-1133 www.ascension-sierramadre.com

AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 8:30am Yoga/Hall	2 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets	3	4 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	5	6
		PARISH HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT				
7 <u>8am Worship w/Eucharist</u> *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group <u>10:15am Worship w/Eucharist</u> *Facebook Live*	8 8:30am Yoga/Hall	9 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets	10 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	11 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum 11am Memorial Service/Jim Monachino	12	13
14 <u>8am Worship w/Eucharist</u> *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group <u>10:15am Worship w/Eucharist</u> *Facebook Live*	15 8:30am Yoga/Hall	16 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets 7:30pm Vestry Meeting Hall 3pm Wedding/ Wright Family	17 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	18 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	19	20
21 <u>8am Worship w/Eucharist</u> *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group <u>10:15am Worship w/Eucharist</u> *Facebook Live*	22 8:30am Yoga/Hall	23 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets	24 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	25 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum	26	27
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