



The SPIRE

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



February 2019

Upcoming Events

February 10th – Vestry Commissioning @ both services

**February 18th – President's Day!
Parish Office Closed**

**February 19th – Vestry Meeting
7:00pm/Hawks Hall**

**February 23rd – Vestry Orientation Mtg
9am—Noon/Hawks Hall**

**February 24th – Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting**

**February 28th – House Church/Dinner
6:30pm/Location TBD**

Friends in Deed Donations for February

We are collecting new, thick adult socks and foot powder for Friends In Deed through February. Look for the donation bin at the back of the church.



From the Rector

As I write this Spire article, I am aware that I'm enjoying our weather here in Southern California – I get to wear shorts and a Hawaiian shirt. I'm also aware that a significant portion of North America is undergoing brutal freezing weather.

The National Weather Service (my homepage on my internet browser) describes it thus – “One of the coldest arctic air mass intrusions in recent memory is surging south into the Upper Midwest before spreading across much of the eastern two-thirds of the country. Through late week, expect frigid temperatures, bitterly cold and life-threatening wind chills, likely leading to widespread record lows and low maximum temperatures from the Upper Midwest to the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley.” It goes on to describe just how life-threatening this weather can be.

It's been a long time since I lived in places subject to extreme weather – Needles in the early 1980s and before that seminary in Wisconsin. We lived and worked always factoring in the weather. Extreme weather also impacts buildings necessitating repairs and rebuilding, but even our pleasant weather can exact a toll on buildings. Within the next week we here in Sierra Madre are expecting a series of rain storms. Already this year our church building is feeling the result of wind and rain. And we too will be facing rebuilding and repair of our church roof. Your Senior Warden has more to say about this in his article. But today, I am grateful for our weather here, and I am praying for all those affected by the Polar Vortex.

MAB+

Ascension Capital Campaign 2019 “Raising the Roof”

By now you have heard the news from our annual meeting that we have issues with our roof, as witnessed by the plastic tarp hanging over our church and recent leaks near the pulpit. I know you are as disappointed as I am that our current roof fell short of its fifty-year life and that the manufacturer of the defective tiles is no longer in business.

As a community, we are blessed to be stewards of our church and its rich Anglican history; and we now have an opportunity to ensure that our historic sanctuary will be revitalized so that it may serve parishioners for decades to come.

Continued on next page...

January Pledge Payment Snapshot



2019 Budget: \$220,881

YTD Budget: \$18,406.75

YTD Actual: \$16,419

Difference: \$-1,987.75




Ascension Capital Campaign 2019 "Raising the Roof" Continued from Page 1.....

Our goals for this project are aggressive and essential: we intend to complete the fund-raising and the roof by the end of August 2019. Completing this project will ensure that our Sanctuary will be ready for the next rainy season while preventing any further water damage to the property. We have no illusions about the financial challenge that lies before us, but we also know that our community has risen to the occasion before and done great things when called upon.

We also know that completing this effort so quickly may seem like a lofty goal; but we are inspired by the vision of our church having a secure roof, a dry sanctuary, and a completed and fully funded project. Most of all, we are grateful for the love and support of our church family as we undertake this endeavor.

ASCENSION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN 2019 "Raising the Roof"	
DOING	I/We plan to give:
MORE	\$ _____ toward the replacement of Ascension's sanctuary
THROUGH	roof by August 31, 2019.
BUILDING	Name: _____ Date: _____




Please take the time to fill out a pledge card for this effort as soon as possible.
Gordon Tomaske, Senior Warden



2019 Vestry Members

Officers:

Rector/CEO

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Clerk of the Vestry

Treasurer (*Budget, Investment*)

Vergers (*Archives, Buildings and Grounds*)

The Very Reverend Canon Michael Bamberger

Gordon Tomaske

John Buchanan

Natalie Dougall

Dan Hanson

Mike Beach

Term of Office

2019 Term

Natalie Dougall

Dan Hanson

Gordon Tomaske

2020 Term

Tim Hayden

Marie Prentice

John Buchanan

2021 Term

Ray Smith

Charley Noecker

Maggie Outhouse



Fr. Bamberger



Dan Hanson



Natalie Dougall



Gordon Tomaske



Marie Prentice



Tim Hayden



John Buchanan



Maggie Outhouse



Ray Smith



Charley Noecker



Greetings, Church Family,

I am Gordon Tomaske your new Senior Warden. As Senior Warden, my new job will be to support Father Michael in his leadership of our parish, including setting the agenda for Vestry Meetings, attending parish staff meetings, and helping to address issues that may arise in any of our parish's various ministries. I will also work with Father Michael on the continuing development and implementation of the Parish Operating Plan.

By way of introduction, I have undergraduate and graduate degrees in Economics from the University of California and spent nine years in finance with the Times Mirror Company before moving to the Los Angeles Times. I spent eleven years there in a number of roles, including

Publisher for Times Community News and Director of Targeted Media. The last ten years of my career were spent with Southern California Edison from which I retired earlier this year.

It is my great honor and pleasure to serve both you and Father Michael in my new role; and I invite you to contact me with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you might have about life at our parish.

Gordon Tomaske, Senior Warden



Meet Our New Ministry Intern, Tim Hartley

Tim was born in San Francisco and raised just south of the city on the coast in a town called Half Moon Bay. After graduating college, Tim started his career in marketing working for Gap, Inc. After meeting his husband, Jason, in 1999, Tim moved to Los Angeles. Their first son, Noah, was born in 2004; and shortly thereafter Tim started working as a real estate agent. In 2013, their 2nd son, Wyatt, was born. Tim currently lives with his family in Pasadena.

In his spare time, Tim volunteers as a coach for the Special Olympics, working with Pasadena's soccer and swim teams. Tim has been a hospice volunteer for a number of years and currently serves on the board of Monte Cedro, a senior living community located in Altadena.

As we began 2019, I suggested that instead of making resolutions, we set goals and discover what we would like to have happen in our lives this year. These goals will help us to create real change and motivate us to fully live into the year ahead. Although I'm confident that you readers have been busy doing just that, I thought it would be helpful to offer some encouraging tips to ensure success.

Goal setting is simply another way to think about taking care of ourselves. What do we need to do to take care of ourselves you ask...well, since you asked. Listen to that voice inside. What makes you angry? What have you had enough of? What don't you trust? What doesn't feel right? What makes you uncomfortable? What do you want? Need? What don't you want and need? What do you like? What would feel good?

Setting goals that revolve around self-care leads us on the path to God's will and plan for our lives. Self-care never leads us away from our highest good; it leads us toward it. Learn to nurture that voice inside. We can trust ourselves. We can take care of ourselves. We are wiser than we think. Listen to, trust, and nurture **that** guide.

There is much that will distract us as we journey toward better self-care and living fully into God's plan. As we learn to let go, we must honor the space between what is no longer and that which is not yet. That space is often found in silence. Sometimes we need to be still in order to hear our inner voice.

"Gracious God, be in that grace filled silence that lies deep within me, that I may live in Christ as Christ lives in me."

What is truly worthwhile is not always easy. Taking our lives and relationship with God to the next level all too often demands letting go and recreating ourselves.

Live well, live blessed, live in grace filled silence.
Deacon Ed+



Our beautiful newly restored/rehabilitated door is almost complete. A third vintage hinge was added, the very old lock is now fully functional, and the door operates perfectly. Work on the door frame/jamb continues as well as the painting. Marthanne's great plan for this door plus her cooperation and positive energies drove the work. Joe Crowley's incredible high level of craftsmanship and Mike Beach bringing the help

engineers do teamed up to make it possible.

Thank you, Tim Hayden



Annual Parish Meeting January 27, 2019



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

This year, because Easter is so late (April 21), the season of Epiphany is elongated ~ we celebrate Epiphany throughout the entire month of February. Choral music for the month includes:

February 3 ~

Behold Now, Praise the Lord by Everett Titcomb (twentieth-century American composer) and Hal Hopson's (also American) *The Gift of Love* ~ I Corinthians 13 set to the beautiful American tune *O Waly Waly*.

February 10 ~

Connie Grisham, guest director/organist, will lead the choir in:
There's A Wideness in God's Mercy by Maurice Bevan (British bass-baritone and composer),
and John Rutter's soothing *The Peace of God*.

February 17 ~

New to Ascension, *The Beatitudes*, an enchanting setting by American Anglican Robert Lehman
and *Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord* by another American, Richard Sheppard.

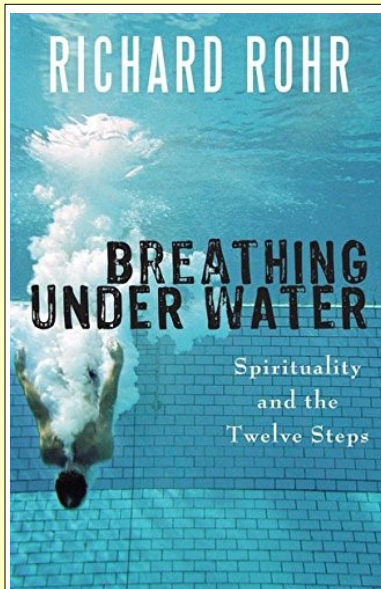
February 24 ~

English Renaissance composer and organist Christopher Tye's *O Come, Ye Servants of the Lord*
and the lovely *Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree*, by Elizabeth Poston (twentieth-century English composer).

*O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:
Be with us, we beseech thee, as we seek to perfect the praises of thy children on earth;
and grant to us even now such glimpses of thy beauty
that we may be made worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
~ The Royal School of Church Music*



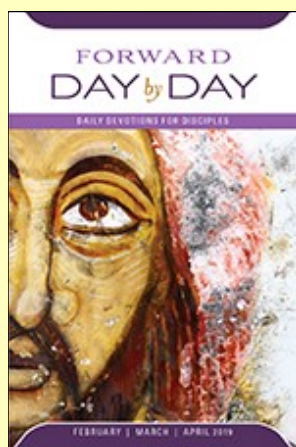
Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist



Lenten Offering

Our new Ministry Intern Tim will be leading a discussion group on Richard Rohr's *Breathing Under Water* on Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 (March 13th - April 10th.) All are welcome!

About this book: "In this exploration of Twelve Step spirituality, Rohr identifies the Christian principles in the Twelve Steps, connecting The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous with the gospel. He draws on talks he has given for over twenty years to people in recovery and those who counsel and live with people with addictive behavior. Rohr offers encouragement for becoming interiorly alive and inspiration for making one's life manageable for dealing with the co-dependence and dysfunction (sin) rampant in our society."



Don't forget to pick up a copy of the new **Forward Movement Day by Day Booklet** located at the back of the church or on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

A \$2 donation is requested.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR
SOMONE TO HOST
FEBRUARY'S HOUSE
CHURCH AND DINNER
ON THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 28TH.
PLEASE CONTACT
FR. MICHAEL OR
DEACON ED IF YOU
ARE INTERESTED.**

SAVE THE DATE!
Tuesday, March 5th, 2019

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Come have your fair share of Pancakes for Supper!

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Hawks Hall

Cost:

\$6.00 Adults

**\$4.00 Children twelve and
under or \$20 for a family of
four or more!**



All proceeds will be donated to Friends in Deed.



St. Swithin's by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham
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March 6th
Mass & Imposition of Ashes
7am, Noon, & 6pm

Church of the Ascension Event Calendar- 2019

Thursday, February 28	House Church/Dinner
Tuesday, March 5	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday, March 6	Ash Wednesday Services
Wednesday, March 13	Lenten Study
Friday, March 15	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, March 20	Lenten Study
Thursday, March 21	House Church/Dinner
Friday, March 22	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, March 27	Lenten Study
Friday, March 29	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, April 3	Lenten Study
Friday, April 5	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, April 10	Lenten Study
Friday, April 12	Friday, Lent Devotional
Sunday, April 14	Palm Sunday/Holy Week Begins
Friday, April 19	Youth Activities in preparation for Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 21	Easter Sunday
Thursday, May 16	House Church/Dinner
Sunday, June 2	Ascension Sunday
Sunday, June 9	Pentecost
Sunday, June 16	Trinity Sunday/Last Day Choir
Sunday, September 8	Fall Kick-Off
Thursday, September 19	House Church/Dinner
Saturday, September 21	Heal the Bay—Coastal Cleanup Day
Sunday, October 6	Blessing of the Animals
Thursday, October 17	House Church/Dinner
Thursday, October 31	Halloween Activities at Ascension
Thursday, November 21	House Church/Dinner
Saturday, November 23	Savor the Flavor Shopping Party
Monday, November 25	Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day Mass
Sunday, December 8	Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Begin
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service/Pageant
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day Service

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

FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <u>Spiritual Direction</u> 10:30—Noon Rector's Office (Private)	2
3 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library	4 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/Clergy Support Group	5 10am Prayer in the Chapel	6 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	7 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 All School Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg Gooden Setup International Day 8am—7pm Hall/Kitchen	8 <u>Gooden Internation Day</u> 8am—7pm Hall/Kitchen	9
10 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library Vestry Commissioning- Both Services	11 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	12 10am Prayer in the Chapel	13 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	14 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	15 <u>Spiritual Direction</u> 11:30—1pm Rector's Office (Private)	16
17 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library Covering Clergy- The Rev'd Pastor Joshua McGuffie	18  Parish Office Closed	19 10am Prayer in the Chapel Vestry Mtg Hall/7pm	20 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	21 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	22	23 Vestry Orientation Meeting 9am—Noon Hall
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/GOE's North Carolina						
24 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass Noon—PMC Meeting/Library 2pm EFM Mtg/Library	25 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm MARCH SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	26 10am Prayer in the Chapel Daisy Troop Mtg 4pm—5:30pm Hall (Private)	27 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	28 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall House Church/Dinner 6:30pm Location TBD		