



The SPIRE

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



July 2018

Upcoming Events

July 1st— Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

July 4th— Parish Office Closed

July 17th – 7:00pm/Hall-Vestry Mtg

July 21st– City of Hope Blood
Drive/Hawks Hall

July 31st— DEADLINE TO ORDER
DODGER NIGHT TICKETS

From the Rector

Thirty-nine years ago, I spent ten weeks of my summer in a program called Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). I was a chaplain intern at Loma Linda University Hospital. Along with a group of interns, we spent time visiting patients, learning pastoral skills, and learning from each other. Some of the time was devoted to presenting “verbatimim.” These were accounts, sometimes word for word, of our interactions in the patients’ rooms. It was a rich and meaningful time for me personally.

Now to come full circle, I have been asked to chair the oversight committee for the CPE program at Arcadia Methodist Hospital. (One of my fellow students – Brenda Simonds – from 39 years ago is the head of the program at Methodist.) The Methodist CPE program also has satellite centers at the Loma Linda VA hospital and the Academy for Jewish Religion.

I offer a few observations about some of the changes in the 39 years. The rise in the number of veterans being served by the VA has prompted a demand for chaplaincy services throughout the VA. Whereas 39 years ago my cohort of students were all white Christians from mainline denominations, students these days reflect the great diversity of Southern California and come from a broad range of faith traditions. It is my hope, and commitment, that the pastoral care providers of the next generation will be prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of today’s world.

MAB+



**It's summertime...
as you are
snorkeling,
surfing, or just
hanging out at the
beach, please
remember to send
in your pledge
payment!**



Thank You!

“Missed that Announcement?”

You can now access the Lay
Ministry Schedule on the
Church’s website at
www.ascension-sierramadre.com

**Wish no more!
It's here!**

**The 2018 Parish Directory is now
available.**

There are two ways to receive it:

- 1) Email a request to the Parish office and we will send you an electronic copy in PDF format.
- 2) For a \$5 charge, we will give you a printed copy of the directory. This will help to offset our printing costs as there are a considerable number of colored copies. Printed copies can be found on the reception table in Hawks Hall along with a donation envelope.

Pledge Payment Snapshot- June



2018 Budget
Amount:
\$211,001

YTD Budget: \$105,501
YTD Actual: \$123,240
Difference: \$+17,739

SAVE THE DATE! ~ OCTOBER 13, 2018

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT... What is a church without community?

It has been my dream to get everyone together for a retreat—to play, to explore, to discuss, to pray, to reflect, to be together.

We would love to have EVERY member of Ascension committed to attending our local one-day retreat (location TBD). We are in the very early stages of planning, but watch for announcements and details in the coming months. And whatever you do, **SAVE THE DATE!!** **Nicole Hanson**

Perry Restoration Project 2018 Update

Progress continues being made on the Perry Restoration Project. The exterior brown trim painting is almost complete. Stained glass windows are being re-glazed and, in a few cases, being repaired. Repointing of the stonework is underway. A particularly challenging part has been to identify a way to restore the rock in stucco panels that were original to the building. Thanks to Tim Hayden and Chris Bamberger, a technique has been developed. Slowly, but surely, a lot of deferred maintenance issues are being addressed. We're grateful for the gifts from Hall Perry's family that have made this restoration possible.

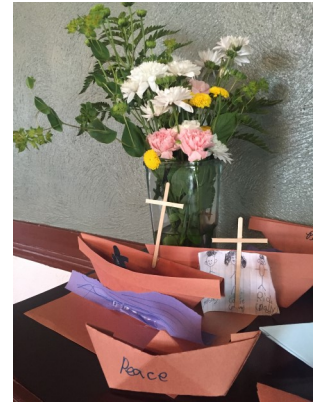


Classes forming now.

EFM is a four year course study of theology starting with the Old Testament and continuing through the New Testament, church history, and personal theology. The art of Theological Reflection is taught every year. We meet on Sunday afternoons for 36 weeks (late September thru early July). Everyone that has taken this course has been more than satisfied and learned a lot. There is a cost of \$375 per year. See me if you are interested.

Mike Beach, Verger

P
E
A
C
E



Los Angeles
Dodgers
vs.
Arizona
Diamondbacks

**Friday, August 31st,
7:00 p.m.**

The Dodgers welcome
The Diocese of Los Angeles!

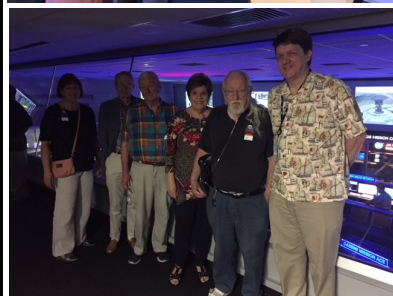
Tickets only \$25!

Fireworks after the game!!



We generally have about 25 people going, so get your money in soon and don't be left out of the party.

- Sign-up sheet on Hawks Hall bulletin board.
- Deadline for ordering tickets is July 31st.



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Choir fellowship transcends singing for Sunday worship and rehearsing midweek – your choristers recently enjoyed a celebratory year-end dinner at Cameron's Seafood Restaurant (even including our own private dining room) and a fabulous tour of JPL, courtesy of Charley Noecker and Carol Rasmussen (unfortunately, Carol was ill and unable to join us that day). Thanks to Charley and Carol for organizing the tour and to Charley for being our guide.

During July I'll be on vacation beginning the 2nd. Jobi McGuffie will lead the congregation from the piano during my absence. I understand that some of our youth will be presenting several piano selections on July 29. Have a good month, and I'll look forward to rejoining you in August.

*At the still point of the universe, all that is not silence is song,
and all creation, hearing it, dances for joy.
The song of the universe is the song of life, its rhythms defined by the cadence of time,
its beauty in its holy harmony.
The song is sung best when sung by the heart.
~Alfred V. Fedak*



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist

The Back to School Drive for Friends In Deed is here!

We are collecting the following items which will be distributed to school children in the Pasadena/Altadena area. Friends In Deed will distribute to school aged children in need.

- Backpacks--new sturdy backpacks (*no red or blue colors please*)
- 3-Ring binders
- Tab Dividers
- College ruled notebook paper
- Copy paper
- Spiral notebooks
- 3"x5" Index cards
- Pencils
- Pencil-top erasers
- Pens (red, blue, black)
- Dry erase markers
- Colored pencils
- Colored markers (no sharpies or permanent markers)
- Highlighters
- Crayola Crayons (24 pack)
- Rulers
- Glue Sticks
- Tissue/Kleenex (in small packages)



Bring your donations to Church anytime in July through Sunday July 29 when we will Bless the Backpacks. Help kids be prepared, feel confident, and have a successful school year.

City of Hope Blood Drive

Sponsored by San Gabriel Valley Polar Bear Club

Blood Drive will be located at:

Episcopal Church of the Ascension

25 E. Laurel Avenue, Sierra Madre, 91024

Saturday, July 21, 2018

9:00AM-3:00PM

Please Bring A Valid Photo ID

To schedule your blood donation, please log onto
www.iDonateBlood4Hope.org

Appointments Recommended. Walk Ins Welcomed.

For questions contact Victor Guerrero:

SGVPolarBears@gmail.com



"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
based out of San Diego, California.

Join us for Youth Group Fun!

August 5th at Boomers! Upland

\$15 per student for unlimited game fun!

Grades 5th and up.

We will depart after the 10:15 mass and return at 6 pm.

RSVP to Jobi McGuffie at 626-710-3021

Jobi



HOW CAN YOU FOLLOW WHAT IS HAPPENING AT GENERAL CONVENTION



The 79th General Convention of
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
July 5th - 13th, 2018
Austin, Texas

Two daily shows from General Convention: Inside General Convention and Adentro de la convención general

June 27, 2018

Two daily shows originating from the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will offer an insider's view to Episcopalians across the church.

"For a lot of people, General Convention can be overwhelming," said the Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija, host of both Inside General Convention and Adentro de la convención general. "But this year we're aiming to change that. We're going to take you all over the convention hall. We're going to meet different people from throughout the church and give you an insider's look."

Each show premieres July 4, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. in English and at 6:30 p.m. in Spanish (both times are CT). Joining Lebrija are correspondents Hannah Wilder for Inside General Convention and Hugo Olaiz for Adentro de la convención general.



**The Rector with the LA
Deputation Chair -
Canon Jim White**

Produced by the Office of Communication, Inside General Convention and Adentro de la convención general will be daily 30-minute magazine-format shows. Each show will offer news and highlights as well as its own lineup of interviews and guests. Beginning July 4, viewers can find Inside General Convention and Adentro de la convención general here. The shows will also be available on the Media Hub, live and on-demand.

Producer Jeremy Tackett, Digital Evangelist, said, "The format of Inside General Convention was initiated at the March Evangelism Matters Conference, and we knew right away that this was an ideal approach for our General Convention coverage."

Daily coverage of General Convention will also be provided by Episcopal News Service.

The 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be held Thursday, July 5 to Friday, July 13 at The Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas (Diocese of Texas).

Meet the anchor and correspondents

The Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija is the Chief Development Officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. He took on this role after serving in multiple congregations in Southern California.

Hugo Olaiz is associate editor for Latino/Hispanic resources at Forward Movement, an agency of the Episcopal Church charged with inspiring disciples and empowering evangelists. He serves on the vestry of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and on the Council of Advice to the Missioner for Latino/Hispanic Ministries in the Episcopal Church.

For the past 11 years, **Hannah Wilder** has served as the communications director for the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. She is passionate about communicating the message of progressive, socially-active Christianity and is an Episcopal priest-in-training.

The Episcopal Church's General Convention is held every three years to consider the legislative business of the church. General Convention is the bicameral governing body of the church, comprised of the House of Bishops, with upwards of 200 active and retired bishops, and the House of Deputies, with clergy and lay deputies elected from the 109 dioceses and three regional areas of the church, at more than 800 members. Between conventions, the General Convention continues to work through its committees and commissions. The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church carries out the programs and policies adopted by General Convention.

LA DIOCESE RESPONDS TO IMMIGRATION SITUATION

Like you, I have been reading about and watching the immigration situation at our southern border and the position our government has been taking. Seeing and reading about the responses of various other denominations, I began to wonder how the Episcopal Church and, in particular, our diocese was reacting. The latest Episcopal News (which many of us get on-line) shares some of the responses the church made during June. Thought you too might be interested.

California bishops call for end to separation of immigrant families

Bishops of the six Episcopal dioceses in California -- California, El Camino Real, Los Angeles, Northern California, San Diego and San Joaquin -- co-signed a letter issued June 20 by Episcopal Public Policy Network of California calling for an end to the Trump administration's policy of separating parents and children who enter the country seeking asylum.

"As Christians in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we are appalled by this practice of separating children from their parents," the letter said. "This cruel and inhumane treatment can cause long-lasting physical and emotional injury to children, according to the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association.

"In addition, it is morally indefensible. In Hebrew and Christian Holy Scriptures, we are enjoined again and again to love the resident aliens and strangers and treat them as our own, to extend hospitality, and to share our resources with them, for we recognize that all that we have is a gift from God. We also are charged with paying special attention to the most vulnerable in our community.

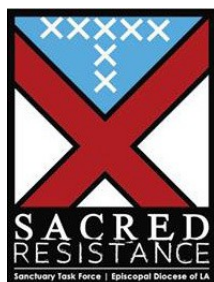
"We Episcopalians join with many other people of good will across the United States in asking the government to return migrant children to their parents immediately and to allow migrants to process asylum claims or to unite migrant children with family members in the United States.

"Finally, we call upon Congress and our Administration to overhaul our immigration system to relieve the suffering of all those who have been harmed by our policies."

Episcopal Church to host vigil in Washington to condemn Trump's immigration policies separating families

On June 21, the summer solstice, the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations will hold a 12-hour prayer vigil beginning at 9 a.m. until sunset in its chapel on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to call further attention to the Trump administration's policy. A virtual vigil will be streamed live on Facebook from noon to 1 p.m. Eastern time (9 a.m. - 10 a.m. PDT).

"We are holding this vigil to condemn family separation and to pray for all parents and children who are currently being detained. While tomorrow we will be focused on the recent separations of families at the border, we must also remember the millions of families who have been torn apart by violence and persecution in the global refugee crisis," said Rebecca Linder Blachly, director of the Washington, D.C.-based Office of Government Relations. "We chose to hold this vigil on June 21 - the longest day of the year - because every day that family members are separated is too long. We will join together with interfaith partners to pray together for an end to this crisis, and to ask all governments to develop humane policies towards migrants. We continue to encourage Episcopalians and all people of faith to call on the U.S. Congress to end harsh and harmful immigration policies and to pass bipartisan, comprehensive reform that recognizes the dignity of every person."



Sacred Resistance group to join interfaith protest against separation of families

Episcopal Sacred Resistance, the immigration justice ministry of the Diocese of Los Angeles, will take part in an hour-long nonviolent interfaith protest against the separation of refugee families at the U.S. - Mexico border on Thursday, June 21. ESR invites clergy and lay members of the church to join them in the march, which also is sponsored by Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights; CLUE (Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice); Bend the Arc Jewish Action; and the Muslim Public Affairs Council, among others. The gathering will begin with prayer, music and witness at 9 a.m. at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 300 N. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles 90012. Clergy are invited to wear vestments.

In addition, ESR will take part in "Freedom 4 Our Children." a weekend demonstration June 22 - Sunday, June 24 at the U.S. - Mexico border.

Jean

If you look at the July Staff schedule, you will know that July is an away month at Ascension. Like Father Michael, some of us will be working for the church in a different location, while others of us will be vacationing. Perhaps you too will be away – if not this month, then in August.

Even though we are away this summer, we should not take a vacation from God. The Love of God is kindled by steady participation in liturgy. How can we be sure that we have some spiritual growth in God's love during the down time vacation provides?

A recent article in Forward Movement's Grow Christians addressed three ways we can stay spiritually connected while we are away.

- 1) Forma is offering weekly lectionary-based Faith-at-Home materials. It is perfect for people who travel a lot during the summer. There are resources for adults with young children, adults with youth, and adult to adult. Currently there is a fee to access this material, but it is not very expensive. To see what Forma is offering and to see the writers, visit <https://www.forma.church/faith-at-home/>
- 2) Practice the Daily Office - an amazing daily prayer activity that uses short, easy to follow liturgies and the daily readings. Link into <https://gregorians.org/office/> This free link works well on a mobile device. The Daily Office invites you to stop, pray, and center yourself into God's plan for the day.
- 3) For us summer-loving Christians, the good news is that there are churches everywhere you go. (Save your bulletin for Dr. Deb.)

Jean Rowe, Senior Warden



JUNE 10, 2018



Thank you to everyone who made our wedding day so special and unforgettable!
Love, Josh, Jobi & Anne

JULY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Clergy-McGuffie 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 2pm EFM Mtg/Library	2	3 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	4 OFFICE CLOSED 	5	6	7
Fr. Bamberger Out of Town (Gen Convention/Vacation) through July 20						
8 Clergy-McGuffie 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	9 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	10 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	11 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	12	13 Private Spiritual Direction 10:30am– Noon Rectors Office	14 Private Memorial Service/ Reception Etter Family 10:30am— 3:30pm Church/Hall
Deacon Ed Vacation						
Fr. Bamberger Out of Town (Gen Convention/Vacation) through July 20						
15 Clergy-McGuffie 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	16	17 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group Vestry Mtg 7pm Hawks Hall	18 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	19	20	21 City of Hope Blood Drive Hawks Hall 
Fr. Bamberger Out of Town (Gen Convention/Vacation) through July 20						
22 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	23 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	24 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	25 5:30pm Yoga/Hall AUGUST NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	26 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg	27 Private Spiritual Direction 1pm—2:30pm Library	28
Youth Minister/Pastor Josh Vacation through August 1st						
29 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	30	31 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group DEADLINE TO ORDER DODGER NIGHT TICKETS			29	30
Youth Minister/Pastor Josh Vacation through August 1st						