

The SPIRE

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



June 2018

Upcoming Events

June 2nd— 3:30pm/Copeland Home
Ascension Youth/Family BBQ Party

June 5th— Voting in Hawks Hall

June 9th— 1:00pm/Church
Funeral/Interment for Carolyn Allen

June 17th – FATHER'S DAY

June 19th – 7:00pm/Hall-Vestry Mtg

June 24th— Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

From the Rector



Early next month, Debbie and I will fly to Austin, Texas. Once again I have the honor of representing the Diocese of Los Angeles as a Deputy at the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. There are four clergy deputies and four lay deputies from LA.

The Convention begins for me on July 3rd, and there are preliminary meetings the day before. The Convention will address a variety of topics – the possibility of Prayer Book revision, changes in the canons (and, in particular, some of the canons pertaining to marriage,) congregational sustainability, theological education, and Christian formation – to name a few! A lot of the time is split between committee hearings and legislative sessions.

As a second time deputy, I am assigned to the legislative committee covering the area of Ministry, and in particular the ordained ministry. Another element of Convention I am looking forward to is reconnecting with friends and colleagues from around the Church. Debbie and I will be attending several parties and reunions. There is also a huge exhibit hall with vendors, groups, and “lobbyists” all offering a great venue to schmooze.

Convention draws to a close on July 13th, and Debbie and I will take the opportunity to visit San Antonio before returning home on July 19th. I ask your prayers for me, for our Church, and the world we seek to serve. **MAB+**

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

9:00 AM

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

*CELEBRATION
OF HOLY MATRIMONY*

*Joanna Harrell &
Joshua McGuffie*

Please join us in Hawks Hall following the mass for a potluck reception. A sign up sheet for the potluck donations can be found in Hawks Hall.



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*



SMCF invites you to join us in celebrating & supporting Sierra Madre

Church of the Ascension/ Hawks Hall & Gardens
25 East Laurel Ave, Sierra Madre, CA

Sunday June 24
2:30--4:30 p.m.

Local grant recipients to speak

DONATE LOCAL – INVEST LOCAL – SUPPORT LOCAL

Kindly RSVP by June 15

sierramadrefoundation@gmail.com

Pledge Payment Snapshot- May

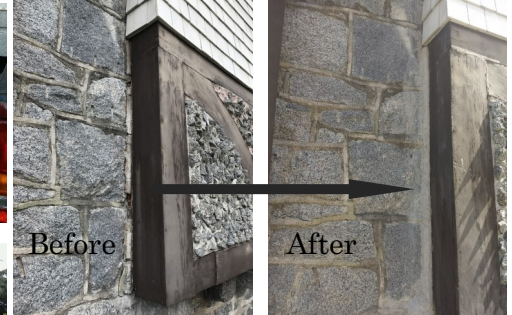
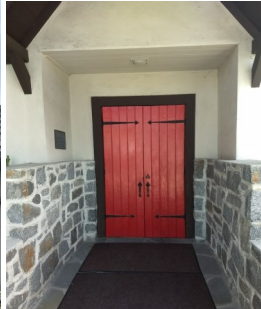


2018 Budget Amount:
\$211,001

YTD Budget: \$87,917
YTD Actual: \$103,761
Difference: \$+15,844

Perry Restoration Project 2018 Update

The efforts are under way for addressing some important maintenance concerns. Windows in need of re-glazing are being methodically handled. Some are not so apparent – the two windows above the entrance were almost falling out. The painting is under way, including the red doors. The concrete element is also underway. Keep watch for more work in progress!



Vestry News

Your Vestry has been focusing on two topics the last couple of months. I thought you might like an update.

As you might expect, Stewardship is always on our minds. We are already in the initial planning stages for our 2019 campaign.

In reviewing the 2018 campaign, we determined that

- Last year only a small percent of pledgers filled out the four parts of the pledge form.
- Using the Do, Give, Share, Demonstrate approach might have been too confusing.
- We need to keep the focus simple.

Based on this review, we have decided that

- We need two separate campaigns to be held at two different times of the year to avoid sending a confused message.
- The money pledge campaign will take place in the Fall as usual; a giving of time and talent pledge will occur during the Spring, perhaps ending on Ascension Sunday or at Pentecost
- Having an outreach/volunteering pledge will say that we are about more things than money

Our second focus has been on ways to expand our footprint as the Village Church. This focus has led us to look at needs outside Ascension and that determination has led us to look at ways we as a parish might help the homeless and low income families in the surrounding areas.

We began to look at such programs as Laundry Love and asked Parish Ministry Council members what they thought about such an outreach program. As a result of PMC's discussion, it became clear that neither the Vestry nor PMC can make such far reaching decisions until we know what parishioners think and what we as a parish are willing to commit to doing on a long term basis.

So how do we find this out from all of you?

At their last meeting Parish Ministry Council members suggested a parish wide retreat where together we can talk about the direction we as a church want to go. Vestry and PMC representatives are just beginning the planning stages for the retreat, but one detail has been decided: **the retreat will be held on October 13.**

Such an informational retreat can only be accurate if we have a large attendance. So please, **SAVE THE DATE** and be ready to help us develop Ascension's vision of our future. *Jean Rowe, Senior Warden*

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Yes, it's summer – well, maybe not according to the calendar, but according to the choral calendar! And my loss is your gain – as our lovely chorister voices exit the loft and take up residency in the pews. Do enjoy them amongst you – may they inspire your summer singing!

On June 3 Jessica Pierce, flutist, and Almer Imamovic, classical guitarist, from Sierra Madre Music will provide the opening and closing voluntaries as well as the offertory anthem. Once again we welcome these regular friends of Ascension and their incredible artistry.

June 10, as you know, is the celebration of marriage between Jobi Harrell and Pastor Josh. Music of the day has been selected by the couple, including a postlude on *THAXTED* for trumpet and organ written and performed by Donald Harrell, Jobi's father.

The remaining Sundays of the month will be organ services; as the summer unfolds, our choristers will present solos, duets, and the like to supplement the organ literature.

Speaking of summer, may I kindly make a request of you? As your travels take you to various parts of the country and the world, will you please bring me a copy of bulletins from churches in which you worship? It's incredibly interesting and informative to learn how different congregations worship, particularly in respect to music. Many thanks!

*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.*



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist

~Alfred V. Fedak

BBQ Party

Church of the Ascension
Family BBQ Party

Saturday, June 2
3:30pm - 7:30pm

RSVP to Monica
626-744-0593

Monica & Hayden's
House
832 Monte Verde Drive
Arcadia, CA 91007



The clothing drive for The Women's Room at Friends-In-Deed continues until June 3rd.

The clothes collected for the first pickup from Acts Thrift Store is shown in the picture below.



Congratulations Ascension 2018 graduates!



Elliot Macintosh will graduate from Arcadia High School and has decided to take advantage of the California Promise at PCC and enter the pathways program with the intention of transferring in 2 years to one of the UC Universities. He is undecided on his major, but is considering business. Elliot became an Eagle Scout in September of 2017 and is incredibly proud of his achievement. He went to Dayton OH with the World Line percussion group in April, where they placed 3rd out of 23 groups that qualified. I think music is in future.



Susan Harrison will be graduating from Arcadia High School on June 7th. She will be attending the University of Rhode Island. She earned a scholarship to play Division 1 softball at URI. Far from home but fortunately her Aunt lives 30 minutes from the URI campus.



Emma Allen graduated 12th grade from Pasadena High School and plans to go to Pasadena City College next year to study art and then transfer to major in Illustration.



Molly Kawamoto graduated from Laguna College of Art & Design as a bachelor of fine arts in animation, cum laude.



Jessica Allen graduated 8th grade from Aveson Global Leadership Academy and plans to continue to her High School years at Aveson Global Leadership Academy.

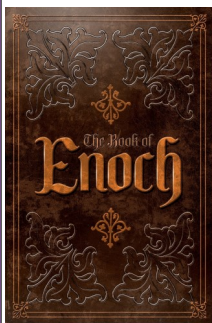
Enoch – A new small group study

Never heard of **Enoch**? I hadn't either until Mike Beach suggested this topic to the group.

A few things I have already learned. There are two Enochs. One was the son of Cain, and the other is a character of the Antediluvian period in the Hebrew Bible, the writings of whom we will be studying. Fragments of the book date back to the 2nd century BC.

Enoch is the seventh of the ten pre-Deluge Patriarchs described in Genesis. He was the son of Jared and father of Methuselah. Genesis says Enoch lived 365 years before entering Heaven alive.

Enoch is the subject of many Jewish and Christian traditions. The New Testament has three references to Enoch. He is venerated in the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Armenian Catholic Church Islam, Medieval Rabbinical Judaism and some New Age cults. If you look his writings on line, you will find that he is quite a controversial figure.



Want to know more?

Join our small group in the library between services and we'll learn about Enoch together.

Jean

Photo Image from Amazon.com
The Book of Enoch Hardcover – March 24, 2017
by [Enoch](#) (Author), [Horn](#) (Author), [Thomas R.](#) (Author)



We spoke a great deal about the Spirit of Truth on Pentecost and of the many distractions that keep us from fully engaging with the Spirit. We hear and read so many things which contradict each other. What to believe, what not to believe, is it real or is it fake are the great dilemmas of our day.

The term fake news has become part of our daily lexicon, the object of great discussion and debate. In general, it refers to the spreading of disinformation on line or in the traditional media, false information based on non-existent or distorted data meant to deceive and manipulate the reader. Spreading fake news can serve to advance specific goals, influence political decisions, and serve economic interests. It can also impact our moral beliefs and our civility towards each other as Christians.

The following comes from Pope Francis' statement on World Communications Day, 2018. Drawing inspiration from a Franciscan prayer, we might turn to the Truth in person:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
 Help us to recognize the evil latent in a communication that does not build communion.
 Help us to remove the venom from our judgements.
 Help us to speak about others as our brothers and sisters.

You are faithful and trustworthy;
 may our words be seeds of goodness for the world:
 where there is shouting, let us practice listening;
 where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;
 where there is ambiguity, let us bring clarity;
 where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;
 where there is sensationalism, let us use sobriety;
 where there is superficiality, let us raise real questions;
 where there is prejudice, let us awaken trust
 where there is hostility, let us bring respect
 where there is falsehood, let us bring truth. Amen.

Live well, live blessed, live as an instrument of peace,
Deacon Ed+

Friends In Deed Back to School Backpack and School Supply Drive

*Bring your donations to Church any time in **JULY***

- Backpacks--new sturdy backpacks (no red or blue colors please)
- 3-Ring binders
- Tab Dividers
- College ruled notebook paper
- Spiral notebooks
- Pencils
- Dry erase markers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayola Crayons (24 pack)
- Rulers
- Glue Sticks

Friends In Deed will distribute to school aged children in need.
 Help kids be prepared, feel confident, and have a successful school year.





Talking to Kids about Gun Violence

May 18, 2018 By Allison Sandlin Liles

It's happened. Again.

We knew that it would, but it still shocks us.

This time it was a high school in Santa Fe, Texas.

While I'm the editor of Grow Christians, I'm also the executive director of [Episcopal Peace Fellowship](#). Today my two jobs completely collided as I prepared to talk to my children once more about gun violence and I wanted to share a few things with you, our Grow Christians community.

These school shootings often confuse and frighten us when we hear about them and can make our children feel the same thing. It can cause them to be fearful for their own lives or those of their friends and family. I feel it's critical we talk to our children about these shootings because they need us to answer questions and shape the narrative of the story. We can provide our kids with a sense of normalcy, security and give them resources to address fears that arise.

In our family we have this conversation every time a major mass shooting occurs, starting with the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting when our eldest was only 3.5 years old. What follows is what our family does and I hope it's helpful for you as you navigate how to parent in the midst of such tragedy.

First, I make time to talk. When my kids were younger, I knew I only needed a few minutes. Now that they are in elementary school, I carve out bits of time for several consecutive days. Every time a question arises or I notice an atypical behavior (crying, clinging to me, change in appetite or sleeping patterns), I stop what I'm doing so we can talk.

I begin the conversation by reminding them that as their parent, I will do everything in my power to keep them safe. I frame the rest of the conversation through this lens, then tell them what happened in an age appropriate way. When my son was in preschool, I used three fact-based sentences: "A person entered a school who didn't belong there. He used a gun to hurt and even kill students and teachers. The police found him though, so he won't hurt anyone else now."

My daughter is far more sensitive and reactive so when I talk to her, I emphasize ways we keep our homes and school safe. I offer concrete examples like keeping doors locked, showing identification when we enter her school and the importance of taking seriously the drills they practice at school. I encourage her to tell her teacher if she ever feels unsafe or threatened at school or if she hears a classmate talk about hurting other students.

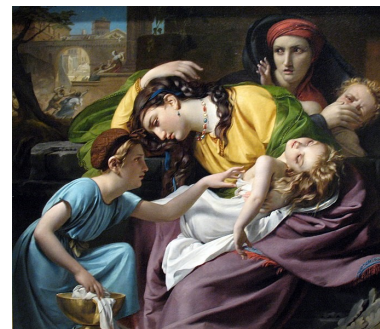
In middle school and high school, I expect our kids to express their own opinions about what causes people to be violent and suggest ways to address it. We've seen how powerful teenage voices are in the aftermath of the Parkland, FL shootings. I want to validate their suggestions and encourage them to work for cultural change.

The whole time we talk, I tune in to their behavior and emotional state to observe changes. My kids have lived a trauma-free life thus far, so most fears subside with time and parental reassurance. I know this might not be the same for children who have experienced trauma or a personal loss.

I'm honest with them and tell them how I'm feeling; I don't try to be immune from grief and fear. I talk to them about God's presence in the midst of suffering and that God shares the pain of those who are hurt. I remind my children that while God is a powerful protector, God is also a grieving parent whose own son died from violence. God never wants other parents to feel the same sadness.

And after we talk about God, my children always ask why the shooting happened.

Sometimes people do bad things and hurt other people, I say. It might be because they cannot control their anger or their fear. ***Continued on next page...***



The Massacre of the Innocents
by François Joseph Navez

We all get scared and angry but when we feel these emotions in such extreme ways and we have a gun, dangerous things can happen. This is a reason why we are a gun free home, I tell them. I try not to reference mental illness because most people suffering from severe mental illnesses hurt themselves not other people. I don't want to add to the stigma of people living with mental illness. We then talk about never using violence as a solution to our problems and review nonviolence conflict resolution options.

But the truth is, while I don't know why it happened, I usually know how it happened. A parent or adult hasn't safely secured a gun in the home and the shooter accesses it. State laws or private sales allow for teenagers to legally buy guns. So as part of our healing process, our family always writes letters to legislators and asks them to tighten gun laws. And then we try to move forward with our normal life. We continue on with homework, piano lessons and softball practice. I know that our routines will provide them with comfort and a sense of safety.

Other resources you might use are the videos from [Sesame Street Workshop](#) for talking to children about traumatic experiences and [the Fred Rogers Institute's](#) parent resources for tragic events. Episcopal Youth Ministries also put together [this resource list from Browyn Clark Skov](#) after the Sandy Hook shootings about talking to teenagers about tragedy. The best resource and response is simply being present for your children. We don't have to fix the tragedy or shield them from future danger. We have the opportunity to meet our children where they are through our own grief and our own discomfort.

God is with you.

[Image: Public Domain via [Wikimedia Commons](#)]

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PENTECOST YOUTH READERS



Recent visitors to Ascension:

Jackson Ruble (left) and
Matt Bamberger (right)



Recent visitors to Ascension:

Mariyah Hoole and her husband
Esteeve Thurairajah

JUNE 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <u>Private</u> Gooden School Volunteer Breakfast 7am- 11am Hawks Hall	2 Ascension Youth/Family BBQ Party 3:30pm—7pm Copeland Home
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 Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/Clergy Support Group 8am-3pm Gooden Promotion Rehearsals/ Church <u>Private Spiritual Direction</u> 12:15pm-1:15pm Library	5 ALL DAY VOTING IN HAWKS HALL 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 8am-3pm Gooden Promotion Rehearsals/ Church 7pm-9pm Gooden Baccalaureate Church	6 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 8am-3pm Gooden Promotion Rehearsals/ Church	7 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg 7:30am-11:30am Gooden Promotion Ceremonies/ Church	8 <u>Private Spiritual Direction</u> 10:30am- 1pm Rectors Office	9 Funeral/ Interment for Carolyn Allen 1pm—2:30pm Church
10 ONLY (1) Mass at 9:00am Celebration of Holy Matrimony Harrell/McGuffie 9am—Noon Childcare 2pm EFM Mtg/Library	11 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	12 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group <u>Private Daisy Troop Meeting</u> 4:30—6pm Hall	13 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	14 7am Mass 9am Forum	15 <u>Private Piano Rehearsal</u> 4pm—6pm Hall	16 <u>Private Piano Recital</u> 1:30pm—6pm Hall
17 FATHER'S DAY 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	18 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary	19 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group Vestry Mtg 7pm Hawks Hall	20 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	21 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg	22	23
24 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 SMCF Annual Reception 2:30pm-4:30pm Hawks Hall	25 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm JULY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	26 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	27 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	28 7am Mass 9am Forum	29 <u>Private Spiritual Direction</u> 1pm—2:30pm Library	30
Youth Minister/Pastor Josh Vacation through July 1 						
					Fr. Bamberger Out of Town (Gen Convention/Vacation) through July 20 	