



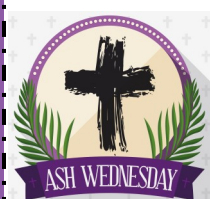
# The March 2022 SPIRE

*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.\***



**March 2**  
**Mass &**  
**Imposition of**  
**Ashes**  
**Noon, & 6pm**



**BISHOP VISIT**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH**  
  
**ONLY ONE SERVICE AT**  
**9:30AM**

## **FEBRUARY 2022** **Pledge Payment Snapshot**



**2022 Budget \$210,000**

<b>YTD Budget:</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>
<b>YTD Actual:</b>	<b>\$40,057</b>
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>\$+5,057</b>

## From the Rector

I have always admired people who can juggle. Even with two balls, I seem to make a mess of it every time. The times when I attempted to juggle in front of people, I ended up embarrassed.

The month of February felt like I was juggling the whole time, except with tasks and not balls. I had dozens of General Ordination exams to read. (I finished those on February 12th!)

I was very committed to finding our new Director of Music. I had resumes to review, opportunities to meet with the candidates, and interviews to schedule with the committee. I had to set aside time for the candidates to practice on the organ. Finally, we had auditions for the position. Let me say again how much I appreciate the help that the committee – Gordon Tomaske, Jean Rowe, and Carol Rasmussen – gave me, and the choir for their involvement in the auditions. The ball landed on February 24th when I extended the offer to Robert Williamson and he accepted.

In addition, we had an Annual Meeting to prepare for. I want to thank everyone for their efforts in preparing the reports and especially Kim Lumino and Jean Rowe for their dedication.

And to top it off, we needed as a congregation to properly bid farewell to our beloved Dr. Deb. Many people helped – Jon Prentice provided the beautiful photo we presented, Charley Noecker and Carol Rasmussen provided the matte and frame, the Altar Guild provided the lovely floral arrangement, the choir accompanied by Jobi McGuffie sang the moving benediction, Gordon Tomaske organized and presented the gift, and Debbie Bamberger and Lisa Wagner helped with the refreshments.

March brings a new set of balls – the Annual Parochial Report, the Episcopal Visitation, and Lent and all that entails... And Easter is seven weeks away.

I wish us all a simple and holy Lent.

**Father Michael+**

To My Dear Ascension Family,

My deepest appreciation for the wonderful retirement celebration you held for me yesterday! For 22 years I have been not only an employee of the church but also a self-declared member of the Ascension family. Of course, I shall forever remember fondly the music we've made and the worship we've facilitated as well as the relationships that we have forged together. You have impacted a fourth of my life, sharing in my joy and grief, a relationship of caring for which I'll always be grateful.

Thank you specifically for yesterday's event ~ the tributes, the exquisite autographed picture, the flowers, the choral farewell, the reception, and the congregation's generous monetary gift. As we both embark on new journeys ahead, I wish you Godspeed and cherish you in my heart.

With gratitude and love,  
**Your "Dr. Deb"**

*thank you*

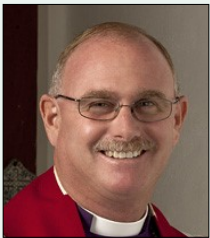
## 2022 Vestry Members

### Officers:

<b>Rector/CEO</b>	The Very Reverend Canon Michael Bamberger
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Gordon Tomaske
<b>Junior Warden</b>	TBD
<b>Clerk of the Vestry</b>	TBD
<b>Treasurer (<i>Budget, Investment</i>)</b>	Dan Hanson

### Term of Office

<u>2022 Term</u>	<u>2023 Term</u>	<u>2024 Term</u>
Dan Hanson	Wendy Stockly	Cameron Cox
Matt Gorman	Scott Callihan	Jon Prentice
Connie Keith	Gordon Tomaske	Pam Harrison



Fr. Bamberger



Dan Hanson



Pam Harrison



Connie Keith



Jon Prentice



Matt Gorman



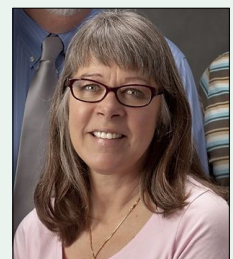
Cameron Cox



Scott Callihan



Gordon Tomaske



Wendy Stockly

Mr. Robert L. Williamson is our new Organist & Choirmaster. He will be responsible for planning all aspects of the music program at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

Originally from Louisville Kentucky, he studied organ at Indian University Southeast with Dr. Janet Hamilton and has served the last 14 years as the Organist-Choirmaster at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky.

He is an active member of the American Guild of Organists and serves on the executive committee of the Orange County chapter. He is also the Past Dean of the Louisville Kentucky Chapter, Sewanee Church Music Conference, and the Association of Anglican Musicians.

Mr. Williamson would like to invite anyone who is interested in music and/or in participating in the music program at Ascension to contact him directly for more information.

He may be reached by phone at 502-905-4703 or by email at [robertwilliamson05@gmail.com](mailto:robertwilliamson05@gmail.com).





**Thank You to Jon  
Prentice for the photos!**

## February 27, 2022 Annual Meeting & Dr. Debora Huffman Retirement



### EASTER FLOWERS

Although we are only in the beginning of Lent, we eagerly look forward to our glorious Easter celebration in April. In order to make this service as beautiful as possible, we need your generous donations for flowers. Donation envelopes are at the back of the church. Checks should be made out to Church of the Ascension, marked for Easter flowers.

St. Anne's Altar Guild thanks you in advance for your generosity in once again helping our Sanctuary look splendid for a Joyous Easter.

Lynne P Holl, Altar Guild Directress

### REAL LIFE REAL FAITH

We don't  
see things  
the way  
they are.  
We see things  
the way we are.  
- The Talmud

Everyday ordinary people are doing extraordinary things. Where would we be without ordinary people doing extraordinary things?

Throughout the gospels, Jesus rebukes Peter for claiming to be unworthy. Jesus makes it clear that we are all ordinary people capable of doing extraordinary things. He continually invites us to share in his ministry. But like Peter, we too often feel unworthy, not good enough or that we simply don't have the right stuff to truly be a disciple and follow in Jesus' footsteps. "Not me, Jesus. You've got the wrong person." And Jesus' response is always the same: "What's your point...would I ask if I knew you couldn't?"

So, what makes us think we can't move beyond our ordinariness? What makes us think we can't do extraordinary things?

What makes us think we can only meet our self-limiting expectations?

Why do we forget that God knows we can do more?

Why are we afraid to be partners in ministry with God and with each other?

In the Great Commissioning described in Mark's gospel (6) (translated in The Message), Jesus says: "Don't think you need a lot of extra equipment. You are the equipment. Keep it simple."

God has given us all a purpose, the skills to do what's expected, and equal shares in his ministry.

So be who you are in all your ordinariness – own it, put it out there. Celebrate it and extraordinary things will happen. Sometimes grand, sometimes simple, sometimes even unnoticeable; God sees and it all matters!

As we begin our Lenten journeys, what a wonderful opportunity to embrace who we are, to embrace who God really sees, to see ourselves the way we really are and not how we think we are or how we think we should be.

Be well, be blessed, be confident and comfortable in your ordinariness. Watch what happens!

**Deacon Ed+**



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

## MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 11am Gooden Chapel 1:15pm Gooden Chapel 12:30-3pm Gooden Drama Classes/Hall	<b>2</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall <div>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE TIMES NOON &amp; 6PM</div>	<b>3</b> 9am Rector's Forum 1:10pm Gooden Chapel	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8am Indoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Indoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	<b>7</b> Fr. Michael out of office/Clergy Support Group 8:30am Yoga/Hall 1pm Gooden Drama Class/Hall	<b>8</b> 11am Gooden Chapel 1:15pm Gooden Chapel 12:30-3pm Gooden Drama Classes/Hall	<b>9</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall <div>MENS LUNCHEON NOON</div>	<b>10</b> 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg 1:10pm Gooden Chapel	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 8am Indoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Indoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	<b>14</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 1pm Gooden Drama Class/Hall	<b>15</b> 11am Gooden Chapel 1:15pm Gooden Chapel 12:30-3pm Gooden Drama Classes/Hall 7:30pm Vestry Meeting Hall	<b>16</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>17</b> 9am Rector's Forum 1:10pm Gooden Chapel	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8am Indoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Indoor Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	<b>21</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 1pm Gooden Drama Class/Hall	<b>22</b> 11am Gooden Chapel 1:15pm Gooden Chapel 12:30-3pm Gooden Drama Classes/Hall	<b>23</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>24</b> 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg 1:10pm Gooden Chapel	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <div>BISHOP VISIT ONLY ONE SERVICE AT 9:30AM</div>	<b>28</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 1pm Gooden Drama Class/Hall	<b>29</b> 11am Gooden Chapel 1:15pm Gooden Chapel 12:30-3pm Gooden Drama Classes/Hall	<b>30</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>31</b> 9am Rector's Forum 1:10pm Gooden Chapel		