

# The SPIRE

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



## May 2018

### Upcoming Events

May 13th – MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 20



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Don't forget to wear **RED!**

May 20th— Noon/Library  
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

May 22nd – 7pm/Hall  
Vestry Meeting

May 28h – MEMORIAL DAY—  
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

### A Point of Clarification

For the time being, the Church of  
the Ascension's new website is  
the same address as before –  
[www.ascension-sierramadre.com](http://www.ascension-sierramadre.com).



And the  
donate button  
is working!

### Pledge Payment Snapshot- April



2018 Budget Amount:  
\$211,001

YTD Budget: \$70,334  
YTD Actual: \$88,893  
Difference: \$+18,559

### From the Rector

I recently came across this photo of the Church of the Ascension on an old postcard from some time between 1950 and 1968. It was taken after the church was expanded and before the sign on the right was replaced by the stone sign. You'll notice the bright red trim.

It has been decided that we will be painting the front doors of the church red to match the new red sign out in front. This will, of course, be consistent with a long-standing tradition in the Episcopal Church.

Red doors on churches date back to the Middle Ages, and like many traditions that go so far back, the original rationale may have gotten misplaced. Some would say that the red symbolizes the blood shed by Christ, which is our entry into salvation. Red represents the blood of the martyrs, which, as early church father Tertullian pointed out, became the seeds of the church. Red is the color of the Passion. Coming through red doors reminds us of the death and resurrection. Others say that it is the color associated with the Passion. Still others hold that it is reminiscent of the marking of the doors at Passover and the color is also associated with Pentecost. One modern day front-runner theory is that the red doors connote sanctuary. In the Middle Ages, churches were places where a person could seek refuge for justice.

A modern re-interpretation could be that we all need some place where we can find safety and healing. (A pretty cynical opinion holds that the doors get painted red when the mortgage on the church is paid off. I'm not buying that idea.) This variety of theories is so typically Episcopalian/Anglican – if you ask three people for their thoughts, you'll get at least five ideas!

In the photograph, it is hard to tell if the doors were red as well as the surrounding trim. If one goes to look at the actual door under the bell tower and the door exiting the sanctuary by the apse, it is apparent that at one time those doors were red as well. So perhaps by Pentecost, we'll be looking at red doors.

Blessings, MAB+

Front door to  
church



## Perry Restoration Project News

Many of you may recall the generous challenge presented to the congregation at our Annual Meeting by Martha Mulleavy. (In a show and tell moment, she passed around rocks that had fallen off the church's siding!) Through her generous contribution, work has begun on a multi-faceted restoration project.

Doors that have been in serious deterioration will be replaced or repaired. The exterior brown trim will be repaired and repainted. The grout work, sometimes called the pointing, on our rock work will be attended to, and the panels with the rocks inset will be repaired.

In light of Martha's family's long history at Ascension – her great-grandfather was William Carson Shaw (Rector from 1919 -1925) and her grandfather was Charles Hall Perry (longtime parishioner and Vestry member) - we're calling this restoration the Perry Restoration Project.

Watch the progress over the next weeks and an update in next month's Spire.



Easter is almost a month away as I write this article, but the memory of the Easter celebration lingers on as well as our need to remember to thank all those who made this Easter so memorable.

*So, thank you to..*

- **Our Altar Guild** for the decorating of the church and for those individuals who helped the Altar Guild transform the church: Jay Calleton, Chris Bamberger, Lynne Holl's grandchildren, and Georgia Dougall

- The **Vigil readers**
- **Alan Stauffer** for keeping the Pascal candle erect throughout the Vigil
- **Jobi** for her singing of the Exultet
- The members of the **choir**
- Our oboist **Sean Dougall** and this year's trumpeter **Csrlos Ramos**
- **Dr. Deb** for making all the music happen
- The **acolytes**
- The **Eucharistic Ministers**
- **Nicole Hanson** for decorating Hawks Hall and supervising the two brunches
- All those who brought food for the brunches
- Those who volunteered to clean up
- **Our youth** for organizing the Easter egg hunt
- **Deacon Ed** for coming after being sick all week
- And **FATHER MICHAEL** for creating the bulletins, being the go to person for all Easter related decisions, and for being our celebrating priest. What would Easter be for us without him?
- Thank you thoughts also go to—All of you who have been donating to the Women's Room clothing drive – we still have until the first Sunday in June to make donations

*Jean Rowe, Senior Warden*

## Rule of Life

A Rule of Life is an ancient tradition. I was not familiar with this ancient concept until I recently read an article in Grow Christians, an on-line publication of Forward Movement. I thought you might be interested.

“A Rule of Life is simply a series of letters we write to ourselves to keep us on the path we want to take.” It “is a fancy, ancient, and religious term for a simple collection of ‘notes to self’ that you write and read back to yourself once a day as a reminder of how you want to live your life.

If you want to coach yourself on ten subjects (for example: money, rest, health, food, work, prayer, friendship, exercise, kindness, and play) then you write ten topics” – each one on a separate page. “Expand each topic” by writing a series of descriptive “paragraphs about your hope for that subject in your life”, or find a number of relevant sayings that speak to you on the topic, or even paste a picture or two on that page. “Then you simply read the ten pages, one a day, for ten days, and repeat.

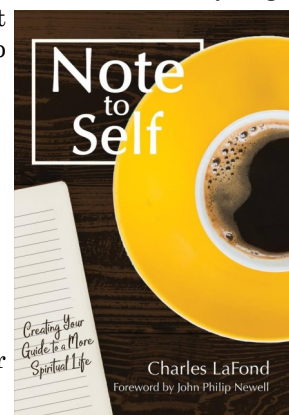
Many people write thirty notes to self because that is about one each day for a month. At the end of the month, you go back to page one and begin reading the statements again. In a year you read each page about twelve times. This way you never go for more than a month without being reminded of the top thirty things you think are important to your living a good life.” \*

If you are interested in having a more extensive guide to looking into the Rule of Life process, Forward Movement is producing a new booklet by Charles LaFond called Notes to Self: Creating your Guide to a More Spiritual Life.

You can order the book on line by going to [www.forwardmovement.org/products](http://www.forwardmovement.org/products)

**Jean Rowe**

\*Charles LaFond, “A Rule of Life is an ancient concept. But did you know you could write your own?” Grow Christians, April 14, 2018.



If you are like me, sometimes you think about helping but don't do it because you don't really know what needs to be done. Well, here are a few suggestions:

### Where we need help at Ascension

- ⇒ **Altar Guild is very short of members.** Part of one weekend a month is the time commitment. Talk to Lynne Holl, Father Michael, or any Altar Guild Member
- ⇒ **Choir needs members.** Wednesday evening rehearsals and 10:15 Sunday services is the time commitment. Talk to Dr. Deb or any choir member.
- ⇒ **Ushers are another group that is short of members.** One service a month is the time commitment. Talk to Roger Keith for 8:00 service; Jeff Meehan for 10:15 service or talk to Maggie Outhouse or Father Michael.
- ⇒ **Acolytes are a place for our youth to serve.** One service a month is the time commitment. Talk to Jobi Harrell, Maggie Outhouse, or Father Michael. (Note: youth can volunteer at the last minute any Sunday)
- ⇒ **Congregational Lectors (scripture readers) are another need.** One service every month or two is the time commitment. Talk to Maggie Outhouse or Father Michael
- ⇒ **Work Party volunteers** – One Saturday every so often. Talk to Mike Beach about the next Work Saturday. Weeders are always welcome. Set your own schedule. Talk with Mike Beach if you need directions.

### Where you can help the community beyond Ascension

- ⇒ Donate food the first Sunday of the month for the ECPAC food distribution
- ⇒ Donate clothing for the Women's Room clothing drive
- ⇒ Contribute to Episcopal Relief and Development
- ⇒ Participate in our various Outreach projects throughout the year
- ⇒ Volunteer at the Sierra Madre library and at its fund raisers

Do you have suggestions as to how we can help in other areas? Let the office or the Wardens know.

**Jean Rowe, Senior Warden**



May 6th **ROGATION SUNDAY**  
 8AM Childcare, Atrium I  
 9AM Youth Group, Atrium II  
 10:15 AM Childcare, Atrium I  
 Sunday School, Atrium II

May 13th **MOTHER'S DAY**  
 8AM Childcare, Atrium I  
 9AM Youth Group Community Service, Hawks Hall  
 10:15 AM Childcare, Atrium I  
 Sunday School, Atrium II

May 20th **PENTECOST**  
 8AM Childcare, Atrium I  
 9AM Youth Group, Atrium II  
 10:15 AM Childcare, Atrium I  
 Youth Sunday, Students attend Mass

May 27th **TRINITY SUNDAY**  
 8AM Childcare, Atrium I  
 9AM Youth Group, Atrium II  
 10:15 AM Childcare, Atrium I  
 Sunday School, Atrium II



### NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Our liturgies remain rich during the month of May as Easter transitions into Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sundays. Choral music for the month consists of:

#### May 6 – Rogation Sunday

The charming *King Jesus Hath a Garden* by Charles Wood, arranged by Richard Shepherd.  
*There naught is heard but Paradise bird, Harp, dulcimer, lute, With cymbal, Trump  
 and tymbrel and the tender soothing flute . . .*  
 During communion, *O Wheat Whose Crushing Was for Bread*

#### May 13 – Ascension Sunday

*Hark! Ten Thousand Harps and Voices* by Robert J. Powell  
 Roland E. Martin's moving *O Saving Victim*

#### May 20 – Pentecost

William H. Harris' *Rejoice, the Year Upon Its Way*  
 New to Ascension, Mark Schweizer's gorgeous *Descend, O Heavenly Dove*

#### May 27 – Trinity Sunday

*Come, Join the Dance of Trinity* by Daniel Nelson – yes, you'll want to dance with us during  
 the presentation of this anthem!  
 K. Lee Scott's familiar *Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me*

And then we say farewell to the choir for a few months of R&R. Yes, the choral year has ended and our choristers take a well-deserved hiatus. My deep appreciation to Susan, Colette, Carol, Andrea, Liz, Lavette, Ted, Charley, and Joe for sharing your gifts with us throughout the year. I encourage those of you in the congregation to give a word of thanks to your choristers as you encounter them.



**Debora Huffman**, Director of Music and Organist

*Lord God, the Holy Ghost, in this accepted hour,  
 as on the day of Pentecost, descend in all Thy power.  
 ~ James Montgomery/John Brownlie*

REAL  
LIFE. *Real*  
Faith.

Well, I can't help but wonder how many of you decided to include your junk drawers as part of your spring cleaning. What spring cleaning....is he crazy? OK, let's forget the spring cleaning and peek into our rational junk drawers and see what we find.

Why do we have relational junk drawers? It's the dark place in our hearts where we stuff people when we don't know how to deal with their quirks or shortcomings. It's the scary place in our soul where we hide our true feelings out of fear of rejection or conflict. It's the procrastinating and dishonest place in our minds where we tell ourselves, "I'll deal with him or her tomorrow."

On the one hand, it's an easy way out when we don't want to or don't know how to deal with the difficult people in our lives. Or is it?

People are not junk. They are valuable beings created in the image of God. All people. Regardless of how difficult a relationship is, you must keep at it because people matter and relationships matter. When it comes to people, out of sight does not necessarily mean out of mind. Stuffing is never the path to relational success. (Have you noticed that people tend to crawl out of the "drawers" we stuff them into?) Ignoring a problem or not being honest with a person doesn't solve anything. Like your momma told you when you were eight, "Honesty is always the best policy." We need to be straightforward with people and honest with ourselves. You shouldn't be lazy in your relationships. It might be easier to ignore a person who bothers or scares you, but that's not the path to personal or relational health. Relationships are work. Hard work.

Who in your life, despite your best efforts to run from them, is impossible to avoid? Maybe it's time to face the junk in your heart and the stuff hidden and unspoken in your relationship with that person.

Living with fear or tension or undercurrents of strife isn't good for you or anybody else.

Go ahead and make some time to open the drawer and face the person you've been avoiding. Stop hiding or running from that relationship. Don't put off until tomorrow what is best dealt with today. Embrace the challenges and grow.

Live well, live blessed, live out in the open. And by the way, God's watching.

*Deacon Ed+*

## CLOTHING DRIVE *for* The Women's Room at Friends-In-Deed

*Sponsored by The Episcopal* **CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

*Your Village Church Since 1885*

*In partner with*

**Acts** THRIFT STORE

Locations:

1311 North Altadena Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91107

232 East Foothill Blvd.  
Pomona, CA 91767

April 14 through June 3



New or Gently  
Used Items *Please*

*\*men's, women's, and  
children's clothes  
accepted\**

### Drop-Off Location

Church of the Ascension  
25 E Laurel Ave.  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Clothing bins are  
located under the lych  
gate to the north side of  
the Church on Baldwin  
Ave. →







A little humor to share as we get closer to Pentecost.

### THE BISHOP ARRIVES FOR PENTECOST...

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by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham  
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### FORWARD DAY by DAY

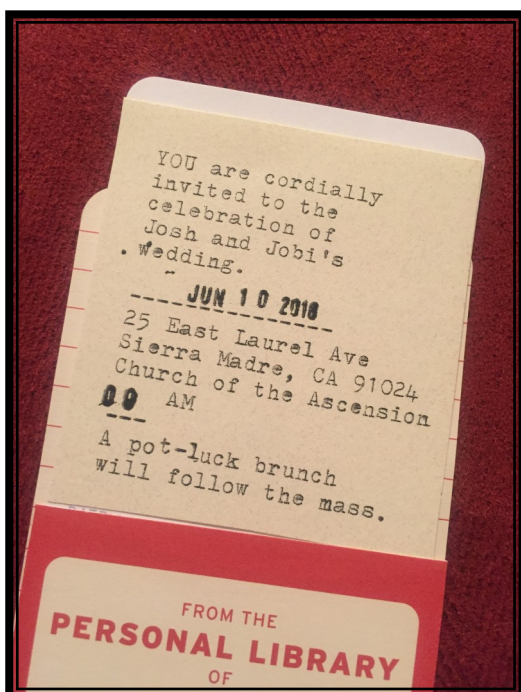
MAY | JUNE | JULY 2011



The new **Forward Movement Day by Day** booklets are available at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

**A \$2 donation is requested.**

On June 10, there will be one service at 9:00am with a potluck reception following mass. A sign up sheet for potluck donations can be found in Hawks Hall.





## 2018 Easter Egg Hunt at Ascension! Photographer: Jon Prentice





## MAY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	<b>2</b> 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 3:30-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>3</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall	<b>4</b> <b>Private Spiritual Direction</b> <b>10:30am- 1pm Rectors Office</b>	<b>5</b>
		Fr. Bamberger Out of Office—Clergy Conference				
		Deacon Ed Vacation				
<b>6</b> 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	<b>7</b> Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/Clergy Support Group  9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary	<b>8</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group  <b>Private Daisy Troop Meeting</b> <b>4:30—6pm Hall</b>	<b>9</b> 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 3:30-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>10</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 10:30am Staff Mtg	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>  10:15 Mass Clergy/McGuffie  <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>  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	<b>14</b> 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary  <b>Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall</b> <b>6:30pm—9:30pm</b>	<b>15</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	<b>16</b> 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>17</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>General Convention Deputation Meeting</b> <b>9am-Noon Hawks Hall</b>
		Fr. Bamberger Out of Office—ER&D Gathering of Responders/Baltimore				
<b>20 PENTECOST</b> 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	<b>21</b> 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary	<b>22</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group  <b>Vestry Meeting</b> <b>7pm Hawks Hall</b>	<b>23</b> 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>24</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 10:15am Staff Mtg	<b>25</b> <b>Private Spiritual Direction</b> <b>1pm—2:30pm Library</b>  <b>JUNE NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>SM Music Recital</b> <b>2pm—6pm Church/Hall</b>
<b>27 TRINITY SUNDAY</b> 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	<b>28</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY/OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall</b> <b>6:30pm—9:30pm</b>	<b>29</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	<b>30</b> 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>31</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall		