

The SPIRE

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



May 2019

Upcoming Events

May 5th – Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

May 6th – May 8th: Clergy Conference

May 21st – 7:00pm/Hawks Hall
Vestry Meeting



From the Rector

I want to thank everybody who contributed during Lent to Episcopal Relief and Development. Our effort had two prongs – First the popular Chicken project. We raised **\$539.66** from the Church of the Ascension to support the international branch of the organization. The other prong was the Lenten offerings which went to support the U.S. Disaster Fund. The congregation raised **\$840** towards this fund. Episcopal Relief and Development is currently supporting recovery efforts in Florida, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Washington, Texas, Alabama, California, Nebraska and South Dakota.

I also want to thank our congregation for your support of me and my ministry as a Partner in Response. Some of you may know I made a short trip just before Holy Week to Nebraska and Iowa in response to the flooding that has been going on there. I met with diocesan leaders, local clergy and lay leaders, toured some of the affected areas, and helped launch a grant-funded response program.



Floods in the mid-west always raise complicated questions. Why do some communities flood and others don't? Is it appropriate to rebuild in flood-prone areas? What is the impact on agriculture?



Something that struck me as different in this region was the amount of sand that was deposited by the Platte River overflowing. This deposit will have an impact on the topsoil that was under water.

Please keep the people of the region in your prayers. Pray for wisdom in the recovery efforts. And again, thank you for your support.

Blessings, MAB+

FOOD DRIVE

In May, The Gooden School will be collecting "Gold Items" for Friends In Deed.

Gold items are the most popular and the most difficult to keep in stock. These items are: **Peanut Butter, Canned Tuna/Chicken, Cereal, Rice, Cooking Oil, Sugar, Flour, Coffee, and Can Openers.**



Bring donations on church service days throughout the month of May. There will be a donation bin as you enter the back of the church labeled "Friends In Deed Donations."



Let's Plan a Baby Shower!

Interested in helping to plan a baby shower for our Youth Minister Jobi McGuffie?

Contact
Lynne Holl.

Timeframe is early to mid-July.



April Pledge Payment Snapshot



2019 Budget
\$220,881

YTD Budget: \$73,627

YTD Actual: \$81,499

Difference: \$+7,872

St. Anne's Altar Guild wishes to express our heartfelt thanks to all who so generously contributed to Easter flowers this year. It takes the work and resources of a "village" to inspire and make this all happen; and when we do work together, the results are magnificent.

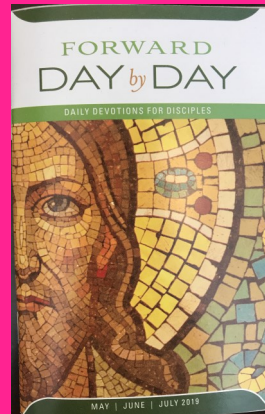
My personal thank you to all the Altar Guild members who worked so diligently this past Holy Week and especially the day before Easter. Without every one of you, this work could not have been done.

*thank
you*

We always welcome new members.
In Christ, Lynne Holl



Thank You to
Catherine Berger
and
Sandra Dickson for
creating this year's
Paschal Candle!



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.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

As I write this article, the music of Easter Day still rings in my head ~ song from the bulging loft soaring throughout the sanctuary, descants, trumpet, oboe, organ, zimbelstern. Sincere appreciation goes to the choir and instrumentalists for their gift of time, talent, and considerable effort!

During May, our choral celebration of Easter continues:

May 5 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

Two anthems by contemporary American composer David Ashley White: *A Song to the Lamb* and *O God Unseen*.

May 12 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday

We observe Good Shepherd Sunday with Edward Bairstow's gorgeous *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*. Bairstow was an Anglican organist and composer of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This is paired with *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* by contemporary American composer, Carlton T. Russell ~ a setting new to Ascension.

May 19 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter

Blessed Be the God and Father by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 19th century English organist and composer. During communion Peter Aston's *I Give You A New Commandment* will be sung.

May 26 – Sixth Sunday of Easter, Rogation Sunday

An Ascension premier, *Beauty in God's Creation* by A. F. Schultz, is the offertory anthem. Schultz is a contemporary American organist, composer, and conductor. This will be coupled with Cecil Armstrong Gibbs' *God Be In My Head*. Gibbs, who died in 1960, was a prolific and versatile English composer. Since this is also Memorial Day Weekend, we'll include the singing of the *Navy Hymn*, *Eternal Father*, *Strong to Save*.

Rise heart, thy Lord is risen ~ sing His praise without delay ~
~George Herbert



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist



Ready or not, here I come. Post resurrection gospel stories are full of hope, new life and, in my opinion, a little bit of mischief. I can't help but think that Jesus may have been having a little bit of fun with the disciples whether it was on the road to Emmaus or in the upper room where the apostles were confused, lost, and even in a deep state of despair not knowing what to do next. They were hiding, not knowing Jesus would soon be seeking.

Maybe they were lacking in faith and taking things a little too seriously. Perhaps at times, we are too. Remember playing Hide and Seek in which any number of players conceal themselves waiting to be found by one or more seekers. At times, we play that hide and seek game with God; and that's okay as long as we remember that sooner or later we'll hear him say, "Ready or not here I come." And when he finds you or tags you - you're it.

Recently I had one of those ready or not experiences. I thought I knew how I felt about the issue of immigration, our undocumented brothers and sisters, and immigration policies in general. And then this...

I live on a culturally diverse quite dead-end street in Highland Park. The predominate demographic of Highland Park is Hispanic, but that demographic is changing rapidly. Diversity is one of the main reasons that brought me here ten years ago. I've learned a lot about myself and Hispanic culture, and recently I was reminded that try as I may to not view my neighborhood through the eyes of privilege, sometimes I do without thinking about it. And that's when I need Jesus the most to say "ready or not here I come...or better yet, here I am."

At 6:30 A.M. on Good Friday morning, ICE agents arrested my neighbor, removing him from his home cuffed in front of his wife and two small children ages 2 and 9. He is currently in prison in the desert, waiting to appear before an immigration judge in the town of Adelanto with a population of 30,000, three incarceration facilities, and no McDonald's.

I'm sharing this story because there's an important lesson to be learned. A common everyday headline suddenly took on a human face. It was my neighbor, my friend, and the husband and father of people I care about. I was asked to write a character reference letter which I joyfully and readily wrote. But here's the kicker...I could have been describing myself in the letter, and that made me smile. When we view others through the eyes of Jesus and see ourselves in their pain and in their need...that's a real privilege. Then and only then do the words of Pope Francis truly make sense: "Who am I to judge?"

Like children playing hide and seek, we too as disciples can be confused, lost, and not always sure about what we believe or what we are being called to do. We may think we're hiding from our Christian response and that Jesus doesn't notice, but he will always seek us out one way or another.

In this season of post resurrection, I heard Jesus loud and clear. My neighbor cried out "Here I am." I heard and I listened. God tagged me, and I knew what to do next. So, if you're playing hide n seek get ready...you may be next to be tagged.

Live well, live blessed, live ready to be it.
Deacon Ed +

A Meditation on Ascension Day...



This year May 30 is Ascension Day, our titular name day. As a parish, we traditionally celebrate Ascension Day the Sunday directly following the official day. In 2016, **Forward Movement**, a publication of **Forward Day by Day**, Executive Director Scott Gunn shared the following meditation about Christ's Ascension.

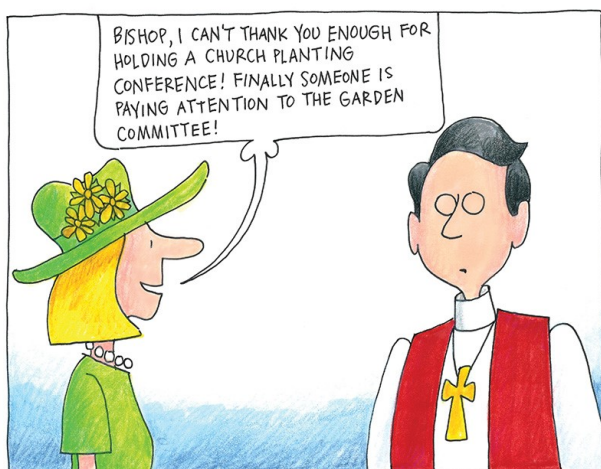
"Jesus offered a blessing that day in at least two ways. First, he lifted his hands and blessed them. Even more than this, his very departure is a kind of blessing. You see, when Jesus left his followers, he showed a great deal of trust. Jesus' departure demonstrated that he trusted them – and us—to continue his ministry. Jesus trusts us. And trust is a blessing.

Perhaps the point of Ascension Day is that the burden of ministry shifts to us to carry on Christ's work, equipped and inspired by the Holy Spirit. We can't do this on our own, of course, but by God's grace we can.

When we celebrate Ascension Day, we are celebrating the fact that Jesus has given us the gift of trust and the joys of carrying on his ministry."

Trust and joy - something for all of us to think about as we celebrate Christ's Ascension once again.

From the May 2019 Episcopal Church Pension Group Calendar



Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham of St. Swithin's.
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**PENTECOST
SUNDAY**

June 9th

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

FYI



GENTRY BROTHERS, INC.
General Engineering Contractor

FYI

Construction Notice

City of Sierra Madre FY 2018-19 Street Improvement Project
4/15/19

The City of Sierra Madre recently awarded the above referenced contract to Gentry Brothers, Inc. We will be resurfacing your neighborhood. This work is tentatively scheduled to commence on **Monday, April 22, 2019** with an anticipated completion date of **June 21, 2019**. Working hours will be restricted from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

As can be expected with any street improvement project, there may be some noise, dust and inconvenience. However, we will make every effort to keep this to a minimum.

Parking will be restricted in the construction area between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will post "No Parking" signs at least 48 hours in advance prior to commencing work in the affected areas. **The City will be forced to tow parked vehicles in the construction zone where any work is impeded.** Access to your driveway will be maintained except the day paving is scheduled. We will deliver a second notice 24 hours prior to paving.

We truly appreciate your understanding and patience so that we can complete this work as quickly as possible. We thank you for your cooperation. If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the City of Sierra Madre Public Works Department at (626) 355-6615 and/or Gentry Brothers, Inc. at (626) 357-9631 x15.

Lost keys found in Sacristy.



If they belong to you please contact the parish office.



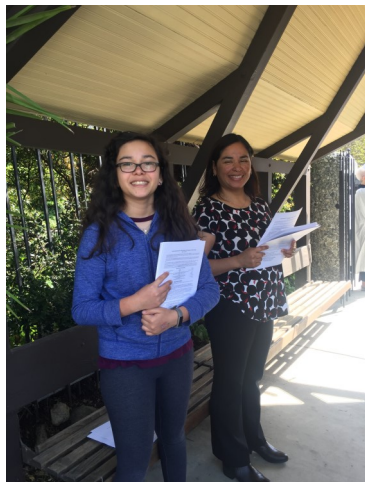
Rose Sunday



Our Purple "Lent" Bear

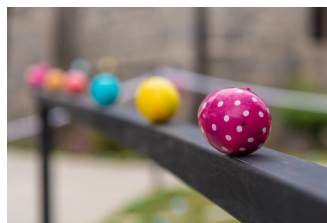
Palm Sunday

Thank you to Jobi McGuffie for the pictures.



Stuffing & Dying Party

Thanks to all who donated candy and eggs for the Easter egg hunt and to the youth who helped stuff them!



Easter Day

Thank you to Jon Prentice, Jobi McGuffie, and Nicole Hanson for the pictures.



Thank You Egg Hunt Crew!



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

MAY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	2 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	3	4
5 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	6 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel	7 10am Stations of the Cross	8 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	9 7am Mass 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	10 <u>Spiritual</u> <u>Direction</u> 10:30—11:30 Rector's Office (Private)	11
CLERGY CONFERENCE				Fr. Bamberger Out of Office / Vacation		
12 Mother's Day Covering Clergy: The Rev'd Pastor Joshua 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	13 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	14 10am Prayer in the Chapel Daisy Troop Mtg 4pm—5:30pm Hall (Private)	15 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	16 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	17	18
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office / Vacation						
19 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	20 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel	21 10am Prayer in the Chapel Vestry Mtg Hall/7pm	22 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	23 7am Mass 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	24 MAY SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	25
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office / ER&D Albuquerque						
26 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	27 Memorial Day Office Closed Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	28 10am Prayer in the Chapel	29 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall Gooden School Volunteer Breakfast (Private) Hall,Kitchen 7am—9:30am	30 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	31	

Spire Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator