



The SPIRE

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



October 2017

Upcoming Events

October 1st—Blessing of the Animals

**October 12th—7pm/Hawks Hall
Stewardship/Know the Facts Meeting**

**October 15th— Stewardship/Know the
Facts Meetings—after the 8am service
& after the 10:15 service/Hawks Hall**

**October 17th— 7pm/Hawks Hall
Vestry Meeting**

**October 19th— 6:30pm
House Church/Dinner *location TBD***

**October 22nd— Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting**

**October 29th— 10:15am Service/
Gooden School Sunday**

**October 31st— 5:30pm
All Hallows Eve Evening
Prayer Service**

REMINDER

Friday, October 13
10:00am



Memorial Service
for
Carl Foote

Church of the Ascension



Pledge Payment Snapshot

January—September 30, 2017

Budget Amount: \$208,437

YTD Budget: YTD Actual:
\$156,328 \$158,806

Difference:
\$+2,478

From the Rector

People often ask what it is that I do when I'm deployed as Partner in Response for Episcopal Relief and Development. Frequently, I describe myself as a consultant to church leaders. Usually, I travel with another member of our team.

This past month, I went to the Diocese of Texas and spent time in and around Houston. I met with their Diocesan Disaster Coordinator, some of their program Canons, and their Assistant Bishop – the Right Reverend Hector Monterosso, as well as several local clergy and lay leaders.

This trip I was accompanied by Keith Adams. Keith has served for the last several years as the Disaster Manager for the Diocese of New Jersey. (One of the things we have in common is that we are both retired fire chiefs.) Together, we visited some of the affected congregations and met with diocesan staff. In addition, for a couple of days I “shadowed” Bishop Monterosso. We visited Latino clergy and lay leaders.

Normally, I don't spend much time with some of the folks who have been badly affected. This time, Bishop Hector and I were asked by a priest to accompany him in visiting one of his parishioners. She has lived in a ground floor apartment and is quite the “pack rat.” Her apartment was filled with stuff that had been soaked during the flooding and were now a real health hazard. The goal was to convince her to let go of her collections and be able to move to a clean apartment. Sadly, convincing her will be an effort that will take more than a one-time visit. We did our best, and who knows what effect praying with “Nila” will have.



Please keep all of those affected by the recent hurricanes and earthquakes in your prayers. Your support for Episcopal Relief and Development is greatly appreciated.

Blessings, MAB+

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 1st, 2017

11:45 am in the Outdoor Worship Area

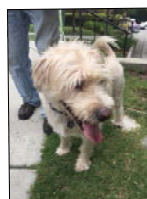


Free pet
sitting during
the 10:15am
service!



The community is invited to bring your animals, no matter how big or small, breed or religion. Some animals may require a leash or a container, so keep that in mind. All of God's creatures are welcome!

*Everyone is welcome.
Cookies, lemonade and
dog treats provided!*



STEW
2018
ARPA
DIHSE

An Important Message from Your Vestry

Ascension is blessed with volunteers who give of themselves to provide services when funding is not available. But our Church needs a commitment from all members of the parish to support our day-to-day operations. Ascension offers so much to its parishioners; it would be a shame if some of these services could no longer be provided.

Because we can only fund salaries, services, and programs with money we are guaranteed to receive, the budget is developed primarily by the pledges made by our parishioners. Financially, we do need to increase our pledge donations. This past year, those pledges fell \$20,121 short of what is needed in a bare bones budget. Due to the deaths of three of our pledging members, that amount may increase to \$30,000. Those who can afford to increase their pledges are encouraged to do so.

Please read the information in the Stewardship packet, prayerfully decide what you are able to give, and help us achieve our goal of 100% participation.

Thank you, Your Vestry

Need a Stewardship packet? Extra packets are located at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.



Just the Facts Meetings Continue

On Thursday October 12 at 7:00 pm and on Sunday October 15 after the 8:00 and 10:15 services, you can get the details of why in 2017 we have and in 2018 may continue to have a deficit in the Church's budget. How did this \$20,000 deficit happen, why does it continue, and what can we do about it? Meetings will be held in the Hawks Hall library.



Hawks Hall is Available To Rent

Is your organization getting too large for its current meeting room? Consider renting Hawks Hall for your group's next occasion. This facility is one of the best kept secrets in Sierra Madre where there are few hall spaces that are affordable.

DID YOU KNOW?

Give our parish administrator Kim Lumino a call to find out the details.

A Theology of Scarcity vs The Theology of Abundance – Which Do You Believe?

The theology of abundance has its roots in various New Testament passages including Paul's letter to the Philippians ("I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. . . . I can do all things through him who strengthens me. . . . And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." 4:12, 13 and 19). St. Paul saw a church with limited resources struggling for its life. Rather than accept a survival mentality, Paul urges the Philippians to reach out. He assures them that God will provide and that the resources to carry out the church's mission are found in God's grace and the talents of the congregation.

Like the Philippians, we have two choices: to accept a theology of scarcity or to embrace a theology of abundance. A theology of scarcity assumes that resources are limited, the economy is bad, the world is closing in, and the limits of resources should determine the mission of our church. A theology of abundance believes that God is able to provide, that the resources are available, and that God is waiting to bestow those resources in response to our call.

According to Stanley Hauerwas, Professor of Theological Ethics and Law at Duke University, "Abundance, not scarcity, is the mark of God's kingdom. But that abundance must be made manifest through the lives of a people who have discovered that they can trust God and one another." In other words, without trust in God and in our neighbors and without sharing ourselves with each, we cannot attain the abundance God offers us. We must be willing to commit to abundance. By giving of ourselves and our treasure, we gain greater treasures.

Submitted by Jean Rowe, Senior Warden



Do You Know Me?

I've been attending Ascension on a regular basis with my family for approximately 7 years. My husband Dan and I and our 4 kids attend the 10:15 service. You probably know my face and can recognize my family, but do you KNOW me? Do I know you?

Fostering a sense of community in a church is critical for maintaining the energy and life of that congregation. And given my own personal experience of feeling on the periphery, I know that--at least for me, and possibly others who struggle with inclusion--there needs to be some intentional action taken. And since it was me who desired it, why shouldn't it be me who implements it?

So when Lisa stepped down from heading up the Fellowship Ministry, I felt it my duty to step up. And yet, I feel overwhelmed with the task, so I've been hanging back. I am busy. As I mentioned, I have 4 kids. I homeschool the oldest 3 and am currently helping to plan my 20-year high school reunion while my husband travels several times/month.

I WANT to help. I WANT to lead. I WANT to creatively and dutifully usher in a better sense of belonging and community between each of us. But I can't do it without a lot of help.

Will you help?

If you will, please indicate your desire by marking *Fellowship* on your Stewardship Card. Even if you don't have much time, like me. Even if you can only help out a little. But especially if you can help out a lot. I'd love to form a robust committee that can share the wonderful duties associated with loving one another well.

Nicole Hanson, Ascension Parishioner

Some ways you can help:

- Co-chair the committee with me
- Coordinate volunteers for events
- Shop for food for events (get reimbursed)
- Coordinate single events
- Be available to help out the day of events
- Help envision new ways to facilitate fellowship

Need an Ark? We NOAH Guy!

For the sixth straight year, the youth of Ascension have prepared their entry into the Sierra Madre Scarecrow Festival hosted by the Creative Arts Group. We now need your votes! From October 2nd through noon on October 19th, you can cast your vote for Ascension's Scarecrow.

There are many ways to vote:

- **To vote using a paper ballot**, pick one up at Creative Arts Group or other participating stores in Sierra Madre. Fill out the ballot with your favorite scarecrow's number and return it to Creative Arts Group
- **To vote via our web site**, select your favorite scarecrow(s) from our gallery of scarecrows and click on the photo. You can then read about your favorite scarecrow and click the Facebook "Like" button to vote.
- **To vote on Facebook**, go to our [Facebook page](#), scroll to find your favorite scarecrow and click the 'Like'.
- **To vote using your phone while viewing a scarecrow in person**: Each of our scarecrows will have an ID tag and a QR code. (You will need a QR code Scanner App on your mobile device to vote this way.)

Thanks for all of your help!



Where Does My Money Go?



Each month we have indicated the funds that are allocated in our Operating Budget which allow the Church to function. We have also stressed the importance of volunteerism which is so necessary to keep expenses down. This month, we are looking at **Administration**. From a financial output, we designate **\$38,995** to this program. Monies are used for the following:

- Parish Administrator compensation ●bookkeeping and printing ●telephone, mobile, and internet
- advertising and ●postage.

The Parish Administrator position, currently held by Kim Lumino, is vital in helping the Church run smoothly. This part time position has an enormous job description. It includes everything from answering the phones, understanding computer complexities, keeping account of our financial records, etc. We are also blessed with numerous volunteers who provide much needed support. These include the following:

Financial Guidance

Church Treasurer: Mark Keith

Investment Committee: Cameron Cox, John Murphy, Gordon Tomaske, Lavette Teague and Rob Stocky.

Audit Committee: Hal Ryerson, Sandra Dickey, and Ross Kellock

Spire Contributors

Regular Contributors: Father Michael, Deacon Ed, Dr. Deb, and Jean Rowe

Frequent Contributors: Maggie Byrne-Outhouse and Jobi Harrell

Occasional Contributors: Scott Callihan, Mike Beach and the Altar Guild

Office Volunteers

Constant Volunteer: Mike Beach

Bank Deposit Volunteer: Bob Burnett

Pledge and Plate Offering Counters: Beverly Clifton, Ross Kellock, Jean Rowe, Kathy Calleton and Lynne Holl.

Once again, we can see how the Stewardship of so many in our Parish has allowed us to keep expenses down. How grateful we are that these individuals have chosen to donate their time and talent to our Church.

Thank you all,

Jean Rowe, Senior Warden



**LA Episopal Dodger Night
September 8, 2017**

Less To Say

Since birth, I've always had quite a bit to say. In grammar school, I was that kid who just couldn't keep her mouth shut. My passion for the arts led to a career that involves public speaking and ample opportunities to perform. I was early to the social media phenomenon. Broadcasting all of my thoughts and experiences daily as a blogger and on social media websites became a way of life for me. As time has passed, the novelty of airing all of my successes and woes has dramatically waned.

The ability to share so much on such a wide platform has offered so much for us. We can easily share our joys and rapidly reach all who are connected to our online personas. Social media has also led to people having the ability to publicly (or anonymously) post things we might dislike or even disagree with. The first amendment gives us every right to share our thoughts, yet the fractious and shaming ways many people are adopting on social media is a territory that we must carefully navigate.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4: 29

Recently I went to the Greek Orthodox Church in Pasadena. The tour of the church offered up a tidbit about their iconography that stuck with me: The Saints are depicted with large ears and very small mouths as a reminder that we should always listen more than we say. Ephesians 4: 29 reads: *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

We are blessed with the ability to think for ourselves and in this country to freely speak and write our thoughts. May we each always be mindful of what and how we say what we say and spread the love of Christ wherever we go.

Jobi Harrell, Minister to Younger Persons

Fall Kick-off—September 10, 2017



On September 16, five Ascension parishioners joined half a million other workers across the globe picking up trash and beautifying park spaces for the 33rd annual Coastal Cleanup Day. Under pleasantly overcast skies, volunteers in Los Angeles collected roughly 23,000 pounds of trash in under three hours. Congratulations to Ascension's crew who collected 52 pounds in just under an hour!

Jobi Harrell





All Hallows Eve Prayer Service

Come celebrate Halloween at Ascension! More properly, come celebrate All Hallows' Eve, when we begin our commemoration of the faithful departed. This year we also commemorate the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation (31 October is when Fr. Luther sent a letter to the Archbishop of Mainz outlining his concern with the sale of indulgences, a first form of the *95 Theses*).

We will celebrate a short evening prayer service at 5:30 PM in the chapel. Lest we be too inwardly focused, and lest we miss out on the fun of Halloween, we will then set up a table on the corner of Baldwin and Laurel by 6:00 PM to hand out candy and hot apple cider to trick-or-treaters. If you'd like to volunteer to help pass out candy, please contact Pastor Josh at mcguffie@protonmail.com. If you can't help out but you'll be out and about on the hunt for candy, feel free to swing past and say "hi!" We'll be out until around 8:30 PM or until the trick-or-treating ends.

When: 5:30 PM, Tuesday 31 October

Where: The chapel at Ascension and out on the street front

What: Evening prayer, tasty goodies, hot apple cider, outreach, and fun together

OCTOBER REQUEST FOR GOODIES!

Please consider signing up for the Gooden Sunday Reception on October 29th after the 10:15 mass. We are primarily looking for healthy choices (fruit, veggie plate, cheese and crackers) as well as cookies and cupcakes. A sign-up sheet will be available at church, or you can call the parish office to let us know what you can bring.

We are also in need of wrapped candy donations for our first ever Trick or Treating at Ascension this Halloween. **A basket for donations will be in Hawks Hall through October 29th.**

IT'S HAUNTED HOUSE TIME!

From October 9th - October 29th, the youth will be hard at work preparing the Church Basement into a Haunted House for our visitors from Gooden. Preparation will be each Sunday from 9 am – 10 am. If you might have unwanted Halloween decorations or have a fog machine you would be willing to lend, please contact Jobi Harrell (jobiharrell@gmail.com) to arrange a drop off.

Sunday, October 8, 2017 ~ Hillside Sunday at Ascension



For the last six years, I've had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Hillside. Founded in 1913, Hillside, an Institution of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, has been creating change in the lives of its clients for 104 years. Hillside provides an array of services to meet the needs of at risk children and their families. Families struggling through crises and challenging situations know they can find experienced practitioners who are responsive, accessible, and compassionate. Hillside offers numerous community-based programs and services through several Hillside Family Resource Centers in Los Angeles County including on its main campus in Pasadena. The Youth Moving On program provides former foster and probation youth affordable quality housing and numerous support services to help them transition successfully to adulthood. Hillside, along with its affiliate Bienvenidos also offers an outstanding and loving foster child program.

Hillside envisions a world in which children and young adults, families, and communities are able to heal, grow and thrive. Its staff is dedicated to healing its clients and transforming the community through quality comprehensive services and advocacy. Every day without fail our clients are offered quality care, respect, integrity, transparency, compassion, and innovation and cutting-edge care. These values have been at the heart of Hillside since its inception and continue to insure its success well into the future.

As child welfare reform shapes the path of our future generations, the organizations focus is to deepen its impact, strengthen its core programs, and assume leadership to continue creating lasting change and promoting healing in the lives of children, young adults, and families. In other words, to bring healing into a broken world.

Please join Ms. Jackie Broxton and myself in the parish hall after both services to learn more about the work of Hillside, volunteer opportunities, youth mentoring, and a personal favorite of mine "The Adopt A Family Christmas program." Bring your questions, generous hearts and passion for children and I promise you'll leave with Hillside holding a special place in your hearts as it's been in mine for all these years.

Please join Ms. Jackie Broxton and myself in the parish hall after both services to learn more about the work of Hillside, volunteer opportunities, youth mentoring, and a personal favorite of mine "The Adopt A Family Christmas program." Bring your questions, generous hearts and passion for children and I promise you'll leave with Hillside holding a special place in your hearts as it's been in mine for all these years.

Live well, live blessed, live generously, Deacon Ed+



9th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon ~ Women's Room of Friends In-Deed *Monday, November 20, 2017*



Ascension is, once again, blessed with the opportunity to help create memories through food and fellowship for approximately 60-65 women at the Friends in Deed Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon. Our Ascension community works with gusto and commitment to make this meal happen. The stories of satisfaction and gratitude associated with this event continue to show that smiles abound both for those who give as well as receive. This is a gift that is given from the heart and received with joy and appreciation. A big time win/win for all....

Close your eyes. Imagine the Thanksgiving meal you share with family and friends. Think of the smells, the tastes, the sounds, and the traditions that are packed into so many of the foods and activities you anticipate each year. Our goal is to provide a meal filled with tradition, including leftovers, and small useful remembrances for the ladies of the Friends in Deed Women's Room.

How would you like to contribute to this annual celebration? How do you see yourself making a difference for both those who give as well as receive? Check out the sign-up sheets for the Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon located on the Hawks Hall Bulletin Board. **We need your contributions.**

We need **COOKED AND READY-TO-SERVE**: •Turkeys •Mashed potatoes •Stuffing •Sweet potatoes
•Green beans with mushrooms or green bean casserole •Pies – Ready to Serve

If you don't want to cook, how about: •Rolls •Cheese and Crackers – Plated and Ready to Serve
•Veggie/Relish Trays - Plated and Ready to Serve •Pies – Ready to Serve

If you don't want to provide food, how about dressing the tables in simple fall colors or following the theme of Thanksgiving:

- Paper Goods including dinner and dessert plates, cups and napkins
- Table Cloths, Plastic Eating Utensils
- Table Centerpieces for 12 tables
- Small Turkey table favors (usually made by our kids) for 65 people

How about the gift of your time?

- Transport food from Ascension to the **FIRST HISTORIC LUTHERAN CHURCH** located at: 808 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA. 91104.
- Set-up food, serve, and clean-up on the day of the luncheon with an amazing group of men and women volunteers from Ascension

If none of the above is possible, but you would still like to be part of this satisfying event:

- Would you like to contribute money? The money we receive for this event helps to ensure we offer a complete meal for these ladies. Any unused money received from you that is not used specifically for the luncheon will be contributed directly to the Women's Room.
- If you would like to donate by check, please make checks payable to CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION. ON THE MEMO LINE, NOTE "WOMEN'S ROOM LUNCHEON."
- If you would like to donate cash, please place the cash in a sealed envelope and write Women's Room Luncheon on the outside of the envelope.
- You can place both checks and cash envelopes in the collection plates. Just remember to clearly identify the use for your monetary contribution by writing Women's Room Luncheon on the check or on the sealed envelope.



Again, look for Sign-up Sheets on the Hawks Hall Bulletin Board. You can also send me an email at maggietyrne@earthlink.net to let me know what or how you would like to contribute. I look forward to your questions or comments as well.

Respectfully Submitted, Maggie Outhouse

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

OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS @ 11:45AM OUTDOOR WORSHIP AREA	2 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary	3 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	4 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	5 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden 1st Gr Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary	6	7 Private Party 9am—4pm Hall
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office						
8 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass	9 COLUMBUS DAY 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	10 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	11 10:30-11:45 Gooden Kinder Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 3:30-5pm Village Voices Resumes/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	12 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden 1st Gr Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30am Staff Mtg 7pm-Know the Facts Meeting Library	13 10am Memorial Service for Carl Foote Private Spiritual Direction 9am—1:30pm Rectors Office	14
Deacon Robin Retreat					Mike Beach Out of Office	
15 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 9:00am and at 11:30am: Stewardship/Know the Facts Meeting in library	16 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary	17 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting Hawks Hall	18 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	19 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden 1st Gr Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 6:30pm House Church/ Dinner *location TBD*	20	21
Mike Beach Out of Office						
22 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	23 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	24 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25 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	26 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden 1st Gr Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30am Staff Mt	27	28
Deacon Ed Vacation						
29 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass GOODEN SCHOOL SUNDAY	30 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary	31 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group All Hallows Eve Evening Prayer Service 5:30pm				