



## The October SPIRE 2018

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



### Upcoming Events

October 7 – 11:45am/Outdoors  
Blessing of the Animals

October 13 – 9am/Hall  
All Parish Retreat

October 16 – 7pm/Hall  
Vestry Mtg

October 18 – 6:30pm  
Rowe Home  
House Church/Dinner

October 28 – Noon/Library  
Parish Ministry Council Mtg

October 31 – Trick or Treating  
at Ascension!

**Blessing of the Animals**  
Sunday, October 7  
11:45am  
Outdoor Worship Area



**Free pet sitting during  
the 10:15am service!**

**Everyone is welcome.**

### From the Rector

It is so easy to take for granted the basic things in life – water, food, shelter, indoor plumbing, being able to communicate with loved ones. Those of us with even a modest income seldom consider life without these elements. But over the course of a couple of days, and in some places hours, tens of thousands of folks living in the Carolinas had all of these basics disrupted by a hurricane and torrential rains.

Whole communities were cut off by washed out roads. Water systems, power grids, sewer treatment plants, telephone lines, and cellular towers were destroyed. Over forty persons are confirmed to have been killed. And thousands are left homeless. In one area, miles away from the mountains, entire communities were flooded when the swollen rivers overflowed their banks.



The process of recovery will be long and arduous. But with people determined to recover and people from all over helping, the “new normal” will emerge. So count your blessings. I know I will. **Blessings, MAB+**

Picture from ER&D website article:

<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/press-and-resources/press-releases/2018-press-releases/episcopal-relief-and-development-responds-to-deadly-hurricane-florence>

### Retreat is Coming!

You may have heard by now that the All-Parish Retreat is coming up on **Saturday, October 13.**

You won't want to miss out on this day of **CONNECTION**, **DISCERNMENT**, **ENVISIONING**, **PREPARATION** and **WORSHIP**. What is a church if not a community? We are told in Matthew, "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." We hope to have you ALL attend. We want to hear from, laugh with, and enjoy the day with every one of you. Find a brochure in the back of the church, or on the event table in Hawks Hall. Please fill out the registration form in the brochure and either give it to Nicole, mail it to the church office, or leave it in the envelope on the event table. Very limited childcare spaces are available. Please talk to Nicole or Jobi if you will be needing childcare. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

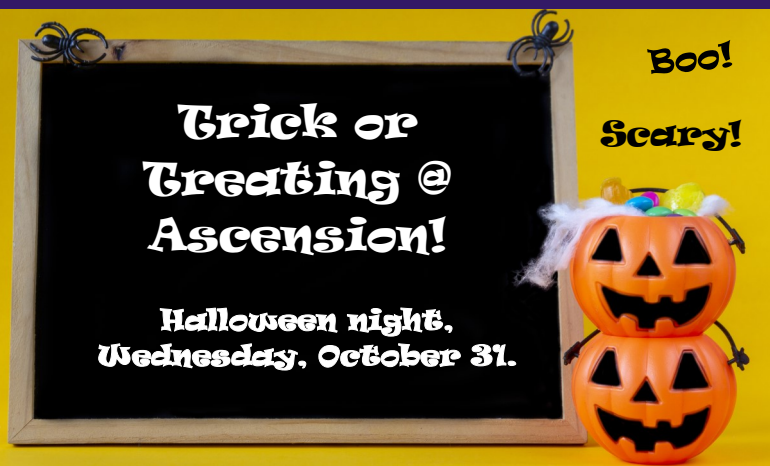
### Pledge Payment Snapshot-August

2018 Budget Amount:  
\$211,001

YTD Budget: \$158,251  
YTD Actual: \$165,469  
Difference: \$+7,218



Halloween Candy donations are needed. Please drop off Individually wrapped candy to Ascension by October 28th! If you are interested in passing out candy on Halloween night, please sign up at the event table in Hawks Hall.



## ANNUAL GIVING – WHAT HAPPENS HERE DOES NOT STOP HERE

Watching the memorial service for Senator John McCain – who was raised Episcopalian – was a glorious reminder of the mission and scope of the larger church. People of all political stripes and religious denominations gathered at the Washington National Cathedral to mourn and celebrate an American hero. The Cathedral has been the source of national unity for so many historic occasions including state funerals or memorial services for nine U.S. Presidents as an interfaith prayer service following the events of 9/11. If you did not know, the National Cathedral is an Episcopal Church.

We mention this because this year's annual giving theme is "*Doing More*". Doing more includes how we live out our faith beyond the comforts of home. The public manifestation of that faith is one of the important ways we translate God's love for us into our love for Him and His creation. Services at the National Cathedral are a grand display of how the larger church of which we are a part provides comfort and healing for so many across the country and around the world.

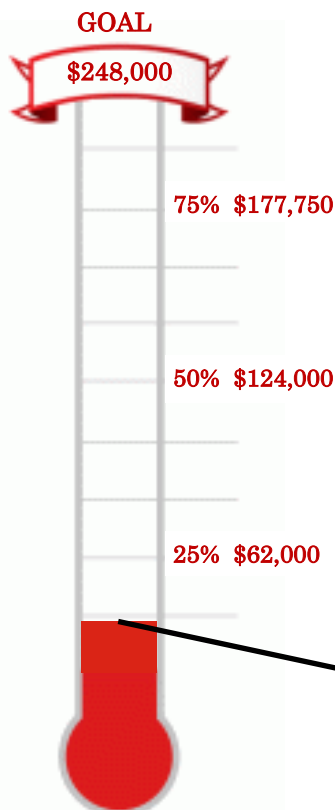
Here at home, when we give to Ascension, we also give to the larger church, principally through the Diocesan assessment. In doing so, we "do more" for those who may not be our neighbors but who are equally children of God deserving of love, compassion, and grace. By giving, we help around the world through Church ministries which Bishop Curry describes as the "Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement," of which the National Cathedral is but one prominent example. Locally our efforts reach those beyond Ascension's doors. Our youth group always seems engaged in one community activity or another (Heal the Bay is a recent example). The parish itself provides a base for the volunteer work of those who support Friends in Deed and the Woman's Room. Our parish house hosts 14,000 visits a year for support groups that provide so many with life affirming renewal. Our clergy's pastoral care provides spiritual support and guidance for those here and around the country who may never pass through Ascension's doors but need to know God's abundant love is there for them. In so many ways, our annual giving allows all of us to do more- even for those we do not know and may never meet.

On the 16th day of Pentecost we read from the Epistle of James. That reading concluded with a famous admonition: "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them 'Go in peace, keep warm and eat your fill' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." This famous passage, of course, raises a fundamental theological debate about God's grace. That said, no one can doubt it reflects an equally fundamental point about living our faith, about doing more.

When we give to Ascension, we multiply our ability to do more by providing the outreach resources that enable us to help others. Whether it is the youth group participating in Heal the Bay, or others active in supporting the Women's Room through Friends in Deed, or Father's work for Episcopal Relief and Development, when we support our parish, we support its parishioners and when we support our parishioners, we support all God's children. Yes, the effort to make the world a better place begins right here at Ascension.

Our Christian faith is at its best when it includes an expression of God's love that reaches beyond the parish door. Christians do not hide from the world in fear. We reach out because we know there is good news to share through the good works we do. Your gifts to Ascension help each of us do that.

The Vestry



### The numbers as of October 2, 2018

Proposed budget for 2019: \$342,740

2019 Pledge Goal: \$248,000

- \$53,840 (approx. 21% of goal reached)
- # of member families/individuals who have pledged: 17

## Friends In Deed Donations

As part of our service learning at The Gooden School, we will be collecting items throughout the year to donate to Friends In Deed. Friends In Deed is a nonprofit organization located in Pasadena that provides services to meet basic human needs for the homeless and at-risk community members. We would love to have the parishioners of Ascension join us, so we can work together in accumulating a larger donation!

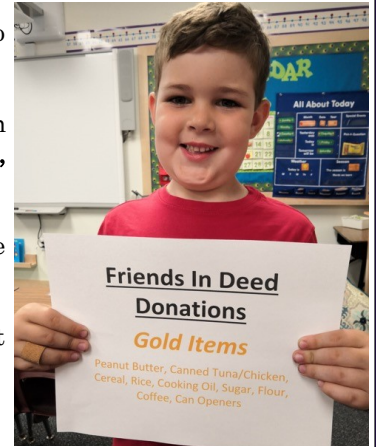
Bring donations to the church on Sunday's throughout the year. There will be two donation bins as you enter the back of the church labeled "Friends In Deed Donations."

October is gold month! **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.**

At the end of each month, I will empty the donation bins and a class from Gooden will take it over to Friends in Deed.

We look forward to working with Ascension as together we learn the value of reaching out and helping others!

Emily Keezer  
The Gooden School  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade Teacher and Dean of Religious Life



Gooden student Christian Keezer, grandson of John and Lynne Holl



## Fall Youth Service Hours Opportunity



**Blessing of the Animals**  
**Sunday, October 7**

**Pet-Sitting & Treats**  
**9:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

## Doing More almost Painlessly

So, how can we Do More and make that increase almost painless?

What if each of us pledging members were to increase our pledges by \$3.00 per week. That means an increase of \$12.00 or \$15.00 per month based on the number of weeks in the month. If our current 80 plus pledging members would contribute this additional amount, we could increase our income by \$12,792. And if members who have yet to pledge would start the pledging habit by committing \$3.00 per week, we could increase our income even more, meet our 2019 budget needs, and allow Ascension to Do More.

\$3.00 more a week – less than the cost of one Starbuck's or Peet's latte. Think about it.

**Jean Rowe, Sr. Warden**





## Fall Youth Service Hours Opportunity

**CROP Hunger Walks** help to support the overall work of Church World Service, particularly grassroots development efforts around the world. Join us on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> for the 2018 Pasadena Area CROP Walk. Carpools will depart immediately after the 10:15 AM Mass. Participants, please bring a sack lunch or money for lunch at McDonald's. We plan on completing the 5K walk which starts at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church at 1:30 PM. Participants will return to Ascension when all have completed the distance! *For more information, contact Jobi McGuffie at (626) 710-3021.*



### NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Our autumn choral roster experienced a wonderful September surprise with the return of tenor Mark Riebs, who's recently moved back to Monrovia from Arizona – welcome home, Mark! We also welcome back Joe Ozawa, who's returned from a lengthy trip to the far East! This means that our choir family is intact, with 3 sopranos, 2 altos, 2 tenors, and 3 basses. Lest we become complacent, however, I emphasize that there's always room for expansion, so don't hesitate to contact me should you have thoughts of adding your voice to ours ~

### Choral music for October includes:

#### October 7 ~

A vibrant setting of *How Can I Keep from Singing?* by Robert Lehmann, an Association of Anglican Musicians colleague;  
Alan Bullard's *God in Mine Eternity*, an ethereal piece depicting God's ever-surrounding presence in our lives.

#### October 14 ~

Robert J. Powell's *Show Me Your Way, O Lord*, coupled with *God Be In My Head* by Cecil Armstrong.

#### October 21 ~

The beautiful *O How Amiable* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, which includes a setting of *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*;  
John Rutter's beloved *A Gaelic Blessing*.

#### October 28 ~

In recognition of Reformation Sunday, anthems, hymns, and organ voluntaries will be centered on praise to God, in particular compositions from the Reformation period. Yes, this will of course include *EIN FESTE BURG, A Mighty Fortress*. The anthems are:  
*Let the Whole Creation Cry* by Roland E. Martin – an Ascension premier; and Felix Mendelssohn's *Lord in Thy Mercy*.

*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.*

~Alfred V. Fedak



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

I remember being 18 and feeling like I had all the answers. I was off to college, walking the first steps of independence, and all too often living up to the expectations of family, friends, and society. I was taught how to live without being taught how to embrace life.



*Tomorrow Never Knows* is a track from the Beatles album “Revolver.”

Turn off your mind, relax and float downstream – it is not dying.  
Lay down all thought, surrender to the void – it is shining.  
That you may see the meaning within – it is being.  
That love is all and love is everywhere – it is knowing.  
That ignorance and hate may mourn the dead – it is believing.

Our ability to relax, to shine, to be, to know and believe can get lost in our day to day anxieties and denial of who we are and who we didn't want to be. Anxiety is really nothing more than fear inspired by future imagined collapse. It is a failure to trust. It is born out of the belief that we can't live up to the expectations. Secretly and unbeknownst to ourselves, we can begin to imagine a life fully lived without fear. A life in which we can embrace our demons, tell ourselves the truth, live out loud and full of hope.

Franciscan Mystic, Richard Rohr, reminds us that history eventually turns itself upside down. That is certainly true of my life, and I believe sincerely that I am not alone. We all without exception experience times when our lives are out of balance and we can't see past our fear and we find ourselves in survival mode. Survival serves a purpose if we can begin to imagine our lives fully lived and without fear, living a life where we come to know God not through our perfection but through our imperfections.

Our journeys toward wholeness can move slowly. The work is hard, and we come to realize that patience really is a virtue. We learn that our demons lurk in the shadows of our brokenness, and their ugly heads rise up often catching us off guard.

Ira Progoff in “*The Cloud of Unknowing*” expresses the belief that when an individual undertakes to bring his life into relation to God, he is embarking upon a serious and demanding task, a task that leaves no leeway for self-deception or illusion. It requires the most rigorous dedication and self-knowledge. He regards man's imperfections as the raw material to be worked with in carrying out the discipline of spiritual development.

Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when he said “pick up your cross and follow me.”

**Live well, live blessed, live patiently, Deacon Ed+**



## SAVE THE DATE!

With the onset of fall, comes the rapidly approaching holiday season. **The Thanksgiving Luncheon for the Women's Room** will be here before we know it. Please mark your calendars for **Monday, November 19**. As always, we will need help cooking & delivering food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Watch for sign-ups and more details in the coming weeks.

## October Formation for Children and Youth:

9 AM - 10 AM - Confirmation Preparation Class

10:15 AM - All Ages Sunday School

Our exploration of stories in Genesis with a focus on Joseph continues.



Confirmation for youth (8th grade through high school) with Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce will take place at Ascension on **November 18th** at a combined service at 9:30 AM. Contact Jobi McGuffie for more information.



Stop! Think!!

What have your hands touched today?

**AND**

How many people touched those things before you?



*Ascension has your spiritual back...  
and your beautiful, amazing microbe-inhabited hands.*



**IF YOUR HANDS ARE VISIBLY DIRTY, WASH YOUR HANDS USING SOAP AND WATER.**



Look for our 3 Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizers. Just for You (and for All of Us)!

- Hallway wall by the bathrooms
- Wall just inside kitchen door next to the library
- Stand next to Buffet Tables in Hawks Hall

**Hand washing is an easy, inexpensive, and effective way to prevent the spread of germs and keep people healthy.**

**Colds**

**Bacteria**

**MRSA**

**Cooties**

**diarrhea**

**FLU**

When should you wash your hands or use the Alcohol-based Hand Sanitizers?

- **Before**, during, and after preparing food
- **Before** eating food
- **Before** and after caring for someone who is sick
- **Before** and after treating a cut or wound
- **After** using the toilet
- **After** changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- **After** blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- **After** touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- **After** touching garbage

*Submitted by Maggie Outhouse, Formation Ministry Leader*

## GREETERS/USHERS NEEDED!

We are in need of greeters/ushers for the 10:15 service.

Please consider helping out the existing families who are serving several times a month by committing to one Sunday a month.

Contact Maggie Outhouse at  
[maggiemyrne@earthlink.net](mailto:maggiemyrne@earthlink.net).





## October!

I don't know about you, but to me October begins the happy season of the year. It conjures up visions of sweater weather, piles of colored leaves, pumpkins, Halloween decorations, gatherings with friends and family, and a general sense of wellbeing.

But that state of wellbeing many of us feel is not the vision of low income and homeless families as they anticipate the coming of cold weather. Day after day we are told about the numbers of working people who cannot afford the increasingly high rents and are forced to live out of their cars and on the street. As individuals, most of us feel we cannot do very much. But together, what could we do?

For several months Vestry members have brainstormed about how Ascension can help. What gifts do we as a church have that could make a difference for those less fortunate than we?

As a result of a discussion with Parish Ministry Council, Vestry realized that leadership cannot develop a plan without input from our parishioners. Without you, how can we determine what gifts we have that can reach out to our surrounding communities? Thus, the upcoming All Parish Retreat has evolved.

All parish means YOU. **October 13th** is your opportunity to share your vision of how Ascension can reach out to others. What do you see yourself being willing to do to help those in need? What does Doing More mean for Ascension? What can we do together? These and other questions need to be answered by you and other parishioners.

Please plan to spend the day together. We need to know what direction you want Ascension to take, and we can only know that if your voice is heard. We promise lots of good food, fellowship, and fun. Together we can Do More.

Jean Rowe



Vote for our Scarecrow this year:

**Joseph and his coat of many colors!**

*Great job by our Ascension Youth!*

*\*Voting information shown in picture below\*.*



## OCTOBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>30</b> <b>Clergy-McGuffie</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>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel <b>6pm Dinner Group</b>	<b>3</b> 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall  5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>4</b> 8:05—8:35 All School Gooden Chapel <b>9am Forum</b> 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Fr. Bamberger Out of Town—GOE's in NC</b>						
<b>7</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  <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Blessing of the Animals</b>  <b>11:45am</b> </div>	<b>8</b> <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b> 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel  <b>Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm</b>	<b>9</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel <b>6pm Dinner Group</b>  <b>Private Gooden Mtg Q&amp;A 10:15am-11:30am/Hall</b>	<b>10</b> 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall  5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>11</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 8:05—8:35 All School Gooden Chapel <b>9am Forum</b> 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>12</b>  <b>Private Spiritual Direction 9:30—1pm Rector's Office</b>	<b>13</b> <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <b>All Parish Retreat Hawks Hall 9am-7pm</b> </div>
<b>14</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>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel <b>6pm Dinner Group</b>  <b>Private Gooden Mtg Q&amp;A 10:15am-11:30am/Hall</b>  <b>Vestry Mtg Hall/7pm</b>	<b>17</b> 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall  5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>18</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 8:05—8:35 All School Gooden Chapel <b>9am Forum</b> 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall  <b>House Church/Dinner 6:30pm Rowe Home</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Private Spiritual Direction 12:30—1:30pm Library</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</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>22</b> 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel  <b>Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm</b>	<b>23</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel <b>6pm Dinner Group</b>  <b>Private Gooden Mtg Coffee w/Carl 8-9am/Hall</b>  <b>Private Daisy Troop Mtg 4-5:30/Hall</b>	<b>24</b> 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall  5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>25</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 8:05—8:35 All School Gooden Chapel <b>9am Forum</b> 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass <b>Noon—PMC Meeting/Library</b> 2pm EFM Mtg/Library	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall  <b>Trick or Treating @ Ascension!</b>			