



The SPIRE

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



February 2013

Upcoming Events

February 10th -
Private Wine Tasting
Fund Raiser

February 12th -
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 13th -

Ash Wednesday Services

7 am, Noon, & 6 pm

Mass
&
Imposition of Ashes

February 16th—
Quiet Day with Fr. Bamberger

February 23rd -
Women's Fellowship Potluck
Luncheon

February 23rd -
Memorial Service for
Fernando Gómez @ Cathedral
Center, Echo Park

February 24th -
Interment for
Fernando Gómez

February 24th -
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

February 26th -
Bad Weather Shelter Dinner

February 28th -
Daughters of the King Meeting

March 2nd -
Lent Retreat with Deacon Ed

From the Rector

This is a year in which Easter falls early, and so Lent begins while we have barely taken down the Christmas decorations. It seems as though we were just working on New Year's resolutions and already we have to be considering our Lenten devotions.

This year, we will be re-introducing a traditional Lenten practice. On two Saturdays, we will be holding Quiet Days. These are mornings set aside to reflect, pray, and be still. I will be conducting the first Quiet Day on February 16th. I will offer three meditations on living out the baptismal covenant. In the first, I will reflect on the promises we make when we are baptized or when we re-new our baptismal covenant. In the last two meditations, I will explore the calls to ministry and to discipleship.



I'm not sure what my Lenten discipline will be this year, but I am committed to reflecting on ministry and discipleship. I invite you to reflect as well on your journey following Christ.

Blessings, MAB+

Flower/Sanctuary Candle Sign-Up Sheets

Opportunities are still available to donate flowers and sanctuary candles in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones or for special events in our lives. Please check the sign-up sheets on the easel in Hawks Hall for available dates. Checks for flower donations (customarily \$40.00) should be made payable to St. Anne's Altar Guild. Checks for sanctuary candles (\$12.00) should be made payable to Episcopal Church of the Ascension. All checks may be placed in the offering plate or turned in to the Parish office.

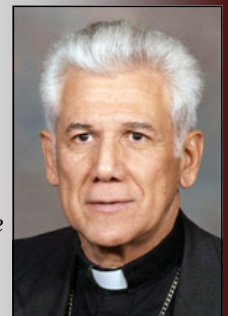
Requiescat

The Rev. Canon Fernando Gómez

A service in remembrance of the Rev. Canon Fernando Gómez will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 23 at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul 840 Echo Park Avenue Los Angeles

Interment will take place here at Ascension the following Sunday, February 24th at 10 a.m.

More information about the life of Fernando can be found on the Hawks Hall bulletin board.



The Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension held on Sunday January 27th, 2013 was efficiently led by Father Michael in accordance with the Church's by-laws and rules of order. In addition to the annual reports, the meeting included the orderly election of the new Vestry. I want to thank the parishioners for supporting me as Senior Warden for 2013. In addition to my legal and financial responsibilities, I see my role is to assist Father Mike and support his other roles and accountabilities. I take comfort in fulfilling this task having worked with Jay Packer over this past year as we learned more about the challenges and opportunities that face the Clergy, Vestry, and Diocese.

At the Vestry Organizational Meeting following the Annual Meeting, the following officers of the Vestry were elected. I am pleased to announce that John Buchanan has agreed to serve as Junior Warden, Rob Stockly as Parish Treasurer, and Kathy Calleton as Parish Clerk. Fortunately for us, Lavette Teague will serve as Treasurer Emeritus, assisting Rob in learning the numerous duties of the Treasurer and providing an oversight of the financial process. In addition to the officers named above, the class of 2013-14 will include Vestry members Susan Clifton, Kieko Sakatani, Ross Kellock, and Pam Harrison. Jay Packer will remain on the Vestry as member and Ex-officio.

I genuinely look forward to getting to know more parishioners and serving the church this coming year. Your input on all matters of the Ascension Church will be greatly appreciated.

David Mole, Senior Warden

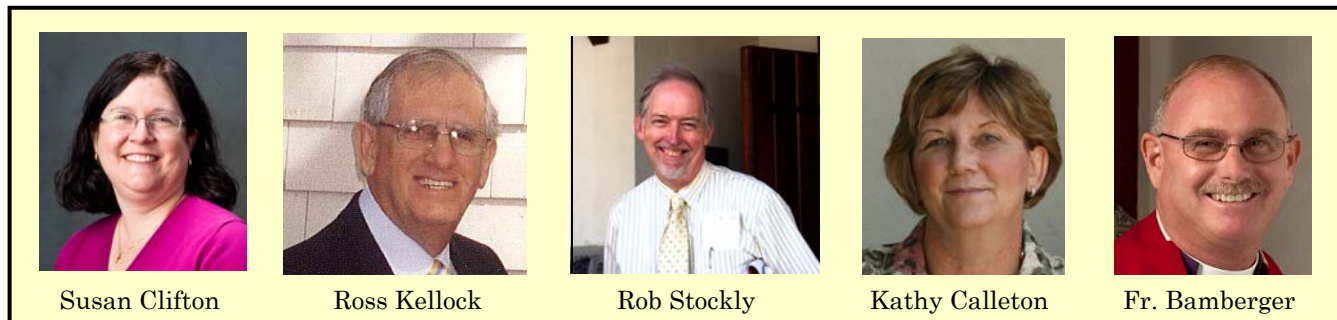
2013 Vestry Members

Officers:

Rector/CEO	The Very Reverend Canon Michael Bamberger
Senior Warden	David Mole
Junior Warden	John Buchanan
Clerk of the Vestry	Kathy Calleton
Treasurer (<i>Budget, Investment</i>)	Rob Stockly
Treasurer Emeritus	Lavette Teague
Verger (<i>Archives, Buildings and Grounds</i>)	Mike Beach

Term of Office

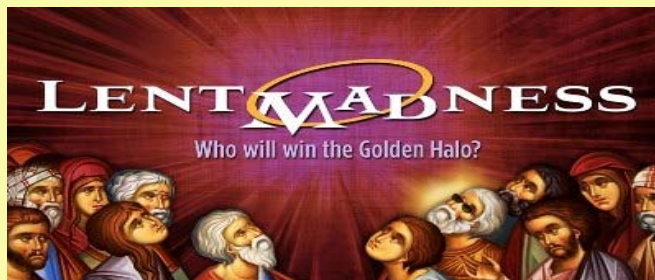
<u>2013 Term</u>	<u>2014 Term</u>	<u>2015 Term</u>
David Mole	Susan Clifton	Rob Stockly
Jay Packer	Pam Harrison	Ross Kellock
Keiko Sakatani	Kathy Calleton	John Buchanan



That's a really good question, and my guess is that the competition will be particularly challenging this year. The same ole – same ole just doesn't cut it. Oh sure, there's the old reliable candy thing, but Valentine's Day is the day after Ash Wednesday so that doesn't seem like such a good idea. Ahhh...desserts – that's the way to go. Wait, I have a better idea....fish on Friday's. Instead of the Big Mac, I'll go for the Filet-O-Fish...another not so bright idea at 380 calories and a nutritional value of D+. I'm running out of ideas. Stop, stop...I know what I need to do – I'll walk to work every day...well maybe three times a week, twice if it's raining.

Personally, I don't think that when Jesus went off to be alone for forty days and forty nights. it was about giving anything up. It was about finding a way to face head on the distractions and temptations of everyday life while at the same time "being still and listening."

***"Do something for you, bringing something to you – that's not what you're after.
Being religious, acting pious – That's not what you're asking for.
You've opened my ears so I can listen." (Psalm 40:6 The Message)***



This Lent at Ascension there will be three opportunities to do just that....be still and to listen. On Saturday, February 16th, join Fr. Michael from 9AM – 12PM for a Quiet Morning of prayer, reflection, being still, and listening. On Saturday, March 2nd, I'll be leading a retreat from 9AM - 12 PM entitled "Reclaiming Our Sacred Identities." And finally, on Sunday, March 10th after both services, there will be an opportunity to come together and share what we've learned about being still, listening, and knowing.

And the nominees for the 2013 Golden Halo Awards are.....

*Be still,
Deacon Ed+*

A bartender notices that every evening, without fail, one of his patrons orders three beers. After several weeks of noticing this pattern, the bartender asks the man why he always orders three beers. The man says, "I have two brothers who have moved away to different countries. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond." Several weeks later, noticing that the man only ordered two beers, the bartender said, "Please accept my condolences on the death of one of your brothers. You know, the two beers and all..." The man replied, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well... It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."



Join us...

During Lent, the Tuesday Prayer meeting at 11:00 am will be doing Stations of the Cross as well as meditation and prayers for the people during Lent.

All are invited.

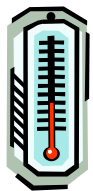
The Vergers Rant

There is only one work party before Easter; can you believe it! Depending on the weather and the condition of the premises, I may call another work party as well as the putting up of the palms for Palm Sunday.

Stay tuned !



Bad Weather Shelter Dinner Update



Thanks to the 15 volunteers who prepared and served dinner at the Pasadena Bad Weather Shelter on January 31st, and especially to first-time participants Cora Campbell, Sandra Dickey, Elliott Macintosh, and Mandy Macintosh. It's a lot of work putting on a dinner for some 200 hungry people, but it's also a lot of fun working together, meeting new people, and doing something truly worthwhile. Our next shelter dinner will be on Tuesday, February 26th. We are in need of servers, and people who can do prep work. We also need donations to cover the cost of food for both dinners.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Hawks Hall, or you can contact Carol Rasmussen at 355-5135 or carol.r@att.net.



Part of the crew serving dinner: Sandra Dickey, Maria Dodd, Mike and Maggie Outhouse, and Charley Noecker.



Seamus Dodd, Scott Callihan, Cameron Cox, and Elliott Macintosh handed out bedding to the guests.

Shrove Tuesday Supper

Come have your fair share of Pancakes for Supper!

When: Tuesday, February 12th, 2013

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Hawks Hall

Cost:

\$6.00 Adults, \$4.00 Children twelve and under or \$20 for a family of four or more!

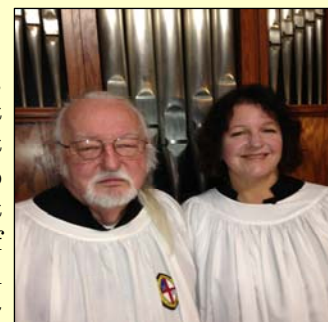
(Our very own Father Michael will be the Master Pancake Flipper!)

All proceeds will be donated to ECPAC



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

When asked the secret of his great choruses, esteemed conductor Robert Shaw replied, "great singers!" How true this is – no matter how talented the conductor, without great singers the choral sound defies distinction. Ascension is incredibly fortunate in that our choir is comprised of wonderful, talented, and dedicated singers who are the key to our music-making. To help you become better acquainted with your choristers, the next several columns of *Notes from the Loft* will feature **Spotlight on Singers** – brief vignettes to introduce your singers in new and interesting ways. This month's column focuses on **Mike and Susan Beach**, otherwise known as **Mr. and Mrs. Verger** ~



Mike, a stalwart in the bass section, is retired from the aerospace industry, having worked in rocket science, flight mechanics, and Avionics. He first began singing in his father's choir in 1945; subsequent choral affiliations were in Methodist, Quaker, and Presbyterian churches. He's sung in a men's choir, a civic choir, the Sierra Madre Chorale, and St. Augustine Singers (double quartet). He first began singing in Ascension's choir in 1987, the same year he began attending here. Mike says that he's been married to two women – not concurrently – "one who could not sing and one who sings great!" (For those of you unaware, Mike was a widower . . .) Which brings me to Susan . . .

On my initial Sunday with the choir at Ascension (September, 2000), Mike brought with him a guest soprano, politely asking if she could sing with us. Her name was Susan Ruble - I immediately liked Mike and his effective method of recruiting . . . Long story short, Mike and Susan were married and combined their families (his three adult sons and daughter; her four young sons). Together they've been stalwart members of the choir ever since.

Susan first sang alto at age 13 in the choir at Monrovia Methodist church, where she grew up. About a year later, the new choir director, who happened to stand next to her during a hymn, felt she had some potential and offered her a year of free vocal instruction, thinking he'd get an alto soloist out of the deal - only to discover that he had "another damned soprano" on his hands! Susan took lessons from him for ten years until she attended Cal State LA, where, coincidentally, she met Colette Ostrye – now an Ascension choral colleague.

Sometimes called *the Verger's Wench*, Susan formerly was the owner/operator of Betty's Answering Service. Recently she placed second in the Occasional Beach Family Cribbage Tournament. Really. The Verger took first place. Susan also sings in Pasadena Pro Musica and the Sierra Madre Chorale. She enjoys choral singing simply because she loves great music.

The next time you hear the rumble of a great Russian bass line or the brilliance of a soprano descant, think of Mike and Sue.

Debora Huffman

Director of Music and Organist

Pictures from the 2013 Feast of the Epiphany held on Sunday, January 6th.



Women's Fellowship Potluck Luncheon

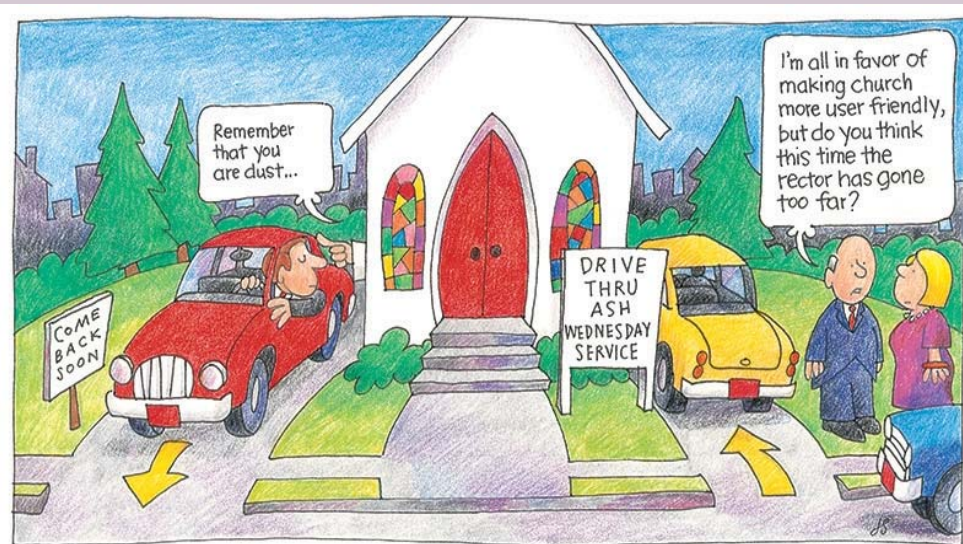
The next luncheon will be on Saturday, February 23, 2013 @ 11:30 am. Come and enjoy great food, fun conversations, and a whole lot of Fellowship!

Bring a friend!



Pot Luck Lunch

A bit of humor provided by Life at St. Swithin's, the Rev. Jay Sidebotham...



JR. & SR. YOUTH GROUP

2013 Lenten Service Hour Opportunities:

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 12th
5 pm – 7 pm

-LENTEN YOUTH GROUP SERVICE PROJECT-

EASTER EGG COLORING & STUFFING PARTY

March 30th
10 am – 12 pm

EASTER EGG HUNT

March 31st
8 am & 12 pm



Do you have a few hours to spare in the next week or two? I need help with some miscellaneous office tasks (*filing, binding, copying, sorting, etc.*). Call Kim at the Parish Office ~ 626-355-1133.

Thank You!





APRIL 26th - 27th

Attention Ascension!

All Students in 7th – 12th Grades are invited to:

**Love God.
Serve the hungry.
Do the Famine.**

Every year, hundreds of thousands of students in the U.S. and around the world unite to do the Famine. They learn about hunger, raise funds to help the hungry, and then go hungry themselves.

Students will begin their fast after lunch on April 26th.

At 5 PM meet in the Parish House for a fun-filled 24 hours of learning, games, service and lots of juice! Friends & family are invited to join the final worship break-fast meal in Hawks Hall at 4:30 pm. Contact Jobi Harrell at jobiharrell@gmail.com for more information.



A Private Wine Tasting Fund Raiser

At the Tasting Room in the Bottle Shop

Price per
Person is \$25

When: Sunday, February 10, 2013

Time: 3:00 to 5:00 pm

*Where: Bottle Shop
58 West Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre*

\$5.00 plus 15% of all sales from the tasting will be donated back to the Church of Ascension

Wine Expert Gus will educate us on the variety of red and white wines that he will be pouring.
The wines will be paired with cheeses, a pate, salami, crackers and fresh fruit.

We are limited to only 30 guests, so please sign-up ASAP.
The sign-up sheet is posted on the Hawks Hall bulletin board.
All tickets must be purchased no later than Thursday, February 7, 2013.

Please invite your friends and family, and remember *no one under 21 years of age will be admitted.*
Looking forward to a succesful event!

Any questions, please contact Lisa Reed either by phone 626.357.3908 or by e-mail: lisareed4@verizon.net

Lisa Reed
Fellowship Ministry Leader

**All Proceeds will benefit
the Hospitality
Account for the Church of
Ascension**

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

February/March 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass	4	5 11am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	6 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 7am Mass 10:30am Staff Mtg	8	9
Father Bamberger in NC for General Ordination Exams						
10 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass Private Wine Tasting Fund Raiser	11	12 11am Prayer in the Chapel Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	13 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 	14 7am Mass 9am Forum 	15	16 Quiet Day with Fr. Bamberger
17 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 1st Sunday in Lent	18 	19 11am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting	20 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	22	23 Women's Fellowship Potluck Luncheon
24 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10am Interment Fernando Gómez Noon PMC Meeting	25 MARCH SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	26 11am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group Bad Weather Shelter Dinner	27 6pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 7am Mass 9am Forum Daughters of the King Meeting	1	2 Lent Retreat with Deacon Ed March

STAYING CONNECTED THROUGH THE WEEK



SEARCH FOR: Sierra Madre Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Connect with fellow parishioners, get updated calendar information, Parish Photo Gallery



CHANNEL NAME: AscensionSierraMadre (1 word)
 Videos of Parish Events, Special Services, and more!