



The SPIRE

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



Upcoming Events

January 1st - **Happy New Year!**
Church Office Closed

January 2nd -
Church Office Closes at Noon

January 3rd -
Church Office Closes at Noon
On-call for Bad Weather Shelter

Sunday, January 5th -
Feast of the Epiphany
8:00am & 10:15am Services
Short Church at 5:00pm
12th Night Party at 5:30pm

January 10th -
Annual Reports Due

January 12th -
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

January 19th -
Vestry Orientation at 9:00 am

January 21st -
Vestry Meeting at 7:00 pm

January 25th -
On-call for Bad Weather Shelter

Sunday, January 26th

Annual Parish Meeting
9:00am
Hawks Hall

Go to page (2) for more
information about the Annual
Meeting.

February 2nd -
Vestry Installation at both services
Pre-Confirmation Classes Begin/9am
Short Church at 5:00 pm

From the Rector

On March 30th, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we will have an Episcopal Visitation. Bishop Mary Douglas Glasspool will celebrate, preach, and confirm. She will also receive and renew the confirmation vows of those who have been previously confirmed. We will be having Confirmation preparation sessions for adults on some Sundays between the services during January, February, and March. Anyone interested should speak to me soon. Young people interested in being confirmed should speak to Jobi. Generally speaking, we encourage young people to start considering confirmation around their fifteenth birthday. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

This January, we welcome a new short term ministry discernment student – Jason VanBorssum. Jason is a parishioner at St. Mark’s, Glendale and has been through parish discernment there. His ten – eleven weeks with us will provide an additional opportunity to clarify the work of his home parish’s committee. (Jason has history with us – he attended the Gooden School many years ago, and he and Lisa attended here in the 1990’s and were married here at Ascension.) Jason will be involved with teaching, preaching, and pastoral care.

As we enter another new year, I always anticipate the new opportunities that will emerge. I am thankful for the vibrancy of our parish. I know I speak for my colleagues in saying thank you for the generosity shown to us this Christmas. I am also grateful for all the efforts that went into our celebration of the Nativity. The Choir and Dr. Deb were outstanding. The Altar Guild made the sanctuary beautiful. And our youth leaders and the children brought off another amazing pageant. Thanks to everyone who makes Ascension the special place it is. **Blessings, MAB+**

St. Anne’s Altar Guild wishes to express their sincerest thanks to all who helped make our Christmas glorious. By contributing to the Flower Fund, you enabled us to order and use beautiful greens and poinsettias to beautify our Sanctuary.

Your continued support of our efforts is most assuredly appreciated.



In Christ, St. Anne’s Altar Guild



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting is a time for our church community to come together and discuss the past year, elect new leaders, and look at the future. In the spirit of community, we will be meeting on Sunday, January 26th between the 8:00 & 10:15 services at 9:00 a.m. in Hawks Hall.

Why do we have an Annual Meeting? Our parish for legal purposes is a corporation. We have Parish Bylaws which correspond to the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Los Angeles. Parishes must have an Annual Meeting to elect “directors” who form the Vestry. The Vestry has responsibility for the “temporalities” of the parish. It is the custom at Ascension that reports for the previous year are received, the budget for the next year is presented, and other business conducted. Our Parish Bylaws state that the Rector presides. In the absence of the Rector, the Senior Warden presides.

Who can attend? Everyone interested in our parish can attend the Annual Meeting. Our Parish Bylaws require us to have a quorum of twenty voting members.

Who can vote? The Diocesan Canons were changed a few years ago to include persons sixteen years and older as electors. Any baptized person who is at least sixteen years of age, has been attending services for the past sixty days, and is on record as giving is eligible to vote. Our Parish Bylaws and the Canons do not permit either proxies or absentee ballots.

Meet Father Bud!

A new assisting priest at Ascension is Ernest Franklin (Bud) Williams, Jr. Bud was raised a Methodist in the small town of Pelham in southwest Georgia. His father, a 5th generation Methodist, advised against him joining the Episcopal in college. However, after he was ordained Deacon, Bud reports his father playfully “repented” of his earlier resistance. Bud graduated from Georgia State University and worked for the Coca-Cola Company at its headquarters in Atlanta. Early on he held positions in the legal dept., the purchasing dept., and in distribution management. For several years he was the Communications Development Manager in the Home Market Group of Marketing Operations for Coca-Cola USA. Bud moved to Los Angeles in 1983. After working at human resources company, Mercer, he attended General Theological Seminary in New York City. Upon graduation in 1988, Bud served Bishop Frederick Borsch as his Chaplain and later served as Associate Rector at St. Francis Church in Palos Verdes. A year-long Chaplain residency at Scottish Rite Children’s Hospital in Atlanta led to Bud’s call as Executive Director at Bishop Gooden Home in



Pasadena. Over his 21 years there, he helped that addiction treatment center grow in size and clinical depth. When he left there in June 2013, the Center had 60 beds, a robust family outpatient program, the highest national accreditation, and “an outrageously competent staff.” Bud says he is giving the first year of his new retirement over to listening, exploring, and playing. He’s an avid gardener, hiker, and backpacker and says he is happiest when dirty. He and his partner of 16 years, Martin, plan to wed next summer. Fr. Bud will be assisting Fr. Bamberger a few times a month.

Meet the Vestry Nominees...



With the exception of some corporate transfers, **John Murphy** has lived his entire life in this area. While attending Alhambra High School, he was active in sports, student government, and the Boy Scouts, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in 1951. Following high school, John attended Cal Poly, Pomona where he was named outstanding player by his football team mates.

Following college, John did two tours of duty to southeast Asia aboard the USS Midway, CVA 41. He then spent 35 years with Unocal Corporation ((formerly Union Oil Company of California) ending his career with Unocal as Vice President, corporate real estate and President, Unocal Investment and Unocal Land and Development Company.

Since his retirement, John has stayed involved in community activities as a board member of the Arcadia Chapter, American Red Cross and Director of the Cal Phil Orchestra. He also served eight years on the Arcadia Planning Commission and has been an Arcadia Rotarian for 18 years serving in many positions including president.

In 1978 John quit smoking and started running. Since then Elaine and John have run in over 100 full marathons including three Boston marathons and over a dozen ultra distance events of 31 to 100 miles, running in excess of 66,000 miles. John and his wife Elaine have lived in North Arcadia for 25 years. They have two sons and a granddaughter, two dogs, four cats and a macaw parrot.

John is a lifelong Episcopalian. He was baptized, confirmed, and married at the Church of Our Savior, San Gabriel. John and Elaine joined The Church of The Ascension about five years ago. They attend 8:00A.M. mass and serve as ushers/greeters at that service.

An almost native Californian, (since age 5), **Jean Rowe** has lived most of her life in the San Gabriel Valley. A graduate of UCSB and Cal State LA, Jean taught English at Arcadia High School for 39 years, retiring in 2003. When Jean married Stephen Rowe in 1991, she came to live in Sierra Madre and became a member of Ascension the following year.

Jean's active involvement at Ascension began when she joined a small group six months before she retired from teaching. Six months after retiring, she was elected to the Vestry, and in 2006 was appointed Senior Warden. A glutton for the fun of Vestry participation, she was elected to the Vestry in 2008 and served as Junior Warden for three years. Currently Jean edits the Spire and other Ascension publications, facilitates a Small Group, and serves as Administrative Coordinator.



Jon Prentice moved to Los Angeles in 1998 from Syracuse, NY. In 1999 he met his wife, Marie, while working at the same internet company in Hollywood. This is also where he began his career in linux administration. Jon and Marie married in 2002 and their daughter, Phoebe, was born in 2006. He's currently a Sr. Systems Engineer at Media Temple.



Jon and Marie moved from Pasadena to Sierra Madre in 2011 and began attending Ascension that same year. They fell in love with the congregation on their first visit and have considered it their home church ever since. Currently, Jon is assisting with the Ascension website redesign effort. He also helps Jay Packer with various photography projects.

Bio from October 2013 Spire by Dr. Debora Huffman

Ted Bosley grew up in San Francisco, where he sang in his church choir (with mother and sister) from the age of four. At eight he auditioned for the San Francisco Boys Chorus (singing the "Brother James Air"), where for five years he received a foundation in choral repertoire, theory, sight reading, and other skills. When his voice changed at the age of thirteen, he stopped singing. Ted earned degrees from UC Berkeley and UCLA before finding his way to his dream job with USC as Director of the Gamble House in 1990. By then he had not exercised his voice for many years. Ted, with his children, Will (5) and Julia (3), first came to Ascension in 1999. Now in their late teens, his kids don't appear at church much; but Ted discovered that at last he had time to try to revive his rusty baritone in the loft. He responded to an invitation to sing in last year's Christmas program, and he loved it so much he just stayed on. Ted says that when he is singing, he feels closer to God and is worshiping in the best way he knows how.



“Yesterday is History, Tomorrow a Mystery, Today is a Gift, That’s why it’s called the Present”

My 2013 calendar is all marked up with the things I did over the past year. Except for helping me remember what I did last year, it is of little use to me now. My 2014 is currently nice and clean; the pages are smooth and uncreased. I’m excited to start planning what will be during the 2014 year. Whenever I make an appointment or have something important to remember, I will mark it on this calendar. Pretty soon, my new calendar will start to look a lot like the old calendar.

2013 was a year full of trials, joy, tribulations, and celebrations; and God was with me throughout the year. I don't know what the future will bring, but I know God will be with me. But it is today that I am the most excited for... it is my “here and right now” – and God is with me.

Submitted by Jobi Harrell, Minister to Younger Persons

I’ve been thinking about resolutions....you know the ones we make every year because this year things are going to be different. Well...you know how the rest of the story goes!



This year I’ve decided to do something different. I’m going to adopt a child. Yes, you heard me correctly. This 65 year old is going to adopt a child. It’s the least I can do since I was adopted myself as an infant. I seem to have a little more free time and what better way to fill it then caring for a child. It looks like I’m finding out just how big my brave can be.

Instead of making resolutions, you should think about adopting too. It’s really easy. Remember that little baby in the manger; how about adopting him. He’s available and really needs a good home.

Still not sure...then read this poem that I found among my mother’s things. Instead of empty resolutions and even more guilt, allow yourself to be blessed in unimaginable ways and experience unselfish love.

An adopted child is greatly loved
and soon becomes a part,
of everything that’s treasured
and held closely to the heart.

An adopted child is looked upon
with special tenderness,
and he or she will always know
the warmest sweet caress;
for those who adopt children
find joy in little souls,
A baby’s smile can help them on
toward their chosen goals.

God knows how much mankind cries out,
for pure unselfish love,
and so He sends adopted ones
seemingly from above.

Broken hearts are mended,
in manner meek and mild
truly blessed are those who have
an adopted child.

And remember child care is available every Sunday!

Have a grace filled New Year.

Deacon Ed

2014 Stewardship Campaign Update

The Stewardship campaign for 2014 has come to a close. Thank you to all parishioners who have already turned in their 2014 Stewardship Pledges.

We did not quite reach our goal for the 2014 budget, but we came close! If you haven't returned your pledge card, or are able to increase your pledge, or need a pledge packet mailed to you, please let the church office know; we're happy to continue to receive pledges and reach our 2014 budget goal!

The church Vestry uses the pledged figures from the Stewardship campaign to create Ascension's working budget for the following year. As with any household or organization, Ascension has regular fixed expenses and occasionally some unanticipated expenses. The pledges from the Stewardship campaign are meant to pay for Ascension's expenses for the year. For those parishioners who make offerings but prefer not to submit a written pledge, we thank you too!

Thank you all for your commitment to the Stewardship of the Church of the Ascension.

2014 Stewardship Committee

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Please join me in expressing deep thanks to members of the choir for their exquisite work throughout Advent and Christmas – their talent, matched by many hours of dedicated rehearsal, enabled them to bring to Ascension the beautiful music we experienced. I, for one, am grateful.

Recently I read about a study whose results indicated that people who sing in choirs are healthier and happier than those who don't – choral singing trumped other activities such as participation in sports teams or solo singing. The very act of singing is beneficial to one's health (enhancing breathing, developing strong lungs) and to one's intellect (the task of combining notes, rhythm, and words increases mental acuity); however, the benefits of choral singing go beyond such documented advantages. Perhaps it's the fact that everyone in a choir is working toward a common goal, combined with established vocal rewards – the researchers aren't completely sure why this is so, but I was pleased to read of the findings. This is just another reason why *you* should consider joining the choir in the new year – do think about it!

Earlier this month my husband, minister of music at Christ Lutheran Church in West Covina, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his sacred music career with a festive concert and reception. It was a bit of a revelation for me to realize that this was likewise my fiftieth anniversary (we were both *very* young when we embarked upon this pathway). It continues to be an incomparable privilege to spend my days immersed in music, as notes give voice to the written word. And it continues to be a joy to make music in this sacred place.

All best wishes for an awesome new year ~

Debora Huffman

Director of Music and Organist

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.

February 21st – 22nd

Students will begin their fast after lunch on February 21st.

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.

December 5th, 2013

Mr. David Mole
The Church of the Ascension
25 East Laurel Avenue
Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

Dear David,

I cannot begin to thank you and the parish enough for making it possible for the Reverend Michael Bamberger to take time away from his congregation in order to come out to Colorado recently, to assist in flood relief efforts here, following the devastating floods that affected so many locations in our state. The work Michael started has yielded many results, and we look forward to the training he will engage in with the Disaster Relief Coordinator we find and also with the various volunteers who have stepped forward to help with this very important work.

I am most grateful to you for your willingness to allow Michael to come and work with us- we do so appreciate his, and your, wonderful thoughtfulness. Deep peace and many blessings to you.

Yours faithfully,

The Right Reverend Robert J. O'Neill
Bishop

A nice letter of gratitude...



THE DIOCESE OF COLORADO

The Right Reverend
Robert J. O'Neill

(303) 837-1173 / (800) 446-3081

FAX: (303) 837-1311

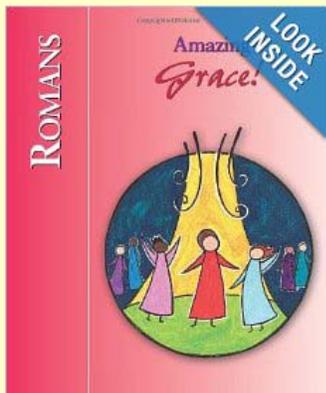
New Small Groups Study on Sunday's!

~

Romans: Amazing Grace!
(Six Weeks with the Bible)

Mr. Kevin Perrotta (Author, Editor)

**Join Jean Rowe in the
Library from 9am to 10am.**



12th Night Celebration

Sunday, January 5th, 2014

Time: 5:30 pm (after Short Church at 5:00 pm)



All are welcome!

Where: Hawks Hall

Our Menu:

- Tamales
- Chicken Verde Soup
- Rice and Beans
- 3 Kings Cake



(Don't forget to look for the Baby Jesus in your slice!)

Please join in on the Fellowship, plenty of food, and fun! Sign-up sheet on Hawks Hall bulletin board.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2013



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

December 2013 / January 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	December 30th Parish Office Hours 9am—Noon	December 31st 11am Prayer in the Chapel Parish Office Closed	1  Parish Office Closed 6pm Mass Cancelled	2 7am Mass 9am Forum Parish Office Hours 9am—Noon	3 Parish Office Hours 9am—Noon On-Call for Bad Weather Shelter	4
5 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass Feast of the Epiphany Short Church~5pm 12th Night Party~5:30pm	6	7 11am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	8 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	10 ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES DUE	11 Stillpoint Mtg Library 8-3
12 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass PMC Meeting ~ Noon	13	14 11am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	15 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7am Mass 9am Forum	17	18
Father.Bamberger Out of Office- Group Retreat			Fr. Bamberger Out of Office—ER&D Colorado			
19 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass Vestry Orientation~9am	20 Martin Luther King Day	21 11am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting	22 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	24	25 On-Call for Bad Weather Shelter
			Deacon Ed Out of Office			
			Youth Minister Out of Office			
26 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass ANNUAL MEETING 9:00AM HAWKS HALL	27	28 11am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group FEBRUARY SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	29 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30 7am Mass 9am Forum	31	
Deacon Ed Out of Office						
Youth Minister Out of Office						