



The SPIRE

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

October 2014

Upcoming Events

October 5th-
Gooden School Sunday

October 9th-
House Church/Dinner 6:30 PM

Sunday, October 12th
11:45am

**Bring Your Pets!!
Blessing**



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

October 13th-
Columbus Day ~ Office Closed

October 18th-
Stewardship Meeting

October 21st- Vestry Meeting

October 25th- Women's
Fellowship Potluck Luncheon

October 26th-

- ◇ Family Sunday
- ◇ School/Pumkin Carving
- ◇ Halloween Party
- ◇ Parish Ministry Council Mtg

Pledge Payment Snapshot

January - September 27th, 2014

2014 Budget Amount:
\$200,000

YTD Budget: \$134,700

YTD Actual: \$147,793



From the Rector

On Sunday, October 4th, we will be having another Gooden School Sunday. We look forward to the Gooden School students and their families worshipping with us at the 10:15 service. The children will be active participants in the worship as they read lessons and prayers and provide music for the celebration.

The Gooden School, named for Suffragan Bishop Robert Gooden (1874 – 1976, Suffragan from 1930 until 1947) was founded in 1975 by the Reverend Canon Spencer Edwards following the closure of the Ascension Parish School. From a modest start with less than twenty students, today Gooden serves 169 students from a variety of faith traditions. The Gooden School is a member of the National Association of Episcopal Schools. For many years, the school has rented classrooms from Ascension, and twice a week the children gather in our church for their chapel services. About once a month, I lead the chapel service; and when the Gooden community gathers for Eucharist, I preside.

I want to thank Ted Bosley, our Junior Warden, for his efforts to strengthen the relationship between the school and the parish this year. Ted also serves on the Gooden School's Board. I hope you all will join in welcoming the Gooden community as they worship with us on October 4th.

MAB+

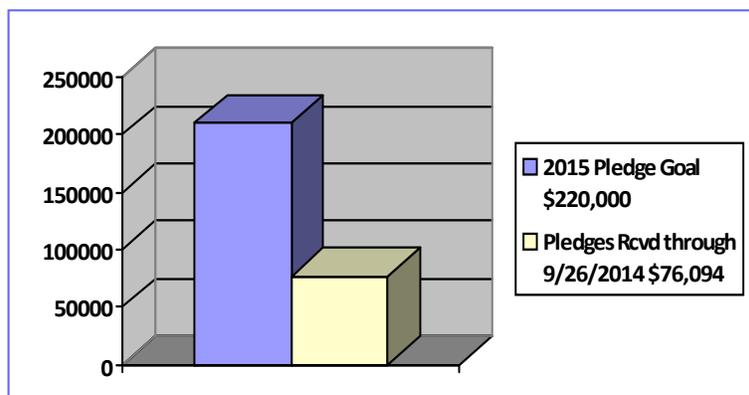
Attention Acolytes

We had a great training on Sunday, the 21st of September. It was stressed that any acolyte may volunteer on any Sunday, but the ones scheduled will have preference for positions. We also reminded folks to try and find a substitute if you know you are going to be away. On the schedule one acolyte will be designated as the senior server. That means he or she will be the team leader on that Sunday. If you missed the practice please see Jobi Harrell about your vestments.



2015 Pledge Update

“Joyful Giving, Joyful Living”



2015 Ascension Stewardship Campaign *by the numbers*

- Last year's Parish budget: \$270,000
- Last year's pledges: \$200,000
- Number of Ascension households: less than 120
- Percentage of households that pledged in 2014: 75%
- 2015 Parish budget: approximately \$300,000
- 2015 Pledge Goal: \$220,000 (10% increase)

If each pledging household increases its pledge commitment, and each non-pledging household commits to a 2015 pledge, *We will reach our goal!*

The Women's Room at Friends in Deed has just celebrated its 7th anniversary. This wonderful place is located in the Friends in Deed building at Washington and Los Robles in Pasadena and serves as a safe daytime refuge for women who are alone and homeless or at risk. They are open three afternoons and one morning each week and provide laundry facilities, showers, healthy lunches, games, conversation, fellowship, and more in a comfortable home-like setting. Ascension has been a part of this wonderful organization almost since the beginning, providing a wonderful fun-filled annual Thanksgiving lunch. Several years ago a group of women from Ascension decided to join other area churches in providing a monthly lunch. We recently received this note of thanks which we would like to share:

"Dear Ascension team:

Thank you so much for all of the love and generosity you have shown to The Women's Room over the years. We couldn't do this important work without you! Here's to 7 more years and to all of the women that God will bring to TWR. Thank you for being part of this beautiful community and for journeying with us through the years. You are a huge blessing to us!

With Love,

Tara & TWR family"

We provide sandwiches, soup, fruit, salad, desserts, and juices once each month, usually on the second Monday of the month. Our team of ladies who have participated this year consists of: Sandra Dickey, Pat Woods, Susan Beach, Karen Mooradian, and Collete Ostrye. If you would like to join us, contact Sandra at 626.355.6190 or lilredshack@aol.com.

**FRIENDS
IN
DEED** * The Women's Room

Note: Lisa Reed will soon be providing information regarding this year's Thanksgiving luncheon and how you too can help.

Submitted by Sandra Dickey

TO
LET
THINGS
YOU
CANNOT
CONTROL
GO

I don't know about you, but I worry too much. Sometimes, I worry about things I have no control over. It's as if I'm convinced that like by magic my worrying will make the problem disappear -- if not permanently, at least for a while. Oh, it's easy to tell others "don't worry so much," but so much harder to take our own advice sometimes.

A while ago I found this article, and it made me smile. It reminded me that if I let go and let God, things seem to work out. The outcome may not be as I expected; but, nevertheless, it always reminds me that I don't need to waste so much time worrying. So why not give it a try...stop worrying; let go and let God.

Live well, live blessed, Deacon Ed+

Letting Go of Worry

March 25

What if we knew for certain that everything we're worried about today will work out fine?

What if...we had a guarantee that the problem bothering us would be worked out in the most perfect way, and at the best possible time? Furthermore, what if we knew that three years from now we'd be grateful for that problem, and its solution?

What if...we knew that even our worst fear would work out for the best?

What if...we had a guarantee that everything that's happening, and has happened, in our life was meant to be, planned just for us, and in our best interest?

What if...we had a guarantee that the people we love are experiencing exactly what they need in order to become who they're intended to become? Further, what if we had a guarantee that others can be responsible for themselves, and we don't have to control or take responsibility for them?

What if ...we knew the future was going to be good, and we would have an abundance of resources and guidance to handle whatever comes our way?

What if...we knew everything was okay, and we didn't have to worry about a thing? What would we do then? We'd be free to let go and enjoy life.

Today, I will know that I don't have to worry about anything. If I do worry, I will do it with the understanding that I am choosing to worry, and it is not necessary.

Greetings, Ascension!

I am thrilled to be back in the San Gabriel valley for four weeks. But alas, I am committed to Church of the Transfiguration in Arcadia on Sunday mornings, September 21 – October 12. However, I hope to see as many of you as possible throughout my weeks here.

I attended the monthly Deanery Clergy meeting held last week at Ascension. Representing Transfiguration as one of their sabbatical supply clergy, I delighted hearing about new ministries in this valley. One of them, among many, impressed me with their commitment to prison ministry: this month, the Community of Divine Love established for ministry in county jails will celebrate life vows in their new Episcopal religious community housed at Church of Our Savior, San Gabriel. I admire Christian journeys that work hard to take risk and sustain new ministry.

At home in Massachusetts, a new diocesan bishop was consecrated on September 13th. I have hope for this new episcopacy J. In London, England for her junior fall semester in college, my daughter Katalina soaks up as much theatre and Shakespeare as any one person possibly can! My husband Julian and I greatly enjoy playing and performing on our cellos. My parents, at aged 86 and 78 years, enjoy my frequent visits and care.

I miss Ascension, and hold you all dearly in my heart.

*With Love,
Mother Jennifer Beal*



From our Archives

“The Honor Of Being A Lay Reader - by Jennifer Jesser”

Some time ago I sat down to "go through stuff" and I came across a journal I had written about 20 years ago. I love to journal....it has been something I have done since I was 9 years old when I received my first Diary with the little lock and key. It is full of childhood dreams and memories. When I happened on this 20 year old journal of mine, I cracked it open and started reading about a very important day in my life...the first time I served God in His house as a Lay Reader. It inspired me to write about how amazing it is for me to serve God in this manner.

As a little girl sitting in the pews of the Church of the Ascension on Sunday mornings, I would watch the boys serving as acolytes with great interest. I watched each and every thing they did and I knew that I could do the same thing. It seemed to me the very best way that I could serve God in His house. I wanted to carry the cross and I wanted to "bring things to the altar." BUT, in those days it was not meant to be....and believe me, I asked!! I was told - "No, the boys do that." A bit perplexed at the moment, I accepted the answer to my question without objection. (I was also told this when I went to sign up to play baseball, but that is another story).

Life went on and I grew up, went away to college, then went away to graduate school but always came home for the holidays, vacations - and - church at Ascension. After I lived in another state for a while, I returned home to my beloved Sierra Madre and Ascension. Funny how time really does change things....this time I sat in church and watched Karen Mooradian perform her duties as the **FIRST** woman Lay Reader. A huge smile broke out on my face. Our time had come!! Up to this point I had been focusing on finding the work God had planned for me in my daily life and serving him through my work. I was led to places I was not expecting and ended up in a profession I never considered when I ventured off to college. God knew where He needed me and I saw my path clearly. Working with and amongst the Deaf has been and continues to be my life's work for God. But....coming home to Ascension once again, I could see that I could now serve God in a new way....by serving at the altar of His home. I asked - and - this time - I was told YES!

Serving as a Lay Reader is something I hold dear to my heart. I have always felt a sense of awe when I walk into our church....the beauty of it, the history it has for me (I also attended Ascension Parish School), the amazing warmth and love I feel within those walls, the familiar pew, the friends and family, God's large and spiritual presence. It is like no other place for me. Like a little child, I get goose bumps and I feel as if magic is going to happen. And magic does happen! The Word of God is shared. When I stand at the lectern and read the lessons, I feel a huge responsibility to be sure that God's word is expressed in a thought provoking way. The lessons we hear are crucial to our daily lives and impact the work we do when we depart. The words are our food and sustenance and it is my honor to be delivering them. As I deliver these serious words, I also feel great joy - the Holy Spirit surrounds me and I feel God working through me with each and every word. When I follow our beloved Priests with the communion goblet, I enjoy looking into your eyes, perhaps slightly touching your hand, exchanging a smile, assisting your children, telling you that this is the Cup of Salvation and completing your communion experience. I love to look at all the faces that come to the railing and assist you as you take communion. I feel I have connected with you on a level that I would not otherwise experience. It is a brief moment in time when we share something very special.

Twenty years have gone by now - and being a Lay Reader - and serving God in His house - is one of the most important parts of my service in my life. I always knew, way back to when I was a little girl, that "being up there" would feel special and inspiring. It's magic!!

Jennifer Jesser



In the midst of our conversation with a friend recently, I was reminded of a story I first heard over ten years ago. Our conversation was one of those wonderful swirls during which we touched on a variety of topics, our hopes and fears, our successes and failures, and our ability to forgive ourselves and others. When I recalled the tapestry metaphor, I did my best to share it with her, but I left the conversation feeling as if I had somehow failed in fully expressing the full picture.

Attempts to find the original source of this metaphor were unsuccessful, but I did learn that it is more popular than I had thought. Much like the *Footprints in the Sand* or the *Starfish Story* which many Christians have put on bookmarks, plaques and greeting cards, the simplicity of the *Tapestry story* can offer moments of Grace. I have found many different versions of the Tapestry story in both poem form and story. I think this metaphor speaks to me still because the moment I first heard it was at a time where so many losses and ruptures had occurred that it offered me hope in a moment of complete despair. I find that stories like these are incredible little gems if encountered in a moment when you are overwhelmed yet still open to God's active presence in your life.

If you are unfamiliar with this metaphor, I have taken bits and pieces of several versions and pieced the following together:

As life unfolds in real time, it's like seeing the backside of a tapestry.

It appears to be nothing more than a jumble of thread – frayed, tangled, occasionally knotted- seemingly random.

Nothing really makes sense.

But things are not always what they seem.

It is only when you turn a tapestry over that you see the art: the texture, the rich colors, and the patterns that can make a tapestry a thing of astonishing beauty.

Occasionally God gives us a glimpse of what is weaving in the fabric of our lives.

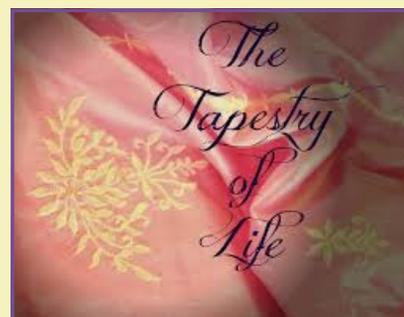
The momentary peek of glory gives us the strength to carry on.

No thread of experience-good or bad-is wasted.

When our lives appear to be a certain way, we must remind ourselves that we are looking at the backside of the tapestry.

The One weaving it together sees the full picture; and it is an astonishing work of beauty.

Submitted by Jobi Harrell, Minister to Younger Persons



Bring Your Pets!! Blessing of the Animals

11:45am
in the
Outdoor
Worship
Area.



Free pet
sitting during
the 10:15 am
service!

Church of the Ascension
Sunday, October 12th

Save the Date!

Saturday,
November 2nd
1:00 pm

Pasadena



Women's Fellowship Potluck Luncheon

When: Saturday, October 25th

Time: 11:30 am

Where: Hawks Hall
Church of the Ascension
25 East Laurel Avenue
Sierra Madre, California



Please join the Women's Fellowship Potluck Luncheon for fun, fellowship, great food, and lots of laughter.

Fellowship Upcoming Events

October 5, 2014: Gooden School will be joining us at the 10:15 Service. Following the service, Hospitality and Karen Mooradian and family will be hosting Coffee Hour in honor of Sam Mooradian and in honor of the students from Gooden School.



October 12, 2014: Blessing of the Animals. Following the 10:15 Service, for us human participants, there will be treats from the dessert bar.



Attention all trick or treaters!

Ascension will be partnering with the Gooden school to donate to UNICEF.

Please pick up UNICEF boxes for trick or treating at the church entrance and return them by November 4th.



LA Episcopal Dodger Night
Friday, September 5th



Dodgers





OCTOBER 5th, 12th, & 19th

- Catechesis Atrium with Cameron Cox
- Grades 4 -5 Hawks Hall with Karen Mooradian
- Jr. Youth Parish House with Chris and Tara Allen
- Sr. Youth Parish House with Jobi Harrel & Chris Bamberger

Childcare with Miss Molly is available during both worship services



Halloween Party

Sunday,
October 26th
11:30am

Church of the Ascension



FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Last Sunday of EACH Month

Begins Sunday, September 28th

9 AM – 10 AM
Hawks Hall

September 28th
Anglican Rosaries

October 26th
Pumpkin Carving
All are welcome to join, and share in some delicious fall treats!

November 30^h
Advent Wreaths

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 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7pm Choir Rehearsal	2 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	3	4
5 8am Mass 9am Summer Sunday School 10:15am Mass GOODEN SCHOOL SUNDAY 10:15AM SERVICE	6	7 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	8 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9 7am Mass 9am Forum HOUSE CHURCH/ DINNER 6:30PM *LOCATION TBD*	10	11
12 8am Mass 9am Summer Sunday School 10:15am Mass BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 11:45AM OUTDOOR WORSHIP AREA 	13 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 	14 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	15 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	17	18 STEWARDSHIP MEETING 8:30AM HAWKS HALL
FR. BAMBERGER-ER&D TRIP WASHINGTON						
19 8am Mass 9am Summer Sunday School 10:15am Mass FR. BAMBERGER-ER&D	20	21 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7PM VESTRY MEETING	22 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7pm Choir Rehearsal	23 7am Mass 9am Forum	24	25 WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK LUNCHEON 11:30AM 
26 8am Mass 9am Summer Sunday School 10:15am Mass FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL PUMPKIN CARVING 9AM HAWKS HALL HALLOWEEN PARTY 11:30 AM PMC MEETING NOON	27 NOVEMBER SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	28 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	29 5:30pm Yoga 6pm Mass 7pm Choir Rehearsal	30 7am Mass 9am Forum	31 	

Spire Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator