



# The SPIRE

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



## Upcoming Events

March 8th -  
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**

March 10th-  
Voting Day

March 12th -  
House Church/Dinner 6:30pm -  
Location TBD

*Sunday, March 15th*  
*Lenten Evensong*  
*followed by a reception in*  
*Hawks Hall*  
*5pm*

March 17th-  
Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

March 19th -  
House Church/Dinner 6:30pm -  
Contact Parish Office for  
Location.

March 22nd-  
PMC Meeting Noon

March 26th -  
House Church/Dinner 6:30pm -  
Location TBD

March 28th-  
Let's Make Palm Crosses!  
11am in Hawks Hall

March 29th-  
**PALM SUNDAY**

April 3rd—4th-  
Youth Group Sleepover

April 5th- **EASTER SUNDAY**  
◇ 1st Easter Brunch/Egg Hunt  
8:00am  
◇ 2nd Easter Brunch/Egg Hunt  
Noon

## March 2015

### From the Rector

As we near the mid-point of Lent, I am already starting to anticipate and get ready to participate in the observance of Ascension's Holy Week and Easter. For some people, particularly those new to our tradition, it can be confusing, and somewhat overwhelming. The question arises as to how to help folks for whom what we do is new. While we have a clear description of the Holy Week and Easter services, there are some helpful tips which might make things even better for everyone.

For example, on Palm Sunday, it helps to know that there are actually two themes at work in our services. The service begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but then fast forwards to the Passion. Traditionally the palms that are distributed to the people at the beginning of the service are taken home, kept throughout the year, and then returned to the church before the next Shrove Tuesday to be burned and made into ashes for Ash Wednesday.



Monday through Friday evenings of Holy Week, there are services at 7:00 in the church. Monday and Tuesday evenings we celebrate Eucharist together.

Wednesday is the service of Tenebrae. Another piece of "insider" information is that the lighting at this service gets progressively darker; and some people bring a small penlight to be able to read the bulletin towards the end of the service.

*continued on next page...*

### Holy Week, Easter Services

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>March 29th</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>April 2nd</b>
Mass (Rite I)	8:00 AM	Mass	7:00 AM
Mass (Rite II)	10:15 AM	Foot Washing and Mass	7:00 PM
		Watch at Altar of Repose	9:00 PM -12 AM
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>March 30th</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 3rd</b>
Mass	7:00 PM	Watch at Altar of Repose	7:00 AM -11 AM
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>March 31st</b>	Stations of the Cross	Noon
Mass	7:00 PM	Good Friday Liturgy	7:00 PM
<b>Tenebrae</b>	<b>April 1st</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>April 5th</b>
Mass	7:00 PM	The Great Vigil and	
		1st Eucharist of Easter	6:00 AM
		Festival High Mass	10:15 AM

**From the Rector — continued from previous page.**

The service on Maundy Thursday evening is also a liturgy that shifts in theme as it unfolds. It begins with foot washing (and this year, we are offering the opportunity to wash others' feet to anyone who wishes) and then focuses on Communion, ending with the opportunity to take some time to Watch at the Altar of Repose. So a helpful tip might be that if you wish to have your feet washed, wear sandals or shoes and stockings that are easily removed. As with the Anglican position on private confession, the rule regarding having your feet washed is the same – “all may, none must, some should...” It really is up to you to decide. The Watch at the Altar of Repose is another personal decision. We have a sign-up sheet so that we can insure that while the Watch is under way, there will be someone in attendance for the whole time. But people are welcome to sign-up to watch at the same time as someone else. (The sign-up sheet will be out the Last Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, and through Holy Week up until Maundy Thursday.) Some people may ask what does one do while “on watch?” Again, different people do different things. Some people just sit in silence. Others read from Scripture or devotional materials. Some sing (to themselves in silence) hymns, and I've been known to listen to Good Friday music on my Ipod. Some people pray the rosary. Others journal. I've seen people cross-stitching and knitting. The Watch ultimately is a time to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in anticipation of Good Friday and Easter. We restored a tradition last year – bringing flowers from our own yards to decorate the Altar of Repose. You can bring flowers any time on Maundy Thursday or bring them with you when you attend the Maundy Thursday evening service.

At our Good Friday services, be prepared for solemnity and simplicity. At the noon service we walk the Stations of the Cross beginning in the church, walking the church grounds (weather permitting,) and ending back in the church. The evening service follows the Liturgy for Good Friday including the Veneration of the Cross.

Easter is a whole different story. We try to be as festive as possible. While we begin the Vigil in the cold before dawn, we move into light and joy. (It helps that Daylight Savings Time begins March 8th ! The time change guarantees that we will start in darkness and be able to see (at 6:35am) the sun rise together as we gather at the outdoor font.) People often bring bells of all types to be rung during our Easter Services. Families with kids may want to bring baskets or bags for the children to use during the Easter Egg hunts. This year we will have an egg hunt after each service. We have an “organized” potluck brunch following the services, and there are sign-up sheets on our bulletin board for you to tell us what you are bringing. And by the way, anytime we have a sign-up sheet, you can call the office and ask that your name be added to any of the sign-up sheets – you don't have to personally add your name if you forget, are in a rush, or you don't know where the list is located.

Just thinking about all we have to share this Holy Week has heightened my anticipation.

***Blessings, MAB+***

*Although we are in the midst of Lent, we eagerly look forward to our glorious Easter celebration the first of April. In order to make the church as beautiful as possible, we need your generous donations for flowers. Envelopes will be available soon in the back of the church. Checks should be made out to St. Anne's Altar Guild.*

*St. Anne's thanks you in advance for your generosity in helping our Sanctuary look splendid for a Joyous Easter.*



### An Opportunity for Giving



Please consider making a contribution to our music program for the special music we enjoy here at Ascension.

Music offering envelopes will be available soon at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

*Thank You for your support.*

*Good Morning!  
This is God,*

*I will be handling  
all of your problems today.  
I will not need your help.  
So, relax and have a great day!*

The Third Step of Alcoholics ~  
Made a decision to turn our wills and lives over to the care of God.

#### The Third Step Prayer

*from page 63 of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*

God, I offer myself to Thee-  
To build with me  
and to do with me as Thou wilt.  
Relieve me of the bondage of self,  
that I may better do Thy will.  
Take away my difficulties,  
that victory over them may bear witness  
to those I would help of Thy Power,  
Thy Love, and Thy Way of life.  
May I do Thy will always!

*Copyright © Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.*

*Live well, live blessed,  
Deacon Ed+*



Parish Work Party  
Saturday,  
February 7th,  
2015



**Thank You** David Mole, Mike Beach, Mike Ruble, Tim Hayden, John Buchanan, Derek Buchanan, Jackson Ruble, Elizabeth Cundiff, Kylie McLaughlin, and Carl Foote.

## Lent for children or as a family during Lent.

Being a parent, guardian, or teacher is a holy ministry and a sacred promise. Share your faith with children by letting them see and hear you pray and by praying together. Mealtimes are a great opportunity to start or enliven a tradition of family prayer during Lent!

### Here are additional suggestions:

- ◇ Make a Prayer Chain: List 40 intentions or people on 40 slips of paper. Link them together into a chain. Rip one off each morning of Lent and pray for that need.
- ◇ Bury the Alleluia: Explain why we don't proclaim alleluia during Lent. To symbolize, write out alleluia on paper and bury it in the yard or put it away in a box.
- ◇ Memorize a Prayer: The Lord's Prayer is a great prayer for children to learn; but if your kids already know it, pick a prayer they are unfamiliar with.
- ◇ Color Easter Eggs: While you do, talk about why they are part of Easter. They represent new life.
- ◇ Read Easter Books: For example, The Legend of the Three Trees
- ◇ Children's (or regular) Stations of the Cross: Visit one, Read one, Color one, etc.
- ◇ Make Pretzels: They symbolize arms crossed in prayer.
- ◇ Go to Church: But not during Mass or Adoration. Instead, just explore the building.
- ◇ Make Hot Cross Buns: They symbolize Christ's suffering on the cross.
- ◇ Plant Something: Plant flowers, a plant, or Easter grass; take care of it and watch it grow. Talk about new life and rising from the grave.
- ◇ Make an Easter Basket for a Neighbor: Fill it with your favorite treats and surprise your neighbor with your gift.
- ◇ Read the Story of the Last Supper: Either read it straight from Scripture or find a kid's version. Either way, prepare a nice meal for dinner and read and discuss the story while you eat.
- ◇ Fill a Bag to Donate: De-clutter your house and make a donation to Goodwill. Toys, clothes, books, housewares, etc. are all fair game. This is part of alms giving too.
- ◇ Light a Candle at Church: Let your child choose a special person to light a candle for.
- ◇ Dress in Purple: Explain how purple is a color of mourning but also a color of royalty – Jesus the King.
- ◇ Write a Note to a Clergy Member: Whether it be local or farther away, have your kids choose a person to write a letter to. Maybe your kid wants to write a thank you letter. It could even be a letter asking questions about our faith. You might get a great response!
- ◇ Pick a Nice Outfit for Easter Mass: Shop the closet or the store and talk about dressing our best for Jesus and the celebration of Easter
- ◇ Go on a Garden Walk: Explain the story of the Garden of Gethsemane while you meander.
- ◇ Attend our Passion Play on March 29th presented by the youth of our parish.

**Activity  
Ideas  
for  
Lent**

*Submitted by Jobi Harrell, Minister to Young Person's*

**A HUGE  
SUCCESS!**

### *Shrove Tuesday Review*

This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a huge success! We served pancakes and sausages to about 78 folks, Father Michael with his masterful skills at flipping pancakes must have flipped more than 250 pancakes. We profited just about \$350, which will be donated to the Women's Room for Friends in Deed – ECPAC.

A BIG thank you to Father Michael for flipping pancakes, to my son, Alexander, and to Jo Mosier, Mike Beach, Ted and Kathy Calleton, and the Cox Clan for their help in setting up and KP (Kitchen Police) duties following supper.

With all the extra help, we were home and in our jammies by 8:00 pm ready to watch NCIS.

Many thanks to all who supported this event. I know that the Women's Room will be grateful for our donation.

*Sincerely, Lisa Wagner-Reed, Fellowship Ministry Leader*



## GREETERS/USHERS NEEDED!

We need 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 parishioner Geoff Meehan at 626-475-5546 for more information.**

### NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Our Lenten musical journey continues throughout the month as several instrumentalists join the choir and organ.

On the first Sunday of March, cellist Yoshika Masuda, a doctoral student at the USC Thornton School of Music, will be playing the gorgeous *Meditation from "Thais"* by Jules Massenet and the Bach/Gounod setting of *Ave Maria*. He'll also be collaborating with the choir in Fauré's beloved *Cantique de Jean Racine* and a setting of *Psalm 121* by Walter Pelz. You may remember Pelz as the contemporary composer who specializes in choral/oboe works (indeed, we'll be hearing some of these later in the month), but I'm sure you'll agree that this *Psalm 121* is particularly poignant.

The following week, March 8, the husband and wife duo, Dr. Jessica Pierce, flautist, and Almer Imamovic, classical guitarist, will be providing the opening and closing voluntaries. Dr. Pierce and Mr. Imamovic, both graduates of the Thornton School, are no strangers to Sierra Madre – they are the owners of Sierra Madre Music on the Boulevard. The choir will be singing Gilbert Martin's strong setting of *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*; during communion they'll be joined by Dr. Pierce in *My Jesus, I Love Thee*, arranged by Paul Sjolund.

On March 15 our own Ascension oboist, Sean Dougall, will join us in two Walter Pelz selections for choir and oboe: *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days* and *Love and Mercy* (as promised, Pelz is reprised, this time with oboe). Sean will return for LENTEN EVENSONG at 5:00 p.m., when the choir and he will present Dr. James Hopkins' *Thy Name Is Love* (written for our Ascension choir) and a moving setting of *Agnus Dei* by British composer, Francis Jackson.

The remainder of our Evensong music will consist of:

- \**Call to Remembrance* by Richard Farrant
- \**Hail Gladdening Light* by Charles Wood, arranged by John Rutter
- \*William Byrd's *Preces and Responses*
- \**Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* by Thomas Tallis
- \*Daniel Gawthrop's setting of *Create in Me A Clean Heart*

Do plan on joining us for this stunning service of choral music, hymns, Scripture, and prayers. I guarantee an evening of meaningful worship, steeped in Anglican tradition, that will enrich your Lenten experience. Following the service a reception will be held in Hawks Hall.

The anthems for March 22 include Craig Courtney's *Teach Me Thy Song, O Lord*, and *Vere Languores Nostros (Truly He Bore Our Sorrows)* by Antonio Lotti.

Cellist Yoshika Masuda returns on the 29<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate Palm/Passion Sunday. He'll be joining the choir in *Were You There?* by Raymond H. Haan and *O Sacred Head* by Hans Leo Hassler, arranged by Bradley Nelson.

Sharing this information with you has made me realize just how excited I am about the incredible music the upcoming month will bring to us. I trust that your Lenten experience will be deepened by both instrument and song.

*O God, whom Saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:  
Be with us, we beseech thee, as we seek to perfect the praises of thy children on earth;  
and grant to us even now such glimpses of thy beauty  
that we may be made worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

~ The Royal School of Church Music



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

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:15!

All children are invited to join Miss Molly, Brittany Banis, and Jobi Harrell in the Atrium for Sunday school. Students explore liturgically based lessons through stories, crafts, and worship. Children will re-join their families at the offertory where they will present the gifts each week! We look forward to seeing you there!

## YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Ever want to show your Ascension spirit to the outside world? The youth group will sponsor an ordering form for you to choose shirts, mugs, and much more with the church logo. Look for the order form in upcoming church bulletin inserts!

## CALL FOR DONATIONS

Donations of plastic eggs, candy, and non-edible treats (stickers, balloons, erasers, etc.) are greatly appreciated for our Annual Easter Sunday Egg Hunts! Please drop off items in the donation basket marked: EGG HUNT by Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## YOUTH SLEEPOVER

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> the junior and senior youth groups will have a sleepover starting at 6:30 PM. Join us for Good Friday Worship, Dinner (provided), & a movie, and help with final preparations for Easter Sunday! Please bring a sleeping bag and pillow, personal items as well as a dozen hard-boiled eggs for coloring! Participants can be picked up at 11 am on Saturday, April the 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Episcopal Relief & Development Fundraiser Dinner

Saturday, February 7th, 2015



Thanks to our Fellowship Ministry for hosting this event and providing us with a fabulous all you can eat pasta and salad bar!



## Recipe for Caramel Heavenlies



### ingredients

- 12 graham cracker rectangles
- 2 cups tiny marshmallows
- 3/4 cup butter, cut up
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup sliced almonds
- 1 cup flaked coconut

### directions

1. Line a 15x10x1-inch pan with parchment paper or foil. Grease foil, if using. Arrange graham crackers in a single layer in the pan. Sprinkle with marshmallows.
2. In a medium saucepan combine butter and brown sugar; cook over medium heat until sugar is completely dissolved, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. Stir in cinnamon and vanilla. Spoon over the graham crackers, spreading evenly. Sprinkle with almonds and coconut.
3. Bake in a 350 degree F oven about 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on wire rack. Use foil or parchment to lift uncut bars from pan. Cut into 3-inch squares; cut each square in half diagonally.
4. Store in an airtight container in refrigerator up to 1 week. Makes 30 cookies.

Thank you to Meg Cox for sharing this great find on the internet! <http://www.midwestliving.com/recipe/cookies/caramel-heavenlies/>



## CHORAL EVENSONG FOR LENT

**Sunday, March 15th, 2015  
5:00 pm**

Choral anthems from the Renaissance through Contemporary periods, including works by Richard Farrant, William Byrd, Thomas Tallis, Charles Wood, Pasadena resident James Hopkins, Daniel Gawthrop, and Francis Jackson. Featuring the Church of the Ascension's Choir and oboist Sean Dougall. Under the direction of Dr. Debora Huffman, Ascension's parish musician; the Rev'd. Canon Michael Bamberger, officiant.

*Specific anthems include*

*Call to Remembrance - Farrant*  
*Preces and Responses - William Byrd*  
*Hail, Gladdening Light - Charles Wood*  
*Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis - Thomas Tallis*  
*Thy Name is Love - James Hopkins*  
*Create in Me a Clean Heart - Daniel Gawthrop*  
*Agnus Dei - Francis Jackson*

All are welcome to attend this free event.  
Following this beautiful service of reflection  
a reception will be held in Hawks Hall.

## SAVE THE DATE

Do you enjoy an Afternoon Tea? Think warm scones with melted butter, cream and jams, little tea sandwiches filled with savory flavors of smoke salmon, watercress, smoked trout, prosciutto, and brie. If the answer is yes, then mark Saturday, May 16, 2015, at 2:00 pm on your calendars for the third annual Afternoon Tea Fundraiser.

Proceeds go to Hospitality, which helps provide us with special coffee hours, Evensong Receptions, Easter Hams, and Bishop's Visits, luncheons, and much more. Another portion of our proceeds is donated to the Women's Room of Friends in Deed.

Tickets will be available in April 2015 at \$35 per ticket and ½ price for children 6-12 years.

More information will be included in the next Spire.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 626.710.8909.

**Respectfully,  
Lisa Wagner-Reed,  
Fellowship  
Ministry  
Leader**



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](http://www.ascension-sierramadre.com)

## March/April 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	<b>4</b> <b>5pm Mass</b> 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 9am Forum	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Fr. Bamberger Out of Town—ER&D NY/Staten Island						
<b>8</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School  <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS!</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6pm Dinner Group	<b>11</b> <b>5pm Mass</b> 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg  <b>House Church/Dinner 6:30pm—Location TBD</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School  <b>Lenten Choral Evensong/Reception 5pm</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6pm Dinner Group  <b>7pm Vestry Meeting</b>	<b>18</b> <b>5pm Mass</b> 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 9am Forum  <b>House Church/Dinner 6:30pm—Contact Parish Office for Location</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School  <b>PMC Meeting ~ Noon</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6pm Dinner Group	<b>25</b> <b>5pm Mass</b> 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal  <b>APRIL SPIRE ARTICLES DUE</b>	<b>26</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg  <b>House Church/Dinner 6:30pm—Location TBD</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>Let's Make Palm Crosses!</b>  <b>11am in Hawks Hall</b>
<b>29 PALM SUNDAY</b>  8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6pm Dinner Group	<b>1</b> <b>Tenebrae</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Good Friday</b>  <b>Youth Group Sleep Over</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b>

\*HOLY WEEK / EASTER - SERVICE DATES & TIMES ARE NOTED ON FRONT PAGE OF NEWSLETTER.\*

SPIRE Newsletter Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator