

The SPIRE

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



April 2015

HOLY WEEK / EASTER SCHEDULE

April 1st - Mass	Tenebrae 7:00PM
April 2nd - Mass Foot Washing & Mass Watch/Altar of Repose	Maundy Thursday 7:00 AM 7:00 PM 9 PM -12 AM
April 3rd - Watch/Altar of Repose Stations of the Cross Jr & Sr Youth Sleepover Good Friday Liturgy	Good Friday 7 AM -11 AM Noon 6:30 PM 7:00 PM

April 5th- EASTER SUNDAY

<i>The Great Vigil and</i>	
1st Eucharist of Easter	6:00 AM
1st Egg Hunt/Brunch	8:00 AM
Festival High Mass	10:15 AM
2nd Egg Hunt/Brunch	11:30 AM

April 11th-
Parish Work Day

April 19th-
Gooden School Sunday

April 21st-
Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

April 26th -
Parish Ministry Council Meeting Noon

Pledge Payment Snapshot

January - March 31st, 2015



2015 Budget Amount:	\$235,000
YTD Budget:	\$91,667
YTD Actual:	\$83,330



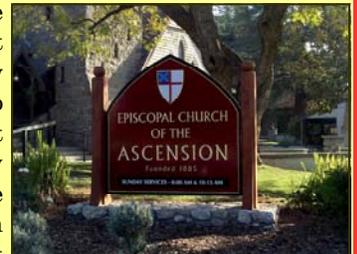
From the Rector

In April of 1985, I received the call from the Vestry to become the Associate Rector here at Ascension. It was understood that when my predecessor retired in June of 1986, I would become the 22nd rector. October 1st was my start date, and indeed I succeeded Father Behm the following summer. At the time, I wouldn't have thought I would stay for three decades.



I have a few friends who are also long-term rectors. One of the benefits we discuss frequently is the privilege of accompanying families through several generations. I was reminded of this on Palm Sunday looking at an enthusiastic toddler in the front pew. She kept turning around and playing with Father Wood in the pew behind her. I knew her great, great grandfather, and Father Wood knew her great, great, great grandfather.

Another benefit is that with patience, systemic change is possible. When I arrived in 1985, there was a certain smugness in some quarters about the parish's nickname – "The Church of the Dissention." There were some folks who just enjoyed being contentious. Some of those folks have died, some have moved on to other parishes (and other denominations), and some have mellowed gracefully. A good example of how things have changed would be the reaction to the new sign. A few decades ago, just the discussion of replacing the old sign with a new sign would have been bloody. Even the folks who expressed some misgivings when the Vestry first proposed the project have unanimously declared how much they like the new sign. Reflecting back, there has been an enormous shift in how Ascension handles the process of change. I'd like to believe that we have arrived at a place where we value those Pauline virtues – Faith, Hope, and Love. And we know which one is the greatest.



Blessings, MAB+

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY ON EASTER SUNDAY!



*Smile
Please!*

2015

Parish Directory Photos

It's that time of year again. When you look at your directory picture, do you recognize yourself? Your kids? Do your friends recognize you? If not, it is time for an update! **Come in your 'best dress' on Easter Sunday and get your picture taken by Jay Packer and Jon Prentice.** They will be taking photographs between the services and after the 10:15 service in the child care room. Please add the photo shoot to your Sunday schedule so that we have an up-to-date picture of you and your family. **Thank You!**



LAST CALL!

♦ **We need the flowers from your garden to decorate our garden.**

The **Altar of Repose** (*our re-creation of the Garden of Gethsemane, the garden where our Lord prayed before his arrest and trial*), will be set up this Thursday, April 2nd (Maundy Thursday). Please bring your flowers on Maundy Thursday to the church chapel in a disposable container (*or put your name on the bottom of the container*)... All flower types are welcome, large or small, any color...



Altar Flowers



♦ **Please sign-up for one of our (2) Easter brunches.**

Email Lisa Wagner-Reed at reed_lisa@laco.edu or sign-up on Hawks Hall bulletin board. The hospitality committee will supply the ham's for both brunches. We want to make sure we have enough food to feed everyone!

♦ **We are still looking for donations for our Annual Easter Egg Hunts.**

What can you bring? Plastic eggs, candy, and non-edible treats (stickers, balloons, erasers, etc.) are greatly appreciated! Please drop off items by Friday, April 3rd. Look for the donation basket in Hawks Hall.



♦ **There is still time to sign-up for our Jr. and Sr. Youth Group Overnighter.**



The sleepover begins at 6:30 PM on Friday, April 3rd. 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 4th. For more information contact our Minister to Young Person's at jobiharrell@gmail.com.

Thank You!

FOOD INGATHERING GROCERY REMINDER



Feeding the Community

ECPAC / FRIENDS IN DEED FOOD DONATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

(THAT'S NEXT SUNDAY!)

THE PANTRY IS VERY SHORT OF SUPPLIES AND THERE ARE MORE FAMILIES BEING SERVED.

(Peanut butter, canned meats, cereals and protein based foods are always needed. For the homeless, pull top cans work best. Please place your donated items in the 'Food Donation' basket in Hawks Hall.



**Community
Sunday School**

You're ALL invited...

Sunday, April 26th

Hawks Hall

9 AM – 10 AM

Join us as we make ribbon partition bookmarks
for Bibles and the Book of Common Prayer!

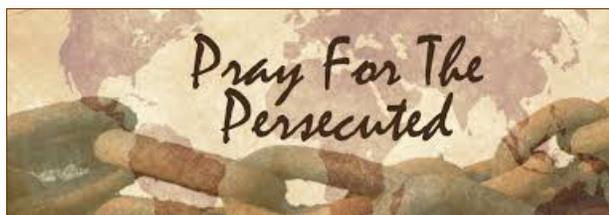
This Easter religious leaders worldwide will lead millions of Christians in prayers that are traced back to the earliest days of the church. I must admit that I love Holy Week, the liturgical drama, the ancient prayers that join Christians globally, and the opportunity to encounter God in new and meaningful ways.

I wonder, beyond the public expression of prayer, what is the Resurrection's real meaning in terms of our personal expression? What do the personal prayers of the rest of the world have in common with our prayers? I suspect that persecuted Christians in Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Iraq [and that's the short list] are viewing Resurrection very differently than we are in Sierra Madre.

Recently, I said that if we want to see Jesus, then we must look death in the face. To the extent we refuse to acknowledge the reality of death, to the degree we avoid and deny death, we refuse to see Jesus. Really looking at, acknowledging, and facing death is some of the most difficult work we ever do. It is, as Jesus describes, soul troubling. Christianity means participating in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Indeed, Resurrection occurs just outside of our comfort zones.

During Eastertide, we are afforded a wonderful opportunity to step out of our comfort zones to look at how we pray, what we pray for, and how we view Resurrection. Might I suggest that we pause and imagine ourselves not in Southern California, but rather in the Middle East where Christians have nowhere to publically pray, where death for their beliefs is a daily reality, and where the hope of Resurrection is a dream and, as Jesus would say, "soul troubling."

Live well, live blessed, and



Deacon Ed+

This is the first of a series of articles designed to make us all more aware of life around us .

Ascension Awareness: Autism

- ⇒ Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys
- ⇒ Autism prevalence figures are growing
- ⇒ Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the U.S.
- ⇒ Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average
- ⇒ Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism
- ⇒ There is no medical detection or cure for autism



Autism and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are both general terms for a group of complex disorders of brain development. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication, and repetitive behaviors. They include autistic disorder (sometimes referred to as "classic autism"), Rett syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger syndrome. ASD can be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention, and physical health issues such as sleep and gastrointestinal disturbances. Some persons with ASD excel in visual skills, music, math, and art.

Autism has its roots in early brain development. However, the most obvious signs of autism and symptoms of autism tend to emerge between 12 and 18 months of age. Some infants and toddlers begin to develop normally until the second year of life, when they lose skills and develop autism – a pattern called "regression."

Saturday, April 18, 2015 - The Rose Bowl

Walk with us and help raise funds to support vital research and top-quality programs that are changing the future for those who struggle with autism.

Please contact Tara Allen at awarenessatascension@gmail.com

Submitted by Jobi Harrell, Minister to Young Person's



Work
Party!

ATTENTION ALL WORK PARTY WARRIORS!

Due to the fact that our normal work party would fall on Holy Saturday, I am postponing our workday to Saturday, April 11th. We will meet at 8:30am and do the normal maintenance of the yard and facilities. Your attention to this change is appreciated. *Sincerely, Mike Beach, Verger*



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

Many thanks to all of the musicians who joined us during Lent – such a rich variety of cello, classical guitar, flute, and oboe. Thanks also to the choir for their tremendous work throughout the season and especially for the wonderful Evensong they presented. Your Ascension choristers continue their efforts as they prepare for the musical demands of Holy Week and Easter.

Holy Week observances continue into the first week of April. On Maundy Thursday, with its emphasis on Christian love, the choir will be singing Durufle's beloved *Ubi Caritas* and *I Give You A New Commandment* by Peter A. Stone. During communion the congregation will have the opportunity to join the choir in the popular Taize selection, *Eat This Bread*. At the Good Friday service, the *St. John Passion* will be chanted by Carol Rasmussen, Charley Noecker, and Father Bamberger. During the veneration of the cross, the choir will offer Leo Nestor's moving *Faithful Cross*. Two extremely meaningful services that you won't want to miss.

The focal point of this season is, of course, Easter Sunday, when our grief turns to joy in the celebration of Christ's resurrection. The choir will be presenting the brilliant *Light's Glittering Morn* by Craig Phillips and Jane Marshall's *Awake, My Lute*, poetry, George Herbert. In addition to *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*, we'll be singing two festival hymns – *The Day of Resurrection* and *This Is the Feast of Victory*. All of the above will be enhanced by the trumpet artistry of Jay Cohen and David Evans. Be sure to join us for this glorious time of jubilation!

As we continue our Easter celebration throughout the month, anthems will include:

April 12

How Should I Sing that Majesty? by John Ronald Daniels

Love Bade Me Welcome – George Herbert's exquisite poetry set by Roland Martin

April 19

Now the Green Blade Rises – traditional French tune arranged by Alan Bullard

O God Unseen by David Ashley White

April 26

The Lord's My Shepherd by Bob Chilcott

Shepherd Me, O God by Marty Haugen

May God grant each of you an Easter of resounding joy!

*Rise, heart, thy Lord is ris'n; sing his praise without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise with him may'st rise;
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.
~George Herbert*



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist

Stations of the Cross



Paintings by Gooden School Students ~ 2015

Looking for a way to celebrate a milestone birthday, a special anniversary, a child's birthday, or another special occasion?

Consider hosting a Coffee Hour after one of the Sunday services. There are (2) options:

Host a Coffee Hour:

1. Sign up on the bulletin board in Hawks Hall
2. Bring snacks for 50-75 people to the kitchen on your chosen Sunday morning (be sure to indicate which Coffee Hour they are to be used for)
3. A member of the Hospitality Committee will help you set up your table and assist you in putting your treats out.

Sponsor a Coffee Hour:

1. Contact Lisa Wagner-Reed, Fellowship/Hospitality Ministry Leader, after a Sunday Service to give your sponsorship (**recommended donation is \$35**). If you don't see her in church, you can e-mail her at reed_lisa@laco.edu.
2. Sign up on the bulletin board for which date and service you would like to sponsor.

A member of the Hospitality Committee will be sure to have refreshments prepared and set up for your "Coffee Hour".



Checks should be made out to Church of the Ascension.

Look what we learned to make!



**Great Job
Ladies!**

**Saturday,
March 28th, 2015**





Mark Your Calendar!

Ascension Sunday Potluck Dinner

May 17th, 2015

5:30 pm

Look for more details in next month's Spire.

Afternoon Tea flyer designed by Jan Keppler-Kudla

Victorian Afternoon Tea

Saturday May 16th at 2:00 pm

Join us for an afternoon filled with savory sandwiches, aromatic teas, champagne and decadent desserts. Featuring a silent auction generously sponsored by local merchants!

Where: The Church of the Ascension - Hawks Hall, 25 E. Laurel Ave, Sierra Madre

Ticket price: \$35.00 - Tickets are available at the Church office and Savor the Flavor. Children age 12 and under are half price.

Sierra Madre's Village Church of the Ascension will be hosting it's 3rd annual afternoon tea and silent auction this year to raise money for the church and for The Women's Room at Friends in Deed Pasadena.

Ticket sales will be limited and must be purchased in advance (no ticket sales at the door).



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

April 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 TENEBRAE	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:30am Staff Mtg	3 GOOD FRIDAY	4 HOLY SATURDAY Youth Group Sleep Over
Service dates/times are noted on the front page of the newsletter.						
6 EASTER SUNDAY The Great Vigil and 1st Eucharist of Easter 6:00 AM 1st Egg Hunt/Brunch 8:00 AM Festival High Mass 10:15 AM 2nd Egg Hunt/Brunch 11:30 AM	6	7 6pm Dinner Group	8 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga *No Choir Rehearsal*	9 7am Mass 9am Forum	10	11 Parish Work Party 8:30 am
12 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School	13	14 6pm Dinner Group	15 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	17	18
19 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School GOODEN SCHOOL SUNDAY	20	21 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting	22 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 7am Mass 9am Forum	24	25 MAY SPIRE ARTICLES DUE
26 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School PARISH MINISTRY COUNCIL MEETING NOON	27	28 6pm Dinner Group	29 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30		
Fr. Bamberger Out of Town — ER&D Training-Oklahoma City					Deacon Ed Out of Town Through May 4th — Credo	