



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



Upcoming Events

July 3rd – Parish Office Closed
 Independence Day Observed

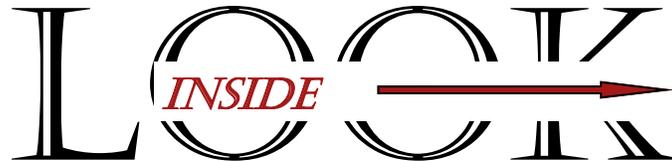
July 4th – Happy 4th of July!

July 21st– 7pm/Hawks Hall
 Vestry Meeting

July 16th – 6:30pm
 House Church/Dinner
 contact parish office for location

July 26th – Noon/Library
 Parish Ministry Council Mtg

JULY 2015



TO SEE PICTURES FROM THE RECTOR
 FROM THE GENERAL CONVENTION IN
 UTAH!

Pledge Payment Snapshot

January - June 30th, 2015



2015 Budget Amount: \$235,000
 YTD Budget: \$145,418
 YTD Actual: \$130,403

SUMMER PROGRAMS

for Children & Youth

- ◇ Childcare provided at both services.
- ◇ 9:00 am – Youth Group meets in the Parish House - Focus Book: *Finding Your Moral Compass*
- ◇ 10:15 am – All ages Sunday School meet in the Atrium

Summer is Here!

While on vacation, remember that the church will still be here doing God's work for our parish and our community. Doing good works costs money. Please remember to send in your pledge!



**2016
 Stewardship
 Theme Contest**

Deadline date for entries
 has been extended to
 Sunday, July 19th.

It's that time of year again!

Do you have a great idea for a 2016 Stewardship theme? If so, please submit your entry in writing to the parish office by Sunday, July 19th.

Email:
parish@ascension-sierramadre.com

The winner will be announced in next month's Spire and it's creator will receive a \$20 Starbucks gift card!

MEET OUR NEW BISHOP-ELECT!



North Carolina Bishop Michael Curry was elected at the 78th Episcopal General Convention in Salt Lake City on Saturday, June 27th, 2015. The 62-year-old Curry will succeed Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, who is stepping down Nov. 1 at the end of her nine-year term. Curry has been bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina for 15 years. He is a Chicago native and graduate of Hobart College and Yale Divinity School. He and his wife have two children.

From the Rector

Rather than give you a lengthy narrative, I thought I would give you images. On our way to Salt Lake City, we took a quick side trip to Kolob Canyon which is in the north west corner of Zion National Park.



Last Friday was Episcopal Camps day at the General Convention. We all wore our camp t-shirts.

I'm sure everyone was excited to hear that the Right Reverent Michael Curry was elected to be our new presiding bishop. Debbi and I had a chance to visit with him on Saturday night. Also on Saturday night, we celebrated 75 years of Episcopal Relief & Development's work and ministry.



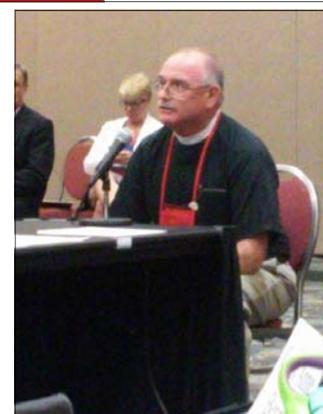
And while we are on the subject of selfies, here is one of me with the winner of this year's Lenten madness—*St. Francis*.



A highpoint at the convention was the celebration of Katharine Jefferts Schori's term as presiding bishop. In this picture, she is surrounded by previous presiding bishop Frank Griswold and incoming presiding bishop Michael Curry.

Continued on next page..

In case you are thinking it's all fun, here are some pictures of us at work and worship.



Blessings, MAB+

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Outreach Activities



- August 29: Alzheimer's Walk at Pasadena Rose Bowl
- September 19: Heal the Bay Coastal Cleanup Day
- November 8: Crop Hunger Walk in Pasadena
- November: Food Drive
- December: Pajama Drive for Infants and Toddlers

NEW

**SMALL
GROUPS
STUDY**

Sundays,
beginning July 5th

"On the Road with Jesus"
(Matthew 10-20)

Facilitator: Jean Rowe
9am—10am
Library

All are welcome!

Youth Group Six Flags Trip 2015!

Details:

Who: All 6th Graders – Young Adults

What: Summer Fun

Where: Six Flags, Magic Mountain

When: July 26th
Departing at 9 AM

Why:
FUN & FELLOWSHIP!



SixFlags



I've been accused of spending too much time on Face Book – true enough. If you don't know about Face Book (FB) or spend time on it, I promise you that you have family and friends who could tell you all about it...if you dare to ask.

Since letter writing, telephone calls, and spending time together became extinct, FB has become a useful tool to communicate with family and friends. At the moment I have 1200 friends; and compared to some, I'm a lonely guy without a friend in the world. How sad I don't have 3,436 friends like you. When asked how I know all these people – well, I don't; and it really doesn't matter. Friends, friends of friends, and friends of friends of friends post “stuff” on FB and occasionally something strikes a chord and you find yourself sharing it on your page for your friends and their friends who aren't friends of yours (yet) and who knows where it ends up.

Recently I read a post that really got my attention in a big way. See the thing about FB is that thousands of others saw it too and perhaps it got them thinking; and if it did, then that's a good thing. I know that you're dying to know what captured my imagination. Well, here's the quote: **“What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday.”**

I'm big on lists, particularly *gratitude* lists. All day long I thank God for stuff just because I don't want to forget anything, and believe me I forget a lot. But now I'm wondering if I'm being grateful for the right stuff, and is there right or wrong stuff? Is there a proper length for lists? Am I wise enough to be grateful for the tough stuff because it stretched me a bit and made me uncomfortable? You really pissed me off today – are you on my list? But I like you, so what if I don't put you on my list? And what if I don't say grace – do I go hungry tomorrow. Maybe if everyone said grace meal or no meal, we'd eradicate hunger in the world. Maybe I just need to be grateful for everything. I think I'll give it a try and see what I end up with tomorrow. In the meantime, I need to go and check my FB page and see if I have any new friends to be grateful for.

*Live well, live blessed,
Deacon Ed+*

EfM (Education for Ministry) presents you with the opportunity to study and reflect on your Christianity.

In the first year, you will study and discuss the Old Testament. This yearlong study was designed by the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee using a “small group” type of format. The discussions have some structure but are lively and interesting. The course provides all of the books required for the course; you only have to bring your bible. The course will be mentored by your Verger, who has spent the last four years qualifying for this position. All are welcome to participate in this experience. The plan is to hold the meeting from 3:00 to 5:30 Sunday afternoons.



Following this course will be a course on the New Testament, then Church History, and finally Theology and Ethics. All are conducted in a similar format. You are not required to commit to the four year program, only the first year.

If you have any interest or want more information, see Mike Beach, your Verger.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

I find myself still basking in the richness of two June experiences: the festival concert at Disney Hall celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Los Angeles Diocese and the annual conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians in Tampa.

The concert featured a festival chorus of more than 200 voices from six LA parishes, organ, and brass. Such a glorious sound! For me the highlight of the evening was John Rutter's *All Creatures of Our God and King*, which the audience sang with the chorus, organ, and brass. I wish that all of you could have been there to experience it.

I found in the AAM conference affirmation of Ascension's music program with the ever-present challenge to progress to yet a higher level. The hymn-singing alone was worth the trip – imagine a reverberant room with 200 sacred musicians lifting their voices in praise, often with stirring descants. The week featured tremendous worship services, concerts, Evensongs, professional concerns, choral reading sessions, and, of course, great food and fellowship. Ascension is always the beneficiary of such trips, as I incorporate new music and ideas into our own worship services.

July at Ascension will begin with an inclusion of some patriotic music for the July 4th weekend. On the 12th a quartet composed of Susan Beach, Andrea Booth, Lavette Teague, and Ted Bosley will provide the anthems: *The Blue Green Hills of Earth* by Kim Oler and *Consider* by Roland Martin (Christina Rosetti text). Carol Rasmussen and Charley Noecker will be singing Hummel's *Alleluia* on the 19th. The AlmaNova Duo will return to us on July 26 – Almer Imavovic, classical guitar, and Dr. Jessica Pierce, flute. I think you'll find our more intimate summer music to be both enjoyable and inspirational.

When in our music God is glorified and adoration leaves no room for pride,

It is as though the whole creation cried Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!

And may God give us faith to sing always Alleluia!

-Fred Pratt Green



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist

Upcoming House Church Dates

Thursday, July 16th - *contact parish office for location*
 Thursday, August 20th - *contact parish office for location*

Starts at 6:30 and will be followed by a light supper.

Sign-up sheet on Hawks Hall bulletin board.

Top Ten Reasons to go to church:

10. You get to catch up on the previous week's news and gossip
9. Free coffee and donuts
8. Hang out with friends
7. You can be in charge of something
6. Someone else to watch the kids for a few hours
5. Get to sing in the choir even though you can't read music (don't let on to Dr. Deb)
4. Coming to church doesn't mean you have no doubts about God or faith or religion. It means you have a place you can share with people who have their own doubts.
3. It gets you out of bed on Sunday morning



A snippet from Deacon Ed's January 2013 SPIRE article.



2. You get to hear great sermons (well most of the time) by Fr. Michael and Deacon Ed

1. Jesus is really cool. The more you get to know him, the more you'll understand why people call his way The Way.

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.

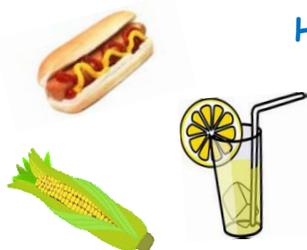
A member of the Hospitality Committee will be sure to have refreshments prepared and set up for your "Coffee Hour".

Checks should be made out to Church of the Ascension.



End of Summer, Back to School Social

Hosted by our Youth Group and Fellowship Ministry



Date: Sunday, August 16th
Time: After the 10:15 Service
Where: Hawks Hall



FREE LUNCH!

*Hot-Dogs, Corn-n-the-Cob, Potato Salad, Dessert
and Ice Cold Lemon-Aide*

**Come one, come all
and enjoy an
afternoon with
friends & family.**

Good old fashion Summer time fun!

*Water balloons,
confetti eggs,
popcorn, and more!*



Please sign-up so we know how many hot dogs to buy!

A sign-up sheet will be posted on Hawks Hall bulletin board.

"Fellowship is our community coming together through food, fun, and friendship."

LAY MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Have you considered becoming an Usher or Presenter? The members of this ministry assist at Sunday Services by welcoming visitors, taking up the collection, and presenting the bread and wine to be consecrated at the altar. Interested in this ministry? Contact parishioner Geoff Meehan (*phone number in church directory or call the church office*).

We currently need Usher's for the 10:15 service.

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

JULY 2015

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 5:30pm Yoga | 2 9am Forum | 3 <i>Independence Day Observed</i> <i>Office Closed</i> | 4  Fr. Bamberger Vacation |
| Fr. Bamberger Out of Town — General Convention/Utah | | | | | | |
| 5 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School CLERGY- BUD WILLIAMS | 6 | 7 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer | 8 5:30pm Yoga | 9 9am Forum | 10 | 11 |
| Fr. Bamberger Out of Town — Vacation | | | | | | |
| 12 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School | 13 | 14 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer | 15 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga | 16 7am Mass 9am Forum House Church/Dinner 6:30pm <i>*contact parish office for location*</i> | 17 | 18 |
| 19 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School | 20 | 21 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer 7pm Vestry Meeting | 22 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga | 23 7am Mass 9am Forum | 24 | 25 |
| 26 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School PMC MTG AT NOON | 27 AUGUST SPIRE ARTICLES DUE | 28 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer | 29 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga | 30 7am Mass 9am Forum | 31 | |

SPIRE Newsletter Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator