

# The SPIRE

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



## Upcoming Events

August 1st – 8:30 am  
Parish Work Party

August 16th – 9:00 am/Hall  
Rector's Form-Prayer Book  
Revisions

August 18th– 7:00 pm/Hall  
Vestry Meeting

August 20th – 6:30 pm  
House Church/Dinner  
\*contact parish office for  
location\*

August 23rd – 9:00am/Hall  
Alzheimer's Awareness  
Presentation by Mimi Brown.

August 23rd – Noon/Library  
Parish Ministry Council Mtg

### Pledge Payment Snapshot

January - July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015



2015 Budget Amount: \$235,000  
YTD Budget: \$145,418  
YTD Actual: \$145,618

## 2015

### FROM THE RECTOR

The month of July has seemed to fly by, but of course that might be because Debbie and I spent the first third away at General Convention in Salt Lake City and on our way home visited the five National Parks in southern Utah.

On several occasions since my return, I have been asked to comment on General Convention and some of the actions taken there. One of the most inspiring elements was the worship. Every day the Eucharist was celebrated in a different style and with a different theme, and yet always in an upbeat and uplifting manner. And we heard some fabulous preaching – most notably from our Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry. I've also been asked to comment on some of the actions taken around changes in worship on the distant horizon, marriage, restructuring our governance, and my election to the General Board of Examining Chaplains.

I think the timing is right to re-introduce an opportunity for teaching and dialogue about “all things Episcopalian” and call it the Sunday Rector's Forum. Topics will vary, and even the presenters will vary. The first occasion will be during the nine o'clock hour on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. I will do an overview of the Prayer Book 1979 with an eye to the process of Prayer Book revision. On Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, we'll welcome Mimi Brown. Jean Rowe has written elsewhere in this Spire about Mimi and her work. (As your priest and pastor, I can't overemphasize the importance of our awareness around Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. I am aware that almost every single household in the congregation has been, is now, or will be soon dealing with this concern.) In September, we'll look at the Hymnal and the canon changes around marriage. These upcoming presentations all fit in well with the Vestry's second goal of enhancing Christian Formation for discipleship. Please take time to read John Buchanan's Senior Warden article about our other goals.

We are all called to be more than followers of Jesus. We are called to carry the Good News out into the world. I'm excited about August here at Ascension.

*Blessings, MAB+*



Survey says: The winner of the  
**2016 Stewardship Campaign**  
is Deacon Ed with his submission:

*"Sing to the Lord a new song."*

He will be the lucky recipient of a \$20 Starbucks card. Perhaps he will treat Father Michael to a Frappuccino to kick off the spirit of giving!





## Notes

Here is hoping all are finding time this summer for occasional rest and the rejuvenation that advances your material and spiritual growth.

When last I reported, the Vestry had identified four goals as the foundation of our Parish's strategic plan. As a reminder, they are

- 1.) Establish a signature program for which the parish is known in the broader community (*a youth choir was a popular idea among vestry members*);
- 2.) Enhance our formation for Christian discipleship;
- 3.) Incorporate youth more fully into parish and Christian life; and
- 4.) Grow the use of our facilities.

Since these goals were identified, we have created near-term objectives to move us toward them with different levels of alacrity. Some goals have multiple objectives, the recitation of which would be a bit much for a Spire article. What follows is a fair summary.

To establish a signature program, we will identify implementation steps for a youth choir while tasking each vestry member to look at local community needs and identify other program opportunities. Formation enhancement would come from new small groups and education in the foundations of our Episcopal faith. Bringing our youth closer to their parish and Christian life will involve focusing on pastoral care participation and providing the practical life skills young parishioners tell us they are interested in. Facility use will grow with the help of website improvements and new ideas for use of the parish house and an associated maintenance program.

Is this a lot? Perhaps. Will it all be done tomorrow? No. Can it change? Of course. We hope the plan is inspired, but it isn't scripture. What will make it better is your input. The Vestry welcomes your comments and ideas to keep Ascension moving.

*John Buchanan, Senior Warden*

## ASCENSION'S BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE!

**PLEASE DONATE SUPPLIES BY SUNDAY AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>!**

Many PUSD families are struggling. With high unemployment, and more than 30 million students enrolled in the free and reduced meal programs, many parents are unable to provide the basic school supplies their children need to be effective. In addition, schools across the country are facing severe budget cuts and lack the funding to purchase necessary supplies.



### Here is a list of suggested supplies:

- **Paper**: lined paper, copy paper, construction paper, spiral notebooks, composition books, index cards
- **Pencils & Pens**: blue or black pens, #2 pencils, colored pencils, erasers, pencil sharpener, pencil case, colored markers, crayons, highlighters, dry-erase markers
- **General Supplies**: dry-erase boards, paper clips, 3-ring 2" binders, pocket folders, report covers
- **Things you can never have too much of**: tissues, sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer



"That's a clever dog you have there," said a man when he saw his friend playing cards with his dog. "Not as clever as he looks," was the reply. "Every time he gets a good hand he wags his tail."

A priest ordered his deacon to assemble ten men to chant prayers for the recovery of a sick man. When they had all come in, someone whispered into the ear of the priest, "There are some notorious thieves among those men."

"All the better," said the priest. "When the gates of Mercy are shut, these are the experts who will open them."

One day, Abraham invited a beggar to his tent for a meal. When grace was being said, the man began to curse God, declaring that he could not stand to hear his name.

Seized with indignation, Abraham drove the blasphemer away.

When he was at prayers that night, God said to him, "This man has cursed and reviled me for fifty years and yet I gave him food to eat every day. Could you not put up with him for a single meal?"

DOCTOR: "That pain in your leg is caused by old age."

PATIENT: "Don't take me for a fool! The other leg is just as old."

*From: Taking Flight: A Book of Story Meditations ~ Anthony De Mello*

Something to think about as you relax with a cool drink on a warm August evening. What can you learn about yourself from each of these stories?

*Live well, live blessed, Deacon Ed+*

## The Dodgers welcome The Diocese of Los Angeles!

Los Angeles Dodgers  
Episcopal Night



vs.

Pittsburgh  
Pirates

**Friday,  
September 18th  
7:00 p.m.**

Help put Bishop Mary on the mound  
for the first pitch.



**Tickets  
only \$18!**

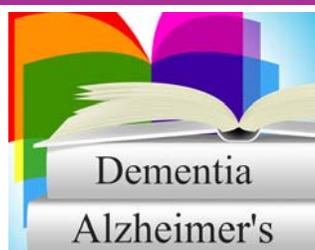
**Fireworks after the game!!**

Sign-up sheet on Hawks  
Hall bulletin board.

Deadline for ordering  
tickets is Sunday,  
August 9th.

The Military Hero for this  
game is .....  
Matt Bamberger!!





## August 23<sup>rd</sup> Ascension Alzheimer's Awareness Event

Alzheimer's Disease attacks without discrimination. Statistics indicate that it will probably change the life of one of your parents, your spouse, one of your siblings, a close friend, or even you. At some point in our lives, all of us will directly encounter the effects of Alzheimer's Disease.

In keeping with our Ascension Awareness Program and our Outreach Ministry, on August 23 Mimi Brown, MSW (Masters of Social Work), the Program Director of CAPS Adult Day Care in Pasadena will speak to us about the disease and what support is available locally.

Mimi works with people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias while assisting their family on the journey of care. The CAPS program she directs offers respite for caregivers while their family member with dementia enjoys a day of activities. She has 12 years' experience facilitating support groups. She is an Ambassador for the Alzheimer's Association with Representative Judy Chu. She advocates on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association requests of Congress. Recently, she attended the Alzheimer's Forum in D.C. where over 1,000 advocates visited congressional members. She has chaired the CNA Awards Luncheon honoring caregivers in skilled nursing facilities in the San Gabriel Valley. She is a member of M.A.P.S (marketing and admissions professionals for seniors) and the San Gabriel Valley Alzheimer's Task Force.

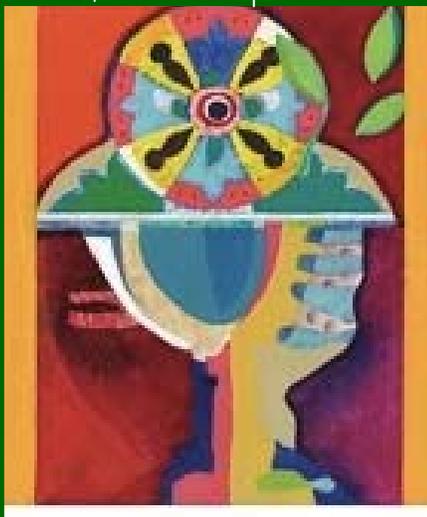
Plan to come to Hawks Hall between services on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to make yourself more aware of this devastating disease and of the caregiver support that is available locally.

### OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY NOTE:

You can contribute to the work of the Alzheimer's Association by joining the Alzheimer's Walk on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Rose Bowl or by financially contributing to the walk.

FORWARD  
DAY by DAY

AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER 2015



Don't forget to pick up a copy of the new FORWARD DAY by DAY booklet published by Forward Movement. Copies can be found at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

A \$2 donation is appreciated.

***Thank You.***

### Upcoming House Church Date

**Thursday,  
August 20<sup>th</sup>**

*\*contact parish office  
for location\**

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

*\*Sign-up sheet on  
Hawks Hall bulletin  
board.\**

## NOTES FROM THE LOFT

If you think you've been hearing a bit more Johann Sebastian Bach than usual, it's not your imagination. The *Eight Little Preludes and Fugues* are staples of an organist's repertoire that are usually studied in the early stages of organ instruction. These stages of study coincidentally mirror the early stages of the corpus of Bach's works; in fact, they were written so early in his career that speculation abounds regarding their authorship. Perhaps they were composed not by Bach himself, but by one or more of his peers, or by one of his students. Or perhaps they were written by JSB for one of his students. In any case, until there's definitive proof of alternate authorship, I prefer to consider them as works of the master himself; in that spirit I decided to return to my roots and present them to you in entirety, two per week. You've heard Nos. 1-4 in July; Nos. 5-8 are scheduled for August 2 and August 16. I hope you enjoy these lovely selections anchoring the services.

Our wonderful choristers continue to offer their gifts throughout August:

**August 2** – Carol Rasmussen, soprano, and Charley Noecker, baritone

Alleluia! - Ferdinand Hummel

Come, Blessed Savior – Camille Saint-Saëns

**August 9** – Susan Beach, soprano

I Will Sing New Songs of Gladness – Antonin Dvořák

O Rest in the Lord (from *Elijah*) – Felix Mendelssohn

**August 16** – the choir returns to bring you two spirituals -

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Steal Away – sung by the women of the choir

**August 23** – Susan Beach, soprano, and Andrea Booth, alto

The Lord's My Light – Henry Ruthven

A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester – Roland E. Martin

I'll be on vacation August 30; Geraldine Keeling will again provide service music.

May Ascension's musical offerings of August bring you much joy ~

*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*

## Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Outreach Activities



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

### PICTURES FROM AUGUST 1ST PARISH WORK PARTY

Not pictured: Tim Hayden and Carl Foote.



Mike Beach



Maria Dodd



Mike Ruble



#### Tasks

- \*Rose Garden Weeding
- \*Painting Benches in Sanctuary
- \*Waterproofing Memorial Garden benches.

## THANK YOU!

### ALL PARISH GROUP PHOTO!

Let's show everyone who we are by posting a group photo of our congregation on our website. Join us for the photo shoot on Sunday, September 13th between the services.



## Bring your best smiles!

### Women's Fellowship Potluck Luncheon

When: Saturday, August 29, 2015

Time: 11:30 am

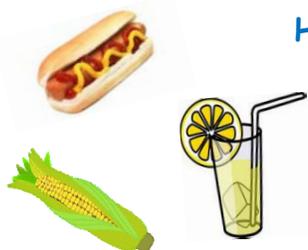
Where: Hawks Hall  
Church of the Ascension  
25 East Laurel Avenue  
Sierra Madre, California

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



# 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*

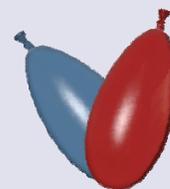


*Hot-Dogs, Corn-n-the-Cob, Potato Salad, Dessert and Ice Cold Lemon-Aide*

**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."*

PICTURES FROM YOUTH GROUP TRIP TO SIX FLAGS MAGIC MOUNTAIN ON SUNDAY, JULY 26TH



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)

## AUGUST 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> <b>Parish Work Party</b> <b>8:30am</b>  Fr. Bamberger - Camp Stevens
<b>2</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School  <b>CLERGY-MARILYN OMERNICK</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer	<b>5</b> *No 5pm Mass* 5:30pm Yoga	<b>6</b> *No 7am Mass* 9am Forum	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Fr. Bamberger OUT OF TOWN — Camp Stevens						
<b>9</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer	<b>12</b> 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga	<b>13</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
Parish Administrator OUT OF OFFICE						
<b>16</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am Rector's Forum-Prayer Book Revisions 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School  End of Summer/Back to School Social 11:30am	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer  7pm Vestry Meeting	<b>19</b> 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga	<b>20</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum  House Church/Dinner 6:30pm  *contact parish office for location*	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am Rector's Forum-Guest Speaker Mimi Brown/Alzheimer's Awareness 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School  PMC MTG AT NOON	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer  SEPTEMBER SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	<b>26</b> 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga	<b>27</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
					Fr. Bamberger — Vacation	
<b>30</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School	<b>31</b>					
Fr. Bamberger — Vacation				<b>SPIRE Newsletter Creator:</b> <b>Kim Lumino</b> Parish Administrator		