

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



NOVEMBER 2015

Upcoming Events

November 1st – **All Saints Day**

 **Sunday, November 1st**
 10:15 Service
Faure Requiem 

November 3rd – **Voting Day!**

November 8th – Noon/Library
 Parish Ministry Council Mtg

November 11th – **Veteran's Day**

November 17th – 7:00pm/Hall
 Vestry Meeting

November 17th– 6:30pm
 House Church/Dinner
 location TBD

November 21st – 6:00pm
 Annual Holiday Shopping Party

November 22nd – 11:30am
 DOK Hosted Baking Party for
 Women's Room Thanksgiving
 Luncheon

November 23rd-Friends-In-Deed
 Women's Room Thanksgiving
 Luncheon

Thursday, November 26th
Thanksgiving Day Mass
 10:00am

November 29th – **Advent Begins**
 Noon/Library
 Parish Ministry Council Mtg

FROM THE RECTOR

Jesus didn't say, "Wherever two or three of you gather in my name, there will be politics." But given human nature and his intimate understanding of what it is to be human, he might as well have said it.

It is time for us to be thinking about the political life of our Church. We have Diocesan Convention coming up the first part of December. We are gathering names for election to the Vestry at the Parish Annual Meeting the end of January. The Diocesan Search Committee is at work on the process of electing a Bishop Coadjutor of Los Angeles. Just as in our national life, politics are in the air.

It would be easy for me to be somewhat jaded about this reality, but I am actually hopeful. I believe that God's Spirit works through the councils of the Church. A council of the Church can be as simple as when two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus. So when our Vestry meets, God's Spirit is at work. When the Diocese gathers, God's Spirit is at work. All it takes is praying for God's guidance to know God is at work.

Blessings, MAB+

VESTRY NOMINATIONS DUE NOW

Each January at our annual meeting, we elect three new members of the Vestry, the body within the congregation that, with the Rector, leads the parish. Vestry members are elected for three year terms. The Vestry meets once a month throughout the year. Additional meetings (and committee meetings) are held as needed. A Vestry member must be willing to accept the responsibility of regular attendance and be willing to serve on one or more committees.

Now is the time for the parish to nominate next year's Vestry candidates. According to the Diocesan guidelines, a Vestry nominee must be 16 years of age or older and be a confirmed communicant in good standing in the Episcopal Church. He or she must also attend church services at Ascension regularly and be a pledging contributor to the parish. A member of the Vestry may not be a member of any other church.

Names of nominees should be submitted to Father Michael or any Vestry member by December 1st.



**Daylight Savings Ends
 November 1st.**

Turn your clocks back one
 hour before going to bed
 Saturday night!

2015 Pledge Payment Snapshot

January - October 30th, 2015



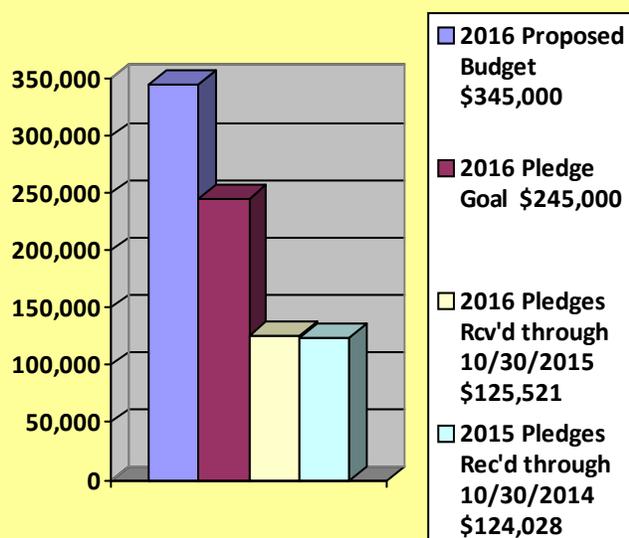
2015 Budget Amount: \$235,000

YTD Budget: \$199,170

YTD Actual: \$209,244

2016 Stewardship Campaign Update

Stewardship Theme: Sing to the Lord a New Song!



- 2015 parish budget: \$335,000
- 2015 pledges: \$218,000 (65% of budget)
- Ascension households: 120
- Number of households pledging: 113
- Proposed parish budget: \$345,000
- Pledge goal toward budget: \$245,000 (12% increase over last year)

If each pledging household increases its pledge commitment and each non-pledging household commits even just a bit, Ascension will reach its financial goal in support of all programs and ministries!

Keep singing to the Lord!

Upcoming House Church/Dinner Date

Thursday,
November 19th
location TBD

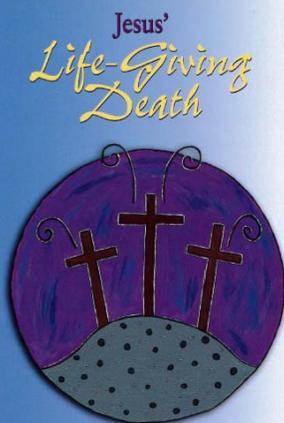
Starts at 6:30pm and will be followed by a light supper.
Sign-up sheet on Hawks Hall bulletin board.



PLEASE BRING IN YOUR UNICEF TRICK-OR-TREAT DONATIONS BY NOVEMBER 1ST.

THANK YOU!

MATTHEW 26-28



Small Groups: Fellowship/Prayer/Bible Study and Always a Place for You

So what is a small group anyhow? The members of the small group set aside time to intentionally pray for one another. Through scripture study, we ask and answer questions about a portion of scripture – What does it say? What does it mean? How do I apply this to my life? By meeting regularly together, members of the group become a family that cares about and supports one another. The concept of small groups as a place where relationships are built and faith developed, is based on a firm biblical foundation. Jesus and his “small group,” the disciples, met together regularly

Newcomers are always welcome. A small group is one way to quickly become an active part of life at Ascension. Encouragement, prayer, laughter, and a caring community are all parts of the small group.

On November 15th, we begin a new study of the book of Matthew focusing on Chapters 26-28. Small Group meets every Sunday between services in the library, usually starting at 9:15. Do feel free to stop by and check us out.

Six Weeks with the Bible Catholic Perspectives

A Guided Discovery for Groups and Individuals. Amy Welborn

Family
Family

7th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon Women's Room of Friends In-Deed

Monday, November 23, 2015

Thanksgiving

Appreciation

Friends
Friends

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.
-Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Appreciation

- Think about the best memory *you* have about Thanksgiving.
- Do *you* have one Thanksgiving that stands out from all the rest?
- Think about the traditions *you* associate with Thanksgiving.
- Which tradition stands out from the rest?
- Think about the family, friends and foods that may have helped create the fabric of those memories.

We all have different memories and traditions associated with Thanksgiving, and some may be more positive than others. Ascension is blessed with the opportunity to help create memories and traditions through food and friendship during the Women's Room of Friends in Deed Thanksgiving Luncheon.

As you give thanks for your Blessings, your traditions, and your family and friends, you will also know you have contributed to passing that experience on to others.

We are still in need of the following volunteers and donations:

- * 2 Turkeys with Gravy (2 People)
- * Mashed Potatoes (2 People)
- * Sweet Potatoes (3 People)
- * Green Beans with Mushrooms or Green Bean Casserole (3 People)
- * Cheese and Crackers (1 Person)
- * Rolls (2 People)
- * Table Cloths in rich wondrous fall colors (3 People)
- * 5 Amazing Individuals to serve at the luncheon
- * People to help transport food from Ascension to First Historic Lutheran Church located at: 808 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91104.

Blessings
Blessings

Don't feel like cooking? Monetary donations are always welcome!

Make checks payable to the Church of the Ascension. On the memo line, note "Women's Room Lunch".

Please have monetary donations into the Church by Friday, November 13, 2015.

Gratitude
Gratitude

You can sign-up for your donation to the Women's Room of Friends in Deed Thanksgiving Luncheon using either the Sign-Up Sheet located on the Hawks Hall bulletin board or the Sign-Up Sheets located at the front of the church at the beginning of each service. You can also send an email to me at maggiemyrne@earthlink.net letting me know what you would like to do. I will send out emails confirming your contribution as well as instructions containing dates and times for dropping off your contributions.

Respectfully Submitted, Maggie Outhouse

Traditions

Traditions

Real Life ~

Real Faith

On October 15th, I celebrated 7 years in Recovery. It's no secret; I'm very open about it and hope that my openness inspires others to change their lives too. I suspect that there's something in all our lives that needs changing. It's been said that unawareness is the root of all evil. In the months to come, my Spire articles are going to focus on recovery and the lessons I've learned along the way that can benefit everyone who desires change and wants strength, hope, and inspiration on our personal journeys from brokenness to wholeness.

The absolute starting point in all recovery is experiencing powerlessness. Powerlessness is part of the human condition; and unless you're from another planet, there's something that is making you feel powerless - something you need to change and can't, something you want to change and don't seem able to find the strength and courage to change. Powerlessness is not just about alcohol or drugs. Start by taking an honest inventory of things that you just can't seem to get control over. The anger that keeps you awake at night, every time you step on the scale, that last trip to the mall... just to name a few drugs of choice. Ask yourself, "What's eating away at my peace of mind and ability to fully live the life that God intends for me."

Experiencing powerlessness and accepting it are very different. If one is to be successful in moving beyond the experience of powerlessness, one must fully embrace acceptance. The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous on page 449 simply states:

"And acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing or situation – some fact of my life – unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment.

Nothing, absolutely nothing happens in God's world by mistake. Until I could accept my alcoholism, I could not stay sober; unless I accept life completely on life's terms, I cannot be happy. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and in my attitudes."

Remember that there are many drugs of choice, and you may need to substitute the word alcohol for your own powerlessness. Be honest, dig deep, and I promise you'll find something. I look forward to sharing these insights with you and as always, if you have questions or concerns, please ask.

Live well, live blessed, Deacon Ed+

WHEN THE GOING GETS ROUGH

To validate someone's feelings is first to accept someone's feelings - and then to understand them - and finally to nurture them. To validate is to acknowledge and accept a person. Invalidation, on the other hand, is to reject, ignore, or judge. Validation of feelings is vital to connecting with others.

Acceptance is one of four options when we have any problem situation. One way that we can communicate acceptance of ourselves and others is validation. Validation doesn't mean agreeing or approving. When someone makes a choice that you really don't think is smart, validation is a way of supporting them and strengthening the relationship while having a different opinion.

Being present is one way to validate others. There are so many ways to be present. Listening with your whole mind (and doing **nothing** but listening – mutli-tasking just doesn't do it!), sitting with others, hugs – these are all ways to be present.

Being present for yourself means acknowledging your internal experience and sitting with it rather than "running away," pushing away, or avoiding the situation. Coping with emotion is often not easy and not knowing what to say can feel uncomfortable. Just being present, paying complete attention to the person in a nonjudgmental way, can often be the answer.

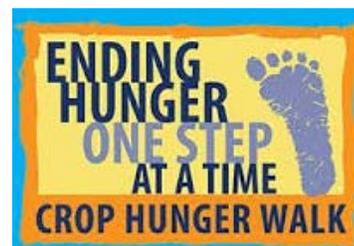
Submitted by Jobi Harrell, Minister to Younger Persons

NOVEMBER OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

**FRIENDS
IN
DEED*FOOD DRIVE**

Outreach in November will be a canned (or other non-perishable) FOOD DRIVE. We will be collecting food during the first four Sundays in November (11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22). In preparation for Thanksgiving and in thinking about our own blessings and those in need, please bring early and often! Food will go to Friends In Deed in Pasadena.

November 8 is the Crop Hunger Walk in Pasadena. It's a 5K walk through La Canada beginning at Flintridge Preparatory School.



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

November is bookmarked by All Saints' Day on the 1st and Christ the King Sunday on the 22nd. Many Christian churches throughout the world celebrate All Saints' Day with a requiem in recognition of the victory of life over death and in memory of those who've gone on before. In keeping with this meaningful tradition, the exquisite *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré will be presented.

On November 6 anthems by two British composers will be heard: the triumphant *Fear Not, O Land* by William H. Harris and the lovely *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* by Charles H. H. Parry.

British composers Vernon Hoyle and John Rutter will be featured on the 15th. John Rutter is no stranger to us, but you may not have previously heard of Vernon Hoyle. Like Rutter, Hoyle is contemporary and the author of many choral collections. *Harvest Blessings, Richly Showered* is Hoyle's contribution to the service; *A Clare Benediction*, Rutter's.

The liturgical year culminates on the 22nd with the festive Christ the King Sunday. Continuing tradition, the service will be ushered in by the exciting *Choral Fanfare for Christ the King* by H. Hamilton Smith (British). Our celebration will continue with the glorious *O God, Beyond All Praising* by Gustav Holst (British) arranged by Richard Proulx (American). You'll recognize the tune, THAXTED, which Holst used for *Jupiter* in *The Planets*, set to the lyrics of Michael Perry. The communion anthem will be *King of Glory, King of Peace* by American Roland Martin.

*Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our king;*

~Michael Perry



Debora Huffman

Director of Music and Organist



Christmas Flower Offering

Name _____

Dedication _____

We are, once again, appealing to your generous nature to enable us to beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas season.

You will notice that there will be NO flowers during the weeks leading up to Christmas. That is because Advent is a Penitential season; therefore, no flowers. This makes it all the more important and special to dress up our beautiful space to express our JOY at the birth of our Lord.

Donation envelopes will be available at the back of the church beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

In Christ, St. Anne's Altar Guild

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

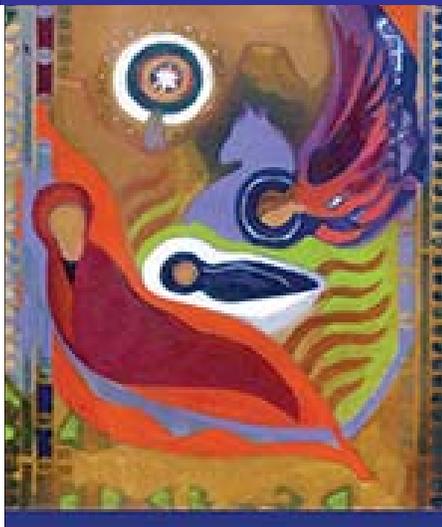
For names to be included in the Christmas bulletins, donations must be received by Sunday, December 13th.



Thank You for your support.

FORWARD DAY by DAY

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2015 | JANUARY 2016



Don't forget to pick up a copy of the new Forward Movement Day by Day Booklet. You can find copies at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

A \$2 donation is appreciated.

Thank You.

ADVENT BEGINS!

All-Ages Sunday School
November 29, 2015 9 am – 10 am

2016 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT INFORMATION

- Parts and Costumes will begin each Sunday beginning November 22nd.
- Rehearsal Dates: December 6, 13, 20 from 9 AM – 10 AM.

- DRESS REHEARSAL – DECEMBER 20 at 11:45 AM.

For more information contact Jobi at (626) 710-3021 or jobiharrell@gmail.com.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPING PARTY

Want to get a jump on your holiday shopping? Savor the Flavor will host a private shopping party just for Ascension. 10% of all the purchases made at our private shopping party will be donated to the Church of Ascension!

When:
Saturday, November 21, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Kersting Court



While you shop, enjoy a glass of champagne or wine and taste some wonderful hors d'oeuvres and decadent desserts. It is requested that we have a minimum party of 15. Please RSVP to Jean Rowe at jeanhrowe@verizon.net or the church office. There is also a sign-up sheet at the back of the church and on the Hawks Hall bulletin board.

Enjoy your holidays more by shopping early on the 21st.

Jean Rowe

Save the Date!

Youth Group Tree Trimming Party

All Youth Invited!

Join us in Hawks Hall on
Sunday, December 13th after the 10:15 service.



BAKING PARTY

**Sunday, November 22nd, after the 10:15
service in the Church kitchen.**

Preparation for the Friends-In-Deed Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon on Monday, November 23rd.

All are welcome!

Hosted by the Daughters of the King





Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 4th, 2015



*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

NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFT Mtg at 2pm/Library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Saints Day • Faure Requiem 10:15 Service • Daylight Savings Ends 	2	3 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer VOTING DAY	4 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	6	7 Private Party/Hawks Hall 4pm
8 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFT Mtg at 2pm/Library PMC MTG AT NOON	9	10 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer	11 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal VETERAN'S DAY	12 7am Mass 9am Forum	13	14
15 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFT Mtg at 2pm/Library	16	17 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer 7pm Vestry Meeting	18 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg House Church/Dinner 6:30pm *location TBD*	20	21 Annual Holiday Shopping Party 6pm—Savor the Flavor Private Party/Hawks Hall Noon
Fr. Bamberger OUT OF TOWN Bay Area ER&D						
22 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFT Mtg at 2pm/Library BAKING PARTY 11:30am (Hosted by DOK)	23 Friends-In-Deed Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon	24 10am Tuesday Morning Prayer	25 5pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga *NO CHOIR REHEARSAL* DECEMBER SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	26 7am Mass 9am Forum THANKSGIVING DAY MASS 10AM	27	28
				Parish Office Closed		
29 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFT Mtg at 2pm/Library PMC MTG AT NOON ADVENT BEGINS	30					December 5th Parish Work Party 8:30am