



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



Upcoming Events

April 12th-
Sierra Madre Municipal Voting Location
7am—8pm, Hawks Hall

April 19th-
Vestry Meeting 7:00pm, Hawks Hall

April 21st-
House Church / Dinner - 6:30pm
location TBD

April 24th-
Parish Ministry Council Meeting - Noon,
Library



Thank you to Teri Buchanan for creating this year's Paschal candle.

Great Job!




APRIL 2016

From the Rector

Now that we are in Eastertide, I want to say a few words of thanks to everyone who made our celebration so wonderful. The Altar Guild gave a tremendous amount of effort to support our worship. The Choir, under Dr. Deb's direction performed marvelously. Lisa Reed and the fellowship folks saw to it we had an abundance of food for the feast. The young people did wonderfully as well. And thanks to my clergy and lay colleagues for the variety of voices in the sanctuary. And thanks to Teri Buchanan for this year's stunning Paschal Candle.

As you'll read about in this issue, we are welcoming some new people to our ministry team. Josh McGuffie, a doctoral student in History at UCLA, is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Episcopalians and Lutherans have been in full communion since 1999, and Bishop Bruno has "licensed" Josh to serve at Ascension. Lutheran pastors and Episcopal priests are interchangeable under the agreement Called to Common Mission. Also, we are welcoming another Ministry Intern – Mark Bradshaw. Mark will be with us for the coming year.

Personally, I am excited about having young colleagues here at Ascension. I believe I have some gifts to offer them, and they in turn have gifts I will appreciate. Ascension as a whole is blessed by these relationships.

Blessings, MAB+

April Outreach Project:

Bailey Canyon Wilderness Park Cleanup

Enjoy a bit of the Outdoors!

On Saturday, April 23rd from 9am—10:30am, Ascension will participate in the annual Bailey Canyon hiking trail cleanup. We will be sprucing up the park and trail areas and picking up trash. The event is paired with Earth Day and hosted by SMEAC, the Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council. The trailhead is located at the corner of Grove St and Carter Ave in Sierra Madre. Trash bags and light snacks will be provided. Contact Scott Callihan for more details.

A sign-up sheet WILL BE posted on Hawks Hall bulletin board.

Attention Youth!

Mother's Day Project for all ages on May 8th from 9 am - 10 am in Hawks Hall.

Pledge Payment Snapshot

January - March 28th, 2016



2016 Budget Amount: \$235,000
YTD Budget: \$73,747
YTD Actual: \$71,606

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 15th

Don't forget to wear RED!

We need youth readers on Pentecost Sunday at the 10:15am service. Please contact Jobi Harrell if you are interested in participating.





EASTER AT ASCENSION

Real Life ~ What other skills are learned in recovery that suits us all and helps us to live happy and productive lives? Although they take time to learn, they have the power to transform our lives physically, *Real Faith* morally, and spiritually forever.

Discipline In Thought And Action

No matter how big or small, nothing should ever be given less than your very best. Discipline in time management, cleanliness, hygiene, craftsmanship, spirituality, and language. To conquer these small battles is really a means to conquer yourself.

Understanding yourself and your place in the world is maybe the greatest benefit of recovery. ***Discipline will create mastery of self***, and mastery of self is a skill that will transform your sobriety and your life.

Be True To Your Word

Keeping your word is the ultimate sign of good character. There are two reasons people don't keep their word.

1. **They are afraid to tell people the truth** – For instance, you don't want someone to know what you are doing, so you tell them a lie. Although you are keeping a secret, you are burning a bridge. No Dice.
2. **They are afraid to tell people no** – There is nothing wrong with the word no. Avoid being a people pleaser. If you are unable to keep a commitment, then don't make the commitment. Saying no is always better than saying yes and not following through on your word.

Learning to hold yourself accountable and learning to say no are two very important skills to learn in recovery. You can't please everyone. Ironically, even when we try to please everyone, we end up letting people down.

Protect your word at all costs. It will pay off!

Managing Your Time

There's only 24 hours in the day. (well actually 23 hours 56 minutes and 4.1 seconds, but who's counting?)

Balancing your life is paramount to maintaining a healthy recovery. Like it or not, maintaining your sobriety takes time out of your day.

Things like eating, exercising, relaxing, working, step work, recreation, family time, and alone time, it all adds up. If you are unable to manage your time, you will find your life unbalanced.

When I am unbalanced is the time when I am most discontent, and these moments bring the highest risk for relapse.

At the end of the day, staying sober is most important. It all comes down to prioritizing; and if you are all over the place with your time, you will find your priorities are out of sorts as well. Treat time like a resource. It needs to be valued and spent wisely.

It's a big topic and there's a lot to talk about. In the meantime ...

Live well, live blessed, live unexpectedly, Deacon Ed+

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude to all who made Holy Week and Easter so wonderful, including

- * the choir for their extraordinary artistry and dedicated time leading up to Easter;
- * Sean Dougall for his exquisite oboe playing;
- * Susan Beach and Andrea Booth for their beautiful *Pie Jesu* on Maundy Thursday;
- * Carol Rasmussen, Charley Noecker, and Fr. Bamberger for their poignant Passion chant on Good Friday;
- * to everyone who contributed to the Easter music fund, which made possible our festival choir as well as the trumpet music.

May the beauty of Easter morning linger in our hearts and minds as we continue our celebration throughout the month of April.

*Rise, heart, thy lord is risen. 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

Sunday School Information

- * ***No Sunday school on April 3rd.***
Classes will resume on April 10th.
- *
- * Elementary class with Brittany Banis, 9 am - 10 am.
- * Youth Group with Jobi Harrell, 9 am - 10 am
- * All Ages Sunday school, 10:15- Peace.

Recycled eggs!

Thank you to all who generously donated eggs and stuffing's to our annual Easter egg hunts! If your child has leftover eggs that are taking up room in your home, please bring them back and we will reuse them next year. A collection basket will be in Hawks hall.

Meet the new members of our Ministry Team



Greetings! This is a little personal introduction - not a small task for a member of the clergy serving the Church that has historically found its home in demure and unassuming northern-European climes. I come to Ascension as parishioner but also as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which has shared full communion with the Episcopal Church since the year 2000. At the moment I am on leave from call for education, working on a PhD at UCLA in the history of science. Before going back to pursue graduate education, I served parishes in the Mar Vista neighborhood of west Los Angeles and in rural western New York between Buffalo and Rochester. I went to Oregon State University for my MA, also in history of science. My research interests are in the history of atomic science and ecology. Ask me about irradiated alligators in the 1960s!

I've come to Ascension mostly because of my love of the liturgy and, at least, partially, because I live nearby in Altadena (which is also my hometown!). For fun I enjoy playing soccer, camping in the desert and mountains of Eastern California, and spending time at my family's cottage in Ontario on the north shore of Lake Erie during the summertime. With Bishop Bruno's permission, I'll be helping out at Ascension on occasion. I'm thankful for the warm welcome I've received and look forward to being a part of the parish community.

In Christ, **Pr. Josh McGuffie**

Hello, my name is **Mark Bradshaw** and I am excited to worship and serve with you this coming year. Katie and I met while both serving at a Christian Camp in the Santa Cruz mountains and then married in September of 2010. We soon moved to Pasadena and have since come to love the local area. In 2014 I graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Our son August is now 3 years old and our daughter Lucy is 8 months. Our home congregation is St. Barnabas in Pasadena where we recently celebrated Lucy's baptism on Easter Sunday. Katie serves as the Volunteer Manager for a local nonprofit after school program, Girls on the Run. I am primarily a stay at home dad and cherish this time with our children. For recreation (and maintaining my sanity, smile) I love trail running, cycling, and laughing.



*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
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APRIL 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass NO SUNDAY SCHOOL EFM Meeting at 2pm/Library	4	5 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	6 6pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga	7 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	8	9
10 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15am Sunday School EFM Meeting at 2pm/Library	11 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	12 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group Sierra Madre Municipal Voting Location/ Hawks Hall 7am—8pm	13 6pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14 7am Mass 9am Forum	15	16
17 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15am Sunday School EFM Meeting at 2pm/Library	18	19 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting	20 6pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg House Church/Dinner 6:30pm *location TBD*	22	23
24 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15am Sunday School EFM Meeting at 2pm/Library PMC MTG AT NOON	25 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	26 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group MAY SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	27 6pm Mass 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 7am Mass 9am Forum	29	30