

The SPIRE

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



May 2016

Upcoming Events

May 2nd - 4th-
Clergy Conference

May 8th-

- ◇ Ascension Sunday
- ◇ Mother's Day

May 15th- Pentecost Sunday
DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED!

May 17th- Vestry Meeting
7:00pm- Hawks Hall

May 19th-
House Church/Dinner
6:30pm - Location TBD

May 22nd - Vestry Planning Day
Hawks Hall - Noon

From the Rector

Once a year, a small plaque in the church can more clearly be seen when the sanctuary is stripped on Maundy Thursday. Seeing this plaque again this year, I thought about how much Ascension and Sierra Madre have changed since the days of Archibald Trew and Louis Redner Dalrymple. In my mind, it was a quieter time; but I don't know that for a fact. We have a picture in the parish hall taken in 1909 which shows automobiles on Baldwin Avenue. My predecessor, Father Behm (commemorated in the stained glass windows in



the Parish Hall – that's his dachshund "Drittel") was rector during another cusp in the life of the parish. During Father Behm's tenure, the Book of Common Prayer 1979 was embraced and the Hymnal 1982 was introduced. In the overlap period after I arrived in 1985 and he retired in 1986, we bought the first computer for the parish office. And there was the fact that I was the first married priest to become rector in many years – with the exception of the shortened tenure of William Worstall in the late 1960's. Much has changed in my thirty years. The pattern of piety has shifted – our daily mass schedule has thinned down to one day a week (Thursdays at 7am.) Our young families are contending with over-programming to an incredible degree. And we'll see beautiful new vestments for the season after Pentecost. I can't help but muse on how much will change during the tenure of my successor. (I'm not announcing anything – but I am 60 and retirement is now on the distant horizon!)

MAB+

P.S. Beginning in June, during the hour between services, I will be leading a class we'll be calling Episcopal 101. We'll cover how we approach Scripture, worship, theology, mission, polity, and other topics.

**Festive
Choral Evensong
followed by a reception
in Hawks Hall**

**Sunday, May 22nd
5:00pm**



Details on page 3

Pledge Payment Snapshot

January - April 30th, 2016

2016 Budget Amount: \$235,000

YTD Budget: \$91,664

YTD Actual: \$85,455



EFM Registration for September 2016



It is time to start thinking about signing up for EFM this summer. The course will start in September. This program is a four year program that starts with the Old Testament, continues with the New Testament, Church History, and concludes with Theology and Ethics. It is a course that will change your life. You will grow into considering problems from a theological perspective and finding where God fits into it. The class is limited to 12 people and needs a minimum of 6 to start. There is a cost of \$350 each year and all books are provided for you. If you have a serious interest, you may contact me at mbeach99@msn.com Registration will continue through August, but don't delay.

Mike Beach, Verger

It's good
to be
HOME!

HOUSE CHURCH & DINNER

Thursday, May 19th

6:30pm

Location TBD

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



Bailey Canyon Cleanup an Awesome Success!

On April 23rd, 2016, facing thorns, weeds, and other scratchy things, a group of youth and adult parishioners from Ascension helped clean up the park and clear brush to reduce fuels for potential forest fires. If you missed it, we'll have another chance to participate at the fall cleanup event. ***A HUGE THANKS to all who volunteered their time!***

Upcoming Events:

May 14: Union Station Rockin' for the Homeless 5K Run/Walk in Pasadena at Hahamonga Park (near the Rose Bowl)
<http://unionstationhs.org/event/rockinrun/>

Later this summer, we will participate in the Habitat for Humanity's Desidero project in the Arroyo Seco. Stay tuned for dates and details.

From Scott Callihan, Outreach Ministry Leader





HELP
Needed!

Volunteer's are needed to help with the setup and clean-up of the Choral Evensong Reception on Sunday evening, May 22nd. The food will be provided. It would be helpful if one of the volunteers could spearhead the event. Can you help?

Contact Maggie Outhouse at maggiemyrne@earthlink.net for details.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

The lectionary clearly guides our music selections for May: Rogation, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity, and (non-liturgically speaking) Memorial Day. The choir remains in the loft through the 22nd and will sing:

5/1 – Rogation Sunday

John Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth* and *A Gaelic Blessing*

5/8 – Ascension Sunday

Robert Powell's newly-composed *Hark, Ten Thousand Harps and Voices* and *Go Forth Into the World in Peace* by Paul Sjolund

5/15 – Pentecost

William H. Harris' *Come Down, O Love Divine* and *Behold, the Tabernacle of God*

5/22 – Trinity Sunday

The exciting new anthem, *Nicea Te Deum* by Ronald Turner and Harold Friedell's beloved *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

5/29 – Pentecost 2

We continue the celebration of Pentecost without the choir – since it's Memorial Day Weekend, you may expect a patriotic hymn or two.

But wait – there's more!

Sunday evening, May 22, 5:00 p.m. – **FESTIVE CHORAL EVENSONG**. On this, the final Sunday of the choral year, our gifted choristers will present an evening of celebratory worship and song. Included in the service will be:

Robert Lehmann's *Preces and Responses* as well as his marvelous *O Gracious Light (Phos Hilaron)*;

Herbert Sumsion's incredible *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in A Major*

The magnificent *I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me* by G. Hubert H. Parry

The Holst/Proulx setting of *O God, Beyond All Praising*

The very beautiful *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Gabriel Fauré

Finally, the luxuriant *Pax Dei* by C. Whitney Coombs

As the summer months beckon, take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate your faith, then go forth with the joyful resonance of great music and worship.

*I was glad when they said unto me,
We will go into the house of the Lord.
~Psalm 122*



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist

Real Life ~
Real Faith

Too often we forget or fail to admit that the disease of addiction belongs to the entire family, not just the individual suffering. Addiction is a complex and progressive disease that slowly robs the addict of their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. While the devastating effects of addiction on the addict are well-documented, it only paints half the overall picture. In order to fully grasp the overall effects of an individual's addiction, you also need to take into account the effects of addiction on family members. The actions and behaviors of a loved one who is addicted to drugs and alcohol have significant impacts on their family and cause severe dysfunction both in the ways they cope with the addict in the family as well as how family members interact with one another.

Families Who Deal With Addiction: The Emotional Tug-of-War

When families try to cope with a loved one who is struggling with substance abuse, they experience a strong internal tug-of-war that can strain the strongest bonds. On one hand, the family understands their loved one is not intentionally trying to hurt them and wants to provide the addict with love, encouragement, and support. On the other hand, the lies, manipulation, and abuse that the addict throws at them on a daily basis cause great pain and that pain is directed towards the addict and towards each other. When families try to wrestle with these opposing emotions, the whole family unit suffers and this wrestling may cause emotional damage that possibly will never heal without the help of counseling and therapy.

In June our discussion of addiction and recovery will focus on the common emotions families feel towards a loved one who is addicted to substances. Later discussions will focus on the ways addiction impacts the family unit.

Live well, live blessed, live outside your comfort zone.
Deacon Ed+

Spotlight on Senior Youth!



Our wonderfully gifted and talented youth sure keep busy throughout the week. What a great way to share their gifts with the world.

Here are a few pictures of some of our members...more to come in future editions of the Spire!



Lilah Fontenot sings the role of 'Ms. Myers' in the Sierra Madre Middle School production of "Fame."



Nico Tierney has been selected for the 2016 USA Water Polo Men's Development National Team.

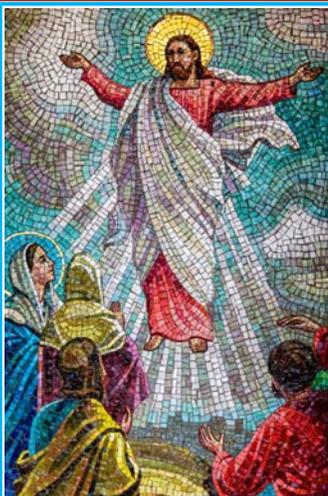


Ian Cox is playing Varsity baseball at Marshall Fundamental Secondary School.



Thomas Ruble Track & Field Champion for Monrovia High School.





Is Jesus Gone, Gone... Reflections about the Ascension

After the Resurrection, "Jesus's friends were happy to have him with them; they knew they couldn't keep him with them in the same way. They loved him, but things had to change. Jesus hadn't come into the world just for Mary and Peter and Thomas - he came to be with all people, in every place and at every time."

In order to be everywhere with everyone, He ascended into heaven.

Adults tried to help me comprehend the Ascension by saying it was like extinguishing a candle and seeing the smoke rise.

But as a child, I deduced that when He ascended, Jesus was gone gone.

Comprehending Christ's leaving us and ascending into heaven has not proved to be much easier to grasp in adulthood ...

Only 50 days after all the excitement of Easter season, just when the surprise meetings in different spaces with different faces start to sink in for his followers, there is yet another change-up. The way it was will be no more. Moving forward, it will be a world without Jesus, or at least the Jesus they had come to know.

"It feels like a world without God."

We too sometimes feel that way. Our world continues to suffer from the perils of power thirsty rulers; children continue to die from hunger and preventable diseases, communities struggle after natural and man-made disasters, and too many people are desperately anxious and very lonely.

Yes, Jesus "goes away," but only after promising that His people will be filled with His Spirit. No matter what we feel, our relationship with Jesus hasn't ever relied on being able to see Him and talk with Him the way people could during His life on earth and following the resurrection. Not being able to physically see Him puts us in a place where, just like Jesus, we have to put our trust in God the father and navigate this challenging world with love and compassion.

We need to remember that instead of Jesus "going away," Jesus went further into the place of God's reality and into our hearts. With Jesus as the center of our lives, we are able to transform ourselves and make a difference in the world that too often can seem "God Less." Acknowledging that the world is in rough shape is all right, especially if we choose to bring hope for change in the world through our actions and by loving one another. Loving one another is our way of fulfilling the call of being signs of God in the world, something Jesus made possible for all of us.

When the challenge of finding where God is in today's world becomes overwhelming, may we each trust, live, and pray in such a way that God's light and energy shine through our actions with others even more, making a difference for those around us and for ourselves.

Submitted by Jobi Harrell, Minister to Younger Persons

Sunday School Information

- * 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.

Last week, I was one of many people who received the following e-mail from Forward Day to Day. Executive director Scott Gunn wrote these comments in response to a 2014 article entitled “What do Americans pray for?” His comments made me think about what my prayers are like, and I thought maybe some of you might also be touched by what he had to say.

Jean Rowe

What Do You Pray For?



Jesus teaches us how to pray. We're to pray for our enemies. We should pray for the coming of the kingdom of God. We are to pray without self-aggrandizement, for the good of the world. Jesus himself prayed for unity in the church.

But that's not how Americans' prayers look. Our prayers tend to be focused on our own well-being. 21% of Americans pray regularly for winning lottery tickets. And only 12% of us pray for political leaders.

From the research data emerging from Forward Movement's [RenewalWorks](#) ministry, we know that as people become more spiritually mature, their prayer expands from me, to us, to listening for God's voice. And sometimes it is prayer that is our catalyst. We might begin to pray not for our own needs, but for the needs of the world. That kind of prayer might change our hearts, and help us grow into the full stature of Christ.

What does your prayer life look like? Are you praying for yourself and things important to you? Have you ever prayed for the well-being of your enemies? Do you have room for growth in your prayer life?

Yours faithfully,
Scott Gunn, Executive Director

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Join Us for A Look at the Apocrypha

The Sunday morning small group is beginning a study of the Apocrypha. The books of the Old Testament Apocrypha are sometimes called “books between the testaments.” They were generally composed between the time of the last books in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament books. They provide a theological bridge between the Testaments in that they give a sample that illustrates how the traditions of the Hebrew Scriptures were carried forward, and they greatly illumine the world in which Jesus and the New Testament writers lived and worked. The Apocryphal books are an anthology of very diverse writings ranging from the imaginative to the historical and from traditional wisdom to prayers. They differ in their historical settings, literary forms, and theological perspectives. Because the books are so varied, there is something for everyone.

Our group gathers every Sunday between services and begins with prayer at 9:15. We would love to have you join us whether you can come every Sunday or any time you can. Jean Rowe





Acolyte Awards and Recognition

May 22nd

During the 10:15 am service.

All acolytes are asked to attend mass this Sunday to recognize their service in this critical ministry!

Any student aged 7 and older is warmly invited to join our acolyte roster. Contact Chris Bamberger, Mike Beach, or Jobi Harrell to learn more or for any questions about this wonderful ministry of service.

Children & Youth Readers Needed!

For the Pentecost Sunday
(May 15, 2016) 10:15 am service.
Please contact Jobi Harrell
to sign up.



ATTENTION YOUTH!



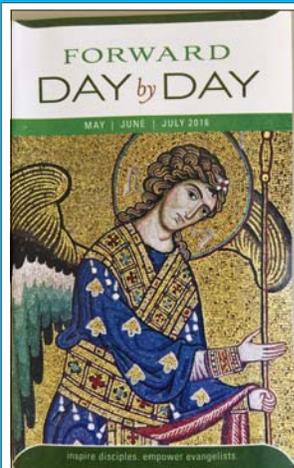
Mother's Day Project
for all ages on Sunday,
May 8th from
9am—10am in Hawks
Hall.

**Let's show Mom how
much we love her!**

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 15th

Don't forget to wear *RED*!



*The new Day by Day booklets are available at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.
A \$2.00 donation is requested.*

*Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's *Book of Common Prayer*. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author.*

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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May 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFM Meeting at 2pm/Library	2	3 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	4 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	6	7
Deacon Ed-Day Off	Clergy Conference					
8 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFM Meeting at 2pm/Library Ascension Sunday Mother's Day Mother's Day project for ALL ages. 9am-10am/Hawks Hall	9 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	10 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	11 5:30pm Yoga 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 7am Mass 9am Forum	13	14
				Fr. Bamberger Out of Town-Personal		
	Vergar Out of Office-Personal					
15 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFM Meeting at 2pm/Library Pentecost Sunday <u>Don't forget to wear RED!</u> Fr. Bamberger Out of Town-Personal	16	17 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting Hawks Hall	18 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
Vergar Out of Office—Personal						
22 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFM Meeting at 2pm/Library Vestry Planning Day Noon/Hawks Hall Acolytes Awards & Recognitions during the 10:15 service. Festive Choral Evensong & Reception 5pm/Church	23 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	24 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	25 5:30pm Yoga JUNE SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	26 7am Mass 9am Forum	27	28
29 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School EFM Meeting at 2pm/Library	30	31 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group				