



The SPIRE

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



2016

Upcoming Events



Youth Trip
Sunday, July 31st

Contact Jobi Harrell for more information.

The original trip to SIX FLAGS was cancelled due to air quality concerns.

**August 7th - Clergy/The Rev'd
Pastor Joshua McGuffie**

**Sunday, August 14th
11:30am**



On August 14th following the 10:15 service, we will welcome at coffee hour officers from our Sierra Madre Police Department. In an effort to reach out into the community, the department is trying to get to know community groups – like churches – and to afford us the opportunity to get to know our officers as well.

**August 16th- Vestry Meeting
7:00pm/Hawks Hall**

**August 28th-
PMC Meeting/Noon /Library**



REMINDER!
Dodger game ticket
money *must* be received
by Thursday,
August 4th.

Pledge Payment Snapshot

January - July 31st, 2016

2016 Budget Amount: \$235,000

YTD Budget: \$145,415

YTD Actual: \$149,480



From the Rector

This summer seems to have sped past me. This is due, I think in part to Debbie's involvement in school activities for five weeks and a couple of trips for church matters. Realizing how little of the summer we have left, for the last week of July, Debbie and I decided to try a short staycation. Over three days, we went to three different museums. One day we visited the Getty Villa. Neither of us had ever been there. It was a great trip back into our Western Civilization class from college. I was struck by how many of the objects had been discovered in parts of the world that are tormented now by warfare. The second museum we visited was the Skirball Center. I particularly wanted to see a temporary exhibit on baseball and the immigrant experience. There were two facets – one was a display entitled *The Unauthorized History of Baseball in 100-Odd Paintings: The Art of Ben Sakoguchi* that was a brilliant look at various perspectives on the game interpreted through the style of art from citrus packing labels. The other was a collection of artifacts presented as *CHASING DREAMS: BASEBALL AND BECOMING AMERICAN*. Finally, we went to the Huntington Library to see the recently renovated collection of Greene and Greene work overseen by our own Ted Bosley. In addition, we viewed the temporary display of forty-six black-and-white photographs made by Japanese-American photographer Yasuhiro Ishimoto (1921–2012) of architecture by early 20th-century designers Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene.

It never ceases to amaze me how creative and visionary people can be. It also reminds me that art and sports can be such unifying elements of culture even in the midst of diversity and sometimes adversity. I also realize I need to get out more. **MAB+**

Are You Social?



There are so many new ways to be "social" in today's world, including options like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Ascension wants to stay in step with how parishioners like to share and receive news and information. So, we've created a **brief survey** in order to learn how you and your family prefer to communicate with our church community. You may take the survey online by clicking on the link provided in the email, or you can complete a paper survey (included in the printed Spire) and turn it into the church office. We'd like to have all feedback by September 1st. We encourage everyone to participate, because your input matters!

With Thanks, Your Ascension Vestry



In Loving Memory

Carol George

January 7, 1939 - July 22, 2016

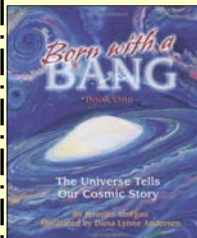
A Memorial Eucharist will be held here at Church of the Ascension on Tuesday, August 16th at 11:30am.

Youth Group Upcoming Events



September 17

Heal the Bay – Arroyo Seco Site
Carpool leaves Ascension at 8:30 AM



9 AM starting August 14

Youth Group Meets in the Parish House
AUGUST DISCUSSION BOOK:
Born With a Bang: The Universe Tells Our Cosmic Story : Book 1 by Jennifer Morgan, with illustrations by Dana Lynne Andersen.



September 24, 4 PM –

September 25, 9AM

Local Camping Trip –
Millard Canyon *Any Tents that could be lent for this overnight stay would be greatly appreciated.



September 11, 9 AM

Youth Group - Rehearsal for Youth Readers



October 2 , 10:15 AM

St. Francis Pet Sitting

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Thanks to all our choir members who interrupted their summer hiatus for the July 17 non-bishop visit: Susan, Colette, Andrea, Liz, Lavette, Mark, Ted and Charley. Thanks also to the Noecker Family Singers, Betsy, Lindy, Carol, and Charley, for their selections on the 24th. So glad the twins, home for a visit with Mom and Dad, could be with us.

On August 7 we'll be treated to the artistry of the Alma Nova Duo - flutist Jessica Pierce and guitarist Almer Ivanovic. I'll be on vacation the 14th through the 28th, with Geraldine Keeling filling in at the organ. She's planning on having LA Phil violinist Paul Stein join her for one of the services - since I'm not sure which one, you'll just have to attend all three services to be sure not to miss him!

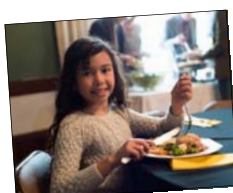


Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist

Church Luncheon

July 17, 2016

Hosted by Lisa Wagner-Reed,
Jan Keppler-Kudla, and Alexander Reed
Photos by Jon Prentice



New This Fall

VILLAGE VOICES

A Ministry of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Sierra Madre, CA

The mission of Village Voices is to provide a quality music education to the Children and Youth of our community through study and musical performance.

The program will provide students with the opportunity to develop their talents and cultivate an appreciation for music.

Our Director is a professional music instructor.

Fall 2016 Session Details:

WEDNESDAYS: September 14th - November 16th

LOCATION: Hawks Hall, Church of the Ascension

\$50 enrollment fee for the semester

Class size will be limited

VILLAGE VOICES * 25 East Laurel Ave. * Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626-355-1133 or parish@ascension-sierramadre.com



**Vocal Music Ensembles
for K—5th Grade**

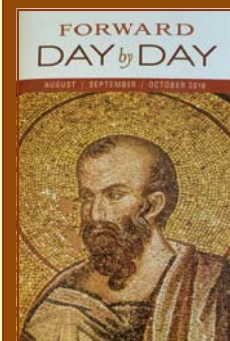
**Kinder-2nd Grade
Wednesdays
3:30pm-4:00pm**

**Grades 3-5
Wednesdays
4:15pm-5:00pm**

**Fall Recital:
November 16th at 6:30pm**



A *BIG thank you* to all those who donated to the Friends In Deed Back to School Drive! In addition to what is shown in the picture, our own Tim Hayden donated another 20 backpacks!



The new Day by Day booklets are available at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

A \$2 donation is requested.

*Real Life ~
Real Faith*

From time to time, I think of the opening of Dicken's novel *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

Like everyone else these days, sometimes I am hard pressed to come up with a list of compelling reasons to justify these being the best of times. If I paid really close attention to some of the more negative political rhetoric that's screaming for my attention (and vote), I might truly come to believe that Armageddon is around the corner and that there is little if any hope left in the world. Well, maybe!

The good news is that there is "The Good News." As Christians, we hear the gospel, are expected to live the gospel, and should feel compelled to share the gospel. In Luke 11, we are reminded not to bargain with God but rather to be direct and to ask for what we need.

So ask already...it's ok to pester Him. It's ok to nag God to show up in your life in ways that help you to show up too - for yourself, families, friends, and the entire human family. But a word of caution...it's harder to ask when you live in fear and so much easier when you choose to live in hope. I'm convinced that God shows up in our hopes and not so often in our fears.

And who knows...when God does show up, He might just have that list of compelling reasons that remind us that these are indeed the best of times, filled with hope, not a time overcome by fear and despair.

Live well, life blessed, live in hope. Deacon Ed+

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

August 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY 31ST YOUTH TRIP TO RAGING WATERS	1 Fr. Bamberger out of office -Clergy Group Mtg	2	3	4 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	5	6 Fr. Bamberger at Camp Stevens
7 CLERGY- JOSHUA MCGUFFIE 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed.Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School	8 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	9 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	10 5:30pm Yoga	11 7am Mass 9am Forum Parish Administrator Vacation	12	13
Youth Minister Vacation						
Fr. Bamberger at Camp Stevens from August 6th through August 13th						
14 Organist- Geraldine Keeling 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School Meet your local police officers 11:30am—Hawks	15	16 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting Hawks Hall Carol George/ Funeral 11:30am	17 5:30pm Yoga	18 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg House Church/ Dinner CANCELLED	19	20
Parish Administrator Vacation						
21 Organist- Geraldine Keeling 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School	22 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	23 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	24 5:30pm Yoga	25 7am Mass 9am Forum SEPTEMBER SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	26	27
Youth Minister Vacation						
28 Deacon Ed—Vacation Organist- Geraldine Keeling 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School PMC Meeting/Noon Library	29	30 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	31 5:30pm Yoga			