

The SPIRE

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



OCTOBER 2016

Upcoming Events

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 2nd



11:45am
Outdoor Worship Area

Free pet sitting during
the 10:15am service!

October 18th- Vestry Meeting
7:00pm / Hawks Hall

October 20th- House Church &
Dinner 6:30pm (location TBD)

October 23rd- PMC Meeting Noon /
Library

October 30th- Gooden School
Sunday/Halloween Celebration

October 31st- Happy Halloween!

Pledge Payment Snapshot

January - September 30th 2016

2016 Budget Amount:
\$235,000

YTD Budget: \$181,249

YTD Actual: \$180,587



From the Rector

Looking ahead to the month of October, I am excited about the prospects.

First, the Los Angeles Dodgers are headed to the National League Playoffs. This is happening after a season with many key players out injured.

After an extensive and thorough search process, the Gooden School is looking to call a new head of school by the end of October. I am grateful to have been included in the process of talking with the candidates. I am confident of a happy outcome because the school's board has been so deliberate in approaching the process. I am hoping that by the time we celebrate Gooden School Sunday on October 30th, there will be an announcement.

Still another search process will be drawing towards a decision. The candidates for Bishop Coadjutor have been announced; and during the weekend of October 7th, 8th and 9th, there will be four "walk-about" when members of the diocese will have an opportunity to meet and ask questions of the candidates.

SEARCH COMMITTEE CANDIDATES FOR BISHOP COADJUTOR



Paul Fromberg Rachel Nyback Anna Olson Pierre Whalon Mauricio Wilson



Village Voices

Three more initiatives of the Church of the Ascension have launched this fall as well. Village Voices, our program for teaching children to sing, has started; and we have a solid, modest core of singers. The Village Scholars has started to meet as well. Graduate students, in a variety of fields, gather for morning prayer, fellowship, and study.



The Village Scholars

Between the Masses, a new adult education opportunity, has started in Hawks Hall and has led to lively conversations.



Between the Masses
Discussion Group

I too am engaged in some interesting endeavors this month. The first week I will be travelling to North Carolina to craft this coming year's General Ordination Examination. The following week, I will go to Austin, Texas to be part of a conversation around new ways of delivering theological education and formation.

All in all, there are a lot of exciting things going on at the Church of the Ascension. When you are prayerfully considering your pledge in this year's Stewardship effort, know you are supporting a depth of programs serving all ages.



General Ordination Examiners

MAB+

***8th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon ~ Women's Room of Friends In-Deed
Monday, November 21, 2016***

THANKSGIVING

*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)

Ascension is, once again, blessed with the opportunity to help create memories through food and fellowship for approximately 65-70 women at the Friends in Deed Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon. There is work involved in making this happen, but the stories of satisfaction associated with this event have shown that smiles abound for this gift that is given from the heart and received with such joy and appreciation. As is said, "***What goes around, comes around.***"

What would you like to contribute?

- Turkeys - Cooked, Carved and Ready to Serve, with Gravy (4 People)
- Mashed Potatoes - Cooked and Ready to Serve (4 People)
- Stuffing - Cooked and Ready to Serve (4 People)
- Sweet Potatoes - Cooked and Ready to Serve (3 People)
- Green Beans with Mushrooms or Green Bean Casserole - Cooked and Ready to Serve (3 People)
- Rolls (2 People)
- Cheese and Crackers – Plated and Ready to Serve(2 People)
- Veggie/Relish Tray - Plated and Ready to Serve(2 People)
- Pies – Cooked and Ready to Serve (9-10 people)
- Table Cloths, Plastic Eating Utensils (4 People)
- Table Centerpieces for 9 tables
- Turkey gifts (usually made by our kids) for 70 people
- Your time to serve on the day of the luncheon or to transport food from Ascension to the FIRST HISTORIC LUTHERAN CHURCH located at 808 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA. 91104. (5 or More Amazing Individuals)
- Money, if none of the above is possible but you would still like to be part of this amazing event. If you would like to donate by check, please make checks PAYABLE TO THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION. ON THE MEMO LINE, NOTE "WOMEN'S ROOM LUNCHEON." You can put the check in the collection plate if you would like, but, please, clearly identify it for the Women's Room Luncheon. ***Please have monetary donations into the Church by Friday, November 11, 2016.***



Sign-up Sheets are available on the Hawks Hall Bulletin Board as well as at the front of the church at the beginning of each service.

You can also send me an email at maggiabyrne@earthlink.net to let me know what you would like to contribute.

continued on the next page...

continued from previous page... **Something NEW THIS YEAR!**



This year we are adding something new and different to the Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon. We are collecting your unused Christmas Cards with APPROPRIATELY SIZED, PREFERABLY ORIGINAL envelopes to include in a gift bag for each of the women attending the luncheon. Each bag will

contain Christmas cards, postage for the envelopes, and a pen. We will start collecting the Christmas cards on Sunday, October 9th. Card collection boxes will be located both at the front of the church as well as in Hawks Hall to receive your card contributions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maggie Outhouse



News and Inspiration from Forward Movement



Dear friends in Christ,

This week, I am writing with a request. I hope you will join Forward Movement and me in a season of prayer for the upcoming election.

In the United States, we are in the midst of a contentious election season.

Potential voters are discerning how to vote, but observers inside and outside the country are also watching the candidates closely. Opinions are sharply divided. What kind of leaders do we need? What is the best way forward for our nation? Indeed, what are the challenges we must solve together?

I've heard people say, again and again, "I'm not sure what to do." For Christians, there is always one thing we can do, every one of us. We can pray. We can pray for wisdom, for grace, for patience, for courage, for hope. We can and must pray for those with whom we disagree. Whatever else we do, we must pray. We might use our own words, or we might like some language to give voice to our concerns and hopes. We Anglicans are blessed with riches of common prayer.

Forward Movement is calling Episcopalians and all others to join with us in *A Season of Prayer: For an Election*. This is a 30-day season, in which we will pray each day with a particular intention for this time in our national life. Each day includes a suggested intention and a collect. We also suggest the use of a brief litany every day. The season of prayer begins Sunday, October 9, and continues through the day after the election. We have used prayers from *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Join us on Forward Movement's social media channels (**Facebook** or **Twitter**) in offering or sharing each day's prayer. You also can download weekly bulletin inserts or a list of all the prayers at www.forwardmovement.org/election. The resources are available in English or Spanish. Please encourage your congregation and your friends to get involved.

At a time when nearly everyone agrees that we are being consumed by fear and division, here is a chance to change the conversation. While we will certainly differ in our politics, we can surely join together in prayer. I hope you will join in this season of prayer. God knows, our country, our leaders, those who seek public office, and those who are voting need all the help we can get. Let us pray.

Yours faithfully, Scott Gunn, Executive Director Forward Movement





What to do on a beautiful Saturday morning in September? Search for some dirty stinky trash, pack it up, and haul it out!

A group of Ascension youth visited the Heal the Bay Cleanup Day in the Arroyo Seco. We reeled in 20 pounds of trash, a few tennis balls, lots of plastic bottles and wrappers, a blanket, and a dead fish or two in just over an hour. The Allen family attended another cleanup at the beach which brought our Parish total to 30 pounds of clean up trash!



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

October sees the choir settle into our fall routine, gathering for Wednesday rehearsals and singing on Sunday mornings. How comfortable this schedule is, enabling us to prepare and present exquisite music as well as to share in fellowship with each other. Anthems for this month include:

- **October 2** – the challenging *Glorious and Powerful God* by the great Charles Villiers Stanford, coupled with *O Lord, Increase Our Faith* by Henry Loosemore, formerly attributed to Orlando Gibbons
- **October 9** – K. Lee Scott's *Write Your Blessed Name; Bread of the World*, arranged by Alan Bullard
- **October 16** – the lovely *Lord, In Thy Mercy* by Felix Mendelssohn and Cesar Franck's *Panis Angelicus*
- **October 23** – a new anthem by Robert J. Powell, *O For A Heart to Praise My God*, and John Rutter's *Thy Perfect Love*
- **October 30** – the powerful *Nicae Te Deum* by Ronald Turner, premiered at Ascension last year, and Martin How's lovely arrangement of *Fairest Lord Jesus*. Since this is Gooden Sunday we'll be joined by the young instrumentalists from Gooden.

Organ voluntaries will include works by Bach, Franck, Mendelssohn, and Boellmann.

I trust that our fall offerings will inspire you as you incorporate them into your worship experience.

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody! Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn! I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples, I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens, your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth."

Psalm 108:1-5



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist



Creative Arts Group presents

The 5th Annual Scarecrow Festival

September - October in Sierra Madre

Ascension's Scarecrow this year:
MOSES!



Put November 19th on your Calendar!

Plan to join Ascension's annual Shop till you Drop Event at Sierra Madre's own Savor the Flavor store.

- Pick up specialty food items for Thanksgiving.
- Get a head start on your Christmas shopping.
- Sip wine and taste award winning food items.
- Ascension will get a percentage for each purchase we make.



Feel free to invite your neighbors to join us at this local event.

Upcoming Outreach Events



Do you have any extra Christmas cards??

- Please bring them to Church.
- We need 200 Christmas cards before mid-November.
- If possible, please put a stamp on the envelope.
- Cards will be distributed to the guests at the Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon



Habitat for Humanity

- Arroyo Seco Desidero Building Project
- December 3, 8:30-11:00am
- Please contact Scott Callihan for more information.

Christmastide

We will gather new pairs of socks to be distributed by Friends In Deed. More info to follow.



All Saints Day Eucharist Tuesday, November 1st 7:30 PM

All are invited to join the Daughters of the King (a group of women who have pledged themselves to a lifelong program of prayer, service, and evangelism) for this service. DOK is comprised of Episcopalians, Lutherans, and Roman Catholics. More information can be found on their website at doknational.org.



It's Pumpkin Time!

On Gooden Sunday, October 30th, children, youth, and their families are invited to the 9 AM - 10 AM formation hour in Hawks Hall for fall crafts in preparation for Allhallowtide. Ascension will provide the paint, glue, and miscellaneous decorative items and, in return, asks the parish for donations of small gourds and mini pumpkins. Please bring donations to Hawks Hall no later than 9 AM on October 30th. Thank You!



Real Life ~ Real Faith

We are living in a season of discontent, self-righteousness, mistrust, and fear. We are being called upon to make decisions that we hope will bring healing to ourselves, our families, our nation, and the world. I read a reflection by Kayla Mc Clurg entitled “**The Bondage of Separation**” based on Luke 16:19-31, the gospel reading for September 25, 2016. I was so struck by its relevance that I wanted to share it in its entirety with you. The English poet John Donne wrote: “No man is an island, no man stands alone.” Perhaps we need to remember that which we seem to have forgotten.

“Without noticing, oh so subtly, we drift away. We step around each other, uncertain how to connect, not wanting to interfere, to bear responsibility, to navigate the uncertainties. We feel the chill of increasing distance, and snuggle up closer to our jobs, our worldwide web of acquaintances, our witty and clever opinions. Like adapting to the earth’s dizzying spin, we barely notice how we slide inch by inch by slippery inch from fundamental human connections that are given to keep us steady in the world. We don’t see or value the bridges God puts between us and among us, let alone walk across them. Even among others, we live as though alone.

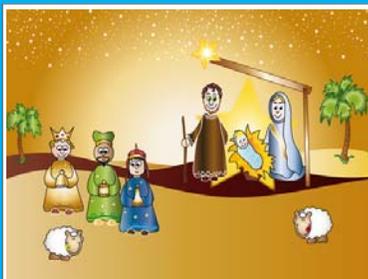
We think it is the life we prefer, going it alone, making our own private choices, sweet solitude becoming isolation. We place great value on being independent and free. Jesus, not so much. He tells of a rich man, who has everything he wants and more. He dresses in purple and fine linen and feasts sumptuously every day. He has learned not to notice a poor man at his gate. Dressed in rags, longing for food and friendship, his body covered with sores, he is attended to only by the dogs who come to lick him. Both men die, that great leveler, and the scales fall away from the rich man’s eyes. From a distance, he sees his poor neighbor Lazarus now being held and soothed by Abraham. Even now the rich man wonders not about his earlier blindness or his calloused treatment of Lazarus, but how Lazarus might serve him in his own distress. “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.”

But a great chasm lies between them, too wide now to be crossed. Such is the bondage of sustained separation, the utter depletion of our souls when we widen the zones of comfort around us and stay blind to each other’s need. Our independence strangles us, cutting off our breath and silencing our solidarity. Every choice we make—where we live and shop and with whom we align ourselves, whether we speak up or turn and walk away—either widens or reduces the chasm between us. What we are able to SEE is determined by what we are striving to BE. The places we go, or refuse to go; the words we use, or refuse to use; the actions we take, or choose not to take; these create the condition of our soul. Whether or not anyone walks beside us, we do not journey alone. Moment by moment, choice by choice, we build or bring down bridges of connection. We strengthen the bondage of our separation or we set each other free.”

Remember, no man is an island, no man stands alone. Live well, live blessed, Deacon Ed+

SING A JOYFUL SONG!

Village Voices began on September 14th and continues to take new members each week. The level of talent and enthusiasm for music that our students have brought is truly remarkable. We look forward to sharing our voices with the community in the future and are currently preparing a mini-musical, *Stone Soup*, as our fall performance. Thank you to all who are assisting with the ground-level work of this start up especially Jo Mosier, Jean Rowe, and Jon Prentice.



THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT APPROACHES!

Christmas is coming (the goose is getting fat!), and it’s time to start thinking about your family’s participation in the 2016 Christmas Pageant. Rehearsals will begin November 28th at 9 AM. The Pageant will take place on Saturday, December 24 at the 5 PM Family Service. To sign up, please contact Jobi Harrell.

LA Episcopal Dodge Night September 2nd, 2016



Ascension Fall Kick-Off Sunday September 11th, 2016



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

October 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 11:45AM	3	4 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	5 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal Village Voices 3:30—5pm Hawks Hall	6 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	7	8
Fr. Bamberger Out of Town—GOE's NC						
9 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 Discernment Meeting/Library Youth Minister Vacation Day	10 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	11 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	12 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal Village Voices 3:30—5pm Hawks Hall	13 7am Mass 9am Forum	14	15
Fr. Bamberger Out of Town—COM/TX						
16 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School	17	18 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting Hawks Hall	19 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal Village Voices 3:30—5pm Hawks Hall	20 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg House Church/ Dinner Location TBD	21	22
23 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School PMC Meeting/Noon Library	24 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	25 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group NOVEMBER SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	26 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal Village Voices 3:30—5pm Hawks Hall	27 Fr. Bamberger Out of Town—Training/Berkeley	28	29 Private Funeral/ Reception 10am—4pm
Deacon Ed Vacation						
30 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Mass 10:15 Sunday School 11:30 Discernment Meeting/Library GOODEN SCHOOL SUNDAY/HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION	31 	SPIRE Newsletter Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator				
Deacon Ed Vacation						