



The SPIRE

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



NOVEMBER 2016

Upcoming Events

- November 1st – All Saints Day
DOK Mass at 7:30pm**
- November 8th – Election Day!**
- November 11th – Veteran’s Day**
- November 15th – Vestry Meeting
7:00pm/Hawks Hall**
- November 17th – House Church &
Dinner 6:30pm *location TBD***
- November 19th – 6:00pm
Annual Holiday Shopping Party**
- November 20th – 5:00pm
Choral Evensong**
- November 21st - Friends-In-Deed
Women’s Room Thanksgiving
Luncheon**
- November 24th - Thanksgiving Day
Mass at 10:00am**

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, and we will be electing a Bishop Coadjutor to succeed Bishop Bruno when he retires. At Ascension, we are gathering names for election to our Vestry at the Parish Annual Meeting the end of January. 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.

On another note, The Gooden School has successfully called a new Head of School who is to start this summer. Carl Parke has served as the Head of School at LaGrange Academy (Pre-K-12, LaGrange, GA) since 2012. He received his B.A. in English from Valdosta State University and his M.A. in History from the University of South Florida. Throughout his career in education, Carl has taught in schools and colleges in the United States and in Great Britain (he was Dean of Students at Oxbridge Academics in 2002-2004 and again in 2006). Prior to LaGrange, Carl was the Head of Upper School at The Altamont School (5-12, Birmingham, AL) from 2010-2012; he had been the Dean of Students at Altamont from 2004-2012. As Head of School at LaGrange, Carl has re-energized the school community by bringing in new faculty members whose enthusiasm and skills are more in line with 21st century educational philosophy, restructuring the administrative team to encourage all members of the team to work at full potential, and by becoming the visible face of the Academy in the community at large. Carl and his family are active members of the Episcopal Church. He, his wife, and their daughter are looking forward to moving to Southern California. I am very much looking forward to working with Carl.

Blessings, MAB+

*Sunday,
November 27th
5:00pm*



Short Church & Potluck Dinner

**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.

Continued on next page...

Pledge Payment Snapshot
January - October 28th 2016

2016 Budget Amount: \$235,000

YTD Budget: \$199,166
YTD Actual: \$193,043



Choral Evensong



*Sunday, November 20th
5:00pm*



**Sunday,
November 6th
at 2:00am**

VESTRY NOMINATIONS DUE NOW... *Continued from previous page*

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.



We cordially invite you to our
Private Holiday
Shopping Party

Date: November 19

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where:

Savor the Flavor LLC

11 Kersting Court
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

*Parking is available on Kersting Court, Baldwin
Avenue & Sierra Madre Blvd*

Come learn about all the hot new food and gift trends of this year and enjoy some champagne, wine, hors d'oeuvres, and decadent desserts. This is the time to get a start on your Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday shopping with all the personal attention you'll need. Savor the Flavor will be donating 10% of sales from this evening to Church of the Ascension if we have at least 15 people ready to shop and party. Do feel free to invite your adult family and friends to join us.

Please add your name to the Shopping Party list posted on the bulletin board in Hawks Hall by Sunday, November 13th.

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.

Upcoming Outreach Events



Habitat for Humanity

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

Christmastide SOX!

- We are gathering new pairs of socks for those in need. (Regular socks, warm socks, holiday socks...)
- The socks will be donated to Friends In Deed in Pasadena.
- Look for the large Sock in the back of the Church in the month of December!



FOR THE LOVE OF GOD: PLEDGE!

Our 2017 Stewardship Campaign - For the Love of God: Pledge! - is underway.

In October the Stewardship Committee sent letters to each Ascension household, asking those who had pledged in the past to renew and, if possible, increase their pledges, and those who had not pledged last year to do so now. The current year's budget for *everything* that happens at our church is \$338,000. Payments fulfilling the pledges made last year by Ascension's families are the biggest source of revenue supporting the life of the parish, accounting for 75% of its annual budget. Clearly, our parish's vitality depends heavily on the success of our pledge campaign. *Making* an annual pledge enables the Vestry to develop an operating budget for the coming year. *Fulfilling* that pledge provides the financial means needed to make our ministries possible.

Many Ascension parishioners have already returned their 2017 pledge forms, for which the Stewardship Committee is grateful. Others have still to be heard from, regarding whom the Committee is hopeful. The Committee thanks all for their faithful support of our cherished Ascension, its clergy, ministries, and our shared faith and community.

Look for your pledge form in the mail!

Ascension Pledge Form

Your Name Here

In faith and with thanksgiving for God's gifts, I support Ascension and will "For the Love of God: Pledge!"

I pledge my financial support to the Church of the Ascension for 2017.

Annual Pledge Amount \$ _____

To be given in the following increments:

Pledge Amount: \$ _____ per week, or \$ _____ per _____

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.



REAL
LIFE. Real
Faith.

In God's eyes, we are all the same! Lately, I find myself saying this a lot; and sometimes I have to work hard at convincing myself that it's actually true. I find it troubling that I could forget so easily what I know in my heart to be true.

I suspect I'm not alone. I suspect that as a result of the divisiveness surrounding the current political climate, many of us find ourselves, and everyone else for that matter, focused on our differences -- not on our similarities, and certainly not on our humanness. When Mrs. Clinton used the phrase "basket of deplorables" to describe certain members of her political opposition, we were "all" quick to react. In my opinion, regardless of which side of the fence we currently stand on, the fact that the fence even exists makes us all a little deplorable and a little less human.

To move from deplorables to tolerables, we need to rediscover our humanness. Jean Vanier, the founder of L'ARCHE, an international network of communities for people with intellectual disabilities, writes "to become human implies two realities. It means to be someone, to have cultivated our gifts, and also to be open to others, to look at them not with a feeling of superiority but with eyes of respect. It means to become men and women with the wisdom of love. We cannot know what crisis awaits humanity, but its future is not just in the hands of politicians and corporations, but in our hands. Peace will come through dialogue, through trust and respect for others who are different, through inner strength and a spirituality of love, patience, humility, and forgiveness."

If you are going to put me in a basket, put me in with the tolerables who never forget that we are all the same in God's eyes.....always.

Live well, live blessed, live daringly, Deacon Ed

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)*

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 are still in need of the following donations:

- * Turkeys with Gravy
- * Mashed Potatoes
- * Sweet Potatoes
- * Green Beans with Mushrooms or Green Bean Casserole
- * Cheese and Cracker Tray
- * Veggie/Relish Tray
- * Pumpkin and Apple Pies

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.

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".

Feel free to add your checks with the "Women's Room Luncheon" notation to the Offering Plates on Sunday. Please make sure to add the note on the memo line.

Please have monetary donations into the Church by Friday, November 14, 2016.

You can sign-up for your donation to the Women's Room 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, times and transportation instructions for dropping off your contributions.

Please prepare fully cooked and ready-to-serve servings for 20 for each item you sign-up to provide.



Rough Equivalents of 20 servings

Turkey – 20+lb. turkey
Stuffing – About 20 oz. dry mix
Mashed Potatoes – About 7 ½ lbs
Green beans – About 5 lbs.
Sweet Potatoes – About 7 ½ lbs

One ½ size steam pan of a side dish = approximately 20 servings
One full size steam pan of carved turkey from 1 large turkey = approximately 20 + servings
Thank you.

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We will supply the 1/2 size heavy aluminum steam pans with lids for side dishes and full size heavy aluminum steam pans with lids for carved turkey containers to be used for the transportation of all cooked, carved and prepared food from your home to Ascension and Luncheon. These containers are **ONLY** for transportation of food and **NOT** for cooking as recommended by the manufacturer. Each pan will have a lid. We will also supply pie pans with lids for the pies. The pie pans CAN be used for baking.

Thank you so much for all that you are doing for those attending the Women's Room Luncheon. You are making a difference.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Outhouse

Thank You!



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

All Saints – Christ the King – Thanksgiving – Advent – such a rich tapestry of liturgical expression! A synopsis of this month's music:

November 6 – the celebration of All Saints (remember to turn your clocks back on Saturday night!)

Give Us the Wings of Faith by Richard Shepherd
Thomas Pavlechko's *The Souls of the Righteous*

November 13 –

How Very Good and Pleasant by Arlen Clarke
Bob Chilcott's lovely setting of the *Irish Blessing*

November 20 – Christ the King Sunday

Per tradition, *Choral Fanfare for Christ the King* by H. Hamilton Smith
Richard Proulx's setting of *O God, Beyond All Praising* (Gustav Holst's *Jupiter* from *The Planets*)
King of All Ages, Throned on High by Paul Isom

A special event this year: the choir will present a **CHORAL EVENSONG on the 20th at 5 p.m.** In addition to the traditional components of Evensong (*Phos Hilaron, Preces and Responses, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis*), several Thanksgiving-themed anthems and hymns will be sung. The music will include:

Sing to the Lord of Harvest by Healey Willan
Let All Things Now Living by K. K. Davis
John Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth*
Phos Hilaron by Roland E. Martin
Preces and Responses by Richard Shephard
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Following the service the congregation is invited to a reception in Hawks Hall. Be sure to mark your calendars and kick off your Thanksgiving celebration by attending this festive event!

November 27 – the first Sunday of Advent

Hark, the Glad Sound! By David Thorne
Thomas Ravenscroft's Remember Christians All

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



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. Please make checks payable to "St. Anne's Altar Guild."

Yours 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 11th.

Thank You.

Upcoming House Church/Dinner Date

Thursday, November 17th

location TBD

Starts at 6:30pm and will be followed by a light supper.

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

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.





**BLESSING
OF THE
ANIMALS
OCTOBER 2ND, 2016**



November 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group All Saints Day Eucharist 7:30pm	25:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal Village Voices 3:30—5pm Hawks Hall	3 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	4	5
Deacon Ed Vacation						
6 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Mass 10:15am Sunday School 2pm-4:30pm-EFM Mtg/Library Youth Minister Vacation Day	7 VOTING SETUP 9am—3pm Hawks Hall PRIVATE MEETING 7pm-9pm Library	8 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group VOTING IN HAWKS HALL	9 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal Village Voices 3:30—5pm Hawks Hall	10 7am Mass 9am Forum	11 VETERANS DAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	12 Private Anniversary Party Noon—6pm Hawks Hall
13 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Mass 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Discernment Meeting/Library 2pm-4:30pm-EFM Mtg/Library	14 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	15 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting Hawks Hall	16 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal Village Voices RECITAL 6:30PM—8PM Hawks Hall	17 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg House Church/ Dinner *Location TBD* 6:30pm	18	19 Private Holiday Shopping Party at Savor the Flavor LLC 6:00pm
20 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Mass 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Discernment Meeting/Library 2pm-4:30pm-EFM Mtg/Library 3pm—5pm-Deanery Pre-Convention Mtg/Hall 5:00pm Choral Evensong & Reception	21	22 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	23 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal—Sanctuary NO CHOIR REHEARSAL	24 7am Mass 9am Forum THANKSGIVING DAY MASS 10:00AM PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	25 DECEMBER SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	26
27 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Mass 10:15am Sunday School 2pm-4:30pm-EFM Mtg/Library 5:00pm Short Church & Potluck Dinner	28 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	29 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	30 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal—Sanctuary 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal			
SPIRE Newsletter Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator						