



# The SPIRE

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



## Upcoming Events

## April 2017

April 9th- **PALM SUNDAY**

April 14th- 3:00pm/Hawks Hall  
Easter Egg Stuffing/Dyeing Party

**April 16th**

### EASTER SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

- ◇ **1st Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt—8:00am**
- ◇ **2nd Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt—11:30am**

April 18th— 7pm/Hawks Hall  
Vestry Meeting

April 20th— 6:30pm/Location TBD  
House Church/Dinner

April 23rd—Clergy/The Rev'd  
Pastor Joshua McGuffie

April 23rd—Noon/Library  
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

April 30th—11:30am/Hawks Hall  
Despedida for Mark Bradshaw

### Pledge Payment Snapshot March 2017

Budget Amount: \$208,437

YTD Budget:  
\$52,109

YTD Actual:  
\$50,903



## From the Rector

During Lent, we remember Jesus being driven into the desert following his baptism. While there, the Gospels tell us, he was tempted in many ways by the devil.

Last week, Debbie and I drove ourselves to the desert. Specifically, we went to Anza-Borrego State Park and to Joshua Tree National Park. We were lured by the abundant bloom this year of wildflowers after our winter rains. It was absolutely spectacular. I've never seen the desert so colorful. (I've also never seen so many people in the desert!)

We saw whole fields of blossoms. We also looked closely at the flowers. We had brought our wildflower books, and I'm sure we identified dozens of species – even a few we had never seen before. We also witnessed another phenomenon that was new for us. Along with all the people, there were voracious predators going after the flowers, including an incredible number of large colorful caterpillars. They would devour the whole plant.



I have always enjoyed the desert as a part of God's creation, but this trip was a reminder of just how much life there is to experience in the desert. I wonder if Jesus, during his time in the wilderness, was as amazed by the beauty of the desert. Perhaps the beauty of God's creation is a strong antidote to the temptations we all face.

**MAB+**

### *Holy Week/Easter Services*

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>April 9</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>April 13</b>
Mass (Rite I)	8:00 AM	Mass	7:00 AM
Mass (Rite II)	10:15 AM	Foot Washing and Mass	7:00 PM
		Watch at Altar of Repose	9 PM -11:30 PM
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>April 10</b>		
Mass	7:00 PM	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 14</b>
		Watch at Altar of Repose	7:30 AM -11 AM
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>April 11</b>	Stations of the Cross	Noon
Mass	7:00 PM	Good Friday Liturgy	7:00 PM
<b>Tenebrae</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>April 16</b>
Mass	7:00 PM	The Great Vigil and	
		1st Eucharist of Easter	6:00 AM
		Festival High Mass	10:15 AM

## FLOWERS FOR THE WATCH AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE



On Maundy Thursday, we observe the tradition of praying/keeping watch with our Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. In order to achieve a garden-like setting, we ask parishioners to bring flowers to church to decorate the space for the Watch.

Flowers may be brought on Thursday throughout the day or brought in when attending the Maundy Thursday night service at 7pm. There will be containers available to deposit your flowers. For the past several years, we have decorated our "garden" this way and hope this year (with an abundance of rain and now flowers), it will be overflowing.

Thank you in advance for enhancing our "garden" with flowers from your garden.

## EASTER MUSIC



Please consider making a contribution to our Easter music program. Music offering envelopes are available at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.  
***Thank You for your support.***

## EASTER FLOWERS

Although we are in the midst of Lent, we eagerly look forward to our glorious Easter celebration the first of April. In order to make the church as beautiful as possible, we need your generous donations for flowers. Envelopes are in the back of the church, and checks should be made out to St. Anne's Altar Guild.

St. Anne's thanks you in advance for your generosity in helping our Sanctuary look splendid for a Joyous Easter.



It does not seem possible that a year has passed since **Mark Bradshaw** came to Ascension for his discernment year. It's true. Easter Sunday is Mark's official last Sunday with us.

From his first day at Ascension, Mark has fully entered into the life of the parish. On Sundays we saw him as an acolyte one week and our preacher the next. And what a great addition to the preaching rota he has been. Who can forget the recounting of his cat hate/love experience, the time he brought Joseph's role and the importance of fatherhood to life for us, his pastoral experiences at the hospital, and just recently the connection between Lazarus and The Princess Bride. But no matter how amusing the incident or how initially off topic his story telling sometimes seemed to be, Mark always has left us with an important spiritual message to take home with us.

Those of us who attend the Rector's Forum got to learn about Mark's test taking, what he was learning in his on-line seminary classes, and what has been happening in the construction of the Habitat house that he and his family will live in some time in the future.

Between the Masses Small Group know Mark in another way as together they have discussed different topics each week.

If you ever have had a chance to talk with Mark, you know he is a good listener, has a good sense of humor, and always seems to care about what is going on in your life. You feel he is focused on you and that he is there to help you in any way he can.

Mark also has brought to us the blessing of Katie and their children. The love they all share has been a joy to witness. What a great family!

Fortunately for us, we will have one more last Sunday with Mark on April 30. On that day, we will have a special lunch to celebrate Mark and Katie's time with us and to wish them Godspeed. Be sure to circle that date on your calendar.

Mark will be ordained a deacon on June 3, another event you may want to attend.

Ascension will miss the Bradshaws. But we still have all or almost all of April to take joy in their ministry.

***Jean Rowe, Senior Warden***





**Easter Brunch at Ascension:  
Family Time Shared Together**

**Have You Signed-Up for Your Contribution?**

**We Still Need Lots of Contributions!**

Thanks to Lisa, Jan, and all of you, this is the meal we have the opportunity to share together on Easter Sunday at either 8 am or 11:30 am. Doesn't it make you salivate just a little bit when you think of enjoying some of these classic favorites? Do you see something missing like, perhaps, **YOUR** specialty? Add away!!!!



Please let me know what you would like to bring. The Easter Brunch Sign-up Sheets located on the Hawks Hall bulletin board are calling your name (really, they are) to let us know about your contribution. You can also let me know by sending me an email.

If you think you hear the brunch sign-up sheets calling your name, just think what you are hearing from the Clean-up Sign-up Sheets (Yes, again, they really are J). Email me at [maggiemyrne@earthlink.net](mailto:maggiemyrne@earthlink.net)!!



**Holy Week and Easter at Ascension Need You!  
When Can You Serve?**

Ascension has lots of opportunities in every role for you to serve during Holy Week (most services) and Easter Sunday (both services). If you have the opportunity to stop by the church, please feel free to sign up. However, I am also going to start my **"Crunch Time"** emails to give you ongoing updates

concerning our needs. If you already know what you would like to do, send me an email and I will plug you into the schedule. If you are already signed up on the schedule, thank you.

"Talk" with you soon.  
Maggie Outhouse, [maggiemyrne@earthlink.net](mailto:maggiemyrne@earthlink.net)

<b>Hot Dishes:</b>	
Ham (\$\$ donation, please)	
(\$\$ donation for the hams, please. If you write a check, please make it out to the church and put Easter Brunch Ham in the memo line. The amount will then show up as a contribution to the church.)	
Green Bean Casserole	Scalloped Potatoes
Hash Brown Casserole (Suggest pg 35 in the Church Cookbook)	Pralines French Toast (Suggest pg. 66 in the Church Cookbook)
Mac 'N Cheese	Your own Specialty
<b>Vegetables:</b>	
Variety of Roasted Veggies	Your own Specialty
<b>Salads</b>	
Macaroni Salad	Pasta Salad
Spinach Salad	Green Salad
Coleslaw	Potato Salad
Fresh Fruit	Your own Specialty
<b>Egg Dishes:</b>	
Deviled Eggs	Breakfast Egg Bakes
Your Own Specialty	
<b>Desserts:</b>	
Cookies	Brownies
Cupcakes	Your own Specialty

*Every year we are given the gift, the opportunity, to share this most important day together. We are truly blessed by our God who gave us his Son and by Christ who offered up his life so that each of us could live.*

*May God continue to wrap his arms around you and hold you close.*

*Blessings to you and your families and to Ascension that gives us a place to worship and offer our gratitude.*

*Maggie Outhouse*

*Thank you*



In a recent homily “Too Tired To Care” (March 19<sup>th</sup>), we examined the notions of living in interesting times and the new normal. We considered **conformity**: how it informs our thinking, can limit our expression, and affect our behavior toward ourselves and our neighbors.

We looked to a weary and tired Rosa Parks, a Samaritan woman and Jesus. I imagine that Jesus was often tried and weary, but something deep inside him kept him going and through his example showed us that we can never be too tired to care and that even when we are, there are always opportunities to produce results that create lasting change – big and small.

The homily ended with the question “if God doesn’t see results, what then?” As we journey through what’s left of Lent, I encourage us all to look closely at the results we are producing for God, our neighbors, the stranger, and ourselves. Are we acting out of fear or out of love? Is loving God more than a feeling? If it’s more than a feeling, then you are more than likely producing results. If it’s just a feeling, then you may find it difficult to find your seat on the bus or place at the well.

*Live well, live blessed, live big. Deacon Ed+*

You’re Invited to a...

## DESPELIDA!

We are so happy and proud of our intern, **Mark Bradshaw**. Mark will be ordained as a Deacon on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. His last day with Ascension will be Easter Sunday, but he and his family will return on Sunday, April 30, 2017, for a celebration in his honor. We are sorry to see Mark and his family leave our Village Church, but feel sure that they will be back to visit us.

Please join us for a special coffee hour to congratulate him on his new journey and to thank him for his time and service to us.

**Special Coffee Hour / Full Lunch  
Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup> in Hawks Hall  
Following the 10:15 am Service**

Many Blessings to Mark and his beautiful family!

*Respectfully, Lisa Wagner*

## 2017 Lenten Devotional Dinners at Ascension



**Pictures of Ministry Amongst Us...** God knows what we can do best because we were created to do it. When we realize our own God given gifts and talents (our vocation), a sense of peace can set in. When an individual steps it up a notch and shares his gifts with those around him, the community is even more blessed. Living into a vocation can turn into a personal ministry that fulfills the giver and enhances the lives of those around him or her. Our parish is beyond blessed with two such individuals. Both have a "day job" yet are graced with a talent for photography.

Although we can all take pictures, not everyone can capture the beauty the way these two do. Jay Packer and Jon Prentice continue to capture beautiful moments of our parish life. They not only preserve our history, but they also capture moments of joy and create lasting memories of times that are forever gone and impossible to reproduce.



At each event, particularly during our high holidays, Jay and Jon take of their own time to photograph the life of our church. I personally cherish the annual Easter photo Jay takes of Anne and me and look with excitement to see the many moments Jon captures with his stunning candid portraits.

Ascension is blessed with their Photography Ministry, and I hope that you will each take a moment this upcoming Easter to take advantage of their gifts and offer them a sincere "thank you" for all that they do.

*Submitted by Jobi Harrell*



## PHOTO OPPORTUNITY ON EASTER SUNDAY! 2017 Parish Directory Photos

It's that time of year again. When you look at your directory picture, do you recognize yourself? Your kids? Do your friends recognize you? If not, it is time for an update! **Come in your 'best dress' on Easter Sunday and get your picture taken by Jay Packer and Jon Prentice.** They will be taking photographs between the services and after the 10:15 service in the child care room. Please add the photo shoot to your Sunday schedule so that we have an up-to-date picture of you and your family. **Thank You!**

### NOTES FROM THE LOFT

As we near the end of our Lenten journey, on the cusp of Holy Week and Easter, we anticipate an abundance of rich, profound, deeply moving, exciting music. Share with us in the amazing passage from the death of our Lord to his glorious resurrection! Choral selections will include:

#### April 2 – fifth week of Lent

The Douglas Wagner setting of *When Jesus Wept*;  
*None Other Lamb*, music by Austin Lovelace, poetry by Christina Rossetti

#### April 9 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Celebrating Jesus' ride into Jerusalem, *A Palm Sunday Antiphon* by David C. Morgan;  
Moving into the passion of our Lord, Craig Courtney's poignant *Behold, the Lamb of God*;  
The David Ogden arrangement of *Were You There?*

#### April 13 – Maundy Thursday

Maurice Durufle's beloved *Ubi Caritas*;  
*I Give You A New Commandment* by Peter Nardone;  
The Taize chant, *Eat This Bread*

#### April 14 – Good Friday

The Passion Gospel sung by Joshua McGuffie, Charley Noecker, and Carol Rasmussen;  
*Faithful Cross* by Leo Nestor

#### April 16 – Easter Sunday

Festival choir; Jay Cohen, trumpet; Sean Dougall, oboe; Widor Toccata in F Major ~  
*Arise, My Faithful* by Mark S. Repasky;  
*The Tree of Life* by K. Lee Scott ~ the choir/congregational offertory hymn;  
*Love Bade Me Welcome*, music by Roland Martin, poetry by George Herbert  
And, of course, the Lloyd Larson festival setting of *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

#### April 23 – Thomas Sunday

The glorious *How Shall I Sing that Majesty*, arranged by John Ronald Daniels;  
Walter Pelz' moving *Peace I Leave With You*

#### April 30 – Third Sunday of Easter

*On Emmaus' Journey* by John Ferguson;  
David Ashley White's *O God Unseen*

Please join me in expressing to our amazing choir deep appreciation for their time and talents throughout this season – and for assuming the additional responsibility of decorating the Paschal candle! May your spirits be touched and uplifted by the glorious gift of music!

*All heav'n is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose Passion ; Offers in mercy healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations, take it freely!" ; Amen! My Master!  
~Pécselyi Király Imre, para. By Erik Routley*



**Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist**

## Call for Easter Egg Hunt Donations

Thank you so much to the already generous supply of donations for our annual Easter egg hunts. Our current greatest need is for more candy (especially jelly beans) to fill the eggs with.

Items Requested include:

- Plastic Eggs (both large and small sizes)
- Jelly Beans
- Individually wrapped candies & chocolates (plastic wrap is preferred over foil packaging)
- Small party favors such as stickers, small toys, pencils, etc.
- Gently used Easter baskets
- Paper favor bags with handles (large enough to hold at least a dozen eggs)
- Streamers for securing 'boundary' areas.



*Anything you are willing to donate will be an 'egg-cellent' addition to our egg-stravaganza!*



### OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 29th from 8am—11:30am

We will have another work day at the Habitat Arroyo Desidero project on April 29th from 8am—11:30am for a group of 8 volunteers.

Please contact Scott Callihan for more information.



A special fun-filled, family day has been planned for Gooden families and the surrounding communities for **Saturday, April 29 from noon until 4 p.m.!** Your family will be entertained with a plethora of fun games and activities to choose from. We will have some of the traditional favorites, including inflatables for all ages, the dunk tank, face-painting, etc. New this year will be an Escape Room, a three-play sports inflatable, Pokemon archery, field activities such as a three-legged race, and a Chili Cook-Off.

In addition to enjoying the fun games and activities, we hope you will take the time to shop the silent auction and Country Store, try your luck in winning one of the raffles, and partake of the country-style food and drink!

- Game tickets are \$1 each; if you buy in bulk you can save money!
- Wristbands for unlimited\*\* access to inflatables and game booths are \$40.

\*\*The wristband does **NOT** include the Escape Room activity, Dunk Tank booth, Face-Painting booth, food, or drink.

*\*The Country Fair is the Gooden Family Associations's biennial fundraising event. While this is the primary fundraising event of the year, its goal is also to provide a family-friendly event that can be enjoyed by all.\**

# YOUTH GROUP



**Sunday, April 9, Palm Sunday**

**9:00 AM** 'dress rehearsal' for the Passion Reading at the **10:15** Service.

Our own Nico Tierney continues his journey to water polo greatness! →



**DATE CHANGE FOR EASTER EGG STUFFING & DYEING PARTY**

**NEW DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 14th at 3:00 PM**

**ALL ARE INVITED** to join the youth as we prepare for our annual Easter egg hunts! If possible, please bring a dozen hard boiled eggs for dyeing.

**Service Project Time!  
April 22, 9am—10:30am**

**Bailey Canyon Clean-up**

This is a great way for younger children and families to contribute to the community and celebrate Earth Day. A variety of jobs (weeding, picking up trash, clearing brush, spreading mulch) are needed to prepare this gorgeous little spot for the upcoming summer heat. Sturdy shoes, pants, and protective gloves are highly recommended for participants.



**2017 Youth Lenten  
Pizza & Painting Party**

Dear Ascension Friends,

Elliot and his fellow scouts worked really hard on Saturday February 25 and completed the task of redefining, cleaning up, and clearing out parts of the nature trail at Wilderness Park. The weather was perfect; it was a joy to see the culmination of so many months of planning come to fruition. Elliot met with the city last Friday and obtained the sign off. Hooray!

More mountains of paperwork to be completed before he reaches the rank of Eagle Scout, but he's nearly there.

Thank you for all your support and prayers; your thoughtfulness and generosity are truly appreciated.

*With gratitude,  
Mandy Macintosh*



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

## APRIL 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2</b> 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	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 3:30pm-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary <b>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>6</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 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	<b>10</b> <b>Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm</b>	<b>11</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	<b>12</b> <b>TENEBRAE</b> 3:30pm-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary <b>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>13</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 9am Forum	<b>14</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> <b>Easter Egg Stuffing &amp; Dyeing Party 3:00 pm</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>*HOLY WEEK / EASTER - SERVICE DATES &amp; TIMES ARE NOTED ON FRONT PAGE OF NEWSLETTER.*</b>						
<b>16</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> ♦ <b>The Great Vigil and 1st Eucharist of Easter 6:00 AM</b> ♦ <b>1st Easter Brunch/Egg Hunt 8:00am</b> ♦ <b>Festival High Mass 10:15 AM</b> ♦ <b>2nd Easter Brunch/Egg Hunt 11:30am</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group <b>7pm Vestry Meeting Hawks Hall</b>	<b>19</b> 3:30pm-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga	<b>20</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 9am Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg <b>House Church/Dinner 6:30pm</b> <b>*Location TBD*</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>Clergy/McGuffie</b> 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 Noon-PMC Mtg/Library	<b>24</b> <b>Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm</b>	<b>25</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group <b>MAY SPIRE ARTICLES DUE</b>	<b>26</b> 3:30pm-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga 3pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary <b>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>27</b> <b>7am Mass</b> 9am Forum	<b>28</b> <b>2pm-3pm Gooden Drama Class Hawks Hall</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 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 <b>Despedida for Mark Bradshaw/11:30 am</b>						<b>May 6th Private Party Noon-5:00pm Hawks Hall</b>

Spire Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator