



# The SPIRE

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

July 2006

## Our Core Ministries

- Worship
- Formation
- Pastoral Care
- Fellowship
- Outreach
- Presence

### Small Group Meeting

Tuesday Evenings BYOB  
(Bring Your Own Bible)  
7:30 p.m.— 8:45 p.m.  
The Rohrer's, Sierra Madre

We will be starting on the book of Numbers 6/20. There's an empty chair waiting for you... call Michelle for more information.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Youth Happenings</i>	2
<i>Meet Allison Rainey</i>	2
<i>DOK</i>	2
<i>St. Mary's Guild</i>	2
<i>Calendar</i>	3
<i>From the Loft</i>	3
<i>Spiritual Gifts</i>	3
<i>From the Sr. Warden</i>	4

## ✝ From the Rector

I have been asked by a few people what my impression is of our new Presiding Bishop elect – The Right Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori. While I don't claim to personally know her well at all, I have met her a few times over the last few years and have worked with her at the General Ordination Examination Readers Conference. I have found her to be a respectful, somewhat quiet person (at least compared to many of the bishops I have known) and a woman of great intelligence. While she strikes me as someone who is very capable and competent, she is also down to earth. (To be Bishop of Nevada, you can't be anything but down to earth.) She's a runner and seems to take good physical care of herself. That's going to be essential as she assumes her new position in November. Another thing about her that bears mentioning is that not only is she an airplane pilot, but she projects that sense of being unflappable that you would hope for in pilots. Oh, that all of our bishops could be calm and methodical in the face of

things going amiss! While I know that some folks may be concerned that her election is part of some larger "agenda" and others may be rejoicing simply because a woman, any woman, was selected, my own sense of Bishop Jefferts Schori, is that her heart is in the right place and that she will do her best. The passage of time is often the best way to discern the movement of the Holy Spirit. Only time will tell if Katharine Jefferts Schori is the right person for the job. In the meantime, we should all keep Katharine and her family and the Episcopal Church and our Anglican Communion in our prayers. As always, there are important matters of the Gospel and the Reign of God right in front of us here at home. I believe that God is far more concerned about how we have loved our neighbor than He is about our reaction to the General Convention. So we should also pray for ourselves and for our ministry together here at Ascension.

—Fr. Michael

## Mass on the Grass and BBQ

**Ascension celebrates the 4<sup>th</sup> on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Sierra Vista Park!**

Come join us for Mass on the grass, food, swimming, tennis, and a bounce house. Mass will start at 10:15 a.m. (bring a chair) and will be followed by a BBQ (hot dogs and hamburgers are provided; please bring side dishes or desserts to share). The pool and tennis courts will be open, and there will be fun games for kids (and adults, too). Please

sign-up to RSVP and to tell us your food assignment preference on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

The committee also needs coolers filled with ice. If you are able to provide a cooler, please let Halcyon Koerber or Adrienne Wilson know.

Please note: The 8:00 a.m. mass will be held at Ascension as usual.

## Youth Happenings

What a way to start the celebration of school being out and summer beginning than to have our traditional Swim Party. It was a blast, and we wish to say thank you for the wonderful hospitality of David & Robin Nardoni. (You guys have a great pool!!) Special thanks to the parents and leaders who made the event a fun time of food and fellowship for everyone.

Even though summer is finally here and the youth are enjoying their vacation time, we want to keep in touch with our great teenagers. While there will be no Sunday morning meetings at the Parish House until September, we have two upcoming events scheduled in July and August (see the events

listed below). Please mark them on your calendar. And remember, **BRING A FRIEND.**

If you haven't already heard, the votes were close, but Katie Koerber was elected Youth Council President. Amanda Burnett was elected Sr. High Vice President and Michael Ruble was elected as Jr. High Vice President. These officers will be working with the youth leaders in planning all activities, outreach projects, and fundraisers for the fall.

### **Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup> ---Bowling Fest at Brunswick West Covina Lanes**

675 S. Glendora Ave. West Covina.  
Meet at the church at 11:30 am.

Bowling will be from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm. We will go out afterwards for a bite to eat and return to the church at 3:30 pm.

### **Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>---Summer Pool Party at the Beach/Ruble Home**

1014 E. Lemon Ave. Monrovia.  
Drop off the youth at 12:00 pm. The party will end at 3:00 pm. Please bring a hearty snack to share. Beverages will be provided.

—Deacon Barrett

## Meet Allison Rainey



Greetings from sunny, sweltering, hot Phoenix, Arizona! I'm Allison Rainey, and I look for-

ward to being the newest addition to your staff team at Ascension this fall, fulfilling my field education requirements. I am currently a second-year student at Claremont School of Theology in the joint Master of Divinity program with the Episcopal School of Theology at Claremont. In addition to my coursework at Claremont, I enjoy reading, running, and vocal music. Phoenix is my summer home,

where I am currently interning for the non-profit community-organizing agency, Interfaith Worker Justice.

Though I've only had the opportunity to meet some of the members of the parish, Ascension seems to be a church filled with warm, caring people. I look forward to meeting each of you either at the Fourth of July activities or in the fall!

## Daughters of the King

On June 3rd, the Daughters of the King led a quiet prayer day for the parish. What an awesome day (with an emphasis on "Awe")! The day centered around three different types of prayer with instruction and written handouts; then participants were given time to practice what they had learned. Mother Jennifer led the Eucharist and Compline. We were truly blessed by her

presence.

All of those who attended felt uplifted by the event. Because of two anonymous donors, everything was free, and that was an additional blessing! Thank you so much anonymous donors.

Keep an eye out for the next prayer day; you'll want to put it on your calendar.

## St. Mary's Guild

St. Mary's Guild enjoyed a fun day at Wilma's house with good food, drink, and our annual "silly" gift exchange. We will meet next on Saturday, September 9 at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall for a potluck lunch.

# July 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00 am Altar Guild 9:00 am Misco- duct Prevention
2 8:00 Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass on Grass & BBQ	3 Office Closed	4 Office Closed	5 10:30 am Staff Mtg Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass	6 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	7 Noon Mass	8 9:00 am Altar Guild
9 8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Educ Hour 10:15 am Mass	10	11 6:30 pm Capital Campaign Mtg	12 Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass	13 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	14 Noon Mass	15 9:00 am Altar Guild Spire Deadline
16 8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Educ Hour 10:15 am Mass	17	18 6:30 pm Vestry	19 10:30 am Staff Mtg Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass	20 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	21 Noon Mass	22 9:00 am Altar Guild
23 8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Educ Hour 10:15 am Mass	24	25	26 Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass	27 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	28 Noon Mass	29 9:00 am Altar Guild 11:30 am youth Happening
30 8:00 am Mass 9:00 am Educ Hour 10:15 am Mass	31					

## Upcoming Events

- July 1—9:00 am Sexual Misconduct Prevention Workshop in Parish Hall
- July 2—10:15 am Mass on the Grass followed by Parish BBQ at Sierra Vista Park
- July 3 & 4—Office closed Independence Day holiday
- July 8-22—Deacon Barrett at Camp Stevens and on Vacation
- July 29—Youth Happening—11:30 am Bowling
- July 29-August 12—Fr. Michael at Camp Stevens

## Notes from the Loft

During the first week of July, it will be my privilege to represent Ascension at the American Guild of Organists Annual National Convention in Chicago. I'm anticipating many concerts, organs, churches, and choral reading sessions. I'm also planning on reconnecting with my college organ professor, whom I haven't seen in probably twenty years. Look forward to a report in next month's Spire.

Returning to Ascension as my substitute for "Mass on the Grass" will be Natalie Ning; she'll also be filling in for me later in the month when I'll be on vacation. Natalie holds the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Music from USC, where she also studied organ. I know you'll enjoy having her with you.

—Debora Huffman  
Director of Music and Organist

## Spiritual Gifts Survey

These surveys are one way we identify how we can each serve the body of Christ using our specific spiritual gifts. When we use the gifts we have been given at baptism, we have more to give, and the benefits spread to our ministries, our parish, and ourselves.

Many parishioners took the few minutes it takes to fill out their gift surveys on Pentecost, June 4th. These church members had a few surprises and many confirmations when they saw the results of their surveys.

By the way our Vestry, Ministry Council, and Clergy have all taken the survey.

The Spiritual Gifts survey will be an ongoing opportunity for all baptized members of our parish. Please contact or see Diane Rhodus, Ministry Coordinator, for your survey and interview.

—Diane Rhodus



*On Pentecost, the Catechesis made a presentation for the sermon. Each of the red candles represents a gift of the Holy Spirit. Everyone was invited to ask God for a gift.*



*Our vision is that the Church of the Ascension serves Christ today for those who will come to know Christ tomorrow.*

**WORSHIP  
FORMATION  
PASTORAL CARE  
FELLOWSHIP  
OUTREACH  
PRESENCE**

**The Episcopal Church of the Ascension**

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## From the Sr. Warden

On July 30<sup>th</sup> we recognize those members of our congregation who participate in our Fellowship Ministry. Here at Ascension we define fellowship as our community coming together to connect through food, fun, and friendship.

There is something about food that encourages us to linger after service to visit with each other and to meet and greet newcomers to our parish. The job of our new Hospitality Ministry is to make sure that there is a volunteer coffee hour provider every Sunday. Anyone who has already brought coffee hour refreshments for us (or who will volunteer to help the Hospitality Ministry do this in the future) is an active member of our Fellowship Ministry.

The Special Events Reception Ministry is our in-house catering service. Members provide food and decorations for special occasions. Some of

you have been asked to bring food for these special events. When you do, you too are part of the Fellowship Ministry.

There are behind the scenes people who contribute to our Fellowship Ministry by keeping the kitchen supplied with paper goods, coffee, breakfast supplies, and clean towels. Others practice fellowship by providing our bathrooms with paper goods and soap. These two ministries deserve a special thank you.

Weekly Dinner is a chance to share dinner with others once a week. All are welcome to join this group for fellowship Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Monrovia on Myrtle and Colorado in Monrovia.

The newly reinstated Men's Breakfast Group is another opportunity to practice fellowship. These breakfasts are designed to give the men of our parish a chance to get to know each

other better. If you have attended any of these breakfasts, you too have been a part of our Fellowship Ministry.

St. Mary's Guild has been practicing fellowship since our church was founded. Guild members meet once a month for lunch and conversation, frequently volunteer to provide food and serve at many of our parish events, supply the colorful table cloths we use on special occasions, and fund raise for charities.

Fellowship is an important part of the Judeo/Christian tradition. As we read the Old and New Testaments, it becomes very clear that in God's eyes hospitality is a moral obligation and an expression of gratitude for God's graciousness in accepting us. God may indeed use our times of fellowship to speak to us and through us. We salute those who take part in this important ministry.

—Jean Rowe