



The SPIRE

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

July 2005

Our Core Ministries

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

Fr. Robert Moon Update

Home address is 31414 Panorama Dr., Running Springs, CA 92382
Mailing address is P.O. Box 2511, Running Springs, CA 92382
Home Phone: 909-867-1146
Church Office: St. Richard of Chichester, Lake Arrowhead 909-337-3889

Inside this issue:

St. Mary's Guild	2
Youth Group	2
Daughters of the King	2
Calendar	3
From the Loft	3
News of Ascensionites	4
Red Cross Blood Drive	4

✝ From the Rector

You may have noticed that on Sundays, we are no longer including a separate sheet in the bulletins with the lessons printed on them. The psalm continues to be printed in the bulletin itself. The intent behind this is two-fold – first, the lessons in the Liturgy of the Word have always been meant to be heard – our ears and minds are meant to be engaged. Second, we are conserving paper, copier costs, and the effort of the volunteers who “stuff” the bulletin. We know that some people are more visually oriented, and there are some options for them. First, this could be an opportunity to bring your own bible to church. For those who would want to follow along with the same translation being read aloud, we use the New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible. (Some people could use this as an opportunity to compare translations – they might follow along in a Spanish or Greek text, or the King James Version, or another modern translation.) For those who might want to use the internet, there is an easy way to find the lessons and perhaps print them out. Simply follow the link, under “links” on our newly up-graded parish website – www.ascension-sierramadre.com, to [The Lectionary Page \(www.io.com/~kellywp\)](http://www.io.com/~kellywp), and look on the calendar for the date you want and click on BCP. (There are several other resources under our links for finding the lessons – even for daily prayer.). We also are printing out each Sunday a few sheets with the lessons which will be at the back of the church. If you use them at the early service, please return them so that they can be reused at the second service. And know also that we are coaching all of the lectors – the people who actually read the lessons aloud during the service – that they need to really speak up and announce clearly. We know that some ears don’t hear like they used to – which may be a blessing when it comes to some, but not all, of my sermons! As always, I welcome your comments.

—Father Michael

Upcoming Parish Retreat

Save the Dates!
January 27—28, 2006
Parish wide Retreat at Camp Stevens
Fellowship, Formation, Worship!

The Retreat is for parishioners of all ages. Reservations will be accepted beginning now! Reservations will be confirmed upon receipt of a \$50 deposit per person. The exact cost has not been determined but will be approximately \$100 for adults. For reservations or more information contact Diane Rhodus—Ministry Coordinator or the church office.

St. Mary's Guild

St. Mary's Guild year came to a successful end with a potluck luncheon at the home of Wilma Clark. This gracious hostess has hosted this concluding meeting for several years. This year it was a Hawaiian theme.

A business meeting was held after the delicious lunch (not a roll in sight), and the group heartily thanked Jo Mosier and Ann Poland for their leadership. These women had to manage the President/Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer positions between them. Elections were held and new officers for next year are President: Cynthia Belden; Vice President: Ann Poland; Secretary: Bev Clifton; and Treasurer: Jo Mosier.

We will once again be donating money for camperships among other projects. Many thanks are due to Jill Wagner's daughter, Susannah, for

taking those gorgeous pictures of Ascension Church and environs and allowing us to sell them as a fundraising project.

We will strive this coming year to vary the times and programs to appeal to a greater number of our Episcopal Church women. A hilarious white elephant exchange followed. One person recycled a gift she got three years ago!

We look forward to seeing many more of you at our meetings on the 2nd Saturdays of the month at 11:30.

—Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Belden

(The ladies of St. Mary's are pictured on page 4 with their "white elephants")

Youth Group News

During the summer the youth will meet only on the second Sunday of July and August. A Sunday morning trip to visit Fr. Moon at his new church is being planned for July.

Monday Dinner Group

We are averaging 10-12 diners per week and would like to encourage others to join us for food, fellowship and fun! Mondays 6:00 p.m. at the Monrovia Restaurant in Monrovia.

Daughters of the King

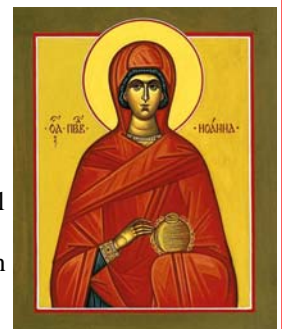
In case you haven't heard, there will be a new training session for those women interested in joining the Daughters of the King. Sunday June 12 was the informational meeting, for those of you who had questions, however if you were unable to attend, and have questions about the whole concept, you are still welcome to join us.

The classes will be conducted by Liz Delgado and Mary Manning on Sundays in the Parish House at 9:00 am – between the two services. Please feel free to ask any of us

about the training at any time.

Also, remember that the Daughters of the King is a Prayer Ministry. If you have specific needs that you would like us to raise up in prayer, please talk to one of us. You'll know us by our crosses.

—Kathy Anderson



July 2005

Upcoming Dates

- July 3—Annual Parish 4th of July Party 5:00 pm at Mooradians.
- July 4—Office Closed for Independence Day
- July 15—Spire Deadline for August issue
- July 19—Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm in Library
- August 3—Red cross Blood Drive 1-7 pm at Gooden School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Noon Mass	2 9:00 am Altar Guild
3 8:00 Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass 5 pm Parish Party	4 Office Closed	5	6 Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass	7 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	8 Noon Mass	9 9:00 am Altar Guild
10 8:00 Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass	11	12	13 10:30 Staff Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass	14 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	15 Noon Mass Spire Deadline	16 9:00 am Altar Guild
17 8:00 Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass	18	19 6:30 pm Vestry	20 Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass	21 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	22 Noon Mass	23 9:00 am Altar Guild
24 8:00 Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass	25	26	27 Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass	28 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	29 Noon Mass	30 9:00 am Altar Guild
31 8:00 Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass						

Notes from the Loft

You've probably noticed that for the past year or so the Harris organ occasionally has sported a mighty tremolo. This probably led you to think that the organist was blatantly demonstrating her theatre organ skills (NOT) or simply losing her Anglican discretion by importing a more charismatic technique (NOT). In truth, the tremolo occurred at will, with no consistency whatsoever and at the most inopportune moments – the choir and I were beginning to think the organ chest was housing a poltergeist! If you'd been in the loft with us, you would have raised your eyebrows and chuckled along with us each time the massive vibrato invaded our worship space.

The organ technician's initial diagnosis was that the instrument itself was built incorrectly and that nothing he could do would cure the problem (of course, just as your car won't act up when you take it in for servicing, so the

organ wouldn't replicate the tremolo when the technician was in house). Consultations with organist colleagues yielded various interpretations, the most frequent being that the wind chest was incapable of producing enough wind to sustain the tone, particularly in larger sound combinations. Recently the technician returned with his associate for a more in-depth analysis of the situation. This time the problem was replicated, enabling the technician to determine that the culprit was a metal rod used to stabilize the wind chest – it simply was warped – something to be expected from a 70's-something instrument, he said. Since Harris no longer builds organs, and since we were lobbying for a rather immediate restoration, the technician just went to the hardware store, purchased a new metal rod, and installed it. Presto, thanks to Home Depot or the like, the mighty tremolo has become a sensitive tremu-

lant appearing only when bidden! Mystery solved.

If you, like me, found the tremolo distracting, rest assured that our worship no longer should be assaulted by this annoyance, allowing us to experience the instrument as it was meant to be heard.

*From organ loft and Gothic arch the
mellow diapasons swell,
Inspiring lives whose noblest thoughts
are filled with harmony divine.
With rumbling waves, the deeper tones
like thunder rolling to the earth,
Re-echo from the vaulted roof until the
trembling walls resound;
While borne up on the flowing surge
celestial voices blend in song.
William Horatio Clarke*

—Debora Huffman
Organist/Choirmaster

New of Ascensionites

Congratulations to Mark & Connie Keith and big sister Coral on the birth of **Faith Sierra Keith** born on June 13, 2005. Proud grandparents are Roger & Debbie Keith.

The **Greg Smith family** has relocated to Oregon. Please call the church office if you would like their new address.

St. Mary's Guild pictured with their "White Elephants" from left to right top row: Ethel West, Diane Rhodus, Anne Poland, Cynthia Belden, Beth Smith, Jill Wagner, Dot Steeves, Nan Dougall & Ann Luke; front row: Jo Mosier, Bev Clifton, Adrienne Wilson, & Wilma Clark. Photographed by Christina Ortega.



The Episcopal Church of the Ascension



25 E. Laurel Avenue
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626-355-1133
www.ascension-sierramadre.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Arcadia, CA
Permit No. 110

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**

Church of the Ascension Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 3rd, 2005

1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

At the Gooden School ~ Edwards Building

192 N. Baldwin Avenue, Sierra Madre

Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood, and just one donation can help save three lives. Would you like to be an everyday hero? Our church, as part of our Outreach Ministry, and in conjunction with the Gooden School and the American Red Cross, will host a Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 3, from 1 pm until 7 pm as part of our Outreach Ministry. It will be held in the Gooden School multi-purpose room.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age and weigh one hundred pounds. Southern California is experiencing a blood shortage and your donation can help the community as well as many others in the area. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall or you can make your appointment by visiting the Sierra Madre Community Blood Drive website at www.givelife.org and enter sponsor code SMCMSR. Please Sign up thank you!



**American
Red Cross**

Give Blood, Give Life.