

St. Mary's Year - End Luncheon

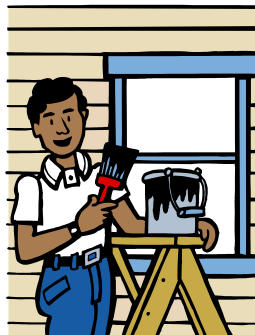
Ladies, mark your calendars for St. Mary's Guild Year-End Potluck Luncheon. We will be meeting at the home of Jill Wagner on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 11:30 am. Come for an afternoon of fellowship and fun! And, don't forget your silly "white elephant" gift!

For Jill's address and/or directions, call Lisa Reed at 626.357.3908.



PARISH WORK DAY

There will be a Parish Work Day on Saturday June 6th. This work party will concentrate on scraping and painting the windows in the Parish House and the west side yard. There is a lot for all to do and no experience required. We usually start between 8 and 8:30 and end before noon. So come one, come all and we will have a great day of fellowship and save a window or two while we are at it.



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
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PRESENCE**

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension



25 E. Laurel Avenue
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
626-355-1133

www.ascension-sierramadre.com

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FORMATION

Think back! What are your first memories of God, of Jesus? How did you begin to learn about the Bible? Was "Jesus Loves Me" an early memory for you? For me, my mother and the Sunday School at St. Thomas of Canterbury in Long Beach, California, kept me grounded and secure as I wound my way through those initial exposures to the beauty and strength of God and my church. My mom and church were there for my brother and me as we started our path as toddlers, moving up and through the Sunday senior high school program.

Church of the Ascension is blessed and prepared to offer that same strength of experience to our families. We have an amazing group of teachers who work with our children offering them age appropriate lessons and guidance designed to help them explore their relationship as a beloved child of God. May 31st is the last day of our church school program for this year. We will be honoring our gifted teachers as well as those students who are graduating to the next program.

Please join us in offering our thanks for their commitment and the joy they offer our children and families and, therefore, the community of Church of the Ascension. Whether you are with us on May 31st or see them at future church gatherings, please honor our teachers by acknowledging their job well done.

Maggie Byrne Outhouse,

Formation Ministry

OUR GIFTED TEACHERS:

Paul Anderson	Catechesis I
Cameron Cox	Catechesis II
Laura Wilcox	Junior Youth Group
Mary Baffes & Scott Callahan	Senior Youth Group



Worship

Sundays

8:00 Mass
8:55 Coffee Hour
9:10 Education
10:15 Mass
11:30 Coffee Hour

Wednesdays

6:00pm Mass
7:30pm Choir practice

Thursdays

7am Mass

Fridays

12:00 Mass

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays, 6-7pm

Yoga

June 6 Work party 8:30-12:00

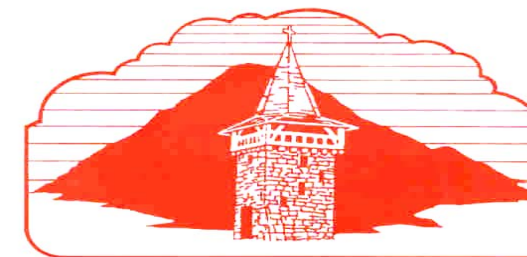
June 7 Trinity Sunday

July 5 Mass on the Grass

Did you know...

◇ Sponsoring the Sanctuary candle is easy and inexpensive. Write your name and reason for sponsorship (i.e. in memory of or in thanksgiving for) next to your date on the schedule by the Parish Office door. Then, write a check for \$12 made out to Church of the Ascension with "candle" and your sponsorship date on the memo line. Your name and the reason for sponsorship will appear in the Sunday bulletins of the date you selected.

◇ Sponsoring altar flowers is just as simple. Follow all of the directions above, only sign up on the flower schedule and make your check out to St. Anne's Altar Guild in the amount of \$35.



The **SPIRE**

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

June, 2009

FROM THE RECTOR



One of the most important functions of the Church is prayer. At our baptism and every time we renew our baptismal covenant, we promise to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers."

We pray as a congregation when we gather together, we may pray in our homes with our families, and we may pray when we are alone as individuals.

Sometimes prayer is being silent and listening for God. This form of prayer is often called meditation or centering prayer. Other times prayer is entered into through an activity – singing, praying the Rosary, or liturgical dance. And sometimes prayer is entered into by saying words either silently or aloud. These words can offer praise, thanksgiving, contrition, petitions and intercessions, or whatever is on our hearts.

Many people find it helpful to have a starting point for prayer, and I often encourage people to keep a "prayer list." Some people have a list that they personally generate about things they want to share with God, and some people use a prayer list that is generated by the church. An example of a prayer that our parish generates each month is on a form called The Fellowship of Prayer. The last Sunday of each month we invite people to fill out a prayer request form and return it to the office by the following Tuesday. By the next Sunday, the collected requests are printed out and placed in the back of the Church and in the brochure rack of the Parish Hall. Still another way that people can request prayer is to add a name to the weekly Prayers of the People which can be found in a folder at the back of the church prior to services on Sunday mornings. Folks can also simply ask one of the clergy to pray for

them or call the office and ask for something to be added to the Prayers.

Starting this month still another way to ask for prayers is to email a request to this new address:

ascensionprays@gmail.com. This address is checked daily, and prayer requests are then immediately sent out to people who have offered to pray whenever and wherever there is a need. (The Daughters of the King Chapter here at Ascension, a group of women who are committed to the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism, have offered to participate in this chain of prayer any time prayer is needed)

If you would be willing to join in this ministry of praying for the needs of others, please speak to one of the Clergy or to Diane Rhodus. And always be aware that all of our clergy are available to you if you would like to talk about any facet of your prayer life.

Yours in Christ,

MAB +

SAVE THE DATE

July 5th, 2009

Ascension will celebrate our national holiday on July 5th this year. Activities will include mass at our outdoor baptismal font followed by a picnic on the upper field. This celebration is an opportunity to introduce Ascension to members of the community, so plan to bring a friend for worship and fellowship!



SENIOR WARDEN'S BLOG –

Gautam Naik, in an article entitled “Science, Spirituality, and Some Mismatched Socks,” (*Wall Street Journal* 5/5/09) writes, “One of quantum physics’ crazier notions is that two particles seem to communicate with each other instantly, even when they’re billions of miles apart. Albert Einstein, arguing that nothing travels faster than the speed of light, dismissed this as ‘spooky action at a distance.’” He further asserted that “hidden variables” (i.e., a constant) were the reason that photons could seemingly be in all states at once, reasoning that God “does not play dice with the universe.”

Quantum physics deals with very small particles – atoms, photons, and the like – none of which, apparently, act in what we think of as a “normal” manner. Indeed, the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle states that in quantum physics certain pairs of physical properties, like position and momentum, cannot both be known precisely: the more precisely one property is known, the less precisely can one know the other – just the process of measuring causes imbalance. Thus, the Danish physicist Nils Bohr, a proponent of the uncertainty principle, responded to Einstein’s assertion that a constant was required to explain the “spooky action” by suggesting that Einstein should “Quit telling God what to do.”

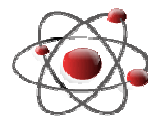
Proving the uncertainty principle, as you might expect, is difficult. How do you prove that when a particle meets its anti-particle, they destroy each other; but when they are not observed (e.g., measured) they don’t? As unlikely as it might seem, recent research in Switzerland has found entangled photons miles apart “balancing” (as one sped up, the other slowed commensurately down) without any difference in time – in other words, faster than the speed of light. Research in Japan and Canada has apparently confirmed (by “peeking” rather than observing)

that when particles were not observed, they behaved differently. As bizarre as this behavior might seem, it does have practical application in the encryption of sensitive data. It also provides material for the study of paranormal activity and spirituality. In other words, the action of the Spirit may be grounded in the science of quantum physics as well as in faith.

Of course, we at Ascension, while not necessarily physicists, know that many things occur that can not immediately be explained by the senses or by logic. God works in mysterious ways, ways that we cannot always describe with certainty, but that we can see from the results. One of those observable results is the action in response to our prayers; another is what happens when we reach out to others. We also know that there is a universal constant that links us to others: love. As Father Michael reminds us week after week, God is love and love is God. Our task is to express that love in our lives, bring the message of Jesus to others, and watch the “spooky action” result.

Bringing the message of Jesus to others is not always easy, especially for Episcopalians! We at Ascension are indeed fortunate, through our various groups and activities, to have multiple opportunities to express our love for God and for our neighbors, and to serve each. Many of you have already taken advantage of one or more of these opportunities: small group, lay readers (and weeders!), lay Eucharistic ministers, choir, altar guild, St. Mary’s and more. The Wardens thank you for your participation and support and for your ministry. If, however, you are not yet connected with one or more of these ministries, we urge you to do so. Don’t be bound by uncertainty; talk with our Ministry Connector, Diane Rhodus. She will gladly link you to others rejoicing in the Spirit.

Yours in Christ, Ted



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Trinity Sunday will be celebrated on June 7, when the choir will be singing Tchaikovsky’s “Hymn to the Trinity” and K. Lee Scott’s “Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me.” This date also marks this year’s final Sunday of the choir’s participation in the morning service; their summer hiatus begins on June 14. Please join me in expressing our gratitude to our choristers for the tremendous job they’ve done throughout the year - well done, singers!

As I usually mention at the beginning of the summer season, I’m sure you’ll enjoy the choristers sitting with you in the nave – follow their leadership and sing enthusiastically so that your voices reach the upper realms of the loft (that way I won’t feel too lonely . . .). Seriously, summertime is a wonderful opportunity for our singers to offer solos, duets, and the like – so they’re not completely on vacation; neither am I completely isolated!

Also, please remember the Association of Anglican Musicians Los Angeles Conference from June 28 through July 3. Information regarding the conference may be found at <http://aam09.org/home.html>. A hard copy is also posted on the church bulletin board. I’m sure the conference is still in need of volunteers – if you’re interested, please let me know and I’ll put you in touch with the volunteer coordinator. It should be an incredibly exciting week, so I hope that some of you will be able to participate – either as registrant or as volunteer.

With blessings of the Spirit ~

Debora Huffman

Director of Music and Organist



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Order of the Daughters of the King is organized as a religious order. Each Daughter takes a lifetime vow to live by the Rule of the Order. Our Rule of Life requires a spiritual discipline of daily prayer, service, and Evangelism. Because of our vow, we refer to ourselves as an order, not an organization. Our mission is the extension of Christ’s Kingdom through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God’s love throughout the world.

Our Order here at Ascension is the Sisters of Joanna Chapter. We meet once a month. If you have any questions, please speak with Kathy Anderson, Amy McLaughlin, Keiko Sakatani, Linda Smith, or Diane Rhodus.

GALA FUNDRAISER

At 7:00 p.m. on June 27th, friends of Kristi Mooradian-Barrett from the furniture industry are having a fundraiser gala party in Los Angeles. If you are interested in taking part, contact the church office or Sam and Karen Mooradian.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to Dan and Nicole Hanson on the birth of their son. Reid Cameron was born on May 22, 2009. Mother and baby are doing well.

On Sunday, May 31st, Violet Anne Beach and Sidney Star Havinga were baptized.