



The SPIRE

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

September 2006

Our Core Ministries

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

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 1

Following the 10:15
mass

Please bring pets on a
leash or in an appropriate
container.

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✝ From the Rector

It always amazes me how each fall Ascension starts anew and is renewed. I was reminded recently that a family, whom we have all grown fond of and who have become integral to our work together, visited Ascension for the first time at our Ministry Fair last year. After seeing the opportunities available here for their whole family, they entered fully into our life together.

While we're all thrilled to highlight on-going ministries and to see new opportunities for ministry each year, it is the new faces that are the mark of how we are living out our vision. You've heard it and seen it again and again— *Our Vision is that we serve Christ today, for those who will come to know and serve Christ tomorrow.* You see, our vision is really not as much about how we

serve ourselves, but how we open the doors for others to life in the Body of Christ.

Our Ministry Fair is once again being held outdoors where everyone can see us so that folks know our doors and our ministries are open for them. And while we're talking about new faces, we have a couple of babies due this year. Truly, I believe it will be our children who will be the ones to "know and serve Christ tomorrow." We are very blessed by all the opportunities for ministry here at the Church of the Ascension. We are even more blessed by the new people— tiny and grown, whom God is sending us. I invite you to help keep our doors wide open for them.

—Canon Michael Bamberger

MINISTRIES: YOURS, MINE AND OURS

COME BE A PART OF OUR PARISH MINISTRY FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 10TH
FESTIVITIES BEGIN DIRECTLY AFTER BOTH SERVICES

While you eat delicious food and have an opportunity to visit with each other, you can

- Learn about our various Ministries and discuss how you can participate
- Have your picture taken for the new parish directory
- Update our new parish registry form – birthdays, e-mail addresses, cell numbers
- Take the Spiritual Gifts Survey
- Make an appointment with our Ministries Coordinator to discuss what your particular ministry is.

This is the perfect Sunday to invite friends to see the many ministries we have at Ascension. And don't forget, September 10th is the perfect time for you to get involved yourself!

Small Groups Kick-Off

A Study of Psalms – Starting September 3, Sundays from 9 – 10 am in the Parish House. Leader: Jean Rowe

A Study of Joseph – Meets Sundays from 9 – 10 am in the church library starting September 17.

A Study of the Gospel of John – Meets Sundays from 9 – 10 am in the Parish House beginning August 27. Leader: Halcyon Koerber

A Study of the current Sunday's lessons – Will begin October 1 at the Gooden School. Leader: Fr. John Larson

A Study of the writings of C.S. Lewis, G. K. Chesterton, and Dorothy Sayers – Meets Sundays from 9 – 10 am in the Rector's office starting September 17. Leader: Hal Barber

A Study of Numbers – Continues to meet on Tuesdays from 7:30 – 9:00 pm at the home of Glenn and Michelle Rohrer. Leader: Michelle Rohrer

The Rector's Forum – Currently reading *A Generous Orthodoxy*. Meets Thursdays from 9 – 10 am in the rector's office. Leader: Fr. Michael Bamberger

Please contact Halcyon Koerber or any small group leader for more information.

Christian Education

This year we are very excited about new and on-going programs for our young people.

There will be a few changes we hope will add to their enjoyment and education.

Catechesis I 3-6 year olds

Led by Paul Anderson & Norm Boxley

Assisted by various parents

Catechesis II 6-10 year olds, including 5th grd

Led by Cameron Cox

Assisted by various parents

Rite 13 6th-8th grade

Led by Allison Rainey

Advised by Mother Beal

Youth Group 9th-12th grade

Led by Diane Rhodus

Assisted by Robert Park

Be sure to check these tables at our Ministry Fair on Sept. 10th for further details and how you can be part of these programs. There are regular and occasional openings for your talents and gifts. Please call or see Diane Rhodus if you have an interest.

Lewis/Chesterton/Sayers

For this fall's meetings, The Rector's Office Discussion Group (RODG) will consider in detail some of the shorter works of G.K. Chesterton, C.S. Lewis, and Dorothy Sayers.

C.S. Lewis is described as the most articulate proponent of Christianity in modern times. He in turn was influenced by other writers. In his autobiography, Lewis says, "Chesterton had more sense than all thither moderns together." About Dorothy Sayers, he said, "She could sing and her voice in a conversation would be like a high wind, no doubt due to her keen mind and extraordinary zest."

During our visit to these three, we will discover other authors we would like to add to our discussions. All are invited to share in our adventure.

—Hal Barber

September 2006

Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Noon Mass</i>	2 <i>7:30 LEM Training 9:00 am Altar Guild Work Team</i>
3 <i>8:00 am Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 am Mass</i>	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5	6 <i>10:30 Staff Mtg Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass</i>	7 <i>7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum</i>	8 <i>Noon Mass</i>	9 <i>8:00 Breakfast 9:00 Altar Guild 11:30 St. Mary's</i>
10 <i>8:00 am Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 am Mass</i>	11	12	13 <i>Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass 7:30 pm Choir</i>	14 <i>7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum</i>	15 <i>Noon Mass Spire Deadline</i>	16 <i>9:00 am Altar Guild Work Team</i>
17 <i>8:00 am Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 am Mass</i>	18	19 <i>6:30 pm Vestry Mtg</i>	20 <i>10:30 Staff Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass 7:30 pm Choir</i>	21 <i>7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum</i>	22 <i>Noon Mass</i>	23 <i>9:00 am Altar Guild Work Team</i>
24 <i>8:00 am Mass 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 am Mass</i>	25	26	27 <i>Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass 7:30 pm Choir</i>	28 <i>7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum</i>	29 <i>Noon Mass</i>	30 <i>9:00 am Altar Guild Work Team</i>

- September 2—LEM Training
- September 4—Labor Day, Office Closed
- September 9—Men's Breakfast at 8:00 am in the Parish Hall
- September 9—St. Mary's Guild potluck at 11:30 am in the Parish Hall
- September 10—Ministry Fair following both services
- September 16 & 17—Relay for Life
- September 17—Fall Kick-off for Formation Classes
- October 1—Blessing of the Animals

Notes from the Loft

Many thanks to each musician who enhanced our worship this summer: The Rev. Jennifer Beal, Susan Beach, Liz Delgado, Sean Dougall, Michelle Hopkins, Monica Huffman, and Lavette Teague!

CALLING ALL SINGERS!! Your Parish Choir is in need of a few fine voices to augment our faithful band – all voice types are welcome. The benefits of a few hours of weekly rehearsal and participation in Sunday worship are several: the joy of making wonderful music with a great group of people, personal vocal and score-reading development, and

spiritual enrichment through intimate interaction with sacred text wedded to music – plus the deep intrinsic reward that comes from offering your talents to your Lord and His people.

If you feel led to participate in Ascension's music ministry, I'd be delighted to speak with you. Fall rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 6, and the choir will return to our services on Sunday, September 10.

—Debora Huffman
Director of Music and Organist

Attention Ladies

The Daughters of the King is a Lay Order committed to Prayer and Service to Him. Membership in this group can help to deepen your commitment to Christ and provide nourishment for your soul in community with the other Daughters. We would love to talk with you at the Ministry Fair about our prayer ministry.

There will be a Fall training opportunity for those interested in joining the Sisters of Joanna Chapter of Daughters of the King. Please come to the table to sign up during the Ministry Fair September 10th.

—Kathy Anderson

Mission Collection Location Change

It's become increasingly difficult for Colonel and Mrs. Barber to move our clothing and food donations from the Parish Hall to their home for distribution to the mission.

If at all possible, please take your donations directly to the Barber's home in Arcadia at 1667 Oakwood, located on the southwest corner of Sierra Madre Blvd. and Oakwood, a block east of Santa Anita Dr. To leave items, go through the gates at the entrance to the breezeway on Sierra Madre Blvd. (see the photo➔) Place donations in the breezeway. Please leave food donations near the back door. Thanks for your help.



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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Notes from the Sr. Warden

In most countries, January 1 is the first day of the New Year. In the Episcopal church, Advent starts our liturgical year. But the unofficial start of the year is the beginning of September. Our kids are back at school, vacation time is over, and fall sports season has begun.

Ascension's September "New Year" traditionally begins with the Parish Ministry Fair – the beginning date this year is September 10. The very next Sunday, September 17th, our Catechesis program starts up for our little ones, the youth group begins to meet, our choir has returned, our clergy are back in town, and most of our adult small groups are beginning new programs.

This year we are adding one more item to our list of September new beginnings: the start of our Stewardship campaign.

You all know the three t's of

Stewardship: Time, Talent and Treasure. Today I'm not going to talk with you about treasure – fear not, you know that will be coming. What I do want to discuss is the second part of our pledge form: our pledge of time and talent.

During Stewardship season, we frequently ask you to pray and carefully think about how much money you will be giving to the church. This year I would ask you to give the same amount of consideration to what you are going to do about the other two t's. I ask you to do this because giving of your time and talent means you have to get involved. As you meet this pledge, you have to interact with others. And it is through our interactions that the Ascension community is built.

Coming to our Parish Ministry Fair is a good way to see the various ways you can offer your time and talent. All of our ministry groups will be represented, and someone who is ac-

tively involved in each of the groups will be available to talk with you about what they do and why participating in this ministry is a good way to share your time and talent.

Maybe you already know how you will be using your time and talent this year. We are grateful for that pledge. For those of you who are still trying to decide, you can take our spiritual gifts survey and discover how your talents fit into the ministries of our church.

Time is a very valuable commodity in our busy world. It is a wonderful gift that you can give. Do carefully consider your pledge of time and talent. It can make a difference in the life of Ascension and in your own life.

—Jean Rowe