



# The SPIRE

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

September 2005

## Our Core Ministries

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

## Fall Program Kick-off

All classes and programs begin or resume on Sunday, September 18. Look inside for the different opportunities.

Relay for Life	2
NAMI Walk	2
From the Loft	2
Calendar	3
Adult Education	3
Small Groups	3
Catechesis	3
Youth Happenings	4
News of Ascensionites	4

## ✝ From the Rector

This coming January (the last weekend – Jan. 27 – 29), about 75 of our parishioners will have an opportunity for a first! We have scheduled our first-in-recent memory All Parish Retreat. The setting will be at Camp Stevens in beautiful Julian. Our time together will focus on Worship, Formation and Fellowship, with an emphasis on fun and wonder in the beauty of God’s creation. Our overnight space will be in the Bishop’s Lodge and in the Blum Lodge – which means that we have several rooms which accommodate six people in comfortable bunk beds. To get a picture of the rooms, as well as the other facilities at Camp, visit on the web <http://www.campstevens.org/>. The food is healthy and plentiful. We will have activities for the physically adventurous and for those who prefer to sit back

and be “contemplative.” In all, there will be opportunities for fun and growth for all ages and interests. Reservations (with a \$50 deposit) are now being taken – please see me or Diane Rhodus for more information. The price is \$100 for adults, \$75 for teens and kids over 6, and 5 and under are free and we have limited scholarship funds available. —Fr. Michael



Closing Communion at Camp Stevens. Pictured from left to right: Barrett Van Buren, Michael a Japanese Teacher, Canon Bamberger, Deacon Melissa McCarthy, and Masahiro a Japanese Teacher.

## September Ministry Fair

On Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating in the Parish Hall the variety of ministries and opportunities here at Ascension. In our second annual Ministry Fair, each of the core areas of our ministry – Worship, Formation, Fellowship, Pastoral Care, Outreach, and Presence will have displays and people

available to answer questions. In addition, we will experience a return of the popular Ice Cream Sundae bar. Plan to come and enjoy, learn, and get involved!

## Sierra Madre Relay for Life

Attention all Ascension & Gooden School Families...we need your support! Debbie Bamberger and Susan & Beverly Clifton are forming a team for this year's Sierra Madre Relay for Life. Relay is a 24-hour walking event sponsored by the American Cancer Society to fight cancer and will take place at Memorial Park on September 17th and 18th. We are asking for individuals to sign-up to walk for a one-hour shift and to ask family and friends for donations (last year the event raised over \$100,000.

The day includes an opening ceremony at 9:00 am to honor cancer survivors, entertainment, food and a special luminaria cere-

mony at 9:00 pm. To remember those who have lost the fight (our very own Father Bamberger will be speaking during this ceremony). Please join us for this opportunity for fellowship and to help toward the ongoing goal of finding a cure for cancer. Contact Susan or Debbie to sign-up as well as watch for additional information posted at both Ascension and Gooden School. Thank you.

—Susan Clifton

## Energy and Security Issues

It is not unusual for the staff to arrive in the morning and find kitchen appliances, indoor and outdoor lights, heaters, and air conditioning units left on or doors unlocked from a meeting or event the previous night. Please remember that if you turned it on or unlocked it you are responsible to turn it off and lock it when you leave.

This will help with our energy bills and keep our facility more secure and safe. Thank you.

## National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)

On Saturday, October 1, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) will be hosting its second annual Walkathon in Los Angeles County.

MAMI is a non-profit organization dedicated to the eradication of mental illness and to the improvement of the quality of life of all whose lives are affected by these

diseases. It is estimated that one in five American families are living with mental illness. The goal of the Walkathon is to raise both money and awareness of the need for America to build a world-class treatment and recovery system for people with mental illness.

We are forming a team from Ascension to take part. The

Walk will be held at Santa Fe Recreation Area and begins at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome to join the team or contribute. See Barbara or Fr. Larson for more detail, or to sign up.

—Fr. Larson

## Notes from the Loft

Thanks to those who have enriched our summer worship through their solo and ensemble work: Susan Beach, Kent Burke, Monica Huffman, Christina Ortega, Colette Ostrye, Mark Riebs, and Lavette Teague. The choral hiatus provides the opportunity for a well-deserved rest for the members of

the Parish Choir as well as a different form of musical expression to our services.

The Parish Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 7, 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, and will return to Sunday services on September 11. We welcome new members, so if

you've been thinking about joining the choir (particularly if you're a \*tenor\* or \*soprano\*), come and give it a try!

—Debora Huffman  
Organist/Choirmaster

# September 2005

## Dates to Remember

- September 5—Labor Day, Office Closed
- September 11—Ministry Fair during coffee hour
- September 15—Spire Deadline for October issue
- September 17 & 18—Relay for Life
- September 18—Fall Kick off, all programs and classes resume
- September 20—Vestry Meeting at 6:30 pm
- September 26-October 7—Karen will be on vacation
- October 1—NAMI Walk
- October 2—Blessing of the Animals

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7:00 am Mass	<b>2</b> Noon Mass	<b>3</b> 9:00 Altar Guild 11:00 Wedding
<b>4</b> 8:00 Mass 8:45 Breakfast 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass	<b>5</b> Labor Day Office Closed	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass 7:30 pm Choir	<b>8</b> 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	<b>9</b> Noon Mass	<b>10</b> 9:00 Altar Guild
<b>11</b> 8:00 Mass 8:45 Breakfast 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass Ministry Fair	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass 7:30 pm Choir	<b>15</b> 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum Spire Deadline	<b>16</b> Noon Mass	<b>17</b> 9:00 Altar Guild
<b>18</b> 8:00 Mass 8:45 Breakfast 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass Fall Kick Off	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Vestry	<b>21</b> 10:30 Staff Mtg Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass 7:30 pm Choir	<b>22</b> 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	<b>23</b> Noon Mass	<b>24</b> 9:00 Altar Guild
<b>25</b> 8:00 Mass 8:45 Breakfast 9:00 Educ Hour 10:15 Mass	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Noon Mass 6:00 pm Mass 7:30 pm Choir	<b>29</b> 7:00 am Mass 9:00 am Forum	<b>30</b> Noon Mass	

## Adult Education

Join us for a new Adult Education class based on the book Spiritual Classics edited by Richard Foster and Emilie Griffen. The goal will be to broaden our horizons a bit and study some Christian writers who were not included in Glorious Companions. We will meet writers such as: George Mac Donald, Thomas A. Kempis, Karl Rahner, Marguerite Porette, Thomas Kelly and half a dozen others. The book will be a vehicle for learning about the visions of these writers as they lived their lives in different eras, how time, culture, and geography, affected them and how they contributed to various Christian disciplines.

I was able to find some second hand editions of the book which will be available to borrow or buy. We will start the discussions on Sunday, September 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the Rectors office. Hope to see you there.

—Hal Barber

## Small Groups

“The purpose of small groups is to foster Christian formation and spiritual fellowship through community, bible study, prayer, and mission.”

The several small groups here at Ascension strive to do just that. Please visit our table at the September 11 Ministry Fair to discover how a small group can help you form friendships

—Halcyon Koerber

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children ages 3-6 will resume in Atrium1 on Sunday, September 18. If you have any questions or would like information about Catechesis, please call Elizabeth Wilson or Cameron Cox. Look forward to seeing you all soon.

—Your Faithful Catechists

## News of Ascensionites

Congratulations to Roger and Scarlett Lowe on the birth of their first grandchild, **Daniel Robert Lowe**, born August 15. Proud parents are Tom and Melanie Lowe.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Dougall family upon the death of Nan's father, **Bill Clark**, on August 8. Services were held at Ascension August 19.

**Helena Macintosh** and **Elliot Macintosh** were baptized on Sunday, August 21. Their parents are Gus & Mandy Macintosh.

Congratulations to **Laura Diegess** and **Corbet Wilcox** who were married at Ascension on August 27.



*Pictured from left to right are Christopher Reed with a friend he met at Camp Stevens.*



*The Episcopal Church of the Ascension*

25 E. Laurel Avenue  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
626-355-1133  
[www.ascension-sierrramadre.com](http://www.ascension-sierrramadre.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**

## Youth Happenings -\*Queen's Award Bestowed upon....

**The Youth Group!** (which has had an eventful summer). It commenced with our fab beach party at Bolsa Chica Beach on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Our entertainment started with watching the people next to us attempt, for half an hour, to put up a canopy, and then abandon the effort. We spent the day tanning, boogie-boarding, and eating s'mores and hot dogs cooked over our very own bonfire, while watching the people near us burn newspaper, which blew all over the beach.

We also went to visit Fr. Moon at his new church in Lake Arrowhead. After a car-sick-inducing ride and a nice service, we went to eat lunch at that world-renowned eating palace, McDonald's, due to a 1-hour wait at our first-choice restaurant. After many a Big Mac, air conditioning, and the biggest dead fish ever (in the lake), we returned down the hill, prompting comments such as, "*he can visit us next time*". All in all, a spectacular visit to Lake Arrowhead.

A pool party at the Beach's home in Monrovia rounded out our fantastic summer. After two rounds of Twister, we feasted on the best homemade guacamole and chips ever (Tostitos with a hint of lime) brought by our new curate, Barrett van Buren. In deference to Diane's dislike of the words "Marco Polo" being shouted over and over again, we played "Holy Bible", which eventually turned into "Marco Holy!" "Bible Polo!". A "biggest splash" contest and a water war rounded out the aquatic activities and Mrs. Beach cooked

delectable hamburgers and hot dogs. Everyone went home happy, with a prize from "Diane's Big Grab Bag of Prizes", which included items such as Garfield sunglasses, note cards, and a lovely yellow paper clip. Overall, a magnificent 3 months of activities for Ascension's stupendous youth group!

And now for a back-to-school quiz just to make sure y'all are up to snuff!

The winner receives a free Snickers bar (or a Twix bar, in case you are allergic to peanuts)! Call Diane to tell her your answers. If they are all correct, and you are first to call, you win the utterly delicious Snickers/Twix bar!

- English: what does a gerund usually end with?
- Math: A bag contains 4 red hammers, 10 blue hammers, and 6 yellow hammers. If three hammers are removed at random and no hammer is returned to the bag after removal, what is the probability that all three hammers will be blue?
- Science: Trees whose leaves change color in the fall are called what?
- History: Who was Danton?
- French: What is the correct conjugation of the verb "to be" in the 1<sup>st</sup>-person plural?

\*not really

—Katie Koerber