



# The SPIRE

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



## April 2019

### Upcoming Events

- April 3rd – 6:30pm/Lenten Study
- April 5th – 6:30pm/Lenten Devotional
- April 10th– 6:30pm/Lenten Study
- April 13th –
  - ◇ Church Work Party/Palms
  - ◇ Gooden School Country Fair
- April 14th – Palm Sunday
  - ◇ 9am/Acolyte Training
- April 16th – 7:00pm/Hawks Hall Vestry Meeting
- April 18th – 3pm/Hawks Hall Youth Group Egg Dying-Stuffing Party Grades 5 & Up
- April 28th – 12:30pm/Memorial Service for James Burgeson

### From the Rector

Too many stories begin with the introduction “there’s good news and there’s bad news.” This isn’t one of them – there’s just good news. We are making slow but steady progress on our roofing project, and in the meantime, the “patch” has held through this incredibly wet winter.

Thanks to Ted Bosley and Raymond Smith, we are narrowing down the possible roof materials we can select for our historic building. (The material selected is particularly important because the City of Sierra Madre will have to sign off on our project.) It is clear that the original building was roofed with cedar shingles, but due to fire hazard laws, cedar shingles are no longer an option. Instead we must find a product that will be appropriate for our beautiful sanctuary.

We are striving for three elements – first, the product must be appropriate for the architecture of Ascension. Second, the product must be durable – perhaps a “fifty” year roof. And third, the product must be affordable. Once we have identified the product, we will be seeking qualified contractors who work with the product and will be seeking bids. When we have a clear idea of the actual cost, the fundraising will begin in earnest.

I am grateful for the interest shown in this important work. A number of you have already made a pledge, so we are off to a good start. I am confident that at the end of the project we will have a beautiful (and paid for) new roof.

Blessings, MAB+

### “The best potluck of the year is here!”

Sign up to bring your favorite breakfast/brunch dish for one of the Easter Potlucks. Sign-up in Hawks Hall or online via Sign-Up Genius (watch for the link in your email).”



### March Pledge Payment Snapshot



2019 Budget: \$220,881

YTD Budget: \$55,220.25

YTD Actual: \$54,779.00

Difference: \$-441.25

### Holy Week, Easter Services

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>April 14th</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>April 18th</b>
Mass (Rite I)	8:00 AM	Mass	7:00 AM
Mass (Rite II)	10:15 AM	Foot Washing and Mass	7:00 PM
		Watch at Altar of Repose	9:00 PM-11:30 PM
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>April 15th</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 19th</b>
Mass	7:00 PM	Watch at Altar of Repose	8:00 AM -11:00 AM
		Stations of the Cross	Noon
<b>Tuesday,</b>	<b>April 16th</b>	Good Friday Liturgy	7:00 PM
Mass	7:00 PM	<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>April 21st</b>
<b>Tenebrae</b>	<b>April 17th</b>	The Great Vigil and	
Mass	7:00 PM	1st Eucharist of Easter	6:00 AM
		1st Easter Brunch and	8:00 AM
		Egg Hunt	10:15 AM
		Festival High Mass	
		2nd Easter Brunch and	11:30 AM
		Egg Hunt	

## Our Communal Pace of Life

As a community we begin our Sunday morning with:

*Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

And conclude with:

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.*

Between these bookends of worship we establish a communal pace of devotion that is set by our:

- Priest as he reads the collect
- Lay readers as they recite the lessons
- Deacon as he reads the prayers
- Acolytes as they serve at the Altar and attend the candles
- Organist and choir as they lead us in song

Behind the scenes the Altar Guild carefully attends to the vestments and altar cloth, ushers ensure all are welcomed, offerings are gathered and the elements delivered to the front of the church. Finally, the congregation supports and responds to these ministries in the forms we have followed over the centuries. Our Sunday worship is not simply a series of scripted acts but rather a collective devotional performed by our community in acknowledgement of a God who first loved us.

In a real sense, our worship sets a pace for living as Christians. This pace is expressed beyond Sunday morning when we remember God before eating or when we extend a simple act of kindness with no expectation of reward or recognition. With this in mind we would invite the congregation to learn more about those lay ministries that help to set our pace of worship so that we might better serve our church family and our larger community while deepening our own spiritual lives.

In the weeks to come we will learn more about each of the lay ministries that help set the pace of our worship and invite you to join in where you feel called. Form many of us this will be an apprenticeship as we learn to Acolyte, read, usher or attend the Altar. All are welcome to join in and learn the practices that set the pace of our worship and faith.

**Submitted by Gordon Tomaske, Senior Warden**

### The Watch at the Altar of Repose & Easter Flowers

On Maundy Thursday (April 18) we observe the tradition of praying/keeping watch with our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. In order to achieve a garden-like setting, we are asking parishioners to bring flowers to church to decorate the space for the garden. Flowers may be brought on Thursday throughout the day or brought in when attending the Maundy Thursday night service at 7pm. There will be containers available to deposit your flowers in. For the past several years we have decorated our "garden" this way and hope this year, with your help, it will be overflowing. We, of course, are also looking forward to decorating our sanctuary for Easter with the help of your monetary donations.



Thank you in advance for enhancing our "garden" with flowers from **your** Garden,

**St. Anne's Altar Guild**

### EASTER MUSIC



Please consider making a contribution to our Easter music program. Music offering envelopes will soon be available at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

***Thank You for your support.***

## Lenten Outreach Continues



Our Lenten Outreach project continues as we raise money for CHICKENS with Episcopal Relief & Development. Each donated chicken gift will help train families and community groups in developing countries to raise poultry and sell surplus stock and eggs in the marketplace.

*\*The Gooden School will continue to join Ascension in in this outreach effort throughout April. The school will be collecting coins during chapel services.\**



Episcopal  
Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

Look for chickens in church during Lent and please turn in your contributions by Palm Sunday 4/14.

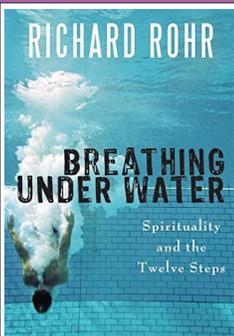
Thanks, Scott Callihan, Outreach Ministry Leader

## Devotions and Friday Lent Pot Luck (Continues through April 5)



Many thanks to all those who have participated in our Lenten worship and pot luck series this year! Each Friday, around a dozen of us have gathered for a simple evening prayer service from the Prayer Book and for a simple supper. This practice, of praying and sharing a meatless meal together, connects us to our mothers and fathers in the faith who traditionally fasted from meat on Fridays, especially during the holy season of Lent. For discussion this year, we took up Dietrich Bonhoeffer's short book *Life Together*. The fellowship has been excellent, as has the food and theological conversation. All are welcome to our last meeting on Friday, 5 April at 6:30 PM and to join in next year.

Pastor Josh



## Lenten Study on Wednesdays (Continues through April 10)

Our new Ministry Intern Tim will be leading a discussion group on Richard Rohr's *Breathing Under Water* on Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 (March 13th - April 10th.) **All are welcome!**

About this book: "In this exploration of Twelve Step spirituality, Rohr identifies the Christian principles in the Twelve Steps, connecting The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous with the gospel. He draws on talks he has given for over twenty years to people in recovery and those who counsel and live with people with addictive behavior. Rohr offers encouragement for becoming interiorly alive and inspiration for making one's life manageable for dealing with the co-dependence and dysfunction (sin) rampant in our society."

## Stations of the Cross Devotion on Tuesdays (Continues through April 16)



The devotion known as the Way of the Cross is an adaptation to local usage of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with the Lord's passion and death. Our adaptation of stations of the cross, written by our deacon, will be celebrated every Tuesday during lent at 10:00am in place of our usual morning prayer service. All are welcome to participate in this service; there is a place for all.

Submitted by Mike Beach, Verger

## Shrove Tuesday Review

**This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper raised \$316.87 for Friends in Deed.**

**Many thanks to all who supported this event!**



### NOTES FROM THE LOFT

On March 31, Lent 4, "Mid-Lent," or Rose Sunday, we celebrated with C.V. Stanford's lovely *O For A Closer Walk With God* and *Come Now and Take the Body of the Lord* by Charles Callahan.

The first Sunday of April, the 7<sup>th</sup>, a beautiful setting of *What Wondrous Love Is This* by Geoff Weaver, will be sung. During communion the choir will present *Wash Me Thoroughly* by David Halls.

On Palm Sunday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, the choir begins with the celebratory *A Palm Sunday Antiphon* by David C. Morgan. We transition rather quickly to Passion, with Craig Courtney's poignant *Behold, the Lamb of God*, coupled with a moving setting of *Were You There?* by David Ogden.

The choir returns on Maundy Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup>, singing the beloved Durufle *Ubi Caritas* along with *I Give to You A New Commandment*, which couples the *Ubi Caritas* chant with the New Commandment text. During communion the congregation is invited to join us in singing *Eat This Bread*.

On Good Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup>, the single anthem is *Faithful Cross* by Leo Nestor, sung in English and Spanish – an extremely moving musical veneration of the cross.

Easter will be celebrated with jubilation, including festival choir, trumpet, oboe, and organ. Repertoire will include *Easter Fanfare* by Douglas Wagner during the offertory. Handel's *Thine is the Glory* (music from *Judas Maccabeus*) will be the presentation hymn. Randall Thompson's exquisite *Alleluia* will be presented during communion. The late service will conclude with a brilliant setting of *FESTIVAL CANTICLE (This is the Victory)*. And, of course, *EASTER HYMN, Jesus Christ is Risen Today*, will be featured at both services.

April 28, Easter 2, Thomas Sunday, the choir will present *Peace I Leave With You* by Walter Pelz and Roland Martin's *Love Bade Me Welcome*.

My deep appreciation to the choir for their faithful service throughout Lent, Holy Week, and Easter; and to all who most graciously provided financial support of our Easter music. Finally, to everyone in the congregation, my best wishes for a truly happy Easter!

*O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven:  
Be with us, we beseech thee, as we seek to perfect the praises of thy children on earth;  
and grant to us even now such glimpses of thy beauty  
that we may be made worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

~ The Royal School of Church Music



**Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist**



During this Lenten season we've been looking at "taking care of ourselves" by focusing on our needs vs. our wants. We also considered letting go of those things that keep us stuck in negative beliefs and behaviors that quite often impair our relationship with God and one another. This month, let's take the discussion in a slightly different direction.

Ram Dass (born Richard Alpert; April 6, 1931) is an American spiritual teacher, former academic and clinical psychologist, and author of many books. One of my favorite quotes by him is "treat everyone you meet as if they are God in drag." This speaks to me because everyday I pray that I am able to see God's face in the faces of everyone. Somedays it's easy for me and on other days quite the challenge. Remember, it's us who have assigned gender and a certain look to God. Since we don't really know what God looks like and we believe that all of creation is created in his image and likeness, what we learned in the catechism as children must be true: where is God, God is everywhere.

In the remaining weeks of Lent, as we journey toward a new season of resurrection let's place our attention on ourselves, our neighbors, and all of creation with sincere and steadfast attention to seeing God in everyone and everywhere. The alternative is a godless world filled with fear, hurt, anger...a world without trust and a world without hope. A world in which we have fooled ourselves into believing that God is nowhere unless He meets our naïve and very limited human expectations. A world in which nothing matters but ourselves.

Easter and Resurrection are our way forward and our source of hope transforming the world into a place where everyone and everything truly matters.

**Discerning God be in our eyes, that we might see you in all the business and in all the distractions that fill our lives.**

**Be well, be blessed, be hopeful. Deacon Ed+**

**SAVE THE DATE! THURSDAY, APRIL 18th**

**3:00 PM—4:30PM**

**EASTER EGG STUFFING & DYEING PARTY**

**Youth Group (Grades 5 and up)**

**Meet in Hawks Hall to help prep for the 2019 Easter Egg Hunts!**

**This activity offers 1.5 Service Hours to participants.**



## **Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunts!**

It's not too early to bring in Easter Candy! The 2019 Easter Egg Hunts are just around the corner. Please consider donating. A basket will be available in Hawks Hall throughout Lent.

**The final day for collection will be April 14th.**

Requested Items include:

- Plastic eggs for stuffing (both large and small sizes)
- Jelly beans
- WRAPPED candy (chocolates, candies, gummy snacks)
- Other non-food treats (stickers, small toys, pencils, etc.)

Other Items that we'd appreciate include:



- 2-4 Party Streamers in pastel colors for boundaries
- White Vinegar & Egg Dye Kits for Hard Boiled Eggs
- Easter Baskets or Gift bags with Handles for children who might not have their own basket

Thank you so much for your kindness and support for this fun tradition.



## 2019 Parish Directory Photos

When you look at your directory picture, do you recognize yourself? Your kids? Do your friends recognize you? If not, it is time for an update! **Come in your 'best dress' on Easter Sunday and get your picture taken by Jon Prentice.** He will be taking photographs between the services and after the 10:15 service in the child care room. Please add the photo shoot to your Sunday schedule so that we have an up to date picture of you and your family. Thank You!

## Bring Bells on Easter Day!

Easter is a time for joyous bell ringing. Once again, I encourage everyone to bring bells - bells of all sorts and sizes - to the Easter Day services. We ring them during the first singing of the Gloria in excelsis and with gusto during the singing of the hymn "Jesus Christ is Risen Today."

During Eastertide, instead of ringing the Angelus on the large bell at the conclusion of the service, we will ring the Regina Coeli. This joyful devotion dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and invites us to rejoice with Mary at the Resurrection. The text is -

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
 The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia.  
 Has risen, as He said, alleluia.  
 Pray for us to God, alleluia.  
 V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
 R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.



Let us pray. O God, who through the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ gave rejoicing to the world, grant, we pray, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joy of everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The bell will ring four sets of two strokes, with pauses between each set, followed by eight peals. As in most things, this devotion is only one option in the broad spectrum of personal piety.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, I pray that your Lent has been a time of renewal and growth. **MAB+**

## A little humor as the Rector and the Parish Secretary start preparations for Holy Week & Easter!



Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham of St. Swithin's. Copyright © 2002 The Church Pension Fund. All Rights Reserved

## Church of the Ascension Event Calendar- 2019

Tuesday, March 5	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday, March 6	Ash Wednesday Services
Wednesday, March 13	Lenten Study
Friday, March 15	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, March 20	Lenten Study
Thursday, March 21	House Church/Dinner
Friday, March 22	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, March 27	Lenten Study
Friday, March 29	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, April 3	Lenten Study
Friday, April 5	Friday, Lent Devotional
Wednesday, April 10	Lenten Study
Sunday, April 14	Palm Sunday/Holy Week Begins
Thursday, April 18	Youth Activities in preparation for Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 21	Easter Sunday
Thursday, May 16	House Church/Dinner
Sunday, June 2	Ascension Sunday
Sunday, June 9	Pentecost
Sunday, June 16	Trinity Sunday/Last Day Choir
Sunday, September 8	Fall Kick-Off
Thursday, September 19	House Church/Dinner
Saturday, September 21	Heal the Bay—Coastal Cleanup Day
Sunday, October 6	Blessing of the Animals
Thursday, October 17	House Church/Dinner
Thursday, October 31	Halloween Activities at Ascension
Thursday, November 21	House Church/Dinner
Saturday, November 23	Savor the Flavor Shopping Party
Monday, November 25	Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving Day Mass
Sunday, December 8	Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Begin
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service/Pageant
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day Service

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

**WORSHIP, FORMATION, PASTORAL CARE, FELLOWSHIP, OUTREACH, PRESENCE**  
 25 E. Laurel Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024 ~ 626-355-1133 www.ascension-sierramadre.com

## APRIL 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/Clergy Support Group  8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel	<b>2</b> 10am Stations of the Cross	<b>3</b> 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall  5:30pm Yoga/Hall  Lenten Study 6:30pm/Library	<b>4</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>5</b> Spiritual Direction 11:30—12:30 Rector's Office (Private)  Lenten Devotional 6:30pm Chapel/Hall	<b>6</b> Discernment Committee Mtg 9am—3pm Hall/Library
<b>7</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library	<b>8</b> 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel  Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	<b>9</b> 10am Stations of the Cross	<b>10</b> 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall  5:30pm Yoga/Hall  Lenten Study 6:30pm/Library	<b>11</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	<b>12</b> Spiritual Direction 10:30—11:30 Rector's Office (Private)	<b>13</b> Church Work Party to put up Palms for Palm Sunday *contact Mike Beach*  GOODEN SCHOOL COUNTRY FAIR/SCHOOL & CHURCH GROUNDS
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/ER&D—Omaha, NB						
<b>14</b> <span style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px;">PALM SUNDAY</span>  8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library  Acolyte Training 9am	<b>15</b> 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel	<b>16</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel  Vestry Mtg Hall/7pm	<b>17</b> Tenebrae  9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall  5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>18</b> Maundy Thursday  7am Mass 8:05—8:35 Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall  Egg Dying & Stuffing Party 3pm-4:30pm Hawks Hall	<b>19</b> Good Friday	<b>20</b>
*HOLY WEEK/EASTER SERVICE DATES & TIMES ARE NOTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF NEWSLETTER*						
<b>21</b> <span style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px;">EASTER</span>  <span style="background-color: #4b0082; color: white; padding: 5px;">*EASTER MASS/BRUNCH/EGG HUNT SCHEDULE ON 1ST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER*</span>	<b>22</b> Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	<b>23</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel  Daisy Troop Mtg 4pm—5:30pm Hall (Private)	<b>24</b> 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall  5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>25</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary	<b>26</b> MAY SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library Memorial Svc/James Burgeson @ 12:30pm	<b>29</b> 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel	<b>30</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel	Spire Creator: Kim Lumino, Parish Administrator			