

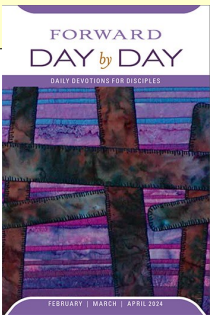
The April 2024 SPIRE

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



Upcoming Events

Please see the calendar on page 4 for an updated list of events.



Pick up a copy of the Forward Movement Day by Day booklet. Copies can be found at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

A \$2 donation is appreciated. Thank You!

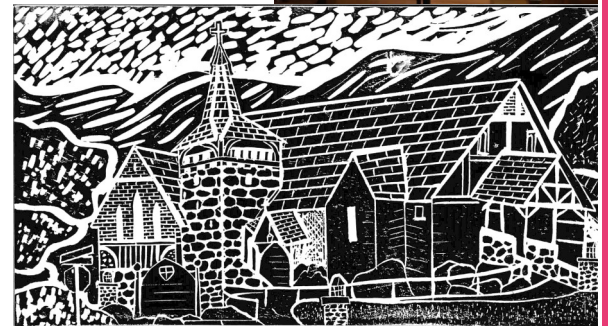
From the Rector

This Easter, I was reflecting on one of the joys of being a priest in a parish for many years – I get to see young people grow into adulthood. In particular, I was thinking about two of our parishioners – Edward Belden and Phoebe Prentice.

When I arrived at Ascension in 1985, Edward was a member of the youth group. He spent summers at Camp Stevens and eventually became a staff member. He went off to college and returned after graduation to Monrovia. He has worked in a number of fields, but has always been environmentally conscious and service minded. Over the last few years, Edward served on the Monrovia Parks, Wilderness and Recreation Foundation. And this past month, he was elected to serve on the Monrovia City Council. It was a joy to congratulate Edward when I saw him on Easter morning.

Phoebe Prentice has been a member of the parish since she was very small. We've always known she has an artistic gift. Recently, she gifted the parish with a linotype of the church that is unique and intriguing. This year, she accepted the opportunity to make our Paschal Candle. I know she put a great deal of thought into designing it and was working on it through Good Friday. It was so wonderful to see the finished work on Holy Saturday. In addition to being an artist, Phoebe is also a very kind and loving young woman. We will wish her the best as she starts college in the Fall at UC Irvine.

Eastertide blessings,
Father Michael+



MARCH 2024 Pledge Payment Snapshot



2024 Budget \$205,150

YTD Budget:	\$51,287
YTD Actual:	\$55,220
Difference:	+\$3,933



THANK YOU

ST. ANNE'S ALTAR GUILD WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SO GENEROUSLY DONATED TO OUR EASTER FLOWERS. THE SANCTUARY TRULY LOOKED BEAUTIFUL.

A THANK YOU TOO TO THOSE WHO SELFLESSLY GAVE OF THEIR TIME TO WORK DURING HOLY WEEK WITH WHATEVER NEEDED TO BE DONE. TRULY WE ARE A BLESSED PARISH.

LOVE IN THE RISEN LORD,
ST. ANNE'S ALTAR GUILD



Do you have a junk drawer in your house? You know, a drawer that serves as a catch-all for all those items you find lying around—the random key, marble, screw, bookmark? Don't know where to put...put it in the junk drawer. We all have them. Perhaps yours is in a desk or somewhere in the garage or kitchen. I have a few, and I just located another – the glove box in my car.

Stuff we don't know what to do with we hide in our junk drawers. But what about the people in our lives that we want to hide? Where do they go? Instead of the junk drawer, let's call it our "relational" drawer. The relational drawer is the place where we put the people who baffle, annoy, irritate, or scare us. It's that place in our heart where we stow people we can't get out of our life, but whom we'd rather not deal with now—or ever.

Let's consider why we have physical junk drawers; and next month, we'll consider our relational junk drawers: why we have them and the problems with them. But here's a clue: it's the dark place in our hearts where we stuff people when we don't know how to deal with their quirks or shortcomings. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

What about those junk drawers and what do they all have in common?

It's the spot where we put something when we don't know where else to put it. It's the spot where we hide stuff because we like to appear neat and orderly on the outside. It's the spot where we leave items because it's easier to throw something in a drawer than it is to put it in its proper place. In other words, we're a bit lazy at times.

Like our refrigerators when the door is closed or in the case of when the junk drawer is closed, it's out of sight and out of mind. Or is it?

Live well, live blessed, stop hiding.

Deacon Ed+

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles

We would like to remind everyone that you can now sign-up for altar flowers and sanctuary candles online through Signup Genius. You can also sign-up on the sign-up sheets in Hawks Hall.

****Payment should be made by CHECK (\$50.00 for flowers and \$15.00 for a candle) payable to Church of the Ascension.**** Please include a note giving the date that you signed up for and any dedication.

Here are the sign-up genius links:

Sanctuary Candles:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E44A4A628A7F94-sanctuary1>

Altar Flowers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E44A4A628A7F94-altar1>



**FRIENDS
IN
DEED** *

Please join in Ascension's monthly collection of specific "Gold Items" for Friends in Deed. They include canned tuna and chicken, hearty soups, stew, chili, pasta and pasta sauce, peanut butter, cereal, rice, oil, sugar, flour, fruit juice, and vegetable juice (V8).

Look for the donation bin at the back of the church.





Forward Today: May we show forth

April 20, 2022; [Forward Today](#), [scott gunn](#)

Dear friends in Christ,

Thanks be to God we have a whole season to celebrate with joy the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's just too much to fit into one day. So for fifty days we can bask in the glow of resurrection light as we seek to understand how this gift changes our lives and our hopes.

Every day of this first week of Easter is a major feast day according to our prayer book. That means each day has its own assigned lessons and its own collect. I love several of them, but tomorrow's collect really struck me as I was writing this message.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Isn't that lovely? In Christ's suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension, God has established a new covenant. And we who follow Jesus should show in our lives what we believe!

How are our lives changed by the reality of the resurrection of Jesus? What does it matter that God has decisively acted in our world to defeat sin, evil, and death? In this sometimes chaotic world of ours, can Easter joy help us to be bearers of mercy and grace? These are questions we might grapple with in this Easter season.

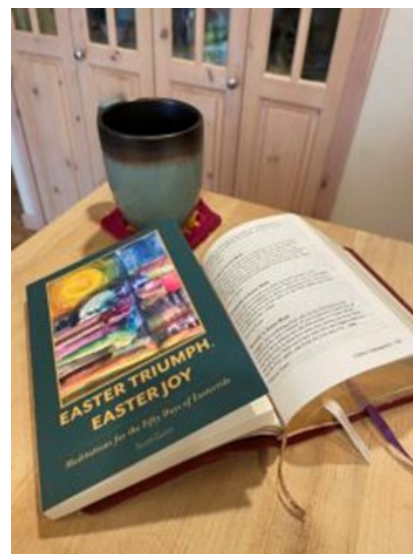
We spend a lot of energy on our Lenten disciplines, rightly so! But Easter disciplines might also help us live as people who follow a risen Lord. Easter disciplines might include prayer, thanksgiving, sharing, proclamation, worship, or whatever helps you grow into the full stature of Christ.

Whatever you do, I hope you and I will not go back to "business as usual" now that we've celebrated Easter Day. The world can never go back to business as usual now that death is defeated! Let us spend the next 47 days exploring the joy and transformation of Easter.

Blessings to you all. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Yours faithfully,

Scott Gunn
Executive Director



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 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Fr. Michael out of office/Clergy Support Group 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5pm-9pm Music Recital-Private/Hall	2 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets	3 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall Men's Group Luncheon Nano Café Noon—RSVP to Fr. Michael	4 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum	5 1pm-Hulick Wedding-Private/Church	6
7 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	8 8:15am Gooden Chapel 8:30am Yoga/Hall	9 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets	10 8:15am-9-45am Gooden Chapel 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	11 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	12	13 9am—Noon Warden's Deanery Meeting w/Bishop Taylor/Hall
14 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	15 8:15am Gooden Chapel 8:30am Yoga/Hall	16 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets 7pm Vestry Meeting/Hall	17 8:15am-9-45am Gooden Chapel 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	18 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum	19	20
21 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	22 8:15am Gooden Chapel 8:30am Yoga/Hall	23 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets	24 8:15am-9-45am Gooden Chapel 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	25 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg Noon Clericus Mtg Location TBD	26	27
28 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 9am Choir Rehearsal 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	29 8:15am Gooden Chapel 8:30am Yoga/Hall	30 6Pm Tuesday Night Dinner Group Meets				