

The SPIRE 2018

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



Upcoming Events

August 5th—
Youth Group trip to Boomers

August 12th—
Blessing of the Backpacks

August 21st —
7:00pm/Hall - Vestry Meeting

August 26th— Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

August 31st— LA EPISCOPAL
DODGER NIGHT GAME

“Missed that
Announcement?”

You can now access the Lay
Ministry Schedule on the
Church’s website at

www.ascension-sierramadre.com



**It's summertime...
as you are
snorkeling,
surfing, or just
hanging out at
the beach,
please remember
to send in your
pledge payment!**



Thank You!

The Pledge Campaign Approaches

LOOKING AHEAD... STEWARDSHIP 2019

August in Southern California is when thoughts turn to things like how to stay cool, a last chance vacation before the kids go back to school, baseball pennant races (Go Dodgers!), and the stewardship pledge drive. Wait . . . what was that last one?

Yes, your Vestry has been thinking about stewardship this summer, and so here is our first Spire article on the 2018 pledge campaign. Why so early? It really isn't. Where I work, all the Directors who manage sections of our Law Department had to submit budget forecasts not only for the remainder of this year and next, but for the four years after that. In other words, we really have to look ahead to stay on track. So too does the Vestry. Now don't worry, we are not going to ask parishioners to make pledges for the next five years. But looking ahead to 2019 requires us to anticipate, with some precision, what revenue will be next year. To do that, we are readying our pledge campaign now.

Stewardship, of course, is not just monetary giving. As you know, we give to God in many ways commonly identified as worship, outreach, formation, fellowship, pastoral care, and presence. Each is an equal pillar in the foundation of the parish and the church. Monetary giving, however, requires a different type of planning and a different schedule. The Vestry would be irresponsible not to recognize that.

Therefore, our stewardship focus at this time in the calendar will be on pledging. During Lent and through Easter, we will focus on the time and talent aspects of stewardship. None is less important than the other; and, indeed, each is integral to the other (just try to imagine Sunday service without the work of the Altar Guild for example). But the timing is different, and now through October is pledging's time. That means you will be seeing numbers and budgets, financial goals and challenges, and requests for commitment with eternal thanks for past support.

We hope you will give this thought as well and tell us what you think over the next month. Ask questions, request information, and make suggestions. Vestry members (Jean Rowe, Gordon Tomaske, Dan Hanson, Bill Voegeli, Natalie Dougall, Marie Prentice, Tim Hayden, Mark Keith and yours truly) are eager for your queries and ideas.

John Buchanan, For the Vestry

Pledge Payment Snapshot- July



2018 Budget
Amount:
\$211,001

YTD Budget: \$123,084
YTD Actual: \$139,926
Difference: \$+16,842

Have you ever wished you could make your pledge payment from your computer? Or perhaps on your cell phone or tablet? In the spirit of granting wishes, an online donation feature is now available on Ascension's recently refreshed website. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...



- 1) Go to the "Give" page (located at www.ascension-sierramadre.com/give)
- 2) Click the "Make a Donation" button
- 3) Complete the two-step form and click "Submit"

Oh...and don't forget to recycle that stack of pledge envelopes you no longer need!

From the Rector



People have asked me what was the most memorable thing about General Convention 2018, and I have to say it was hearing the Good News preached by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on several occasions. For a taste – try watching this video -

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjgMGfmb3cAhUZGjQIHdT2BKoQwqsBCDIwAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DzXIORXykv0&usg=AOvVaw0W3RE83M5wDqnNDWHqOsnT>



Bishop Curry’s message is one of hope and inspiration. He invites us into a deeper relationship with God – who is Loving, Liberating, and Life Giving. The man is all about a message of Love.

(Only after convention was over and participants had returned home were we informed that Bishop Curry has prostate cancer. Together we are called upon to pray for Bishop Curry as he undergoes treatment in the upcoming weeks.)

There were also long days of legislative committee meetings, plenary sessions, and parliamentary wrangling. Yet despite all the hours of work, at times General Convention felt like a big family reunion.



The Diocese of Los Angeles was well represented. Both Bishop Taylor and Bishop Bruce were there and the eight Deputies (four lay and four clergy), alternates, and folks who had other duties. In addition, the Episcopal Church Women had their triennial meeting at the same time. And it was good to catch up with friends from seminary.

It was inspiring, exhausting, productive, and fun – just what a General Convention should be. *MAB+*

Perry Restoration Project 2018 Update

Progress continues on our efforts to restore and repair our beautiful buildings. Two of the small windows in the side chapel have been removed and are be restored and cleaned. (One has been completed and returned.) Much of the painting on the exterior trim has been completed. Some areas were in need of extensive patching and prep work prior to being painted. Work continues by the stone masons to repair the insets and reinstall them. We are grateful for all the laborers and for the generous donor who is making this long-overdue project possible.

Before



After



SAVE THE DATE! ~ OCTOBER 13, 2018

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT... What is a church without community?

It has been my dream to get everyone together for a retreat—to play, to explore, to discuss, to pray, to reflect, to be together.

We would love to have EVERY member of Ascension committed to attending our local one-day retreat (location TBD). We are in the very early stages of planning, but watch for announcements and details in the coming months. And whatever you do, SAVE THE DATE!! Nicole Hanson

REAL
LIFE. Real
Faith.

Every now and again we all do something that makes a lot of sense. The road to that decision isn't always easy. Many of us are dealing with elderly loved ones who are in need of special care, and the solution to these challenges can be perplexing and costly. Too often there seem to be more questions than answers.

This dilemma became all too real for me in 2005 the year after my dad passed away. My mom's health was starting to fail, and it was becoming obvious that she couldn't handle living alone in their home much longer. It was the beginning of a long and difficult journey from selling their home, updating trusts, consolidating finances, assisted living, and eventually a skilled nursing facility. I was up to the challenge of making sure Mom got the best care possible, but the financial challenges were overwhelming. Sound familiar?

In sharing my concerns with a family member, I got some really good advice. Actually, it wasn't just good advice; it was the best advice I may have ever received. If this article is starting to sound like an infomercial, well, it is in a way. The advice was clear and simple...call an elder care attorney. Making this call has become my standard advice to anyone who tells me that they're in this situation with a loved one. Here's a little information I found on the internet to get you more familiar with elder care law.

Elder law attorneys are advocates for the elderly and their loved ones. Most elder law attorneys handle a wide range of legal matters affecting an older or disabled person, including issues related to health care, long term care planning, guardianship, retirement, Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid, and other important matters.

In many ways, elder law attorneys are "specialists" because of their focus on the needs of older adults, which are often different and more specialized than the needs of younger adults. Not only can they handle important financial and estate planning matters, but they also take care of day-to-day issues affecting the actual care of seniors, such as assisted living and life planning.

In addition, elder law attorneys are often more equipped to handle the sensitive emotional and physical needs of older or disabled adults and are therefore able to handle a variety of challenging situations.

How Can an Elder Law Attorney Help Me?

An elder law attorney can help with any one of the following:

- Discuss the importance of wills and estate planning, including planning for a minor or adult with special needs, probate proceedings, and other matters.
- Create a durable power of attorney.
- Provide help with health care and planning, including long term care options, patient rights, Medicare, and health care power of attorney.
- Financial representation: financial planning (including durable financial power of attorney), housing opportunities and planning, income, estate, and gift tax matters.
- Guardianship: help with the selection and appointment of a legal guardian.
- Help locate long term care facilities and manage assisted living cost.
- Explain nursing home resident rights and help file nursing home claims.
- Draft a living will or other advance directives, including a durable power of attorney and long term planning documents.

Live well, live blessed, live showing love in all you do. Deacon Ed+

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

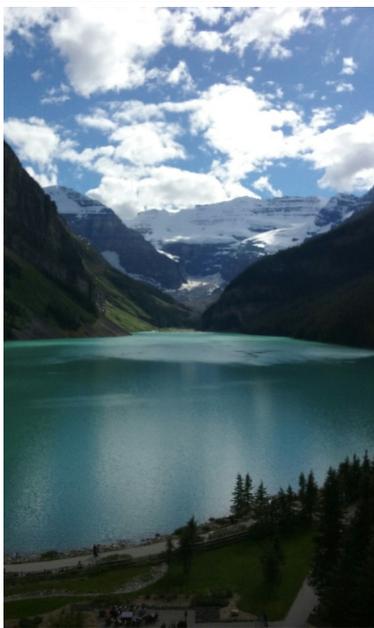
During August vocal music will be provided by Susan Beach, Andrea Booth, Charley Noecker, and Carol Rasmussen. I'll be returning to the organ bench.

The September Spire will feature more about this, but for now, please note that beginning next month, our weekly choir rehearsals will be held on **Thursday** evenings. If you've had to decline choir participation in the past because of conflicts on Wednesday nights, here's your opportunity! So mark your calendars and we'll look forward to seeing you in September ~

*At the still point of the universe, all that is not silence is song,
and all creation, hearing it, dances for joy.
The song of the universe is the song of life, its rhythms defined by the cadence of time,
its beauty in its holy harmony.
The song is sung best when sung by the heart.
~Alfred V. Fedak*



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist



Don't know if it was true for you, but July was a busy month for me. It started with an eleven day coach trip with my sister and brother-in-law. I met them in Calgary and together we toured Glacier National Park in Montana, Lake Louise, Jasper, and Banff in Canada. While you were experiencing 118 degree weather in Sierra Madre, we were triple layering to stay warm.

A week or so after I got home, I decided that it was time to replace my cat after searching for him for six weeks. Even though I still miss my big orange friend, I now have a new five year old member of the family from the Pasadena Humane Society. It's been fun getting to know Carson.



It has also been good getting back into the swing of things at church. I have been so impressed at how all our staff and volunteers stepped up to get everything done while Father Michael was at General Convention and while Dr. Deb has been on vacation. Many thanks to Deacon Ed, Pastor Josh, Jobi, and Kim. Thank you also to Mike Beach and Tim Hayden for seeing that our Building and Grounds projects stayed on schedule. Thank you also for those who volunteered to be Lay Eucharistic readers, ushers, and acolytes.

Things don't stop for us in the summer. Our usual groups continued to meet throughout July – Sunday study groups, Sunday Youth Groups, Tuesday Morning Prayer Group, Tuesday Dinner Group, Vestry, Altar Guild. Even when many were away on vacation, groups still continued to gather.

Now we move on into August. August is a strange month for those of us who remember when school did not start until after Labor Day. But for many of our children, August signals the end of summer and the start of the fall school year. How many of you are already getting ready for the start of school?

There are still some summer August events to look forward to. Father Michael and some of our youth will be going to Camp Stevens, the youth have a last summer outing, and Dodger Night will come at the end of the month. In the meantime, try to stay cool, follow the designated watering days schedule, and enjoy whatever vacation days we have left.

Jean Rowe, Sr. Warden

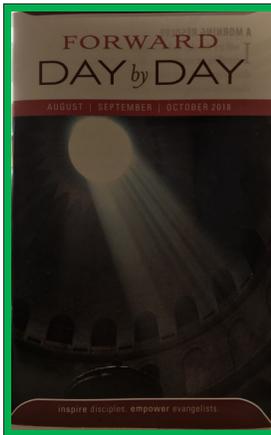
The 2018 Parish Directory is now available.

There are two ways to receive it:

Wish no more!
It's here!

1) Email a request to the Parish office and we will send you an electronic copy in PDF format.

2) For a \$5 charge, we will give you a printed copy of the directory. This will help to offset our printing costs as there are a considerable number of colored copies. Please email or call the parish office with your request.



The new Day by Day booklets from Forward Movement are available at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

A \$2 donation is requested.



Classes forming now.

EFM is a four year course study of theology starting with the Old Testament and continuing through the New Testament, church history, and personal theology. The art of Theological Reflection is taught every year. We meet on Sunday afternoons for 36 weeks (late September thru early July). Everyone that has taken this course has been more than satisfied and learned a lot. There is a cost of **\$375 per year**. See me if you are interested.

Mike Beach, Verger



"Here's a unique way to support our parish! If you have a car, truck, boat or other vehicle that's become a nuisance, you can now donate that vehicle to Ascension. You'll be able to write the value of the vehicle off as a tax deduction and Ascension will benefit from the proceeds of its sale. Simply call **855-500-RIDE** or visit

<http://www.careasy.org/nonprofit/the-episcopal-church-of-the-ascension>

to schedule a free pickup. All you need is the vehicle's title-- the CARS service will handle the rest."

CARS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based out of San Diego, California.

Join us for Youth Group Fun!

August 5th at Boomers! Upland

\$15 per student for unlimited game fun!

Grades 5th and up.

We will depart after the 10:15 mass and return at 6 pm.

**RSVP to Jobi McGuffie at
626-710-3021**

Jobi



From:



EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry resting after surgery

Posted Jul 31, 2018

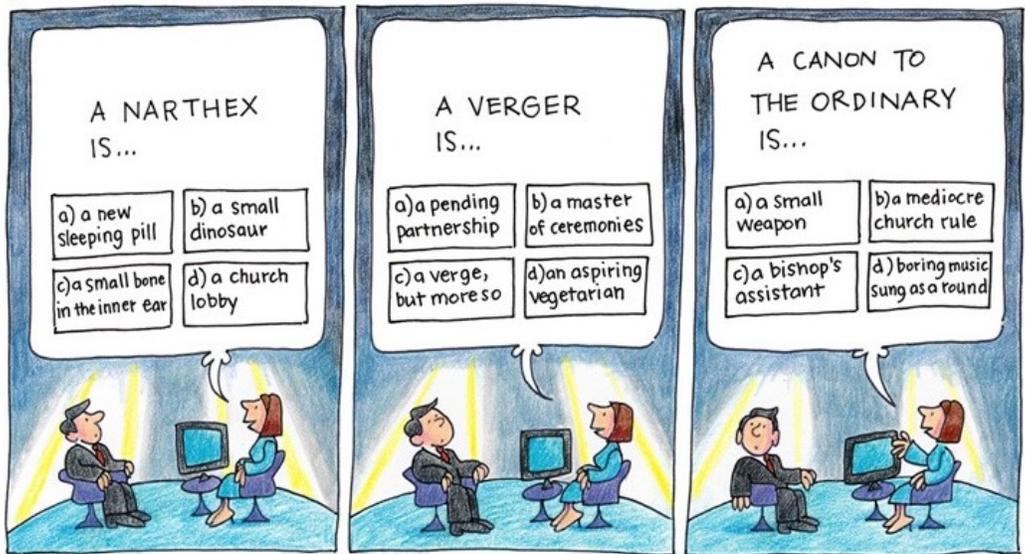
[Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs] Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is resting comfortably following surgery on Tuesday, July 31. According to the presiding bishop's family and his medical team, the surgery went well, as had been expected. Bishop Curry is resting, and a full recovery continues to be anticipated.

On July 25 Curry shared news that he had recently been diagnosed with prostate cancer and would be having surgery to remove the prostate gland.

Curry and his family are touched by the outpouring of prayers and well wishes. In their thankfulness, they ask for privacy during his recovery.

Further information will continue to be released by the presiding bishop's office, as needed.

SO YOU WANT TO BE AN EPISCOPALIAN



TOO TOXIC TO TRASH

FREE Household Hazardous & E-Waste Recycling Roundup
SATURDAY, AUGUST 4 • 9AM - 2PM
 Mariposa Avenue Parking Lot
 Mariposa Ave. just west of Baldwin Ave.
 Sierra Madre

- Bring items in a sturdy box, preferably in their original labeled containers.
- Limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste per trip.
- No business waste accepted.
- No explosives, ammunition, radioactive materials, trash, tires, large appliances like refrigerators, stoves and washing machines or controlled substances.

PAINT & SOLVENTS CHEMICALS E-WASTE SHARPS

(888) CLEAN-LA • CleanLA.com • lacs.org • 1(800) 238-0172

PUBLIC WORKS LOS ANGELES COUNTY CITY OF SIERRA MADRE SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

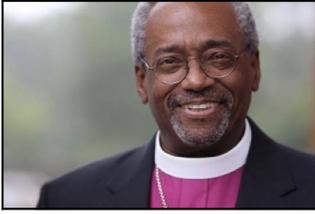
Event serves the City of Sierra Madre. 2018

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

SPREAD THE WORD



An Invitation from Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry to Practice the Way of Love



I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
– Ephesians 3:17-19

In the first century Jesus of Nazareth inspired a movement. A community of people whose lives were centered on Jesus Christ and committed to living the way of God's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, and redemptive love. Before they were called "church" or "Christian," this Jesus Movement was simply called "the way."

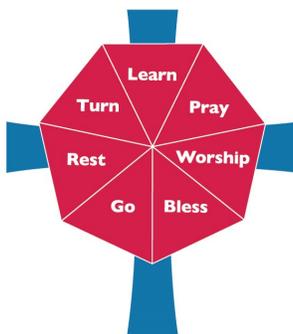
Today I believe our vocation is to live as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. But how can we together grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world?

The deep roots of our Christian tradition may offer just such a path. For centuries, monastic communities have shaped their lives around rhythms and disciplines for following Jesus together. Such a pattern is known as a "Rule of Life." The framework you now hold – **The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life** – outlines a Rule for the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

It is designed to be spare and spacious, so that individuals, ministry groups, congregations, and networks can flesh it out in unique ways and build a church-wide treasure trove of stories and resources. There is no specific order you need to follow. If you already keep a Rule or spiritual disciplines, you might reflect and discover how that path intersects with this one. By entering into reflection, discernment and commitment around the practices of **Turn - Learn - Pray - Worship - Bless - Go - Rest**, I pray we will grow as communities following the loving, liberating, life-giving way of Jesus. His way has the power to change each of our lives and to change this world.

Your brother in the Way of Jesus,
+Michael

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Primate and Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

TURN: Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus

LEARN: Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life and teachings.

PRAY: Dwell intentionally with God daily

WORSHIP: Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God

BLESS: Share faith and unselfishly give and serve

GO: Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus

REST: Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration

As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we follow the Way of Jesus. His way is the Way of Love, and that love has the power to change lives and change the world. How will you and your ministry grow more centered in Jesus and share his loving, liberating, life-giving way in the world? Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites us to join him in **THE WAY OF LOVE**, *Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*.

Find resources from across the church and share your gifts and stories:

www.episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove

Text WAYOFLOVE to 51555

#WAYOFLOVE

AUGUST 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:30pm Yoga/Hall Private Gooden School Event Preparation All Day Hawks Hall/Kitchen	2 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg Private Gooden School New Parent Orientation Breakfast 7am—11am Hawks Hall	3	4 Fr. Bamberger Out of Town - Camp Stevens through August 11
5 Clergy-McGuffie 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass Youth Trip/Boomers	6	7 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	8 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	9 7am Mass 9am Forum	10	11
Youth Minister/Pastor Josh Vacation through August 20th						
Fr. Bamberger Out of Town - Camp Stevens through August 11						
12 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass Blessing of Backpacks	13 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	14 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	15 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	16 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg Private Spiritual Direction 10:30— 11:30am Rector's Office	17	18
Parish Administrator Vacation through August 24th						
Youth Minister/Pastor Josh Vacation through August 20th						
19 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass Youth Minister/Pastor Josh Vacation through August 20th	20	21 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group Dean Mtg Hawks Hall 11am-2pm Vestry Mtg Hall/7pm	22 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	23 7am Mass 9am Forum	24	25 SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
Parish Administrator Vacation through August 24th						
26 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass Noon—PMC Meeting/Library	27 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	28 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	29 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	30 7am Mass 9am Forum	31 LA Episcopal Dodger Game Night	