

# The SPIRE

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

August 2019



## Upcoming Events

August 11th – Noon/Library  
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

August 20th – 7pm/Hall  
Vestry Meeting

August 24th – Olive Wood  
Products from Bethlehem  
Handcrafts for sale during coffee  
hours.

*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!



## 2019 Church Photo Directory

There is still time to get your family photo or updated contact information into the church office for the 2019 church photo directory! Release date is set for Sunday, September 8.

## From the Rector

Headlines over the past several weeks have prompted some folks to ask how they can help – whether it is for disasters nearby and farther away, the situation at the border, or the seeming increase of homeless folks in our neighborhoods. Even though some of these concerns are complicated, our impulse as Christians should be to try to do something.

With regard to disaster relief, you all know my pet cause – Episcopal Relief and Development. They are supporting long-term recovery efforts in Texas, the Central Gulf Coast, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Nebraska, Northern California, as well as internationally in Africa and Asia. You can easily make a contribution online or by mail.

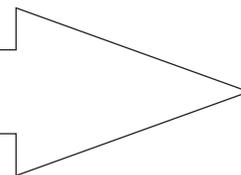
With regard to the situation at the border, there are a couple of ways to help. Episcopal Migration Ministries is supporting several congregations which are located in the heavily impacted areas and doing hands-on work to help families get where they need to go. You can explore their work at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal-migration-ministries>.

The crisis of homelessness seems so very daunting. One very practical effort is to join in supporting the work of Friends Indeed. We collect food, toiletries, and other items to support their work. Looking east, the Foothill Unity Center in Monrovia does fine work as well. Our new Diocesan Discerner – Tim Hamlin (who will be starting with us in September) - works for a non-profit agency which supports folks who are recently housed after having been homeless; and I'm sure he'll have some concrete ideas to share with us.

MAB+

## The Perry Restoration Project

**And that's a wrap! Take a peek inside to see all of the BEFORE and AFTER photos. Pages 4 & 5.**



## July Pledge Payment Snapshot



**2019 Budget \$220,881**

YTD Budget: \$128,847

YTD Actual: \$127,309

Difference: \$-1538.50

## Sunday, September 8

### Fall Kick-Off Party time!

Let's get together for an end-of-summer, back-to-school, fall kick-off shindig! Please plan to join us at 11:30 for an afternoon of picnicking and games on the upper field. Bring your friends!

More details to follow.





## 2019 Friends in Deed Back to School Backpack and School Supply Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated to the annual Backpack and School Supply Drive with Friends In Deed. Your generosity pooled together created a small mountain of donations again this year! We ended up with enough backpacks and all the fixings (notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, etc.) for a prosperous year for about 10 kids. Thanks for giving students the confidence to make their year successful.

**Scott Callihan,  
Outreach Ministry Leader**

### NOTES FROM THE LOFT

On July 14 I worshipped at St. Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Temecula and was introduced to Dr. Stephen Sturk, Director of Music, who, incidentally, is also the composer-in-residence at St. Paul's, San Diego. This introduction led to, well ~ Dr. Sturk had composed an oratorio entitled *One Small Step* in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landing, which was to be premiered at the California Arts Center in Escondido the following Saturday evening, the 20<sup>th</sup>. Coupled with several movements from Haydn's *Creation*, the multi-media work was performed by chorus, orchestra, children's choir, and soloists. The chorus was anchored by the Center Chorale and included choristers from several area churches and schools with one of my former doctoral advisees featured as mezzo-soprano soloist. Of course I had to attend – and thoroughly enjoyed it! God moves in mysterious ways – I thought I was going to worship and discovered this most compelling work.

I'm looking forward to being back at Ascension on August 4 ~ and for the remainder of the month. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, Jessica Pierce, flute, and Almer Imamovic, classical guitar, will return to Ascension for the 10:15 service. The AlmaNova Duo is always a blessed treat for us ~ I'm sure you'll want to be here to experience their incredible musicianship.

Do mark your calendars for the choir's resumption of loft residency on September 8; Thursday evening rehearsals will resume on the 12<sup>th</sup>. As always, new members are welcome to join our choral ranks – please see me if interested.

*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**

REAL  
LIFE. Real  
Faith.

Every now and again, I find myself in the bowels of Costco realizing that clever marketers have rearranged the store and the search for Swiffer's begins anew. I imagine tiny elves with impish smiles wearing Costco tee shirts anticipating tomorrow's opening and check-out lines with carts filled to the brim. "It worked again," they giggle as they hover above unseen and smug.

At times, I approach life as I approach Costco -- with expectation, anticipation, and a limited amount of patience. I think I know what I want, how much I want, where to find it, where to put it, and am most certainly convinced that I need it and need it now.

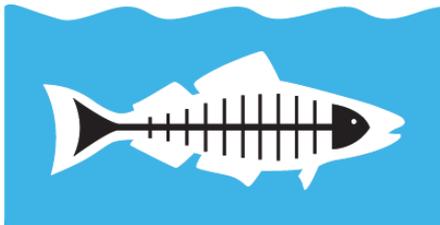
Attention shoppers: "Today's special can be found on aisle 5 for a limited time only. I can't help but wonder if it's on my list of must haves, need it now, and can't live without it. I don't even know what it is, but suspect strongly that I just have to have it. So off I go to aisle 5. There, on both sides of the aisle stacked from floor to ceiling are books labeled "Magic Lessons." Immediately I open the book, and to my amazement there's only one sentence. "If you make the most of what you have, it turns into more."

The moral of the story is to say thank you until you mean it. Thank God, life, and the universe for everything sent our way. Be grateful. Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn problems into gifts, failures into successes, a mundane meal into a feast, and mistakes into important events.

Gratitude makes things right. Gratitude transforms negative energy into positive energy. There is no situation, no circumstance, no person, place, or thing that is not susceptible to gratitude's power.

Go back to aisle 5 and say thank you until you mean it and let gratitude work its magic in your life. After all, if you make the most of what you have, it always turns into more.... more of what you need and less of what you think you want.

Live well, live blessed, and I'll see you at aisle 5.  
Deacon Ed+



## Heal the Bay

Heal the Bay Arroyo Seco  
Clean-Up in Pasadena

Morning of  
**Saturday, September 21**

- Meet at Ascension
- Carpool and/or rides provided
- More details will be provided in the September Newsletter.



On **Sunday, August 25th**, Bethlehem Handcrafts will be at Ascension and you will have the opportunity to purchase their crafts and carvings made from olive wood and learn firsthand about life as a Christian living in the West Bank. You can learn more at [www.bethlehemhandcrafts.org](http://www.bethlehemhandcrafts.org).



### CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION THANKS MARTHANN MULLEAVY FOR THE PERRY RESTORATION PROJECT

With over a year of dedicated work behind us, Ascension has seen the completion of the Perry Restoration Project. This project was a direct result of Marthann Mulleavy's vision and commitment to repair and restore Ascension's deteriorated exterior elements, ensuring that our beloved historic sanctuary will continue to serve our church family and remain an essential Sierra Madre landmark well into the future. At our 2017 annual meeting, Marthann Mulleavy expressed her concern over the state of the church's physical condition and committed to funding the restoration of a number of critical areas including trim, mortar, and rock facing. Over the last year, Marthann's passion has been translated into a tangible restoration. Highlights of this effort include:

- Weakened mortar around the stone base of the church has been cleaned and replaced in a manner consistent with the unique, square application of the original



- The 130+ year old door south of the altar has been carefully and fully restored using only age appropriate vintage hardware



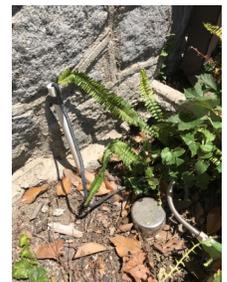
- The sanctuary door has been patched and painted



- Trim has been cleaned, patched, and repainted



- New planting under the bell tower is now complete with drip lines



- The rock panels on the south side of the church have been removed, cleaned, restored, and replaced



- Five stained glass windows have been removed, reconditioned, and returned; and their frames have been restored



- Replacement of the lens on the 3ft light post near Baldwin has been completed
- Repair of the loft window in Hawks Hall has been completed
- Re-bedding of the rose garden, including adding 9 roses and a new watering system, is now in place



- The office door also received attention inside and out, including the replacement of 3 plastic panes with vintage "old glass"



thank you



Marthann Mulleavy

We note that this work was largely completed for our Easter celebration, providing our congregation with a wonderfully restored space for both our indoor and outdoor worship.

We also note that this work is but the first in a series of projects beautifying our church including the clean-up of the memorial garden, patching and repainting the masonry area at the front of the Church facing Baldwin Avenue, and replacing the stucco bases under the Church's outside benches. The walkway/ramp leading to the office door has been pressure washed and repainted, and the Gooden school has added a raised bed garden for the 1st grade class.

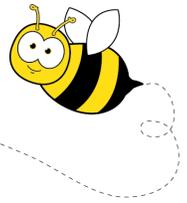
With this work now complete, the Ascension Church family thanks Marthann for her vision, generosity, and determination in seeing this project move from concept to completion to the benefit of this generation and those to come.

**THANK YOU MARTHANN MULLEAVY, WITH GREAT APPRECIATION FROM THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

# THANK YOU==THANK YOU==THANK YOU

A great BIG thank you to everyone who made our shower for Josh and Jobi such a grand affair...from monetary donations to food- we outdid ourselves, and they were and are truly grateful.

Lynne Holl

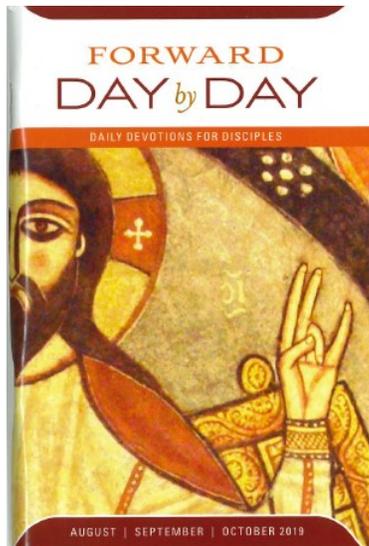


Many THANKS to **Lynne Holl** for organizing the party and to **Jon Prentice** for taking and sharing the pictures!



Dear Ascension Family,  
Thank you all so much for the extremely generous gifts for Baby McCuffie!  
We are so thankful for your support and kindness as we prepare to welcome this little one! - what a blessed child this is to join such a wonderful parish!  
Peace & Love Abundant,  
Josh, Jobi, Anne & Baby





Don't forget to pick up a copy of the new **Forward Movement Day by Day Booklet** located at the back of the church or on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

**A \$2 donation is requested.**

## Can You Host Coffee Hour?

In an effort to get more parishioners involved in our Ascension community, we are asking for EVERY family who is able to sign up to host coffee hour at least once this calendar year. Snacks can be simple or complex, store-bought, or home-made; but your help in this way is invaluable. On your day, you would help to set up coffee hour, including making coffee as needed, and stay long enough to oversee the clean-up effort. A list of detailed instructions is available for first-timers, and there are always helpers in the kitchen, so you won't be alone.

To sign-up, watch for the Sign-Up Genius link in your email, email Nicole Hanson ([nhanson123@gmail.com](mailto:nhanson123@gmail.com)), or sign up on the bulletin board in Hawks Hall.

Nicole Hanson,  
Fellowship Ministry  
Leader



### Are you ready to light up your life? 2019 Bishop's Concert will feature Debby Boone

*Tickets purchased before August 1 are \$60;  
\$75 thereafter*

Bishop John Harvey Taylor and Canon Kathy O'Connor are pleased to invite all members of the diocesan community to the second annual Bishop's Concert, featuring Grammy Award-winning singer, actor and

author Debby Boone, on Friday, October 11 at the episcopal residence, located at 3435 E. California Boulevard in Pasadena.

Debby Boone is known for the 1977 hit "You Light Up My Life" (watch and listen to a 2013 performance [here](#)), her 1980 country song "Are You On the Road to Lovin' Me Again," and albums of country music, contemporary Christian songs, and songs for children. In 2005 she released *Reflections Of Rosemary*, an album featuring music that her mother-in-law, Rosemary Clooney, performed as well as other songs that Boone felt reflected the woman her family knew. Boone also has appeared in many musical theater productions, television series and movies, and has written several children's books illustrated by her husband, the Rev. Gabriel Ferrer, vicar of St. Martin's Church, Winnetka.

Gates will be opened at 6 p.m. and refreshments will be served before the performance, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. Valet parking will be available. Tickets are \$75, but yours will be \$60 if you make your reservations before August 1. To buy tickets, go to: <https://www.edlaclergy.org/clergy-conf/bishops-concert>. Proceeds will support diocesan ministries.



## Sunday School Help Needed!

During Jobi McGuffie's maternity leave, we are asking for volunteers to take a Sunday and work with our children. Lesson plans and materials are available. The sign-up sheet is on the Events Table in Hawks Hall. Volunteers are needed NOW through October 31st.

**Try a Sunday, and see if  
this is for you!**

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

## AUGUST 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg  Gooden School New Family Orientation Hawks Hall 7am-11am	<b>2</b>  Spiritual Direction (Private) Rectors Office 10:30am— 11:30am	<b>3</b>  Fr. Bamberger Out of Office / Camp Stevens
<b>4</b>  <span style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 2px;">Covering Clergy/McGuffie</span>  8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Funeral/Interment Knickelbein Time TBD
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office / Camp Stevens						
<b>11</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass <span style="color: blue;">Noon—PMC Mtg/Library</span>	<b>12</b>  <span style="color: green;">Pasadena                      Photochromers                      Meeting (private)                      Hawks Hall                      6:30pm—9:30pm</span>	<b>13</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Funeral/Interment Ramirez 10:00am
<b>18</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel  <span style="color: blue;">Vestry Mtg                      Hall/7pm</span>	<b>21</b> <span style="color: red;">5:30pm Yoga/Hall</span>	<b>22</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass  <span style="color: blue;">Olive Wood Products from                      Bethlehem Handcrafts for                      sale during coffee hours</span>	<b>26</b>  <span style="color: green;">Pasadena                      Photochromers                      Meeting (private)                      Hawks Hall                      6:30pm—9:30pm</span>  <span style="color: green;">Gooden Annual                      Fund Breakfast                      Hawks Hall                      8am-11:30am</span>	<b>27</b> 10am Prayer in the Chapel  <span style="color: red;">SEPTEMBER                      SPIRE ARTICLES                      DUE</span>	<b>28</b> <span style="color: red;">5:30pm Yoga/Hall</span>	<b>29</b> 7am Mass 9am Forum	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
Parish Administrator Vacation						