

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



June 2019

Upcoming Events

June 1st – 11am-1pm/Hall
Altar Guild Meeting & Luncheon

June 2nd — ASCENSION SUNDAY

June 8th – 5pm/Church & Hall
Funeral/Reception for Mary Dodge Nealey

June 9th – PENTECOST
Don't forget to wear RED!

June 9th – Despedida for Tim Hartley
after each service in Hall



June 16

June 16th – Covering Clergy-Omernick

June 18th – 7pm/Hall
Vestry Meeting

June 23rd – 1pm/Church
Funeral for Sandra Dickey

June 23rd – Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

From the Rector

As I write this article, I am anticipating several funerals over the next few weeks. In some cases, the person who died left very explicit instructions; and in some cases, the family is left trying to figure out what to do. In one case, to quote from the Great Litany, the person died “suddenly and unprepared.”

I hope that this season of funerals can be an inspiration for all of us to take some time and give some thought to end of life considerations.

First, do you have a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare in place? Recently Deacon Ed shared with me a new document that can take the place of a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare called The Five Questions. This document goes farther than a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare in that it asks about quality of life and hopes.

Have you filled out our Funeral and Burial Instructions form? It can be easily accessed on the Parish website under Resources – Life Events. (And yes, we maintain a file for these documents in the Parish Office, and they make life so much simpler for loved ones.)

Finally, do you have a Will or Family Trust? Death in families, and in the Church, is never without grief and sorrow. But with planning ahead, death can be more easily addressed. Prior planning is a remarkable gift for all involved.

MAB+

“Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord:
 And let light perpetual shine upon them
 May their souls, and the souls of all the
 departed,
 through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.”



ASCENSION SUNDAY POTLUCK

JUNE 2ND

Only ONE MASS on June 2nd at 9:30am

There was some discussion at the church retreat last fall that we celebrate one mass altogether more often. What better day to do this than on the Sunday following the Feast of the Ascension?

On June 2, we will celebrate the Ascension of our Lord together at 9:30AM, with a potluck to follow. Brunch dishes can be dropped off in the church kitchen before mass. If you missed the opportunity to sign-up via the online Sign-Up Genius or on the events table in Hawks Hall.... Don't Fret! Bring your own special dish to share. As always, we especially need help setting up and cleaning up, so please consider helping in this way, if you can.

May

Pledge Payment Snapshot



2019 Budget
\$220,881

YTD Budget: \$92,033

YTD Actual: \$95,203

Difference: \$+3,170

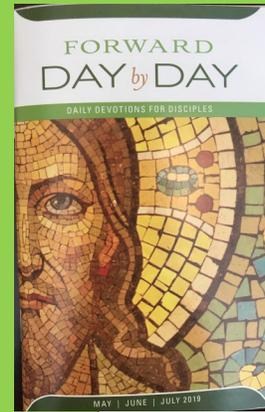


SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST

St. Anne's Altar Guild Meeting & Luncheon

11am—1pm in Hawks Hall

Anyone interested in learning about St. Anne's Altar Guild is welcome to come. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Lynne Holl at pugowners@roadrunner.com or call 626-437-8219



Don't forget to pick up a copy of the latest **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.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Singers and musicians ~ a frequently heard phrase in reference to choristers and/or soloists in comparison to instrumentalists. This bifurcation, however, appears to indicate that singers are not musicians, which is most definitely **not** the case. So, if you ever have the occasion to refer to such cohorts, please be sure to say *singers and instrumentalists!*

It's that time of year when our Ascension choristers go on hiatus for a few months to enjoy a well-deserved rest from weekly rehearsal and service obligations. Please join me in expressing your appreciation to these dedicated *musicians* for their offerings throughout the year.

The choir's last Sunday of the season is June 16, Trinity Sunday, so you have three more weeks to enjoy choral music in the services. Anthems for the month, by predominantly American composers, include:

June 2 – Ascension Sunday

God Has Gone Up With A Shout, arranged by American Hal Hopson, complete with handbells. This will be coupled with American composer Everett Titcomb's ethereal *I Will Not Leave You Comfortless*.

June 9 – Pentecost

Two exquisite anthems by British composer William H. Harris – *Come Down, O Love Divine* and *Behold the Tabernacle of God*.

June 16 – Trinity Sunday

The energetic offertory anthem, *Nicea Te Deum* by Ronald Turner, American, incorporates *Holy, Holy, Holy* sung by both congregation and choir. During communion, American composer Harold Friedell's beloved *Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether* will be sung.

Then on **June 23** it's congregation and organ – just you and me! Later in the summer solos and/or duets will be sung by various choir members; but until then, please join me in joyful song to the Lord!

*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.

There are times in our lives when inevitably we are overwhelmed with pain, grief, sorrow, and too many things that we don't understand. At such times the world can seem like an unfriendly, cold, and even hostile place. Sometimes, we simply wish we could just pray the world away. And believe me I know from personal experience that we try...at least I do and not too successfully I might add.

But lest we get too caught up in personal drama or seemingly unanswered prayers, we would do ourselves a favor by simply being gentle with ourselves and those around us, remembering that God's Kingdom is indeed a friendly place. American poet Langston Hughes offers us this reminder in his poem "Friendly Way."

I nodded at the sun
And the sun said, *Howdy do*"
I nodded at the tree
And the tree said, *Howdy too!*

I shook hands with the bush.
The bush shook hands with me.
I said to the flower,
Flower, how do you be?

I spoke to the man.
The strange man touched his hat.
I smiled at the woman-
The world is smiling yet.

Oh, it's a holiday
When everybody feels that way!
What way?- *Friendly*
In a friendly way.

Sure, the world can be troublesome to navigate at times - as it certainly was for Mr. Hughes. Yet, the poet knew that life has benefits too. If we are friendly to the world, the world is friendly to us. And if we're friendly to ourselves and to each other...well, think of the possibilities. Perhaps it's as easy as our willingness to be available, vulnerable, and nice.

Live well, live blessed, play nice.
Deacon Ed+

We are a Church and a Community

When we attend Mass, not only are we in the presence of the Almighty, but we are there together—"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20. To be among fellow believers was and continues to be one of the most dynamic ways to experience the fullness of Christ.

Paul's metaphor in Romans chapter 12 of the church as a body—each part with its distinct and uniquely valuable contribution—reminds us that not only is it a nice thing to be together, but a necessity; for the body cannot function properly without the contributions of ALL its parts. As we enter the summer, although many of us are busy with prior commitments, leisure, special projects, or anything else, please consider the ways in which you are a necessary part of this body of Ascension.

We will have our **Fall Kick-Off celebration on September 8**—celebrating all the ways in which we serve God together. Whatever YOUR gifts may be, there is use for them here. We hope that everyone feels that they not only belong, but are a valuable contributor without whom we would be at a loss.

Submitted by Nicole Hanson, Fellowship Ministry Leader





Fair Trade Coffee at Coffee Hour

At my house as we try to stick to our family budget, we are regularly having to make decisions weighing the cost of certain items with the ethics of them. Sometimes we opt for the lowest price; but as often as possible, we try to give the most weight to the ethics of its production and/or use. Some of the criteria our family uses to discern which products are worth spending more on include: Is there minimal and/or recyclable packaging? Is the item made to last? Was the item produced by workers paid a fair wage and in safe conditions? Is the item produced under sustainable conditions? It's not always possible to know the answer to these questions, but we do our best.

At Ascension, we have decided to switch to purchasing Fair Trade coffee for our coffee hour. It is not the least-expensive coffee; but as a way to care for our global community, we feel it is important to make this commitment. From now on, we will be purchasing Equal Exchange coffee which has an established partnership with a number of church organizations, including Episcopal Relief and Development. To learn more about Equal Exchange and its mission, please visit <https://blog.equalexchange.coop/>

Nicole Hanson, Fellowship Ministry Leader



**PENTECOST
SUNDAY**

June 9th

Don't forget to wear *RED!*

Can You Host Coffee Hour?

For the last couple of years, the coffee hour sign-up sheet has been left mostly empty. We would love to revitalize our coffee hour with more congregational participation, so we are asking everyone to consider hosting at least one coffee hour per year--more if you feel so inclined. To host coffee hour, you would either make or purchase a simple snack (e.g., bagels and cream cheese, your favorite cookies, a fruit or veggie platter), arrive with your snack item about 15-20 minutes before the service to prepare the coffee and accompanying accoutrements and arrange your snack item on a plate or platter. After Mass, quickly make your way back to the kitchen to make sure everything is set up and ready. After coffee hour winds down, help clean up the kitchen, wash the coffee pots and mugs, and wipe down counters.

You can sign-up on the bulletin board in Hawks Hall or online via Sign-Up Genius. We will email a link to the most updated Sign-Up Genius on a quarterly basis.

Nicole Hanson,
Fellowship Ministry Leader





Shower for **BABY MCGuffie** (and parents Josh & Jobi)

Sunday, July 14, 2019

At Coffee Hour following the 10:15 Mass

Dessert Potluck—cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, etc.

Collecting Monetary donations for a Gift(s) from the Parish-

Checks payable to Lynne Holl - mail to the church or leave in Altar Guild Box

Questions???? Contact Lynne Holl 626-355-1560 or 626-437-8219

A little late in sharing, but some pictures of the choir on Easter Sunday 2019.

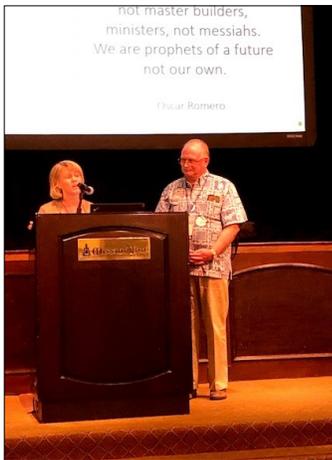


"Easter Choir between Services"



"Easter Instrumentalists"

Father Michael at the recent Clergy Conference May 6—May 8



Get ready for the Friends In Deed Back to School Backpack and School Supply Drive



Bring your donations to Church any time in July

This year's needs are

- Backpacks--new sturdy backpacks (no red or blue colors please)
- 3-Ring binders
- Tab Dividers
- College ruled notebook paper
- Spiral notebooks
- Pencils
- Dry erase markers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayola Crayons (24 pack)
- Rulers
- Glue Sticks



Friends In Deed will distribute to school aged children in need. Help kids be prepared, feel confident, and have a successful school year.

Submitted by **Scott Callihan**, Outreach Ministry Leader

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

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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

JUNE 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Altar Guild Meeting & Luncheon Hall/11am-1pm
2 ASCENSION SUNDAY 9:30am Mass 2pm EFM Mtg/Library **ONLY (1) Service @ 9:30am** Join us for a Potluck after the service.	3 Gooden Promotion Rehearsals Church 8am— Noon Fr. Bamberger Out of Office/Clergy Group	4 10am Prayer in the Chapel Gooden Baccalaureate Church *Rehearsal from 8am-9:30am* 7pm—8pm	5 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	6 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg Gooden Promotion Ceremonies Church 8am—11:30am	7 Music Rehearsal 4pm—6pm Hall (Private)	8 Music Recital 1:30pm—5pm Hall (Private) Funeral & Reception for Mary Dodge Nealey Church/Hall 5pm-8pm
9 PENTECOST Despedida for Ministry Intern Tim Hartley after each service 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 Funeral for Eli Breeskin Church @ 2pm	10 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	11 10am Prayer in the Chapel	12 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	13 7am Mass 9am Forum	14 Spiritual Direction 10:30—11:30 Rector's Office (Private)	15 SM Music Recital 2pm—6pm Church & Hall (Private)
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office / CREDO Conference, Richmond VA						
16 FATHER'S DAY Covering Clergy-Omernick 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass Fr. Bamberger Out of Office / CREDO Conference, Richmond VA	17	18 Vestry Mtg Hall/7pm	19 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	20 7am Mass 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg	21 MAY SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	22
23 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass Noon: PMC Mtg/Library Funeral for Sandra Dickey Church @ 1pm	24 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	25 10am Prayer in the Chapel JULY SPIRE ARTICLES DUE	26 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	27 7am Mass 9am Forum	28	29 Funeral 11am—Noon Church (Private)
30 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass				4 4th of July Office Closed		