

# The June 2022 SPIRE

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



## Upcoming Events

\*Please see the calendar on page 8 for an updated list of events.\*



Pentecost Sunday  
June 5th

## From the Rector

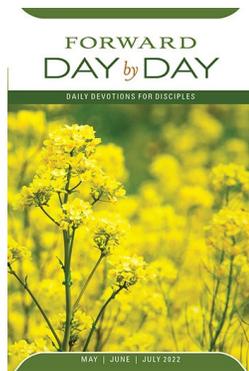
Anger. Fear. Deep Sadness. Nausea. Horror. Helplessness. Grief. Numbness. The list of feelings that we may have experienced over the last few weeks in the aftermath of the shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde goes on and on. The pain seems to keep recurring as well. Each new event adds another layer of trauma. My fear is that we may become so used to violence that we become either indifferent or paralyzed with fear.

The issue around gun violence is so complex and multi-faceted. Like so many issues in our society, it has become deeply politicized and can be a source of great dividedness. People of good will find it hard to talk about gun violence.

As a congregation, I hope we can model listening to each other. A good place to begin is to ask each other how we are feeling in the wake of these tragedies. And as I preached on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we need to get up from our own sense of being paralyzed and commit to some action. It is hard and somewhat daunting to even know where to begin. But as the old riddle goes – “How do you eat an elephant?” “One bite at a time.” Listening to each other is one starting point. And it never hurts to pray.

Please feel free to reach out to me, Deacon Ed, or Pastor Josh if you would like to be heard.

Father Michael+



Pick up a copy of the new 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 requested.

## MAY 2022 Pledge Payment Snapshot



2022 Budget \$210,000

YTD Budget:	\$87,500
YTD Actual:	\$83,565
Difference:	\$-3,935

## 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 at the back of the church.

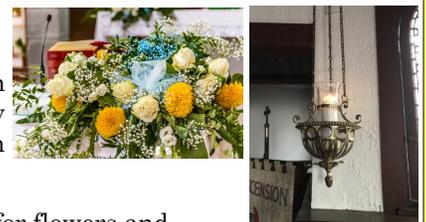
\*\*\*\*Payment should be made by CHECK (\$40.00 for flowers and \$15.00 for a candle) payable to Church of the Ascension. \*\*\*\* Please include a note giving the date that you signed up for and any dedication.

Here are the sign-up genius links:

Sanctuary Candles:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a4a628a7f94-sanctuary>

Altar Flowers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e44a4a628a7f94-altar>





After we all settled into the reality of the pandemic, we began speculating about a “new normal.” For a while, we held on to the belief that life would return to normal, whatever that meant. Two years later, one thing is certain - some things resemble the past as we knew it; and, at the same time, life is very different.

But what about Sunday morning? Ahh, the shaggy, lazy pace of Sunday morning, assuming you don’t have a house full of kids and their activities that make you wish it were Monday. The obese Sunday Times arrives and you can stay in your robe while the bacon is cooking, and the aroma of fresh coffee fills the house. Your family shuffles into the kitchen, yawning and happy that’s there’s no agenda except to get ready for church.

Yes, some things resemble the past as we knew it; and yet life is very different. Who needs to get ready for church when there’s Face Book Live, fresh coffee, bacon, and perhaps a peek at the paper? Personally, I’m glad there’s a new opportunity for those who can’t get to church to worship. Personally, I miss seeing the church full and our community coming together to praise God, share the Sacrament, give thanks for our many blessings, happy to see one another. The gossip isn’t so bad either...just saying.

Sure, Sunday Mass can be pro forma, sometimes dull and formal and just another check box on the to-do list; but most of the time, it isn’t. Most of the time it’s warm, occasionally funny, and communal. Sometimes it’s even moving. You can sit back under the glowing windows, listen to wonderful music, and remember that the church isn’t really a huge corporation so much as a collection of villages in which people hold hands against the dark and believe in the unbelievable. Isn’t that wonderful and something to be grateful for! But you already knew that.

Hope to see you soon.

Be well, be blessed, smell the bacon, come to church.

**Deacon Ed+**

## **COFFEE HOURS HAVE RETURNED!**

I, for one, am excited that our Church is returning to “normal” following these past three years of the Pandemic. Our choir is back in the loft, our Services resumed in-doors several months ago, and now we are able to enjoy “Coffee Hours” in Hawks Hall.

I will be returning as the “Hospitality Hostess” on a part-time basis to make our events fun, food filling, and festive and to celebrate the many special events we have scheduled according to the Church calendar, such as: Easter Brunch; a Bishop’s visit; Pentecost; Blessing of the Animals; An Epiphany Supper; Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and many more celebrations as those occasions happen.

I also invite all of you to Host a personal coffee hour for yourselves, your family and/or your friends for something special going on in your/their lives, such as: Baptisms, a Milestone Birthday; an Anniversary, or a Graduation. There are many special events that we have in our lives; and if you would like to share with your church family, please do so by hosting a coffee hour.

For a personal coffee hour, the Host may either provide the prepared food or provide the Hospitality Hostess with a budget, and I will prepare the meal (or snacks) and arrange for the Hawks Hall to be set-up and decorated. The only request I have for a personal coffee hour is that the Host provide a clean-up crew of 2 – 4 people. I too will work alongside the clean-up crew to put the Hall and the kitchen back to order.

When it comes to Special Events for the church, the church will sponsor the event and conduct fundraising efforts to help defray the costs.

(Note: The reason for the “part-time” of being your Hospitality Hostess is that I am frequently out of town (generally once a month) and in June we spend 4 – 5 weeks camping, fishing, off-roading in the High Sierras.)

I’m looking forward to making all of these events come to life.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Wagner, Hospitality Hostess





# MUSIC<sub>AT</sub> ASCENSION

## NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Mr. Robert L. Williamson

*Organist-Choirmaster*

## Organ Works ~ Have you noticed any changes?

As the work on the organ continues, you may have noticed some physical and tonal changes with the instrument. As you can imagine with an instrument just turning the ripe old age of 40 and computer technology that goes back to the 1980's, we may have some problems. I am working diligently with Ballantyne Organ Builders to resolve issues with the instrument and keep the music playing.

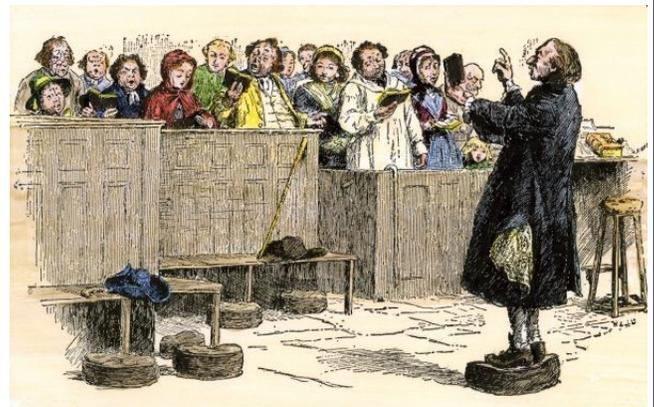


## HYMNS ~ Do you have a favorite?

As we approach the summer, it's always been my tradition to ask the congregation, "What is your favorite hymn". We all have a favorite hymn or tune that makes us smile when we sing. As I plan the music over the summer, I would like to sing your favorite hymn. For my mother who recently passed, her favorite hymn was A Mighty Fortress Is Our God; Tune: EIN FESTE BUG. What is yours?

I will have a box in the rear of the church where you can drop me a note naming your favorite hymn or you can email me as well at [robertwilliamson05@gmail.com](mailto:robertwilliamson05@gmail.com).

Please keep in mind that the hymns need to come from our approved list of Episcopal Music Resources (*The 1982 Hymnal, Wonder Love and Praise, Lift Every Voice and Sing, etc.*).



*Soli Deo  
Gloria*

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 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 	<b>2</b> 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg 1:10pm Gooden Chapel-Chalk4Peace	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> VOTING-HAWKS HALL
<b>5</b> <b>PENTECOST</b> 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	<b>6</b> Fr. Michael out of office/Clergy Support Group 8:30am Yoga/Hall 1pm Gooden Drama Class/Hall	<b>7</b> 12:30-3pm Gooden Drama Classes/Hall GOODEN PROMOTION REHEARSALS/CHAPEL	<b>8</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>9</b> 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum	<b>10</b> 8am-5pm: Gooden Promotions-Chapel	<b>11</b>
VOTING-HAWKS HALL						
<b>12</b> <b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b> 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	<b>13</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>16</b> 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum 10:30am Staff Mtg	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30am-1:30pm: SMM Music Recital/Hall Private
<b>19</b> <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	<b>20</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 	<b>21</b> 7:30pm Vestry Meeting Hall	<b>22</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>23</b> 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Tentative Hall Rental: Time TBD Private
<b>26</b> 8am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live* 9am Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:15am Worship w/Eucharist *Facebook Live*	<b>27</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 6:30-9:30pm: Photochromers Meeting/Hall Private	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8:30am Yoga/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	<b>30</b> 8:15am Mass 9am Rector's Forum		