



The SPIRE

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



November 2017

Upcoming Events

November 3rd—10am/Funeral for
Jim Galligan

November 11th—Veteran's Day

November 16th— 6:30pm
House Church/Dinner *location TBD*

November 18th— 6pm/Annual Holiday
Shopping Party @ Savor the Flavor

November 20th— 9th Annual
Thanksgiving Luncheon /Women's
Room of Friends In-Deed

November 26th— Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

November 28th— 7pm/Hawks Hall
Vestry Meeting

From the Rector

As I write this article, yet another act of violence has occurred; and more people have died at the hands of someone intent on killing and hurting other human beings. I don't pretend to have adequate answers for this violent action or senseless behavior. I do believe that in order for a person to commit these kinds of crimes, he/she must somehow look on other people as objects, rather than fellow human beings. And this kind of dehumanizing objectification happens more frequently than we care to admit. Again, I don't pretend to have easy solutions. But as our Christian year draws to a close before Advent, it might help for us to remember the promises at baptism.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

I don't mean to suggest that we should abdicate our collective and communal responsibilities to provide for a safer environment for all to live and thrive, but I believe that we all must take individual responsibility for our own approach with regard to others. I realize that taking individual responsibility isn't always easy. Earlier this month, I arrived at an airport expecting to fly home only to discover that the building had been evacuated because someone had planted a bomb with the intention of killing strangers. My initial thought was to dehumanize the responsible party and categorize him in a way that was less than loving and respectful. After reflecting on how I could have chosen to feel grateful instead of mad and inconvenienced, I'd like to think I came to my senses. Alas, I'm not perfect. But at least I can say, we're all human. And that is how God loves us and calls us to love others – as humans.

Father Michael

"Adopt a Fountain"

Some years ago, the rose bushes around the Church of the Ascension were tended lovingly by Eberle Wilson. Eberle was seldom in church for worship; but while his wife Adrienne was doing her Altar Guild work, he was outside pruning, feeding, and watering the roses. We have another opportunity for contributing to our common life at hand. The fountain on the south side of the church really could do with someone stepping up and caring for it. This contribution would involve all aspects of its care – cleaning, replenishing the water, and the like. If you feel called to this ministry of maintenance or would like more information, please call the parish office.



THANKSGIVING
DAY
SERVICE
9:30AM



REMINDER

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2am on Sunday, November 5th.



Pledge Payment Snapshot

January—October 29, 2017

Budget Amount: \$208,437

YTD Budget: \$173,698
YTD Actual: \$180,773

Difference: \$+7,075

STEW 2018 ARD IHSD

Numbers as of November 3, 2017

- \$187,773/approx.79% of goal reached
- Of the 115 households, 61 have pledged.

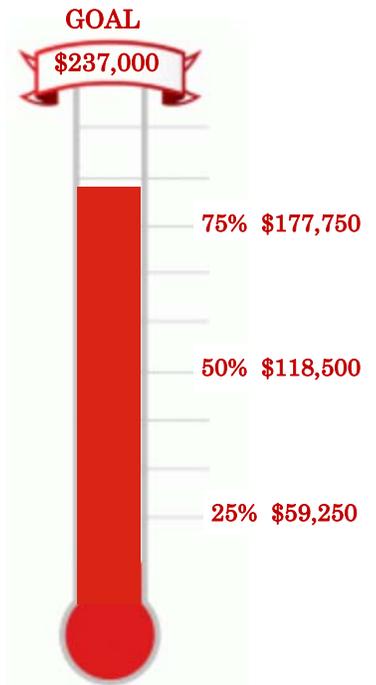
As we conclude our Stewardship campaign this month, I would like to thank everyone who filled out a pledge card.

For those who have yet to turn in your card, we would still appreciate a response. Even if events in your life have prevented you from making a financial pledge at this time, do return your pledge card identifying some of the ways you use your time and talent. Do you take care of a family member or neighbor? Do you volunteer time at a school or at Church? Do you baby sit for your grandchildren so that their parents can work? Stewardship is not restricted to a monetary contribution. Using one's gifts of talent and time are also forms of serving.

Again, your Vestry and I want to thank you all for your Stewardship, whether it is in the form of what you **DO, GIVE, SHARE OR DEMONSTRATE**. Church of the Ascension appreciates all that you contribute.

Submitted by Jean Rowe, Senior Warden

Need a Stewardship packet? Extra packets are located at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.



We cordially invite you to our
Thanksgiving & Christmas
Shopping Party



Check out the gift trends of 2017!

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2017

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Where: Savor the Flavor LLC
11 Kersting Court
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Please remember that this Private Shopping Party is a charitable fundraiser for Church of the Ascension. Savor the Flavor LLC will be donating 10% of all purchases from this evening's event to our church.

Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, November 12th
(*Sign-up sheet on Hawks Hall bulletin board*)
Contact Jean Rowe with any questions.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS DUE NOW

Each January at our annual meeting, we elect three new members of the Vestry, the body within the congregation that, with the Rector, leads the parish. Vestry members are elected for three year terms. This year we will also be electing a 4th member for a 2 year term to fill Carl Foote's position. Vestry meets once a month throughout the year. Additional meetings (and committee meetings) are held as needed. A Vestry member must be willing to accept the responsibility of regular attendance and be willing to serve on one or more committees.

Now is the time for the parish to nominate next year's Vestry candidates. According to the Diocesan guidelines, a Vestry nominee must be 16 years of age or older and be a confirmed communicant in good standing in the Episcopal Church. He or she must also attend church services at Ascension regularly and be a pledging contributor to the parish. A member of the Vestry may not be a member of any other church.

Names of nominees should be submitted to Father Michael or any Vestry member by December 1st.

Ongoing Stewardship / Time ~ Talent

Thank you to all parishioners who are stewards of Ascension through your time and talents. This month we'd like to acknowledge the following people for what they DO for our church.

- ⇒ **Maggie Outhouse** for her monthly creation of the lay service schedule, for organizing the Women's Room Thanksgiving Dinner, and for assisting whenever she is asked.
- ⇒ **Ross and Beth Kellock** for his organizing the Audit Committee, the Insurance Committee and for being an offering counter and her role of organizing the Tuesday Evening Dinner Group, her work on the Archives Committee, and for acknowledging and giving thanks to those who have contributed so much to our church.
- ⇒ **Beverly Clifton** for her constant work in recording our Church history, for her work on Altar Guild, and for setting up 8:00 coffee hour.
- ⇒ **Hal Ryerson** and **Sandra Dickey** for their patience in helping us through the audit process.
- ⇒ **Michelle Tierney** for providing all of the Ascension information we see in the local papers.
- ⇒ **Mike Beach** for being at church every day answering phones, folding programs, shopping for kitchen supplies, supervising building and grounds needs, and maintaining service records for the church.
- ⇒ **Mark Keith** for his role as our church treasurer.
- ⇒ Our **Youth Group** for creating the Scare Crow and the Haunted Basement
- ⇒ Our speakers during Stewardship Time for Tradition: **John Buchanan, Ted Bosley, Ray and Linda Smith, Bill Voegeli, Rob Stockly, Natalie Dougall, and Gordon Tomaske.**



The Time and Talents of the members of our parish make Ascension the living example of our life together in Christ. We are indeed blessed.

Jean Rowe, Senior Warden

An Opportunity for Giving



Please consider making a contribution to our music program for the special music we enjoy here at Ascension.

Donation envelopes will be available at the back of the church beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

For names to be included in the Christmas bulletins, donations must be received by Sunday, December 10th.

Thank You for your support.



Christmas Flower Offering

Name _____

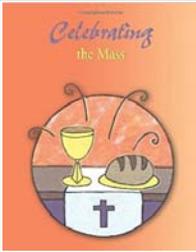
Dedication _____

St. Anne's Altar Guild is beginning preparations for our Christmas celebration, and we need your help. As in years past, the monies collected help us provide the beautiful greens and poinsettias during this most festive and important time of the year...remember there will be no flowers during Advent and the sanctuary always comes alive with the joys of the Christmas season. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful and generous donations.

Donation envelopes will be available at the back of the church beginning the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

For names to be included in the Christmas bulletins, donations must be received by Sunday, December 10th.

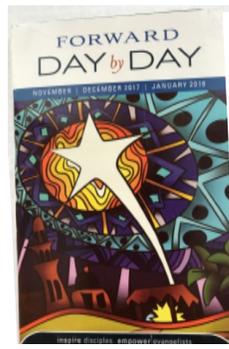
In Christ, St. Anne's Altar Guild



New Study Begins **Celebrating The Mass**

On November 12, the Library Small Group will begin a six week study based on the Catholic Perspectives study guide Celebrating the Mass by Kevin Perrotta. Together we will compare the Roman Catholic Eucharist with the Mass we celebrate here at Ascension, discuss the similarities and the differences we see, and reflect on why these differences exist and how they came about. We expect to periodically invite different members of our clergy to help us answer any questions we may have throughout the study.

Please join us Sundays at 9:15 in the Hawks Hall Library. Come for one or all sessions. All are welcome.



Don't forget to pick up a copy of the new Forward Movement Day by Day Booklet. You can find copies at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall.

A \$2 donation is requested.



What's Happening? Check out sign up sheets for the upcoming events at our 'What's Happening' display in Hawks Hall.

This dedicated space will have all pertinent information and long-term sign up sheets for events at Ascension. (Because it's never too early to think about Easter...)

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

The month of November is bookended by our celebrations of All Saints' Day on the 5th and Christ the King Sunday on the 26th, ending the liturgical year. Each of these Sundays is rich with musical choices, both in hymnody and choral anthems. Hymnody for the inner Sundays, however, always challenge me – it's my goal to sing any given hymn only once during the liturgical year. (From time to time this goal is thwarted – legitimately – because certain hymns simply *belong* in a particular service and therefore merit duplication.) However, at this time of year we've sung most of the more familiar hymns, and I find myself left with a scarcity of hymns to choose from, hymns that pertain to the lessons of the day that the congregation will like to sing. I always breathe a sigh of relief with the arrival of Advent, along with the wonderful hymns appropriate to that season. In any case, I do hope that you'll enjoy November's hymnody – and if you encounter an unfamiliar hymn or two, get to know it and add it to your hymnody lexicon.

Choral music for November includes:

November 5 – Celebration of All Saints' Day

Charles Wood's (Anglo/Irish) glorious *O Thou, the Central Orb - Thy saints with holy luster round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height of God's ordaining counsel . . .*
The Souls of the Righteous by Stanley Marchant (British) - a contemplative, deeply moving setting of peace.

November 12

Salvation Has Come to Us by American Episcopalian Robert Powell - *the salvation and the power and the kingdom of God, and the authority of his Christ have come . . .*
John Rutter's (British) *Thy Perfect Love - Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest . . .*

November 19

American John Ness Beck's *Offertory* – *with what shall I come before the Lord?*
Charles Wood is featured again in *The Best of Rooms* – a beautiful setting of the Robert Herrick text

November 26 – Christ the King Sunday

Christ Is the World's True Light by Walter Kendall Stanton (British) – *come, Prince of Peace, and reign . . .*
Roland E. Martin's (American) *King of Glory*, a lovely portrayal of the George Herbert poem – *wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee . . .*

*Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee:
In my heart, though not in heaven, I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort to enroll thee:
E'en eternity's too short to extol thee.
~George Herbert*



Debora Huffman, Director of Music and Organist



Where Does My Money Go?

This month we look at the area of Formation. This year's Formation budget is \$3,645.

Learning is an on-going life long process which includes study, worship, fellowship, and prayer. Formation meets this challenge by providing programs for all ages.

Our lectionary based Sunday School meets from 9:00 – 9:50 and from 10:15 to Eucharist under the direction of our Minister for Younger Persons Jobi Harrell. Children of all ages are welcome.

Education is not only for the young. Beyond our youth groups, we have our weekly Small Groups that meet each Sunday for study, fellowship, and support.

Leaders of our Small Groups include Between the Masses Coordinators Diane and Gordon Tomaske and Pastor Josh McGuffie and Coordinator of the Library Small Group Jean Rowe.

The Rector's Forum is also included in this educational field known as Formation. Father Bamberger leads a weekly session on topics of current interest or the sharing of insights on a book that the group has chosen to read.

Daughters of the King, led by Dora Ryerson is a nationwide order of women in the Episcopal Church who concentrate on prayer, service, and evangelism.

With the exception of our Minister for Younger Persons Jobi Harrell, our Formation Ministry primarily functions with volunteer help. Formation would not exist as we know it without their help.

Thank you one and all.

Jean Rowe, Senior Warden



Our Sunday school classes need more volunteers to teach. Curriculum is provided, or you could share a special talent you like, or share an experience.

If interested, in helping out even one Sunday per month, that would be wonderful!

Please contact Jobi Harrell if you are interested.



REAL
LIFE. Real
Faith.

I seriously thought about taking a break from writing for the Spire this month. Obviously, that didn't happen. You know me.... always something to say.

As you all know by now, on October 21st, Chris and I said "I do" at Church of the Angels and began a new chapter in our lives. Months of planning and gee, it was really hard for me not to tell the world our good news. However, I knew we couldn't invite everyone and to avoid hurt feelings, I did my best at practicing the fine art of secrecy. For the record, I probably got a C+ . Not too bad for a New Yorker with a big mouth.

But here's what I really want to say...I am truly humbled that each of you is a part of my life and that we share our spiritual journeys together. Lord knows it isn't always easy, but it's certainly rewarding. A dear friend of mine, Sr. Ginny, always reminds me of how special Ascension is and how blessed we are. That wouldn't be if it wasn't for each of us doing what we can to honor what God has so richly blessed us with. It's really quite simple, "the more we give, the more we receive."

Although you weren't physically with Chris and me, please know that you were present in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.

Each of you in your own very special way has taught me about love, giving, and most importantly about receiving. I leave you with this quote which was on the cover of our service bulletin.

"Believe in a love that is being stored up for you like an inheritance, and have faith that in this love there is a strength and a blessing so large that you can travel as far as you wish without having to step outside it." *Ranier Maria Rilke*

Live well, live blessed, live loved, Deacon Ed+

9th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon~ Women's Room of Friends In-Deed Monday, November 20, 2017



- ⇒ Think about the best memory *you* have about Thanksgiving.
- ⇒ Do *you* have one Thanksgiving that stands out from all the rest?
- ⇒ Think about the traditions *you* associate with Thanksgiving.
- ⇒ Which tradition stands out from the rest?
- ⇒ Think about the family, friends and foods that may have helped create the fabric of those memories.

We all have different memories and traditions associated with Thanksgiving, and some may be more positive than others. Ascension is blessed with the opportunity to help create memories and traditions through food and friendship during the Women's Room of Friend's in Deed Thanksgiving Luncheon.

As you give thanks for your Blessings, your traditions and your family and friends, you will also know you have contributed to passing that experience on to others.

WE STILL NEED THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS:

- 3 People to Contribute Sliced and Ready to Serve Turkeys with Gravy
- 3 People to Contribute Mashed Potatoes
- 2 People to Contribute Green Beans with Mushrooms
- 2 People to Contribute Pumpkin or Apple Pies

***Don't feel like cooking?
Monetary donations are always welcome!***

Make checks payable to the Church of the Ascension. On the memo line, note "Women's Room Lunch". Feel free to add your checks with the "**Women's Room Luncheon**" notation to the Offering Plates on Sunday. Please make sure to add the note on the memo line.

***Please have monetary donations into the Church by
Friday, November 10, 2017.***

You can sign-up for your donation to the Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon using either the Sign-Up Sheets located on the Events Table in Hawks Hall, or the Sign-Up Sheets located at the front of the church at the beginning of each service. You can also send an email to me at maggiemyrne@earthlink.net letting me know what you would like to contribute. I will send out emails confirming your contribution as well as instructions containing dates, times and transportation instructions for dropping off your contributions.

Please prepare fully cooked and ready-to-serve servings for 20 for each item you sign-up to provide.

Rough Equivalents of 20 servings

- Large Turkey – 20+lb. turkey
- Stuffing – About 20 oz. dry mix
- Mashed Potatoes – About 7 ½ lbs of potatoes
- Green beans – About 5 lbs of green beans
- Sweet Potatoes – About 7 ½ lbs of sweet potatoes

One ½ size steam pan of a side dish = approximately 20 servings

One full size steam pan of carved turkey from 1 large turkey = approximately 20 + servings

Thank you.

Thank you so much for all that you are doing for those attending the Women's Room Luncheon. You are making a difference.

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Outhouse

IMPORTANT!

We will supply the 1/2 size heavy aluminum steam pans with lids for side dishes as well as the full size heavy aluminum steam pans with lids for carved turkey. Please use these containers for the transportation of all cooked, carved and prepared food from your home to Ascension and Luncheon. As recommended by the manufacturer, these containers are **ONLY** for transportation of food and **NOT** for cooking. Each pan will have a lid. We will also supply pie pans with lids for the pies. The pie pans **CAN** be also used for baking.

Blessing of the Animals ~ October 1st, 2017



Gooden School Sunday/Haunted House ~ Sunday, October 29th, 2017



Trick or Treating at Ascension!



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

NOVEMBER 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		3	1 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 3:30-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	2 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 10:30am Staff Mtg	3 10am Funeral for Jim Galligan	4 2pm—8pm Private Funeral and Reception for Kirk Kolar
5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass	6 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary	7 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	8 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 3:30-5pm Village Voices/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	9 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall	10 Private Spiritual Direction 9:30am—1pm Rectors Office	11 VETERAN'S DAY
Deacon Robin Retreat						
12 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass	13 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	14 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group Private Daisy Troop Meeting 4:30—6pm Hall	15 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 3:30-5pm Village Voices/Hall (last day) 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	16 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 10:30am Staff Mtg 6:30pm House Church/ Dinner *location TBD*	17 Private Spiritual Direction 1:30—2:30pm Library	18 9:45am—12:45pm Private Meeting Hall 3:30pm Private Wedding *Church Only* 6pm Holiday Shopping Party Savor the Flavor
Pastor Josh Out of Office						
Mike Beach Out of Office						
19 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass	20 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 9th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon ~ Women's Room of Friends In-Deed Hall/Kitchen and Off-Site	21 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group	22 8am-Chapel-Gooden Grandparents Day 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall	23 THANKSGIVING DAY 9:30am Mass	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25
Deacon Ed, Pastor Josh, Youth Minister Vacation Day						
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office—Vacation						
26 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	27 Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm DECEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	28 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group 7pm Vestry Meeting Hawks Hall	29 10:30-11:45 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 3:00 Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 5:30pm Yoga/Hall 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal/Hall Noon Clericus Meeting Hawks Hall	30 7am Mass 8:45-9:30 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall 9am Forum 9:45am Gooden Chapel/Sanctuary 10:30-11 Gooden K-1 Music/Hall	1	2
						DIOCESAN CONVENTION