



The SPIRE 2018

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



Upcoming Events

- November 4 – Crop Walk
- November 4 – Noon/Library Parish Ministry Council Mtg
- November 6 – VOTING in Hawks Hall
- November 12 – Veteran’s Day
- November 15 – 6:30pm House Church/Dinner Copeland Home

From the Rector

Growing up in the Sixties and Seventies, I was influenced by all sorts of music – rock, folk, as well as classical. One of my favorite artists was the Canadian folk singer Gordon Lightfoot.

A particular line from his song “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald” has been running through my mind the last couple of weeks – “Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the winds of November come early?” October has felt for me as if there has been an unanticipated spate of crises in the form of hate crimes, attempted bombings, and natural disasters.

It is always a legitimate question to ask where is God to be found in the midst of difficult and troubling times. As people of faith, we believe that the love of God can be found wherever there are acts of kindness, acts of courage, and acts of sacrificial giving.

As we move into November, let us recommit ourselves to kindness, respect, and service for others.

Blessings, MAB+

Sunday, November 18

ONLY (1) Mass @ 9:30am

Bishop Visit & Confirmation

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Acolytes please arrive by 8:30!

Are we on your To Do List?

We have received pledges from 57 of your fellow parishioners. Is your pledge card one of the missing? If so, I’m sure that you must have us on your November To Do List.

You can submit your pledge in three ways: put your pledge in the plate on Sunday, mail the pledge to the church, or pledge on line at <https://www.ascension-sierramadre.com/give.html>.

Your Vestry would like to complete the pledge drive by November 19th. Please help us make that deadline so that we can create a 2019 budget that reflects our commitment to Do More.

November 20 – 10th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon for The Women’s Room of Friends in Deed

November 20 – 7pm/Hall Vestry Mtg

November 22 – 9:30am Thanksgiving Day Mass

REMINDER



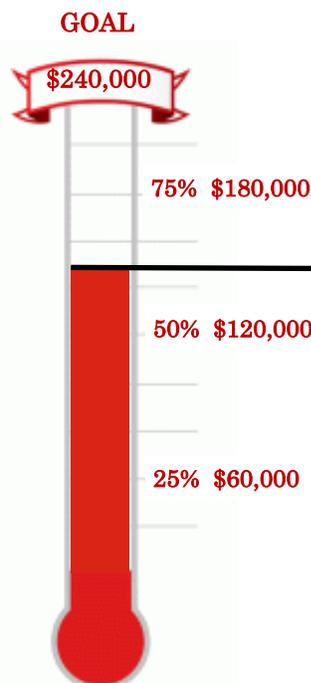
Daylight Savings Time ends at 2am on Sunday, November 4th.

Pledge Payment Snapshot-October



2018 Budget Amount: \$211,001

YTD Budget: \$175,834
YTD Actual: \$179,330



The numbers as of November 2, 2018

Proposed budget for 2019: \$342,740

2019 Pledge Goal: \$240,000

- \$163,342 (approx. 68% of goal reached)
- # of member families/individuals who have pledged: 57

Thank You to those who have already pledged!

DOING MORE

October has been a busy month at Ascension. But activities don't just happen. They require the help of many hands. I'd like to particularly thank the youth for looking after the animals who came to Blessing of the Animals, Nicole Hanson for providing donuts for the human participants, and Father Michael for the doggy goodies.

Those who attended the All Parish Retreat raved about the delicious meals provided by Nicole Hanson and Natalie Dougall. The day's program was designed by Father Michael and Pastor Josh. Thanks should also go to those who spontaneously helped set up and clean up.

The Halloween Candy Distribution was organized by Lynne Holl and Pastor Josh. Food was supplied by Lynne, Jobi, Marie Prentice and other contributors who I can't name yet as I write this article. Many thanks to all of you parishioners who contributed candy to hand out and to all those who had the fun of passing the candy out.

November brings more opportunities to volunteer. You can

- ⇒ walk or donate to the November 4 Crop Walk
- ⇒ contribute to the weekly ingathering for Friends in Deed throughout the month.
- ⇒ cook, transport, serve, and contribute to the Women's Room Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20. (Remember to sign up)
- ⇒ donate to Episcopal Relief and Development Hurricane Fund

Upcoming in December you can participate in

- ⇒ the Savor the Flavor Shopping Party on December 8th. (Ten percent of what we spend comes back to Ascension.)
- ⇒ the Hillside's Adopt a Family Christmas Program
- ⇒ the Christmas Pageant

November and December are busy months, Do plan on putting some of these activities on your Fall schedule as together we give thanks for the blessings of our volunteers here at Ascension. Together we can Do More.

Jean Rowe, Senior Warden



Next Steps in Doing More

At our All Parish Retreat on October 13, participants brainstormed about what the assets of Ascension are and how we can use our assets to help others. The group determined that we should focus on helping the seniors in our community – those in facilities such as the Kensington, the British Home and the low income senior housing facility. We should also focus on church members who are ill or grieving and increase our food donations to Friends in Deed.

Over the next couple of meetings, Parish Ministry Council will determine how the parish can implement these goals and will then submit a plan to the Vestry.

Jean Rowe, Sr. Warden



The Perry Exterior Restoration Project is narrowing down

The work on the east Church rock surfaces is 80%+ complete.

The rose garden at the Parish House driveway is getting some much needed restoration.

Over 100+ grout fixes have been done to the beautiful stone exterior of our Church with a few more being planned.

Five of our beautiful stained glass windows have been removed, restored, and cleaned while their window frames have been repaired and painted and now have been placed back on the Church.

All of the Church's external molding and doors have a new coat of paint and more painting is planned.

Our entry doors have found the perfect red color.

The sanctuary door rehab is underway.

Plus many more small repairs and restorations have been completed to our iconic 130+ year old Church.

Thank You Mike Beach for all of your help in making this all possible.

A Very Big Thank You to Marthann Mulleavy for her generosity and cooperation.

Tim Hayden, Vestry Member and Perry Project Manager

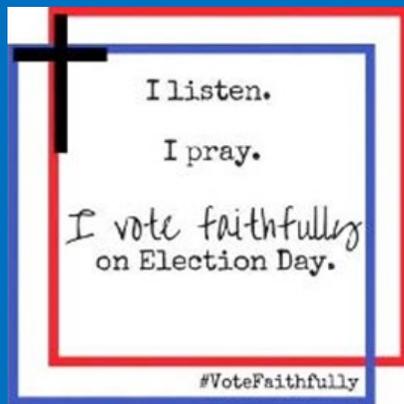
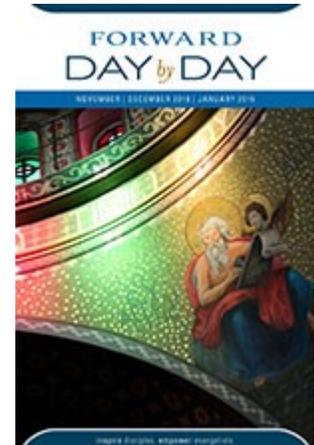


Sanctuary door. 'Before'



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.



“We are blessed as a nation to vote. As citizens of this country this is a right, an obligation, and a duty. Go vote. Vote your conscience. Your conscience informed by what it means to **love your neighbor**, to participate in the process of **seeking the common good**, to participate in the process of **making this a better world**. However you vote, go and vote. And do that as followers of Jesus.”

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

10th Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon ~Women's Room of Friends In-Deed

Tuesday, November 20, 2018



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 special memories and traditions through food and friendship during the Women's Room of Friends 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.

You have 2 ways to sign-up for your donation to the Women's Room Thanksgiving Luncheon.

- Online using the signup option link that will be sent to your email on Monday, 10/29/18
- Sign-Up Sheets located on the Events Table in Hawks Hall available beginning Sunday, 11/04/18.

If you sign up online, you will receive confirmation of your donation as well as timely reminders from the online service. If you sign up at the Event Table, I will send out emails confirming your contribution. All will receive an additional email from me with instructions containing important dates, times, and transportation instructions for dropping off your contributions.

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

You now have two options for donating money to the Women's Room Luncheon.

- Online at <https://www.ascension-sierramadre.com> .
 - ⇒ Click on Give.
 - ⇒ Click on Make a Donation. This allows you to make a one-time donation.
 - ⇒ Under Multiple Choice, click Other and fill in **Women's Room Luncheon** in the Notes box.
 - ⇒ Click on Continue to Review the information
 - ⇒ Click on Submit
 - ⇒ Enter your credit card information and then click on Submit Payment.
- You may also make a check payable to the Church of the Ascension. Please write **"Women's Room Luncheon"** on the **memo line**. Feel free to add your check to the Offering Plates on Sundays.

Please have monetary donations into the Church by Friday, November 16 2018.

If there is any money not used for the luncheon, it will be donated directly to the Women's Room.

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
 Gravy - 3 quarts—prepared

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

One full size steam pan of carved turkey (without bones) from 1 large turkey = approximately 20 + servings

IMPORTANT!

We will supply the 1/2 size heavy aluminum steam pans with lids for side dishes, as the full size heavy aluminum steam pans with lids for carved turkey (with no bones) or side dishes, if needed, and pie pans with plastic lids. Please use these containers for the transportation of all cooked, carved and prepared food from your home to Ascension and then to the Luncheon. As recommended by the manufacturer, the Steam Pans are **ONLY** for transportation of food and **NOT** for cooking. Each pan will have a lid. However, the pie pans **CAN** be used for baking.

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

Respectfully submitted, Maggie Outhouse



In my last homily (10/21/18), I discussed how letting go of our old beliefs and misconceptions is a process of spiritual renewal, and our reluctance or refusal to let them go hinders us from being the person God intends us to be. Letting go is what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Letting go is what it means to live a Jesus Centered life. Letting go is what it means to walk in the way of love, what happens when we let go and let God. When we let go, in spite of the suffering, in spite of the difficulty, in spite of the uncertainty, we begin to take care of ourselves and, in turn, each other.

You may be thinking that letting go is a tall order and almost impossible to achieve. It's easy during these difficult times in which we find ourselves to stay stuck rather than face the uncertainty of change and letting go. What's that old saying: "the devil you know is better than the devil you don't know."

This month and for the next few, I want to offer some thoughts on how to make letting go easier and to engage in a process of spiritual renewal.

It begins with discovering our own truth. We must discover our truth for ourselves. The truths of others regardless of what they are is their truth. There's nothing wrong with that, and their truth may turn out to be our truth too, but we need to discover that for ourselves. We must each discover and stand in our own light. Right about now you might be thinking of the lyrics to the Negro Spiritual: "this little light of mine I'm gonna make it shine..."

The process of learning what is right and true for ourselves sometimes involves struggle, failure, confusion, and frustration. Embracing the obstacles and not running from the challenges is how we learn what is true and right for ourselves. It is where we find our light.

We can share information with others, and they can tell us what can predictably happen if we pursue a particular course of action. But this information will mean nothing until we integrate the message and it becomes our truth, our discovery, our knowledge.

All of us have our own truth to share, just waiting to reveal itself to us. All of us have our own share of light waiting for us to stand in it, to claim as our own. Welcome the encouragement and support offered along the way - it helps. Everyone has truth available to them, appropriate to a wide range of situations.

We're not alone. We are all on a journey. We shall be guided to the truth if we're honestly seeking it.

Live well, live blessed, and let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. +Deacon Ed

NOTES FROM THE LOFT The month of November is rich with ceremony: All Saints' Sunday, Veterans Day, Episcopal Visit, and Christ the King Sunday – the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Choral music to complement these themes includes:

November 4 – All Saints' Sunday / The bright Give Us the Wings of Faith by Richard Shepherd (Give us the wings of faith to rise within the veil and see the saints above), coupled with Thomas Pavlechko's O Taste and See (Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord). Of course the service will include singing For All the Saints, SINE NOMINE, by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

November 11 – Veterans Day Weekend

Come, Sing Unto the Lord by Henry Purcell, arranged by Mark Schweizer. During communion Hal Hopson's lyrical The Gift of Love, set to the beloved tune, O WALY WALY. Together we'll sing the Navy Hymn, MELITA, Almighty Father, Strong to Save.

November 18 – Episcopal Visit / William H. Harris' Fear Not, O Lord and a lovely setting of Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, by H. H. Parry.

November 22 – Thanksgiving Day / Although the Thanksgiving service does not include choral or organ music, your favorite hymns of Thanksgiving will be sung.

November 25 – Christ the King Sunday / To begin the service, our traditional introit, Choral Fanfare for Christ the King by H. Hamilton Smith. The offertory anthem will be Jane Marshall's brilliant My Eternal King; during communion, Roland E. Martin's lush King of Glory, King of Peace.

It's my sincere hope that you've enjoyed the music of the past year, that it has enriched your worship and stirred your soul. May our November offerings do likewise.

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



Believe it or not we are at that time of the year again where your help and contributions allow the Altar Guild to decorate our beautiful space. We count on your generosity to make this happen. Remember during Advent there are no flowers except for the third Sunday.

Envelopes are available at the back of the church and on the reception table in Hawks Hall. Thanking you in advance for your making this another beautiful Christmas season.

For names to be included in the Christmas bulletins, donations must be received by Sunday, December 9th.

St. Anne's Altar Guild



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 9th.

Thank You for your support.

CROP Hunger Walks help to support the overall work of Church World Service, particularly grassroots development efforts around the world. Join us on Sunday, November 4th for the 2018 Pasadena Area CROP Walk. Carpools will depart immediately after the 10:15 AM Mass. Participants, please bring a sack lunch or money for lunch at McDonald's. We plan on completing the 5K walk which starts at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church at 1:30 PM. Participants will return to Ascension when all have completed the distance! For more information, contact Jobi McGuffie at (626) 710-3021. **DRIVERS ARE NEEDED!!**



GREETERS/USHERS NEEDED!

We are in need of greeters/ushers for the 10:15 service.

Please consider helping out the existing families who are serving several times a month by committing to one Sunday a month.

Contact Maggie Outhouse at maggiemyrne@earthlink.net.

Friends In Deed Donations

As part of our service learning at The Gooden School, we will be collecting items throughout the year to donate to Friends In Deed. Friends In Deed is a nonprofit organization located in Pasadena that provides services to meet basic human needs for the homeless and at-risk community members. We would love to have the parishioners of Ascension join us, so we can work together in accumulating a larger donation!

Bring donations to the church on Sunday's throughout the year. There will be two donation bins as you enter the back of the church labeled "Friends In Deed Donations."

The focus for November is toiletries and pet food (dog and cat). The toiletries needed are: **Soap (bars), toothbrushes & toothpaste, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, hand lotion, razors & shaving cream, feminine hygiene products, and toilet paper.**

At the end of each month, I will empty the donation bins and a class from Gooden will take it over to Friends in Deed.

We look forward to working with Ascension as together we learn the value of reaching out and helping others!

Emily Keezer, The Gooden School
2nd grade Teacher and Dean of Religious Life



**Blessing of the Animals
October 7, 2018**



2018 Christmas Pageant Rehearsals will begin on November 25th during the 9:00 AM formation hour and during the 10:15 AM Sunday school classes.

Contact Jobi McGuffie for more information.

Get ready for the Hillside's Adopt a Family Christmas program!

Again this year we will be providing Christmas gifts (necessities and fun items) for families in need.

Look for the sign up sheets in Hawks Hall in mid-November.



We cordially invite you to our

Private Holiday Shopping Party

Date: December 8, 2018

Time: 6:00 p.m.

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

Parking is available on Kersting Court, Baldwin Avenue & Sierra Madre Blvd

Come learn about all the hot new food and gift trends of this year and enjoy some champagne, wine, hors d'oeuvres and decadent desserts. This is the time to get a start to your holiday shopping with all the personal attention you'll need. Savor the Flavor will be donating 10% of sales from this evening to Church of the Ascension

Please R.S.V.P. by December 2 to Church of the Ascension

NOVEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1				2 Spiritual Direction 10:30—1pm Rector's Office (Private)	3
4 Sprague Baptism 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 2pm EFM Mtg/Library <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">CROP WALK Offsite</div>	5 Fr. Bamberger Out of Office Clergy Support Group 8:45—9:30 Gooden Chapel 9:30—10:30 Gooden Day of the Dead Bread & Drink in Hawks Hall	6 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">VOTING IN HAWKS HALL</div>	7 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	8 8:05—8:35 All School Gooden Chapel 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	9	10
Fr. Bamberger Out of Town—ER&D N. California						
11 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	12 VETERAN'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	13 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group Gooden Mtg Q&A 10:15am-11:30am/Hall (Private)	14 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	15 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall House Church/Dinner 6:30pm Copeland Home	16 Spiritual Direction 8:30—9:30am Library (Private)	17
18 <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Bishop Visit & Confirmation (1) Mass at 9:30am</div> 2pm EFM Mtg/Library Pre-Convention Deanery Mtg 3pm—5pm Hawks Hall	19 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel	20 10am Prayer/Library 6pm Dinner Group 9am-10am Gooden Grandparents Day Mass Vestry Mtg-Hall/7pm Women's Room Thanksgiving Dinner (dinner offsite-morning preparation in Hall & Kitchen)	21 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	22 <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Thanksgiving Day Mass 9:30am</div>	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 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	26 8:45—9:20 Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel 9:35—10:15 Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) in Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	27 10am Prayer in the Chapel 6pm Dinner Group Gooden Mtg Coffee w/Carl 8-9am/Hall (Private) Daisy Troop Mtg 4-5:30/Hall	28 9:45am—2:30pm Gooden Drama Classes K-5/Hall 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	29 7am Mass 8:05—8:35 All School Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 3-6pm Organist Rehearsal/Sanctuary 7:30pm -Choir Rehearsal/Hall	30 <div style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Diocesan Convention, Ontario, CA</div>	