



The SPIRE

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

September 2019

Upcoming Events

September 6th – 7pm
LA Episcopal Dodger Night Game

September 15th – Noon/Library
Parish Ministry Council Meeting

September 17th – 7pm/Hall
Vestry Meeting

September 21st – Heal the Bay
Coastal Clean-up Day/Offsite

From the Rector

Earthquake or hurricane? Which would you prefer? Some say that with an earthquake, it happens so fast that you don't have that dread of anticipation. Others say that with a hurricane, at least you have a fair amount of warning and can prepare. And of course, there are a multitude of other hazards – wild-fires, tornados, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and the list goes on and on. In any case, preparedness is only part of the equation. Resilience comes from having accurate information, a supportive community, and agency. Agency means the ability to make choices for oneself.



Episcopal
Relief & Development
Working Together for Lasting Change

As I write this, Hurricane Dorian is making its way up the East Coast after devastating the Bahamas. I encourage you to support Episcopal Relief and Development and their work here in the US, and working through the Anglican

Alliance reaching out to the Diocese of the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos. At the moment, I have not been informed of a pending deployment as a Partner in Response and Resilience, but that could change in the near future. And finally, don't forget to pray for all those affected by these events.



ANGLICAN ALLIANCE
Development · Relief · Advocacy

MAB+



**ONLY (1)
MASS THIS
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 8
AT 9:30 AM!**



**Save the
Date!
Blessing of
the Animals
Sunday,
October 6**



Fall is right around the corner, and we're kicking off the season with an all-church picnic and party on September 8 (there will only be ONE SERVICE at 9:30 that day, with the picnic to follow). We will provide **deli sandwiches** with all the fixings, **peanut butter and jelly sandwiches**, **popsicles & ice cream**. Please sign up to bring the side dishes and other desserts.

August Pledge Payment Snapshot



2019 Budget \$220,881

YTD Budget: \$147,254

YTD Actual: \$140,422

Difference: \$-6,832

We will also be setting up lawn games for the young in body or heart. We are providing **cornhole** and **lawn Jenga**, but could use some additional games. If you have ladder golf, bocce ball, hula hoops, or other easily-portable outdoor games, please sign up to bring those as well.

Lastly, we will need a small crew to set up in the morning at 8:15 and to help break-down and clean up afterward. A sign-up genius was sent out via email. If you are not able to retrieve it, please email the parish office at parish@ascension-sierramadre.com to have it resent to you. You can also sign-up on the event table in Hawks Hall.

See you there!

Nicole Hanson, Fellowship Ministry Leader

It's almost here!

The 2019 Parish Directory will be available on
Sunday, September 8.

There are two ways to receive it:

- 1) Email a request to the Parish office @ parish@ascension-sierramadre.com and we will send you an electronic copy in PDF format.
- 2) For a \$5 charge, we will give you a printed copy of the directory. This will help to offset our printing costs as there are a considerable number of colored copies. Printed copies can be found on the reception table in Hawks Hall along with a donation envelope.

NOTES FROM THE LOFT

Thanks to Susan Beach, Carol Rasmussen, and Charley Noecker for bringing solos and duets to us during the summer. And now ~

Choral music returns to Ascension! The choir will assume their residency in the loft on September 8 in coordination with our fall kickoff ~ cause for celebration! Anthems throughout September include:

September 8

Cantate Domino by Italian Giuseppe Ottavio Pitoni (1657-1743); John Rutter's (British, contemporary) hauntingly beautiful *The Peace of God*.

September 15

American composer Everett Titcombs' (1884-1968) bright *Behold Now, Praise the Lord*, coupled with the beloved *Ave Verum Corpus* by Mozart (Austrian, 1756-1791).

September 22

Christ Is the World's True Light by Walter Stanton (British, 1891-1978); John Rutter's ethereal *The Lord Bless You*.

September 29

Glorious and Powerful God by Charles V. Stanton (British, 1852-1924); Orlando Gibbons' (British, 1583-1625) *O Lord, Increase Our Faith*.

Rehearsals resume on Thursday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m. As always, there's room for additional singers, particularly altos and tenors ~ please let me know if you're interested in joining our illustrious group. There's tremendous joy in singing and making music to the Lord ~ sometimes I almost feel guilty for the personal satisfaction experienced in serving God and the congregation. As we give to you musically, we also receive blessing beyond compare. So come and experience this for yourself ~

To those of you who remain in the congregation, the recipients of our choral and organ music, know that we appreciate you and consider it our mission to minister to you. Join with us in congregational hymns and responses as we worship with one voice!

*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



Recently, my homilies focused on “Reimagining.” Reimagining what we know, what we don’t know, and even how we might navigate our daily lives. In our examination of Luke 13:10-17, we met a woman who had been crippled for eighteen years, a woman we named Leah who lost an entire season of her life due to an infirmity. Unfortunately, her identity became her infirmity until Jesus said “you are free.” Leah, like many of us at times, forgot who she was in God’s eyes and sadly become defined by her limitations and infirmities.

Recently a friend posted this on his Face Book page.

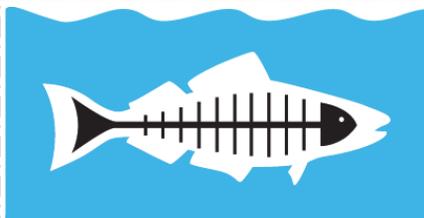


My initial reaction was to post it immediately and see what happens. What could possibly go wrong? Everything! No, I didn’t post it, and I’m not sure that I will. It could be a real ego boost; but on the other hand, I might well be exposing myself and my faults to the world. The truth of the matter is that I don’t want to know what negative things people might have to say about me even though the responses might all be positive.

What would you do? How would you react to the positive and perhaps negative comments? How would you describe in a “word” yourself, family, and friends? Would you be truthful? Would the results cause you to reimagine who you are and your relationships? How might it transform your relationship with God, assuming, of course, that he was a face book friend and took the time to respond? What if God didn’t; and if he did, what one word would he use to describe you? And perhaps, most importantly, no matter what the result, can you hear Jesus say “you are free?”

Live well, live blessed, live reimagined, be free.

Deacon Ed+



Heal the Bay 2019 Cleanup Day in the Arroyo Seco

Coastal Cleanup Day is the world’s largest volunteer day to protect our environment. In coordination with a statewide and global movement, together we’ll make a big dent in removing trash and debris from the environment. At last year’s Cleanup Day, Heal the Bay volunteers 59,600 pounds of trash and debris from L.A. County in a three-hour time span.

Heal the Bay

Please join us on Saturday, September 21 to participate!

SCHEDULE:

Cleanup Volunteers meet for carpool at Ascension at 8:30.

9am – 10am Clean up at Arroyo Seco

Return to Ascension at 11am

Please contact Scott Callihan for more info @ scott.callihan@gmail.com.

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), or sign up on the bulletin board in Hawks Hall.

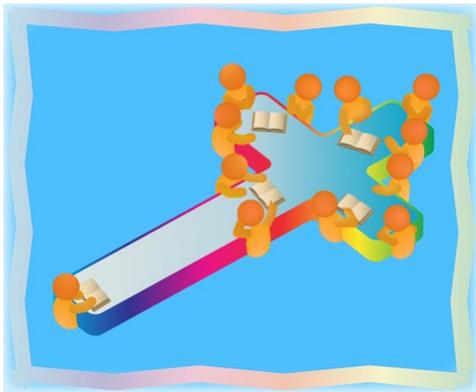
Nicole Hanson,
Fellowship Ministry
Leader



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!



"Between the Masses" Discussion Group

All are welcome to join a group of parishioners meeting weekly in Hawks Hall on Sundays in the 9 to 10 am Coffee Hour for spiritual (and perhaps "spirited") discussion of pre-assigned readings (usually brief!) on a wide variety of Christian themes. Reading selections are determined by the group itself. Please feel free to join the group even if you have not read the week's reading selection.

To get the reading selection emailed to you, please email Gordon and Diane Tomaske at gdtomaske@sbcglobal.net.



"Here's a unique way to support our parish!"

If you have a car, truck, boat or other vehicle that's become a nuisance, you can now donate that vehicle to Ascension. You'll be able to write the value of the vehicle off as a tax deduction and

Ascension will benefit from the proceeds of its sale. Simply call 855-500-RIDE or visit <http://www.careasy.org/nonprofit/the-episcopal-church-of-the-ascension> to schedule a free pickup. All you need is the vehicle's title-- the CARS service will handle the rest."

CARS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based out of San Diego, California.





Fr. Michael holding Alisson

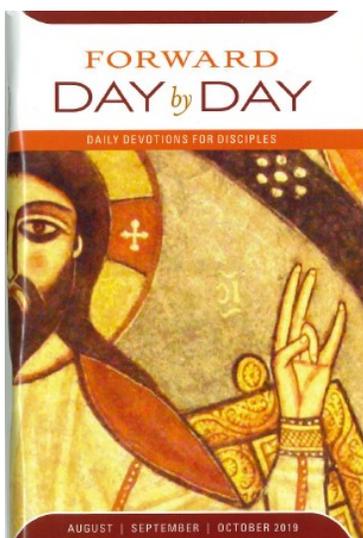


Heard Around the Church

1. Why are there gates around cemeteries?
⇒ Because people are dying to get in.
2. What do you call a Hippy's wife?
⇒ Mississippi.
3. When is the best time to go to the Dentist?
⇒ Tooth-hurtie!
4. Why do fish live in salt water?
⇒ Because pepper makes them sneeze.
5. What did the Buffalo say when his son left?
⇒ Bison
6. What should you say to your cat when you leave the house?
⇒ Have a mice day!
7. What do cats eat for breakfast?
⇒ Mice Krispies!
8. How do cats end a fight?
⇒ They hiss and make up.



Thank You
Mike Beach!



Don't forget to pick up a copy of the
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER
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.



Saturday, November 2, 2019 @ 6:00pm

St. John's Cathedral . 514 West Adams Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90007

WHAT- As in previous years, the Bishop's Dinner will be held in the nave of St. John's Cathedral, Los Angeles. The event will feature delicious food and esteemed company - including you, we hope! Dinner tickets are \$150 per person and Table Sponsorships are available for \$1,200 (table of 8). To purchase tickets, go to the following link:

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/EpiscopalDioceseofLosAngeles/bishopsdinner2019.html>

Interested in Sponsorship? Go to the following link: <http://www.edlagives.org/sponsorships.html>

OUR HONOREE - Joseph Costa, President and CEO of Hillside This year we are celebrating Joseph Costa, president and chief executive officer of Hillside, a Pasadena-based service agency and diocesan institution that works with at-risk children and families.

OUR SPEAKER - Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas Ph.D. (Dean of Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary and canon theologian at Washington National Cathedral) This year we are honored to have Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas as our featured speaker at the dinner. Dr. Douglas is one of the first 10 African-American women to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church. She is author, most recently, of *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God* (2015).

SUPPORTING - All proceeds from the Bishop's Dinner will support the diocese's ministries of worship and service.



ADVISORY

July 26, 2019



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.

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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

SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass	2  HAPPY LABOR DAY	3 10am Prayer in the Chapel	4 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	5 7am Mass 8:15am—Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3pm- 6pm-Organist Rehearsal/Church 7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal/Hall	6 LA Episcopal Dodger Night Game 7pm	7
8 *ONE Service at 9:30am followed by: Fall Kick-off Picnic Potluck & Party in Hawks Hall*	9 8:15am—Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel 9am—Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	10 10am Prayer in the Chapel	11 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	12 7am Mass 8:15am—Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 3pm- 6pm-Organist Rehearsal/Church 7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal/Hall	13	14 Baby Shower Garcia Family Private Hawks Hall 10am-6pm
15 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	16 8:15am—Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel 9am—Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel	17 10am Prayer in the Chapel Vestry Mtg Hall/7pm	18 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	19 7am Mass 8:15am—Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 10:15am Staff Mtg 3pm- 6pm-Organist Rehearsal/Church 7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal/Hall	20	21 Heal the Bay Coastal Clean-up Day Offsite
22 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass	23 8:15am—Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel 9am—Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel Pasadena Photochromers Meeting (private) Hawks Hall 6:30pm—9:30pm	24 10am Prayer in the Chapel	25 5:30pm Yoga/Hall	26 7am Mass 8:15am—Gooden Chapel 9am Forum 3pm- 6pm-Organist Rehearsal/Church 7:30pm—Choir Rehearsal/Hall	27	28 Funeral/Interment & Reception Gomez Family Private Church & Hawks Hall 11am-4:30pm
29 8am Mass 9am Xian Ed. Hour/Sunday School 9am-10am-Between the Masses Discussion Group 10:00am Childcare 10:15am Mass	30 8:15am—Gr 5-8 Gooden Chapel 9am—Gr K-4 Gooden Chapel					
Fr. Bamberger Out of Office / NC for GOE's						