



The Shape

Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden

From the Rector

When I lived in New York, the first Sunday of November was a complicated one for my church. It's the Sunday after All Saints, a great feast of the church, and also the New York Marathon, a feast of nearly 40,000 runners who tie up the streets of the city and make crosstown travel well nigh impossible. Our Brooklyn parishioners usually took the Sunday off of church, despairing of getting across to the Upper West Side. I ran the marathon one year, and couldn't help but think of the passage from the letter to the Hebrews: "*Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.*" Not a bad day for a run.

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Service Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 AM

11:00 AM

THURSDAY SERVICE

7:30 AM

Rector

The Reverend Katharine Flexer

(408) 364-6524

Staff

Susie Ferguson

Youth & Christian Education

Kristal Kim

Music Director & Organist

Bill LaVallee

Treasurer

Dennis Elliott

Administrative Assistant

Assisting in our Ministry

Doug Dunham

Senior Warden (408) 398-7911

Alex Dykes

Junior Warden (408) 839-2632

William Bond & Inge Bond

Acolytes

Anna Spanjaart

Altar Guild

Kathy Mastre

Coffee Hour

Sharon Mills

Greeters

Betty Consorte

Worship

Jenny Hoyt

Lay Readers

Ann Avoux

Prayer Vine

Dave Byers

Ushers

Bonnie McPherson

Junior High Youth Group

Inge Bond

Senior High Youth Group

Todd Lukanc & George Romer

Stewardship

Worship Schedule

- Nov 3** Richard Hooker
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Nov 6** Sunday after All Saints: ECA's 44th Birthday
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist
- Nov 10** Leo the Great
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Nov 13** Proper 28
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist (Folk Sunday)
- Nov 17** Hugh & Robert Grosseteste
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Nov 20** Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist (Healing Sunday)
- Nov 24** Thanksgiving Day
Morning Eucharist, time to be announced
- Nov 27** Advent 1
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist

Upcoming Events

- Nov 6**
Celebrate ECA's birthday after the 11:00 AM service with a light lunch, and of course, cake and ice cream.
- Dec 3**
ECA Christmas Party
- Dec 4**
Christmas Light Walk in Willow Glen

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Rector

[Continued from cover]

All Saints is a feast that was put on the calendar as a kind of group celebration of ‘all the other saints’ who don’t have a day of their own. It has also come to mean all the saints of the church, that is, all of us who are members of the larger church, the followers of Christ. That’s why it is one of the four Sundays in the year marked as appropriate for baptisms, for those being initiated into our faith community. All Saints joins up with its partner feast of November 2nd, the Feast of All Faithful Departed, or All Souls, as a time when we remember those who have gone before us – the great ‘cloud of witnesses’ whose legacy and witness feed us in our faith journey. It is also the birthday of ECA, which was founded on All Saints Day in 1967. It’s a perfect combination of themes, as on our church’s birthday we remember those who founded this church, honor the saints among us, and give thanks for the fellowship of our whole community.

Really, the whole month of November is a parade of great saints’ days. Maybe it’s because the church calendar ends on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27 this year), as if there’s a rush to get everyone in before the year ends. We celebrate the feasts of luminaries of the faith like Richard Hooker (Anglican theologian), Samuel Seabury (the first American Episcopal bishop), Margaret of Scotland (queen), Hilda of Whitby (seventh century abbess over an abbey of monks and nuns), C.S. Lewis (writer and theologian), James Huntington (founder of the first American Episcopal monastic order, Order of the Holy Cross), and Kamehameha & Emma (Hawaiian king and queen and Anglican missionaries to their people). And those are just the ones we claim as our direct ancestors – Episcopalians, Anglicans, and leaders in the church in Scotland and England. There are others in November as well: Martin of Tours, St Andrew, Leo the

Great, and more. As the days grow darker – goodbye, Daylight Savings Time – we get to turn up the lights, and give thanks for those who have lit the way for us.

Saints in the Episcopal Church are those whom the church recognizes as ‘extraordinary or even heroic servants of God and of God’s people for the sake, and after the example, of their Savior Jesus Christ.’ (This comes from the preface to *Holy Women, Holy Men*, the latest edition of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, scriptures and biographies for each person named on the church calendar.) We honor them as those who have gone before us, but we also see them as companions on our way: they continue in life with God and pray for us and all creation. In our theology we understand that we do not pray to the saints, but with them, and take them as examples in the faith. Or as the very early church said of Polycarp, one of the first martyrs, we ‘gather together in joy and gladness to celebrate the day of his martyrdom as a birthday, in memory of those athletes who have gone before, and to train and make ready those who are to come hereafter.’

Birthdays, feasts, running, and light: not a bad combination for this month of Thanksgiving.

O God, the King of saints, we praise and glorify your holy Name for all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear: for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all your other righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we pray that, encouraged by their example, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Amen.

Kate Flexer

Welcome to ECA!!

On October 2 we welcomed several new members to our community. Here's a little bit about each of them – next time you meet them, tell them welcome!

• **Alexanna Alvarado:** Alex began attending the 7:30 service several months ago. She often works on Sundays so was looking online for an early morning service. Our website reads that the 7:30 is 'short, sweet, and to the point,' and Alex decided we were the place for her. Alex is a photographer, photographing newborn babies and their families in the hospital and doing school photography, as well as her own photography. Alex has several current exhibitions in the Bay Area. She lives in downtown San Jose in a large house with several artists and their studios, as well as one feral cat.

• **Jill and Mike Hertzner, Evan & Alexandra:** Mike runs a landscaping business here in San Jose, and Jill works as a freelance editor and writer for Avalon Editing. Jill has secret ambitions to pursue a doctorate in medieval English literature. Jill grew up at ECA, the daughter of Allan & Virginia Jones. Evan was born on Christmas Day in 2007; Alexandra was born in October of 2010.

• **Kristal and Steven Kim, and Theo:** Kristal is our new music director! Kristal was born in South Korea and moved to San Francisco as a teenager; her father still lives in San Francisco. Steve was also born in Korea and moved here as a child; his family lives in the Bay Area. Steve runs the Almaden Cleaners in the Safeway shopping plaza. Theo was born in April of this year.

• **Corinne Mattioli:** Corinne is a New York native, and lived most of her life in New York State. She was widowed after 40 years of marriage, and decided to move to California to be closer to her younger daughter. She was born and raised Catholic, but is enjoying her new Episcopal identity. Corinne lives in the Villages, the senior community in east San Jose.

• **Arlene Oliver:** Arlene is a San Jose native, and runs a medical supply business out of her home. She is also a Catholic by birth, and has been 'adopted' by Corinne's family as one of their own. Arlene also lives in the Villages, and has two small dogs, Chloe and Bailey.

Welcome to ECA everyone! We are glad you are with us!

Book Group

The JV Book Group is meeting on Wednesday, November 16th at 7:30 PM at the home of Amy Griffith. This month's book is *Molakai* by Alan Brennert.

Just a brief reminder that there is no book group meeting in December. We will resume on Wednesday, January 18th at 7:30 PM at the home of Suzanne Mayo. January's book is *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan.

Children's Christian Education

K*now it in your head, stow it in your heart, show it in your life and sow it in the world.*

I believe my byline for Christian Education to my very core. I was helping organize and lead a retreat many years ago. In one breakaway session my group had the theme "you are what you eat." We drew a big alligator or crocodile (which, I am not sure). We encircled our reptile with all kinds of things one could "feed upon" in our society. God's Word was only one of those things, but my group believed it to be the most important part of our diet. I believe that to this day.

I believe that is what Christian Education is all about: a diet of learning about and knowing God's character through the Word, pondering, wondering, praying, searching, questioning, grappling with God's Word, and tucking it away in your heart to ponder, wonder, pray, search, question, and grapple with some more. In time God's character of love, justice, mercy, forgiveness, and more will just show in your life; you will become the character of what you have fed upon. In time, as God calls you, you will sow the light of Christ into the world in very special ways, your ways, as God intends for you.

As I write this article, I have been "on the job" for less than a month, but I have made lots of phone calls, spent lots of time listening to opinions and ideas, sent lots of letters of inquiries trying to get an understanding of how things are going and how you all feel about it, and spent a great deal of time in prayer. I've gone from 2 teachers to no teachers to 8 possible teachers. I've had people say, "you

can't do that!" and others say, "fabulous idea!" Most important, I have heard God say, "I have a plan for you and my churches in Almaden Valley. Listen and I will lead you. Be open and let the Holy Spirit guide you." I wonder, are we willing to follow the Lord's lead? I am! How about you?

Our current Sunday School curriculum, *PowerXpress*, was purchased and set to go before I came on board. I have already tweaked the curriculum and its presentation to better suit our "venue" and our current participation. We began with an Open House on October 16th to let everyone know what was coming and perhaps create a new enthusiasm. Some very exciting things happened that day that you will all see or experience in the future. Thank you to all who took the time to come by, check it out, learn what might be intriguing to inspire participation into our Sunday School program, and volunteered to help in some way.

We are studying the Beatitudes and the Great Commission. These lessons and concepts will be presented through teaching, stories, art, cooking, science, drama, music and games. It is my hope to have a presentation by our children and youth to share some of what they have learned during this unit on Sunday, December 11th at both the CCAVUCC and ECA services. I hope you will welcome them, be an encouragement to them, and even grow from their experiences and sharing.

Susie Ferguson

Pastoral Care

ECA recently had the opportunity to reach out to the community by hosting a memorial service for a long-time Almaden resident, Julie Hess. Pastor Kate officiated the service, and Marianne Schmidt coordinated the luncheon afterwards. Thanks to all who helped: George and Nancy Romer, Ellen Lukanc, Gwen Hacker, Joe Machado, John and Sharon Mills, Kelli Casale, Carol MacDonald, Betty Wood, and Mike Schmidt.

A reminder that Wendy Martin has volunteered her notary public services to members of the congregation. She needs a little advance notice, and she has said that Sunday, after morning service, might be a convenient time.

If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance, please give one of our willing volunteers below a call!

Meals

Anne Tysanner
artysanner@yahoo.com
(408) 927-7140

Rides

Gayle Byers
dng_byers@sbcglobal.net
(408) 268-0448

Small Repairs

Allan Jones
adjones9966@yahoo.com
(408) 268-3322

Prayer Vine

Ann Avoux
mavoux@aol.com
(408)270-2406

Card Ministry

Margaret Halliwell
(408) 267-5229

Receptions

Marianne Schmidt
mschmidt8120@sbcglobal.net
(408) 323-8025

**We're on
the Web!**

<http://www.eca-sj.org>



- **Worship Matrix**
- **Midweek Bulletin**
- **Sunday Bulletin**
- **Past Shape Issues**
- **Calendar**

That's a Good Question!

How should Episcopalians read the Bible?

Having heard the majority of it in the context of worship, how do we proceed to incorporate it more fully into our lives – or better, incorporate our lives more fully into it? What we should not do is what almost every Bible reader has done at one time or another: open it at the first page and being to read. We will do well enough for a few chapters, but quickly bog down in genealogies, unpronounceable names, and a vengeful bloodthirstiness that seems far removed from almost any vision of God we might have had before. Perhaps, then, these guidelines will be helpful:

1) Don't begin at the beginning. The books of the Bible are not arranged in the order in which they were written or the order in which events took place. Most Christians should probably read through the Bible end to end at some point, but a good place to begin is with the story of Jesus in one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). After that, the Book of Genesis contains stories everyone should know along with the story of the Kingdom of David in 1 and 2 Samuel, the Book of Acts, and the Epistles to the Corinthians and Romans. Read one of these books through, then try another.

2) Look to the church for guidance. The Bible contains books that the church chose out of many others as being of particular value. The lectionaries at the back of the Prayer Book continue to provide the church's guidance as to which passages of the biblical books are of the most value.

3) Get help. Remember that almost all the Bible was written to and for communities and is still best read in a community. As we study the Bible with others, we gain a deeper and broader understanding from their insights – and they will gain from ours.

This month's article comes from *The Episcopal Handbook*. Next month's "That's a Good Question" will feature three more tips for reading the Bible. Have a question? Drop an e-mail to TheShape@eca-sj.org for an answer!

Outreach Request

Volunteer coordinator needed to share job arranging people to serve for Montgomery Meals at InnVision, every other Friday from January through the first part of November. The job is to set people on dates to serve, and to call and remind them just before the date. There is already a list of people that serve, and there is someone willing to help make the calls. If you are interested, please call Amy Griffith at (408) 268-0920.

Gifts of Gratitude

Bonnie McPherson and Inge Bond for heading up the youth groups and planning events in advance.

Susie Ferguson for accepting the position of Christian Ed Director.

George Romer and his crew for all their hard work on the stewardship campaign packages.

Margaret Halliwell and Linda Sarmecanic for their planning and preparation for the English Tea and Antique Evaluation event.

Beth Proudfoot and Tricia Peterson for the Bullying Talk event, which was well attended.

Donna and Tim Miller, Betty Consorte, and Bonnie McPherson for cooking, set-up, and clean-up for the Bullying Talk and Dinner.

Wendy Martin for offering her Notary Public services to the congregation.



Anniversaries

Warren & Dorothy Willard 9

Birthdays

Mary Moran	1
Liz Criner	4
Todd Lukanc	10
Alex Dykes	12
Brad Bond	14
Cindy Ciccarello	18
Amy Griffith	21
Evan Reilly	21
Eilene Lueck	22
Joan Wagner	24
Frances Hinch	25
Helen Beacher	27
Monte Bishop	27
Joyce Wing	29

JV Bell Choir

Be sure to save the Date! You won't want to miss the JV Bell Choir "ring in the season" on Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 pm. Our concert will include some old standbys such as "Silver Bells," "White Christmas," and "Carol of the Bells," some lesser known Christmas music from around the world, and even a piece chock full of special bell techniques, guaranteed to bring a smile to your face, called the "Caroler's Hoedown." We are including two arrangements by our talented director, Ruthanne Adams, who will also perform the "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" as a solo piece. Many of you have witnessed her "Yankee Doodle Dandy" solo, so you know you won't want to miss this! The concert is highly recommended for all ages.

Youth Group Mission Trip

What are we doing?

We will be serving on a week long mission trip in San Francisco and Oakland working with the Center for Student Missions (www.csm.org). The youth will serve at multiple sites during the week. Find the details on the projects below:

- The Salvation Army Turk Street Central Corps: Serves the people of San Francisco's Tenderloin District. "The Tenderloin" is an eight-block area that is home to many elderly, immigrant families, homeless individuals, and most of San Francisco's SRO's (single room occupancy) hotels. CSM works primarily with the After School Program and the Summer Day Camp. Groups will be asked to help get the children from school, help out with homework, play a game of dodgeball, and generally encourage the children that attend the program.
- Project Open Hand: Delivers hot meals and groceries daily to over 2,000 people living with HIV and AIDS in San Francisco and the East Bay. CSM volunteers help cook meals in the kitchen, shop for clients in the Grocery Center, and deliver food on daily routes.
- St. Vincent's Day Home: A nonprofit organization, located in West Oakland, that provides comprehensive programs for toddlers and preschoolers, a licensed full-day kindergarten, and before-and-after school programs for older children. St. Vincent's serves primarily single parent families who struggle at or below the poverty line. CSM volunteers have a great time assisting the classroom teachers in playing with the kids and helping the kids learn new skills.

When are we going?

Sunday, June 3 through Saturday, June 9

Why this trip?

The experience opens young people's eyes and hearts to the needs of the poor in the cities close to where they live. Students understand that they have more in common with the people of the city than they ever dreamed was possible. Young people develop a lifetime interest in helping others.

How can you help?

Why, thank you for asking! You can support our youth on this mission to serve the needy:

In the coming months the youth will be fund-raising - stay tuned for details. Ours is a small youth group so we are working to design fund-raisers accordingly.

We will be looking for prayer partners to support them as they prepare for and undertake this important trip. They will be learning to live in Christ's image, serving the hungry, the sick, and the poor. They will be growing and challenged in their faith. Please include the youth and the leaders in your prayers as they embark on this adventure!

Bonnie McPherson & Inge Bond

Oktoberfest Stewardship Event

By the time you read this almost a month will have passed since the Oktoberfest & Stewardship Kickoff Dinner. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by the attendees. I was overjoyed by the quality of the food and program. Thank you, Marianne & Mike Schmidt and Dennis & Mary Moran for bringing your organization and creative talents to bear. Equally important was the amount of parish involvement in the combined event.

By my count, at least 18 people contributed their “time & talent” to food preparation, room set-up, and clean-up & put-away. On the stewardship side of the event, at least another 18 souls made phone calls and prepared stewardship packets. The packets (which contained an instruction memo, vestry/rector feedback form, time & talent pledge cards, treasure pledge cards, envelope addressed to ECA’s treasurer, and a gift bag) were delivered in person to the attendees of the Oktoberfest dinner and on the October 16th Sunday services.

This year we tried something new: during the month of October we had five members of the congregation stand up during the service and “witness” to personal experiences with stewardship during their Christian journey.

The events and witnesses during this month have made a few things obvious to me: stewardship is alive and well at ECA, “time & talent” are abundant here (it just needs to be tapped for God’s work) and we are a creative and fun-loving congregation.

Thank you to everyone who made the stewardship event such a success. Watch for updates in the Midweek Bulletin on the returns of stewardship in-gathering during November, and don’t forget to fill out your stewardship packet if you haven’t already done so.

George Romer



Youth Groups

SHYGS and JHYGS continue to meet at 1pm every other Sunday. We have had some great talks about peer pressure, the importance of self esteem, how to have faith in the modern world, and being inclusive in our daily lives. Our next meeting's topic will be "the dangers of drugs and alcohol." We hope all the SHYGS and JHYGS can make it to what will obviously be a very important youth discussion.

If you haven't already joined, it's never too late. The JHYGS is open to anyone in 6th to 8th grade and SHYGS is open to all high school students. Friends and visitors are always welcome at every meeting, so be sure you bring someone with you.

We are moving into that busy holiday time of fun (and mayhem) when we bake pies and cookies to raise money for our holiday service projects. This year we have decided to adopt a family again as well as funding the "Christmas giving tree." Since we are really trying to stretch ourselves this year we will also be collecting old towels, blankets, and animal food for the Humane Society. WOW! You should be a part of this! So you might ask, how can I be a part of this if I'm out of high school? Buy a pie or two for Thanksgiving – if not for you, buy one for a friend! Support the bake sale in December and remember: baked goods make great gifts!

Lastly, support the youth as they try to help abandoned animals: we will be starting to collect for the Humane Society in mid November, so keep your ears open for that! Thanks for helping us to help others!

Bonnie McPherson



Our Journey to ECA

We were at another Episcopal church and living in a different neighborhood. The leadership changed at our church and we did not feel comfortable with the direction of the new leaders. So we stopped attending that church for a while we visited other churches in the area. During that time we moved to Almaden Valley. We had visited ECA a few times because of the people we met at Cursillo. And because of the connection with Cursillo and the friends we met there we started to attend ECA. Also during that time we got custody of our two grandchildren. That's when we started attending ECA on a regular basis. Tim is involved in Folk Music and enjoys playing his guitar and helping when he can with music. We attend as many events as we can as a family at ECA, though it seems to be harder as the boys are getting older.

Donna Miller

Turkey Drive

Yes, it's November, which of course means that the annual Turkey Drive is upon us. This is the first call for volunteers that can give time and/or donations to help the Montgomery Meals team cook and freeze turkey for the meals we prepare in our kitchen to feed the homeless every other week throughout the year. The dedicated "MM" volunteers do a tremendous job in this fine example of ECA outreach, providing meals for close to 200 hungry people each time. The monetary donations are critical in making sure that complete meals can be put together. Please keep the turkey drive in mind if you're going to be in town over the long weekend and may have some time available. Look for the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall and volunteer to be a part of this great annual event.



Steve Wing, the Big Turkey

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The Shape

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