

The Shape

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

FROM STEPHEN

As we journey through Christmas to Epiphany, we experience a broadening of horizons.. In the Orthodox Church the principal celebration is Epiphany, not Christmas. In the West, Epiphany is a combination of three celebrations:

- Jesus' first miracle of turning the water into wine at the Wedding in Cana
- Jesus' baptism (and circumcision)
- The coming of the wise men

It is this latter celebration of "The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles" which has come to dominate the season. When the "Magi", who were non-Jewish and non bible believing, came to pay homage to the baby Jesus, Matthew and others began to realize that Jesus was not just the "Messiah" for Israel but that Jesus was the Messiah for all of humanity. In celebration of the arrival of the Magi, the Queen of England, even today, offers, through an equerry, gold and frankincense and myrrh on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6).

It seems to me that two conclusions flow from the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. The first is that God makes himself known to us so that if we look through the eyes of faith at our lives and the world around us we will see God's presence. That is not an easy task. There have been countless times in my life that I was virtually certain God was not present, only to look back later and find that God really was there, but I did not have the vision to see God. I recall the words of Jacob "Truly, God was in this place, yet I knew it not". And I believe that one of our

tasks is to open our eyes and to strengthen our sight so that we see and know God's presence in our lives.

The second conclusion is that we who see and know God are called to manifest God to others in and through our lives. God dwells within each one of us, and we are, each of us, called to make God known to others. Your vestry will be exploring ways to do this on a corporate level on our retreat the weekend of January 21st, and the God Squad is going to begin that exploration with some reading and study beginning in January, but I would urge each of you to pray about what that means in your own lives. For some, it may mean talking to others about your faith. For others it may mean going to Bible Study or a Lenten Study Program or finding some way to deepen your faith. For others it may mean adjusting your priorities so that you live a more holy and a more Godly life. I pray that in the coming year each of you will discover some new way to deepen, develop, or demonstrate your faith.



Salaam,
Stephen

From the Editor



Translations are funny things; words so eloquently and thoughtfully assembled in one language rarely have the same effect in another. Were I to resurrect a manner of writing from the 16th century, a modern translator would have several obstacles to overcome when translating the text. The first would be merely understanding an archaic form of English where spelling was inconsistent, grammar was equally variable and the very meaning of words was different from modern English. Then the translator would have to decide whether to translate this into, say, modern Turkish, or should the translator attempt to translate it into a form of Turkish used in the 16th century to keep in tune with the original era of the source? The problem becomes even more pronounced even within our own language when we attempt to read Old English. For those who wonder, Old English is primarily English from before the year 1,100. (Many people think of Old English as anything other than modern English, but this is not correct). It may come as a shock to some, but the original written form of English used a runic alphabet much like the Norse languages did. It looked something like this:



(A side note of trivia is that the last county to use a runic alphabet by some portion of the population was Sweden until the mid-1800s.) After the influence of the mainland Europeans shifted English to the Latin alphabet (sort of), English consisted of approximately 45 different letters in its alphabet, many of them you will see in modern Germanic languages like å, ä, ö, æ, œ and others which you can't type with a standard English keyboard. As English has progressed, we pruned the alphabet down to the current alphabet. Many of us were forced to read Beowulf when we were in school, but did you ever glance at the original text? Or did you know that there are more than 20 different translations! English-English translations if you believe. Here's the original and two translations:

Hwæt! We Gardena in geardagum, feodcyninga, þrym gefrunon, hu ða æbelingas ellen fremedon.

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN
6581 Camden Avenue, San José, CA 95120
Tel 408-268-0243 • Fax 408-268-4207
www.eca-sj.org

SUNDAY SERVICES
7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

RECTOR
The Reverend Stephen Mills
408-802-5347

MINISTRIES

ACOLYTES	Valerie Tysanner
ALTAR GUILD	Elaine LaVallee, Betty Wood
COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
FOLK CHOIR	Andy Kerr
GREETERS	Sharon Mills
GOD SQUAD	Jenny Hoyt
GOOD SAMS	Jenny Hoyt
HANDBELL CHOIR	Maryke Williams
KIDS' BREAKOUT	Leslie Rousseau
LAY READERS	Dennis Moran
MONTGOMERY MEALS	Amy Griffith
NURSERY	Lorry Long
PRAYER VINE	Dorothy Willard
USHERS	Dave Byers
SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Mike & Desi Brown
STEWARDSHIP	George Romer
JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Katie McCormick
WORSHIP	Sandie Mueller
WEBMASTER	Kim Petruzzelli
YOUTH SUNDAY	Jim McPherson, Bryan Bond

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CHRISTIAN ED. DIRECTOR	Katie McCormick
MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORGANIST	John Leslie
TREASURER	Maryke Williams
YOUTH DIRECTOR	Katie McCormick
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	

CONTACTING

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The Shape

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ECA Life

FROM THE SR. WARDEN

Families can be such fun and at the same time such a challenge. Take mine for example. We are a family of four - mom and dad, and two boys. So, in our refrigerator you will find: 4 kinds of jams or jellies, 4 kinds of mustards, 4 kinds of deli meats, and in the freezer I should have 4 flavors of ice cream. We like 4 different kinds of music, 4 different kinds of TV shows or movies and have 4 different patterns to our daily lives from early to late rising and going to bed.

Family vacations were a nightmare until I realized the secret to keeping 4 people actively engaged, who definitely had 4 different styles of "relaxation." I had us all sit down and each one selected something they really wanted to do one day wherever we were headed. Everyone agreed to participate in the other 3 activities or lack thereof with a *spirit of cooperation* in light of the fact that one day would be exactly what they most desired. Ultimately, we all experienced some new things, adventures, and activities that added to our lives and family memory banks, which we treasure.

Do you know any other families like mine? I can think of at least one other...like maybe our ECA family. Just look at what it takes to keep the ECA family *functioning in a spirit of cooperation*: 4-plus kinds of worship experiences, 4-plus kinds of music or lack thereof, 4 types of sermons (extemporaneous, letters, stories, guest presenters), 4-plus busy boxes, breakouts and break-ins, 4-plus ways to serve in ministries of outreach and in-reach, fellowship with kids and without kids, BBQs and fancy affairs, lay led and clergy led activities... the list is truly endless. I bet you can think of lots of other offerings at our church that I've neglected to mention that meet your special desires, interests, and needs.

The truth is we (ECA) are a very special family. Like all families we have our challenges to help all our members, no matter how old or how young, feel accepted and loved, and at the same time, mature and grow to their full potential in Christ. To do this well we will need to

continue to offer a variety of worship, music, fellowship, study, and outreach in order to meet the individual needs of all our members. As we do this, all our lives will be enriched and blessed by one another and by Christ's presence within our family.

Susie Ferguson
Senior Warden

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries

Dennis & Mary Moran	6
Dennis & Gloria Skowronski	11
Hank & Mariolein Ciappa	13
Lola & Tom Fahlen	16
Bill & Elaine LaVallee	19
Bill & Sandy Taylor	26

Birthdays

Matthew LaRochelle	1
Amanda Pulling	1
Sharon Mills	4
Steve Wing	10
Inge Bond	11
Patrick Ward	11
Jacqueline Rousseau	12
John Beacher	13
Kathy Dunham	15
Kim Petruzzelli	21
Karl Lueck	22
Henry Blankenheim	24
Jacob Fahlen	26
Hans Spanjaart	27
Lynda Fahlen	28
Payton Jaciow	28
Doug Lukanc	28
William Bond	29

Events

ECA: BE PREPARED!

Where do you envision your emergency support coming from in the event of a major firestorm, earthquake, or terrorist attack which incapacitates large portions of our community? If you thought police, firefighters, or ambulances/ hospitals, think again with the following in mind. In San Jose and other major urban and suburban areas, the number of professional first responders (that's what they are called) ratio to population is 1 in 5,000. They will be overwhelmed! So, the answer is be prepared in your car and in your neighborhood and home. That's where San Jose Prepared! comes in. San Jose Prepared conducts classes in disaster organization and personal & community preparation to meet what comes. There are important lessons to learn concerning community and neighborhood organization, fire suppression, disaster medicine & psychology, search & rescue, and terrorism awareness. You don't have to be an expert in these areas to be effective and vitally assistive.

Fifteen to 20 of your Joint Venture neighbors attended 5 classes in September and October and came away with new-found awarenesses and capabilities they never dreamed they would. At the end we were presented with Community Emergency Response Team certificates from Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Emergency Response Team Training and were proclaimed members of the President's Citizen Corps. Our roles will likely be as the first responders in our community to help the professionals assess local situations as they arrive on scene.

This leads to Joint Venture. A group met in late November to discuss how to organize and prepare to provide a community service at the Joint Venture

Churches location. Sadly, there were no ECA attendees but myself. So, this is to encourage more ECA involvement. Please read the following and attend a Joint Venture Emergency Planning Team Meeting on January 29th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. That is moving toward organizing our community response. Following is what you can do to not only be prepared for a community response but to be personally prepared to meet any emergency small or large in scope.

At the last meeting of the Joint Venture Emergency Planning Team (unofficial title!) we discussed the need to offer training in CPR and First Aid to all our church families. Fortunately, the San Jose Fire Department offers these classes at a relatively low cost for the public. Below is all the information about how you can take advantage of this opportunity. Our team encourages you to take these classes so that in event of an emergency here at church or in your home or neighborhood you are prepared.

We also would like to encourage you to attend our next emergency planning meeting sometime on January 29 (more information will be forthcoming). At that meeting, we would like to "brainstorm" all the things we could be doing together as sister churches to plan for emergencies at church, at home, and in our neighborhoods. We would also like to invite you to become a member of the planning team of this very important effort.

George Romer
Joint Venture Emergency Planning Team
(408) 268-4435

Events

SJFD CLASSES

The San Jose Fire Department offers CPR & First Aid Training for all personnel and the public.

All classes will be held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. All classes start promptly at 9:00am and end promptly at 5:00pm.

Heartsaver CPR

Heartsaver Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Taught by City of San Jose Firefighters and certified by the American Heart Association. Certification: 2 years Fee: \$17.

First Aid

This class teaches basic life saving skills for adults. Taught by City of San Jose Firefighters and certified by EMS Safety Services. Certification: 2 years Fee: \$17.

To register, please contact San Jose Fire Department at (408) 277-4084. All trainings will begin the morning with CPR until lunch and then continue with First Aid for the second half of the training.

Please Note: You can sign up for one or both classes. Space is limited so please sign up early! It is imperative that you arrive on time to class.

EARL LECTURES

The 106th annual Earl Lectures at Pacific School of Religion will be on January 23-25/07.

The theme of the lectures and conference will be: "All the Rivers of Paradise: Christian Responsibility in an Interfaith World". Please see more information on the downstairs hallway bulletin board.

Phyllis Chai

LONELY IN A CROWD

Have you ever felt lonely in a crowd?
Wondered how your heartbeat could be so loud
And even though people are everywhere
Where you are it feels no one is there?

Have you ever felt you were all alone
Even though everyone is at home?
And did you think it very strange
That you could witness such a change?

For in the midst of those who don't seem to care
You can feel alone when many are there.
But if you have a few who share your love
God is close, not so far above.

Christ wants for all of us to be
In a loving Christian community.
And when we are we can say it aloud,
That we're no longer lonely in a crowd.

Mary Leal

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Thank you for the October "Neighbors in Need" offering, amounting to \$661.00.

Phyllis Chai

ECA Life

STEWARDSHIP

By the time you receive this I hope this plea will have done its work subliminally while the editing and publication process was happening and we will have reached at least our last year's pledged amount. As of this writing (12/13/06) we lag last year's results. If you have pledged, thank you. If you have not, please don't drag out the drama any longer. We need your participation, regardless of the amount. The good news is almost a third of us have increased our pledges by almost \$350. Thank you for your faith.

Total Pledged in 2006 was \$214,960 and the number of pledging units was 79, down from 2005 total of 83 but total \$ was up from the 2005 number of \$203,500. Currently, we stand at 71 (90% of last year's count) pledging units submitted. The Total Pledged is \$184,980 (86% relative to last year's total) which calculates to \$2,605 per pledge, down from \$2,721 of 2006. So far, 39% of respondents have submitted Time & Talent Surveys. The remaining outstanding previous pledges (12) could bring our final pledge total to about \$200,000. Pledge breakdown as of 12/13/06 is in the following table:

2007 Pledges so far:

New: 5, Increased: 21, Decreased: 9, Same as 2006: 36
Total: 71

Please try to return your Campaign materials (Time & Talent Survey and Pledge Cards) in sealed envelopes to ECA at the Offertory on Sundays, to Dennis in the office, or to Maryke Williams as soon as you can. The Vestry needs your input to complete plans for 2007.

George Romer
Vestry Stewardship Chair

FELLOWSHIP

The Christmas Party was a great success. 88 people attended and had a grand time changing tables 3 times and eating each course with a new group of people. Thanks to the many hard working cooks that came Saturday morning, including Suzanne Mayo, Amy Griffith, Bonnie & Jim McPherson, Dorothy Temple, Maryke Williams, we were able to have dinner ready to serve that evening. Thanks to Jim McPherson, Jerry Ferguson, Steve Wing, Mary Leal, and my husband Arnold for setting all the tables. Susie Ferguson and Francie Kerr labored over the name tags. Peter dropped in and made sure everything was working properly and Ed Mueller set up the sound system. Saturday afternoon my daughter Meg came and was my right hand for all the final preparations of getting the food in and out of the oven. Bonnie & Jim were of great assistance keeping the evening running smoothly. Saturday evening we had many people help serve including Elizabeth & David Hoyt, Kristen & Danielle Petruzzelli, and Faith Mills. Finally, we had a round of Christmas Carols lead by Andy Kerr after dessert. I appreciate all those who stayed and helped clean up and put the church back in order. Thanks to all that came and shared in the festivities, it was truly an evening of JOY.

Susanne Moore

'07 Vestry

MEET YOUR 2007 VESTRY

George Romer, married to Nancy for 40 plus years, came to ECA in 1970. They have two children, Holly and Mark, who are both married and parents themselves, which makes George a proud "Grandpa" *three times!* George is retired so that means he's busier than ever with being a Notary Public, Engineer, project manager, business process manager, building/flying radio controlled gliders, photography, hiking, mountain biking, and SCUBA diving. (He wonders why he's getting "tired" again?) George's passions for ECA are getting those who are elected to serve to be more directed to longer range visions and goals and inspiring other parishioners to share their talents and skills to programs and projects moving forward.

Hans Spanjaart, married to Anna for 15.8 years, first came to ECA in 2000 on a special invitation by Debbie Bishop. They have one son, Guido, who is 15. Hans works at NXP Semiconductors, managing an engineering team of highly skilled techies. Their domain is chips for audio and video processing. Hans loves sailing. (Anyone for a sailing club?) Hans also loves flying model airplanes and rebuilding them after high impact landings! He is very proud of his family. Anna is a breast cancer survivor and Hans is grateful and impressed with how she has handled that. He also is very proud of Guido who is rapidly becoming a young man. At ECA he recognizes an enormous sense of community and support. His family helps with Montgomery Meals, which he finds an amazing undertaking with so much joy on the side of the giver and receiver of this ministry. He would love to see us build on that. As a vestry member responsible for finance, he wishes that the financial situation of our church would be the least of where we spend our energy. Hans states, "We have a rich community, and I mean that more in terms of openness, willingness, skills, enthusiasm, and love for each other, than in financial terms. I would like to see more done with that toward people less fortunate in terms of community, health, or finances."

Inge Bond has been married to Bryan for 17 years. They first came to ECA in 1989 when they were married in our church. They have three boys, Brad, 17, Marc, 14, and Will, 10. Inge is a grants/project manager and sometimes researcher at Stanford. She loves soccer, cooking, and reading, and would love to transition into a career in one of those areas. Her hope for this year is to keep the youth programs strong and vibrant.

Jim McPherson, married to Bonnie for 15 years, came to ECA in 2004. They have two children, Caitlin, 13, and Tyler, 10. Jim is a Senior Program Manager with the County Public Health Department's Emergency Medical Services Agency. (Now there's a mouthful!) Jim enjoys working on his house or so he must, having worked on it for 12 years! He's always on the run keeping up with his kid's many recreational and other activities. We see him on the run, too, at church being the coordinator of our youth for Youth Sunday. Then there was also his "happy tapping feet" as one of the dancers in "Anything Goes" last summer. A man of many wonderful talents he finds ECA to be a welcoming, warm, embracing, and supportive family.

Kelli Casale, has been married to Matt Gunderson now for 1.5 years. They have three children between them including our *Anything Goes* choreographer P.J. (20) and Alyce (16) Gallego, and Lauren Gunderson (6). Kelli, P.J., and Alyce started attending ECA in 1992. Kelli is one of ECA's Cursillistas. After making her own Cursillo she has worked several weekends giving much of her time and energy to that endeavor. Kelli's day job is for the City of Mountain View as a Code Enforcement Officer. She loves to cook and hike with her dog, Cody. Besides the vestry, Kelli is currently serving ECA on our Altar Guild. She is most passionate about ECA because of the fellowship and the support within our community for one another.

Pat Fox, *we'll catch up with pat shortly...*

'07 Vestry

MEET YOUR 2007 VESTRY

Ron Howie, married to Melinda for 12 years, came to ECA in 1992. He has 4 kids and 6 grandkids. Ron is a Union Electrician, who has offered ECA much of his expertise all the years he has been with us. This is the second time he has willingly served on our vestry. Ron loves to remodel and always has some project underway. He enjoys hiking and travel when he has the opportunity. Ron is a strong Christian man who has great passions for our youth, Cursillo, and Montgomery Meals at ECA.

Sam Sarmecanic was born in Iran to a minority Christian family. His name is Shamshon, which is Aramaic or Hebrew for Samson, and for short we call him Sam. For over 40 years he has been married to Linda, who is one of ECA's "Brits." Sam and Linda immigrated to the USA in 1979 from Iran because of the Islamic revolution of that year. In 1980 they joined ECA and during that decade Sam participated in Bible study groups and served on the vestry while Linda headed up our Prayer Vine. They have two children, James and Leila, who both were active at ECA in their youth. Sam believes that being a member of ECA is one of the most wonderful things in their lives. They have felt love and acceptance from the beautiful people around them who are ready to serve the Lord and not judge. Sam has grown in his Christian walk through worship, Bible Study Fellowship, and currently a small Bible study group he has attended for the last two years. This has been a very special experience learning to love each other in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. He wishes more groups like this would form in our church to make us an even closer community united in Christian spirit and Christ's love. Sam retired a year ago from a long hard working life and now enjoys painting, music, poetry, and more time to serve his church.

Sandie Mueller, married to Ed for 47 years, first came to ECA in 1974. They have two sons, Mark, 46, and Carl, 45, and a daughter, Jenny, 43. They have nine grandchildren whom they thoroughly enjoy when they get together. Sandie loves writing, reading, swimming,

walking and her violin lessons. Both Sandie and Ed are very active and involved in the ECA community having served numerous times as needed on vestry, joint venture council, and as Diocesan delegate. Sandie and Ed hosted the Rector's Bible study during 2006. Sandie is the liaison from the vestry to ECA's worship committee. Sandie is most passionate about spiritual growth at ECA.

Steve Wing, happily married to Joyce for 26 years and better known as Taylor and Evelyn's parents, has been coming to ECA since 1990. Both children have been very involved at ECA over the years, especially as Acolyte Masters. Taylor is now 22 and a senior at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Evelyn is now 19 and a sophomore at Texas A&M University. Steve keeps busy at his job as a Systems Analyst at the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The Wing's home is not really an empty nest since Joyce's Dad, Col. Ben Heckemeyer, lives with them and has now for 13 years. He's 95 and still going strong. This is Steve's second turn on the Vestry. He served in the late 90's for three years, two being the Junior Warden. Steve enjoys coordinating the Turkey Drive for Montgomery Meals each year. He prefers working with his hands and acting on his faith through action versus being vocal. He serves our community as the strong, silent type. He hopes to contribute and build his faith through constructive and productive actions.

Susie Ferguson, married to Jerry for 31 years, came to ECA in 1981. They have two sons, Jason, 27, and Josh, 25. Susie is very seldom at a loss of something to do. She has been known to even walk and talk in her sleep. When not managing the family printing and marketing business, assisting her husband with his real estate business, organizing programs for her sorority alumnae group, studying piano and voice under John Leslie, you can find her very involved in our ECA community. A faithful participant of a small group Bible study, choir, bells, and event planning are just a few of the myriad of activities and projects on her agenda. Susie loves reading, writing notes and articles, cooking, and party planning.

YOUR 2007 VESTRY

Her greatest passion for ECA continues to be growing a strong, spiritual community with a generous heart for giving & serving others.

Tim Miller, married to Donna for almost 28 years, came to ECA after they moved into their house in the Greystone area in September of 1996. They have two daughters, Jennifer, 25, and Danielle, 24. They now are legal guardians of their two grandsons, Mason, 6, and Tyler, 5. You may have been at church last November when they were baptized. What a special day that was! Tim keeps pretty busy with his job at a new start up company called ClairMail, working on websites, video production, and music (guitar). His great passion for ECA revolves around our music ministry in which he hopes to contribute in new ways.

ADVENTURES IN THE ARTS

JV Churches' Concert Series continues here in January with two recitals featuring the Phoenix organ as well as an opportunity to enjoy some tasty homemade soup, salad and good company before the respective recitals.

That's why we call these two concerts Soup, Salad and Sound. And this year, we're inviting folks to bring their own wine to have with their dinners, if they so choose. Potluck supper is at 6:30 p.m., the recitals begin at 7:30 p.m.

For the first event, James Warren will perform an organ recital on Saturday, January 13, featuring classical organ repertoire and some wonderful hymn arrangements for organ. Mr. Warren is a classical organist with over forty years of experience in service playing, choral conducting, recital and concert performance, lecturing and compact disk recording. His two CD recordings for Regent Records (UK) have received critical acclaim. He has

played recitals at St. Mary's Cathedral (San Francisco), Grace Cathedral (San Francisco), Notre Dame Cathedral (Paris), and St. Paul's Cathedral (London). He is a management consultant and owns his own San Francisco-based consulting firm.

Then, in her recital on Saturday, January 27, multi-instrumentalist Ruthanne Adams will play organ, harp, piano and handbells. Recently Ruthanne earned her B.A. in Music and a B.S. in Business from Santa Clara University and is now working at San Jose State University on her Masters Degree in Music with an emphasis on Harp Performance. She is a member, and performs often at Saratoga Federated Church. Ms. Adams has performed previously at Joint Venture Churches as part of the orchestra for the 2004 summer production of "South Pacific."

Please come and join us. Look for soup, salad and bread sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall. Feel free to come even if you can't bring soup. There's always plenty for everyone.

John Leslie

ECA Life

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Sandie and Ed Mueller: Thank you for being such gracious hosts for our Rector Bible Study during 2006.

Laura Appleton and Mary Leal: Thank you for providing a Bible Study Shuttle for those who need transportation to attend.

Susanne Moore and Jim McPherson: Thank you for your leadership and organization for our annual ECA Christmas party.

Mary and John McPherson: Thank you for opening your home and hosting our Christmas Vestry Dinner Meeting.

Pledgers: Thank you to all who have felt called to pledge towards our church.

Mary McPherson: Thank you for the Thursday Bible Study and your encouraging leadership.

John Leslie: Thank you for your gift of music to our church.

Joint Venture Bell Choir: Thank you for your wonderful gift of Christmas music on Pageant Sunday. You were a festive addition to the program. Loved your hats!

George Romer: Thank you for your ongoing work towards Stewardship at ECA.

Unsung Volunteers: Thank you to all of you who generously give of your time and energies to serve others quietly and behind the scenes, maybe unnoticed by many but not by our Lord.

Sandie Mueller and Amy Griffith: Thank you for the formation and organization of our Pastoral Visiting group.

Kelli Casale, Pat Fox, and Sam Sarmecanic: Thank you for accepting God's call to serve on the ECA vestry.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE (HELP WANTED)

Vestry Clerk – Join a group that gathers *once a month* for conversation and discussion of church business. Group has prayer and meditation, plans for the future, manages a budget, and very often has refreshments. **Responsibilities include:** availability every month on *the 4th Wednesday of the month*, recording the groups decisions long hand or by laptop, submitting draft of those decisions via email to the group for ultimate approval within 2 weeks of the meeting. **Hours** are usually 7 PM to 9 PM (track record for 2006 was never later than 9:15 PM). **Compensation:** great refreshments when provided and inclusion in all special vestry fellowship events. If this sounds like a way in which you might enjoy serving, please contact Susie Ferguson or any vestry member so you can start on January 24, 2007.

New Locations Sought for Rector's Bible Study – Could your home be that warm and inviting place for our evening Bible Study? Everyone seems to prefer the cozier venue of a home as opposed to a Sunday school room. We are working on a schedule of new locations for 2007. Perhaps you would be willing to open your home for one evening a month or maybe every other month. We can easily rotate our locations the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month as long as we can publish how and where to find us. If you could help us out, please contact Father Stephen or Susie Ferguson to get on the calendar for the date of your choosing.

J.V. SAND PILE

For the safety of our children, let us keep the outdoor sand pile cover on when no one is playing in it, and latch the gate.

Phyllis Chai

PORTRAITS OF THE PAST

Thank you to everyone that attended the Portraits of the Past and English Tea. The orphans of the Diocese of Muhabura, Uganda, will receive approximately \$2000 because of your generosity.

More thanks!

To Robb Moore for donating the presentation of Portraits of the Past. The show was enjoyed by all!!! Robb and Gayle Moore, Ethel Reinegger and the rest of History San Jose did a wonderful job in their presentation of San Jose history.

-To all those preparing the food and serving it - Margaret Halliwell, Kathryn Hussein, Pauline Gilligan, Mary Leal, Jackie Whitlock, Robb Moore, Elaine LaValle, Susanne Moore, Mary Ann Lee.

-To Susanne Moore, Jackie Whitlock, Amy Griffith, and Betty Consorte for donating the teapot centerpieces. And, Betty for the flowers that she arranged inside the teapots. And, Julie Consorte for helping to arrange them on the tables.

-To Susanne Moore, Betty Consorte and Amy Griffith for donating the raffle prizes. And, to Susanne for wrapping them up so beautifully.

-To all those that brought their tea services and teapots - Nancy Romer, Gayle and Robb Moore, Ethel Reinegger, Margaret Halliwell, Jackie Whitlock, Joan Wagner, Kathryn Hussein and Pauline Gilligan.

-To Linda Sarmecanic and Pat Fox for serving tea.

-To Sandy Stepovich for her overview of the Uganda orphans when she traveled to Africa.

-To Steve Wings set up crew, Ed Muellers' sound system and pictures, Pete Mayo working the dish washer, Anna Spanjaart, Paul Mean, Marte Matthews and Jonathan for all their help.

-And, to so many others that served, cleaned and helped to make the program so successful.

I apologize if I've forgotten to mention anyone, so many of you helped.

Amy Griffith

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Bible study will resume after Christmas break on Jan 18. We will finish our study of Romans on that day (Romans 15:14 to the end of the book). On January 25, we will begin a study of Ephesians. This is a short study (7 weeks). We invite all who are interested to join us Thursday mornings at 10 am in the choir room. We are a friendly group. A schedule of the readings and the study questions will be handed out in class and can also be obtained on the ECA website. (Go to www.eca-sj.org. Click on Special Events and click on Bible Study Handouts).

Mary McPherson

Youth

SHYGS

Shopping for our adopted family - Dec. 10, 2006

Attending Kids: Sean McCormick, Serena, Jessica Skowronski, Patricia Kabeja, Paul Coutinho, Brian Gaydon, Caitlin McPherson, Daniel Petruzzelli

Attending adults: Katie McCormick, Bonnie McPherson, Sharon Mills

On December 10th the Junior High youth group went shopping for our adopted family. We met gathered in fellowship hall, eat dinner and after cleaning up, it was off to the mall. At Target we split up into three groups. One group shopped for the Mom, one for the 11 year-old girl and one for the 13 year-old boy. Since we knew we would have more money from the pie sales to add to the \$800.00 earned from the bake sale we allotted \$300.00 per person.

We earned a \$15.00 gift certificate for spending above a certain amount and added the remaining \$27.00 in cash to the certificate for Target. The JHYG's budget allowed us to purchase a gift card for Payless shoe store and find the Apache dictionary the boy had wished for. We met up at the check stands a little after 8:00pm with our shopping carts overflowing. We spent a total of \$984.00. It was great fun.

Nancy Romer and I drove up to West Valley Community College on Dec. 12th with the delivery for both JHYG's and SHYG's adopted families. Nancy is responsible for helping us make this connection with the West Valley EOPS, extended opportunity programs and services, office.

Thank you everyone who contributed baked goods and/or purchased goodies from our bake sale and the servant auction to allow us to help these families.

Katie McCormick

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school offering beginning in January will benefit the Turningwheels for kids. They build and distribute bikes to local kids who have health issues due to weight, disabled kids to gain a sense of independence and as incentives for achievement in school. The website is www.turningwheelsforkids.org if you would like to learn more about their mission

Concerning the calendars!! I did not order them this year because I had so many left over from last year. There were only 4 people who asked about them this year. Since they are only ordered in increments of 25, I need 25 people sign up for them. I will put a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in fellowship hall and if there is enough interest I will order calendars in Jan. The proceeds will go to Turningwheels for kids. Next year a sign up sheet will be available on the JV bulletin board in November. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Katie McCormick

SPAM? NO THANKS!

A few of our website emails have gotten onto spam lists so we're changing the addresses. The old addresses will still work for another month but please begin using these ones now:

To send email to The SHAPE:

TheShape@eca-sj.org

To send email to the webmaster:

ECA@eca-sj.org

BIBLICAL TRANSLATIONS

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*Lo! We the Spear-Danes, in days of yore, have heard of
the glory of the people's kings how the noble ones did
deeds of valor.*

*Yo! We have heard tell of the majesty of the Speardanes, of
the Folk-kings, how the princes did valorous deeds.*

Now, the more curious reader may be wondering where I am going with this train of thought. No, I didn't accidentally publish the article in the wrong periodical, this was written for The Shape. This is obviously leading back to commentary on biblical translations. I am constantly amazed that there exists in this country a relatively large number of "biblical literalists" as I shall call them. A good example of this is in the 1998 issue of "The Flaming Torch" where a pastor by the name of Wallace Miller says "[the] Authorized 1611 Version is the preserved, inerrant, inspired, and perfect word of God in the English language, there are no mistakes in it [KJV] and not one word, comma, period, chapter heading, or verse number needs to be changed." There is a problem with this statement of course, we know that there are errors in the King James Version of the bible, there are errors in almost any translation. If the original manuscripts of the Bible are the word of God verbatim, and we take the Bible to mean the "word of God" absolutely, then we have no Bible. There was a time when we did, but today we have a "reader's digest" version if you will, but not the original. I think it is interesting that it is primarily Americans that have the belief that the Bible in English is 100% correct and irrefutable. Yet how can this be when each version of the Bible is slightly different? I think part of the problem is the most Americans grow up never learning another language as most others in the world do. We Americans tend to have

this odd notion that all other languages are just like English, and if you just whip out an English dictionary and translate word for word from another language, it will all make sense. While this might work for the odd phrase, it doesn't work on the whole. Words from one language don't always have a direct translation, and worse yet you need to translate concept to concept. Example: The word "welcome" can be used indifferent ways; it can be a response to "thank you" as in "you're welcome." Welcome can also be used as a greeting, "welcome to ECA" or "you are welcome to some" as an invitation to take something. When we translate meaning for meaning we get the following English/Swedish pairs (as an example) [Welcome to Sweden / Välkommen en Sverige] [You're welcome / Varsågod] [You're welcome to some / Ha något]. So as you can see, the word "welcome" translates to Välkommen, but if you tried assembling sentences like "you're welcome" by direct translation, you'd get some very strange looks in Sweden. To make matters worse, the Bible was not written in one language, it was written in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and Latin. Even worse still is the fact that the originals do not exist, at best we have (relatively) young copies. A good example of translation errors in the Bible can be found in the King James Version, Isaiah 13:15 the KJV reads "*every one that is joined unto them shall fall by the sword*"). There is no support for this reading in any Hebrew manuscript. Instead, the correct reading is "*anyone who is captured will fall by the sword*" which is an entirely different meaning.

I don't seek to suggest that there are massive differences and that in the King James Version Jesus is the Son of God and that in the original version they really meant that he was the unholy offspring of a ficus plant.

BIBLICAL TRANSLATIONS

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What I am getting is that the *meaning* is what should be important, not the detail. When you focus in on detail, you have to ask yourself if the detail is correct. This approach also means that we have to ask what they message was at the time. Much of the bible is in story form, but what meaning do these stories have for us today? What was the meaning then? We must understand the history behind the stories before we can understand the story itself. The translators of the 1611 King James Version of the bible understood these problems all too well, and in the preface they said this: *“[the translations are accurate] In the same way, when the King’s speech delivered in Parliament is translated into French, German, Italian, and Latin, it is still the King’s speech, even if it is not interpreted by every translator with the same skill, or perhaps with as appropriate phrasing or always with as great clarity. For as everyone knows, things are classified by their major characteristics.”* They knew there would be errors, they knew they could not choose all the right words, and they knew it was not the same, but the goal was for the *meaning* to remain constant.

I will leave you with my favorite example of a translation error: in a British television comedy called “Red Dwarf” in it, a character grew up a “Seventh Day Advent Hoppist” and they spent every Sunday hopping all day long because in their version of the bible there was a misprint in 1 Corinthians 13, it read: “Faith, Hop, and Charity, and the greatest of these is Hop.”

Alex Dykes

Editor, The Shape