

# The Shape

## FROM STEPHEN

In the Roman Catholic Church when a new pope is elected the cry is “Habemos Papa” We have a pope. Since our new bishop is a woman maybe we should cry: “Habemos Mama!” The Election Convention was grand and glorious, short and sweet. The diocese came together and spoke with one voice. That voice which we pray is the voice of the Holy Spirit said that the Venerable Mary Gray-Reeves will be the third bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real. More information on Mary is available on the diocesan website: <http://www.edecr.org>. I believe Mary is an excellent choice. She is extremely intelligent, knows congregational development backwards and forwards, is fluent in Spanish and has a deep spirituality. She works collegially, is well thought of by her peers and is full of vitality. Perhaps more importantly her election was strong testimony to how far this diocese has come in terms of unity and consensus.

Three or four years ago the diocese was fractured. Clergy mistrusted clergy, laity distrusted laity, the finances were in serious disarray and there was a general feeling of disease and disunity apparent in the diocese. Fast forward to today. The diocesan finances are in good order and transparent, there is a great deal

*“Clergy mistrusted clergy, laity distrusted laity, the finances were in serious disarray and there was a general feeling of disease and disunity apparent in the diocese.”*

of peace, harmony, and above all hope. Mary Gray Reeves was almost elected on the first ballot. She received a majority of the clergy votes and was only three votes a majority from the laity. After the first ballot the Reverend Paige Blair in a wonderfully selfless act withdrew in order to put her support behind the strong consensus in favor of Mary. On the second ballot Mary received over 75% of the clergy and lay votes. Much of the credit for the healing and hope which has been born in the diocese goes to Brian Nordwick, the Diocesan Administrator, who combines business acumen with compassion and to

Bishop Romero for his humble example. But much of it also goes to you, the clergy and laity of this diocese who worked hard to bring it about. I believe we can all look forward to the future with expectancy and hope.

We had a grand and glorious confirmation on June 10<sup>th</sup> when Bishop Romero made his last official visit to ECA. We had six youth confirmations from ECA: Stephen McPherson, Alex Rose, Brennan Hall, Brooke Mills, Danielle Petruzzelli, and Sean McCormick. In the class they were joined by Stevie Economy and Kele Lavery from ECA and Karen Click, Christie Bemis,

*[Continued on page 5]*

# From the Editor



One of the things I am most thankful for in life is the ability and the desire to try new things. I truly believe that this is a gift of God. Being open minded and adventurous which is something that as we get older I think we tend to loose. We must be willing to try something twice, just in case we might like it a second time. Just like the okra, or liver and onions we were [force] fed as children.

Recently my thoughts on this subject were tested to the limit; devil thy name is "Lutfisk." In our quest to learn Swedish, we found a pen pal in Sweden who is working on her MA in English. Our discussions often are about food. To that end, one day I asked a fateful question: what's lutfisk like? Her response was: "I tried root beer, you must try lutfisk." I should have sensed the theme of pay back in that reply.

And thus began our newest culinary adventure: lye soaked fish. If you don't feel like spending weeks with cod filets and buckets of Drano, you can buy the prepared fish frozen in some shops. Your best bets for finding frozen dranofish are Scandinavia, Minnesota or a shop in Oakland called Nordic House. No doubt you wonder if I am joking. Alas, I am afraid not.

Lutfisk is driedcod that is cured in lye (the stuff we use to unplug drains) hence the direct translation: lye fish. In the process, the dey fish swells to a size larger than the original sea creature. The unfortunate downside of the process is the removal of all fish-like qualities from the flesh. What you are left with is something truly revolting. It is translucent, smells of lye and has a consistency that lies somewhere between Jell-O and snot (not a good place to be). Oddly enough there is very little taste, except for a hint of raw egg whites (again, not a pleasant thing) and the undeniable gooey texture that makes okra seem positively dry. We took one bite, held the gag reflex at bay and then attempted a second. Sadly my desire to try new things was unable to get me to finish the plate, but at least the garbage disposal ate well that evening.

*Alex Dykes*

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*The Shape*

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# ECA's Senior Warden

**H**ow often do you go on a “God Hunt?” It has been quite a number of years since I was first introduced to the idea through a Lenten study I was participating in at that time. Our task was to purposely be on the lookout for God everyday and document our sightings. It proved to be a very interesting and exciting assignment that changed my life then and continues to every day.

When I first started this daily habit, over 15 years ago now, I wasn't really expecting to have a whole lot to “document.” I figured I might have sightings on Sunday at church, or when I was teaching Sunday school then, and probably through my Bible study and “fourth day group.” Those seemed like very logical places to find God. And, of course, I did find Him there. But, I also found Him in some very interesting places as well.

Yes, God was hanging out in the commute traffic, in conversations with business clients, in the lines at the grocery store, on a park bench having lunch, in a phone conversation with a distant relative, at a donation center drop off, in the midst of an argument, and even in the middle of a fiction novel. Sometimes God came across through the television, the radio, a video, and today, the Internet. The more I noticed God, the more intuitive I became at finding Him, and then the more I did find Him. And now, there isn't a day that I don't have at least “one sighting.”

This practice of a “God Hunt” has certainly been a factor in growing my faith. It has helped fill my heart more and more with Christ's love. It has helped me learn to see my world about me through the eyes of Christ to a far greater extent. It has made

me so vividly aware of God's presence in our world. It has brought me a very special joy and excitement on one hand and a peace and comfort on the other.

If you are looking for new ways to grow your faith and haven't tried the habit of a “God Hunt” you might want to give it a try this summer. Commit yourself to this habit for the next eight weeks. If you do, please share with me how it changes your life and the lives of those you encounter. Sharing also grows the faith of others.

*Susie Ferguson*  
*Senior Warden*



## Stewardship

**W**e have so many things to be thankful for as God shepherds us through our complicated and busy lives. This year our Stewardship Campaign needs to be knit into our fabric of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary preparations and celebrations, back to school activities, Annual Meeting, and Thanksgiving. Our Campaign suitably should be called “Time, Talent, Treasure, & Thanksgiving.” In keeping with that apt theme, we will have a Thanksgiving Potluck the weekend before Thanksgiving week (probably November 17 or 18). The Potluck Dinner will commence at the normal dinnertime (6:00 pm). After dinner and announcements, we will go up to the Sanctuary for a Thanksgiving Communion during which we will offer our thanksgiving in words and materials. The materials will be our Time & Talent surveys and our pledge cards all filled out and given during the offering. Working backward from that time we will be delivering your Campaign materials to you about 6 weeks earlier, in the first week of October.

So, this lays out the structure for our Season of Time, Talent, Treasure, & Thanksgiving. We will keep you informed as details become clearer in the weeks to come. Stay tuned live the Gospel!

*George Romer,  
Stewardship Chair*

## Beneficio

**M**y father used to enjoy drinking iced coffee during hot, humid summer days in Ohio; I'll bet he'd have loved “Beneficio More Than Fair Trade” iced coffee! If you need some “Beneficio” for your July Fourth bar-be-cue...or if you're getting low on it for your everyday use, please contact Phyllis Chai at 408-226-7150. Thank you for your support of “Beneficio”!

*Phyllis Chai*

## Gifts of Gratitude

Thanks to Hans Spanjaart for creating and duplicating such wonderful Cole Porter tribute DVDs.

Thanks to Tim & Donna Miller for the donation and moving of a desk and bookcase for the Music Office.

Thanks to Susie Ferguson for hosting our end-of-year Bell Choir celebration at her home.

Thanks to Joe Dingman (AVUCC) and all choir spouses for helping to prepare, set-up and clean-up for the AVUCC and ECA end-or-year choir celebration.

Thanks to Todd Axtell for chairing such a successful Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert season.

Thanks to David Hoyt for his trumpet playing through-out the year.

## Travel Deals Help NAMI

NAMI (Nat'l. Ass'n. of Mental Illness) launched its own travel website last year, designed to save you money while at the same time helping to improve the lives of people living with serious mental illnesses. Please visit the website at: [www.nami.org/travel](http://www.nami.org/travel), and consider using it to make your next travel reservations.

*Phyllis Chai*



*Bishop Elect Mary Gray-Reeves*

## New Bishop

*[Continued from cover]*

and Alec Fernandez from AVUCC. They were a joy to teach. This was probably the best confirmation class I have ever taught, simply because of the chemistry among the youth. But I was also tremendously moved by the confirmation of Bryan Bond, and Jim McPherson and the reception of Pauline Gilligan. When an adult wants to be confirmed or received it meant that God has touched their life in some way and is a cause for great celebration. So congratulations to all.

*Salaam  
Stephen*

## Joy

*Excerpt from "The Silent Cry" by Dorothee Soelle*

**J**oy, laughter, and delight are so powerful because, like all mysticism, they abolish conventional divisions, in this case the division between secular and sacred. The often boisterous laughter, especially of women, is part and parcel of the everyday life of mystical movements. Julian of Norwich (ca. 1342-1416) insisted, contrary to monastic tradition, that laughter become a component of the Benedictine rule that had hitherto categorized laughing as a peculiarity of the stultus (fool). Even though Christ never laughed, according to the testimony of Scripture, Julian unhesitatingly declared that "it pleases him nevertheless when we laugh, to our consolation and filled with joy in God, that the foe has been overcome." "A story is told of a pupil who asked his rabbi for permission to go to a *tzaddik* in another town and to study Talmud with him. He tries to find him until he finally is sent to the keeper of a tavern. The *tzaddik* – and here the story becomes quite Zen Buddhist – is behind the bar washing glasses. He asks the young man to help him every day until the latter returns to his village on Friday evening. He tells his rabbi back home that he learned nothing at all and that he only rinsed out glasses in a tavern. But his rabbi says to him, 'Don't you know that when *He* washes glasses, he cleanses the world and so sets the sparks free that are encrusted in soiled matter and leads them back into the soul of the world'" That is how publicans, storytellers, and unrepentant sinners become bearers of joy.

*submitted by Sandra Mueller*



## We Want Your Ideas

**T**he Joint Venture Churches Concert Committee is meeting over the next month to plan for the next season's Almaden Adventures in the Arts concerts

If you have seen a performer or group that you think would be a good choice for the series, please pass along your suggestions to Music Director John Leslie. You may email your ideas to [music@jointventurechurches.com](mailto:music@jointventurechurches.com)

As in previous seasons, the concert committee aims to bring an eclectic mix of quality, mostly local talent to our intimate performance space to entertain and inform both our own church communities as well our neighbors, friends and area music fans.

The new season will include up to seven concerts, of which two will feature the Phoenix organ and one will be produced by the Joint Venture Churches Music Department.



## We Want Your Ideas

**A**fter receiving input from the parishioners, the concert committee will vote on their top choices. The acts receiving the most votes will be invited to perform. Should cost or timing issues prevent the booking of an artist, the next highest vote getter will be invited.

Please get your suggestions to John as soon as possible. The committee will be meeting starting in early July.

*The Concert Committee*

## Calling all Soups!

**T**he Almaden Adventures in the Arts committee is seeking submissions of soup recipes for a photo calendar, which they will publish in the fall. If you have provided soup for any of our Soup & Sound concerts, please submit your recipe. We will have 12 recipes, one for every month...we'd like nice, hearty warm soups for winter and spring months, and "cool," chilled soup recipes for summer and fall. Winning submissions will be published on our calendar, along with a picture of you, the chef, "in action." We will also print on the calendars all of our concerts for the coming concert season, as well as special services and occasions for AVUCC, ECA and JV activities.

Please submit your soup recipe, and any activity you would like included on our 2008 calendar to Music Director John Leslie at:  
[music@jointventurechurches.org](mailto:music@jointventurechurches.org)

*The Concert Committee*

## July Birthdays

Melinda Jennings	2
Robert McClaine	2
Jessica Fahlen	4
Ken McCormick	4
Harold Lee	9
Roberta Vederico	10
Robin Williams	10
Guido Spanjaart	11
Dominic Consorte	12
Suzanne Mayo	12
Annie Estrade	18
Sandy Sandrock	18
Lauren Boehm	20
Matt Gundersen	20
Fallone Kabeja	20
Kathryn Hussain	22
Ed Mueller	23
Arnold Moore	25
Taylor Wing	30

## July Anniversaries

George & Nancy Romer	2
Jim & Elizabeth Ward	5
Arnold & Suzanne Moore	17
Bill & Toni Hird	24
Mike & Trish Reilly	25

# Entirely Off-Topic

*Since our trip to Sweden in 2006 several ECA members have asked me to write an article about European delivery, and seeing as this is July and I have nothing else to write about I figured I'd heed their advice.*

**D**riving a rental Ford Ka on the autobahn has all the thrill of watching rollercoasters on the sidelines wearing a neck brace. Fear not, there is a solution: "Euro deliver" and you too can legally experience multiple 155+ MPH banked turns.

The process is simple: Head down to your local car shysters say "I want to buy car "X" and pick it up at the factory" (or at *select pickup locations across Europe*). After a few months you fly to Europe and pick up your snazzy new ride.

Most shoppers dismiss such programs as fanciful distractions for the *über-reich*, but here's the secret: it's usually cheaper – yes *cheaper* – by 5-13% to buy your car "overseas." The reason is the same reason most dealers keep tight lipped about the programs: cars delivered in Europe are excluded from most or all manufacturer-to-dealer incentives and kickbacks. Your discount reflects what the dealer would have made on the purchase.

Currently Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, and Saab offer structured programs. Of course, if you're willing to lay down some serious cash, Maseratti, , Ferrari, Rolls-Royce, and Bentley will all pander to your desires, and charge you great whopping wads of cash to shuttle your ride stateside.

BMW and Volvo are the big boys in the Euro delivery game. With Germanic/Nordic efficiency they deliver at an efficient pace of 10 cars per day on average. Mercedes comes in at number three with the others rounding out the bottom.

Is the car legal when I get it home? Yep, all are 100% American spec vehicles, you just intercept the car between production and shipping.

What does it cost to ship the car back? Nothing; all Euro delivery programs include; shipping, duties, fees and destination charges in their pricing scheme so there no nasty surprises dockside. Our 2006 Volvo V70R was delivered *i Svensk*, and we saved over 13%, drove 3,000 miles on the 'bahn and the round trip airfare was on Volvo..

Sound too good to be true? I'll give it to you straight. You are required to buy your car before it exists. This means the first month's loan or lease payment is due before your car is built. Since banks and credit unions are a little wary of loaning money on cars that have yet to be screwed together, you are often stuck with the car manufacturer's finance company or paying cash. In addition, you must pick up the car yourself. So you can't send you kids over to have a vacation in your new 3 series convertible without you. In addition, the program is not available on certain BMW, Mercedes, or Saab models that are made stateside. Somehow, "Alabama Delivery" just doesn't have that *je ne sais quoui*.

When you set your heart on a new Porsche, BMW M, an Audi RS or a Mercedes AMG, remember there's no place in America you can use those bad boys. But if you Euro Deliver, you can zip along the autobahn and "fling your bling around the Nürburgring" before it spends the rest of its life in the slow lane.

*Alex Dykes*