

The Shape

February 2008

The Episcopal Church in Almaden

6581 Camden Avenue, San José, California 95120 408•268•0243 www.eca-sj.org

FASTING

Penance

February

Ash Wednesday

February

Quinquagesima

Lætare Sunday



Opportunities at ECA

Worship

- February 3 – 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- February 6 – Ash Wednesday
7:30 AM Service – Imposition of ashes
7:30 PM Service – Imposition of ashes
- February 10 – First Sunday in Lent
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist – Folk Sunday
- February 17 – Healing Service
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- February 24
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Adult Study (details within this Shape)

- Thursday Mornings at the church 10:30 AM on February 7, 14, & 28
- Wednesday Evening, February 6th at the church &
Wednesday Evening, February 20th at Joan Wagner's

Children and Youth Study

- Sunday School hour begins at 10:10 AM February 3, 10, 17, & 24

Fellowship

- Soup & Sound w/Dean Cook on the organ – February 2
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – February 5
- JHYG (Junior High Youth) Meetings – February 3 & 17
- SHYG (Senior High Youth) Meetings – February 10 & 24
- Men's Breakfast, Thursday mornings, 8 AM @ Denny's

Outreach

- Habitat for Humanity Aluminum Can Drive – February 9 & 10
- Montgomery Meals – Friday, February 8 & 22

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

RECTOR

The Reverend Stephen Mills
408-802-5347
rector@eca-sj.org

MINISTRIES

ACOLYTES	Taylor Mills & Marc Bond
ALTAR GUILD	Margaret Halliwell, Anna Spanjaart
COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
FOLK CHOIR	Andy Kerr
GREETERS	Sharon Mills
GOD SQUAD	Stephen Mills
GOOD SAMS	Kelli Casale / Brenda McHenry
HANDBELL CHOIR	Maryke Williams
KIDS' BREAKOUT	Leslie Rousseau
LAY READERS	Jenny Hoyt
MONTGOMERY MEALS	Amy Griffith
NURSERY	Pauline Gilligan
PRAYER VINE	Dorothy Willard
USHERS	Dave Byers
SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Katie Taplin
STEWARDSHIP	HANK DeVoss, George Romer
JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Katie Taplin
WORSHIP	Andy Kerr
WEBMASTER	Kim Petruzzelli
YOUTH SUNDAY	Jim McPherson, Bryan Bond

ECA STAFF

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

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The Shape

THE SHAPE IS USUALLY A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

From Stephen

I understand The Reverend Ernest Cockrell created a small stir last Sunday when he said that he did not believe the “literal” but did believe the “theological” truth of the creeds. Some people felt affirmed by what he said and some felt that he was dismissing the historic faith of the church. At the risk of starting down that shingly slope of confusion, I would like to tell you what I believe with respect to the creeds. I say that as a way of beginning a dialog and not as a way of trying to formulate a definitive statement of the faith. In the coming months I will also talk about Anglican theology because I believe that this discussion has relevance to the issues facing the church today.

The Creeds – Part 1

In the days, weeks, months, and years following the appearance of the Risen Christ to the disciples and their empowerment by the Holy Spirit, they began to spread this Good News or “Gospel” throughout all of the known world. They were not particularly concerned with theology per se but simply telling and retelling the story. They quickly realized that unless they memorialized the story in some way, it might be lost or important details forgotten so they, or people associated with them, set about writing down what they believed to be the essential message. Thus the collection of writings which we have come to know as the New Testament was born. (By the way one of the most significant errors Dan Brown makes in *The Di Vinci Code* is to say that the earliest Christian writings do not assert the divinity of Jesus Christ. As far as we can tell, the earliest New Testament writings are not the Gospels but Paul’s letters. These clearly assert the divinity of Christ.) The succeeding decades and even centuries saw the fledgling “Christian Church”, as it had come to be known, continuing to spread the Good News

and to fight for survival in the face of increasing persecution by the secular authorities. Surprisingly enough the church spread rapidly as people saw how the Christians loved and cared for each other, in contrast to the harsh and cruel world around them. Christianity spread to a number of different cultures and nationalities, whose traditions were very different from the Jewish roots from whence Christianity sprang. When these different cultures heard the message, they naturally had a tendency to overlay them over their own backgrounds and traditions. Thus when the Christians spoke of God in terms of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, some, in the primarily polytheistic world, understood this to mean that there were three gods not one God. Some scholars believe that when the prophet Mohammed inquired about the teachings of Christianity, he mistakenly believed that Christianity was polytheistic rather than monotheistic. Others believed that there was only one God who progressively became Father, Son and finally, Holy Spirit. There were also those who had different ideas about the person of Jesus. Since Jesus calls God, Father (Abba, literally “Daddy”), that the Son must be inferior or at least subordinate to the Father. Others asserted the same thing on the basis that the Father must have created the Son and, therefore, there was a time when the Father was and the Son was not. Other questions arose concerning the nature of Jesus. There were some who asserted that, in accordance with their understanding of God, God was above and utterly transcended everything human. God was above suffering and pain, hunger and thirst, and clearly above human emotion and thought. Some asserted that Jesus, as God, only wore human flesh as sort of a Halloween costume thrown on over his “Godness”. One Gnostic sect asserted that during the crucifixion, Jesus was

[continued on page 5]

From the Editor



2008 has started well thanks to the Junior and Senior High ski trip. On Friday the 18th we all collected at the church, split up the load and headed off to a beautiful day in Tahoe.

On Saturday Danielle, Kristen and Faith convinced me that I didn't need to take lessons so off to the slopes we went. The day was surprisingly warm, and eventually we all got our ski and snowboard rentals worked out and made it out of the lodge. Immediately I began to doubt the sanity of my decision. For those of you who have never been in ski boots I will explain. In order to get the skier into the proper position for skiing and keep them there comfortably, the ski boots are designed in so that the ankle is kept roughly at a 90 degree angle and at the same time the whole leg is cocked forward, as if you were leaning forward. This is a very strange position to be in, let alone walk in, not to mention walking up and down stairs and along frozen pathways.

A group of us assembled at the top of the first bunny slope and I clicked my ski boots into my skis. It was right about this time that just about everyone who promised to pass along their skiing wisdom shushed down the slope and off to the advanced lifts. Fortunately for me, Danielle Petruzzelli took pity on me and didn't leave my side for many long cold hours. I have to say at this moment that she is blessed with a very patient personality as she put up with my whining and falling, but I'm still miffed that she kept taking my poles away. (Apparently this is a classic ski teaching thing to do, but still..). After lunch and several icy face plants, Marcus Bond took over the duty of baby [chaperone] sitting - *I mean teaching* - for the rest of the day.

Speaking of lunch, no ski trip would be complete without food, which Bonnie McPherson served up in abundance. My real question now is: does she do house calls?

Sunday was rather more ominous as it was rather windy and the snow started falling later in the day. At this point, most of us were tired, and Rob and I were bruised beyond belief. Still, the daring in the group were undeterred and we rarely saw Sean, David, Hans, Anna any of the Lukancs as they were up in the clouds braving all the slopes that had frightening disclaimers on the lifts "*This is not a beginner slope.*" By the end of the day my camera had been sacrificed to the mountain along with Catlin's wrist and everyone else had sequestered themselves in the lodge in order to regain feeling in their fingers.

Monday was the perfect day to leave, in the night several inches of snow had fallen and everyone who wasn't driving was excited. Those that were driving however spent the entire morning biting fingernails, calling the CalTrans hotline and praying that we wouldn't end up like the Donner party. Fortunately God was with us and the weather, although bad, was not bad enough to close I-80 until after we passed Truckee and were on our way down the hill.

For those that were not able to make it this year, you were truly missed and hopefully next year we'll have a bigger group scooting down the white California hills.

Alex Dykes



From Stephen

[continued from page 3]

actually at the back of the crowd laughing at his executioners while some other poor soul who Jesus had put in his body absorbed the punishment and death. Still others asserted that Jesus was an ordinary human being who God simply adopted as His Son. Finally, there were those who asserted that the Holy Spirit was not God but simply an inferior agent for the Father or for the Father and the Son. For those of us who are the product of over 1500 years of Trinitarian theology, some of these ideas and concepts seem absurd, but to the people of the time they were very real. Athanasius, a bishop of the church, was deposed and exiled five times in doctrinal disputes and political struggles. Additionally, the scriptural basis for the doctrine of the Trinity is scant. In Genesis, God says "Let us make man in our own image." But it is not clear to whom God is speaking. In Deuteronomy it says: "The Lord your God is one Lord." At the end of Matthew's Gospel Jesus is quoted as saying to the disciples: "Go, therefore, and preach the Gospel to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Finally, John's Gospel begins with: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." These scriptures form the basis of Trinitarian theology and belief.

As the doctrinal disputes escalated and threatened to split the church, it became apparent that something had to be done. The Emperor Constantine had adopted Christianity as the state religion, hoping to unify the empire, now it was threatening to be a divisive rather than a unifying force. So, in

325 Constantine called for a General Council of the Church. This council met in Nicea and from it came the Nicene Creed. Next month "What the Creed says."

Salaam,
Stephen +

I BELEVE in one God. The father almightie, maker of heaven and yearth, and of all thinges visible, and invisible: And in one Lorde Jesu Christ, the onely begotten sonne of GOD, begotten of his father before all worldes, God of GOD, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, beeyng of one substaunce with the father, by whom all thinges were made, who for us men, and for our salvacion, came doune from heaven, and was incarnate by the holy Ghoste, of the Virgin Mary, and was made manne, and was Crucified also for us under Poncius Pilate, he suffered and was buried, and the thirde daye he arose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hande of the father: and he shall come again with glory, to judge both the quicke and the dead.

And I beleve in the holy ghost, the Lorde and gever of life, who procedeth from the father and the sonne, who with the father and the sonne together, is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the Prophetes. And I beleve one Catholike and Apostolike Church. I acknowlege one Baptisme, for the remission of synnes. And I loke for the resurreccion of the deade: and the lyfe of the worlde to come. Amen.

The first Book of Common Prayer, 1552

Vestry Retreat

Reach Up – Grow closer to Christ.....Reach In – Grow a stronger community..... and Reach Out – Grow God’s Kingdom in the World.

After a weekend in the Santa Cruz Mountains at Presentation Retreat Center your vestry is ready to reach for some new goals and new directions, growing closer to Christ, strengthening our ECA community and serving others outside ourselves and thereby bringing Christ into the world. Each vestry member is but one part of the “body of Christ” and is praying that each of you will join hands with them and reach.

Retreating as a vestry has two major purposes. First, it is important that each member gets to know each other member and what they have to offer this body of Christ in heart, soul, and mind (gifts and talents.) One way this happens is through fun team building activities, games, and conversations which were ably prepared for the vestry by Ron Howie (who you may not know has studied such, team building,

that is.) His vestry teammate for these activities and encourager was Pat Fox.

Team building also occurs during the vestry hours of free time, which is every evening as the group gathered in the “men’s living room” of their cabin for snacks and beverages, at meal times, on walks to and fro, and on a Saturday afternoon excursion. The time the vestry spends getting to know one another is so important for each one’s understanding and acceptance of one another so to be able to work and lead together effectively.

The second major purpose of the retreat is for the vestry members to discern their specific calling to ministry in the year ahead. This happens through meditation and worship, small group discussions and large group sharing times. Our meditations and lay worship times



Vestry Retreat

were prepared this year with great care by Steve Wing, Tim Miller, Sam Sarmecanic, and Susie Ferguson. The vestry was provided a meditation booklet to record their insights if so desired. Calling on the Holy Spirit to guide them and be present at every segment of the weekend keeps your vestry focused and listening for that “still small whisper” and heart tug that is of the Lord.

Discussions this year followed the theme of Leadership and Reaching to Grow, personally & individually, as well as a group and as a parish. Each vestry member had to take a close look at the gifts and talents each of them possessed that could be effectively used as a leader in our parish and compliment another member. Our small group breakout times were led by Kelli Casale, Jim McPherson, and Susie Ferguson. Their work was certainly cut out for them as each breakout session brought new challenges and a new combination of vestry members. Each breakout group did an excellent job summarizing and sharing their group’s thoughts and ideas. These ideas eventually led to ministry selection and a goal for each for the coming year.

Wonderful new avenues were considered for worship, youth, outreach and social justice, meaningfully reaching people in this hectic, technological world, understanding today’s lifestyles how they can best be served and reached to know Christ. The vestry’s newest members Andy Kerr, Hank DeVoss, Kimberly Axtell, and Sharon Mills were avid contribu-

tors to this weekend with their new ideas and new energy for serving.

The weekend closed with Stephen as the celebrant at a special Eucharist. It was a time of praise and thanksgiving for each vestry member and their gifts and talents, passions and concerns, desires for you, ECA, the community around us and the world. The year ahead is surely to be a rich one as your vestry encourages and leads you to reach higher, reach deeper, and reach further.

Listed below are your vestry members and the ministries in which they have selected to serve. Each member has a goal for the year which will be published next month. Check out the vestry bulletin board and consider how you can reach with them.

- Senior Warden – Susie Ferguson
- Junior Warden – Ron Howie
- Communication – Steve Wing
- Worship – Andy Kerr
- Youth – Jim McPherson & Sharon Mills
- Pastoral Care – Pat Fox & Kelli Casale
- Fellowship – Tim Miller & Susie Ferguson
- Outreach – Sam Sarmecanic
- Spiritual Growth – Kimberly Axtell
- Finance – Steve Wing
- Stewardship – Hank DeVoss

Beneficio Coffee

What more could a “Valentine” coffee-drinker want, to go with that box of chocolates, than a wonderful bag of “Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee” ? Still, a bargain at \$7.75/12 oz. bag. Please contact Phyllis Chai (408) 226-7150 to place your order.

Gifts of Gratitude

Thanks to Ed Mueller for bracing up the legs on our portable digital piano. It is a lot more solid, and easier to move.

Thanks to all those who help set-up and clean-up for various programs - most recently: Joe Dingham, Bob Green, Monte Bishop, Dave Byers, Peter Mayo

Thanks to all the talented folks who shared their gifts at our annual January Talent Show, including the audience and the refreshment-providers. You were all super!

Betty and Dom Consorte, Kathy and Doug Dunham: thank you for hosting our Rector’s Bible study during the month of January.

John Leslie: Thank you for bringing us a special Epiphany Talent Show.

To all the vestry members: Thank you for giving of your time and energy for the Vestry Retreat.



Dean Cook

Our Saturday, February 2 Adventures in the Arts concert will feature theatre organist Dean Cook playing “Music from the Movies,” as he uses our Phoenix organ and his midi keyboard, combined, to accompany United Artists’ classic silent film, “The Mark of ZORRO,” starring the legendary Douglas Fairbanks, Sr.

This film is appropriate for all ages, and we will bring in some bean bags and “comfy chairs” for people to relax in as they watch the movie...and you will also be able to watch Dean in action as well, as he highlights every emotion and action in the film with his great music!

The all-you-can-eat Soup, Salad and Bread Buffet will be available at 6:15pm, with the movie & music presentation beginning in the sanctuary at 7:30pm. Child care will be available, as necessary. General admission is \$15.00 (including Senior Citizens), with special ticket prices for youth as follows: students (all ages) \$5.00, and children under 8 years of age only \$2.00.

For reservations, call the church office (408) 268-0243, or E-mail at music@jointventurechurches.org

February Anniversaries

Gary & Edie Keck	1
Len & Jackie Whitlock	3
Jon & Sharon Mills	11
Tim & Donna Miller	19

February Birthdays

Alyce Gallego	2
Bailey Bishop	5
Pete Mayo	6
Ellen Lukanc	7
John McPherson	7
Ryan McPherson	7
Virginia Jones	14
Andy Kerr	15
Jeff Nolette	16
Monique Rousseau	16
Mary McPherson	18
Zachary Nolette	21
Taylor Mills	23
Mel Stonehocker	24
Valerie Tysanner	24
Elizabeth Hoyt	25
Elizabeth Garcia	26
Kimberly Axtell	27
Brooke Mills	27

Joint Venture Concert Series

The Joint Venture Churches Concert Committee is pleased to announce the line-up for the 2008 season. Please plan on attending to enjoy an evening of excellent entertainment right here in our churches' home in the heart of Almaden Valley.

Saturday, February 2, 2008

7:30PM Soup, Salad & Sound Organ Recital

6:15PM Potluck soup dinner

DEAN COOK

Dean Cook returns for a evening of movie music—quite literally. For his encore performance, Mr. Cook will play accompaniment to a silent film, just like in the days before “talkies.” A Bay Area native, Dean heard his first Theatre Organ at the age of three at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo. After studying music theory in school, Dean began playing at most of the restaurants and theaters that featured organs, becoming something of a Bay Area fixture, including performing regularly at Angelino's in San Jose.

Saturday, March 1, 2008 7:30 p.m.

WWQ5

Five members of the San Jose Wind Symphony formed WWQ5 in December of 1996. WWQ5 has performed at San Jose city events like Tapestry and Talent, Music at the SJ Arts Museum, Chinese Summer Festival and Season of Hope at St. Joseph's Church. WWQ5 will be seen at the Silicon Valley Arts Coalition' Panorama 2008 for the fourth time on January 25, 2008. WWQ5 is now made up of former and regular musicians from SJWS. Members are: Jan Turnage, flute, a founding member of this group and Executive Director and Piccolo for SJWS, President of Silicon Valley Arts Coalition, player and orchestra manager with area musi-

cal theatre, orchestras, church and musical events; Giselle Stancic, clarinet, also a founding member, who now performs with area orchestras and musical events; Lorna Kruse, oboe, a founding member and principal oboe/English horn for SJWS for 45



years; Lynn Burstein, bassoon, a sometimes member of SJWS, currently on the BOD of and player for Mission Chamber Orchestra, she also plays for

Palo Alto Philharmonic and Saratoga Symphony; and David Dufour, French horn, currently plays with the Peninsula Symphony and is principal with the Palo Alto Philharmonic.

Saturday, March 29, 2008 7:30 p.m.

STEVE KRITZER

A seasoned performer, award winning songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist, the often requested Steve Kritzer is a mainstage regular at the Fiddlers Green Festival in Ireland; the Bluebird Café in Nashville, Tennessee; the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas; and most points in between. A man of many musical styles, Kritzer is as comfortable with Celtic and Bluegrass as he is with Country,



Joint Venture Concert Series

Rock, Big Band Swing, and traditional folk, blending these influences in his own style with a warm, personable stage presence, and amazingly diverse musical talents. In fact Steve performed here last year as part of the group Celtic Heart. His four popular CDs continue to get regular airplay on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition, Steve does about 100 shows a year in retirement and nursing homes, and is a worship leader at St. Edwards Episcopal Church in San Jose. "His hands are around his guitar and his arms are around his audience," said Radio KEEN's Lynn Scheinberg.

Saturday, April 26, 2008 7:30 p.m.

MARLEY'S GHOST

An acoustic brew of rhythm and roots, spiced with distinctive vocal harmonies and multi-instrumental chops. After 21 years as a band, Marley's Ghost, well-traveled and well-seasoned alike, has earned the mud on its musical boots. Since forming in the mid-80s, this eclectic band of fun-loving bards has built a singular reputation among discerning roots-music lovers for its instrumental virtuosity, ultra-tight four-part harmonies, and animated live performances. Collectively they're a virtual walking, talking encyclopedia of rhythm and roots, from bluegrass to bagpipes, folk ballad to sea chantey, Nashville twang to Mardi Gras funk, Gospel rave to Celtic reel, and much more. They pick everything from pedal steel and dobro to banjo and mandolin, with an array of fiddles, guitars, keyboards, drums, and various exotic stringed instruments all added to the mix. All this music coheres seamlessly through the filter of the band's skills and sensibility—a collective vision of all that makes up Americana, fueled by the quintet's lively nature, witty repartee, and characteristic charm. For its most recent recording, Spooked, Marley's

Ghost enlisted a pair of legendary figures whose idiosyncratic skills beautifully match up with their own—storied producer/arranger/musician Van Dyke Parks and iconic pop culture artist, R. Crumb. Musically and thematically, it's clearly the most ambitious project they've yet undertaken and one in which their distinctive vocal prowess is on full-bodied display.

Summer 2008 Joint Venture Churches' Community Musical Theatre

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The combined talents of Joint Venture Churches and friends will stage Rogers and Hammerstein's Broadway classic on the last weekend of July and first weekend of August. Auditions will be held in the spring. Previously, thanks to the inspired leadership of Joint Venture Churches Music Director John Leslie, we've presented and performed South Pacific, Fiddler on The Roof, I Do I Do, and Anything Goes.

Ticket prices for the concerts are as follows: Adults \$15, Students/Youth \$5, Kids (0-5) \$2.

For additional information or to reserve tickets, please call the church office at (408) 268-0243 or email music@jointventurechurches.org.

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!

Margaret Kvamme has been able to reschedule her organ performance for us. We have tentatively scheduled this for April 5th. Stay tuned for details because there may be a soup potluck before the concert!

Youth Groups

Our outreach fundraising was wonderful this year. The JHYG's raised \$1000.00 from the pie sales and the bake sale. The SHYG's raised over \$1200.00 from donating their time and efforts to the servant auction. We adopted two families from the Educational Opportunity Programs and Services at West Valley College. The EOP&S Program at West Valley College extends opportunities for higher education to culturally diverse and underrepresented students who have been historically hindered by language, social and economic barriers. EOP&S is committed to ensuring access and support services to eligible students in order that they may participate in a wide spectrum of educational experiences designed to fulfill their academic needs, expand their human potential and enrich the quality of their lives. The intent of the EOP&S Program is to support the students in their preparation for the challenges of an ever increasingly technological and multicultural society.

We headed out with our deep pocket books and open hearts to Target where we loaded up 5 carts full of clothing, toys and goodies for two families. It was great fun to check in with each group to see how they were doing as to a variety of items and how well they were keeping track of their spending. It was a joy filled evening. We spent about \$200.00 on each person which leaves us with some extra out-

reach money. Where this money will go has yet to be decided.

Thank you everyone for supporting our youth in their efforts to help others. The families chosen through this program have always been extremely grateful.

Katie Taplin

Upcoming events

Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner

SHYGs Meetings

Sun. Feb 10 – 6-8 at the church

Sun. Feb 24 – 6-8 outing

Saturday March 15, Catacombs

JHYGs Meetings

Sun. Feb. 3

Sun. Feb 17th outing



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

This dinner is put on by the Joint Venture Youth Groups on Shrove Tuesday every year. (This year February 5th is the day) The kids do the set up, cooking, and would like some help with clean up. We'll begin serving at 5:30 and end around 7:15pm. The price charged for dinner is \$3.00 for children under 5 years-old and \$5.00 for everyone else including the youth. We'll set up 8 tables with some Mardi Gras beads and masks as center pieces and whatever other decorations the youth want to put up.

We'll have pancakes, sausage, bacon, cheeses, fruit and assorted goodies to top your meal. Juice, coffee, tea and milk will be served. If you have special needs for instance wheat free or sugar free items please contact Katie Taplin/McCormick.

Cooking will start around 3PM and we'll be cleaned up by 8:30PM

See you there!
Katie Taplin

Music Notes

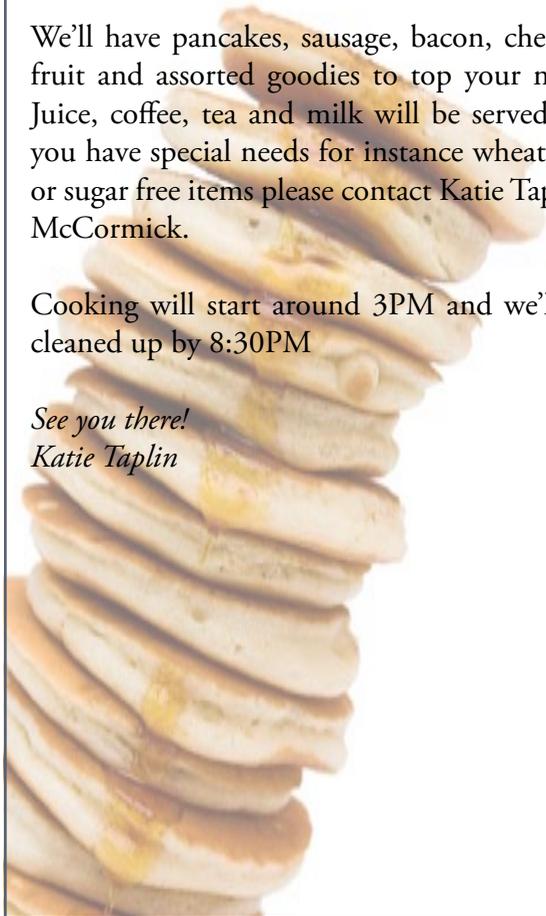
Please check out our new, re-designed bulletin board outside the Choir Room section of Fellowship Hall. It has some neat pictures, as well as rehearsal and performance schedules for the various choirs. There will always be updated information on the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series, as well as exciting news about our JV summer musical "The Sound of Music."

The choirs will be preparing special music for Lenten services, as well as for the JV Maundy Thursday service and for Easter.

JV Bell Choir has been happy to have Francie Kerr from ECA join us, and will enjoy having Patty Johnson with us for a few months, visiting from Wisconsin.

*"Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain –
He washed it white as snow."
-Alvina M. Hall-*

To God be all the Glory!
John Leslie



Adult Study at ECA

Thursday mornings...Are you a morning person? If so, you may want to try our weekday Bible Study. Whether you are an old pro, or a novice who's never done it before, you are invited to study the Bible with an informal, lay-led group. The only requirement is a willingness to engage in reflection on the Bible's meaning for our lives today. This group meets each Thursday morning beginning at 10:30 am at the church. Everyone is welcome. Come when you can.

You will find more information regarding this class on the ECA website. The class is studying the Book of John this year. You can print out a syllabus for each class to use for your study. Go to eca-sj.org and choose the link education and then adult.

February 7 – John 11

February 14 – John 12

February 21 – Winter Break

February 28 – John 13

The Rector's Bible Study on Wednesday evenings is offered the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesday evenings of the month. The evening begins with a potluck supper at 6:30 PM for those who want to start with dinner. The Bible Study begins at 7:30 PM and goes until 9 PM. Every one is welcome and encouraged to join the group whenever and as often as they are able. We are currently studying the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday. Come and grow with us in fellowship and spirit. We usu-

ally meet in someone's home for our time of fellowship and study.

February 6 – Ash Wednesday: Potluck supper in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 PM. Ash Wednesday Service will follow at 7:30 PM for the imposition of ashes. After the service we will gather for our study and head home by 9PM.

February 20 – at the home of Joan Wagner, 6465 Camelia Drive

From the Senior Warden

Two years ago at an annual meeting I shared with you how I felt your vestry members represented the very best of you in a variety of ways. This was confirmed again as I watched them interact, listened to them share with one another, heard their deep longings for our church and the world, and witnessed the growth in those I have served with in the last two years.

It is so exciting to work with individuals who are passionate about Christ and witnessing in the world, serving others, growing spiritually, devoted to their families and the young people in our midst, knowledgeable about God's word, caring and loving, and wanting to bring greater meaning and joy to our worship experiences. I am looking forward to all they will teach me and all the ways they will help me

grow through their wisdom and understandings, their experiences and trials, their blessings and their joys.

Being part of a group with a special purpose in God's service is a very rewarding experience. The community that builds and grows stronger through friendships and service can never be replaced. ECA offers many groups and activities that build very special and unique communities of support and love. My prayer is that each of you reading this will find such a group. And if you are part of such a group, my prayer is that you will invite someone on the fringes to join in. You will all be blessed in ways yet unknown.

Susie Ferguson
Senior Warden



