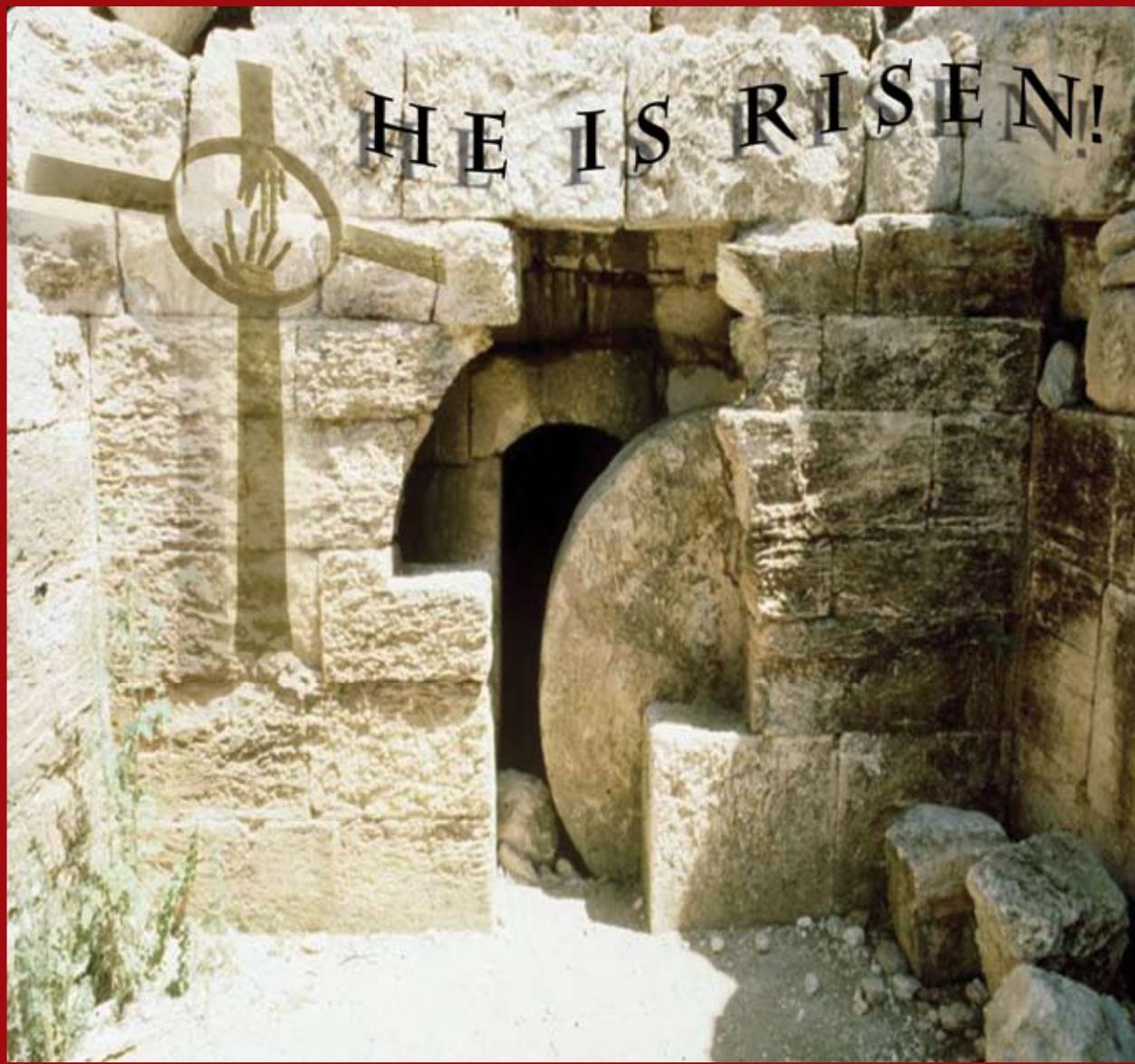


# The Shape

March 2008

## *The Episcopal Church in Almaden*

6581 Camden Avenue, San José, California 95120 408•268•0243 [www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org)



# Opportunities at ECA

## Worship

- March 2 – 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Rite I  
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist – Rite I
- March 9 – 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Rite I  
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist – Rite I - Folk Music
- March 16 – Palm Sunday  
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
Meet in front of the church for procession
- March 20 – Maundy Thursday  
7:30 PM Holy Eucharist & Tenebrae
- March 21 – Good Friday  
12:00 Noon – Good Friday Liturgy  
1:00 PM – Stations of the Cross
- March 23 – Easter  
6:00 AM – JV Sunrise Celebration (Quicksilver Park)  
7:30 AM – Choral Eucharist  
11:00 AM – Choral Eucharist
- March 30 – 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist

## Adult Study

- Thursday Morning Bible Study at Church  
10:30 AM March 6, 13 & 20
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study  
March 5 at Carole MacDonald's  
Potluck 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:30 PM
- Thursday March 13, 7:30 PM at CDSP
- Soldiers of Conscience (details within this Shape)
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study  
March 19 at Susie & Jerry Ferguson's  
Potluck 6:30 PM, Bible Study 7:30 PM

## Youth Study

Sunday School hour at 10:10 AM

## Fellowship

- Almaden Adventures in the Arts, Saturday, March 1 7:30 PM
- JHYG (Junior High Youth) Meetings March 2 & 16 6:00 PM
- SHYG (Senior High Youth) Meetings will be announced
- Men's Breakfast Thursday Mornings 8:00 AM at Denny's
- Almaden Adventures in the Arts, Saturday, March 29 7:30 PM

## Outreach

Montgomery Meals – Friday March 7 & 21

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

What does the Nicene Creed *say*?

**T**here is only one God. Christianity is monotheistic. That God, the one God, is the creator God who created heaven and earth and everything that is. There is nothing that exists God did not create.

God, however, exists in three person, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Son is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one and only Son of God. Jesus is God. He is the same stuff or substance (homoousian) as the Father. The Son is not subordinate to the Father. He is not a creature of the Father. The Son is not created as is the rest of the cosmos but is begotten. He like the Father is eternal and there never was a time when the Son was not. The Son is an integral and inseparable part of the creator God and takes part in the process of creation.

Jesus came from heaven to live as one of us i.e. a human life. Jesus was born in the same way humans are born but was the offspring of the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit. Jesus was human and lived a human life. Jesus suffered crucifixion with all its pain and agony and died a human death – the same one we die. God raised Jesus from the dead and brought Him back to heaven. Jesus will come again to earth to judge all and His Eternal Reign will never end.

The Holy Spirit is the same one the Book of Genesis talks about hovering over the water and bringing life. Like the Son, the Holy Spirit is not inferior to either the Father or the Son and is not created. Instead the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. (Note: this is a later addition. The original version of the Nicene Creed said the Holy

Spirit proceeds from the Father It was only much later that the Western church acting unilaterally added the phrase “and the Son”.) The Holy Spirit is God. It was the Holy Spirit which inspired the prophets in the Bible.

There is only One Church – Christ’s Church. That church is universal (catholic) and was founded by the apostles. You only have to be baptized once to cleanse you from all the sins that you will ever commit in your entire life. God promises resurrection of and from the dead, and a new life and a new world.

Whew that is a mouthful and a half!

But if you read my column last month, you will understand the issues the Council of Nicea was addressing and why they wrote what they wrote. What I really like about the Nicene Creed is that it is difficult to understand. In other words, the Council could have made it a lot simpler but that would not have been true to how they understood the person of God. So what they opted for was truth and complexity rather than less-than-truth and simplicity.

Next month: What if I don’t believe the whole thing?

*Stephen Mills*

## From the Editor



As Erma Bobmeck would no doubt agree, the suggestion of custom home building should be grounds for divorce. If you have never read “*A Marriage Made in Heaven, or Too Tired for an Affair*” I strongly suggest you give

the chapter on home remodeling a looksey before diving off the deep end of home construction. I assumed I was prepared for anything: I had written off the possibility of cable TV, signed off high-speed internet access, banished all thoughts of natural gas service from my mind and I prepared myself for the greatest ignominy of all time: poor cell reception. Of course, my worst fears were inadequate to prepare me for the real problems: red tape and faucet and fixture selection.

Let me set the stage for this adventure: we just found out that our well (drilled in 1988) lacks a grout seal deep enough to get a permit for legal use, the CDF informed us we would need to widen 1.1 miles of road to 18 feet so that we don't burn to death in a forest fire, our civil engineer broke the news that our driveway would be steeper than fire regulations allow, and our architect (whom we work to support) just billed us for \$11,000 of work in one month. In addition to the mess presented by those problems, the bank account is dwindling rapidly and our Title 24 consultant informed us we are not allowed to own an incandescent bulb.

Well, OK so that's not 100% correct. You can own incandescent bulbs, **but**, according to CA Title 24 you may only have high efficacy lamps (LED or fluorescent) in most areas of the home, there are some exceptions, but the process of accommodating those exceptions means that really it isn't worth it. So... Un-answered question 1: *what exactly does an all-fluorescent dining room chandelier look like?*

Once we broke the other side of Title 24 – after having picked hideous fixtures that will no doubt be removed the instant the inspector has left – we began the eternal search for a faucet that would make everyone happy. I was of course quickly reminded that on October 1, 2005 at exactly 6:23 pm while eating toast I had said “I don't care what you do with the inside of the house as long as I get a new car and a hydraulic car lift in the garage.”

After successfully backpedalling, I was able to put forth that since we were building our own house I wanted to never have to deal with the things I dislike about bathroom sinks: the sink is never large or deep enough, the faucet is always to darn small and positioned for minimum usefulness. My bright idea: 15”x18” bar sinks that are 9” deep and bar faucets with pull-out spouts. Yes, I know this is insane, and my mother, bless her heart, has attempted to poke holes in my plan, but I would like to know that If I ever had the need to fill a water bottle, or an iron, or some other item in the sink that I'd actually be able to. Perhaps I shall start a style revolution; *iron fillers of the world unite! Demand a taller faucet with a pull-out spout!*

Being quite the logical creature, Rob decided I was spot on, and there was zero discussion until we started actually looking at faucets. I discovered that I am a fan of bathroom modernity and Rob has a flair for the traditional. After looking at every single faucet shop in Santa Clara & San Mateo counties (I kid you not) and viewing thousands of faucets we found exactly one we could both stomach, not that we liked it, but at least neither hates it, so of course that means in a few months when we need to buy it, it will be discontinued. And such is the beginning of a project that has yet to actually break ground. Pray for us.

*Alex Dykes*

## From the Senior Warden

**B**y now I hope you have all passed by our Vestry Bulletin Board and maybe even paused to study its contents. Right now it reflects the outcome of our Vestry Retreat and each of our commitments to serve this year as we Reach Up to grow closer to Christ, as we Reach In to grow a stronger faith community at ECA and as we Reach Out to grow God's Kingdom in our community and in this world. Now the hard work begins as we move beyond the words into action, each of us personally, as well as, collectively as the church.

This month as I proceed through Lent my focus is to Reach up and grow closer to Christ. I do this by being more intentional at worship times to expect Christ to speak to me through our music, our prayers, our teachings (lessons and sermon), and our fellowship as a community worshiping together. I do this by being more purposeful and diligent about my own study of God's word and through regular prayer with groups within our church as well as in my own quiet time. I do this by getting someone else to go the road with me and hold me accountable to this focus and goal. And that often is the most important element for success, someone to hold me accountable.

Many of us with good intentions and plans set off on a great course. Maintaining that course to reach success is often our biggest challenge. Often the course becomes too long, too tedious, too repetitive, and maybe at times overwhelming. Whatever the particulars, we either abandon our course or at the very least get stalled. This is the time we could use that "someone to hold us accountable" to walk with us and encourage us.

Do you need someone right now to help you, to encourage you along the course on which you are

proceeding? Or are you someone who is feeling called to be a support and encourager and would like to have that opportunity to walk with someone along their course? In either case, it is time to be proactive. First, pray for the Lord to give you guidance and direction to the people who could meet your need to serve or to be served. Then, act upon His direction. Make a call, write a note, send an email or text message and connect.

Your vestry is setting on a course right now. Many of its members will need you to walk with them and offer support and encouragement. Please pray for whom it might be that you could walk with and make that call. Perhaps you are setting off on a course of ministry right now and need support from a vestry member. Don't hesitate. Make that call and let them know your need. Let us all reach together so we can all "stay the course."

*Susie Ferguson*  
*Senior Warden*



## How Bible Study Changes You

Recently the Oscar nominations were announced, and I realized that I had seen none of the movies (except for the animated ones) and none of the performances. As recently as 3 or 4 years ago this would have had me frantically trying to catch up on the ones I had missed so I wouldn't be "out of touch."

I also notice that I don't know anything about most of the TV shows people seem to be watching - dare I use the term religiously. And as for what passes for pop music these days there is no point in even going there.

These revelations led me to wonder what had caused this change. It occurred to me that the one big change in my life over that time period has been my deeper study of the Word of God through various study groups to which I belong. I understand that I may be guilty of a "post hoc ergo propter hoc" fallacy, but I don't think so.

Studying God's word seems to fill a place in me that was empty before. Into that open and empty spot I was pouring popular culture in movies and TV. Don't get me wrong, I still love good movies and I can watch TV with the best of them. I think my point is that I am becoming much more selective about what I allow into my mind and spirit.

Lest I come across as an elitist snob, I must say that most of the movies and TV shows and books that I enjoy are relatively shallow. All I ask in general is to be entertained in a healthy manner. If a movie or book or TV show can also make me think about serious issues without beating me over the head with them, so much the better.

I think of movies such as "Schindler's List," "Million Dollar Baby," and "Crash" in that category.

All of these movies led me to contemplate some moral issue and discuss the same with others who had seen the films.

I suppose that what I am really trying to say is that Bible Study and other small group discussions have made me appreciate that the end of this life is simply the prelude to the next. And I find myself feeling it is more important to know what God expects of me than to know what happens in the next installment of my favorite TV show.

*Mary Leal*



## Good Sams

**G**ood Sams is a ministry designed to provide help to members of our congregation who are in need either due to illness, surgery, or any other life crisis. The primary function of this ministry is to provide meals to families who are undergoing such difficulties. However, other help may be provided as needed under particular circumstances.

If you can help by preparing meals, or in any other capacity as a helper to a fellow ECA member having problems, please contact the following people who have graciously agreed to coordinate these services when they are requested.

*Kelli Casale*  
(408) 205-7268  
*Kelli.casale@yahoo.com*

*Brenda McHenry*  
(408) 270-5133

We at ECA seem to always rise to the occasion as needed, and your help in this area will be greatly appreciated.

## February Reflections

**D**uring the month of January, I prune my rosebushes. Starting with the six pink bushes in the front yard. I find the exercise relaxing as I think about my plan for the roses. How many aphids were there last year? Have the bushes recovered from the rust spots? Should I think about watering more or fertilizing?

I prune the roses to keep them healthy, to reduce disease and bugs and to increase the number of blooms. Several neighbors have told me that they appreciate the full blooms during the long summer days, when spent pink petals litter my driveway and sidewalk.

As I prune, I wonder, is God a gardener? I wonder because there are times in my life when I feel that I have been pruned. There it was, a piece of my life that I thought was healthy, a cane that was rooted deep into the firm soil, only to find that piece of myself suddenly gone and I can only mourn the loss. Or maybe it was a tender bud that came too early. If it continued it would interfere with the other strong canes that were weathered and true, steadily producing healthy flowers. So I wonder about the purpose of the Divine.

As I pick up the trimmings, I watch carefully for the strong thorns. They are still able to draw blood through my gloves. Gathering them together, they make a large pile in the street for the garbage truck to clear away. In my life I can only trust that I have been pruned with a purpose, to be healthy, strong, able to withstand the winter storms, the chilling frost, the gentle rains, the days of strong sunshine and little water or nourishment, to withstand the attacks of bugs and disease. But especially I trust that I have been pruned to bloom, to show the patience and plan of the master gardener.

*Kimberly Axtell*

# Vestry Ministry Goals for 2008

What a wonderful group of dedicated individuals you have serving you on your vestry this year. Each is committed to serve and help make ECA an even richer place to experience Christ through our numerous ministries. In the last three years each vestry member has been encouraged to have one goal for the year specific to the ministry of their choice. This year you will see they have challenged themselves to an even greater extent to Reach Up, Reach In, and Reach Out.

## ***Andy Kerr – Worship***

1. Hold timely coordination meetings of all key leaders for planning to enable the maximum involvement of the congregation in the joyful liturgy of Worship at ECA
2. Assist Youth leadership in establishing more spiritual opportunities in conjunction with Youth activities

## ***Jim McPherson and Sharon Mills – Christian Education & Youth***

1. Complete the work started by the ChYMPs Committee to define its role, the role of the parent support groups, and revise the job description(s) for the Christian Ed Director and Youth Group Leader
2. Develop the SHYG/JHYG information materials (e.g.: handout)
3. Ensure the youth groups are youth led, adult guided

## ***Kelli Casale and Pat Fox – Pastoral Care***

1. To contact the leads of Good Sams, God Squad, the Visitors Group, and the Prayer Vine and inquire as to “if and how” vestry can assist them
2. To assist Stephen & others to maintain a pulse on our parishioners and their needs, expressed and unexpressed

3. Encourage ECA members to participate and support the ministries of their choice; and encourage participants of ministries to invite people outside our church to participate with them
4. Explore Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM) training opportunities with the Diocese and expand that program at ECA
5. Create a Visitors and New Member Ministry which will formalize a welcoming for visitors, form a support team for new members to our community, assist new families make a smooth transition into our congregation and church family
6. Gather information on Stephen Ministries and its feasibility at ECA

## ***Kimberly Axtell – Spiritual Growth***

1. Provide opportunities for deepening the faith of the congregation by working within existing structures and creating new structures, including working with other vestry members and ministries as needed
2. Continue to expand the Adult Education program
3. Write regular reflection to invite others to seeing themselves in the life of Christ

## ***Tim Miller – Fellowship***

1. Have one fellowship event each quarter that is specific to “fellowship at ECA.” These events may be simple, spiritual, theme oriented, or specific to a purpose (i.e. Stewardship, ECA birthday)
2. Hold a planning meeting or event to determine events for the year that will include intergenerational as well as only adult events
3. Encourage leaders of events to write Shape articles publicizing an event and as a recap of the event

## ***Sam Sarmecanic – Outreach***

1. Check in with ministry chairpersons for our cur-

# Vestry Ministry Goals for 2008

rently running outreach endeavors to see how vestry can help and support them and their ministry

2. Continue in youth ministry teaching Sunday School

## **Hank De Voss – Stewardship**

1. Keep before the members of the congregation the fact that as Christians we are constant stewards of all of life – our time, our talents, and our possessions (treasure)
2. Continue to develop the theme that we are managers of God's gifts to each of us
3. Challenge our membership to grow in their commitment of time, talent, and treasure to the ministry of our congregation and the church around the world

## **Ron Howie – Junior Warden, Joint Venture**

1. Continue as liaison to J.V. Board
2. Finish outside security lights by May
3. Finish four camera security system by July
4. Complete list of Rectory upgrades by March
5. Finish upgrades to Rectory by December.

## **Steve Wing – Communications**

1. Continue to work with the Shape committee on devising new, fresh and exciting ideas for The Shape
2. Put together the Vestry Gifts of Gratitude for each month's Shape
3. Assemble the Opportunities at ECA section of the inside cover of each month's Shape

## **Steve Wing – Finance**

1. Be a useful liaison with our esteemed Treasurer, Maryke in communicating ECA financial matters to Vestry and the Parish as a whole.
2. Explore the possible consolidation of the many restricted funds into more useful form

## **Susie Ferguson – Senior Warden**

1. Build better communication through use of our "Vestry Bulletin Board" by changing it quarterly to continue highlighting our efforts to Reach Up, Reach In, and Reach Out and to bring attention to its change through a Shape article
2. Support each vestry member in their own ministry by participation when appropriate and possible, by encouragement and positive reinforcement of efforts, by understanding, listening and reflecting with vestry member on challenges, and by recognition of efforts, progress, and accomplishments;
3. Continue to encourage each vestry member to be represented in the Shape each month by either an article written by them or by an article written by one of our parishioners within their ministry influence.

Perhaps there are ways in which you would like to help these servants of yours reach their goals this year. If so, please step up and join hands with them.



# Reach Up, Grow Closer

**R**each Up and grow closer to Christ. Reach In and grow a stronger faith community. Reach together at an Adult Bible Study at ECA this month.

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

Wed. March 5 we meet in the home of Carol MacDonald, 6562 Tam O'Shanter Drive.

Wed. March 19 we will be with Susie & Jerry Ferguson, 1446 Kew Gardens Court.

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.

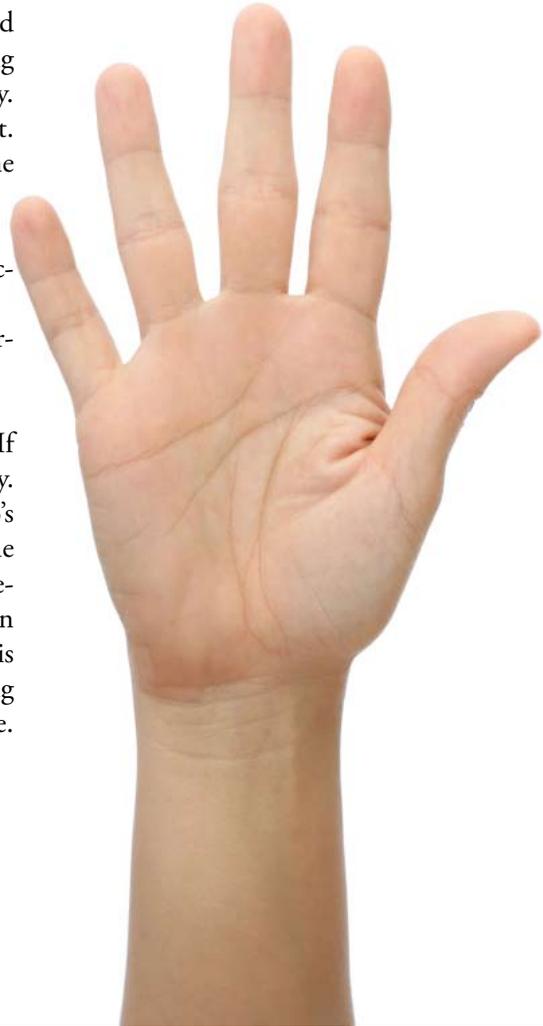
The class is studying the Book of John this year. You can print out a syllabus for each class to use for your study. Go to [eca-sj.org](http://eca-sj.org) and choose the link education and then adult.

March 6 – John 14

March 13 – John 15

March 20 – John 16

March 27 – Spring Break





## News From the Pews

New Grandchildren:

George and Nancy Romer helped their daughter Holly and their son-in-law Mike Stipe welcome Madison May, little sister of Abigail.

The Blankenheims are still waiting, probably not quite as eagerly as the parents to be Kristi and Sean Edwards, for their new arrival.

And Amy Griffith is excited about Cindy and Brian McDaniel's new baby girl Cali Ann who will take her place with big brother Skylar.

Speaking of Amy and Earl's grandchildren, Samuel (son of Billy and Danni Griffith) just celebrated his second birthday and the aforementioned Skylar will be 2 soon after his sister's arrival.

Maryke and Robin Williams returned from their African safari. If you catch her with her pictures, be sure to take a look. There are some truly awesome wildlife photos.

That's all the news I know of. I really would like to include more items about more people, so please be sure to share your moments of joy or of sadness by calling Mary Leal at (408) 268-0230 or emailing at [mlealo@aol.com](mailto:mlealo@aol.com).

Mary Leal

## Deanery Meeting

**O**n January 12th Betty Wood and I were fortunate to attend the Deanery meeting for our area. This was the first time either of us had attended such a meeting, and we agreed that it was a truly worthwhile experience.

For those of you who may not know, as I didn't know exactly, the Diocese is divided into smaller groups of congregations by area. These groups are Deaneries.

The meeting was billed as a Visioning Meeting, and it was headlined by our new Bishop, Mary Gray-Reeves. Once again we were impressed by her ministry and her vision. This meeting was to serve as a jumping off point for new ways that our Diocese can better serve God and the greater community.

Many excellent ideas were exchanged among the attendees. We were challenged to find new ideas of how we can serve as individuals as well as a congregation and a diocese. There will be a follow up meetin this month, and I am looking forward to continuing the work begun in January.

Mary Leal

## Bible Study; Perspective

For the last several years I have been part of a small group which usually meets twice a month and studies writings in Christianity. For the last year we have been doing a guided Bible Study. I attend the Rector's Bible Studies as often as possible, and now I have started attending the Thursday AM study led outstandingly by Mary McPherson.

From all of these groups I have begun to obtain a whole new perspective on God's Word. Everyone in every group has something to offer, a unique viewpoint. Hearing all of these different ideas has challenged me to deepen my contemplation of the Bible and other spiritual texts.

I know that not everyone can attend every meeting of either Bible Study group, but I really believe that we are given an excellent opportunity to be guided through various Bible passages and to better understand them.

Stephen's Wednesday night group studies the coming week's readings. By hearing these in quiet and comfortable surroundings it is much easier to concentrate on the text. Stephen does not so much "teach" as lead us through the passages and help us find the meaning for each of us.

In the Thursday AM group we are currently studying John's gospel. Mary prepares questions for us ahead of time. Both the depth of thought that goes into deriving these questions, and the wonderful varied ideas and perspectives brought by the group members are truly amazing.

I would like to thank both Stephen and Mary for giving of their time so generously to help us find deeper meaning in God's word.

*Mary Leal*

## Christian Ed & Youth Director

Change has been the norm in my life for the last few years and continues to be so. I have given notice to the pastors and Christian Education Committee that I will be resigning my post as Christian Education and Youth Group Director at the end of May. The CHYMPs will be putting together a search committee to fill these positions but they will need interim help.

The events that need leadership or planning soon are Vacation Bible School (August 11-15), reservations for the SHYG's kickoff event at the end of summer (date to be determined), and booking accommodations for the ski trip next year. I will put together calendars with just the basics and the new employee can use these dates or not depending on what they and the parents want to see in place for each group. This would be a good time to let the Chymps know your wishes, what you like in these programs and what you want to see changed. Please send this information to the pastors and they will forward the information to the committee.

I have had much joy in watching your children's faces during the many events that have taken place over the last few years. Thank you for volunteering to help as nothing would have happened without all of you pitching in for Sunday school, VBS, JHYG's or SHYG's. It's all of you who make things happen by providing, creativity, cooking, driving, skiing, donating needed items and, parents, bringing your kids. Your participating in even the smallest ways has a big impact on our children.

*Blessings to all of you.*  
*Katie Taplin*

## Cursillo 2008!

**D**e Colores - The Santa Clara Servant Community is in the final stages of preparation for the upcoming Cursillo Weekend at Camp St Francis in La Selva. The dates for the weekend are May 1-4, 2008.

The team, lead by Rector & Rectora Bruce Horn & Kim Adams, has been working since November preparing for the weekend. Cursillo is an experience that enhances the grace GOD has freely given to all of us with instructions to share with each other.

Cursillo has also lead many people to further their Christian development, some to the point of working to join the clergy, others to become more active in Lay leadership within their congregations and/or the diocese. To help the team, your candidate applications are needed as soon as possible with a tentative cutoff date of March 19th. That will give the Cursillo Board time to review applications and get them to the team for their final preparation.

The number of candidates is limited to around 30, so don't wait or yours may miss out this year. Applications can be downloaded at [www.sccursillo.org](http://www.sccursillo.org) . If you need more information, contact [chair@sccursillo.org](mailto:chair@sccursillo.org) or [weekend@sccursillo.org](mailto:weekend@sccursillo.org). Thank you all for your assistance and God bless you all.

## Anniversaries

Monte & Debbie Bishop	3
Dave & Gayle Byers	10
Henry & Judy Blankenheim	14

## Birthdays

Tim Miller	1
Hayley Moore	1
Anna Spanjaart	1
Bill Taylor	1
Jack Jackman	3
Greg McCormick	3
Judy Graun	4
Luke Appleton	6
Julia Machado	6
Jackie Whitlock	6
Jason Ferguson	16
Len Whitlock	19
Ainsley Jaciow	21
Gloria Skowronski	24
Edie Keck	26



## Junior & Senior High Ski Trip 2008

For the third year we booked cabins in Carnelian Bay on the North Shore. Two of the cabins were next door to each other on Dakar Drive and the third one was at the end of the block on Sunset (aka “Moose House” for the prominent moose head mounted in the TV room). Five cars headed to the slopes with 14 youths and 7 adults on Friday. The three cars leaving in morning made it in good time (-4 hours) and the cars leaving in the afternoon had more of an unhurried trip (6.5 hours)! Most importantly, we all arrived safely. We stayed up until midnight or so fellowshipping before calling it a day.

Saturday morning Bonnie McPherson and I got up at “oh-dark thirty” and started breakfast for the skiers who arrived before daylight for eggs, sausage, toast, coffee and juice. We were headed for slopes by 7:30 am. Jon Mills with help from Hans and Anna Spanjaart, Bonnie, Rob and Alex Dykes got the kids their lift tickets, rentals, and lessons setup. The day was beautiful—warm and sunny with not much of a breeze except at the mountain peaks.

Bonnie and I headed back to the cabins and immediately began cooking the sandwiches and heating the soup. At 11 am we headed back to the resort with lunch. The clam chowder and the grilled cheese sandwiches were a hit. After lunch Bonnie stayed to create a home base for all those who were tired and cold while I headed back to the cabin to clean up and get ready for dinner. I was just checking out at grocery store I when got a call from Bonnie asking me to come help pick up kids after skiing because she had to take Caitlin to the hospital for a possible bone fracture in her left arm. Fortunately, it was only a bruise to the bone.

Before dinner and before the boys showed up at the Moose House the girls put on “Breakfast at

Tiffany’s”. As the boys came and the other adults arrived everyone got into this movie which was a surprise and a relief to see something other than some action “Dude” movie! When someone said, “Oh! It’s a chick flick.” One of the girl’s responded with, “Real guys can watch chick flicks.” You go girl!

Bonnie and Caitlin got back from the emergency room just in time to join us for a hardy Spaghetti dinner followed by oven-hot brownies. The Lukanc family also joined us for dinner. The after dinner game was Apples to Apples--it brought a lot of laughter to the evening. The game went on until most couldn’t keep their eyes open anymore which was about 9:45.

Sunday brought a nasty turn in the weather. Much wind and a considerable drop in temperature kept a few off the mountain and stopped several from riding after lunch. Of note, the warm top ramen in a cup that we had at lunch never tasted so good and the grilled sausages were not bad either. Several diehard slope riders continued on the mountain until late afternoon.

Sunday evening after a wonderful dinner of salmon and/or chicken, the kids were sitting in front of the TV half-asleep or upstairs. The adults were content to be sitting at the kitchen table relaxing. Activity peaked briefly as smores were made and quickly consumed. At 9 pm the boys went to their cabins and the girls to their rooms; all was pretty quiet by 10 pm.

The next morning as we were packing up David Hoyt relayed a message from his dad that we better get out of Tahoe because a big storm was coming. As we headed toward Truckee the snow flakes were

## SKI 2008

big and really coming down. There was a sense of wonder at the beauty and at the same time a panic to get the heck outa there!! We managed to get off I-80 just before it closed. Some of us went the back roads thanks to Rob's iPhone road reports and only had a 5 hour drive; the rest made it home a few hours later.

Well, all in all, it was a great trip. Thanks to Bonnie, Rob, Alex, Hans, Anna, and the Lukanc's for all their help in making this trip possible.

*Jon and Katie*

## Gifts of Gratitude

Thanks to Jon, Katie, Bonnie, Anna, Hans, Alex and Rob for getting the youth to the ski slopes and safely back home again with lots of fun and good food in between.

Special thanks to Dot Alfrey for being our interim nursery person.

Special thanks to Katie Taplin and the JYGS and SHYGS for our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.

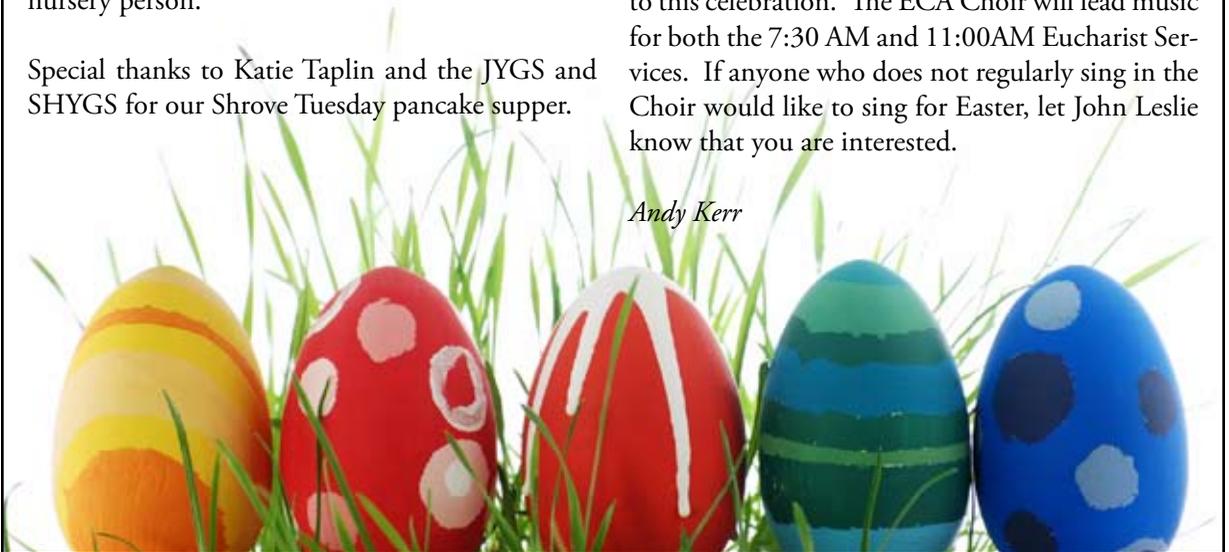
## Easter Worship

Easter is celebrated early this year, resulting in a variety of worship opportunities at ECA during the month of March. We continue the use of Rite I for the Eucharist for the first two Sundays of the month, and return to Rite II with the services on Palm Sunday, March 20. On that day, we will gather at 11:00 AM in front of the church (weather permitting) for the blessing of the palms, and process together into the Sanctuary for the rest of the service.

On Maundy Thursday, March 24, the JV choirs will provide music for a 7:30 PM Service of Holy Eucharist and Tenebrae. The next day there will be a Good Friday Service at Noon, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 1:00 PM.

On Easter Sunday, there will be a Joint Venture Sunrise Celebration at 6:00AM at the Mocking Bird Hill entrance to Quicksilver Park. (In case of rain, it will move to the Parish Hall) This will provide an opportunity to greet the day with music and praise as a warm-up for the full celebrations of the Easter Eucharist later in the morning. Flashlights and warm coats will be important adjuncts to this celebration. The ECA Choir will lead music for both the 7:30 AM and 11:00AM Eucharist Services. If anyone who does not regularly sing in the Choir would like to sing for Easter, let John Leslie know that you are interested.

*Andy Kerr*





## **Soldiers Of Conscience**

Soldiers of Conscience  
Thursday, March 13, 2008  
7:30 pm Denniston Refectory  
Church Divinity School of the Pacific

From West Point grads to drill sergeants, from Abu Ghraib interrogators to low ranking reservist-mechanics; soldiers in the US Army today reveal their deepest moral concerns about what they are asked to do in war.

Their message: every soldier wrestles with his conscience over killing. Although most decide to kill, some refuse. Soldiers of Conscience reveals that far more soldiers refuse to kill than we might expect.

Made with official permission from the US Army, filmed in state-of-the-art High Definition video, Soldiers of Conscience includes never before seen footage of basic training and the war in Iraq, with an original soundtrack from an Academy Award winner and composer.

Soldiers of Conscience is a realistic yet optimistic look at war, peace, and the power of the human conscience.

See Kimberly Axtell for more details.

## **Almaden Adventures in the Arts**

**Steve Kritzer**

**At ECA Saturday, March 29 at 7:30 pm**

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 musics, Kritzer is as comfortable with Celtic and Bluegrass as he is with Country, 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.

# Almaden Adventures in the Arts (WWQ5)

## San Jose Wind Symphony Quartet (WWQ5)

At ECA Saturday, March 1 at 7:30 pm

Please join us for an evening of classical and more contemporary music performed by members of the San Jose Wind Symphony on Saturday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Joint Venture Churches' concert series.

Five members of the San Jose Wind Symphony formed WWQ5 in December of 1996. WWQ5 has performed at San Jose city events like Tap-estry 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; *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; and *David Dufour*, French horn, currently plays with the Peninsula Symphony and is principal with the Palo Alto Philharmonic.

Tickets are \$15 general, \$5 students and \$2 children. Child care will be provided.

For reservations or further information information, please call (408) 268-0243.



# Marion's Kidney Transplant

Marion was called for her kidney transplant on Wednesday afternoon. Jim Hicks drove Marion up to UCSF at midnight. Hank DeVoss came mid-morning to keep Marion company. And I relieved Hank at 2:00 p.m.

It is midnight Thursday/Friday February 22nd. I just got home from San Francisco Medical Center. The latest news is that Marion is out of kidney transplant surgery. She's coming out of Recovery and will be moved to her room on the ninth floor soon. The doctor is pleased and so are the nurses. She has produced over 500 cc of urine with her newly transplanted kidney. When I saw her in Recovery before I left at 10:45 p.m. Marion looked very good: relaxed, good coloring, nice sense of humor and great kindness telling me to listen to the radio to keep awake driving home.

Dr. Sang-mo Kang (her surgeon) is evidently one of the finest kidney surgeons in the country. The surgery started at 6:00 p.m. and was over including closing at 9:30 p.m. I was with her the two hours before surgery in pre-op. She was in fine fettle giving instructions to the anesthesiologist and chatting about a variety of topics including teaching me how to do Cathedral quilting. Her new kidney is strong and the hospital staff is very encouraged about the surgery.

Friday afternoon:

Marion looks and sounds wonderful. Her coloring is pink, she's lively and can move pretty well. We got to see her surgery scar. No bandage; (because she is allergic to bandages the doctor said, "Let's do it this way without bandages.") The scar looks like a healed scar, very neat.

The nursing staff got her up for her first short afternoon walk to her room door and back, and Marion did well. She is eating juice and jello today. They are collecting her urine hourly and would be happy if she puts out 50 ccs. She is actually putting out 125 ccs. Her new kidney is working very nicely. She says her pain level is 2 and sometimes 3. She administers her own pain medication.

UCSF nursing staff listen to her and are prompt and efficient and seem to enjoy her. Doctor Kang came to see Marion this morning, once by himself, and once again with his retinue of interns. This nationally known kidney transplant specialist is very pleased with the surgery.

Marion has had a raft of visitors, many from church and even her Tai Chi teacher. On Sunday, Fr. Stephen brought Marion communion.

Monday February 25th:

Marion is out of hospital. Her doctor is very pleased with the kidney surgery and incision healing. Marion will have an indwelling urinary catheter for ten more days. Sam Sarmecanic and Maryke Williams



## Marion

picked her up this afternoon and drove her back to San Jose. They picked up her meds from Kaiser Pharmacy and dropped her off at Dom and Better Consorte's home. She is getting settled in and having supper. Marion is walking well, eating well and says her kidney is functioning so well that she does not have to take prednisone. Praise the Lord. Please keep Marion and Betty and Dom in your prayers for good health and enough rest.

Dave Byers and Sandie Mueller will take Marion up to UCSF Medical Clinic on Wednesday for her follow-up medical visit.

Thank you for your prayers. God is wonderful and so is the person who donated this gift of a kidney. Fr. Stephen will be showing us all how we can write letters of thanks to the family of the kidney donor. Everyone can participate.

Thank you for your prayers for and dedication and commitment to Marion. Our church family, near and far, is truly grand.

*Sandie Mueller*

## JV Work Day

March 15, 9:00 to 12:00

Please come out and help make the church shine for Easter. JV work days are a great opportunity to get to know people from our partner church, and a fun way to help maintain our grounds and buildings.

## Mental Health Day

Sunday is a mental health day; I recently watched a segment of the "Today Show" which dealt with helping to maintain and improve our memory as we grow older (perish the thought).

There were many ideas offered but this is my favorite. Those who attend a church service once a week have a 36% less chance of cognitive impairment. What could be easier? So if one forgets to attend church, one has a significantly higher risk of forgetting other things. Think about it.

*Mary Leal*



## Fair Trade Coffee

The sales of Beneficio Coffee benefit the small farmers in Costa Rica and their families; to support this mission, please contact Phyllis Chai (226-7150) before you're completely out of your supply. An order can be placed when there are 24/ 12 oz. bags (each still \$7.75) which have been requested, including that used by our Joint Venture. Thank you for supporting this very worthy cause.

*Phyllis Chai*

## Camp Coast Care

**G**eorge & Nancy Romer are traveling to participate in a diocesan mission trip to Camp Coast Care in Long Beach, Mississippi (near Biloxi, Mississippi)

Since the first days after Hurricane Katrina, Camp Coast Care has offered help to survivors in the form of a distribution center for food, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, clothing, and free medical services.

Camp Coast Care has also hosted thousands of volunteers from all over the world who have come to clean out and rebuild lives, homes, and communities, including our own Brad Bond.

Camp Coast Care continues to adapt to the needs of the people affected by hurricane Katrina. Since housing is now the critical ongoing concern, the focus has become the renovation and building of homes. Volunteer work crews rebuild homes, clean up, and restore the beauty of the Gulf Coast. Volunteer participation is also vital to the functioning and cleanliness of Camp Coast Care.

George & Nancy Romer will be volunteering here May 4 through May 10. While they are not requesting sponsorship, they are requesting donations to benefit the Katrina hurricane recovery effort operated and supported by Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi (LESM) which is funded by Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). If you would like to support their team's efforts, please send checks to Maryke Williams, ECA Treasurer, who will in turn pool the funds and remit them to our Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real (EDE-CR), Camp Coast Care support.

Your vestry and diocese support this example of external stewardship and encourage your participa-

tion. In addition to monetary participation, you too can apply to volunteer under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real by contacting Al and Sheila Vossler at [2pbear@sbcglobal.net](mailto:2pbear@sbcglobal.net) and [mabear2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mabear2@sbcglobal.net), respectively. You can learn all about this important work and organization at <http://www.campcoastcare.com/index.htm>.

Please keep Nancy and George in your prayers as they travel to do the Lord's work.

## JV Board News

**T**he JV Board is up and running for 2008. We have a great, dedicated group from both churches overseeing the operation of the building and grounds. The heavy rains exposed some weak areas in the roof, these are being addressed by the roofing contractor under the 10 year warranty. The JV board is also considering upgrades to the windows, kitchen fire extinguishing system and storage sheds. We are also planning 3 work days in March, June and October. Finally, if anyone has unredeemed JV bonds issued when Fellowship Hall was built, please contact me or Mary Leal. These bonds have reached their full term and we would like to pay them out and clean up the books.

*Al Nieders*  
*JV Board President*