

# The Shape

May 2009

## *The Episcopal Church in Almaden*

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



*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear ... "*  
*1 John 4:18*

# Opportunities at ECA

Be sure to check the bulletin boards and Sunday programs for the latest details on fellowship and study opportunities!

## Worship

May 3 – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:30 AM & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist

May 10 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day & Guest Celebrant

7:30 AM & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist– Folk Service

May 17 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Healing Service

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10 AM JV Teacher and Youth Appreciation Service

May 24 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter Memorial Day Weekend

7:30 AM & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist

May 31 – The Day of Pentecost

The Reverend Canon Brian Nordwick, preaching

7:30 AM & 11:00 Holy Eucharist

Adult Study – Thursday Mornings at church 10:30 AM to Noon

May 7 – 1 Peter Chapter 1, May 14 – 1 Peter Chapter 2,

May 21 – 1 Peter Chapter 3, May 28 – 1 Peter Chapter 4

Children and Youth Study

Sunday School hour begins at 10:10 AM May 3 & 10.

Special Events

May 17 – BBQ after Service w/ SHYG's Servant Auction

May 31 – The Reverend Canon Brian Nordwick

Fellowship – Adults

Women's Walk & Talk – Tuesday 8:45 AM, Rain or Shine

Men's Breakfast, Thursday mornings, 8 AM at Denny's

Knitting Group – Saturday, May 9 & 23 - 10 AM -12

JV Book Group Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30 PM at

Linda Farr's house (UCC)

For more information call Amy Griffith at 268-0920

ECA Game Night – Friday, 8th

Fellowship - Teens

May 3 & 17 – JHYGs Meeting at Church 6 PM

May 10 & 31 – SHYGs Meeting at Church 6 PM

Outreach: Montgomery Meals – May 1, 15, & 29

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	Marcus 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
HAND BELL CHOIR	Ruthanne Adams
KIDS' BREAKOUT	Leslie Rousseau
LAY READERS	Jenny Hoyt
MONTGOMERY MEALS	Amy Griffith
NURSERY	Dot Allfrey
PRAYER VINE	Ann Avoux
USHERS	Dave Byers
SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Jon Mills
STEWARDSHIP	HANK DeVoss, George Romer
JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Bonnie McPherson
WORSHIP	Andy Kerr
WEBMASTER	Kim Petruzzelli
YOUTH SUNDAY	Jim McPherson, Bryan Bond

## ECA STAFF

CHRISTIAN ED. DIRECTOR	
MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORGANIST	D. Asa Stern
TREASURER	Bill LaVallee
YOUTH DIRECTOR	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Dennis Elliott

## CONTACTING

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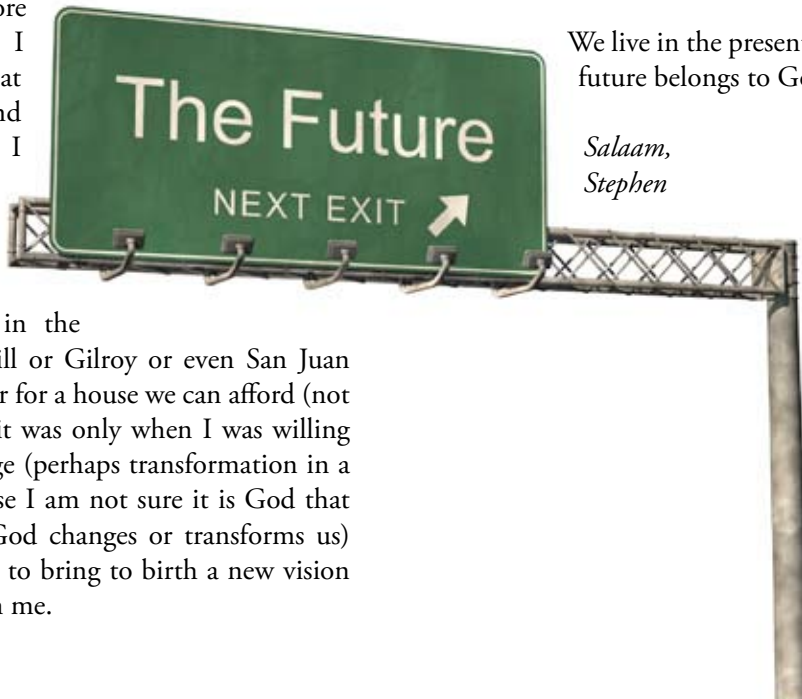
## From Stephen



I do not like change. It is upsetting; it is disconcerting; it confuses me. And yet, the inevitability of change is one of the few certainties of life. Up until two weeks ago, I knew what I was going to do when I retired. I was going back to Rohnert Park and work on fixing up the house that Ellie and I own there. But when Ellie began investigating the job situation in the North Bay, she realized that the call center in Vallejo was open 24/7 so, in all probability, she would have to work nights and weekends as well as contend with a 45 minute commute over congested back roads. So she came home and told me that she really liked her job down here and that she would like to look for a place here that we could afford. At first I was adamantly opposed. I had my life planned and I had a vision of what life would be like and now that was all changed. But as I thought of the possibilities more and more, and as I began to offer that future more and more up to God, I began to see new visions emerge. So we are going to start looking somewhere south in the area of Morgan Hill or Gilroy or even San Juan Bautista or Hollister for a house we can afford (not an easy task). But it was only when I was willing to accept the change (perhaps transformation in a better word, because I am not sure it is God that changes but that God changes or transforms us) that I allowed God to bring to birth a new vision of the future within me.

So too, it is with the church. No one welcomes change. But change is inevitable. So the question becomes how do we deal with and manage change? Do we spend our time trying to maintain and protect our (read God's) buildings, doctrines, traditions, plans, and expectations? Or do we depend on the love of Christ to free us, to make us imaginative and resilient and fearless enough to go wherever the God of transformation would have us go. It seems to me that one of the essential messages of Easter that God is continually calling us to a richer, fuller, deeper and more joyful vision of the future than we can ask or imagine.

Transformation will come to ECA. It always has and it always will. But that transformation will also open ECA to a wider vision and a wider hope. The wider we have the courage to throw the windows and doors of the church open, the more the Spirit of the Living God can enter and blow where it wills to a better tomorrow.



We live in the present, because the future belongs to God.

*Salaam,  
Stephen*

## From the Editor



**O**ur own mortality is an abstract concept for most of us. We may have seen death, seen dying, someone we love may have died. No matter how much we witness the process,

I don't believe that there is much that can truly prepare us for the reality.

This past week has had me thinking more about death and my own mortality than ever. The event that has caused this contemplation is in itself rather benign: we're going on vacation. It's not that I have spent every moment dwelling death and I will be unable to enjoy myself, but it has caused me to begin to plan for my ultimate demise. I would say that even the youngest among us (within reason of course) should have at the least a will. You won't be avoiding probate, but at least you can give direction in a time of uncertainty for the people you leave behind.

For some reason most people are uncomfortable with creating a will, or a living trust, or an advance medical directive (living will). I think that the reason most people avoid creating these important documents is that in a way, it would be admitting our own mortality and this is something we cannot bear to do. To shed light on this irrational fear, think about it, since when does writing and signing a document cause death? This is a warped extension of cause and effect. It is hard to think of your own death, but at the same time, you need to think, what happens to what I leave behind? Rob and I gave this a great deal of thought, it started with "well, I know who I don't want the money to go to." It was a great relief to me that once we

started talking about what happens when we die... I was still alive!

What started all of this planning is that my grandmother is not in the best of health and she is rapidly approaching 100. At some point she decided it was not necessary to plan for the day you meet your maker. The uncomfortable thing about this whole situation is that nobody wants to talk to her about it. (Well, I would but I was told not to) It's as if one can live forever by not having planned for death. It all seems a bit to Oscar Wilde for me, instead of a portrait in the closet it's the lack of anything in the closet.

I think that for me, above all, I want to make sure that should something happen to us, our money goes somewhere to do some good in the world we leave behind, make sure we're buried together (and please please, no cremations, it's a little too close to hellfire and brimstone for me.) So, gentle readers, you are all witnesses, if you come to my funeral and there is an urn instead of a corpse in a coffin, you know something's amiss!

*Alex Dykes*

## Senior Warden

**D**uring the April vestry meeting, your vestry continued our discernment, asking the question, who would be an appropriate interim candidate to lead us? I think we have an answer and are ready to look at candidates for our interim priest. Also during the month of May, we will be hiring one or many supply priests to help us during the summer months. More information on this to come!

Please mark on your calendars that on May 31st, we will be having an all church meeting to discuss the formation of our search committee. The Rev. Canon Brian Nordwick will join us that Sunday and help get us started. During the meeting, we will be handing out materials to those who are interested in being on the search committee. It is the goal of the vestry to have our search committee reflect our community, with a cross-section of people, age groups and interests. Please be in prayer as we begin our transition process.

In the meantime, the work of ECA continues. On May 17, we will have a JV service to honor our Sunday School teachers and our youth. And a round of applause for everyone who helped and attended Holy Week and Easter Services. Holy Week was a glorious reminder of God's Spirit present among us.

May the Holy Spirit continue to sustain us as we envision God's Kingdom among us.

*Kimberly Axtell*  
*Senior Warden*



# Fellowship Events Gearing Up

## Updated ECA Fellowship Calendar 2009 Save these dates! Volunteers Needed!

May 8 – Game Night with Pizza or Ice Cream Social (all ages) Organizer: Bonnie McPherson & Donna Miller

June 13 – Dinner & Roast for Stephen (adults) Organizers for the dinner: Melinda Jennings, Alex Dykes, Rob McClaine, & Pat Fox. Organizers for the program: Dave Byers & Jerry Ferguson

June 14 – Farewell Service and BBQ for Stephen (all ages) Organizers for the BBQ – Dave Byers & Ron Howie. Organizers for the lunch celebration: Need Help. Organizers for Worship – Andy Kerr, Vestry and the Worship Committee

June 21 – Father’s Day: ideas being germinated (all ages) Looking for some help.

July 18 – Chili Cook-off and Movie (all ages) Organizers: Bryan Bond

August 22 – Movie Night (all ages) Need Help

August 28 – Lobster Dinner (adults) Organizing Committee: Susie & Jerry Ferguson, Donna Miller, Joy Austin-Lane, Suzanne & Pete Mayo, Hank & Colleen DeVoss, & Pat Fox Could use larger committee

September 13 – Reunion Sunday & BBQ (all ages) Organizers: Susie Ferguson, Betty Consorte, Susanne Moore Could use more help

September 19 – Steak & Stein: Men’s Event Organizers: Dave Byers & Ron Howie

September 25 – Chick Flick: Women’s Event Organizers: Kelli Casale & Kim Petruzzelli

October 17 – Oktoberfest (adults) Organizers: Nancy Romer, Susanne Moore, Belinda Byerly-Robins, & Gloria Skowronski

November 1 – ECA Birthday Party & Lunch (all ages) Need Help

December 5 – Christmas Party (adults) Need Help

Contact Susie Ferguson or Donna Miller, Vestry Fellowship Leads if you can help.





## Picnic & Bocce Ball

**T**wenty five adults and two dogs found their way to Almaden Lake Park one Saturday last month to enjoy the sunshine and try their hands at bocce ball. (Oh, the dogs kept their paws off the courts.) We had our experts (you know the Thursday Men's Breakfast Group) to show off their skills and teach many who had never played the game its finer points. Doug and Betty Wood brought a couple of "ringers" and friends from their neighborhood. Beware of anyone who owns their own set of bocce balls!

The Hoyts (Jenny and Roger) and the Moores (Susanne and Arnold) joined the Fergusons (Susie and Jerry) bright and early to stake out some picnic tables for the day, enjoy their coffee and homemade cinnamon buns compliments of Jenny. With our two tables court side to enjoy the camaraderie while the games played and two at a scenic overlook of the amphitheater and lake which were perfect for our lunchtime picnic feast we felt we had the best spots the park had to offer.

We wound our day's events down about 3 PM with a plan to do it all again. Many requested a rematch of their bocce game. You see they want to prove it really wasn't just beginner's luck. Everyone liked the idea of enjoying a great park and outdoor setting just minutes from home. What really made the day so special? You did – Nancy, George, Dave, Gayle, Dom, Betty, Carol, Woodie, Joy, Melinda, Ron, Chris, Betty, Doug, Joan, George, Suzanne, Pete, Colleen, Susanne, Arnold, Jenny, Roger, Susie, Jerry, &

the two dogs!

We're working on other fellowship times at local parks in the coming months. These events are "low maintenance" and "low cost." If you have a favorite park, picnic area, or walk/ hike in our neighborhood that you would like to introduce us to, please contact Susie Ferguson and she will help you get it on our fellowship calendar. Events can be adult only or family oriented. It's your call.

Look for another bocce event in the next couple of months. We will be trying to organize one for late afternoon followed by happy hour at the park.



# Diocesan Opportunities

**ECW Annual Meeting:** There will be an Honored Women's Day & UTO Ingathering: At St. Philip's in Scotts Valley on May 30. Please contact Dorothy Duckett at (408) 293-2046 if you would like to attend.

**The Global Episcopal Mission Network** is holding its annual Mission Institute right in El Camino's backyard, at the Mercy Center in Burlingame from May 20-23. The focus will be on "making the local-global connection" and speakers include Dr. Jenny Te Paa, noted Anglican indigenous theologian from New Zealand, Dr. Henry Zeigler, medical missionary in Tanzania, and The Rt. Revs. Andrus and Charleston, bishops in the diocese of California. For more information and to register please visit <http://www.gemn.org/>.

**Capernaum Fellowship.** This is a re-entry program for ex-offenders and their families to be held at Trinity Cathedral, chosen for its central location with good public transport options. The focus of this program will be to provide a Christian community for families, supporting them as they make the very difficult adjustment of re-entering the outside world and their families after being incarcerated in our jail system. There are five areas that need volunteers:

- 1) people interested in developing and/or providing meaningful liturgy
- 2) people willing to help with the meal that the deanery will provide
- 3) people willing to work on short programs to help strengthen life skills, etc
- 4) people willing to help with short programs for children and teens (Godly Play, etc.)
- 5) several people to work on communications, helping with publicity, developing flyers, etc.

Please contact Joanna Shreve ([jrshreve@aol.com](mailto:jrshreve@aol.com)) or Linda Morris ([lindamorris24@yahoo.com](mailto:lindamorris24@yahoo.com)) if you feel a call to this ministry.

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, May 16, 2009 (10am – 2pm) at St. Paul's, Salinas; Theme: World Missions Day. Come and join Bishop Mary as she shares news and information about her trips to both Tanzania and England. Also, others will share about other world mission work – including our youth mission projects, such as SSP.

Cost that includes lunch will be \$5. To sign up, contact Susan Altig at: [susan@edecr.org](mailto:susan@edecr.org) or (831)394-4465.

*Kimberly Axtell*



## Anniversaries

Earl & Amy Griffith 2  
John & Helen Beacher 22

## Birthdays

Genie Yomtov 2  
Trace Rimroth 4  
Jennifer Majors 7  
Jerry Ferguson 9  
Jim Ward 9  
Corrin Degnan 10  
Jon Mills 10  
Mary Beth Majors 11  
Terry Stonehocker 11  
Michaela Fahlen 12  
Pat Fox 14  
Miriam Lueck 15  
Warren Willard 20  
Tom Fahlen 23  
Kerry Sisler 24  
Danielle Petruzzelli 26

## Worship Notes

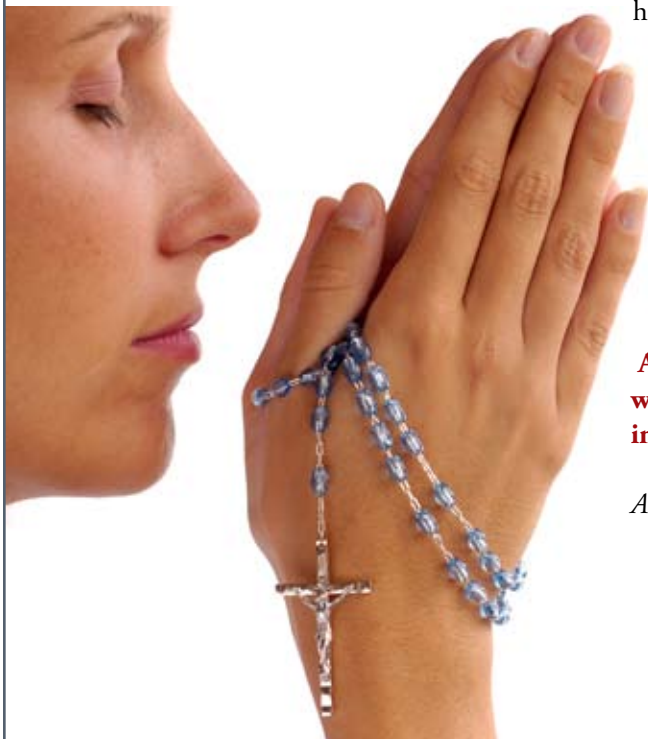
**O**n May 17, we will be having a Joint Venture Service at 10 AM to celebrate the completion of a highly successful year of Sunday Christian Education and to recognize students and their teachers for their accomplishments throughout the year. Please remember, don't arrive at 11 AM expecting a church service. You will meet us all as we exit the JV service.

May 31 is the Day of Pentecost. We will be celebrating the birthday of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. A parish meeting at 9:30 AM will precede the service for the Vestry to update the congregation about plans for calling a new Rector when Stephen retires. A representative of the Diocese will be there to explain the current procedure for calling a new Rector. This will be the final service before the Choir begins its summer hiatus.

June 14 will be Stephen's last Sunday with us before he and Ellie leave to start his Sabbatical prior to his retirement. We will have a Folk Service at 11 AM as a part of a weekend of celebration of his ministry here with us. The weekend will include a gala dinner on Saturday night and a special barbecue following the service on Sunday.

**TIME CHANGE – Starting on June 21, the Late Service will begin a summer schedule which has us starting our worship at 10:30 AM. This will continue until the end of August, with a move back to 11 AM on the first Sunday in September.**

*Andy Kerr*



## Tuesday Walkers

**W**e started as Wednesday Walkers and now we need a new name to carry on our alliteration. What do you think? Tuesday Trotters has been offered as a selection. But some of us don't trot. Any ideas? Send them our way.

We still gather to walk at the parking lot just south of the church and walk the Guadalupe Creek trail. Some walkers make it all the way to Almaden Lake and back in 60 minutes. Some walk as far as they feel comfortable doing and return. In all cases there is plenty of chatter, catching up on the latest happenings at church, in our community and beyond, and world problems explored and evaluated. "Women are never at a loss for words, opinions, and possible solutions."

If you would like to consider joining us, here's where and when. We meet in the parking lot for the Guadalupe Creek Trail on Camden Avenue just south of ECA. We meet at 8:45AM every Tuesday, rain or shine, and walk the trail north to Almaden Lake and back. All levels of walkers are welcome. We always have the "speedy jocks" and the "mellow meanderers" and some in between. Everyone has someone to walk with as we trek in the direction of the lake.

Yes, we do walk rain or shine. We may carry umbrellas or just wear our rain parkas if the weather is inclement. If it is really toooo stormy we succumb to coffee at a favorite coffee shop or one of our homes. So far we have never abandoned our walk entirely....maybe shortened a bit though.

We have been as few as two and as many as nine.



Most importantly we have enjoyed great fellowship, great conversation, and great exercise. You could be part of this truly positive experience for your health and more. Consider joining us. If you need more information please contact Joy Austin-Lane (1-301-385-2900 her cell) or Susie Ferguson (408-499-6381 her cell). You can call these numbers even at 8 AM the day of our walk to say "Wait for me!"

Jesus called us to be in fellowship with other Christians. This can be at worship service on Sundays, serving in an outreach program with fellow parishioners (Montgomery Meals, Santa Maria Urban Ministries, the Food Bank, Heritage Home, to mention just a few), teaching or advising our youth through Sunday School or Youth Programs, or participating in the Men's Breakfast or the Women's Walk.

You are encouraged to find a way that is right for you to fellowship with other Christians as Jesus encourages us to do. May you find his spirit and his love as you fellowship.

# Parish Meeting - Planning For A New Rector

## May 31, 9:30 AM

There will be a meeting of all interested members of ECA between the services on Sunday, May 31. Your vestry will bring everyone up to date on the process for calling a new Rector after Stephen retires and to discuss the plans for the Interim while the process is under way. The Rev. Canon Brian P. Nordwick from the Diocese of El Camino Real will be with us that morning to explain the current procedures that the Diocese is following. The Vestry will be reporting on progress to date and looking for feedback and questions from the attendees as we prepare to launch our search. We are particularly interested in identifying people who would be willing to serve on a Search Committee. This is a significant commitment which we will be discussing in detail at the meeting on the 31st. The Committee will be made up of a small group which has representation from all segments of the congregation, so a significant number of volunteers are needed to make sure that the final selection of members touch all aspects of parish life. Please prayerfully consider if you would be able to serve if you were selected to do so. We will be asking for people who feel that they could be available to serve to let us know after the process is explained at the meeting.

May 31 happens to be the Day of Pentecost, so we will be celebrating the birthday of the Church and the coming of the Holy Spirit in our worship that day.

We feel that this will be an auspicious time to invite the Holy Spirit into our process. We have selected a time between the services on that morning to hold this important meeting. Our Sunday Christian Education program for the school year will be in hiatus for the summer, so there will be no conflict. The meeting will be scheduled to last about an hour, affording the Early Service attendees an opportunity to grab a quick breakfast before the meeting, and give the folks attending the Late Service time to prepare for that service.

Please mark your calendars and join us as we start this most important work. Also think about whether you may be called to volunteer for selection to the Search Committee.

*The Vestry*





## May Reflections

**A**s I write, a brisk wind is blowing outside. The weather is trying to be spring – sunny, warm and bright. But the wind is a sharp reminder of winter. Not what I expected during the season of Easter.

Expectations are curious things. Expectations help us to plan for the future, anticipate what might go right and what might go wrong. They help us chart a course for the future. But expectations are not predictions.

Jesus, when he began his ministry, probably did not expect to be crucified. Perhaps he had the usual hopes and dreams that any of us have when beginning some new ministry – concerns that perhaps we're not up to the challenge, balanced by passion for the work ahead. Somewhere in-between is the path we need to take.

And along the way, Jesus offended many people,

people who had a self-interest in the status quo, people who viewed him as a threat to their way of life, to the way things had always been done. Probably all Jesus was trying to do was to call his people back to God, to purify his religion from rituals that got in the way of true worship. But that is not what happened – as we all know, Jesus was crucified, and eventually a new religion was born.

Sometimes our expectations are not God's plans. Sometimes the wind blowing out of season is a reminder from God to look beyond our good intentions, hopes and dreams. Because sometimes looking beyond our selves gives us a chance to walk with God.

Lord, help us to see beyond ourselves and see the good things you have planned for us. Give us the courage to walk in the path of ministry you have given to us.

*Kimberly Axtell*

# Gifts of Gratitude

To all the people and groups that helped to make our Holy Week and Easter Sunday services all the more lovely:

Asa Stern and the ECA choir

Ruthanne and the Bell Choir

Andy Kerr and the Folk Choir for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunrise Service

The ECA Altar Guild

Jenny Hoyt, Suzanne Mayo and Betty Consorte for the decorations on Palm Sunday and Easter

The ushers, layreaders, and chalice bearers

And a special thanks to Hank DeVoss for blowing off the patios, and the entire parking lot around the church. He has been faithful in doing this every Saturday for the past 2 years.

Bonnie McPherson and Jon Mills for all your work with the youth.





## Day of Firsts

**W**e have been considering starting a new tradition for Father's Day at ECA. To do so we need to determine your interest and find some help to put it all together. Here's what it might look like.

Father's Day this year is June 21st. It will be the first Sunday with a Supply Priest as we move into our transition time between rectors. It will be the first Sunday of our summer hours for worship which means the "late service" will begin at 10:30 AM. And it could be the first of a new tradition for Father's Day Sundays. (Some of you may remember years ago we had Father's Day worship at a park with a picnic.)

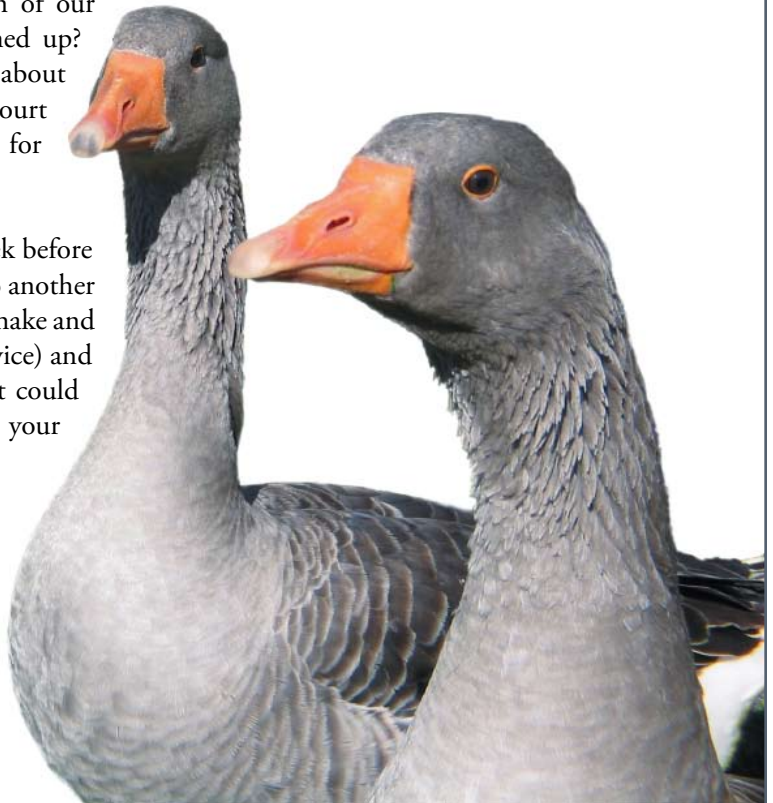
Our church offers a great park. We offer a great volleyball court. How about a challenge from the younger generations to play the men of our church? Could we get two teams lined up? Are there any captains out there? How about some volunteers to get the volleyball court in shape for Father's Day and ready for summer volleyball?

Since we will have had a BBQ the week before for Stephen's party maybe we could do another kind of picnic lunch. Fried chicken ("shake and bake" perhaps cooking during our service) and potluck complimentary dishes to that could be a possibility. What would you and your family like? Do you have other ideas?

How about a few "carpenter relays" or games for young and old alike that feature hard hats and tools? We could be creative and find ways to involve all ages of our ECA family together and celebrate all the men of our church.

If any of this sounds fun to you and you would like to see it come to fruition, give Susie Ferguson a call and we will put things in motion for it to happen.

*Susie Ferguson*





## Your Vestry Needs You!

**D**o you have administrative skills? Can you use a word processing program? Are you willing to donate two hours a month? Then your vestry needs you!

p.m. to 9 p.m. During those two hours we laugh, we pray, we discuss the Bible, talk about what is going on in the life of the parish now, and we plan for the future.

We are currently looking for a vestry clerk, someone to take minutes during our monthly meetings. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 7

If you are willing to help us by taking notes, then please, give me a call! (408) 723-7262 evenings.

*Kimberly Axtell*



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