

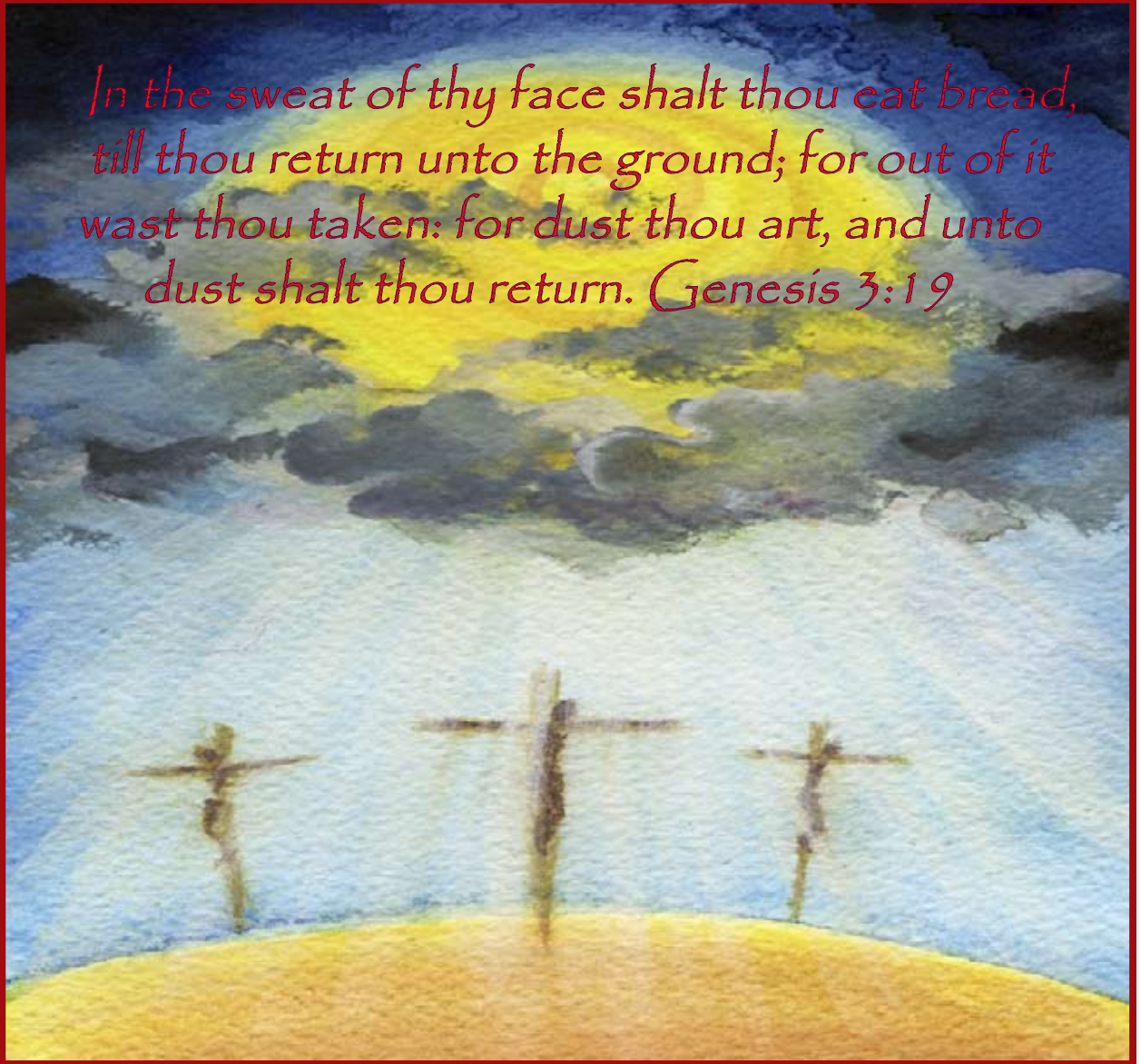
The Shape

February 2010

The Episcopal Church in Almaden

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

*In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,
till thou return unto the ground; for out of it
wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto
dust shalt thou return. Genesis 3:19*



Opportunities at ECA

Worship

- Feb 7 - 7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist
- Feb 14 - 7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday
- Feb 17 - Ash Wednesday
7 AM & 7 PM Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes
- Feb 18 - 7:30 AM Mid-Week Holy Eucharist
- Feb 21 - 7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist
- Feb 25 - 7:30 AM Mid-Week Holy Eucharist
- Feb 28 - 7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Service
- Mar 4 - 7:30 AM Mid-Week Holy Eucharist

Fellowship Events this Month

- Jan 29 - Chick Flicks at 6 PM (page 13)
- Feb 12 - Soup Supper (page 9)
- Feb 16 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 6 PM

Fellowship – Teens

We have two youth groups, the JHYGs (Junior High) and SHYGs (Senior High). Both groups meet on a regular basis for Sunday night fellowship and activities in the community. Check our web site for current information.

Study

- Adult Thursday morning bible study 10:30 AM to Noon
- Feb 24 - Wednesday Evenings in Lent at 6 PM (page 8)
- Mar 3 - Wednesday Evenings in Lent at 6 PM (page 8)

Study – Children and Youth

Sunday School meets Sunday at 10:10 AM to 10:50 AM
Ages 4 years through high school.

Other

- Feb 21 - The Shape of Things to Come Forum at 11:30 AM
- Feb 28 - Sunday Adult Forums in Lent at 8:40 and 12:20 AM
- Mar 7 - The Shape of Things to Come Forum at 11:30 AM

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 am and 11:00 am

INTERIM RECTOR

The Reverend Dr. Frank Hegedus

SENIOR WARDEN

Kimberly Axtell
(408) 623-6076

JUNIOR WARDEN

Alex Dykes
(408) 839-2632

MINISTRIES

ACOLYTES	Marcus Bond
ALTAR GUILD	Anna Spanjaart
COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
FOLK CHOIR	Andy Kerr
GREETERS	Sharon 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
JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Bonnie McPherson
STEWARDSHIP	HANK DeVoss, George Romer
WORSHIP	Andy Kerr

ECA STAFF

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

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The Shape

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

Father Frankly Speaking

Tuesday, February 2nd, is cross-quarter day, more or less. Never heard of it? Well, you are probably not alone. Cross-quarter day is the mid-point between solstice and equinox or vice versa – the halfway point of a calendar season. It means we are halfway through winter. And here you thought it was just Groundhog Day. February 2nd may not amount to much here in California, but back in the Midwest where I grew up making it halfway through winter was a big deal. Just ask any groundhog.

Cross-quarter day means in effect the gradual return of light and warmth, and in ancient times it was worth celebrating. Pagan and Celtic rituals often included the burning of a great bonfire to welcome back the sun from its winter sabbatical. People could again begin thinking about spring planting and summer growth.

The Church, without missing a beat, expropriated the concept and logically enough designated cross-quarter day as the day to bless and light candles. It became known as the Feast of Candlemas, and it is still celebrated as such in some churches. But Candlemas has to do with more than just candles and beeswax.

The Church takes this opportunity, somewhere between Christmas and Lent, to remind the faithful that Christ is the true light who has come into the world. The Church reminds us of this fact still today. Neither the sun, nor a bonfire, nor even candles flickering in church, make much difference without Christ, the light of the world. Encountering the child Jesus and his parents in the temple, Simeon proclaims in the Gospel of Luke, “My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles.”

Just as people centuries ago perceived themselves as saved from the cold and dark of winter by the return of spring warmth and light, so now Christ is the light by which we understand and experience the warmth of God’s love. The transition from winter to spring provides the perennial and cosmic backdrop for our own spiritual journey from darkness to light, from pagan to Christian, from the mundane to the sublime.

If we are halfway through the season of winter, we here at the Episcopal Church in Almaden are also somewhere in the middle of our transition to a new rector and the new insights into Christ and the Gospel which that person will bring to us. Such transitions are never easy – not for clergy, and most especially not for the people of a congregation.

But life’s transitions are not optional. They come as standard equipment on the engine of the human heart. Like all living things we turn to the light – to Christ, the light of the world – during times of transition and change. As the early Church went in procession on this day, beaming candles held high against the darkness, so we now go forth with the light of Christ in our hearts.

As your interim minister, I am pleased to have joined you on this journey. I look forward, together with you, to making our church a beacon of Christ’s light and love in 2010 and in the years to come.

Father Frank
The Rev. Dr. Frank Hegedus
Interim Minister

Senior Warden

The following is an excerpt from Kimberly's annual meeting report

Over the last year, ECA has experienced some significant changes. It was just last June that we celebrated Father Stephen's seven years of ministry among us. And with a wonderful celebration, we wished him well as he began his retirement.

Over the summer, we celebrated with a diverse selection of supply priests, giving us the opportunity to hear the Word of God through many voices. Our worship and pastoral care ministries have been strengthened, our youth program continues to thrive. And in late summer and early fall, we actually had one wedding and two baptisms. Whew!

Our fellowship events remained a successful source of fun and fellowship. Men's breakfast carries on. The Knit Wits are up to – how many – six afghans. Chick Flicks continues to entertain and enlighten. Our Bible Studies continue to feed us with the Scriptures. The Turkey Drive provided Montgomery Meals with food for the next year.

In the fall, we welcomed Father Frank into joint ministry with us. And his presence among us reminds me of the graciousness of God and the breadth of God's vision for ECA

Well, I don't know if I can list all the many activities, both fun and spiritually challenging. It might take more time than we have this morning. Because our ongoing ministries that have continued and strengthened during this time of transition, they tell me of the wonderful power and depth of the congregation. And part of this strength lies in our lay leadership.

Last vestry meeting, on Tuesday, we heard an excellent report from the search committee. The chair of the search committee, Nancy Romer, came with other search committee members to present to the vestry their plan for our search for a new rector. And I must tell you, we all are very excited about their plan for our search. They have met together with our diocesan search consultant, Joanna Shreve. They have spent some time in retreat. And they have come up with a plan for accomplishing our parish profile.

Please mark your calendars, and make sure to join us especially on February 21 and March 7. During these two Sundays, we will have an abbreviated worship service and then spend some time working together on our parish profile.

As you may know, there is a time line for our search process. First we need to develop our parish profile, and synthesize the information and prepare it for distribution. It is the parish profile that becomes our primary way of telling prospective rector candidates about what a wonderful place this is. So we need everyone's input and voice on these two Sundays. After the parish profile is developed, we are ready to post our job opening on the various Episcopal job boards. Then, after the potential candidates are vetted by Bishop Mary and her staff, their names will be sent to the search committee. Then the search committee will interview the candidates themselves and select the best for the vestry to consider for the position. The parish profile is the first and a critical part of the process.

Senior Warden

There will be more information coming from Nancy and the search committee in the next few weeks, but I wanted to let you all know how excited we are about the plan that has been developed and the breadth of leadership we have here to draw upon. Now I want to draw your attention again to the copy of the Annual Report. Beginning on page 6, you will find a report of our financial status for 2009 and 2010. The quick overview for 2009 is that despite a down economy, 2009 was OK. Our pledges remained strong, but we will end this year with a slight deficit. I know that Bill LaValle, our treasurer, has extended the invitation to make a last-minute contribution for 2009. After today, we will close our books for 2009 and see where we stand exactly.

Which leads me to our budget for this current year, for 2010. Our vestry finance liaison – Doug Dunham, Bill LaValle, and others, have put together our budget for 2010. The shortened version you can find on page 8 of the Annual Report.

And while I am optimistic about ECA's future and our ability to attract and call a qualified candidate to be our next rector, I also want to speak clearly and not sugar coat some of the financial issues that our facing us for the next year.

Our budget includes certain assumptions about pledges and plate offerings. And there are a number of new expenses that are in our 2010 budget that are new or unique to this year. They include the additional expenses of health care for our interim priest and eventual new rector, the upgrade of the rectory and the cost of the search itself. These present financial challenges to the congregation. I have faith in the generosity of this congregation and know that we can rise to the challenge.

The vestry does have a plan for handling these additional expenses, but we also need your help. There are several specific things that we all can do immediately to help the vestry and other lay leaders plan for our future. If you haven't turned in your pledge card, now would be a good time to do so. Please email or talk to Bill directly. We assume that giving levels will remain the same, but a commitment from all the individual families in the parish will help us to make better decisions.

There will also be other opportunities to be involved in the transition process. Currently there is a discussion about upgrading the rectory. We assume that there will be a number of items that need to be fixed or upgraded before our next rector moves in. Please speak to me or Doug if you would like to be a part of this conversation.

God has been good to our parish. We have been guided through the transitions of 2009 with our community and programs intact. We have a vital parish with strong leadership, we should attract top candidates as our new rector. I'm excited about our future, now through the transition, with Father Frank to guide us, as well as anticipating who God will bring to us as our next rector. And it is not just about our next rector. God is continuing to work among us.

I wonder what new life God is bringing forth in our parish - I look forward as we journey with God together.

Kimberly Axtell
Senior Warden

From the Editor



Episcopalians tend to love nothing more than tradition and ritual. In this I am in complete agreement, and like many of us, I don't like my traditions and rituals to change. I'm sure that if I hang around ECA

long enough we'll go back to having the processional cross end up in front of the altar with the processional candles on either side. I'm not hinting at any anything, I'm just saying I have stuck with it long enough to see the return of Eucharistic prayer A and for that I shall rejoice.

Since we are a family of mixed religious backgrounds I frequently hear people ask: "What is an Episcopalian anyway?" "Why do we ____ on Sundays?" If you ever have any burning questions, just drop Father Frank a call or an e-mail, and if you have deeper questions, why don't you drop by our new "Wednesday Evenings in Lent" series (more about that on page 8.) A few Sundays ago Rob asked me about the practice of bowing to the processional cross and "crossing yourself" at different stages of the service. It occurred to me that I've heard others ask that question, so with this thought in mind I shall dive right in.

The important thing to remember about the Episcopal Church is that you don't have to cross yourself or bow if you don't feel so moved. Just look around the sanctuary and you can probably tell which of us are "cradle Episcopalians" as I am, or recovering Roman Catholics since we tend to be the ones contorting ourselves during the service.

The sign of the cross in the Anglican tradition is made by touching (with the right hand) in this order: the forehead, the centre of the chest, then the

left shoulder, and finally the right shoulder. Some prefer to make an additional stop on the centre of the chest, that's your choice. According to most scholars, this movement is meant to recall our baptism when we were chrismated (anointed with sacred oil) with the sign of the cross. You will note that in high-churches, many of the motions have a "cross theme" to them such as the rite of asperges (getting the holy water sprinkled on you.) — *To digress for a moment: a "high-church" is one that is very formal in worship, ritual, decor, et cetera as opposed to a "low-church."* In general, ECA would be considered somewhere in-between with "low church" leanings. — One crosses oneself at the beginning of the Eucharist (Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit...), prior to the collect, before the gospel, the end of the Nicene Creed, during the absolution (after the confession of sin), at points in the various Eucharistic prayers, just before receiving the bread and wine during communion (while the priest or chalice bearer says (The Body of Christ... and The Blood of Christ...)) and at the end of the service just prior to the dismissal. If you feel like crossing, and don't remember when to do it, just look around; there will be someone in church you can follow. If you get your timing wrong, don't worry, God doesn't smite people for that mistake these days.

Less common at ECA is the tradition of bowing, this is really more than just bowing at the processional cross as it makes its way around the sanctuary, many Episcopalians will bow at the name of Jesus whenever it appears in the liturgy or in hymnody (fancy way of saying when we sing hymns). The origin of this tradition is Paul 2:10 "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow." Of course bowing at the knees is kind of a pain and we Episcopalians tend to be somewhat pragmatic in our theology so a simple head bow or a slightly deeper bow from the waist is more common. Bowing to the proces-

From the Editor

sional cross is simply an acknowledgement of the centrality of Christ's suffering on the cross for all Christians and a method of showing respect for his sacrifice for us. Not common at ECA, but practiced elsewhere you may notice Episcopalians bowing during the Nicene Creed and the Sanctus for much the same reason.

Less obvious in our space, and yet I do notice that others do this, is the tradition of turning to face the Gospel book when the Gospel is being read. Since we worship in a church on the round, just about everyone is facing the gospel anyway (except for those of us in that front row opposite the choir loft). If you ever venture to a Episcopal church with a high-church style and a "traditionally shaped" sanctuary, this movement of the crowd (like lions on the Discovery Channel watching their prey) will become more obvious. Again, just a tradition to show reverence for the words Jesus spoke.

The important thing to remember about being an Anglican (The Episcopal Church of the USA's 2.2 million members are only a small portion of the 83 million worldwide members of the Anglican Communion) is that our very structure allows for a wide variety of worship and significant freedom and diversity within the widely recognised bounds of scripture, tradition, and reason. This sometimes causes strain within our larger church, and confuses people who are used to a more rigid structure.

To the uninitiated, an Episcopal church can look like an enigma: rooted in ritual, steeped in tradition, yet telling congregants to explore their own beliefs and think for themselves. The true Episcopalian is perhaps an enigma himself, and *that* is a tradition I can agree with.

Alex Dykes



Not Just For Deacons!

It's Not Just For Deacons! Did you know you can audit classes at the School for Deacons? For \$80 per unit, lay, clergy, and aspiring deacons alike can take in-depth classes on topics including Church History, Biblical Studies, Anglican Theology, and Foundations for Social Ministry. Classes are held every third weekend for 90 minutes (1 unit) or three hours (2 units) on the campus of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, contact the school at (510) 848-1723 or the registrar, Mary Louise Hintz, at mlhintz@sfd.edu. You can also visit their website at: www.sfd.edu

Lenten Happenings Afoot at ECA

Lent is of course the season of preparation and penitence before Easter. The early Church understood well what we might today call the “yin and yang” of existence: That we cannot understand joy without knowing something about pain; we cannot truly celebrate without first accepting sorrow. So, we prepare ourselves for the joy and life of Easter by centering ourselves in repentance and reflection upon the death of our Lord.

The season of Lent was also in very practical terms a time of preparation in the early Church, as the throngs of people seeking baptism would be instructed in the faith and gradually brought into its mysteries.

Here at the Episcopal Church in Almaden we will participate in this holy season by prayer, study, and reflection. Plan now to be a part of the season. Make a good Lent for yourself and your household. Join in events and prayer at Church and ready yourselves for the life of the Risen Lord.



Ash Wednesday

February 17

This day marks the beginning of Lent. A smudge of ash is imposed upon our foreheads, reminding us to think beyond appearance and to return to essentials.

7:00am Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

7:00pm Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday Evenings In Lent

February 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24

Join with fellow parishioners as we share a meal and study our faith. Our theme will be getting back to basics: What is our faith as Christians all about? Consult bulletins and e-bulletins for detailed information as it becomes available. (Please note that the venue has not been decided, this event may be held in parishioner's homes)

6:00pm Soup Supper Potluck

6:45pm Forum and Discussion

7:45pm Compline

8:00pm Head Home

Thursday Mornings In Lent

Deepen your spiritual life this season with mid-week Communion at 7:30am

Sunday Adult Forums in Lent

Sunday February 28th, March 14 & 21

Mystify the minister! Perplex the priest! Come with all manner of burning questions. What's the Episcopal Church's view on contraception? What's a lavabo bowl anyway? What's with the funny costumes? What are Episcopalians supposed to believe? And anything else you can think of.

8:40-9:10am in the Choir Room or Fellowship Hall

12:20 – 1:10pm in the Choir Room

Fellowship Soup Supper

ECA will be having our first fellowship event of the year on Friday, February 12 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. It's been a while since we had a soup supper (anyone remember our fabulous Soup & Sound series?) even though we're not having any sound, bring a soup or bread to share, and beverage of choice! If we get the chance we'll have a brief conversation about what fellowship events we'd like to have in 2010. A party about parties? What could be better?!

Keep your eyes out for a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall, if it isn't there now, it will be soon. Please contact Amy Griffith if you would like more information.

Vestry Fellowship



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 Nollette	26
Monique Rousseau	16
Mary McPherson	18
Zachary Nollette	21
Taylor Mills	23
Mel Stonehocker	24
Valerie Tysanner	24
Elizabeth Garcia	26
Kimberly Axtell	27
Brooke Mills	27

Anniversaries

Len & Jackie Whitlock	3
Jon & Sharon Mills	11
Tim & Donna Miller	19

Healing Sunday

Reminder: The healing service for February has been moved to Sunday, February 28th. Be sure to mark the change on your calendar!

Search Committee Update

“May we, the children of the Lord, go about our search with patience and grace as we bring with us our gifts to do the Lord’s works. May this part of our journey be done in love and in peace to bring us to the next milestone in our life way that will benefit us all. At times we will be captive to others decisions, but don’t let that hinder us in being one with Christ as we move toward a new beginning in the Episcopal Church in Almaden. This time for growth is a gift from God, let us use it wisely.”

Written by Marcus Bond, this prayer was the result of an exercise that Matt Whitlock lead the Search Committee through. It was an incredible experience that centered on Ephesians 4: 1-16. Our charge was to listen to the verses several times, each time with a different focus. First, we wrote down specific words and then phrases which spoke to us personally as we listened. Then at the end, we used these to write our own prayers. What an “ah ha” moment it was for us all! During the course of the search process, I will be sharing the prayers that others wrote. This is a time of deep reflection, listening and work on our part and we need the whole congregation to be on the journey with us.

We hope that you took part in the sessions that Father Frank has lead concerning the history of ECA. These stories will be part of the foundation for the profile. They took place January 10, 24 and 31, but if you have something to add, please let someone on the Search Committee know. The next critical events will be 2 Sundays when we all meet together. Our theme for the search process is “*The Shape of Things to Come*”. We must give thanks to the brilliant thinking of Fr. Frank for the name. Please plan to attend both Sunday sessions.

On February 21st and March 7th, the 11:00 service will be condensed to 30 minutes. Immediately afterwards, the congregation will convene to focus on our visions for the future of ECA. These sessions will help us write the profile of the church which is critical in finding the right match for our new rector. Your voice is vital to ensure the successful outcome. Many hours of work will have gone into the preparation of the time together. This is a joint effort of the Search Committee, the Vestry, Susanne Moore and her food committee, Fr. Frank and Joanna Shreve, our Diocesan Consultant.

Lunch will be provided, but you need to sign-up to ensure that there is enough food prepared. For those who need childcare, please indicate your need when you sign-up. Donations will be accepted. Look for the sign up in the Fellowship Hall. If you don’t sign up to attend, you will be receiving a phone call from a vestry or committee member. We want you to be able to participate in some way so that everyone’s voice is heard.

During the months of February and March your Search Committee will be hard at work. We anticipate gathering all the materials we need to piece together the first draft of the profile. If we are able to stay on our time line, we will have the draft ready for the Vestry by the middle to end of April.

The Search Committee will continue to meet twice a month as a whole, with various sub-committees meeting more often. The support and prayers of the entire congregation ensures the strength and the ability of the Search Committee to do their work.

*Nancy Romer
Search Committee Chair*

Safeguarding God's Children

The Reverend Deacon Kathleen Crowe conducted an informative, if disturbing, class on January 10 for our youth leaders and other members of both congregations dealing with an important topic: *Safeguarding God's Children*. The presentation included two videos highlighting how easy it is for trusted adults in a church or school situation to take advantage of a child, and emphasized the importance of screening out these individuals. Furthermore, every member of our congregations should be attentive to possibly questionable interactions between any adult and one of our children, and should report same to someone in a position of authority. In general it is a good idea to insure that more than one adult be present at *every* gathering of children.

I thank each person who attended this class, and hope you all feel you gained as much as I did. Special thanks to Melanie Click, Andy Kerr and Ron Howie, who wrestled with audio visual equipment to enable the success of the presentation, and to Amy Griffith, who picked up the sandwiches from Togo's and served lunch. The JV Board intends to follow up by drafting policies and procedures to support the protection of our children.

Francie Kerr

A Thousand Words

You may remember the slide show session during our 40th anniversary. Or the disk you ordered with historic pictures of ECA. Or maybe you ordered the anniversary movie disk. It is great to look back on all those joyful moments in our church.

While on occasion I bring out my camera, I'm really depending on you in (up)keeping this marvelous photo material from events, group pictures of the people in your various ministries, and so forth. Specifically I'm interested in material covering the years 2007-2009. I would really appreciate your support. If you can help me, simplest is to burn a disk and leave it in Anna's mailbox at church. If that's inconvenient, we can work something out.

Thanks in advance, on behalf of all those who in the future will enjoy the pictures.

Hans Spanjaart



Christmas Party

We apologize for not running this article in the January edition of The Shape, it was punctual as always, unfortunately computer gremlins in our email system managed to eat Betty's e-mail (they are quite partial to e-mails).

The 2009 ECA Christmas Party was a wonderful success. Please join me in thanking everyone listed below, without them there would have been no party.

Food: Joan Wagner and her crew – Maryke Williams, Suzanne Mayo, Carol MacDonald; Kelli Casale, and Bonnie McPherson presented a superb dinner. It was certainly gourmet all the way.

Decorations: Alex Dykes and Rob McClaine made fellowship hall look like a fine dining restaurant with help from John Schaefer, Jerry Ferguson and Joy Austin-Lane.

Entertainment: Once again Andy Kerr gathered together a rowdy group to give us all a lighthearted and fun presentation. Thanks to Doug Dunham, Todd Axtel, Alex Dykes, Rob McClaine and our own funny lady Jenny Hoyt, with Roger Hoyt on the piano.

Dessert: Red Velvet Cake made by Sharon Mills, Jenny Hoyt and Francie Kerr – frosted and decorated by Sharon and enjoyed by everyone.

Name Tags and Seating Place Cards: Thanks to the talents of Ann Mayers and Marion Grungé. Everyone knew whom they were and where to sit. Thanks to Kimberly Axtel for cutting the stock.

Clean-Up: Thank you Edie and Gary Keck, Joan Wagner, Pete and Suzanne Mayo, Virginia Jones, Hank and Colleen DeVoss, Maryke and Robin Williams, Bonnie McPherson and if I have missed anyone you have my sincere appreciation.

As you can see ECA has its very own angels who make wonderful things happen.

Betty Consorte

Chick Flicks

Chick Flicks is back, Friday, January 29th, at 6 PM, in Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to this great evening of fun, food, fellowship, and film. We will be viewing *Steel Magnolias*, a wonderful film focusing on the lives and friendships of the women who visit Truvy's Beauty Parlor. Hence we are also encouraging everyone to bring a new beauty item to add to our beauty bag that we will donate to a Women's Shelter. Our potluck theme is winter comfort food. For more details and to sign up, check the ECA Fellowship Bulletin Board.



Sunday Worship

P*ew Aerobics* Episcopalians are noted for what comedian (and devout Episcopalian) Robin Williams likes to call “pew aerobics.” However, there does not seem to be compelling liturgical reason for us to stand during the recitation of the psalm. Most Episcopal congregations in fact remain seated during this prayer. Accordingly, our instruction will from now on be to remain seated for the praying of the psalm. Please see Father Frank if you have concerns about this.

Flower and Candle Arrangements

You may have noticed a change in the placement of our altar flowers and candles on Sunday mornings. Our rubrics (instructions for worship) do not prescribe their exact placement, and there is no symbolic significance in where they are located. It is purely a matter of aesthetics and balance. Check with Father Frank if you have questions about his aesthetic judgment, or balance...

Changes in Sunday Worship

Our wonderful Book of Common Prayer provides us a plethora of prayer options for our Sunday worship, and occasional change allows us to freshen our spiritual outlook. Beginning on the Last Sunday after Epiphany, February 14, we will begin using:

- Prayers of the People Form I, on page 383
- Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer A, on page 361
- Post-Communion Prayer II on page 366

These changes will of course be reflected in our Sunday morning Order of Service and in the Sunday announcements. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about our common prayer life, please be in touch with Father Frank.

eScrip is FREE Money!

Thank you to all of you who are enrolled in eScrip. Last year, ECA received about \$500 from Safeway through eScrip. (The McPherson household contributed about 20% of that. Think of what we could do if we were all enrolled!) Stepping up enrollment will only help our church!

What is eScrip? eScrip is a fund-raising program. It allows a percentage of what you purchase to be donated to ECA. The percentages are based on your grocery store card, credit card, and ATM card purchases.

How does the eScrip program work? You register your cards online (Safeway, PW, etc. as well as credit and debit cards). When you shop at Safeway, Macy's, or whoever is participating, they make a donation to ECA. Every month, ECA receives a deposit in its checking account. Once you are registered, you don't need to do a thing!

Is it safe? Speaking from personal experience, the first year I participated, I gave only my Safeway card number. Then I got brave and gave them my credit card number. They have had it for about 10 years now, and I have suffered no fraud or identity theft whatsoever. eScrip is widely used and a trustworthy organization. There are 30 organizations reaping the benefits of eScrip just in the 95120 zip code.

How do we sign up?
Go to www.ESCRIP.com.
Click on members/supporters.
Click on register now.

It will tell you there are 6 easy steps. Type in the group name "Episcopal Church in Almaden". When it appears, click on it. You can support up to 3 groups. If you only choose ECA, 100% of your donation will go to it. -Follow the steps, entering your cards and information. You do not need to shop on the escrip website. Just shop as you normally would and you will be greatly benefiting ECA with no cost to you.

If you would like help getting enrolled, I am happy to personally assist you. All you need to do is ask. Call me at (408) 268-9559 or email me at marymcp@aol.com. I will bring my laptop to coffee hour to enroll you there, or I will come to your house (if you have internet service) or you can come to mine! Just have your cards available.

Mary McPherson
(408) 268-9559
marymcp@aol.com

Note from the editor: If you can get friends and family to sign up, think of how much more ECA will benefit! Take a peek on page 15 to see which merchants donate via eScrip.



eScrip

Merchant Guide



Automotive

Big O Tires	2%	Main Street Automotive	2%	Walnut Creek Transmission	2%
Ducky's Car Wash	4%	Portola Valley Garage	2%	Webtrafficschool.com	5%
DriversEd.com	5%	Volvo	\$500		

Retail

Lullaby Lane Toddler to Teen Furniture	up to 2%	Macysbridal.com	1%	Sierra Trading Post	5%
Macy's	1%	Peninsula Beauty Supply	up to 3%	Ubyan	4%
Macys.com	1%	<i>Shop Online at www.peninsulabeauty.com</i>			

Grocers

Andronico's	up to 4%	JJ&F Market	up to 5%	Podesto's Market & Deli	up to 4%
Bianchini's Market	up to 5%	Key Markets	up to 4%	PW Supermarkets	up to 4%
Bristol Farms	up to 4%	Kingsburg Supermarket	up to 4%	Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op	up to 4%
Cal-Mart	up to 5%	Lira's Supermarket	up to 4%	Safeway	up to 4%
Cosentino's Markets	4%	Lunardi's Markets	up to 4%	Safeway.com	up to 4%
DeLano's IGA	up to 4%	Mollie Stone's	up to 5%	Scotty's Market	up to 4%
Diablo Foods	up to 5%	Pak 'n Save	up to 4%	Sonoma Market	up to 5%
Draegers Market	up to 2%	Paradise Foods	up to 5%	Trag's Market	up to 4%
Evergreen Market	up to 4%	Payless Market	up to 5%	Vallergas Markets	5%
Fircrest Market	up to 3%	Petaluma Market	up to 3%	Village Market	up to 3%
Food 4 Less	3%	Piazza's Fine Foods	up to 5%	Wildberries Marketplace	up to 4%
Gene's Fine Foods	up to 2.5%	Piedmont Grocery	4.4%		
Glen Ellen Village Market	up to 5%	Planet Organics	up to 4%		

Restaurants

Claim Jumper Restaurants	5%	Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ	5%	Round Table Pizza	up to 6%
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<i>Call OR visit us online to order any national or regional paper 866-230-1301</i>		Sacramento Bee	10%	<i>(New Subscriptions or conversion to EZPay)</i>	
Goldspeed.com	5%	<i>(New Subscriptions or conversion to EZPay)</i>			

Sporting Goods

Jumpsport	10%	Orvis	5%
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Travel & Transportation

American Airlines Flight Certificates	3%	Club Cruise	up to 5%
<i>Ordered through Mitch-Stuart, Inc. 1-800-574-9991.</i>		<i>(leader in the cruise industry)</i>	

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Earthquake in Haiti

[Reprinted from Episcopal Life Online]

From spare pocket change to thousands of dollars and additional pledges of ongoing assistance, Anglicans and Episcopalians around the globe rallied Jan. 14 to aid their sister Diocese of Haiti in the aftermath of the worst earthquake in the island nation's history.

News of the Jan. 12 magnitude 7 earthquake, which destroyed most of the Episcopal Cathédrale Sainte Trinité (Holy Trinity Cathedral) complex including the residence of Bishop Jean-Zaché Duracin in the capital city Port-au-Prince, reverberated across the international religious community, evoking prayers and eliciting concern for the missing and injured, as the death toll, estimated in the thousands, continued to climb.

Church leaders, from Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and Archbishop Thabo Makgoba of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, urged a generous and immediate response, while acknowledging tough economic times.

"I urge your prayers for those who have died, been injured, and are searching for loved ones -- and I urge your concrete and immediate prayers in the form of contributions to Episcopal Relief and Development, who are already working with the Diocese of Haiti to send aid where it is most needed," Jefferts Schori said in a Jan. 13 statement.

ERD, the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church, had already disbursed emergency funding to the diocese to help meet immediate needs such as providing shelter, food and water, according to director Robert Radtke.

Williams commended the swift mobilization of relief efforts by the United Kingdom Department for International Development and relief agencies. "We stand alongside all the people in Haiti affected by this terrible disaster in prayer, thought and action as the situation unfolds," he said.

"I urge the public to hold the people of Haiti in their prayers, and to give generously and urgently to funding appeal set up for relief work," he added. The International Red Cross has estimated that at least 3 million people have been affected by the earthquake.

Archbishop Alan Harper of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland announced an immediate initial donation of 20,000 pounds, roughly the equivalent of US\$32,540, toward the relief effort. He said the funds would be sent through Christian Aid, which had partners working in the affected area.

He noted that Haiti was still struggling to recover from "the wreckage caused by hurricanes in 2008 which left what is already the poorest community in the Western world even more traumatized and impoverished. I pray for the success of the international response to the disaster and I encourage all those who feel able to do so to contribute financially to assist the people of Haiti at this terrible time."

The Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, called upon the 45-million members of congregations related to NCC member communions to act immediately to support the people of Haiti and relief organizations that are sending workers, food and water, clothing and other necessities to Haiti.

"The destruction around Port-au-Prince is so mas-

Earthquake in Haiti

sive it can't yet be measured," said Kinnamon. "What is clear is that the toll in lives and property will go beyond our ability to comprehend it. The situation has few precedents in our lifetimes and our response to it must also be unprecedented."

Prayer vigils, local efforts, 'strength in unity'

From Newark to Los Angeles, diocesan bishops called upon local congregations to gather in prayer and offer a generous response to help the Diocese of Haiti, which includes about 98 congregations, missions and preaching stations and is the largest diocese in the Episcopal Church.

Bishops from Province II dioceses, of which the Diocese of Haiti is a member, pledged "at least \$10,000 from our own resources" in a Jan. 13 statement and urged their membership to contribute generously. Province II includes the dioceses of Central New York, Newark, New Jersey, Western New York, Albany, Long Island, Rochester, New York, and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe.

Additionally, Bishop Mark Beckwith of Newark cited deep, longstanding connections between his diocese and Haiti when he announced Jan. 14 another \$10,000 donation for relief efforts. "Haiti has been shattered by this earthquake," Beckwith said. "We are drawing on those connections to offer the most helpful and hopeful response that we can."

In the Diocese of Los Angeles, Bishop Jon Bruno called upon some 147 congregations to hold special offerings for earthquake relief.

Students at St. Mark's Episcopal School in Upland, California, in the Diocese of Los Angeles, channeled a longstanding fundraiser into earthquake relief, while anxiously awaiting news of their sister school, St. Andre School in Trianon, located about 25 miles from Port-au-Prince.

The fundraiser, "Change for Change," involves students collecting "spare change to help change lives," said St. Mark's middle school science teacher Guen Vinnedge in an interview Jan. 13. "We'll adapt the program and see what the greatest needs are and send some to Episcopal Relief and Development."

She said the school's Haiti connection made the earthquake devastation "more real to the kids. They want to know if we've heard from the priest. They want to know how far away our school is from Port-au-Prince. Everybody's really thinking about them and hoping they're okay."

*Pat McCaughan,
Episcopal Life Online*

Diocesan Website

If you haven't already done so, please check out the Diocese's new website at: www.edecr.org. Take the time to sign up so you can subscribe to diocesan e-mailings and register for events online.

Once you have registered, you will only need to sign in with your login and password, and your registration information will automatically pop-up from the database. Also, you will be able to pay for event fees online with your credit card: one of the many new features of our website.

The Diocese will be streamlining the site and removing a lot of the older postings and updating other pages with current information. The intent is to draw you back to the site for more frequent visits. There will also be more real-time postings with updates of events and news. Look for more features highlighted in future weekly e-mailings.

Sunday School

Our children and middle school youth are learning about Jesus' ministry while the high-schoolers continue discussions of issues relevant to their young lives.

In the meantime, we are looking at ways to implement a new model of Sunday School which will be more active and engaging. Look for news on this in your church bulletins. As always, if you have suggestions or concerns, feel free to call Melanie at the church at (408) 268-0243 or at home at (408) 323-8283 or email her at mjclick@comcast.net.

Stop in and see what is going on in our Sunday School classrooms. Melanie appreciates the support of both congregations!

Cursillo 2010

Cursillo 2010 will be on May 13th through the 16th this year. This year's leaders, called the Rector and Rectora, are our own Tim and Donna Miller. The leadership team this year consists of representatives from ECA, St. Judes, St. Joseph's, St. Andrews, St. Stephens and Holy Spirit with other churches represented within the team. If you are interested in attending the weekend or sponsoring (we need sponsors, too), please contact us at weekend@scrcursillo.org.

What is Cursillo? The Cursillo Movement is one method of renewal in the Church. Its purpose is to help those in the Church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders. This leadership may be exercised in work situations, in the family and social life, in leisure activities, and within the Church. Join us in May!

Tim & Donna Miller



Rectory Update

Many thanks to all of you who have helped get the rectory ready for Joy and Chris Austin-Lane, who will be the caretakers of the rectory for the next many months awaiting the arrival of a new rector. Last week we received a great refrigerator from Kathryn and Jim McAbee of UCC, which fits beautifully into the rectory kitchen. Earl Griffith was able to get it into position as well as getting the washer and dryer hooked up and running.

Maryke William's tennis friend and her husband, Jenny and Bill Eisenberg, donated a double oven in great shape, which Ron Howie was able to install (as well as get rid of the old set) on Monday. Ron also got the dishwasher working properly, so much thanks to Ron.

Doug Dunham has donated a microwave oven and we have a backup microwave available from Ed Criner. From an appliances standpoint, we are in great shape and all of your help is greatly appreciated, as is all of the help that Joy and Chris received from many of you getting them moved into the rectory. Joy was also able to make arrangements to have the tree growing in the front yard radically trimmed as it was damaging the rain gutters and impinging on the roof.

Susie and I have agreed to head up a committee to coordinate whatever needs to be done in the next many months to get the rectory in shape for a new rector. Although it is a wonderful and valued asset for ECA and could be a beautiful home for a new rector, it does need some TLC, particularly with regard to the kitchen and bathrooms needing some serious updating.

As with many things today, money (or lack thereof) is an issue. We would welcome any ideas and efforts that you could put forth toward bringing the rectory up to date, ranging from work parties, to donations, to possible fund raising. In addition to Susanne Moore, who has agreed to be on our committee, we have talked to several people about joining our committee and would welcome any of your support and involvement. Please contact us if you have input or would like to join our efforts.

Jerry and Susie Ferguson
(408) 997-0107



JV Update

JV Board President, Melinda Jennings has written an update on Joint Venture financial matters as of the end of 2009. Her letter is posted on the Joint Venture bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to receive a paper copy of this update, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Church Office.

Shrove Tuesday Supper

Save the date! The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper starts at 6pm on February the 16th. There will be plenty of pancakes, bacon, sausage and everything else that's delicious! Come support the youth groups and get yourself ready for Lent.

Tuesday February 16th

6PM-8PM

Fellowship Hall

Be there!

