

# The Shape

May 2010

## *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

May 2 - 7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist  
May 6 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
May 9 - 7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday  
May 13 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
May 16 - 7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Service  
May 20 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
May 23 - 7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist  
May 27 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
May 30 - 7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist

## Fellowship Events this Month

May 7 - Game & Pizza Night. 6pm (Page 16)  
May 19 - Book Group, 7:30pm (Page 5)  
May 25 - Bunco Mania, 5:30pm (Page 9)  
Jun 18 - Lobster Surf & Turf (Page 16)

## 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

Adult Thursday morning bible study 10:30 AM to Noon

## Study – Children and Youth

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

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

### SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 am and 11:00 am

### INTERIM MINISTER

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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OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

## Father Frankly Speaking

Those who have been life-long, or near life-long, Episcopalians may remember a ditty from decades ago, sung to the tune of “God Bless America,” and often heard when church-goers had a toot or two too many before or during a church supper...

*I am an Anglican, I am P.E.  
Neither High Church, nor Low Church,  
I am Protestant and Catholic and free.  
Not a Presby, nor a Lutheran,  
Nor a Baptist, white with foam!  
I am an Anglican, Via Media! My home!  
I am an Anglican! Via Media! My home!*

As silly as it was – and perhaps offensive to some – the lyric emphasized the broad scope of our Church as it sought to embrace the via media, the middle way, among Christians of all stripes and persuasions.

Sadly today, our beloved Church is in the midst of conflict and dissension, and the silly ditty of years past seems sillier than ever. But it is important for all of us to keep some perspective. Even the Acts of the Apostles, the story of the early Church and its development, is full of tales of “no small dissension and debate” [15:2] among the leaders and members of the incipient Christian community.

The Church today is still made up of very fallible human beings, which means that ongoing conflict is all but unavoidable. Conflicts of the past have sometimes centered on arcane theological or liturgical points – the dating of Easter for instance – or the nature of Christ himself.

Today, debate centers not on the Incarnation of Christ, but on our own incarnation – our own messy flesh-and-blood existence as human beings

with all our physicality, feelings, thoughts, desires, appetites, and will. Sexuality has become the focus of this debate, though many believe the issues also include matters of gender equality, church unity, and the exercise of authority, among other things.

We may find it hard to believe that people in ages past actually lost their lives over the dating of church feast days and the theological interpretation of arcane Greek words like homoousios, but they did. Just Google it, if you don't believe me. Perhaps Christians a century or two from now will scratch their heads in confusion and wonder over our current debates. But while some churches deal with discord through cover-ups and hierarchical pronouncements, that at least has never been the Anglican way.

We can only hope this Pentecost season that when all the name-calling, posturing, viewing with alarm, blustering, and pontificating is over, we might still be able to bless each other and once again get about the business of the Kingdom. That is what we are here for. And that is after all the Anglican way.

It is also the Christian way.

*Father Frank  
The Rev. Dr. Frank Hegedus  
Interim Minister*

## Search Committee News

**A**lmighty God, giver of every good gift: look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen  
*Book of Common Prayer, page 818*

A period of intensive work by the Search Committee and several support people has produced an incredible document. The ECA profile in draft form is finished! In the next few weeks, the Vestry and the people in the Bishop's Office will review it and make any changes that should be made. It is a time of high excitement as we move forward in the process. Lots of work remains ahead and we know that the Lord is working right along side of us...sometimes carrying us when it's needed. The Search Committee believes that the work in the profile reflects the voices and thoughts of The Episcopal Church in Almaden. We are confident that the person whom the Lord has already selected for us will read it, pray on it and apply to become our new rector. Our next responsibility, along with the Vestry, is to discern who that will be.

The Search Committee thanks all the members of the congregation for their incredible participation which made it possible for us to have a complete and accurate picture of who ECA is today. Each Search Committee member and some Vestry members wrote portions of the profile. We incorporated your thoughts and words from the workshops. Then we met often to discuss additions, make changes and complete the task. Hans Spanjaart is a technical wizard. He has not only configured the new ECA website, but has also posted the search profile. We are blessed to have his skills. We also thank Ann Mayers and Robin Williams for their expertise and for an inordinate amount of time to

proof read it. This truly has been a team effort. When the profile has been completely reviewed and given the "stamp of approval" everyone will be able to access it through the ECA website. We anticipate that this will happen about the second week in May. There will be a notification in the mid week bulletin when the website is up and running for everyone to view.

A verbal progress report by Search Committee members was made on Sunday, April 11 to the 7:30 and 11:00 o'clock congregations. There was an opportunity for questions during the coffee hour.

One of the next steps in the process will be to create questions for rector candidates with a rubric to score the answers. We also need to write questions for the phone interviews which will happen in July sometime. If any of you have questions that you would like us to consider asking, please submit them to the wishing well in the Narthex.

Another step will be the completion of the CDO profile. This is the Church Deployment Office profile. This form will be published on the national church job website which will attract potential rectors to ECA. We will have help from Brian Norwick and Joanna Shreve to complete this correctly. Both of these steps need to be completed by the middle of May.

We thank you for your support and prayers during this process. As several members of the Search Committee have stated... "This is the right time and the right place to be doing this work."

*Nancy Romer,  
Search Committee Chairperson*

# Anglican, Episcopalian, and “Anglican”

“Branding” is an important concept in the field of marketing. It helps define a product or business and is a key to ongoing sales and success. All of us have clear notions of what Coke is, for instance. Branding, or naming, can be important in church life as well -- although we are not always as careful in protecting our “brand” as our neighbors in business.

Take “Anglican,” for example. It refers to churches descended from the Church of England and currently in communion (in good graces) with the Archbishop of Canterbury in England. All of us here at the Episcopal Church in Almaden are Anglicans by definition, even though for historical reasons we use different brand-names in the United States, namely, Episcopal and Episcopalian.

This is important to remember because some Christians, mostly former Episcopalians, now call themselves Anglicans. They are of course free to do this since the term Anglican is not trademarked or otherwise protected. But ironically those who have left our Church over theological differences actually do not fit the traditional definition of Anglican. It is perhaps a moot point, except for the confusion it can cause.

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Perhaps we should not mind so much if our friends in “Anglican” churches still want to identify with us, the Anglicans.

## Book Group

Our book groups next meeting will be at Linda Farr’s on Wednesday May 19 at 7:30pm. The book for May is “Ladder of Years” by Anne Tyler.

Take time this approaching Pentecost season to pray for the Church – Anglican, Episcopal, and “Anglican” -- and for all those who sincerely seek to serve Christ and the people of God – no matter how we and they differ in details of worship, practice, and belief.

*Father Frank*

## Episcopalians

*You may be an Episcopalian if . . .*

You can pronounce “innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same” without getting tongue-tied...

You catch yourself saying, “But we’ve never done it that way before...”

You know that Sursum Corda is not a new surgical procedure...

You know that Agnus Dei is not a Brazilian fashion model...

You know that the nave is not a playing card...

You know that the narthex is not a body part...

You know that the undercroft is not an article of clothing...

You know that a sexton is not an ancient navigational instrument...

You know the difference between a surplice and a cotta...and the appropriate use of each...

You know that Holy Orders do not come with fries...

You can use words like vouchsafe, oblation, succor, and bewail in an everyday conversation...

## From the Editor



There seems to be some odd balance in life between sanity and necessity. Perhaps this is even some more complicated equation that also involves finances and reason. Of course if sanity and reason

played large roles in my daily life then I think last Sunday would have been employed in quite a different fashion.

In our seeming eternal project of building our own home in the Santa Cruz Mountains, we arrived at something of a milestone: the delivery of our water tank. When you live up where we will be, the county requires you to keep between 5,000 and 20,000 gallons of water on hand for fire fighting, depending on a number of factors. This all sounds well and good until you realise a few things, not the least of which would be that 5,000 gallons of water will weigh in at over 20 tons, or about the same as 7 Humvees, and that's just the water. Fortunately for us, the tank was delivered on a very large flatbed truck, unfortunately for us the location the truck delivered the tank was really not that close to where it needed to go which was about 150 feet horizontally and 90 feet vertically from where the truck left it. The sane course of action would have been to pay the delivery company to deliver the 1131 pound plastic tank by helicopter, but that would have been more expensive, instead we had the bright idea to guide the tank with ropes and basically just roll the thing down the hill.

Reason popped into the equation along the way believe it or not. We asked our neighbour (who is a contractor that deals with water systems) for his assistance getting the tank down the hill. He obliged since he sold us the tank in the first place. Once the

tank was rigged and ready to go and we had two of our closest friends along for the adventure, our neighbour lets the ultimate bombshell drop: "can't wait to see how it works, I've never done it this way before." Perhaps we should have asked questions about the process before we pushed a ½ ton tank into motion.

Fortunately for the fearless, God was watching out for us. On its way down, despite rolling over my leg, squishing our neighbour against a tree, uprooting a tree or two and breaking the ropes that were supposed to guide it, the tank just sort of bounded down the slope, hit an oak tree and bounced into more-or-less the correct location. Somehow or another, I keep having visions that if the twelve disciples were moving a tank downhill, that it would have played out in a similar fashion. As we are reminded now and then, the disciples were a bunch of real people, skilled in the life of a practical people and living in a world when you did it all yourself (or with the help of family and friends). In our modern world we are so used to just hiring someone to do things for us which is a pity. When you work on a project like this with friends, not only do you have an increased appreciation for the job and a sense of accomplishment, but you truly become closer to those that matter. There is something so interestingly classic about friends working together. When was the last time you had some friends over to work on some crazy project? In the coming months we'll be getting groups together to help work on projects at ECA, consider joining us. Also, consider being a disciple and bring others to help in the work, I know that sounds crazy, but working with people is an excellent way to get to know them.

*Alex Dykes*

## Honored Woman, Melinda Jennings

Every spring, the Episcopal Church Women, ECW, of our Diocese gather for a luncheon at which they recognize outstanding women from each parish of the Diocese. Rectors and ministers nominate individuals for this recognition from among the women of their parish – whether they “officially” belong to the ECW or not.

This year, Father Frank, after considerable thought and reflection, nominated our own Melinda Jennings as our “Honored Woman” from the Episcopal Church in Almaden. Here is his citation:

As is well known in the Diocese, the Episcopal Church in Almaden ECA has long been part of a “joint venture” with the Congregational Church of the Almaden Valley CCAVUCC, sharing facilities and a number of programs. The logistics of the venture requires a separate entity or board to manage aspects of finances and common concern.

Melinda Jennings has been serving as Joint Venture Board President for a number of years now during a challenging period in the life of our two parishes. Under her capable leadership, the Board has addressed significant financial and other issues of deep concern to both communities. She has done so with grace under pressure, competence, and compassion. As Interim Minister, I have been privileged to work with her and the Board as they tackled concerns that, without Melinda’s leadership, could have spun out of control.

I am delighted to nominate her for recognition within the wider Diocesan community as “Honored Woman of the Year 2010.” Congratulations, Melinda!

The ECW Honored Women’s Day takes place on Saturday, May 1, beginning with registration at 9:30, at All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Watsonville. All women of our parish community are invited to attend and show support for Melinda. The fee for the day’s events, including lunch, is \$20. Please contact Father Frank for a registration form if you would like to be part of our delegation. (Stipends are also available from Father Frank, should the registration fee be a challenge.)

*Father Frank*



## Inviting Others to Church

**A**s Pentecost approaches, it occurs to me that it would be nice if every Episcopal parish could have a standing search committee. No. Not for rector or priest, but for new lay members. Perhaps we could place an ad online, “Applications now being taken. Send resume and three references.” We could then narrow down our search to just those individuals and families we would really like to have as members, interview them, and sign them up.

Well, in case you have not noticed, it does not quite work that way.

And, when you get right down to it, there are only three things which foster the growth of a parish. Happily, they cost absolutely nothing, are great fun, and are proven to be extremely effective. What are they? It’s simple. Invite. Invite. Invite. Churches only grow when their members invite others to come to church with them. So... When was the last time you invited someone to church? If you cannot remember, it is definitely time for another go at it.

This can be a scary proposition for mild-mannered Episcopalians like us who have always taken religion as an intensely private matter. Still, the Gospel is pretty clear about our responsibility to spread the Good News and bring others to Christ. How to do it with good Anglican grace?

Here are some suggestions:

First, take the responsibility seriously. You might even “pledge” to invite a certain number of guests during the year at the same time you make your financial pledge.

Then make a list of people you know. At this

point, put everyone on the list. Relatives, friends, co-workers, the clerk at Safeway, the divorced guy across the street. Even that persistent insurance sales agent. Maybe especially her. After all, turnabout is fair play! Add everyone to the list.

Now go through your list and eliminate those who are already attending a church regularly. After that, identify the five or six you are most likely to want to invite to church with you. Envision yourself inviting them. Deal with the fear of rejection. After all, what is the worst thing that could happen? Probably just that they might say, “No, thank you.” That is about it.

Think of everyday circumstances in which you might comfortably extend the invitation: coffee at Starbucks, commuting, sharing lunch, shopping, after the ball game or movie. You might want to try one of these for openers: “My grandkid is an acolyte now at church and, gee, is she ever cute...” “Did you see that Archbishop Tutu on the news last night? He is a member of my Church....” Well, you get the idea.

Incidentally, do not think you will not know enough about the Church to bring up the subject. No one knows enough. That is not the point. You undoubtedly know more about your Church than does your friend.

Remember that your friend may have as much fear of accepting your invitation as you had in extending it: I won’t know the hymns. Will I have to pray out loud or kneel? I don’t know how they do communion. People will stare at me. They might try to convert me.

Your conversation might deal with some of these fears even if they are not specifically raised. “I’ll

## A User Friendly Guide

help you find the hymns.” “I’ll introduce you to people, if you would like.” “Our priest is a really good preacher.” (Okay, so stretch the truth a bit...) “You know, we have someone at church who is interested in bocce ball just like you.”

Other opportunities arise in all the special events that come up in church. “We’re having a parish outing next month. I’ll bet you and the family would really love it.” Or: “Can I invite you to our children’s Christmas pageant? It’s always a lot of fun.”

What if you sense someone getting defensive? Easy: drop the subject. We’re not out to fight with anyone. Our Church is a means of grace for us to come closer to Christ. It is not “the best” or “the only” Church. It is just home to us, spiritually.

How many times should you invite the same person or household? Probably not more than a cou-



### Aluminum Can Drive

**T**he next collection of Aluminum Cans for Habitat for Humanity will be the weekend of May 15 and 16. When you see the Habitat Can Sign hanging in front of the church, your empty cans can be left by the sheds near the Rose Garden. This area will be checked periodically and the cans moved to a secure area before delivery to the recycler.

ple. You don’t want to be a pest. Likewise, don’t assume that everyone you invite will automatically like your church much less join the congregation. In fact, only about one in four may even consider doing so.

But is it worth the effort? You bet.

Bringing someone to church, and thus to Christ, can be one of the most rewarding experiences in faith. That is what happened at Pentecost. Remember, we would not be here now ourselves if someone somewhere had not brought us.

*Father Frank*

### Bunco Mania!

**C**ome one, come all to our first Bunco Mania Party! Meet in the Fellowship Hall for our kick off party on May 25th, 2010, at 5:30 pm. Bunco will continue the last Tuesday of every month. Please consider a donation of \$5 per event.

Dinner starts at 6 pm with a friendship salad bar: Please bring one ingredient for our salad bar. Greens, salad dressing, breads, drinks and dessert will be provided

Prizes: Most wins, Most Buncos, Most ‘pumpkins’, etc. Bunco Mania starts at 7 pm and ends at 9 pm. Sign up on the Bunco Mania poster and COME for some fun and fellowship. Our event hostesses are Joan Wagner and Amy Griffith.

What is Bunco? Good question! Bunco is a dice game played by teams, it’s been around for a while, and we’ll teach you how to play it, just show up on the 25th!

# Advocacy, Partnerships Bolstered in Sudan

By Matthew Davies, April 09, 2010  
[Excerpted from *Episcopal News Service*]

As Sudan heads to the polls to hold its first democratic elections in 24 years, Episcopalians in the U.S. have been ramping up advocacy and raising awareness of the issues that confront Africa's largest and most war-torn nation amid fears that it could plunge back into civil war.

"There has been a ratcheting up of interest in Sudan because people are making dire predictions about the election aftermath," Richard Parkins, executive director of the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, told ENS in a telephone interview. "It's not addressing new issues but putting a spotlight on the fragility of the peace agreement."

Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in January 2005 by the two warring parties -- the Government of Sudan in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the south -- bringing an end to a 20-year civil war that claimed more than 2 million lives and displaced about 7 million people.

Among the major terms of the agreement are the equitable distribution of oil revenues, drawing of fair borders, and the development of democratic governance throughout the country. But the northern government's failure to live into these terms and a recent increase in violence have threatened to undermine the election, with major boycotts feared. The peace agreement also set the date of 2011 for a special referendum in which southerners can vote whether to secede from the north or remain a unified country.

When voters head to the polls they will be choosing their next president and members of the 450-seat National Assembly. In the south, voters also will elect a president of the southern Sudan government and members of its 171-seat assembly. Salva Kiir Mayardit has served as the president of the Government of Southern Sudan since August 2005.

"Many Sudanese will have to walk for hours to cast their votes in an extraordinarily complex set of elections," according to a recent update from AFRECS. "International concerns center around voter registration lists, ballots, vote tabulations, the access of international observers to the polls, and the peace and security of the country during these days and following."



Early indications suggest that the south will vote overwhelmingly in 2011 to secede from the north. "There is concern that the south be better prepared to deal with the consequences of becoming an independent state, to ensure that it is treated equitably and has the resources to deal with becoming a separate south Sudan," he said

The Episcopal Church's long-standing support for Sudan is manifested through its partnerships and companion diocese relationships, programs supported by Episcopal Relief & Development, and advocacy work of the Office of Government Relations.

"Advocacy by Episcopalians and other Americans was instrumental in pressing for the U.S. government involvement that led to the signing of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005," said

## Sudan

Alexander Baumgarten, director of government relations for the Episcopal Church. "As Sudan faces a series of critical moments in the next year that could further undermine the peace process -- first the national elections and then the southern referendum next year on whether to secede from the north -- Episcopalians are urging renewing urgency from the U.S. government in addressing the situation."

Baumgarten said his office will closely monitor the elections and then communicate to Episcopalians about the U.S.-government-focused advocacy that will be needed between now and next January's referendum. Last July, the Episcopal Church's General Convention passed two resolutions in support of a lasting peace in Sudan.

During a recent visit to Rhode Island, Bishop John Zawo of Ezo, who lives in a refugee camp, spoke of his people's ability to "focus on God in the midst of misery and chaos." Janette O'Neill, senior director of Africa programs for Episcopal Relief & Development, said the agency has assisted the Episcopal Church of Sudan in defining its most urgent priorities through a strategic planning process.

The Episcopal Church of Sudan -- with its four million members, the vast majority of whom are based in the south -- is considered one of the largest non-governmental organizations in southern Sudan and is strategically placed to serve its people in the face of such great adversity. "The backbone of civil society, the Episcopal Church is looked to, after the Government of Southern Sudan, to provide social services in addition to their spiritual leadership," Jennifer Ernst, coordinator of partnerships for the Episcopal Church of Sudan, told ENS.

## 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

## Wheelbarrow

The word "wheelbarrow" was first used in the English language around the mid 14th century and is a compound word. Wheel comes to us from Old Norse and Barrow is a distinctly English word from the 1300s and was originally spelled "barewe." The "hweogolbarewe", or wheelbarrow as it is now known, makes yard work much easier than schlepping yard waste around by hand. You may not know this, but we are desperately in need of a two-wheeled wheelbarrow at the church for work days and we are seeking donations. If you would like to donate a wheel barrow of the two-wheeled variety (they are more stable) please let me know. Alex @dykesfamily.net.

*Alex Dykes, Junior Warden (408) 839-2632*



## Spring Liturgy & Music Conference

The Diocesan Committee on Congregational Vitalization and Growth is sponsoring a Conference on Liturgy and Music to be led by Dent Davidson, Director of The Liturgy Lab, and Missioner for Liturgy and the Arts for the Diocese of Chicago. The conference will be held on May 15th at Saint Paul's in Salinas from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Dent thoroughly enjoyed his time with us at last year's diocesan convention, and is looking forward to a return trip focusing on liturgy and music. He is a big fan of "experience, and then reflect," so you can count on a creative, energetic day together as we stretch our imaginations toward new possibilities for worship translatable to the context of each parish.

The committee is putting together a day in which people will participate, learn, and have a lot of fun! The \$20 cost for the day will include lunch and materials. Registration and payment is now open at the diocesan website at [www.edecr.org](http://www.edecr.org) or you can register via email with [susan@edecr.org](mailto:susan@edecr.org) (From the Reverend Ernest W. Cockrell, for the Committee on Congregational Vitalization & Growth.)

## Len Whitlock's Memorial Service

Over the years, I have heard people say, "We are a Church Family," but I never appreciated the full impact of the phrase until now. Over the past few weeks, I have experienced it, and wish to say, "Thank You, Church Family!" After Len's passing on April 3, I felt time stop.

My own family, Jennifer, Mark, Matt and Gina, along with Father Frank, Debbie Bishop, Susanne Moore, Nancy and George Romer, Kelli Casale, Ellen and Greg Lukanc, Betty Consorte, David and Gayle Byers, Ed and Sandi Mueller, Jerry Long, Robin and Terry Root, Mel and Terry Stonehocker, Anna and Hans Spanjaart, Pat McGarvin and Francie Kerr helped me move along in the journey of celebrating Len's life and death. The morning of the Memorial Service, I drove by the church and saw Pete Mayo mowing the lawn, while Hank DeVoss and Ron Howie were cleaning up the church yards. I know that others were preparing for the reception, setting up tables, arranging flowers, and delivering and setting out finger foods. Please know that I appreciate your prayers, concerns, kind words, cards, food and flowers. It all makes this difficult time much easier. Thank you!

*Jackie Whitlock  
Jennifer Natwick  
Matt Whitlock*



## Fellowship at Point Lobos

What a fabulous day at Point Lobos last month! Carol and Woody, Suzanne and Peter, Susanne and Arnold, Susie and Jerry, Ed (our official photographer), and Joy, Chris, Kate, and Ben all enjoyed the spectacular scenery and nature at its finest.

Harbor Seals and their pups provided hours of delight watching them bond and play and sun themselves under the clear blue skies of the day. Tide pooling provided hours of fascination for the kids – of all ages. Trails through the forests and on the precipices provided exercise and adventure. God's creation couldn't have been more beautiful with all the sea greens, turquoise, and white spray, along with the wild flowers sporting their own hues of yellows, oranges, purples, and blues.

And in between the myriad of activity everyone gathered around the picnic tables for the usual ECA feast that comes forth whenever we fellowship. Imagine dining on salmon, orzo, cucumber, crusty bread and cheese, and hot soup. The gourmet talents of our parishioners even come out for a pot luck picnic.

It was a full day of fun, fellowship, and exploration with an ECA presence in the park from 8 AM to 5 PM. It was our best weather to date for this event at Point Lobos and our best opportunity to observe the harbor seals and their babies. Next year you may want to try to join us.

*Susie & Jerry Ferguson*



# What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

Imagine this is a question most young people tire of as they complete high school and undergraduate studies. For some, the answer comes quick and easy. They have a clear vision of the road ahead and know exactly what they want to do with their life. For others, the answer is not so obvious. Any number of professions may seem appealing. But for all the young people who must constantly face such adult inquisitions, I have yet another question for you:

Have you thought about becoming a priest or deacon in the Episcopal Church?

If you have not, perhaps you should. The decision to enter the ministry is of course first and foremost a response to a “call” from God. No one can deny that. But as we say in church, grace builds on nature. And, if by nature you are gravitating toward becoming a teacher, psychologist, community activist, lawyer, or yes, even actress or actor, perhaps you should also consider the ministry as an option. Especially if you like variety.

While most fields of endeavor today are becoming increasingly specialized and narrow, ministry is probably one of the last professions which actually cherishes the generalist – the person who enjoys bringing together their knowledge and expertise in a number of spheres for the common good of the community.

Think about it. The average parish priest or deacon, in the course of a week’s work, will find herself pondering the mysteries of life and faith in preparation for a sermon, Sunday forum, or Sunday school class. But part of that same week will be spent poring over the parish’s financial statements,

planning the drama we call liturgy, visiting the sick, sharing breakfast or coffee with a lonely – or contented -- parishioner, and counselling the perplexed and stressed-out. And, that is just Monday!

What could be more fulfilling – or fun – than building a community of faith-filled and faithful people who worship God together and accomplish some good in this world? And, that in a nutshell is the job description of a parish priest or deacon.

Ministry is not for everyone. No career or job is. But if you are a young person in your teens or twenty-somethings, maybe you should think about the ministry as a career for you. Just imagine the good you could do. And if you are a grown-up, invite the kids in your family and neighborhood to think about a life and career in the Church. It could be the single-best thing you ever do.

*Father Frank*



## Knit-Wits News!

**T**hank you Tim and Donna Miller for donating the bookshelf that is the new home for all Knit Wit donations and supplies! It is located close to the office, next to the mailbox table. The shelves contain baskets for holding any donations of finished afghan squares or baby hats. The cabinet below houses the yarn that has been donated and is waiting for loving hands to knit or crochet them into squares or baby hats. Please feel free to help yourself to any of this yarn.

There is also a new notebook to help the Knit Wits keep track of participants and donations. Anyone who wants to receive e-mail reminders of meetings and events should sign-up on the members' page. If you make any contributions of yarn, squares or baby hats, please record your gift on the donation page so we can acknowledge your giving. In the notebook you will also find information on the progress of our on going projects and an instruction sheet for making afghan squares. In the front you will find an information sheet you can share with anyone who might like to join us.

Since our beginning we have donated five afghans to the Ronald McDonald House near Lucille Packard Children's Hospital and have four more nearing completion. Collectively have donated over 100 hats to the Baby Love Ministry. The afghan we are working on at this time is in shades of dark blue and purple, but we accept squares of any color.

Please join us on the second and fourth Saturday of the month from 10-12 at the church. We knit, we crochet, we chat, and we laugh. Our group grew out of a shared love of knitting and crocheting and a common desire to share that love with others. We are open to anyone in the community, so bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions please call or e-mail Sharon Mills (408) 316-4966, [sharon\\_kay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sharon_kay@sbcglobal.net). You can also visit us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=103348048610>

*Sharon Mills*



## Seeing Red

**T**he great feast of Pentecost falls this month on Sunday, May 23. Often cited as the “birthday” of the Church, Pentecost is in a sense the time when the early Church first felt energized to spread the news of the Risen Christ to anyone who would listen. The world is still very much in need of the Good News and its message of hope and redemption.

Why not bring a friend or relative to Church this Pentecost...? Introduce others to the wonderful energy and Spirit of the Episcopal Church in Almaden. And, be sure to wear something red – the traditional color of the Day of Pentecost!

## The Lobsters Are Coming!

**L**obsters on route to ECA! Friday, June 18th, Save This Date! Yes, we are planning another Surf or Turf Dinner at ECA featuring Maine Lobster as your “surf.” This year’s event will be in June. Mark your calendars and look for details on our Fellowship Bulletin Board and in the Mid-week Email Bulletin. We are forming a committee to help with all the details. If this is a way you would like to serve please contact Susie and Jerry Ferguson (susie@thinkuniversal.net) and volunteer. They will be having an organizational meeting in early May to start the plans. Committee work on this event is always fun. Give it a try!

*Susie & Jerry Ferguson*



## Game & Pizza Night

**O**ur next game and build your own pizza night is on May 7th. Dinner starts at 6pm - Games start at 7pm. Pizza shells, sauce, cheese and various toppings will be provided. Salad greens and other salad ingredients will be provided. Meet in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is a suggested donation of \$5. Be sure to bring your own beverage and any special topping or salad ingredient that you think may not be included. If you have a special game you would like to share please bring it with you!

Games that will be provided will be: Mexican Train, Texas Hold 'em, cards, jigsaw puzzles.

The sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall. Guests are always invited!!

