

# The Shape

August 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)



*Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Matthew 7:7-8*

# Opportunities at ECA

## Worship

Aug 1 - 7:30 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
Aug 5 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Prayer  
Aug 8 - 7:30 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday  
Aug 12 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
Aug 15 - 7:30 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Anointing  
Aug 19 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
Aug 22 - 7:30 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
Aug 26 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
Aug 29 - 7:30 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

## Fellowship Events this Month

Aug 8 - Barbecue after the 10:30 service (Page 6)  
Aug 12 - Martin Luther King Library Tour (Page 7)  
Aug 15 - Ice Cream Sundaes (Page 7)  
Aug 18 - Book Group (Page 7)

## Fellowship – Teens

*Wednesdays at 6PM SHYG & Alumni Volleyball & BBQ. All are welcome, bring your friends!*

*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  
Adult forums on sexuality on Sundays after each service  
Aug 31 - Parenting the Millennium Kids class

## Study – Children and Youth

*Sunday School is on summer break.*

## 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	Margaret Alvey
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

### CONTACTING

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OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

## Father Frankly Speaking

**M**any years ago, Pope Paul VI, the predecessor of Benedict and the two John Pauls, addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York. His speech was an eloquent defense of peace, the poor in the world, and the unjustly oppressed. Somewhere in his fairly lengthy oration, he spoke the memorable words, "If you want peace, work for justice." Nowadays, you can even find this slogan on bumper stickers. Must be a first for a pope.

Pope Paul's point is well taken. As long as there are injustices in the world, it will be difficult for people to live together in peace. Sadly, today's world is as filled with war and injustice as was the world of Pope Paul decades ago. We watch in horror as terrorists maim and kill others. Today our troops still patrol the streets of Iraq, ironically the seat of civilization in ancient times. And, Israelis and Palestinians kill each other in the "holy" land in misguided attempts to gain advantage or right old wrongs. We can only pray that common sense and justice will prevail -- but if history is any guide, we cannot count on it.

What Pope Paul did not say, but perhaps should have, is that if you work for justice, you can also pretty much expect all hell to break loose, if you will pardon the language. People and the powers that be are not unjust for the fun of it. Injustice and prejudice are deeply rooted in greed, self-interest, and perhaps most of all fear of those who are different or unfamiliar.

Examples of this are scattered throughout history. The crises in the Middle East, as they spill over into our own land and lives, are just the latest manifestation. Society today is not immune to the madness which mistakenly believes that one can prevail only at the expense of others. Examples of injustice

are likewise found right here at home. Whether it is slayings on the streets of San Jose and Oakland, prejudice against the homeless, or disdain for those whose lives are different from our own.

If anyone chooses to work for peace and humanity, they should not expect a medal for it. They will not likely be hailed as heroes; nor will they necessarily be named citizen of the year. This is what Jesus is telling us when he says a "man will be set against his father, and a daughter against her mother." If we work for justice, it must be because we are convinced it is the right thing to do.

For us as Christians, the words of Jesus' Gospel are the words of ultimate justice. And in that sense only the Gospel can bring ultimate peace. Unfortunately, in the meantime we are left with a mighty struggle. We will not achieve our goals in this generation. Our children may not see them achieved either. But we must be part of the process, that is, part of the Kingdom.

We do not have to go to the Middle East or Africa to engage in the struggle for justice and peace. We are well positioned right here in the Almaden Valley to do our part and to make an impact, both individually and as a community. Even a small difference can be profound.

As the philosopher Voltaire once wrote, "How infinitesimal is the importance of anything I can do, but how infinitely important it is that I should do it."

*Father Frank*

*The Rev. Dr. Frank Hegedus*

*Interim Minister*

## Search Committee Update

“Dear God, we ask that you make us worthy to the calling you have given us. Help us to recognize and use the gifts that each of us has. Give us patience and help us to remember and recognize that there is One Body, One Spirit, One Lord, and One Faith. Unite us in your grace.” Written by Ellen Lukanc

During our application reviews, there was a statement that resonated deeply with me. It follows:

“God gives us a vision one size larger than we are, so we can grow into it. If we don’t have a clear vision of what God wants us to achieve, it doesn’t really matter what actions we take.”

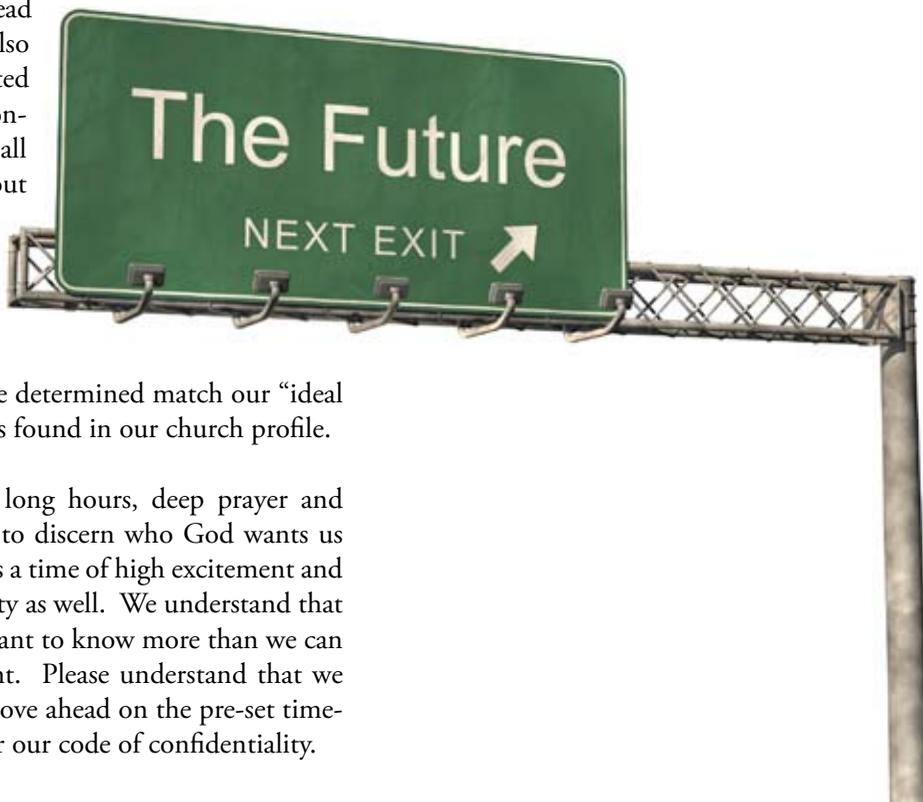
We have been blessed with an abundance of candidate applications for our rector search. On July 12, we asked The Rev. Canon Brian Norwick to officially close the door on additional submissions. The committee has now completed reading and scoring all applications, and every candidate was kindly and prayerfully notified if they would be continuing on in our process or if they were no longer under consideration.

Indeed, your Search Committee has a vision. It is the vision that each of you clearly stated to us during our workshops together and in continuing conversations with many of you. We are guided by this vision and take our work very seriously...but with joy and love for what we are accomplishing during this mutual discernment process.

*Nancy Romer*  
*Search Committee Chairperson*

By the time you read this update, we also will have completed our telephone conversations with all the candidates about whom we wanted to learn more. The next step will be to make visitations to the candidates whom we have determined match our “ideal rector” credentials as found in our church profile.

It has taken many long hours, deep prayer and continued patience to discern who God wants us to consider. Yes, it is a time of high excitement and a time of high anxiety as well. We understand that many of you may want to know more than we can tell you at this point. Please understand that we are continuing to move ahead on the pre-set timeline and must honor our code of confidentiality.



# Senior Warden

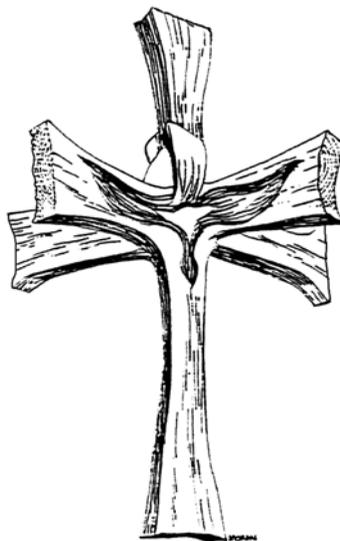
One of the enduring themes of the Hebrew Scriptures is the narrative of the Promised Land. God promised to the wandering Hebrews a land flowing with milk and honey, a land that provides both our physical and spiritual needs. All that we need to do, like the Hebrews, is to cross the Jordan River, enter the land, and live life abundantly.

Over the last few years, I've had a chance to see this spiritual truth come to fruition here at ECA. Abundance takes many forms, and involves the recognition of ministry and giving. As we give to one another and to God, so we receive from one another and from God. In the giving and receiving, God becomes present among us.

This is made manifest in our recent special budget appeal. Beginning in June, the vestry presented to the congregation our budgetary needs. In order to meet our budget shortfall, and fund our search process, ECA needed to raise an additional \$41,000 over and above what had been already pledged. And in six short weeks, we have been able to raise over three-quarters of that amount. I have been impressed at this work you all have done.

And yet, the wonderful breath of God's Divine Spirit is not just in the financial health of our parish. God's Spirit also dwells in the strength of our programs and in our worship. We have a wonderful abundance from God, in the form of our search process, our worship, our youth programs, our ministries, our Bible Studies and fellowship. As we give to one another, share with one another, we also share in God. To which I can only say, "Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!"

*Kimberly Axtell*



## Sunday BBQs

**O**ur first barbecue of the season was successful. We had to skip the one for July because of some technical stuff. So, Warren Willard, a guest chef – not to be named here – and I are looking forward to satisfying your epicurean urges with a barbecue on Sunday, August 8, after the 10:30am service and forum.

Those who attend the 7:30am service are cordially invited as well. This would also be a wonderful opportunity to invite some neighbors or friends that you have been considering asking to attend our service. If they are reluctant to go to church, they are invited to join us for a barbecue lunch. How about that?

We will provide the usual bill-of-fare: hamburgers (including some garden burgers for those preferring such), hot dogs, and some barbecued, marinated, boneless chicken thighs. Also, if you are moved to provide a small salad, cookies, beans, or whatever, just to spice things up, please do so.

We want to make this a fun event, so please join us, even if you just want to show up! Thanks and see you all on August 8.

*David Byers,  
Warren Willard,  
and The Mystery Chef*

## Parenting Class

*Help your kids succeed, join us for a joint venture parenting class!*

**C**ontrary to popular belief, parenting is not “instinctual.” And, what you learned from your parents might not be exactly what your kids will need to survive and thrive as they face a rapidly changing world.

Coming up on Tuesday evening, August 31, from 6 – 8:30pm, Joint Venture Churches of Almaden Valley will be sponsoring an outstanding workshop by parenting expert Beth Proudfoot, MFT, called Parenting the Millennium Kids.

Beth, a member of ECA, will share the latest research on how kids learn, what kinds of skills they will need in this new century, and how to teach them. This is NOT your mother’s parenting class!

Admission is free, although donations of around \$10 per person to cover costs will be greatly appreciated. Childcare and a light supper will be provided for those who register in advance by calling (408) 268-0243 or emailing [office@jointventurechurches.org](mailto:office@jointventurechurches.org).

We will also be looking for a few volunteers to assist with the evening program.



## Adult Forum Series

Father Frank will begin a series on current issues in Sexuality and the Church on Sunday, August 1. The series will run for 4-6 Sundays, depending on discussion and questions, and will cover some of the issues tearing at the contemporary Church. You will not want to miss this opportunity to delve into arguably the most controversial issues in church and society today. Bring your own input and questions!

As usual, we will meet in the Music Room following each Sunday service. Should give a whole new meaning to “adult” forum.

## JV Work Day

Our next JV work sat will be on Saturday August 28th. We’ll be starting bright and early at 8am. There will be a light breakfast provided. We’ll be tackling the usual tasks of mowing and blowing as well as trimming the ivy and hedges. We’ll also need a group of volunteers to weed the rose garden and fill in some gopher holes in the front lawn and rose garden area. If being in-doors is more your thing, there is plenty to be done inside as well. Please look for the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall soon and contact Alex Dykes at (408) 839-2632 or alex@dykesfamily.net if you have any questions or would like to tackle some of these tasks early!

## Library Tour

The tour of The Martin Luther King Library downtown San Jose has been rescheduled for Thurs, Aug 12th. Tour starts at 11:30, we will be carpooling from church at 10:30. The tour is free, there is a sign-up on the ECA bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Guests are always welcome!

## Book Group

Book Group - meets August 18th at Kelli Casali’s. The book is “Eat, Love, Pray” by Elizabeth Gilbert. To join the group, call Amy Griffith, (408) 268-0920.

## Bunco

Our ever-popular Bunco program is on summer break. Check the September SHAPE and church bulletins for details of the fall program.

## Ice Cream Sundaes

Come and create your own ice cream sundae on Sunday, August 15th, after the 10:30 service. We’ll have lots of ice cream and toppings available. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors.

## Eye Glasses

Old eyeglasses....Do you have old eyeglasses that you are ready to throw out? Bring them to the church and put them in the labeled basket on the shelf outside the Christian Ed and JV Music Directors office. The church donates them to a charity to provide glasses to those that can't afford them.

*Amy Griffith*  
(408) 268-0920



## Anniversaries

Jack & Winnie Jackman 20

## Birthdays

Kristen Petruzzelli	6
Kele Lavery	7
Bethany Nollette	11
Sarah Dunn	13
P.J. Gallego	13
Jessica Skowronski	14
Roget Hoyt	16
David Byers	17
David Hoyt	19
Robb Moore	22
Eric McCormick	23
Allan Jones	24
Jim Wooldridge	25
Erinn Hoyt	29
Frances Sandrock	30

## Sunday Attendance

Sunday attendance in the fourth quarter 2009 and first quarter of 2010 was consistently in the upper 80s. We saw some lower numbers in the second quarter of 2010, which is a bit worrying, but this was offset by very good attendance at Easter – over 230 at all services combined. In fact, considering that we had relatively few visitors at Easter, 200 or so probably represents reasonably well the size of our core constituency at ECA. As we continue through the summer holiday season, we are seeing numbers in the mid- to upper 70s. It is of course not unusual to see attendance lag during what many consider slow-season at church. But it does not have to be that way.

- Q1 2009 Average: 89
- Q1 2010 Average: 87
- Q2 2010 Average: 78 (excluding Easter Day)

Needless to say, attendance is not just about numbers and statistics. But the numbers are in a sense a way of taking our spiritual temperature as a parish community – a demonstration of our commitment to common worship, fellowship, and community.

*Father Frank*

## JV Legal Update

Joint Venture Board President, Melinda Jennings, has written a letter to the Joint Venture parishes with an update on our legal matters. The letter will be posted on the Joint Venture bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for your perusal and reflection. If you have any questions, please contact Melinda, Pastor Kevin, or Father Frank.

## Vacation Bible School

**V**acation Bible School! We will rocket into outer space with this year's theme, Galactic Blast. VBS has been rescheduled for August 9-13 for children age 4 through entering 5th grade. All are welcome. Please feel free to bring friends! You can registration on either church web-sites or at the church office.



## Church Gardening

**A**re you currently helping with the garden-ing chores at church? If so, JV would like to know! We are blessed with parishioners that have the initiative and drive to make it down to the church to cut the grass, pull some weeds, trim the bushes and sweep the patios but we (the JV Board) don't know who you are. If you could let us know who you are and what you are taking care of we can be sure that new volunteers don't try to re-double your efforts, and if you're on vacation or decide you'd like to tackle a different project we can find a replacement. Please contact Alex Dykes at (408) 839-2632 or alex@dykesfamily.net or you can just drop a note in my box at church. Thanks to all those who take care of the yard work, the place looks great!

## Sunday School

**C**an you believe it? It is already time to plan Sunday School for the fall! I am in need of Sunday School teachers. There are two different types of jobs. Shepherds bond with a group of children, lead children to their class and assist the station leader. Shepherds make a longish term commitment, every other week for a semester or a school year, but do no preparation work. Station leaders prepare to run the same station lesson (with age related modifications) for three weeks in a row. You may make as many three week commitments as you like. This is a good way for people to connect with the children of the church while sharing something they love. Stations include cooking, art, story-telling, science, and more. All curriculum is provided.

Serving as a Sunday School teacher is a blessing to everyone in our church, particularly our children and youth. I hear over and over how important our children and youth are to the members of our churches. Teaching them is a way to show them our commitment. Please contact me to let me know how you would like to serve our children.

*Melanie Weiner Click*  
*christianed@jointventurechurches.org*  
*(408)268-0243*

# Women Bishops in England

*Church of England Advances Plans for Women Bishops. Legislation passes with minor amendments, heads to dioceses for approval.*

By Matthew Davies, July 12, 2010

*[Excerpts from Episcopal News Service, York, UK]*



Following years of debate, the Church of England July 12 backed legislation that paves the way for women to become bishops, much to the dismay of traditionalists who had hoped for more robust provisions for those in opposition.

The archbishops of Canterbury and York had suggested amendments that would have enabled two bishops [editor's note: one female; one male] to exercise episcopal functions within the same jurisdiction. Those amendments narrowly failed to pass on July 10, with traditionalists expressing regret and supporters of women's ordination welcoming the news.

Arrangements for those opposed to women's ordination will be outlined in a Code of Practice -- a guide to how the measure will be implemented -- that will be drawn up in the coming months. It is

unclear how many people will leave the Church of England as a result of the July 12 vote, but some synod members said that defections are inevitable. The measure will now be referred to diocesan synods, which cannot further amend it. Should a majority of diocesan synods approve the measure, the legislation is expected to return to General Synod in 18 months for final approval. An amendment was passed requiring a two-thirds majority in each house before the measure could receive final approval when it returns to General Synod.

Assuming all stages of the legislative process proceed without delay, the first woman bishop could not be consecrated until at least 2014, since the measure also would require approval by the U.K. Parliament. Parliamentary approval is necessary because the measure effectively changes English law, since the Church of England is an officially established church with Queen Elizabeth II as its supreme governor.

The General Synod began its steady course toward allowing women in the episcopate when in July 2005 it passed a motion to remove the legal obstacles to ordaining women bishops. Four provinces -- the U.S.-based Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Anglican Church of Australia, and the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia -- currently have women serving as bishops. Eleven additional provinces have approved the ordination of women bishops but have yet to appoint or elect one.

The Church of England opened the priesthood to women in November 1992, five years after women were first ordained to the diaconate. More than 5,000 women have been ordained as priests in England since 1994 and today they represent nearly forty percent of all clergy.

## England

*[Continued from previous page]*

Following the synod debate July 12, Williams acknowledged that there are further stages in the process, adding that "we need to continue to look at ways of serving one another ... I hope that what emerges is a witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England [editor's note: similar to General Convention in the Episcopal Church]. It continues a tradition of synodical government which, in England, has its origins in the medieval period.

*Matthew Davies is editor and international correspondent of the Episcopal News Service.*

## Update Your Pledge

**A**s we enter the second half of budget year 2010, it would be a good time to check and make sure your giving is up-to-date. We are actually running a deficit budget this year, so your support is absolutely critical!

## Bishop's Letter

**A**s you may know, our Diocese of El Camino Real has a 'sister' or partner relationship with two other dioceses: Gloucester, England; and Western Tanganyika on the continent of Africa. The bishops of the dioceses, as well as groups of lay people and clergy, meet from time to time and in various parts of the world for reflection and prayer.

Recently, the three bishops of the dioceses – our own Mary Gray-Reeves, along with Michael Perham of Gloucester and Gerard Mpango of Western Tanganyika – reflected on this relationship begun in 2008 at the Lambeth Conference and wrote an open letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury. In it, they address some of the divisions within the Church at large as well as those things which have brought our dioceses together. The letter is posted in its entirety on our diocesan website: <http://www.edecr.org>. Go to News & Events, then Latest News Online.

A paper copy will also be posted on the ECA bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. The Letter is a wonderful testament of faith and good will during a very trying time in the life of the Anglican Communion. Be sure to read and study it carefully.

# Financial Update

We have received \$30,707 in pledges so far for our Special Financial Appeal. The June chart below reflects the additional money that has been received so far for the appeal. And so June looks good financially, and that's great news. However, there are those Search Committee expenses to be taken, and our expenses still exceeding our budget that we have to deal with.

thanked. And remember that we are still \$10,293 from our goal for this appeal. If you haven't yet contributed and you want to, get your pledge card filled out and return it to Doug Dunham or Bill LeVallee as soon as possible.

*Doug Dunham*  
*Vestry Financial Liason*

ECA is moving in the right direction financially, and everyone that contributed extra money for this year to help correct our deficit budget is to be

May 31, 2010	Year to date	2010 Budget	Difference
Income	\$91,529	\$90,479	\$1,050 ( 1.2%) Good
Expenses	\$100,875	\$97,481	-\$3,394 ( -3.4%) Bad
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-\$9,346</b>	<b>-\$ 7,002</b>	<b>-\$2,344 (-25.1%) Bad</b>
	Checking	\$ 9,329	
	Savings	\$ 16,586	
	Investments	\$258,774	
	<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$284,689</b>	

June 30, 2010	Year to date	2010 Budget	Difference
Income	\$129,111	\$108,575	\$20,536 ( 18.9%) Good
Expenses	\$118,092	\$116,977	-\$ 1,115 ( -0.9%) Bad
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$11,019</b>	<b>-\$ 8,402</b>	<b>\$2,617 (131.2%) Good</b>
	Checking	\$ 14,312	
	Savings	\$ 32,023	
	Investments	\$252,373	
	<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$298,708</b>	