

# The Shape

October 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)

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness;  
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,  
but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too  
deep for words. Romans 8:26*



# Opportunities at ECA

## Worship

Oct 3 - 7:30 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
Oct 7 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
Oct 10 - 7:30 & **11 AM** Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday  
Oct 14 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
Oct 17 - 7:30 & **11 AM** Holy Eucharist- Healing Anointing  
Oct 21 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
Oct 24 - 7:30 & **11 AM** Holy Eucharist  
Oct 28 - 7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist  
Oct 31 - 7:30 & **11 AM** Holy Eucharist

## Fellowship – Adults

Oktoberfest 2010 - October 16 at 6pm (Page 14)

## Fellowship – Teens

Senior and Junior High youth groups meeting schedule  
Oct 3 - 6pm Regular meeting with games  
Oct 17 - 6pm Cookie bake

## Study - Adult

Adult Thursday morning bible study 10:30 AM to Noon  
Adult forum most Sundays after each service

## Study – Children and Youth

*Sunday School starts at 10:10am.*

## 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
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 Weiner
MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORGANIST	D. Asa Stern
TREASURER	Bill LaVallee
YOUTH DIRECTOR	Melanie Weiner
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Dennis Elliott

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OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

# Father Frankly Speaking

Google “stewardship” sometime and you will in an instant (0.13 seconds to be precise) find websites for the Forest Stewardship Project, the Marine Stewardship Campaign, and the Quebec Stewardship Scheme, among many others. In fact, last time I checked, there were over twenty-nine million sites related to stewardship – wish we had a dollar for each one – including one for the World Stewardship Conference.

That really caught my eye.

Wow, I thought. (Or, should that be OMG...?) World Stewardship. Now, there’s a concept. I was just thinking of the Episcopal Church in Almaden, and yet here was an organization of people taking on world stewardship. What could be next, I wondered. Solar System Stewardship? Universe Stewardship? But on reflection I thought: Why not? Ultimate stewardship. That is just what we need. It reminded me of the Episcopal Church’s slogan of a few years ago: Stewardship is the main work of the Church.

So, maybe stewardship land management in Canada and tithing at ECA are not all that different after all. Both require mindfulness – care taking -- and intention. Both involve preserving what God has given us – whether it is trees and forests far away or our beautiful contemporary church and building here in San Jose or simply one another. Stewardship means survival and much more. It means celebrating the abundance of God’s love for creation – for us.

Well, I finally did find some websites that deal with church stewardship, but I felt I had learned as much, and maybe more, about stewardship from the Wisconsin Fish and Waterfowl site. And, I came to the conclusion that what we do and what

we give – our stewardship – does make an ultimate difference. As Jesus says, “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

That is ultimate stewardship.

The Lord has charged us as his disciples and witnesses with literally everything – including, it seems, the “loose ends” in heaven and on earth. And, there are a lot of them, believe me, including you and me. Stewardship is after all about more than brick-and-mortar and bills and budgets. As they say, the most important things in life are, well, not things at all. Church is about people – with all their concerns, joys, celebrations, and disappointments -- the “loose ends” of life. And, that is where stewardship begins.

Some folks believe in the tithe: Give ten percent to the work of the Church. But I say that is not enough. Nor is twenty percent, or even fifty, for that matter. After all, one hundred percent is what God has given us in his Son, Jesus Christ. We dare not give less in return. In some ways, that is easier than it sounds, if we remember that the more of God’s blessings we give away, the more of them we will have.

We must, in other words, give of ourselves in the measure that has been given to us.

Be generous.

*Father Frank*

The Rev. Dr. Frank Hegedus  
Interim Minister

# Search Committee

I am writing this message to you on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. This is the morning after the Search Committee submitted to the Vestry the final slate of candidates for the new rector of ECA -- right on schedule with our time line. We presented an in-depth informational packet on each candidate for vestry's consideration. Members will read the materials and formulate questions for our Committee.

Our next time together will be September 22nd when we and the Vestry will meet to talk about each candidate in depth. At that point, our Search Committee work is completed. We, as a Committee, have a tremendous sense of relief and a spiritual confidence that we have accomplished an incredible task. The Holy Spirit has led us all the way. We thank you all for your support and prayers during this wonderful time. The journey has been laden with many of life's bumps, and we have remained focused on our ministry.

For the members of the Search Committee the journey has been one of growth and change during the last nine months:

- Three members lost their fathers.
- Two member's spouses had major surgery.
- Two members took new jobs and moved away.
- Two members have been critically ill.
- One member lost their job.
- One member had two surgeries.
- Many members have put in a huge amount of road and/or air miles.
- One member has moved two times.
- All of our families have spent countless hours on their own without us.

It is with a great sense of humility that we leave the future for the Vestry to discern. This is indeed, an exciting time. I need to tell you that all of the candidates had some form of "Yippee" in their response to me when I told them their name would be going forward to the Vestry. The candidates have asked good questions of us and understand who ECA is as much as they can without actually being here. They want to continue in this mutual discernment process. Please keep these holy people in your prayers during the weeks ahead.



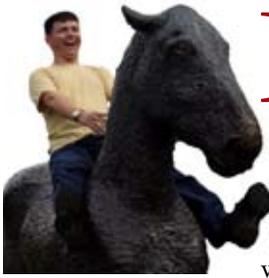
Thank you for trusting us to do this very important ministry. It has been a blessing for us all. We are looking forward to our future together with great hope and excitement.

*Nancy Romer  
ECA Search Committee*

## Search Committee Thanks

We will pray in thanksgiving for the efforts of our hard-working Search Committee at both services on Sunday, October 17. Join with your fellow parishioners in expressing gratitude for their work.

## From the Editor



**I**t's funny how we all lead some sort of double life. We have our work lives and our private lives, our church lives and our secular lives. We meet people in one walk of life that we wouldn't associate with in another; we may act differently or become a "different person." Acceptance is a hard thing to describe and I really believe this is the key to the multiple personality disorder we all share to some extent.

Several years ago I tripped upon my "night job." I am afflicted with a car addiction, I love the industry, the changes, the marketing, the challenge and of course, the products. My pragmatic side however prevents me from shopping on more than a decadal basis. I discovered one day that a website that I frequented was seeking new automotive journalists, I applied, was given a sample assignment and the editor liked what he saw. Over the past 4 years I have slowly become more and more involved in the job and after a while I was finally "seasoned" enough to gain access to press cars.

In the auto industry the "press car" is the foundation of most reviews. When the Mercury News or Car and Driver want to review the latest whatever, they ring up the manufacturer who then tells their local PR guy to drop the vehicle off at the journalist's home or work. The car is driven around for a week or more. At the end of the week the vehicle is picked back up and the writer writes his review. As a number of people have noticed at ECA, I've been driving a different car every week. No, I'm not some crazy guy that buys new cars all the time, and no I'm not from Michigan, or New Jersey, or all manner of other places where manufacturers decide to register their vehicles. I'm just reviewing the

latest (insert the name of the vehicle here) for the website I work for.

Where am I going with this? Well, back to the multiple personalities for a bit. When I realised that I was gay many years ago, I was uncomfortable saying it. It's natural when you think of how our society trains you to think about sexuality. Eventually as I became more comfortable with who I was as a person I stopped "adjusting pronouns." The funny thing is: we all do the same thing but in different ways. How many of us refrain from speaking up when we are at work and a viewpoint does not match our own? How many of us hold our religion close to the chest, not quite denying we attend church, just never bringing it up? How many of us have some portion of our life that is important to us, yet we keep it tucked away?

I have found it is important in life to try to be a whole person, to be who I am wherever I am. It is not easy I must say. In the automotive world it's not easy to be gay, so I catch myself using ambiguous statements. Husband becomes "spouse" or "my better half." This strikes me as funny and yet so automatic that I have to catch myself to keep from doing it. When I am with people that are unchurched or atheist, I have to resist that urge to keep from talking about the church. Yes it makes the conversation more socially polite to not bring up religion with people that have issues with it, but on the other hand it is an entirely different matter to say "I'm busy on Sunday, sorry." Than to say "I can't because we will be at church." So many of us would take the easier route rather than saying who we are: Christians. I think that the greatest challenge before us in life is also the simplest; to be who we are.

*Alex Dykes*

# Santa Maria Urban Ministry

**A**s some of you may know, Santa Maria Urban Ministry is slowly moving out of the 'lean' season. Our typical resource cycle ends in about October and begins to gain in both quantity and quality through the holiday season.

And, yes, it has been a tough summer! In any event, we continue to serve over 500 families (about 1,200) individuals per month, and 50% of these are children. As we prepare ourselves for meeting immediate needs and supporting long-term transformation, we are hoping to gain the assistance of additional local churches (both Episcopal and non-Episcopal), especially as regards to leadership.

So it is that this INVITATION is being addressed to the leaders of the local church. We are eager to re-establish those long-time relationships that SMUM has had throughout its history, working together with the local Episcopal Church.

What are we asking of you?

- 1) Raise awareness of the need for leadership from the local church at SMUM (examples: newsletters, bulletins, preaching, announcements, etc.).
- 2) Share your talented leaders: send capable leaders to SMUM in order to widen your churches' scope of outreach to the local community.
- 3) Increase your commitment to SMUM by providing additional resources: time, talent and treasure: volunteers, resources and budgeted funds.

We would like to direct all new volunteers for the Board of Directors to the upcoming "Board Retreat" Saturday, November 13th, tentative time: 9am -12 noon (further information on this will be provided [i.e., venue] to all local churches, deanery,

etc.). This will be a time of orientation and fellowship (lunch provided).

The retreat will be a useful time for potential board members to learn more about SMUM, and board responsibilities. Again, we thank you for your careful, faithful support, and our sincere prayer is that we will be able to re-connect with local churches through sharing capable leadership and other resources.

*Rev. Lawrence A. Robles, EdD*  
*Santa Maria Urban Ministry of San Jose*  
*www.smum.org*

## Thank You All

*Thank you for the help preparing food for Beth Proudfoot's Presentation on "Raising Children in the Millennium" Phyllis Chai, Jackie Whitlock, Susanne Moore and Nancy Romer, Susanne and Arnold Moore, Judy and Henry Blankenheim, Betty Consorte and Marion Grunge. And, for the wonderful presentation by Beth - we all learned something to use for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.*

*New Freezer in the Kitchen Pantry: Thank you to Jackie Whitlock, in memory of Len, for the new freezer.*

*Work Day: Thank you to all who participated in the September work day, and a special thank you to Junior Warden Alex Dykes for organizing this effort.*

*Musical Soirée: Thank you to everyone who helped make this magical event possible!*

## Read, Learn, Mark

**I**t is tempting for many people to approach the study of their Christian faith with the same methodical attitude with which they might set about solving a quadratic equation or cracking a computer code. The one and only right answer must be in there somewhere, they seem to think. This way of thinking is perhaps fostered by our contemporary technological approach to life. Ambiguity annoys us. In business, we go for the bottom line. In science and engineering, we ask if it works. Even in our closest relationships, we sometimes find ourselves demanding unambiguous answers: Do you really love me? Yes or no?

We want to know where we stand. Transparency and precision are important values in daily life and relations – no matter where or when we live. So it makes sense that we should want to take hold of questions of faith and belief in the same matter-of-fact fashion. What is Scripture’s chapter-and-verse bottom line, we might be tempted to ask. Take for example one of the Scripture citations for the second Sunday in October – Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7. It looks almost mathematical in its precision. What could be more clear-cut?

Yet when it comes to the study of our faith, no amount of explanation can ever exhaust its depth or meaning. We may turn to commentaries and

theologians, but no professor or other scholar can give faith its full meaning for all time and all places and all people. The more we learn, the more questions we will always have. And, though the mysteries of faith become more intelligible with study and prayer, they remain always at some level just that -- mysteries. We never fathom them fully.

A number of recent books highlight the story of the beloved King James’ Bible and how it came to be. They emphasize the years of work and study that the king’s scholars devoted to producing not only a translation of Scripture but a magnificent work of English literature as well. But not even they could completely exhaust the meaning of God’s Word.

So it is with us today.

Like Christians before us, we must continue to study our faith, seeking to know the true meaning of God’s will for us in our generation. And, we must foster a love of learning among our children at home and in Sunday School. In a favorite collect, or prayer, from the Book of Common Prayer, we call upon the Lord, asking that we might hear the words of Scripture and “read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them.” This is a lifetime project.

The manna of old described in the Bible became food for the journey and sustenance for the soul of ancient Israel. Bible study, Sunday School, and adult education in faith are our manna today. Growth in faith and understanding is the daily challenge. Faith unexplored quickly becomes rote and stale and useless to us, incapable of providing nourishment. But open a book, go to Bible study, attend a class, encourage a child in the faith, and you will never go hungry.

*Father Frank*



# Diocesan Convention

Volunteers are needed for Diocesan Convention, Saturday, November 6. The 2010 Diocesan Convention will be held at Saint Andrew's, Saratoga.

People in our deanery will not have to go far to attend Convention this year. However, we do need many volunteers to assure that people feel welcome and Convention runs smoothly. Volunteer needs are as follows:

Registration\* 15 – 17 people (6:45AM-10:30AM)

Parking\* 5 – 6 people (7:15AM-10:30AM)

Hospitality\* 12 – 15 people

6 Needed from 6:45AM – 10:45AM

8 Needed from 10:30AM – 2:30PM

3 Needed from 2:00PM – 4:00PM

Greeters\* 5 – 7 people (7:00AM-10:30AM)

Counters \*\* 6 – 8 people (7:45AM-All Day)

\* Volunteers should be non-delegates

\*\* Volunteers can be delegates

Please send names to Ann Wright at [annwright6@comcast.net](mailto:annwright6@comcast.net) as soon as possible. We need to make sure we have enough volunteers to make Convention run smoothly. This would be an excellent opportunity for anyone who might be considering being a delegate to Convention in future years.

See you there!

*The Rev. Tom Sramek, Jr., Convener*

*The Rev. Peggy Bryan, Co-Convener*



## Rectory Update

Progress on the Rectory renovation is moving right along. Chris and Joy Austin-Lane are scheduled to move out of the Rectory by October 1st or 2nd and the contractor is coming in immediately thereafter to begin renovations, which are expected to be completed by November 30th. Most of the work will be done by the contractor.

However, in order to get more for our money, we are asking members of ECA to help us with the painting. We are seeking experienced and talented painters to help us with interior painting, which will need to be accomplished around the contractor's schedule so we do not interfere with what he is doing. We will also need some help at various stages with clean up.

If you would be willing to help with these efforts during October and November, please send Mel Stonehocker an email at [magstone@aol.com](mailto:magstone@aol.com) to let her know of your availability.

*Jerry Ferguson.*

## Anniversaries

Charlotte Boileau	4
Gary & Jean Casetta	4
Alex Dykes & Rob McClaine	11
Dom and Betty Consorte	30

## Birthdays

Daniel Beacher	3
Roland Darnell	4
Linda Nollette	8
Ron Howie	10
Bonnie McPherson	13
Susanna Machado	14
Carol MacDonald	15
Judy Blankenheim	16
Jennifer Taylor	17
Bill Hird	18
Jan English Lueck	28
Josephine Tshibola	28
Earl Griffith	29



## Sudan Youth

Sudanese Youth Opportunity (SYO) is concentrating on keeping our current twenty-one students in the Sunflower Junior Academy in Kenya. This is the boarding school Peter Nyok founded for his rescued Sudanese children last January (2010). We are pleased with the caliber of this school.

The three school terms begin in September, January, and May. Our students have had two terms now and are just starting their third term. We are currently waiting for their spring grades.

Because the cost of this school is higher than past schools they attended a year ago, a few of our sponsors have chosen to share their sponsorship. This way, each of the two sponsors pays \$300 per year for an annual total of \$600.

If you feel you can be a \$300 per year sponsor for one of our students, or if you can make a donation of any amount to keep these students in school, please contact Sandie Mueller at (408) 997-1642. Payments can be made in three increments, if you prefer. Your contribution to SYO is tax deductible. SYO is under the umbrella and uses the non-profit number of Hope With Sudan. Your help and encouragement has brought Sudanese Youth Opportunity a long way since we started last year; please help us continue.

*Sandie Mueller*

## Youth News

**W**e will be starting the 2010-2011 year with JHYG and SHYG holding regular meetings simultaneously on Sundays from 6-8:00pm. As appropriate, the groups will split for activities and discussions but dinners will be enjoyed together.

As every parent knows only too well, this generation of youth has highly demanding schedules and often has to choose from multiple activities. Those of us engaged in youth work here at church are concerned about the steady decline in participation in both Youth Groups. In the 2009-2010 year, previously popular events like the skiing and rafting trips had to be cancelled and once well attended evening activities such as Catacombs and volleyball/barbecue had low attendance. Regular meetings were so poorly attended that the adult leaders and the parent providing dinner sometimes even outnumbered the youth.

The question we are posing to parents is this: Is there time in your child's busy life to attend Youth Group? Are there things we need to do to make our programs more enticing?

Planned youth activities through November are listed below. After Thanksgiving we will review the program. Hopefully, there will be good participation and we will enthusiastically continue into 2011. Otherwise, with your assistance, we will consider alternate plans. We value your input.

*Bonnie, Melanie, Alex, Jon and Rob*

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Oct 3, Sunday, 6-8:00pm

Regular meeting - We'll be baking cookies for college-bound SHYG alumni.

Oct 17 & Nov 7, Sunday, 6-8:00pm

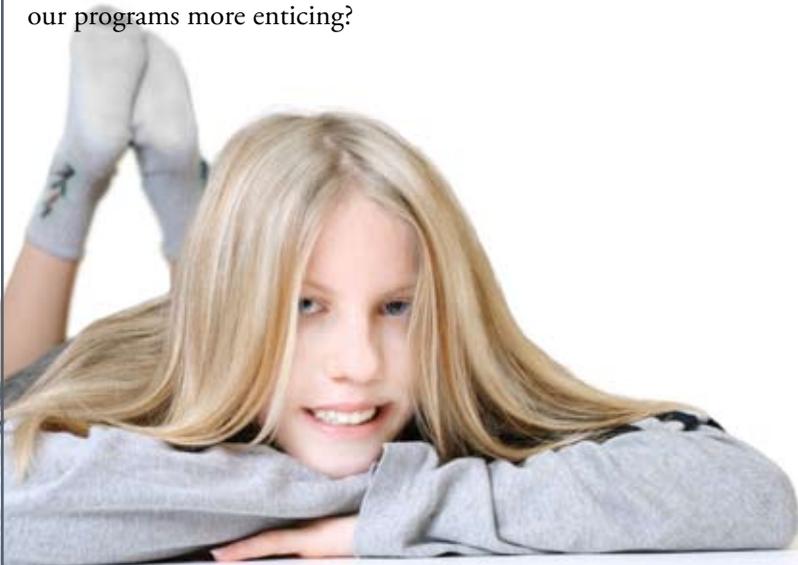
Regular meeting

Nov 21, Sunday, 1-3:00pm

Prep for pie baking. The time is approximate.

Nov 24, Wednesday, 3-8:00pm

Pie baking, we'll spend the profits on Christmas gifts for a charity.



## House of Faith

**T**he House of Faith is a joint effort among the multitude of diverse faith communities of Santa Clara County to work in unison to help sponsor and assist in the build of a Habitat home for a Habitat family. The House of Faith project is designed to build on community and will be organized to foster understanding and provide a positive way for people of different faiths to come together and demonstrate coexistence through building a home for a family in need.

Where:

The project will take place on one of the four homes on Habitat Silicon Valley's upcoming development in Cupertino on Cleo Avenue.

When:

The Cupertino development is scheduled to break ground in January or February of 2011, and the House of Faith will likely begin needing volunteers on site beginning in the early spring of that year.

How:

All participating faith groups would together be tasked with raising a portion of the funds and enlisting the assistance of their congregants who would like to come out to the site and volunteer their time to help in the building process.

Interested?

Contact Melinda Jennings at (408) 225-0528.

To learn more about the House of Faith project, or to find out how your group can get involved, please contact Andrew Condon, Faith Relations Coordinator, at (408) 942-6444 x 312 or [acondon@hfshsv.org](mailto:acondon@hfshsv.org).

## Signs of a Healthy Parish

**This has been making the rounds of parish newsletters for years. How does ECA measure up...?**

- People are constantly expressing disagreement, and they do it right out in the open.
- The Rector is always behind in his work.
- The Vestry can never seem to make ends meet financially, and they are forever giving money away.
- New groups keep cropping up, bumping into each other over schedules, and competing over volunteers.
- A number of people miss meetings and insist on spending time with their families.
- The choir is filled with a lot of amateurs.
- The carpet and furniture is frayed from use.
- The kids are noisy and all over the place, including the worship service.
- The Prayer Books are wearing out, the coffee hour is crowded and confusing, the front door is almost off its hinges, the electric bill is way over budget, and it seems that an awful lot of people have keys and all kinds of groups are coming and going.
- The place is full of losers: People who have lost their loved ones; people who know they cannot make it on their own.
- But the place is also full of finders: those finding the keys of God's kingdom; those finding their lives in giving of self for the Lord's sake.

What would you add?

# Episcopalians Respond to San Bruno Fire

By Sean T. McConnell, September 10, 2010

[Note: This report was written the day after the explosion and fire.]

Upon hearing of the disaster, Episcopalians in the Diocese of California quickly mobilized to help out. The Rev. Karen Swanson, until recently vicar of Saint Andrew's, San Bruno, joined the Rev. Chip Barker Larimore, rector of Saint Peter's, Redwood City, at a Red Cross relief center one block from Saint Andrew's. Swanson was unable to determine if any members of Saint Andrew's Church or Preschool were affected by the fire, but said she would resume her attempts to recognize those in need.

Barker Larimore reports that a parishioner lived in the fire zone, and determined that the parishioner was visiting with family in Santa Rosa. The parishioner also had family members who lived in the area and reported that they were in Half Moon Bay at the time of the explosion. As of the day after the explosion, no other Episcopalians had been identified as living in the area, but many from area churches are reporting that they had friends and loved ones who live in the affected neighborhoods.

Around 7:00pm, Bishop Marc Andrus was alerted of the explosion and fire, and he quickly contacted hospital chaplains and clergy in the area, mobilizing them for chaplaincy work at area hospitals. Chaplains were deployed to Seton Medical Center, Daly City; Kaiser Hospital in South San Francisco; the burn unit at Saint Francis in San Francisco; and Sojourn Chaplaincy prepared for injured to arrive at San Francisco General Hospital. Grace Cathedral clergy, the Rev. Mark Stanger and the Rev. Will Scott, went to Saint Francis, located five blocks from the cathedral.

The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe immediately contacted clergy and lay leaders at Episcopal churches in the surrounding area. "The great work we've been doing in Area Ministry," Barlowe said, "in building cooperation and collaboration, worked for us, and because of bonds built in that work we were quickly able to help each other and our community."

Saint Andrew's Bishop's Committee Warden Carol Driscoll, and Barlowe have been in e-mail contact and both agree that the best plan is to cooperate with plans authorities have put together and to continue to update the diocese as needs arise.

SF Gate has posted a resource on how to find information or direct assistance. The link has information about area blood centers, and Swanson says that from what she has determined, donating blood is one of the best ways to provide immediate assistance.

Andrus wrote a prayer that was posted on the diocesan website during the peak of the inferno. Here is the prayer:

"As fires rage through San Bruno we pray for all those in harm's way -- for residents and firefighters -- keep them safe good Lord. For those who have been injured, we pray for comfort and healing and for the EMTs, nurses and physicians who care for them. For the displaced, may they have shelter and the comfort of your Holy Spirit. And for those who have died, may they be held in your bosom, loving God. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen."

-- Sean T. McConnell is communications officer for the Diocese of California.

# Musical Soirée

Members of the Joint Venture Parishes joined together for an evening of food and fun on September 24 in our Fellowship Hall. Music included show-tunes from years past. Our parishes were pleased to welcome back “Maestro” John Leslie, our former music director, who now resides in Massachusetts. A big JV Thank You to John and everyone who helped make this such a special occasion.



# Oktoberfest 2010

**T**he first Oktoberfest, 200 years ago, celebrated the wedding of King Ludwig and Queen Therese in Munich, Germany. Join us on Saturday, October 16, to celebrate Oktoberfest at ECA, starting with German music and appetizers at 6:00 pm. Our dinner will include barbequed German sausages, side dishes with a German theme, homemade pretzels, dark breads and a delicious dessert.

Bring your beer stein and favorite beer, German or otherwise, to drink or trade! Great way to sample new beer! If you prefer another beverage, please bring it. We will provide cold apple cider, coffee, tea and water. We will enjoy an evening of laughter, fellowship, and great food. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, \$12.50 a person.

*Mike and Marianne Schmidt*  
(408) 323-8025



## Book Group

**T**he JV Book group will meet again in November at the home of Jackie Whitlock. The book is "Big Alma" by Bernice Scharlach so be sure to pick up your copy soon. More details will be in the November Shape. Contact Jackie for more information.

## Bunco

**M**eets the last Tuesday of the month, Nov 30th. There is a sign-up on the ECA bulletin board with details. Sign ups are necessary in order to get the correct number of tables.

## Old Eyeglasses

**T**here is a basket for glasses in the hallway outside the music / Christian education office. Please use this basket to donate your old eye glasses to charity.

# October Stewardship Opportunities

There is a feeling of excitement at ECA as we move toward the close of a year focused on defining our vision for the future of the parish and calling a new Rector. Under the outstanding leadership of Nancy Romer and the Search Committee, our Parish Profile has been developed and shared with the National Church community, attracting a great deal of interest among potential candidates for becoming our new Rector. Their tireless, spirit-filled efforts to attract and evaluate candidates have resulted in an outstanding list of final candidates for selection by the Vestry. In addition, that Profile will be the roadmap for our new Rector and the 2011 Vestry as they embark on leading the congregation to realize our vision.

We have a lot to celebrate as we move into our 2011 stewardship campaign. The Vestry, with the help of other dedicated parishioners, has been working on defining the care, attention, and financial resources required so that we can realize the vision presented in the Profile. As a community, we moved forward with great generosity in a mid-year finance drive to resolve the financial deficit for 2010. This will give our new Rector a great basis for moving forward with us next year. The hard work of our parishioners and our CCAVUCC partners has allowed us to deal with our JV financial and legal problems which should soon be finally resolved. ECA has been blessed to have Fr. Frank with us as Interim Minister, and everyone has pitched in with time,

## Office Hours

The Church Office Manager will normally be working Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 am-4 pm, and Wednesdays 9 am-5 pm. If you need access to the church please call (408) 268-0232 or email [office@jointventurechurches.org](mailto:office@jointventurechurches.org) in advance to confirm that the office will be open.

talent, love, humor and energy to keep the parish moving forward during this interim period. Fr. Frank plans to be leaving us at the end of October. We will have one more period this year requiring extra effort by members of the congregation to cover the many things that he has been providing for us over the past year. Please be prepared to respond to requests for help as we await the arrival of the new Rector.

We will be having a kick-off for our 2011 stewardship campaign on the evening of October 16. This Oktoberfest celebration will include dinner, fellowship, and speakers addressing where we've been and where we plan to go with the ECA community. Details about this event are elsewhere in this SHAPE. Call Mike and Marianne Schmidt when they ask for volunteers to help with this activity.

*Stewardship and Finance Committee*

## Kitchen Updates

Food, serving, dishes, etc. - anything left in the kitchen or Fellowship Hall that is not marked will be used by someone, thrown out or given away. The refrigerator needs to be kept free of old food so that it could be used for events without having to clean it out every time. And, the counters and tables need to be free of "stuff" so they can be used without having to clean them up every time. Thank you!!

*Amy Griffith*

# Financial Status

*For the period ending August 2010*

Our “Prepare the Way” financial appeal has successfully swelled our coffers, but only temporarily. We have received just under \$34,000 in one-time donations, which will go a long way to alleviate our budget deficit and pay for our Rector Search costs. Our Savings account looks very full at the moment. That money will be used by the end of the year, and our coffers will once again be light.

We have just recently drawn \$60,000 from our investment funds for the Rectory upgrade project, and that work will start on October 1st. Barring an unforeseen problems that are uncovered during the project, we hope to have everything completed by Thanksgiving. We will all pray that our contractor and workers might be safe in their work and do an excellent job worthy of their skills.

Our Stewardship Committee has been in high gear preparing for this year’s Stewardship drive. It is the time of year when we ask you to think about how you can support ECA in the coming year. This isn’t just about “writing a check”, but also how you can spend your time and talents to make ECA the best place to worship and celebrate with your church family. You’ll hear more about this in the coming weeks.

## *Financial Status Charts*

Please keep in mind that even though the charts show nice positive incomes and level expenses (YTD to budget), there are still significant expenses that have yet to be realized this year. Remember that our budget started the year with a \$17,000 deficit, and we anticipate up to \$24,000 in Search Committee and relocation expenses that are anticipated in the coming quarter.

*Doug Dunham*

August 30, 2010	Year to date	2010 Budget	Difference
Income	\$184,597	\$144,767	\$39,830 ( 128%) <b>Good</b>
Expenses	\$155,473	\$155,969	\$ 496 ( 0.3%) <b>Good</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$20,017</b>	<b>-\$ 11,202</b>	<b>\$ 8,815 ( 178%) Great</b>
	Checking	\$35,491	
	Savings	\$32,024	
	Investments	\$259,757	
	<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$327,273</b>	

## **Previous Month:**

July 31, 2010	Year to date	2010 Budget	Difference
Income	\$158,314	\$126,671	\$31,643 ( 125%) <b>Good</b>
Expenses	\$138,297	\$136,473	\$ -1,824 ( -1.3%) <b>Bad</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$20,017</b>	<b>-\$ 9,802</b>	<b>\$10,215 ( 204%) Great</b>
	Checking	\$23,380	
	Savings	\$32,024	
	Investments	\$264,160	
	<b>Assets</b>	<b>\$319,564</b>	