

February 2011

The Shape

Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden

Rector

Our senior warden writes in this month's Shape that I am getting my feet wet at ECA. I think it's more than my feet. Every day I finish the day awash in your stories, in questions and thoughts about who you all are and why you do what you do, I'm swimming in details about life in community here in this place. I'm learning a lot about you and ECA. Sometimes it's a little overwhelming, I'll admit. I tend to think and chew on it all in every waking moment, and sometimes in my sleep – those are the times when I forget and let it crash over my head. In those times, I remind myself and remember again to offer this work and all of you up in my prayers, to let the greater story of God's love wash over all of our smaller narratives of personalities and histories. It's something I have to do over and over again.

[Continued on page 3]

Service Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 am and 11:00 am
Sunday School at 10:10 am

THURSDAY SERVICE

7:30 am

Worship Schedule

Rector

The Reverend Katharine Flexer

Staff

Melanie Weiner

Youth & Christian Education

D. Asa Stern

Music Director & Organist

Bill LaVallee

Treasurer

Dennis Elliott

Administrative Assistant

Assisting in our Ministry

Doug Dunham

Senior Warden

Alex Dykes

Junior Warden (408) 839-2632

William Bond

Acolytes

Ana Spanjaart

Altar Guild

Margaret Alvey

Coffee Hour

Sharon Mills

Greeters

Betty Consorte

Worship

Jenny Hoyt

Lay Readers

Ann Avoux

Prayer Vine

Dave Byers

Ushers

Jon Mills

Senior High Youth Group

Bonnie McPherson

Junior High Youth Group

Todd Lukanc & George Romer

Stewardship

- Feb 3 - Feast of the Presentation (trans.)
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Feb 6 - 5 Epiphany
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist
- Feb 10 - Frances Crosby
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Feb 13 - 6 Epiphany
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday
- Feb 17 - Janani Luwum
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Feb 20 - 7 Epiphany
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Anointing
- Feb 24 - Saint Matthias
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Feb 27 - 8 Epiphany
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist

Looking ahead:

March 9th, Ash Wednesday

7AM & 7PM Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

In This Issue

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E-MAIL ADDRESS Theshape@eca-sj.org

Rector

[Continued from cover]

My daughter Frances began at her preschool in the midst of 'K' week. The classroom newsletter tells me that besides kites, kangaroos, and kaleidoscopes, she will be learning with her new friends about the 'Keys of Kindness' in all their interactions throughout the day. I'm curious to see if we notice a difference in her at home. Will she be kinder to all of us too? That's the larger lesson: taking what we learn in one context and applying it to all of our lives. We work on that lesson long past preschool, I think.

We know that what we read in the Bible isn't just for Sunday. What we hear and know about letting God's love and light shine through us isn't just for special occasions. In every interaction between us, we are called to love, to look out for each other's needs. Which means that in every event we plan, in every meeting, even in our disagreements, we are to reach out beyond ourselves and our own agendas and to live out that greater love of God: love for each other as individuals, for this community as a whole, and for the great world beyond us. Sometimes even in church we forget this. We don't always employ the keys of kindness as well as we could. But there's always the chance to begin again (and again, and again). If we choose, we can open up to mighty waters, water that the thirsty world needs to know is real and available. So let's get our feet wet – and our hands and our hearts as well.

†Kate



Communications

The following report was accidentally omitted from the January Annual Report.

2010 saw the total revamping of the ECA website, thanks to Hans Spanjaart. He spent many hours creating a website based on our parish profile for the rector search and then carried the format over to our parish website. For 2011 the plan is to continue to update and refresh the look and content of the site with input from Kate and other interested parishioners.

Midweek bulletin: Father Hegedus continued to keep the parishioners informed with the midweek bulletin and Andy Kerr took over that responsibility starting in November. This continues to be an effective form of communication.

Worship Assistants: Unless otherwise requested, each week the people assisting at Sunday services are notified via email. This has greatly cut down on the time and cost of mailing reminder postcards and letters.

Save The Date!

February 12th - Theatre Party, pg. 6

February 23 - Dinner Party, pg 11

March 6 - Women's Retreat, pg. 10

Senior Warden

And the good news is: There is Hope. The Giants won the World Series last season and have hope they can do it again this year. The 49ers recently jettisoned their coaching staff and hired Jim Harbaugh, the hottest available coach in the country. There's hope they can improve the team and make it to the playoffs next season. The Sharks, after losing six games in a row, have won two consecutive games. I was in the Shark Tank when they played against the St. Louis Blues and snapped their losing streak with a four goals to two win. (Pizza!) The crowd was crazy with hope and enthusiasm that we might be back on track to the playoffs.

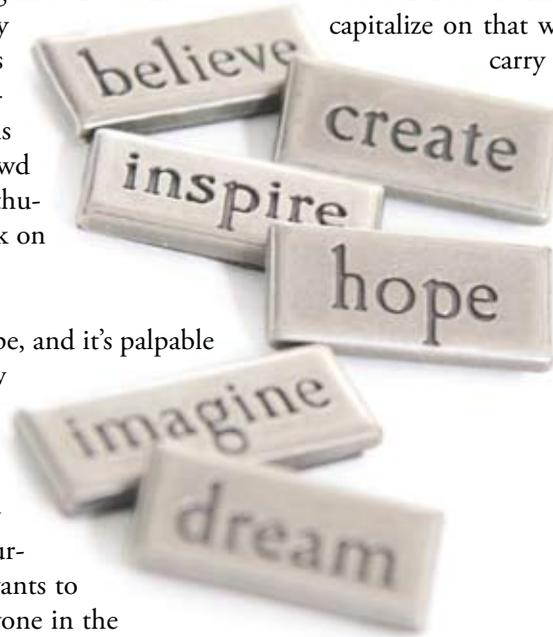
This is indeed a time of Hope, and it's palpable here at ECA. We have a few weeks under our belts with Kate as our rector. She's getting her feet wet and hearing everyone's hearty welcome, words of encouragement, and advice. She wants to meet and get to know everyone in the congregation. Take advantage of her "Tea with Kate" program. Wear your new name tag. Ask her to lunch, or coffee or tea, or just visit with her in her office or at your home. It's important that she know who each of us is, and what our expectations and hopes are. Kate took a big step coming here to be our rector in the hope that she would fit into

our ECA family and lead us on our continuing spiritual journey. It's up to all of us to help make that happen. We can continue to strive to make ECA be the place where others want to worship and be in fellowship with us, at the place where God stops for love and laughter.

We've scored a big win calling and accepting Kate to be our Rector. This is a time of Hope. Let's capitalize on that win and let the enthusiasm carry us forward.

Oh, I forgot the Raiders. Well, there's always hope, isn't there...

Doug Dunham
Senior Warden



From the Editor

I am constantly amazed by the things I learn in life. One of the true joys of “growing up” is learning how the world works. No matter how many times you are told X, Y or Z, the meanings are lost if you have not experienced enough “life” to make use of the advice. Of course, I have also discovered that sometimes the advice given to us as children doesn’t align with reality.

When I was in primary school I remember quite vividly dreading the many hours of compelled sports practice. You see, my father was Mr. Sports when he was a kid and it wasn’t that he encouraged his children to play sports, it was a no-questions-asked requirement. Of course as we grew older my brother and I came to the realisation that deliberate poor-performance would eventually shame our father (always the coach of everything) into giving up on us. The plan worked to perfection, and as a result of my resistance to conditioning I have a general dislike for organised sports of any description. While I learned the value of poor performance, one motivational phrase stuck with me: *keep your eye on the ball*.

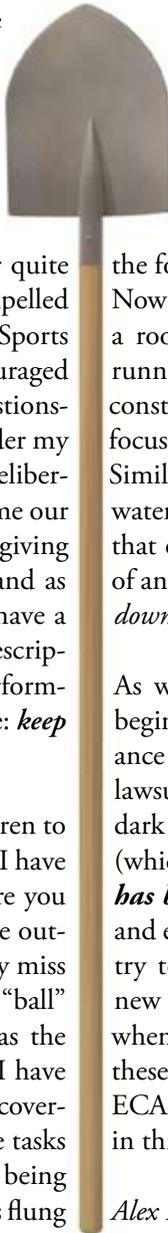
For some reason we all seem to tell our children to focus on goals, to “*keep their eye on the ball*”. I have to say that while I agree that knowing where you are going in life is handy, if you focus on the outcome more than the process you can actually miss out on quite a bit of life in-between. Our “ball” lately has been our new house. As much as the goal of having a finished home excites me, I have to say that as our process drags on I am discovering that I have found great joy in the simple tasks of construction. I know it sounds silly, but being outside in the forest picking up scrap shingles flung from our roof is refreshing for my soul. When we

started the process we were fixated on the goal and this caused us to be perhaps too hurried at times. We were so focused on completion we did not spend much time living.

Our hurried focus lead us to hurried decisions. We decided to not dig out our crawlspace as far as originally planned, we rushed the block laying for our foundation walls and we forgot to leave a hole in the foundation for the sewer lines to run through. Now of course we have a framed building with a roof and walls on-top of our foundation and running electrical wiring under the house brings constant reminders that perhaps we should have focused on the details rather than the end goal. Similarly we have yet to decide exactly how waste water will leave the building. Hopefully we’ll sort that out before we install the sink. It reminds me of another catchy phrase from my child hood: “*dig down to build up*”.

As we begin a new year here at ECA I see the beginnings of a joyous new era. Sunday attendance is up, we ended 2010 in the black, and the lawsuit/embezzlement drama that has hung like a dark cloud over JV is lifting now that the cheque (which represents full restitution plus interest) **has been deposited!** As we all get giddy with joy and excitement I can strongly recommend that we try to take a moment and concentrate on these new beginnings. It is so easy to forget foundations when building (just ask me), but I have faith that these “foundations” under construction now at ECA will support our strong community of faith in this new and exciting era.

Alex Dykes



Theatre Party

Tabard Theatre presents “See How They Run.” You will find “mystery, mayhem, and nonstop action in this rib-tickling London hit” set in an English vicarage of 1944. Theatre party set for Saturday, February 12th at the Fergusons and you’re invited. First, purchase your tickets on line by going to: www.tabardtheatre.org or you can also call Lynne, the box office manager, at (408) 679-2330. Tell her you are part of the Ferguson party. Next, plan to join the Fergusons at their home on the 12th at 5:30pm for a pre-show party! Please bring a hearty appetizer and beverage to share. At 7pm we will hop in our cars and head downtown to San Pedro Square and the Tabard Theatre for the 8pm show. Finally, please RSVP to Susie or Jerry by calling us at (408) 997-0107 and let us know you can make it!



Dinner Groups

It is time to set up new dinner groups for the Spring of 2011. Although some groups have not finished and other groups have continued getting together, I wanted to start finding out who is interested. Perhaps you weren't in a group last fall and so here is an opportunity to have some fun fellowship with friends at ECA and hopefully to meet new people. Groups will be formed early in March.

In the past we have had 3 types of groups and the groups are typically 8 people and meet once a month on average.

Adult Only Group – Meets at the home of a host/hostess responsible for the main dish and other members provide the side dishes.

Adult Restaurant Group – Meets at a restaurant chosen by a designated host

Family Group – Children are included in this group. Host may choose to have it in their home or meet at a restaurant.

If you are interested please let me know via email (maryke@sbcglobal.net) or call me at (408)-997-1761 and indicate which group you'd like to be in. Deadline is February 27.

Maryke Williams

Rectory Remodel

We would like to thank the Vestry for supporting our Rectory Remodelling Team through our entire process. With a budget of \$60,000 and a number of additional donations totalling some \$1,500 from ECA members we were able to finish the project on budget.

The kitchen in the rectory has been completely replaced, including all-new cabinets, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, recessed lighting, hardwood floors in the kitchen, eating area, family room, entry, and bedroom hallway. The bathrooms were remodelled and include tile floors, a tiled shower in the master bath, vanities with granite counters, upgraded lighting, mirrors, plumbing, and accessories. We have new exterior front and kitchen doors. All doors have new hinges, knobs, locks, and door stops. All surfaces have received at least one (if not two) coats of paint. New baseboards have been installed and the bedrooms and living/dining room have new carpeting. The family room fireplace was completely refaced and an energy-efficient gas insert was installed. All light switches and outlets throughout the house have been replaced with the child resistant versions. The blinds and drapes have been cleaned and re-installed. Even the garage has been thoroughly cleaned and painted with new lighting, irrigation controls, and electrical service. In the yard, there are new plants, any problem vegetation has been trimmed or removed, the entire outside of the house and all exterior hard surfaces have been pressure washed. If anything was questionable, we tried to fix it or replace it. As you can see from all that was done that we got a lot of bang for our buck.

The committee heading up the remodelling consisted of Jerry Ferguson, Susanne Moore, Mel Stonehocker and Terry Stonehocker. The contrac-

tor who was responsible for all of the major construction, the kitchen and bath remodelling, and all of the floor coverings, was Ami Molaie of The Floor Center who actually finished 30 days early.

The successful completion of this project would not have been possible without all the hard work and support from a huge number of people in our congregation. Help ranged from preparing the Rectory for the Contractor to start, to doing lots of painting, cleaning, planting, and repairing. Some people worked from part of a day to working for days on end, with Mel and Terry Stonehocker devoted full-time attention to the project. In addition, Susanne Moore and Mel Stonehocker sought the best deals on everything. We would like to thank those who gave us additional financial support for the little extras that we felt were important to do the job right. Hopefully, I won't miss anyone, but here are the names in alphabetical order of those who got involved and gave generously of their time and resources: Debbie Bishop, David Byers, Hank DeVoss, Doug Dunham, Alex Dykes, Jerry Ferguson, Susie Ferguson, Pat Fox, Ron Howie, Allan Jones, Gary Keck, Andy Kerr, Francie Kerr, Todd Lukanc, Ellen Lukanc, Greg Lukanc, Matt MacDonald, Alexa MacDonald, Pete Mayo, Suzanne Mayo, Tim Miller, Jon Mills, Sharon Mills, Arnold Moore, Susanne Moore, Ed Mueller, Sandie Mueller, George Romer, Nancy Romer, Terry Stonehocker, Mel Stonehocker, Anne Tysanner, Robin Williams, Maryke Williams, and Corey, our on-call painter. Thank you everyone!

We hope that Kate and her family will be very happy at ECA and in their new home.

*Jerry Ferguson, Chairman
Rectory Remodelling Committee*

Sudanese Youth

The ministry of the Sudanese Youth Opportunity is hosting a gathering at ECA on Sunday, February 27 at 3:00 pm. We will have a presentation on the recent elections in Southern Sudan, and an update on the students attending school in Kenya. Refreshments will be served. Everyone, especially those sponsoring students through SYO, is invited to attend. This ministry supports students from the Southern Sudan who are attending a boarding school in Kenya, coordinated by Peter Nyok. If you have questions, please contact Sandie Mueller at (408) 997-1642.

Sandie Mueller

YouTube, MeTube

Next to our monthly Shape — always superb in content and visage — and the weekly Midweek Bulletin — to the point and timely — ECA also presents itself on the internet. Any web browser being pointed to our web site at www.eca-sj.org opens a world of information to you, both fresh, new and current, as well as a providing a window to past events.

As an example of a window to the past, a video has been created of the Musical Soiree held last September, with guest entertainer John Leslie. Go the ECA's web site at www.eca-sj.org, look for the "News" page in the top menu, and then the "Media archive". Lot's of fun stuff can be found there, including the Musical Soiree video.

Brought to you by the ECA Team for On-Line Presence (ETOP):

*Hans Spanjaart
Mary McPherson
Sharon Mills*

**We're on
the Web!**

<http://www.eca-sj.org>



- **Worship Matrix**
- **Midweek Bulletin**
- **Sunday Bulletin**
- **Past Shape Issues**
- **Calendar**



Vestry Ministries

After a very productive vestry retreat on January 22nd the vestry is happy to list the new vestry ministry liaisons. While some many of these functions are carried out by various members of the parish not on the vestry, the vestry members are the point people should anyone have any suggestions, questions, concerns, etc.

Doug Dunham - Senior Warden

Alex Dykes - Junior Warden

Donna Miller - Pastoral care & Fellowship

Betty Consorte - Worship & Fellowship

Amy Griffith - Fellowship & Spiritual growth

Inge Bond - Communications

Jackie Whitlock - Outreach & Spiritual growth

Todd Lukanc - Stewardship

Wendy Martin - Youth

Bonnie McPherson - Fellowship & Youth

George Romer - Stewardship & Communications

Mike Schmidt - Pastoral Care

Virginia Jones - Vestry Clerk



Tea With The Rector

Kate would like to meet you! In order to get to know each one of us better Kate would like to drop by for tea, or coffee, or a soda or whatever. As an easy way of organizing this, a sign-up poster has been placed in the fellowship hall. Please take a look and sign up after Sunday services. You can choose a time to meet Kate—at the church, at your home, or wherever would be most convenient. If gathering a group for lunch or dinner is preferable, or if none of the listed times work for you, please contact Kate directly.

Fellowship

ECA has a commitment to ongoing fellowship activities. As always be sure to listen to announcements and read your mid-week bulletin for any changes or schedule updates.

Wednesday February 16th

The book group is meeting at the home of Amy Griffith on the 16th. We'll be discussing "In Defense of Food" by Mihcael Pollan. Be sure to invite a friend, everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith at (408) 268-0920

Wednesday February 23rd

ECA is having an "event dinner party". Don't know what that is? Sign up in the fellowship hall and find out! Hope to see you there!

March 8th, Shrove Tuesday

Save the date. Shrove Tuesday is March 8th this year and we're trying something new starting at 6pm.

Women's Retreat

ECA's second annual women's retreat will be held at the St. Francis Retreat and Renewal Center in San Juan Bautista on the weekend of March 4-6. We are blessed to announce that the retreat will be led by the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Ring and will be held the weekend of March 4-6 at St. The cost for the retreat weekend is \$170.00 per person for a double room and \$210 per person for a single. As an added bonus, Rev. Kate Flexer will be in attendance for part of the retreat. If you are interested in attending, contact Melinda Jennings at (408) 225-0528, or melinda1948@gmail.com.



Knitwits

The Knitwits will be continuing our regular meetings in February. Come join us on Saturday the 12th and Saturday the 26th from 10-12 at the church.

Can't knit? No problem! Come and learn or bring your other needlecraft. We have several members that crochet (but crochets didn't have the same ring to it). If you can't make it but are seeking a project to work on at home, we have an ongoing need for 10x10 inch knit or crochet squares.

Put us on your calendar! Our meetings are the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 10-12 at the church. The more the merrier! If you have any questions, contact Sharon Mills at (408) 316-4966 or sharonkmills50@gmail.com.

Stewardship

Currently, we have
\$ 1 9 9 , 3 9 0
pledged for

2011 from 64 members, leaving an approximate \$17,000 shortfall relative to our projected 2011 budgeted expenses (please refer to your annual report for 2010 for the budget). A few pledges have not yet been received. As in any household, we need to balance our budget and would rather not cut programs to do it. So, if you have not yet submitted your pledge, please mail it or bring it to Bill LaValle's mail box at church to help balance the ECA budget.



Our Endowment Fund balance at Comerica Securities at this writing is \$230,971.64. It was reduced by \$60,000 to pay for the Rectory remodel. Your Vestry is committed to paying back our loan to ourselves over a 10 year period at \$6,000 per year (budget line item).

Sharing the gifts and bounty God has given each one of us is both a joy and a privilege. Giving is part of our worship. May God continue to bless our church community, granting us his grace and peace as we continue in fellowship, sharing our gifts and talents with one another, praying together and learning from each other, loving one another and building up the community of Christ.

George Romer & Todd Lukanc

Birthdays

Alyce Gallego	2
Bailey Bishop	5
Pete Mayo	6
Ellen Lukanc	7
John McPherson	7
Ryan McPherson	7
Virginia Jones	14
Andy Kerr	15
Jeff Nollette	26
Monique Rousseau	16
Mary McPherson	18
Zachary Nollette	21
Taylor Mills	23
Mel Stonehocker	24
Valerie Tysanner	24
Elizabeth Garcia	26
Kimberly Axtell	27
Brooke Mills	27

Anniversaries

Jon & Sharon Mills	11
Tim & Donna Miller	19





Help
wanted

Sound Technician

Tired of hearing annoying noises from the sound system during service? Feel inclined to learn something new? We need a sound technician for the 11 AM service. The title sounds intimidating but we promise it is simple. Training is provided, but a little aptitude goes a long way. If you are interested in helping, please contact Doug Dunham at (408) 281-0468 or dpdunham@gmail.com.

Office Volunteer

Due to Dennis Elliot's reduced schedule we are in need of some volunteer office assistance. Don't worry — we don't need anyone to man the typewriter or Dictaphone. We just need someone (or someones) to be in the office on Friday mornings, to answer the phone and welcome visitors at the door. We need assistance from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you would like to help us out, please contact Kate at (408) 268-0243 or kflexer@eca-sj.org.