



The Shape

Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden

From the Rector

A few years ago I came across a children's book called *Applesauce Season*. In it, a family buys several pounds of apples at the farmer's market, brings them home, and shares together in the project of making – and then eating – applesauce. It is a whole family event, a cherished piece of fall ritual for the boy narrating the story. The book ends with that boy grown up, taking his daughter to the farmer's market to buy apples for their own applesauce.

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Service Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 am

11:00 am

THURSDAY SERVICE

7:30 am

Rector

The Reverend Katharine Flexer

(408) 364-6524

Staff

Susie Ferguson

Youth & Christian Education

Kristal Kim

Music Director & Organist

Bill LaVallee

Treasurer

Dennis Elliott

Administrative Assistant

Assisting in our Ministry

Doug Dunham

Senior Warden (408) 398-7911

Alex Dykes

Junior Warden (408) 839-2632

William Bond & Inge Bond

Acolytes

Anna Spanjaart

Altar Guild

Kathy Mastre

Coffee Hour

Sharon Mills

Greeters

Betty Consorte

Worship

Jenny Hoyt

Lay Readers

Ann Avoux

Prayer Vine

Dave Byers

Ushers

Bonnie McPherson

Junior High Youth Group

Inge Bond

Senior High Youth Group

Todd Lukanc & George Romer

Stewardship

Worship Schedule

- Oct 2** Proper 22
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist
1:30 PM Blessing of the Animals
- Oct 6** William Tyndale
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Oct 9** Proper 23 (Stewardship Kick-off Sunday)
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist (Folk Sunday)
- Oct 13** Samuel Schereschewsky, trans.
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Prayer
- Oct 16** Proper 24
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist (Healing Sunday)
- Oct 20** St. Luke, trans.
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Oct 23** Proper 25
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist
- Oct 27** St Simon & St Jude, trans.
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Oct 30** Proper 26
7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist
(Stewardship in-gathering, both services)

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E-MAIL ADDRESS Theshape@eca-sj.org

Rector

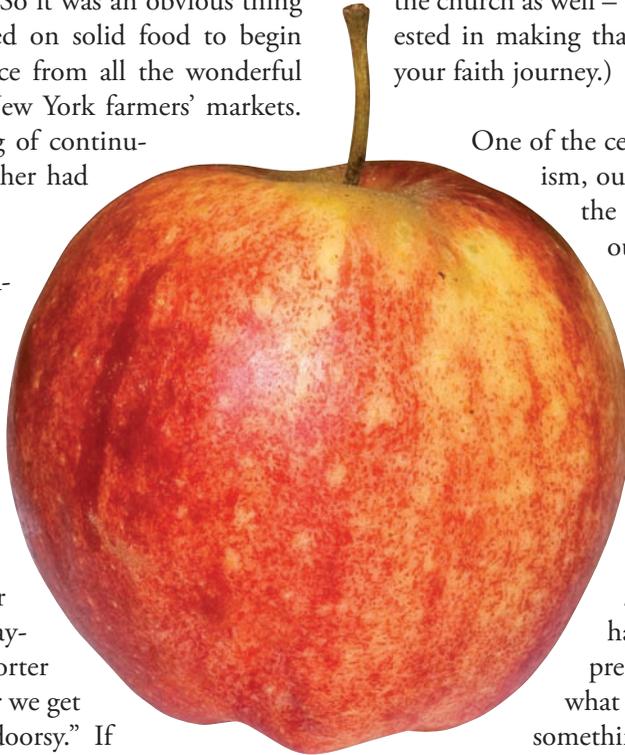
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Frances enjoyed it when we had it home from the library, but I think I was the more entranced. My mother always makes her own applesauce from the apples that fell off our tree. It's a perfect way to use all the less-perfect apples, and since our tree offers up three varieties from three grafts, you can make tasty applesauce quite easily. Even as a kid I could never understand why other families I knew ate store-bought applesauce from a jar – there are few things so easy to make that taste so much better than store-bought. So it was an obvious thing when our babies started on solid food to begin making them applesauce from all the wonderful varieties of apples at New York farmers' markets. And I loved the feeling of continuing something my mother had done for us.

Fall is a time when traditions come back into play for many of us. Maybe it's the approach of the holidays, when traditions are rampant; maybe it's the return to school and routine that reminds us all of our childhood days. Or maybe as the days grow shorter and the air grows cooler we get more domestic and "indoorsy." If spring is about fresh thinking and new things, fall is time for tradition and memories of the past. It's time to remember our blessings of old and to see where they can be used today.

So it's a fine time to offer Episcopal 101, an Adult Education series on the basics of the Episcopal tra-

dition. Armed with a long list of questions from you, I'm teaching a lot about our tradition – where we came from, what we center ourselves on, how we structure ourselves and our worship together. This year I will also be offering confirmation classes for youth, to ground them more intentionally in our tradition as they move toward making an adult decision for themselves about the faith. (This adult education series would make a good starter kit for adults considering confirmation or reception into the church as well – talk to me if you're interested in making that kind of affirmation in your faith journey.)



One of the central tenets of Anglicanism, our tradition, is the idea of the 'three-legged stool.' In our common life together, we balance ourselves on three 'legs': scripture, reason, and tradition. If we rely too heavily on any one of those to the exclusion of the others, we get unbalanced. We don't do something just *because the Bible tells us to* – we have to study and interpret the text to understand what it is saying. We don't do something just *because we think it's right* – we need to listen to the wisdom of others. We don't do something just *because we've always done it that way* – we open our ears to what fresh ideas the Spirit might be offering. If

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Rector

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we listen to what scripture tells us, consider it in the context of our tradition's interpretation, and probe it with our own reason and experience, we are more likely to be on the path God wants for us. Tradition is important – and so are scripture, and our own experience of God.

Part of what I loved about *Applesauce Season* was that it tied my life in New York with my childhood in the Pacific Northwest. The family in the book was doing what I remembered my mother doing, but they were clearly urban, walking to a farmers' market in the midst of high-rise buildings. I went regularly to the weekly market around the corner from us as well – I loved how it brought farmers from the surrounding countryside in to sell their produce and interact with city people. Traditions from the land – picking apples in season and finding a way to preserve them for use later in the year – become traditions of the city. An old tradition in a new context.

That's what we're doing with our blessings and traditions at ECA: picking them and making them into something new together, something we can share with each other. Even better, we're making them into something we can share with the community around us. That's good stewardship of our gifts, making them useful for others as well as ourselves. Such a rich feast we can make and share and enjoy! Pass the cinnamon, please.

Kate Flexer

Pastoral Care

As you have probably noticed, we have coordinators for each of the key ministries under Pastoral Care. And each of those coordinators has a lengthy list of volunteers whom they can call upon when there is a need. But actually, save for a couple of instances, there has not been much need. Most likely that is a very good thing. It is an indication that we're all healthy and not in need of help. If the need should arise in the future for meals, a ride, a small repair, etc., please don't hesitate to contact the appropriate person, or Kate or myself, whether it's for yourself or someone else you're aware of.

Allan Jones has reported that he's had several people contact him lately for small repair or maintenance needs. In one case the grateful recipient wrote out a check to ECA! We decided to use that gift to create a special fund. In the future, if necessary, money from that fund can be used to purchase materials for needed repairs. If you'd like to donate money to that fund ("Pay it Forward"), designate on the check that it go to the Small Repair Fund.

Wendy Martin is a Notary Public, and she would like to offer her services, free of charge, to ECA parishioners, knowing that it's sometimes difficult to arrange to have something notarized. She would need a little advance notice, but you may call her at home (408) 997-1313 to request this service.

Mike Schmidt

Senior Warden's Corner

This past month, I embarked on a project to replace the 29-year-old metal garden shed in my backyard. This was precipitated by the removal of the stand of bamboo that was taking over the corner of the yard. To get all the bamboo pulled out, I had to unbolt the shed and move it out of the way. It crumbled in the move, and became a memory.

I did a little research on kit sheds, and after reading much about them, decided to build one from scratch. (Some of my close friends say this decision is just a thinly veiled excuse to acquire new tools. Well, maybe...) So I've drawn up plans for "my" shed, dug out and framed a foundation, poured concrete, laid a floor, framed walls, and put roof rafters in place.

It's been a month now, and I've got a structure of sticks. I can't believe all the work it's taken so far, the things I've learned, the friends that have helped and given me guidance, and the immense sense of satisfaction seeing this creation actually taking shape.

So how does my shed project relate to our lives here at ECA? What does replacing an old crumbling shed with something big and new have to do with Stewardship at ECA? Lots... Would I encourage everyone to consider working on a "shed project" of your own? Sort of... Does this have anything to do with "church"? Yes it does.

As we move into our Stewardship season this year, it's a good time to stop and reflect on those things in our spiritual and parish lives that are working

well, what might need a face lift or replacement, and what new things might we undertake to make the journey with our Lord more spiritual and fulfilling. How can each of us participate in our little piece of the Body of Christ to make ECA, and the community that surrounds us, a better place to be?



A few years ago when we were preparing our search for a new rector, we did design work for a "shed project" of sorts for ECA. We took stock of ourselves, identifying who we are, what we'd like to see changed, and where we'd like to be in the future. The vision we created is still valid and intact, and we've started to build from it. Our worship has been enhanced with leadership from Kate, we have new music leadership with Krystal, and Susie Ferguson is just starting as our new Christian Education Di-

rector. These people create a great foundation for our vision.

I would encourage you to review our Vision for 2015. You can find it on page 5 in the 2010 Annual Report. If you've misplaced your copy, see a vestry member for a fresh copy. Use that vision as a guide as you discern how you want to help here at ECA. With everyone involved in our "shed project", we'll create a structure that will make our church family and our community a place we can all treasure and be proud of.

Doug Dunham

Tabard Theatre

Another theater opportunity: Tabard Theatre presents “Bandstand Beat.” Join Susie & Jerry Ferguson and Carol MacDonald & Woody Woodworth on Sunday, October 9th for this matinee performance at 2 PM. This lively musical dance party takes place in 1965 and will feature 50’s and early 60’s music. You can purchase your tickets through their box office manager, Marilyn, at (408) 679-2330. Tell her you are part of the Ferguson party for special seating. After the performance, we will try a favorite of Carol and Woody’s, High Five Pizza at Branham and Snell. For more details check out www.tabardtheatre.org or give Susie a call at (408) 499-6381.

From the Editor

Let me say now that I apologise for any printing blunders herein. I started putting this month’s shape together while winging my way to Florida for work, intending to complete the Shape in my “spare time”. A three day trip turned into a two-week ordeal. Needless to say, I am far from “on schedule with anything this month. I also think the tight quarters on this aircraft may have had some effect on my sanity.

I seem to travel often for work, and I’d have to say that air travel leaves me wondering a few things, such as: Why is it that Club Soda is the solution to everything in the air? Upset stomachs, headaches, red wine spills, etc. I’m sure that if the wing were to catch on fire there is a Club Soda system in there somewhere to take care of it.

Why is it that everything you get to eat in the plane (when in the rare instance that they serve food) has grill marks on it, as if we actually believe there’s a cook and an open flame grill up front.

And lastly, as Ellen Degeneres said “Why are they so insistent that you put seat upright? It’s not as if the one inch of mobility makes that much difference. Because if we crash, I’m sure that investigators will be saying: What was that, 30,000 feet? Sigh... She could have made that, had only her seat been upright...”

Put your seats and tray tables in the full, upright, and locked position ladies and gentlemen, 2012 is about to land.

Alex Dykes

**We're on
the Web!**

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



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

Christian Education

Know it in your head, stow it in your heart, show it in your life and sow it in the world.

My first Christian Education article for the Shape and Kalos in oh, so many years... if you only knew how excited I am to be writing this!! Ask my husband, Jerry, and he can tell you. After much prayer and discernment asking, “Lord, what is your plan for me now? How do you want me to serve you and your people?” He answered, I listened, and with the Holy Spirit’s guidance I have a new church key on my key ring.

For those of you who don’t know me well, I hope you will in the time the Lord wants me to serve Him and you in this ministry. For those of you who do know me well, I hope you can be as excited as I am with what the Lord may have in store for all of us at the Joint Venture Churches. Yes, even you, with no kids for our Sunday School or Youth Groups. I am a firm believer that the Lord has given each of us very special gifts and talents to be used for His service, and when we use them as He designed and desires we are nourished, energized, and blessed far beyond our own expectations.

Personally, I have a deep hunger to learn and grow closer to Christ through the study of His Word. As a teacher by education and practice I know that to instill hunger for learning and ultimate growth and understanding, we need to take away the road blocks and open up all the pathways to how individuals learn and grow. Sometimes those pathways are “out of the box.” But there is always a way to reach each person, no matter the age or circumstance, and bring them into a greater faith understanding. It does take persistence, lots of prayer, and sometimes many trials

and errors.

I look forward with hope and excitement to what lies ahead for our parishes. I hope you will pray with me that the Lord will open our hearts and minds to discern His way for our Joint Venture Churches in Almaden, especially in our Christian Education and Youth Ministry. Pray for boldness and courage to follow His lead as we reach out to invite, welcome, nurture, instruct, and integrate new families into our midst. Please, pray for discernment of how you might support our Christian Education ministry. And, I ask for your prayers for me, too, that I will not lose sight of His amazing spirit that fills my soul and being and energizes me for the big task ahead.

Susie Ferguson



Stewardship

Intensive planning has begun for our collective in-gathering to enable the work of Christ in the coming year in this place called The Episcopal Church in Almaden. What we are doing is to enable Pay(ing) It Forward with Our Time, Talent, & Treasure for our community and that surrounding us. Keep the following dates in mind:

- Oktoberfest sign-ups start – September 18
- Stewardship-focused sermon – October 9
- Witnessing the Pay-It-Forward experiences in our lives – October 16, 23 & 30
- Oktoberfest dinner & pledge drive kick-off – October 15
- In-gathering (bring your gifts (pledges) to church) of what we give back to God and his work – October 30

So, the 2000 movie, *Pay It Forward*, was an “epiphany” or “ah-ha” moment for a lot of people. Christians should not have been so challenged by it. But, I recall, “the buzz” at the time was that this was a somewhat revolutionary idea. Perhaps it was a re-awakening of an old concept. Nevertheless, we are no strangers to epiphanies or renewals, revivals, or being “born again.”

During this month, pray a bit—sit alone in a quiet place and meditate, listen, let your mind idle from “the dailies,” and hear the Lord speaking—and dare to dream up how you, individually and corporately (joining with others to amass your power), can Pay It Forward. Try this as you contemplate your pledges.

George Romer

Anniversaries

Gary & Jean Cassetta	4
Alex Dykes & Rob McClaine	11
Dom and Betty Consorte	30

Birthdays

Mark Ciccarello	2
Daniel Beacher	3
Roland Darnell	4
Jim Hinch	8
Linda Nollette	8
Ron Howie	10
Bonnie McPherson	13
Susana Machado	14
Carol MacDonald	15
Judy Blankenheim	16
Jennifer Taylor	17
Bill Hird	18
Benjamin Hinch	22
Jan English Lueck	28
Josephine Tshibola	28
Earl Griffith	29



Youth Group

We had the first meeting of the Fall JHYGS/SHYGS Youth group meetings on Sunday, Sept 11th—and this meeting was for both youths and their parents. During this meeting, we discussed this year's calendar and some of the service ideas we are working on—leading up to a MISSION TRIP at the end of the year in June! All regular meetings will be Sunday afternoons (every other week, see calendar) from 1-3pm, with lunch served, a fun activity, and then breakout between the groups for whatever discussion subject we will be having. All youths that attend Jr. High (6th grade and up) or High School are eligible for the groups, and we encourage them to bring friends. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Jan 8th- Stump the pastor & rector
Jan 22nd- Cheating and lying
Feb 4-5th- SKI Trip
Feb 21st- Shrove Tuesday dinner 4pm-9pm
Feb 26th- Homelessness/ prep for service project
Mar 11th- Local Service Project
Mar 25th- Fun activity
Apr 22nd- Sex/STDs
May 6th- Gay/Lesbian community speaker
May 20th- Summer/Mission Trip planning
June 3rd- End of Season Activity
Possible mission trip to be scheduled.

JHYGS and SHYGS Calendar

Oct 9th- Faith in the modern world
Oct 23rd- Inclusiveness
Nov 6th- Drugs and alcohol
Nov 12-13th- Fall Youth Event
Nov 20th-Thanksgiving pie shell making
Nov 23rd- Pie making/selling
Nov 25th- Help with turkey drive
Dec 11th- Service Activity
Dec 18th- Bake sale
Dec 27th- Movie Night/Games 4pm to midnight

Gifts of Gratitude

Alex Dykes and Rob McClaine for all of their work in organizing the recent Wine and Swine Dinner, a great event (Alex's costume also merited special mention). And also for their efforts in securing office equipment (tables, chairs, book cases, file cabinets) in the church office area and conference room.

Dave Byers and crew for the fantastic summer BBQs!

Bonnie McPherson for all her effort and time spent devising and overseeing youth meetings and activities.

Kristal Kim for new music!!!

Ann Mayers for her work in reorganizing the rec-tor's office files.

Mike Hertzner for his help with the Wine and Swine Dinner.



Oktoberfest

It's time again to sign up and make plans to attend this year's Oktoberfest Dinner. Come and enjoy the good fellowship and great German food!

What

ECA's favorite fall fellowship opportunity, and kick-off for this year's stewardship campaign.

Where

Fellowship Hall

When

Saturday, October 15, at 6 PM

Cost

\$15 per person (but please contact Kate if the cost is a concern; we want you to attend!)

Menu

Soft Pretzels and Cheese, Barbecued Brats, Cabbage and Apples, German Potato Salad, Bierocks (not telling you what they are; but they're delicious!) and great desserts.

Bring your own favorite German beer, wine, or beverages of choice (Apple cider and coffee will be served). ***Childcare will be available.***

Sign up in the fellowship hall or by contacting Mike Schmidt (408) 323-8025 or email mschmidt1109@gmail.com. Please be sure to sign up by October 11.

Finding God and Our ECA Family

My religious upbringing seems quite similar to many others at ECA, following my parents to Catholic mass every Sunday. That was till they learned of Saturday evening mass that was always less than 50 minutes and “we could get it over with quick.” I never thought much about GOD, it was more of the Catholic guilt attendance. I met GOD my junior year in high school, when I learned that a good GPA was needed to enable a chance to get into college. My grades in German class reflected just how little I had learned so far that semester, but the teacher gave me one last chance: he would set the class grade to what I got on the final. I found myself thinking about GOD the day before the final and somehow ended up talking and listening to him for the whole afternoon. I didn’t understand why, but I felt very comfortable afterwards and somehow confident that things would be OK. I read my notes and got a good night sleep. The next day, I was the first in the class to finish the final and the teacher graded it on the spot. He was surprised to only find 5 errors out of 100 questions and my confidence and college life was off to a good start.

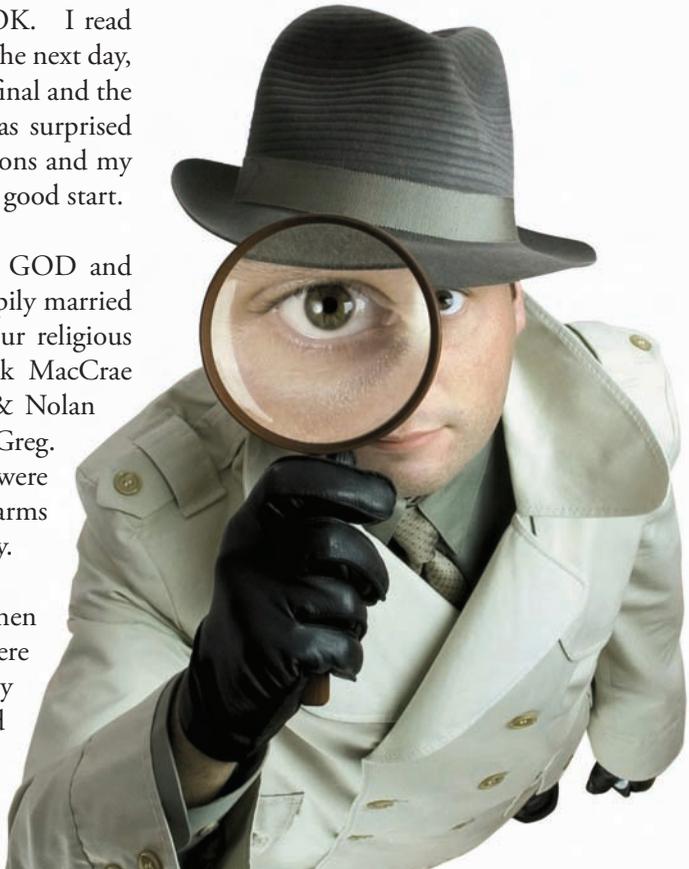
After many more conversations with GOD and experiences in life, I found myself happily married to Ellen and we were shopping for our religious connection. Through my boss, Nick MacCrae (formerly from ECA), we met Ann & Nolan and a great church to baptize our son Greg. Though we had no local family, we were immediately welcomed with open arms into ECA’s loving, caring church family.

Our ECA family has lifted us up when we were down, helped us when we were overloaded, laughed with us at happy times, and allowed us to give back and help others in need as well. This fam-

ily support was never felt more than when our daughter passed away. The love and support from many “ECA’ers” showing up at just the right times helped us survive that very rough time.

It has been and will continue to be a pleasure to give to our ECA family wherever we can and provide as much support to others as we have felt in times of need or sharing joy. We have enjoyed living the many ECA family chapters for the past 24 years and look forward to experiencing many more fun, supportive, giving chapters as our lives continue to evolve with this great family.

Todd Lukanc





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The Shape

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