

February 2012



The Shape

Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden

From the Rector

How quickly a year goes by these days. I try to remember how slowly time goes for a child – for Frances last week feels like a century ago and next Christmas is an eternity away. But for me, I turn around and... it's our one-year anniversary. I began with you all in this chapter of your community life in January of 2011, and here we are a year later. Which means that we've done everything once – from now on, it will all be old hat. Right?

Well, not exactly, of course. The church calendar wiggles around enough to keep things interesting. It takes three years to repeat the same readings on

[Continued on page 3]

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

Bobbi Finley

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

Feb 2 - Feast of the Presentation

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

Feb 5 - 5 Epiphany

7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist

Feb 9 - Cornelius the Centurion (trans.)

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

Feb 12 - 6 Epiphany

7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday

Feb 16 - NO SERVICES due to church fumigation

Feb 19 - 7 Epiphany

7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Anointing

Feb 22 - Ash Wednesday

7:30 AM & 7:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Feb 23 - Polycarp

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

Feb 26 - 1 Lent

7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist

Lenten Adult Education Series

Stay tuned for details of a Lenten series: plans are being made for a weekly soup supper and class throughout Lent, beginning the week of February 26. We will be using materials created by the diocese which echo the themes of the diocesan mission and values:

Lent I – week of February 26: Innovation/Creativity

Lent II – week of March 4: Integrity

Lent III – week of March 11: Reconciliation

Lent IV – week of March 18: Passion

Lent V – week of March 25: Christ-centeredness

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E-MAIL ADDRESS Theshape@eca-sj.org

From the Rector

[Continued from cover]

a Sunday; Lent starts at different times so sometimes we get lots of time in Epiphany, sometimes just a little, and sometimes just enough, like this year. Life changes as well: this year we're trying out scheduling the annual meeting later in an attempt to have our budget and other ducks more in a row, which means the new vestry won't begin till February. We're closing the church for most of a week in mid-February while we fumigate for termites (ugh). We've been invited by the diocese to send a team for community organizing training, pursuing ways to serve our neighborhood better. And that's all just what's happening in the next few weeks.

Our bishop has chosen the theme 'Walking the Way' for this year, a reference to pilgrimage and the journey of faith. The Lenten series from the diocese will reflect this, and we'll be working with these themes ourselves at ECA. Pilgrimage is an ancient metaphor in the Christian faith – the early followers of Jesus called themselves 'people of the Way,' and throughout the Middle Ages pilgrimage to Jerusalem and other holy places was a major part of people's piety and spirituality. We too are walking the way as we live out what God is up to in our lives and our community together. But of course 'the way' is not just a well-trodden path... the same old-same old time and time again. When we travel we experience new things and new places, unexpected meetings and chance encounters with people and ideas and cultures. We don't call it travelling when we walk a treadmill, getting nowhere. Pilgrimage means voyaging into the new and unknown, even when we take familiar companions and items with us for comfort.

Over the years as I've grown more adept in the wilderness I've sought out more and more routes that take me off the main paths. The Sierra are full

of 'cross-country' routes, sketched out in hiking books, partially worn into the landscape, marked here and there with cairns of rocks – but mostly requiring the hiker to read the land and understand a topographical map, stepping carefully to avoid obstacles and bogs along the way. It's a more effortful and time-consuming way to hike, but it takes you into country you wouldn't otherwise see – and usually into plenty of solitude as well. There's a place for speed and covering many miles in a day as you can on a well-maintained trail; but there's also a place for exploring and seeing where you might end up.

I'm interested to see where we go from here. We've made a few changes intentionally to our life together; other changes will come whether we intend them or not. We might just slip into a groove together this year and make some real tracks toward the vision you all articulated during the search process. We might also do some off-roading, exploring some unknown territory that feels a little riskier but brings reward. We might even get lost a little and have to backtrack. But it's all part of walking the way – faithfully living out who God wants us to be here in the Almaden Valley. I'm glad we're done with the 'shake-down cruise' of the first year – now we can see what comes next.

Kate Flexer

JV Book Club

The JV Book Group is open to everyone. Please bring a guest and join us! We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the home of the person that has selected the book for the month. As with any such event, the number of people that attend varies every month. For more information, call Amy Griffith at (408) 268-0920.

February 15

We meet at the home of Kathryn Hussain to discuss “Dreams of Joy” by Lisa Lee.

March 21

We meet at either the home of Jackie Whitlock or Linda Farr, please look for details in the March edition of The Shape.

April 18

We meet at the home of Betty Benson to discuss “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” by Rebecca Skloot.



Beneficio Coffee

Purchases of Beneficio Coffee help to support the small farmers of Costa Rica and their families. Unlike most similar companies, the farmers are paid “up front” and 20% of net profits are given back to the farmers for capital improvements and community development. For more information, go to <http://www.itsmorethan-fairtrade.com/>

To place an order for Beneficio Coffee, please contact Phyllis Chai at (408) 226-7150 or hidong@pacbell.net. One 12oz bag is still selling for \$9.25 (Please make any checks out to “Phyllis Chai” when the order is received). Thank you for your support of “Beneficio” !

Phyllis Chai

Children's Christian Education

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

Our Epiphany Party is now a memory, but a great one. The support from both congregations was wonderful and the attendance (88) was certainly far greater than I ever expected or hoped for the renewal of this idea. It was a special way to end our Christmas season and so many people helped in a variety of ways to make it the success it was. (See Gifts of Gratitude.)

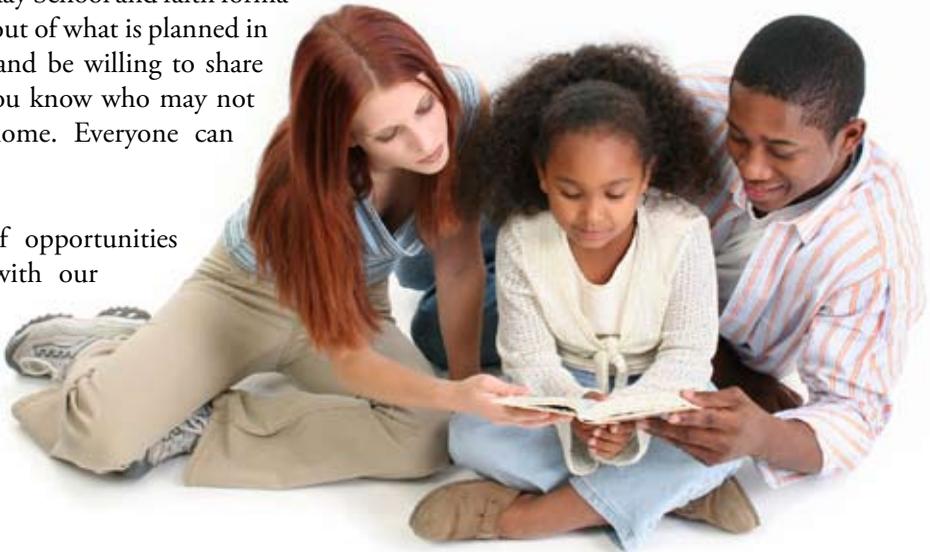
In January we transformed our Sunday School classroom in some very exciting ways as we began a new unit of study, Calling the Disciples. If you haven't stopped by our classroom please do, so you will know how exciting our program is becoming. Whether you have children or grandchildren in our program it is important for you to know firsthand what we are doing. Every one of us is in marketing. We must be ready for that moment when someone inquires of us what our churches offer for children in the way of Sunday School and faith formation. Take a handout of what is planned in the weeks ahead and be willing to share it with families you know who may not have a church home. Everyone can help us grow.

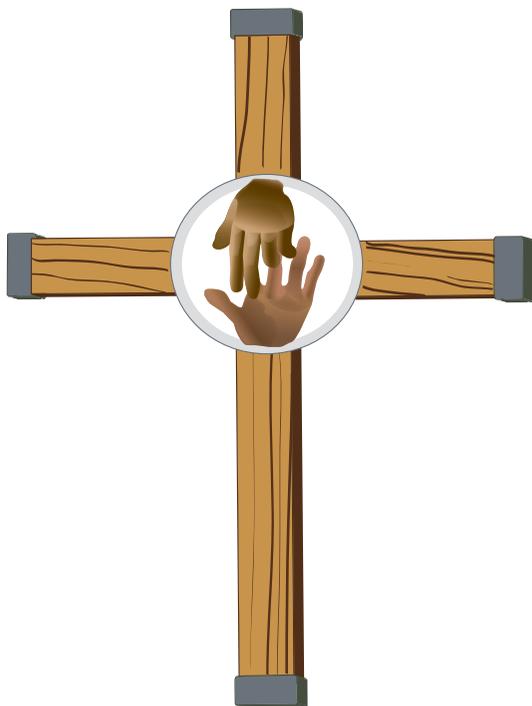
There are lots of opportunities to be involved with our Christian Edu-

cation and Youth Programs. Teaching is only one way. Shepherding is another way. This is someone who comes just to help the guest teacher, to be an extra set of hands. It is important for us to have 2 responsible people in our classroom at all times with our children. If you could help us in this way, please let me know.

We are also starting a "storytelling group" to share Bible stories through puppetry, drama, and dramatic readings. Could that be your forte? We always have things we need to cut, paste, design, and more if that might suit you. Give me a call and share your gifts and talents with us. You can be a blessing and be blessed by your involvement.

Susie Ferguson





Pastoral Care

A reminder that Wendy Martin has volunteered her notary public services to members of the congregation. She needs a little advance notice, and she has said that Sunday, after morning service, might be a convenient time.

If you or anyone you know is in need of assistance, please give one of our willing volunteers below a call!

Meals

Anne Tysanner
artysanner@yahoo.com
(408) 927-7140

Rides

Gayle Byers
dng_byers@sbcglobal.net
(408) 268-0448

Small Repairs

Allan Jones
adjones9966@yahoo.com
(408) 268-3322

Prayer Vine

Ann Avoux
mavoux@aol.com
(408)270-2406

Card Ministry

Margaret Halliwell
(408) 267-5229

Receptions

Marianne Schmidt
mschmidt8120@sbcglobal.net
(408) 323-8025

We're on the Web!

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



- Worship Matrix
- Bulletins
- Past Shape Issues
- Church Calendar
- Recorded Sermons
- Upcoming Events

Singing our Faith

I love to sing. From an early age, the songs of the various churches that I attended took root and grew in my heart and soul. Whether we were singing How Great Thou Art, This is my Father's World, or A Mighty Fortress is our God, the words and melodies have remained with me through the years. We've all experienced the catchy jingle or sappy song that plays itself over and over in our head, but how much more pleasant it is to have some graceful hymn to lighten my day.

January 29 will be the 5th Sunday of the month, and on this Sunday ECA will try something new – we will sing the creed. Now if you really think about this, the original words of the creed are not really sing-able. There is no meter or rhyme (at least in English) And the meaning of some of the phrasing can be a bit fuzzy. So we will be singing the words as they are translated by Sylvia G. Dunstan. Her translation is poetic and modern, and I think, makes the creed much more accessible. And here they are:

"I believe in God almighty, Author of all things that be, Maker of the earth and heavens, Keeper of the sky and sea.

I believe in God's Son, Jesus, now for us both Lord and Christ, of the Spirit and of Mary born to bring abundant life.

I believe that Jesus suffered, scourged and scorned and crucified; taken from the cross, was buried—true Life there had truly died.

I believe that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave, then ascended to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.

I believe in God's own Spirit, bonding all the saints within one church, catholic and holy, where forgiveness frees from sin; in the body's resurrection, for the breaking of death's chain gives the life that's everlasting. This is the faith that I have claimed."

We have sung work by Sylvia Dunstan before in the adult choir. One of her compositions, *Where the promise shines*, has been a favorite of ours since we were introduced to it a couple of years ago.

I am hopeful that this lovely rendition of the creed will work its way into your imagination, take root and give you wings.

Kimberly Axtell



Gifts of Gratitude

Doug Dunham, Donna Miller, Inge Bond, and Alex Dykes, who have completed their terms on Vestry. Thank you for your dedicated service.

Anne Tysanner, for arranging the new church picture board display in the hallway.

George Romer, for heading up a terrific Stewardship Campaign throughout the latter part of 2011, and to the congregation for their response.

Sandie Mueller, Pat Fox, Melinda Jennings, and Kimberly Axtell, for their involvement in the Lay Eucharist Ministry.

Todd and Kimberly Axtell, for their service in much of ECA's printing needs.

Alex Dykes, for faithfully serving as editor of *The Shape*.

Andy Kerr, for his leadership in the Folk Music Ministry and his help with the pageant.

To all who helped in making The Epiphany Party a huge success, including:

Robin Williams and Taylor Wing, for being such wonderful Kings.

Sandie Mueller and Ann Mayers, for their artistic talents in making up and dressing our kings so fashionably.

Will Bond, Tyler McPherson, Nick and Ashley Martin, and Meghan Hall, for all their help with the Epiphany program and serving dessert.

Jerry Ferguson, Suzanne and Peter Mayo, Betty Consorte, Amy Griffith, Susanne and Arnold More, Mary and Dennis Moran, Betty Wood, Margaret Halliwell, Pat McGarvin, Gwen Hacker, and Hans Spanjaart, for all their help with setup and cleanup.

Melinda Jennings, Ron Howie, and Mary and Dennis Moran, for their special contributions to our Sunday School room as we created a new environment for our new unit of study, Calling the Disciples. Check it out if you haven't already.

Ann Mayers, Leslie Rousseau, Wendy Martin, Gwen Hacker, and Sandie Mueller, for committing to be guest teachers for our current Sunday School unit of study. What wonderful disciples you are!



Global Medical Brigade

Hi everyone!!! As many of you have already heard, I am now a first-year Physician Assistant student at USC. In June of this year I have the opportunity to travel to Honduras on a mission trip with Global Medical Brigade, an organization comprised of students and medical professionals reaching out to less fortunate communities. We will spend a week travelling to underserved, rural areas around the city of Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, setting up temporary clinics where people can come and receive medical treatment free of charge.

Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America with 53% of the population living in poverty. Disease and malnutrition are the leading causes of death in children under 5 years old. The basic needs of education, health care, and clean water are luxuries for the majority of the people there, and in the rural communities where we will be working, they are even more scarce.

To be able to make this trip I need to find sponsors to help bear the financial cost. The total trip cost is \$1500 and any fund-raising I am able to do in excess of that amount will go directly towards necessary medicines and supplies we will use in the clinics during our trip. I would be really grateful for any financial help you could give me to enable me to go on this mission. Please contact me if you have any questions. You can donate to my trip at <http://www.empowered.org/donate> by searching under Elizabeth Hoyt. Thanks, so much, everyone!!!

Elizabeth Hoyt
elizabmh@usc.edu



Tabard Theatre

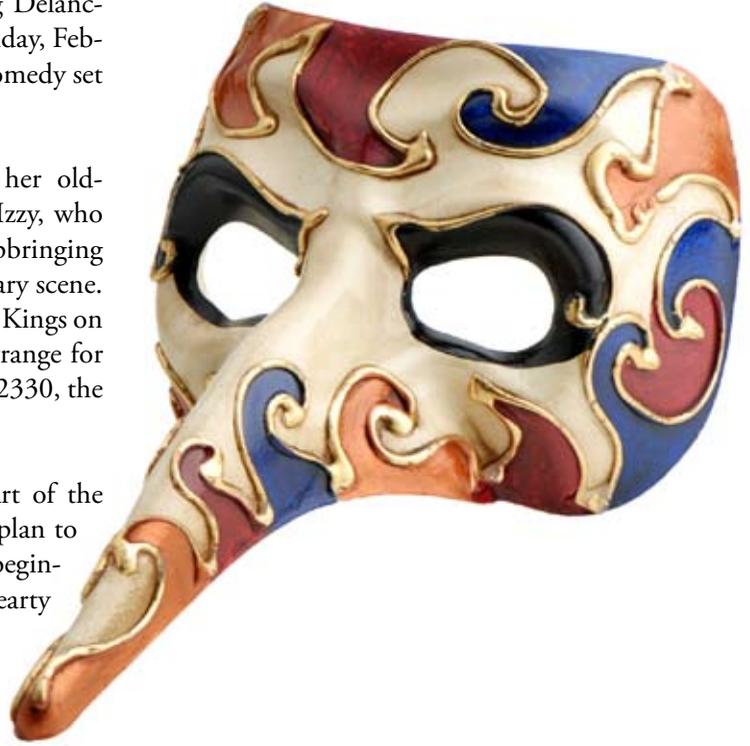
Tabard Theatre presents “Crossing Delancey.” Join our theater group on Friday, February 3rd for this fun romantic comedy set in New York’s Lower East Side.

Bubbie, a Jewish grandmother, shares her old-world wisdom with her granddaughter, Izzy, who wants to trade her traditional Jewish upbringing for the slick glamour of Manhattan’s literary scene. Beverley Griffith, who helped us with our Kings on Epiphany is playing the lead, Bubbie. Arrange for your tickets through Marilyn, (408) 679-2330, the box office manager.

Be sure to tell Marilyn that you are part of the Ferguson party for special seating. Then plan to join Susie and Jerry for a pre-show party beginning at 5:45 PM on the 3rd. Bring a hearty appetizer and beverage to share.

If you want more information about Tabard head over to their website: www.tabardtheatre.org.

Susie Ferguson



Church Fumigation

The church will be closed for termite fumigation from Monday to Wednesday, February 13-15. Volunteers are needed to help remove all food and food items from the church prior to these dates, then move them back into the church afterwards. Please contact Bryan Bond at bryanb@dblosvn.com if you are willing and able to help with this process. All meetings, gatherings, and Thursday Eucharist are cancelled for this week.

Dinner Groups

Happy New Year! ECA is setting up new dinner groups for 2012. I hope you finished visiting each other's homes and enjoyed the food and fellowship. It is now time to put your name "in the hat" again and meet some new ECA folks. You may of course continue with your "old group", but I hope you will consider joining a new one.

We have 3 "hats": an adult-only group of 6 to 8 that meets in people's homes for dinner; a family group that includes children and meets in people's homes; and a restaurant group. As you can see you have a few options to think about. The first few months are usually much quieter socially so here's a chance to get out and meet with friends. Please call or email me by February 15 so we can put your name in the hat.

Maryke Williams
(408) 997-1761 or maryke@sbcglobal.net

Hank & Colleen

Happy 63rd wedding anniversary Hank and Colleen from all of us at ECA! We are as blessed to have found you as you are to have found one another.

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



Shrove Tuesday

Save the date! Shrove Tuesday comes early this year on February 21. Get ready for pancakes, bacon, sausage and fellowship from **6pm to 8pm** in the fellowship hall. Bring a friend or two!



Address Service Requested

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The Shape

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