



The **Shape**

Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden

From the Rector

May is a month with a lot of things going on in our family. My father's birthday is May 20. Over the years my life events have infringed on that in various ways. My senior year of high school, prom was on May 20. The year I graduated from seminary, commencement was on May 20. When Jim and I got married, for various reasons we chose May 21 as our wedding date (we sang Happy Birthday to Dad at the family dinner the night before). For one reason or another, I have always managed to eclipse my father's birthday, so much so that it has become a running joke, albeit a rueful one, in our family.

[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

George Romer

Senior Warden

Steve Wing

Junior Warden

William Bond & Inge Bond

Acolytes

Bobbi Finley

Altar Guild

Kathy Mastre

Coffee Hour

Sharon Mills

Greeters

Jenny Hoyt

Lay Readers

Ann Avoux

Prayer Vine

Dave Byers

Ushers

Bonnie McPherson

Junior High Youth Group

Inge Bond

Senior High Youth Group

Andy Kerr

Stewardship

Worship Schedule

May 3 - Athanasius, trans.

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

May 6 - 5 Easter

7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist

May 10 - Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

May 13 - 6 Easter

7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday

May 17 - Ascension Day

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

May 20 - 7 Easter

7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Sunday

May 24 - Jackson Kemper

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

May 27 - Pentecost

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM JV Pentecost Service

BBQ following the 10:00 AM service

May 31 - Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

MAY 2012 EDITION

ISSUE NUMBER 05012012

E-MAIL ADDRESS Theshape@eca-sj.org

From the Rector

[Continued from cover]

But then, that's just what this time of year is like. May and June are often the months of graduation, prom, weddings, other significant events. The weather lends itself to festivity, and happily, so does the church calendar. May is always in Eastertide, never in Lent – there's nothing penitential or introspective about this time of year. It's fifty days of feasting after Easter, it's Pentecost and the birthday of the church, it's resurrection and the Holy Spirit. Think of the events we commemorate: Jesus' resurrection completely changed the world for his disciples, and forty days of his coming and going among them afterwards wasn't enough for them to get used to the idea. Then he ascended into heaven before them and disappeared. And then, as they all gathered together to try to figure this out, the Holy Spirit swept through them and gave them new languages to speak and pushed them out to fulfill Jesus' mission in the world. In other words, it was one significant, life-changing event after another, and there wasn't a lot of time to stop and think it all through.

Sometimes change can come like that. I'm not sure any of us relish it when that happens. The big events of my life that find their anniversary in May were ones that threw me for a loop even though they'd been coming for a while: Graduating from high school and moving on to quasi-adult life in college was confusing. Finishing my undergraduate degree and, later, seminary without a clear track for what came next was scary. Getting married was thrilling and yet felt like stepping into a life I didn't fully understand. And in each of these cases, it felt like all of sudden the change had happened, and it took me a long time to catch up my inner experience with the outer reality.

Even in changes we've chosen for ourselves or that we've been preparing for years, even in posi-

tive changes, we can feel profoundly unsettled and destabilized. Moving to a new place certainly does that; having children does that; beginning a new job does that; and so on and so on. Our identity gets a little wobbly. We are no longer defined by the old circumstances – a student at *x* university, a resident of *y* town, a single person, a married person – and yet the new circumstances are too new to seem part of us. Nearly everyone I know reports having to go around saying 'my wife' or 'my husband' for some time after their wedding, or 'my son' and 'my kids' after childbirth or adoption. Often it takes multiple times before it sounds right. The question 'Who am I?' suddenly has a different answer than it did before.

That's when it matters all the more that our real identity is as a child of God. At ECA, every year on your birthday you're invited to come forward for a birthday blessing. It's a chance to hear 'Happy Birthday!' from your community, but it's more than that. We pray for each person, that each one will know themselves as a child of God, loved and able to give that love to others. Through everything that happens, in all things and in all circumstances, we are God's own.

There's a lovely prayer in the Book of Common Prayer that says it well:

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kate Flexer

Senior Warden

This year your Vestry is focused on the ECA Mission. The following is excerpted and adapted from a speech given by Angeles Arrien at the 1991 Organizational Development Network which was based on the work of Milton Olson. The message comes to us from observation of the behavior of geese—not the bad behavior we see at our parks and playgrounds, but the good. But the lessons they have to teach us apply to our church life (ECA) as well as life away from our church neighbors (Outreach, Children & Families, Youth & Young Adults).

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an “uplift” for birds that follow. By flying in a “V” formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. People who share a common direction (ECA Mission) and sense of community (ECA) can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are travelling on the thrust (and trust) of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone (sin & separation from God). It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power (Holy Spirit) of the bird immediately in front of it. If we have “as much sense as a goose” we stay in formation (Spiritual Growth) with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others. Isn't this the challenge of Christ's mission?

When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position. It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership (serve in a ministry). As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities, and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, or resources. That's why a key to an

effective Time & Talent Survey (Stewardship) is for all church members to make them known to the lead “geese” (Rector & Vestry) and serve when called cheerfully.

The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed (Communication). Our “honking” needs to stay on the positive side. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater and more fun (Fellowship). The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of “honking” we need and seek.

When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it (Pastoral Care). They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with another formation (Welcoming & Growth) or catch up to the flock. If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times (Pastoral Care) as well as when we are strong.

So, being a goose isn't as silly as the phrase, “silly goose” implies. Being a goose is just smart travelling On the King's Highway, serving each other and our community.

George Romer

From the Editor



Spring is upon us at long last. Of course, here in the Santa Cruz mountains spring is foggy, wet and drizzly. Just the way I like it.

Crazy, you say? Well, the forest will do that to you after a while. The fog and mist help keep the redwoods happy in the spring and summer when there is infrequent rain and help hydrate the banana slugs that are slithering around at this time of year. It's a time for the bracken ferns to perk up and stretch toward the skies. Some will eventually reach 6 feet tall before the heat of the summer causes them to go dormant. It's a time for the bluebells, poppies and thistle to bloom and gather strength and reproduce. It's a time for our instincts to kick in.

Some animals take instinct to a level we humans can't understand. Our hens for instance have noted the changing season and have started to moult. With feathers drifting on the breeze another instinct has kicked in: setting. For the city dwellers in the crowd, chickens do not "sit" on eggs, they "set" on eggs. Why on God's green earth are they setting and not sitting? I have no idea, that's just the way it is. Of course, neither do the chickens.

About a week ago one of our Rosemaries (we have 25 chickens all named Rosemary) started to set on a clutch of eggs. This is a bit inconvenient not just because we need to collect the eggs, but because she's plopped herself down right where the other birds want to lay their eggs.

You see, chickens are social birds and they lay eggs communally. Chicken A will lay an egg in spot X, chicken B will see the egg and think, "*that's an excellent place for an egg*" and lay her egg in the same spot. If you want your birds to lay eggs in spot Z

instead of X, just put an egg in Z (or an egg shaped object) and they will decide that the new spot is the way to go.

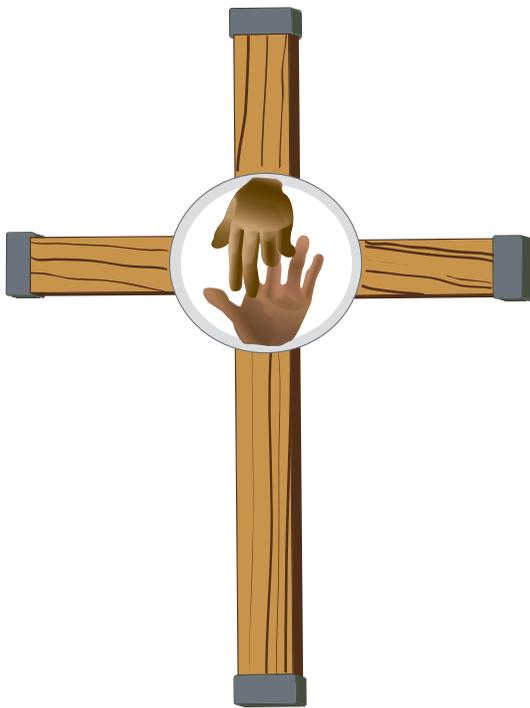
Now, the setting instinct is strong, but for some biological reason there's no imperative to protect the eggs, so if a hen is setting on one you can just pick her up and grab the egg. Go figure.

Once a hen starts setting she stops laying. This is important, because if you remove her egg she *needs* to find a new one. As a result, as soon as another hen lays an egg she will run over, peck the hen that's just laid and then sit on the egg. In the absence of an available egg, she'll collect egg-sized rocks or clods of dirt and set on those. *They don't call them bird-brains for nothing.*

Of course, the rest of the hens think that Rosemary is crazy, so as soon as she sets on a new egg, they all split and lay somewhere else. That is, except for Doris #12 (25 are named Doris). You see, she's nibbled on the instinct weed and she too has decided that spring is the time to set. If you recall, as soon as Rosemary sets on the egg the other girls lay somewhere else. You'd think Doris would go find an egg of her own to care for, but her instinct is to like the egg that Rosemary has *better*. So Rosemary sets on the egg and Doris literally sets on top of Rosemary. I guess you call that a chicken sandwich. Of course, since we don't have a rooster the eggs will never hatch. Nobody said instinct made sense.

What instincts do we have? And do they make any more sense than a chicken sandwich? Ponder.

Alex Dykes



Pastoral Care

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**

Point Lobos Hike

You are invited to join in an adventurous day being outdoors at one of the most magical and beautiful places in the world on Saturday, May 12th. The Fergusons, Moores and Romers will arrive early by 8:00 AM to ensure the best picnic location. Look for them at the Piney Woods picnic area. Plan to bring a picnic for yourselves, and something to share with others, your camp chairs, warm clothing, and the spirit of adventure. The options for the day include hikes: short, very short, long, and very long. Enjoy sitting in the beautiful surroundings watching deer, birds, seals, and otters frolic. The tide pools are great fun for children of all ages. It is really important that you sign up if you intend to come because, in the case of inclement weather, the outing may be changed to a different location and we will need to call you! Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Carpooling would be great. Think of someone who might not be able to drive the distance and invite them to join you. Friends are always welcome!

Directions: South on Highway 101 to #156 to Monterey to #1 past Carmel and onto Pt. Lobos.

State Park fee parking: Parking at the picnic area or free on the street prior to entering park, but must carry everything with you. The walk to Piney Woods picnic area is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the road.

Drive time: under 2 hours

Call Arnold and Susanne Moore (408) 358-2077 or George and Nancy Romer (480) 268-4435 if you have questions.

Fellowship Events

Friday, May 11th there will be a *Free* Baseball Game at San Jose Municipal Stadium. The San Jose Giants will be playing the Visalia Rawhides. Come watch the locals play! There are 20 free tickets. Sign up on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Gate opens at 5:30, game starts at 7:00. When we have the sign-up sheet full we will decide if we're going to tailgate or have dinner at the park.

The JV Book Group will meet at Suzanne Mayo's on Wednesday, May 16th and the hostesses will be Audrey Wiedrick and Betty Benson. The book will be *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. RSVP to Suzanne (408) 268-0754, or e-mail, sgmayo54@att.net.

Youth Updates

The youth had a successful Jambalaya dinner fund raiser on March 30th! The dinner was an opportunity for both congregations to come together and hear more about the upcoming mission trip in June and get some delicious food to boot! The dinner was well supported, and the group made about \$600 toward our Mission Trip. Thanks again to everyone who attended, and even those who didn't attend, but have supported us financially and with their prayers! Speaking of prayers, we are still looking for prayer partners for the youth and the leaders going on the trip. The youth are Will Bond, Nick Martin, Tyler McPherson, Meagan Hall, and Annie Hall. The leaders are Inge Bond, Bonnie McPherson, and Laura Hall. Please let Inge or Bonnie know if you'd like to sign up as a prayer partner. Thanks!

Bonnie McPherson & Inge Bond



Junior Warden

It has been an exciting and active month for the JV Board. I am happy to announce the following major news items!

- The concrete work in and around the church (including the patio area) was completed on 03/20/12. YEAH! Special thanks to Dennis Widman (CCAVUCC) and David Byers (ECA). More than 200 square feet of concrete was poured including some extra curbing in the front to prevent people from going from one side of the parking lot to the other. It turns out that very few roots of the tree in the patio were affected so it should be just fine going forward.
- The JV Finance committee met to take one last look at the JV budget. It was decided to leave the amount due to JV from each congregation to what was in the original proposed budget. The final budget was passed by JV board.
- ECA's Vestry and CCAVUCC's Council approved the revised JV By-Laws at the April meeting. Hooray! The revised By-Laws are now officially official!
- The new lift to the sanctuary is installed – many thanks to Mike Moore of CCAVUCC for spearheading the project and Ron Howie of (our ECA everyman) for a great amount of prep work to make it happen.
- The next big project is the parking lot. The work should be done by the time you get this edition of The Shape!

Steve Wing

Web Site In Sight

- *Web*: Old English *web(b)* [woven fabric] ; related to Dutch *web*
- *Site*: Old English *sit(v)* [leaning on lower back] ; related to Dutch *even lekker zitten*
- *Sight*: Old English *(ge)sihth* [something seen] ; related to Dutch *zicht*

In short, you can enjoy the ECA website from the comfort of your lazy chair, in your pajamas if you so prefer. But what can you do with the ECA website? The ECA web team, consisting of Mary McPherson, Jim Hinch, and the undersigned, will run a series of short articles in the coming months, to facilitate your use of the ECA website, while avoiding getting tangled in the inter-web.

How to start

To enjoy the ECA website, you need a computer with a web browser and access to the internet. If this sounds like Double Dutch to you, your local library at times provides basic computer lessons. Alternatively, this is a great opportunity to connect with your neighbor's kids to ask them to help you out. Our web site can be found at the

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

News at ECA

Did you know that Kate is frequently updating the "What's Happening At ECA" section on the front page? That, together with the on-line calendar (found on the right of the screen), shows you what is happening in the ECA community. In the section called "Latest news," you find links to the current Shape, Midweek Bulletin, and Sunday Bulletin. Up-to-date calendars in the form of The Matrix and the Facilities Calendar can be found here as well. So, even if the dog ate your paper copy of any of these, you still can find out what you signed up for, or should sign up for.

Next episode

Tune in next month to learn how to listen to voices from the past, while firing up your Kindle and tuning into iTunes.

Happy surfing!

Hans Spanjaart

webmaster@eca-sj.org



Gardening News

Spring has arrived, and with it new growth. Check out the yard work being done around the church! Emilie Eggers, Kate Amunrud, Todd Lukanc, Mike Hertzler and his crew, along with the regular dedicated Saturday morning mowers and blowers and trimmers, Dave Byers and John McPherson, were out on April 14th sprucing up the property. Great progress was made especially in preparing our raised beds for planting. In addition to pulling weeds, and putting new top soil in, the drip irrigation was updated. The rose garden was also weeded and Mike plans to mulch it so we will have fewer weeds to pull next year! Our roses are thriving now since the application of the gopher protective cages thanks to the Boy Scouts.

Mike has tremendous expertise in landscaping as it is his full time job! (He is president of Modern Landscaping Inc. See <http://www.modernlandscapinginc.com/>.) He has great ideas and plans for our church yard and tree lot. Plus he actually knows how to deal with gophers. Amazing! We are very fortunate to have him, and I would encourage you to give him your full support by participating in his future bi-monthly fun parties (not work parties) that will include trapping gophers, pruning, irrigation upkeep, general cleanup, renovating the paver patios, and maintaining the volleyball court. Getting your hands dirty is good for the soul. Or soil? Well, both! Come on out and see for yourself!

Many thanks to Mike and those who helped him. Mike can be reached at hertzler@sbcglobal.net or call him at (408) 690-6791.

Mary McPherson

Vestry Counting

As a reminder to our vestry members and counters, here is the counting schedule for the next few weeks.

- May 6 Anna Spanjaart & Bonnie McPherson
- May 13 Carol MacDonald & Todd Lukanc
- May 20 Roger Hoyt & Wendy Martin
- May 27 Martha Lou & Reynolds Andy Kerr

- June 3 Mary McPherson & Mike Schmidt
- June 10 Marijke Williams & Steve Wing
- June 17 Jerry Long & Kathleen Eagan



Anniversaries

Earl & Amy Griffith 2
John & Helen Beacher 22

Birthdays

Genie Yomtov 2
Trace Rimroth 4
Jennifer Majors 7
Jerry Ferguson 9
Jim Ward 9
Corrin Degnan 10
Jon Mills 10
Mary Beth Majors 11
Terry Stonehocker 11
Michaela Fahlen 12
Pat Fox 14
Miriam Lueck 15
Mason Miller 16
Warren Willard 20
Tom Fahlen 23
Ann Mayers 24
Kerry Sisler 24
Bill LaVallee 25
Danielle Petruzzelli 26
Kate Austin-Lane 28



Christian Education

In April some of you may have noticed that we changed a few traditions from years past in our Sunday School program. Our first change was on Palm Sunday. Instead of doing a “Walk Through Holy Week” we held our regular Sunday School class and featured our puppet theater and the presentation of “One Boy’s Donkey.” In this story a young boy is most disappointed when his father gives him a baby colt for his birthday instead of a magnificent horse like the Roman soldiers ride. “No one important has ever ridden a donkey!” the young boy exclaims. As you may have guessed someone very important does in fact ride this little boy’s donkey, someone he welcomes with shouts of “Hosanna” and waving his palm branch. Wendy Martin and her teenagers Ashley and Nick were our “puppeteers” and did a wonderful presentation for our students. We used our Biblical puppets for this presentation and made our donkey from a paper bag. All the children were able to make their own donkey puppets to take home Palm Sunday. We were also delighted that day to have 9 students to enjoy this day’s activities with us.

On Easter Sunday we held another special Sunday School class. I was happy to have Phyllis Chai and Alexanna Alvarado (our photographer) assist me as shepherds for the day. We did our own “Easter Egg Hunt” of sorts, right in our classroom. We had eight very special Easter eggs to find that told the story of Jesus from Palm Sunday through his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Each child went home with his own set of eggs and the scripture story to go along with each egg so they could share the Easter story with their families.

Earth Day on April 22 was another very special Sunday School time for our children. We are so blessed to have Mike Hertzler as a guest teacher for us as well as having him part of our Joint Venture Council on “grounds.” Mike is a gifted “landscaper” and with the help of Ann Mayers gave the children a wonderful experience to start planting the youth garden. We can all check on the growth of the seeds that were planted and maybe even help in maintaining the garden.

Our current unit, Easter People, offers us a wonderful collection of activities to show how lives are changed by knowing “Christ is risen.” Through storytelling led by Janice Krahenbuhl and music led by Gwen Hacker the children explored the myriad of emotions felt by the disciples through Jesus’ death and ultimate resurrection and how they were changed because of the resurrection. As we move through our unit we will be helping the children recognize that we all can experience change through God’s grace.

Yes, April was a busy and exciting time for us involved in the Sunday School program. Remember you are always welcome to join us and visit or just drop by our classroom to see how exciting and inviting it looks to welcome new children to our program. Please remember to extend invitations to children you may meet in your neighborhood to try us out.

Susie Ferguson

Honduras Mission

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 scarcer.

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 fundraising I am able to do in excess of that amount will go directly towards necessary medicine 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 my success 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. By donating directly through the website, your contribution can be used as a tax deduction for next year's taxes. Thanks, so much, everyone!!!

Elizabeth Hoyt (Jenny & Roger Hoyt's daughter)
elizabmb@usc.edu

Gifts of Gratitude

- Kristal Kim for the beautiful music for Palm Sunday and Holy Week.
- Steve Wing and all for successfully restocking the freezers for Montgomery Meals.
- Amy Griffith for so wonderfully taking care of details and needs for so many meals and events. When you ask her, she gets it done.
- Both churches for supporting the Youth Groups and our mission trip.
- Patricia Garcia and Liana Ramirez for their wonderful care of our children in the nursery!
- Dan and Sharon Hall for their donation of the new freezer.
- Wendy, Ashley and Nick Martin, Phyllis Chai, Alex Alvarado, Janice Krahenbuhl, Mike Hertzner, Ann Mayers, Gwen Hacker, & Kelly Yamanishi for their commitment to our Sunday School program in April. Collectively they covered Puppetry, Storytelling, Music, Earth Day/Science, & the Easter Story Learning Centers. They were all special blessings for our children.
- Wendy Martin for updating the Youth Bulletin Board.
- Inge Bond and Bonnie McPherson for their energy, inspiration and dedication to our youth.
- David Byers who devotes endless hours to the care and upkeep of ECA's church facility and more.

Sudan Youth

The following information was forwarded to me by Sandie Mueller with regard to the Sudanese Youth Opportunity, a Ministry which she is very much involved with. Anyone can participate in supporting this ministry by forming a group of friends to support one student at \$612 a year. This can be in one, two, or three installments. Or be a solo donor and give \$10, \$15, or \$20 a month to provide partial support for a student. Or give one or two gifts during the year. These extra gifts help provide mosquito nets, bedding, and extra socks and shoes (for growing children).

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities please contact Sandie at 408-997-1642 or slmueller.sj@gmail.com. You can also do it with Pay Pal or give tax-deductible checks.

*Betty Consorte
Vestry Outreach*



Calling all 18-30s!

Calling everyone 18-30! Let's get you together and find some common ground for fellowship, service, spiritual growth, and community. I am working on contacting youth group alumni and others who might be interested in starting up this group. Don't be bashful and wait for me to call you—but email me, call, text, send up smoke signals, or gasp! approach me in person, and let me know your interest. Once I set up your first meetings, then I will continue to be a facilitator for your group, but not an active participant, as I'm not actually a young adult anymore. Sigh! Hope to hear from you!

*Bonnie McPherson
mamasaur@comcast.net
(408) 656-2426.*

Welcome to ECA!

Have you had the opportunity to welcome a visitor to ECA? As you probably know, welcoming people to ECA is a vital part of growing our church and sharing our faith. At one time, each of us was a newcomer. Think back, then ask yourself what you liked about how you were greeted. How did you feel? What did you like about it? Would you do anything differently? Some people would like to have some information about the church, or what to do during the service, or what to do with their children. Although we have our fabulous website, some people may prefer to have this information in hand. Well, in case you didn't know, we have WELCOMING BAGS to give to every newcomer (or newcomer family) that comes to ECA. These colorful bags are in a basket under the small table to the right of the glass-door entrance into our church. Our infamous Susie Ferguson and our dedicated team of welcomers help to put these bags together and we are encouraged to hand them out to newcomers.

You may be asking yourself, "What's in these newcomer bags?" Well, I am pleased and excited to tell you about a few of the items in these bags. There is an information card to be filled out with the newcomer's contact information and to be left at the church (with another parishioner, any vestry box, given to Kate, or put in the offering plates). There is a letter from Kate and information

on where the children go before and during the service. There is a current Shape newsletter and current information about Sunday School. Sometimes, there is even a little surprise in them!

The main point here is, if you come across people you don't know, and you find out they are new, ask if they have received one of our beautiful newcomer bags. If not, please feel free to hand one out!

If you have any ideas about welcoming others, or if you would like to be a part of the welcoming committee, please let me hear from you. I can be reached at odatwendy@yahoo.com or at home (408) 997-1313. I would love to hear your ideas!

Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed. Proverbs 16:3

*Wendy Martin
Welcoming & Growth*



Church Maintenance Schedule

Mike Hertzler has been working tirelessly on the church grounds over the past few months. Please take a look at the following schedule and come help out! There's something for everyone and we all have a great time, every time!

May 12th: General upkeep around the building and the vegetable box area, gopher trapping, finish the volley ball court (if not done), gravel parking renovation.

June 2nd: General upkeep around the building, the vegetable box area and the volleyball court; Gopher trapping; Finish the gravel parking renovation (if not done); Weed the back fence planter and mulch (between the sheds and the creek); Selective prun-

ing of all the shrubs around the building; garden fertilizing (all shrubs and roses).

June 16th: General upkeep around the building, the vegetable box area, the volleyball court and the gravel parking area; Gopher trapping; Selective pruning.

June 30th: General upkeep all areas; selective pruning; estimated FINAL DAY of scrupulous gopher trapping.

July 14th: General upkeep all areas, gopher inspections, and trap as necessary.

July 28th: General upkeep all areas, gopher inspections, and trap as necessary.

Address Service Requested

The Episcopal Church in Almaden
6581 Camden Avenue • San José CA 95120
Tel: (408) 268 • 0243 Web: www.ecca-sj.org

The Shape

