



# The **Shape**

*Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden*

## **From the Rector**

**A**s I run along the paths in Quicksilver these days, the golden (some call it brown) grass and dark green oaks are leavened with yellow sticky monkeyflower, orange poppies, and purple Ithuriel's spear, with an occasional bright gold mules-ear still lurking in the shady spots – along with morning glories and wild irises. And sometimes as I run along I wonder: who named all of these flowers? Monkeys? Mules? Spears?

The spear was especially intriguing, so I looked it up, and learned what my PhD husband could have told me: Ithuriel is an angel, sent with another angel in

*[Continued on page 3]*

## **Service Schedule**

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

7:30 AM

June 3

11:00 AM

June 10-September 2

10:30 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**

**June 3 - Trinity Sunday**

7:30 & 11 AM Holy Eucharist - Last choir Sunday

**June 7 - Pioneers of the Church in Brazil**

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

**June 10 - 2 Pentecost: Proper 5**

**7:30 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday**  
**First Sunday of the summer schedule**

**June 14 - Basil the Great**

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

**June 17 - 3 Pentecost: Proper 6**

7:30 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Sunday

**June 21 - Alban, trans.**

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

**June 24 - 3 Pentecost: Proper 7**

7:30 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

**June 28 - Irenaeus**

7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

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E-MAIL ADDRESS [Theshape@eca-sj.org](mailto:Theshape@eca-sj.org)

# From the Rector

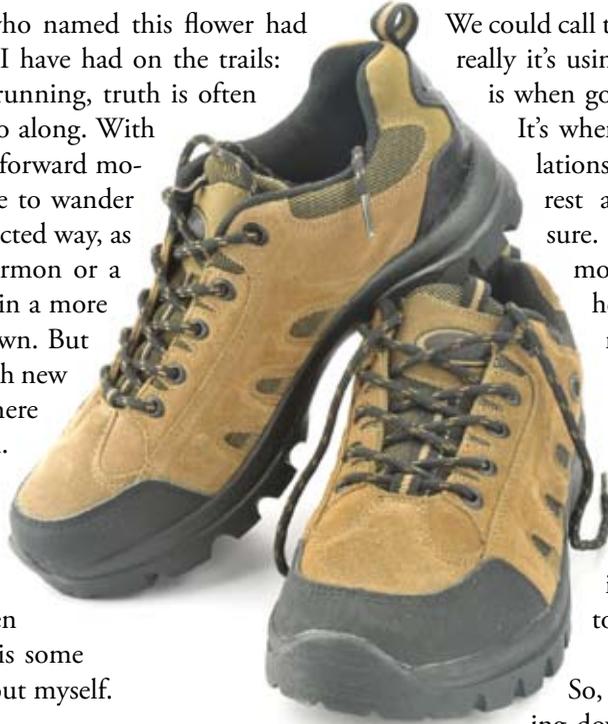
*[Continued from cover]*

Milton's *Paradise Lost* to seek out where Satan is hiding. They find Satan squatting in the Garden of Eden looking like a toad. Ithuriel touches him with his spear, and Satan returns to his true likeness. What a name for a flower. Be careful when you brush up against this plant: it might just tell the truth about you.

Maybe the person who named this flower had the same experience I have had on the trails: whether walking or running, truth is often revealed to me as I go along. With my body engaged in forward motion, my mind is free to wander – sometimes in a directed way, as I think through a sermon or a problem; sometimes in a more random way on its own. But I often come back with new clarity and focus where there was confusion. Getting out among the wildflowers and dust of the trail is a good way to sort things through, even when what I realize is some unwelcome truth about myself.

Summertime offers us a little more opportunity for this kind of truth-revealing. School is out, people leave work a little earlier, meetings and classes are suspended for a time. Even those not involved in the academic schedule or work rhythms tend to slow down some in the summer. Of course, the temptations to busyness are still around us – we schedule our kids for camp after camp after camp, longer days drive us out to our gardens to work early and late, travel plans have us on the move.

But in me, at least, some kind of latent indolence rises up and rebels. I don't want to move straight on from dinner to the pajamas-and-teeth routine with our kids – I want to linger at the table outside while they play. I don't want to stay in the office till 5:00 or 6:00 – I want to putter around in the garden or go to the pool.



We could call this wasting time. But I think really it's using time properly. Downtime is when good ideas can come to birth.

It's when friendships and family relationships deepen. It's when we rest and lower our blood pressure. We're all realizing more and more that frenetic multitasking, heavy schedules, and instant results are not good for us – but we talk about this problem while we glance at our iPhones and plot the logistics of our day's errands. Our culture is odd right now: we all know it's making us sick, and we can't seem to stop doing it.

So, here's another plea for slowing down. Take time this summer.

Sit around a little more. Leave the iPhone at home. Go for a walk and see what truth Ithuriel's spear wants to reveal to you. (Join me on Thursdays at 9:00 to walk to the lake!) Leave space and time for God to work on you and in you. You might learn something.

*Kate Flexer*

# Senior Warden

Over the past several weeks Rev. Kate has talked about various ways in which we practice (or, should practice) stewardship in our daily decisions. Literally, everything we do is a stewardship challenge:

- Transportation (private auto versus public conveyance versus rail versus airplane versus bicycling versus walking)
- Food growing, gathering, cooking, and consuming (yes, consuming – disposable food and drink delivery and service versus washable plates and cups/ glasses)
- Energy options – we have more options than any time in the past and pricing is forcing us to make decisions which are unfamiliar to most of us
- Recycling (mind-boggling decisions about what to recycle and where)
- Pest control
- Family versus work versus spiritual enrichment balance
- Outreach to those less fortunate than we are. There is always someone needing a hand-out or up.
- Hospitality at church (how do we better welcome guests, retain them as members, and incorporate them into Christ's work?)
- Church grounds maintenance and improvement (cut a tree or save a tree)
- Financial (making ends meet at home versus at

our extended institutional church family). We need to extend ourselves beyond status quo salaries and building care.

- Discerning the spiritual gifts each of us possesses and putting them to effect in our church life, following the Lord's example and challenge.

As the year progresses, the Stewardship ministry will be seeking your help to discern how we best juggle these competing demands for your judgment and commitment. Please give your unbridled support to these efforts and you will feel fulfilled. Please respond affirmatively to requests for help and volunteer for a ministry to which your passion leads you. You will not regret getting involved.

*George Romer  
Senior Warden*

## From the Editor



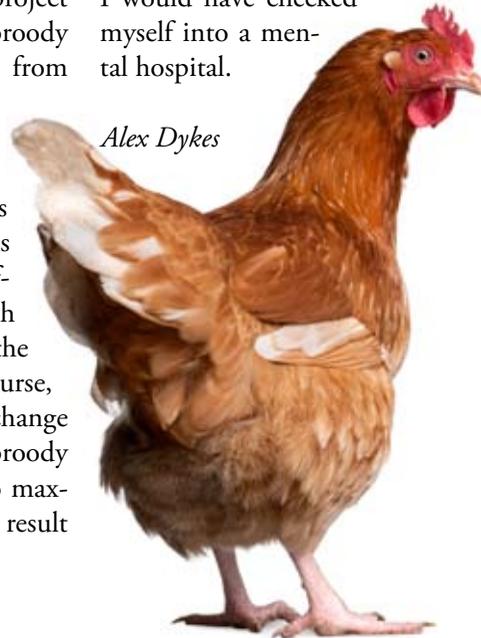
The girls are out of the basement and part of me is somehow sad. Of course, that statement taken by itself sounds as if child protective services should have been dispatched ages ago. However, the girls in question are three 13 month old hens. They have been living only a few feet away from us for about two months because they had quite literally been henpecked. To help them recover until we could create a separate yard just for them, they lived in the basement with the lights on and the door open during the day. As I sat in the living room getting this Shape into shape, I kept pausing to hear the clucking from below, but their noises were gone.

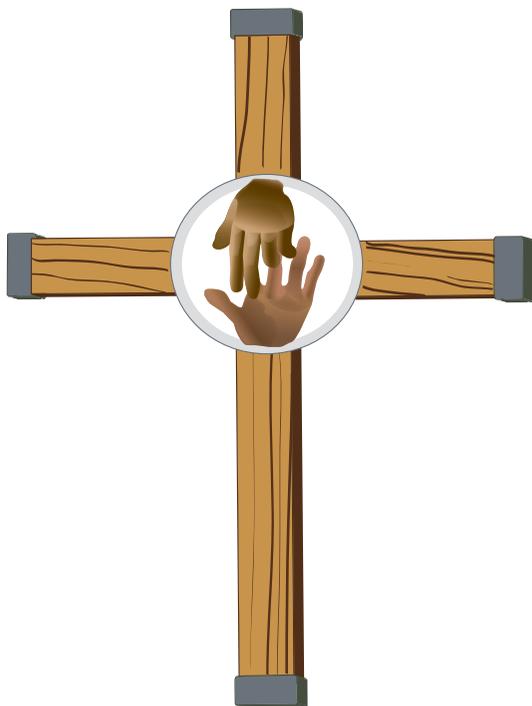
As last month brought the beginning of spring changes, this month brings yet more. If you recall, two of our hens decided to start setting on rocks and infertile eggs that will never hatch. After letting them indulge themselves for 6 weeks, we decided something had to be done. We finished phase one of the “great chicken expansion” project (a 2800 square foot yard) and put our three broody hens in their new home. Being separated from their nest was a difficult reality for them and they spent days trying to figure out a way to break through the chicken wire and into their old yard. They didn’t succeed. If this sounds familiar, it should. How many times do we find ourselves in a situation that is different or unexpected? How do we deal with the situation? We usually try to get back to the way things were before, to “go home”. Of course, much like Doris and Rosemary, sometimes change is better for us than the status quo. You see, broody hens don’t eat enough because they want to maximise their time on the clutch of eggs. As a result

they start losing weight rapidly. After a few days the hens snapped out of their broody state and forgot all about the rocks they were trying to hatch. As fate would have it however, our two broody girls were replaced by six new “wannabe expectant mothers”. Sometimes change can be bad.

Good or bad, change is a constant. As I look back on May 2011, when our first batch of 27 chicks arrived, I am at least a little surprised that we haven’t given up yet. Three of our “hens” turned out to be roosters (this meant they ultimately became chicken soup.) The hawks that decided to nest in the redwood trees around the house ate two chickens that were in the habit of getting out of their protected yard. And finally this winter a shorted electric fence allowed the neighbourhood racoons to have their fill. Despite the complications we have pressed onwards with our venture. By the time The Shape arrives in your mailbox our lives will be noisy once more as 70 baby chicks arrive on the 28th. If you told me a year ago our dabble into the country life would result in 120 chickens in 13 months, I would have checked myself into a mental hospital.

*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**

## Outreach

The Beautiful Day program was supported by Alain and Elizabeth Guichard. Alain's son is involved with a church that is very active in the program. It should be considered in the future if sufficient interest within the congregation is evident. It requires planning in advance so that the date is available for ECA participants and calendared in advance. One interesting piece of feedback was that many people in our community have no concept of the Episcopal Church and where it fits or what it stands for in the variety of denominations in our midst.

Montgomery Meals reports that the floor has been fixed and the new freezer installed. It appears to be getting difficult to find dessert donations from local merchants. Pete Mayo was a master at working these interfaces, and we need to see what we can do to fill in for his work in this area.

*Betty Consorte*



## Fellowship Events

The Mission Trip is this month, and your youth group is busy meeting and preparing for the trip—they could use your prayers and good thoughts as we finish the prep work and get ready for this exciting spiritual opportunity. The mission trip is June 3-9.

The youth also made time for helping with Montgomery Meals on May 4th—Kudos to the cooks who prepared the meal, as everyone loved the Tamale Pie!

We had a regular meeting on May 20th where we talked about sex and being a Christian. Our last meeting of the year and end of the season swim party will be happening soon. Stay tuned for details!

Lastly, we ask that everyone help us to support our SHYGS member Jason as he raises money for the Nephcure walk. Jason is an active member of our group who regularly helps with fundraising for others and helping with Montgomery Meals, but now he needs the help of both our congregations to help him find a cure for the disease that has sapped so much of his strength and continues to change his life. The walk is on June 2nd and as many of the youth that can make it will be joining him on the walk. All donations are truly appreciated! For more info on this disease please go to [www.nephcure.org](http://www.nephcure.org).

*Bonnie McPherson*

## Christian Education

May was another busy month in our Christian Education program. We had to bring another Sunday School year to a close. Besides completing our unit on Easter People we had the great pleasure of recognizing and thanking our teachers on Pentecost Sunday. We have been so blessed this year to have so many willing to give some of their precious time and energy to working with our children. After a special breakfast in their honor, we offered special recognition to Wendy, Nick, & Ashley Martin, Phyllis Chai, Janice Krahenbuhl, Mike Hertzler, Ann Mayers, Alex Alvarado, Gwen Hacker, Kelly Yamanishi, Leslie Rousseau, & Sandie Mueller for their service to our community this year.

May also was a busy time in preparation for our VBS program, "Go For the Gold," which will be held June 11 through June 15th. We chose to write our own program this year to be timelier with the Summer Olympics happening in July. To plan this program with Kate and me, we had wonderful help from Wendy Martin, Sharon Hall, and Kelly Yamanishi. What a great creative team to develop the

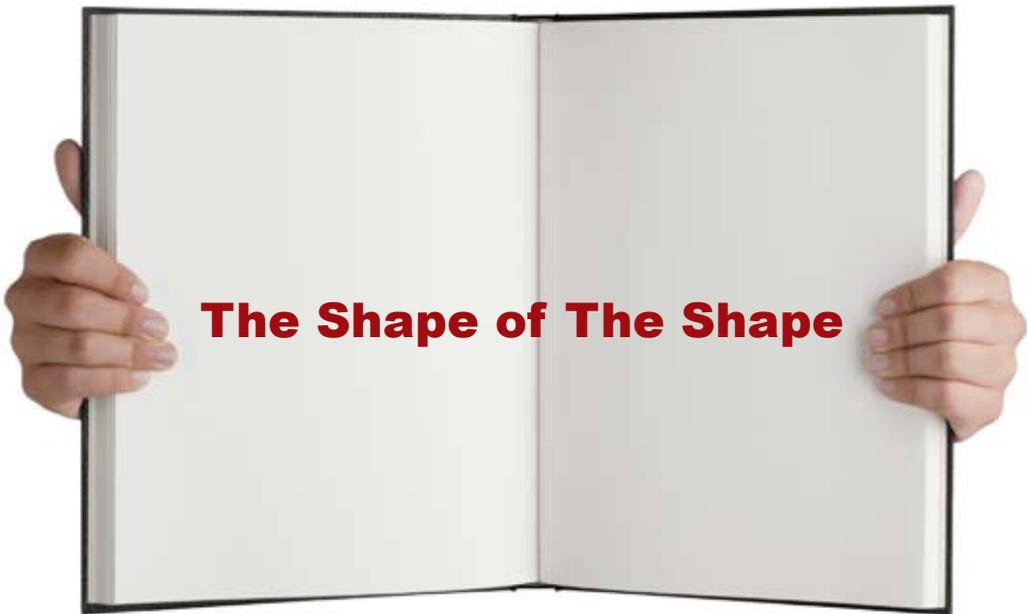
scope and ideas for our program. We have an exciting and creative week planned for those children who give us a try this year. We still need a little help and a few odds and ends to follow through with our plans. Check the JV bulletin board in fellowship hall to see if there is some way you can help us make this the best VBS possible.

After VBS what can we look forward to and where will we expend our energies this summer? First, let's get our "facelift" of our Sunday School and Youth Center under way. It's overdue to spruce up those areas and make them more inviting, safe, and welcoming so new families will want to join us more regularly. Let's energize our facility to match the energy we hope for with new members to our congregations. If you would like to help me with this "facelift" please let me hear from you. Let's make some plans now and be ready to get started mid-June.

I must thank you all for your wonderful support and encouragement this past year as we have begun a transformation of our Sunday School program. You certainly have made my job a "labor of love and joy." I look forward to continuing this very special ministry with you.

*Susie Ferguson*





## The Shape of The Shape

**A**s a relative newcomer to ECA, certain things become only gradually apparent to me that are probably second nature to many others. But then, I'm not the newest member of the congregation, so there are probably others in the same boat as me. Sometimes I learn the hard way, such as when I've tried to have information put in the weekly bulletin, only to learn that I missed the deadline and will have to wait another week, which may not do me any good. I'm a fast learner and don't normally miss the same deadline twice, but maybe I can spare you the same grief. So when are these deadlines that we should all know, anyway?

If you want to get something in the Midweek Bulletin or the Sunday Bulletin, the deadline is Tuesday. You can email items to [newsdesk@eca-sj.org](mailto:newsdesk@eca-sj.org) or bring them to the church office on Tuesday. The deadline for The Shape is the 15th of each month. You can email your submission to [Theshape@eca-sj.org](mailto:Theshape@eca-sj.org).

But, you say, "The 15th is the deadline, but as long as you get something in by the 20th or so, it'll still get in." Not so. Getting The Shape published is a long process involving many people. We're trying our best to tighten up the process and get the finished product to your homes on time, meaning the first of the month. It's not good enough to have it delivered on the 5th or 6th of the month, when perhaps a few of that month's events have already happened. If you miss the 15th deadline, you've missed at least the first step of the process, and it's best for everyone if that doesn't happen. Those of us involved in getting The Shape published are regarding the 15th as a true deadline, not in a hard-nosed way, but in order to serve all of us at ECA in the best possible way.

*Mike Schmidt*

## Montgomery Meals

**M**ontgomery Meals is an on-going outreach ministry that members and friends of ECA have been involved with for more than 30 years. The cooking is done in our kitchen by a committed group of men and women every other Friday of the month. Most of you know that the core of the meals are either turkey or ham as a result of the once a year turkey and/or ham drives. After the incredible meal is cooked, drivers/servers leave the church about 5:15 pm to deliver the food downtown San Jose. The total time commitment for the drivers/servers is about 2 hours. The rewards of this time are happy faces, exuberant applause, filled bellies and knowing that you have made a huge difference in someone's life.

I am the person who schedules the drivers/servers and my list of available people has become very short. If you are called to this ministry, please know that you would only have to be available about 3 or 4 times a year or as many times as you would like to help.

Examples of people who are helping now include: Our youth groups, working men and women who meet at Montgomery Street on their way home from work, creaking older ladies (that would be me), young people who would like service hours for school, strong men and women who can lift the food trays, not so strong men and women who have great smiles...all committed to doing the Lord's work. So, please consider helping. Your reward will be more than you ever imagined.

*Nancy Romer*

*(408) 268-4435 or (408) 234-0093*

## Thank You

Dear ECA Family,

Peter and I now know for sure how special our ECA family is. The love that has poured over us since Pete's heart attack has been overwhelming. All of your prayers and concerns have been felt and have helped ease our fears along this pathway of full recovery for Peter.

The dinners have been outstanding and we know how difficult they must have been since there are so many restrictions to his diet. I have taken notes. Thank you so much for being here for us. We could not wait to return to San Jose and the loving support of our family of friends.

Love,  
Suzanne and Peter



## Vestry Counting

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

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

## Humility

I am not the sharpest knife in the kitchen. Every day, I am humbled by my ignorance in making use of my smart phone. As with all learning, repetition is key. If I don't use what I learn, it slips away until I take the time to struggle again for a solution to my problem. I was away last week, and decided to listen to Kate's sermon this morning on my walk to Almaden Lake. At first I tried unsuccessfully to put the mp3 file on my phone. Then I realized a simpler technique was to go to the [www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org) website on my phone and click on sermons.

When the sermon was over, something inexplicable happened. (For those of us who struggle with technology, inexplicable things are always happening.) Suddenly, I was on another webpage, <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/>. Someone, somewhere in my past must have recommended this site to me. (How else would my phone have taken me there?) For the remainder of my walk, I was led through a lovely prayer session. It lasted 10 or 15 minutes, and combined music, scripture and questions for reflections. The site is produced by several British Jesuits who have wonderful English accents and there is a new one every day.

I recommend you put these two websites on your phone and watch what happens. Now that I written about it, perhaps I will remember it on my next walk to the lake.

*Mary McPherson*

## Anniversaries

Terry & Mel Stonehocker	10
Robin & Maryke Williams	12
Ted & Lynda Fahlen	14
Ed & Sandie Mueller	14
Roland & Betty Darnell	17
Ron Howie & Melinda Jennings	19
Jeff & Linda Nollette	21
Andy & Francie Kerr	22
Jim & Bonnie McPherson	22
Roger & Jenny Hoyt	24

## Birthdays

Alexx Bishop	3
Evelyn Wing	3
Rosario Cassetta	8
Jenny Hoyt	8
George Romer	9
Charlotte Boileau	10
Fabrice Akue	11
Tyler Nollette	17
Winnie Jackman	18
Gregory Lukanc	23
Margaret Halliwell	25
Pauline Gilligan	27



# Children Belong in Worship!

*Mark 10:14 “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”*

Children are loved and nurtured here...and we have a commitment to help them learn to worship. Below are some tips for parents and the congregation, for how to include our younger members in our worship together.

**Babies:** Babies can feel the special atmosphere of worship – through music, the sounds of prayers, and presence of people surrounding them. Letting them be a part of worship in the sanctuary, even if only for 5 or 10 minutes (until they are restless) is an important experience for them. Begin good spiritual practices like singing hymns, and praying with them.

**Children:** Formal worship can provide an excellent opportunity for parents to be involved in the spiritual nurture of their children. Talk with them about the service. Explain what is happening. Help them catch your enthusiasm and happiness about being in church. Let the suggestions below help you relax and appreciate the children who are present.

## *Suggestions for Parents:*

- Arrive in time to find a good place



to sit. A place near the front often helps children to see.

- Make sure your child’s physical needs are met before worship begins.
- Exhibit joy and enthusiasm in your own worship. You are your child’s greatest role model! Sing, pray, read, and listen like you mean it!
- As you arrive, pick up an activity box with books and drawing supplies for your child.
- During the worship service answer questions that need an immediate answer in a quiet whisper.
- Encourage your children to stand and sit at the appropriate times – this helps with wiggles too.
- Help them find the hymns to be ready to sing.
- Help them give an offering even if it is a small amount. This teaches sharing early.
- If you need to exit the sanctuary, do so as needed.
- Come to the altar! We encourage everyone, children and adults, to receive communion. If you prefer, you and/or your children may come forward for a blessing. If you would like your child to receive instruction before making a first communion, please talk to the rector.
- Stay for fellowship time – sometimes the cookie and chats after church make a big impression about the welcomeness of church to a child!

## Children

- Talk at home about what people/events might need our prayers and encourage the children to pray in church.
- Talk about worship at home during the week: “Do you remember the story we heard in church?” “We can pray a part of the prayer we used in church last Sunday.”

### *Suggestions for the Congregation:*

- During the peace, greet children as well as their parents.
- Hand offering plates to children, not over their heads.
- Children often feel invisible in a sea of big adults – take time to greet them before and after the service.
- Ensure children have a bulletin of their own.
- Invite a child you know to sit with you during the service, even when the child’s parent(s) are present.
- Understand when parents need to take younger children to the nursery and return to the service.
- Have patience with the learning process; we are all children of God. Remember we were all young once.
- Compliment parents and children who have participated during the liturgy.

### *Other opportunities for children:*

We are pleased to provide a safe and loving nursery for infants and toddlers (to age 4) during worship, carefully attended by at least two adult caregivers.

*Kate Flexer*

## Gifts of Gratitude

**Kate Flexer** for continuous dedication of time and energy in attending meetings and helping to make ECA a wonderful and exciting place to come!

**Debbie Estill** for all the updates on Pete Mayo’s illness.

**Inge Bond** for picking up odds and ends at Costco when she’s there.

**Mike Hertzner** for his vision and talent for improving our outdoor landscape.

**Nancy Romer** for organizing and sustaining drivers/servers for Montgomery Meals.

**Craig Stephan** for cooking all these years for Montgomery Meals.

**Steve Wing** for volunteering to take Craig’s place.

**Don and Sharon Hall** for donating a freezer replacement for the pantry.

**Earl Griffith** for pantry floor repairs.

**Beth Proudfoot** for her gift of time and skills in the parenting series this past year.

## eScrip Update

**T**hank you to everyone who is enrolled in eScrip. In 2011, your purchases resulted in \$807.51 coming to ECA.

eScrip is a program where we receive a percentage of each purchase made at participating merchants, such as Amazon, Lunardi's, OfficeMax, Safeway, or purchasing certain brands such as Campbell's, Coca-Cola, Frito Lay, General Mills, Kellogg's, Kimberly Clark, Kraft, Nabisco, Procter & Gamble, etc. Over half our e-scrip income this past year has come from Safeway.

The more people that register their grocery club cards and credit/debit cards, the more money we make. Once you are registered it is automatic and hassle-free. If you would like to know more about eScrip, or want help enrolling, please let me know. Or, you can visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).

*Mary McPherson*  
*marymcp@aol.com*  
*(408) 268-9559*



## Neighborhood Watch

When: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 6:30-8:30pm

Where: ECA Fellowship Hall

What: Neighborhood Watch meeting

Who: YOU and your neighbors

Come ready to learn how to keep your neighborhood safe. Come with questions. Come with your neighbors - the more the better! Come meet our local neighborhood watch specialist, Rae Ceden, of the San Jose Police Department. Through this positive, pro-active program, we will learn facts about:

- Crime trends in our area
- How to react to suspicious or criminal activity
- How San Jose's 9-1-1 system works
- Recommended security measures and MUCH more!

Flyers will soon be available to share with your neighbors about this upcoming community meeting. If you would like to help get the word out for this event, please contact Wendy Martin at (408) 997-1313 or by email at [odatwendy@yahoo.com](mailto:odatwendy@yahoo.com). Together, we can help "take a bite out of crime." See you there!

*Wendy Martin*

# Abraham

This year in Bible Study, we tackled Genesis. The characters in it are delightfully rich. Genesis proved to be better than any soap opera in terms of entertainment value, rife with sibling rivalry, vengeful daughters-in-law, favoritism in the family, even brothers fighting to avenge their sister's honor.

Contrary to expectation, I've found that God shows himself to be the same God he is in the New Testament: full of compassion, grace, and endlessly reaching out to humans to establish a relationship with them even though they continually mess up. Joseph was awarded the title of most favorite of those in the Bible study. My favorite character, however, is Abraham (aka Abram), later known to be the father of the Jewish and Christian faith. He didn't start out the man he ended up, and I guess that's how it is when one grows to spiritual maturity. J. I. Packer says it well in an excerpt from his book, *Knowing God*.

“Abraham was capable of repeated shabby deceptions that endangered his wife's chastity. He was by nature a man of little moral courage, quite anxious about his own personal security. Also, he was vulnerable to pressure; at his wife's insistence he fathered a child with her maid, Hagar, and when Sarah reacted to Hagar's pride in her pregnancy with hysterical recriminations he let her drive Hagar out of the house.

Abraham was not by nature a man of strong principle, and his sense of responsibility was somewhat deficient. But God in wisdom dealt with this easy-going, unheroic figure to such good effect that not merely did he faithfully fulfill his appointed role on

the stage of church history, as a pioneer occupant of Canaan, first recipient of God's covenant, and father of Isaac, the miracle child; he also became a new man.

He responds to God's call, leaves home, and travels to the land which his descendants are to possess. We see a new courage, as he sets off with a mere three hundred men to rescue his nephew Lot from the combined forces of four kings. We see a new dignity as he deprecates keeping the recaptured booty, lest it should seem to have been the king of Sodom, rather than God most high, who made him rich. We see a new patience, as he waits a quarter of a century from the age of seventy-five to one hundred, for the birth of his promised heir. We see him becoming a man of prayer. We see him at the end so utterly devoted to God's will, and so confident that God knows what he is doing, that he is willing at God's command to kill his own son, the heir for whose birth he waited so long. How wisely God had taught him his lesson! And how well Abraham had learned it!”

The change in Abraham was, in no small part, due to spending time –lots of time– in God's presence. What might we become if we did the same?

Mary McPherson  
marymcp@aol.com

# Fellowship Events Schedule

Sunday Bar-B-Ques after the 10:30 service - June 17, July 8 and August 12. Look for details on the ECA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, June 20 - The Book Group will meet at the home of Kelli Casale. We still haven't picked a book, but don't let that stop you from joining us!

Sunday, June 24 - Living History Days at the Grand Hotel. Tour of the Hotel in New Almaden will be led by Dennis and Mary Moran after the 11am service. Check out the ECA bulletin board for more information.

Wednesday, July 4 - Concert on the lawn at Los Gatos High and picnic. Details and a sign-up will be on the ECA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



Address Service Requested

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**The Shape**

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