

November 2012



Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden

There's something poignant and yet ironic about this November – a month that begins with a divisive, confusing election and ends with a festive meal and family get-togethers. It's a month when in addition to the usual details of daily life, we find ourselves wading through unknown territory – or perhaps all-too-familiar territory with as-yet unknown dangers. A month that could make faint hearts quail at the thought. Time again to remember that with God, all things are possible.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 AM

11:00 AM

THURSDAY SERVICE

7:30 AM

Worship Schedule

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

Acolyte Master

Bobbi Finley

Altar Guild

Kathy Mastre

Coffee Hosts

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

Folk Music Director

Alex L. Dykes

Shape Editor

Jill Hertzner

Shape Copy Editor

Mary McPherson

Bible Study

Sharon Hall

Children & Families

- Nov 1 - All Saints Day
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Nov 4 - Proper 26 - Sunday after All Saints Day
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Pledge ingathering, both services
- Nov 6 - Election Day
7:30 PM Election Day Eucharist
- Nov 8 - James Theodore Holly
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Prayer
- Nov 11 - Proper 27
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday
- Nov 15 - Francis Asbury & George Whitefield
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Nov 18 - Proper 28
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Sunday
- Nov 22 - No 7:30 Eucharist
- Nov 25 - Proper 29 - Christ the King
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- Nov 29 - Kamehameha & Emma, trans.
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist

NOVEMBER 2012 EDITION

ISSUE NUMBER 11012012

E-MAIL ADDRESS Theshape@eca-sj.org

From the Rector

[Continued from cover]

Our Santa Clara County ballot is littered with weighty state propositions that will affect the lives of taxpayers, felons, children, and business in ways large and small; measures with competing tax ideas to boost revenue; bickering local candidates for council, senate, school board, etc.; and oh yes, that presidential choice. Suddenly we, the voters, are expected to decide on things we may not ever normally think about – but which inspire strong feelings nonetheless.

But then towards the end of the month comes Thanksgiving, when school kids act out the myth of the pilgrims and Indians, and grown-ups sweat over complex meals and delicate family relations. Suddenly we are cooking food and talking to relatives we may not normally ever think about – but which inspire strong feelings nonetheless. But which, and whom, inspires strong feelings on the left.

Ideals meet reality in both situations. The election should be our chance to exercise our part in democracy, to take our place at the big national table of decision-making and be part of the future direction of our city, state, and country. It should be exciting, maybe even joyful. But we've been barraged with political advertising all year, prey to slogans and shallow manipulation by others with more money, and now, put to the point, it's hard to know whether our vote will mean anything. Still, unless we're unusually apathetic or cynical, we cast it, and wait, and hope.

Thanksgiving should be our chance to stop and remember with gratitude all the gifts we are given, a time to sit at one table with family and friends and rehearse the old ritual of breaking bread together. It should be a chance to know ourselves part of some-

thing greater: similar meals going on all over the country, similar menus on the plates; the historical heritage of people of long ago stopping to thank God for bringing them safe thus far. It should be warm and loving and deeply thankful. But families aren't always together on Thanksgiving, and sometimes people find themselves alone. Frozen turkey dinner in front of the TV doesn't substitute for real food and real conversation, and yet that's all some folks can do. Still, whether we stop and eat turkey together or simply have the day off, Thanksgiving the national holiday happens.

Life rarely meets up with our ideals of how it should be. But sometimes, if we live it the way it actually is, it can be better than we expect. We think that God is all about the ideals and the perfect; but in truth, we find more of God in reality, in what is actually so than in what we wish were so. Democracy is a noble idea, corrupted in many ways by our political system. And yet somehow, truth leaks out, the character of a political candidate is more evident than they realize, the people make better decisions than those in power think they will. God the Holy Spirit works through the imperfections of ego and ignorance and sometimes, good results. (There's the history of the church in a nutshell.) Family and gratitude and perfect meals are the stuff of American legend, rarely matched by real people in real relationships and real kitchens. Yet somehow, the intention toward love can result in real love, food nourishes even when it's imperfect, we stop long enough and realise we are indeed thankful. God the Holy Spirit uses holiday meals as opportune times to bring truth and love to relationships that need it and sometimes, healing results.

[Continued on next page]

Senior Warden

Being forced to be left-handed for about three weeks inspired me (no genius at work here) to get in touch with the left-handed world (10-12% of people). (I had rotator cuff surgery on my right shoulder.) I am perspiring, however, as I left-handedly peck out this article. Our daughter, Holly, is left-handed and her birthday is August 13, “Left-Handers” Day since 1992. Neither Nancy nor I are left-handed but Nancy’s Dad was. As I read the various facts about left-handers and attempt to be left-handed, I become acutely aware that I fail miserably at being one or converting:

- Typing is doable; writing in cursive definitely is not.
- Eating is doable but using utensils designed for two hands is not; I can identify with children better, however, since Nancy has to cut up my food for me.
- I think of myself as not prejudicial, but I belong clearly in a demographic which over the centuries has discriminated against lefties in language, attitude, religious art and dogma, lore & myth, and literature.
- Lefties tend to defy odds: 1 in 4 Apollo astronauts, 4 of 5 original designers of the Mac, and 3 of 5 last Presidents (Obama, Clinton, Bush Sr.) are left-handed. Lofty achievements are not in my future.
- The right hand is mentioned positively 100 times in the Bible, while the left hand is mentioned only 25 times, all negatively. I wonder about the handedness of the biblical authors or their subsequent editors/interpreters.
- Lefties make especially good baseball players, tennis players, swimmers, boxers and fencers (almost 40% of the top tennis players are lefties.) This explains a lot about my athletic pursuits.

And finally, the factoid which best describes my struggles to cross over to the left world: “Connections between the right and left sides of the brain are faster in left-handed people. This means information is transferred faster, making left-handers more efficient in dealing with multiple stimuli and using both sides of the brain more easily.” As I’ve attempted this experiment, everything is ploddingly difficult and I’ve come to be aware that I am what I am, and the situation I am in is what it is and is to be endured.

Thankfully, Nancy more than filled in to be my right arm. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

George Romer

From the Rector

[Continued from previous page]

So this month, let our prayer be to experience God’s presence in what is real. May we have eyes to see God’s hand in what is happening in the world around us, and in the lives of our friends and family at home. May we have voices to speak loving truth to the powers of the world, and to those who have known us longer than we can remember. May we have hearts to love all of God’s people, those who vote like us and those who vote differently, those who come to dinner and those who stay away. God is moving in the midst of us, and for that, we give great thanks.

Kate Flexer

From the Editor



Despite headlines saying “the megachurch era is at an end,” 10% of Americans attend one with some regularity. Some people seem to think that the bigger the church, the better it is. It isn't just the megachurch

members that think this, however; many small churches feel compelled to emulate their formula in an attempt to balance the budget and touch the Divine. (The Divine apparently needs large budgets and lots of cash.) It seems to me that many of the churches that fall into this trap lose sight of mission as they focus on business. It's as if they plan on going public: the Church Of the Last Day, now on NASDAQ. Ticker: COLD. Gasp! On the Episcopal side, we seem best known for focusing on mission and just hoping that pesky budget will fix itself. It won't. In typical fashion, I'll digress a bit and come back to this later.

I am not able to grasp the “usual” rationale behind church expansion, which seems to state: *“You must do whatever is required to grow constantly, becoming an ever-larger congregation. Regardless of how healthy your parish may seem, attendance stagnation is a death knell.”* Huh? Growth for the sake of growth seems pointless to me. On the other hand, the kind of growth that happens naturally, when we invite our friends, our family and our neighbours to become part of our family in Christ, that sounds like something I can get behind.

But that's not a plan, is it? That doesn't solve the immediacy of the problem, does it? What can be done to bring in money and talent? From a purely financial standpoint, we should target the “empty nest” crowd. When you grow a church with the young, your parishioners don't have as much “dis-

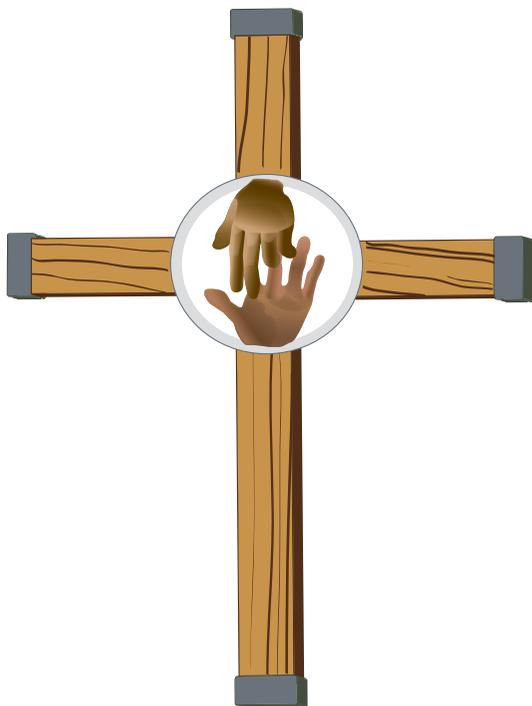
posable income” and empty nesters give you more bang for the buck. Youth-biased churches depend on large crowds to offset the small income per person. Sound clinical? It is. Let's not do that.

Still other churches decide the right way to grow is to target the un-churched and the never-churched. As a result, the game becomes, how do we attract this demographic? Some “secularise” the service and water down the message to be palatable to the masses. This can cause “original” members to become alienated, as evidenced by the 90 year old couple by themselves at the back of the megachurch as the rock band plays away and the disco lights flash.

And yet we must do something, lest we become the British village church that stand idly by as its members die off. Nothing changes, and the 12 people that show up on Sunday are the end of the road for the parish. For some reason, every book I have read on parish growth tells me that this is exactly what will happen to small churches unless they embrace the “megaway.”

Is it possible this isn't *our* fate? Perhaps this is just the fate of those unable, or unwilling to change? A fond thought of mine when thinking about the Episcopal Church is: we *do* change. We change every 90.8 years whether we need it or not. (Average time between US editions of the *Book of Common Prayer*.) Is this enough? Too much? How many of us still lament over the 1928 Prayer Book? The 1916 Hymnal? I know I still miss Eucharistic Prayer A, and have a particular fondness for the 1916 *and* 1982 Hymnals. So we can change, but what change should we make? Attitude.

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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

Prayer Vine

Ann Avoux
annavoux@gmail.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**

Studying Exodus

In the beginning of Exodus, the Israelites are subjugated by the Egyptians and God calls Moses to confront Pharaoh and ask him to free his people. This starts a cycle of ten plagues brought down on the Egyptians. After the first few, Pharaoh starts to relent, but then we read, “God hardened Pharaoh’s heart.” A natural question we wrestle with is, “Does God’s hardening of Pharaoh’s heart mean Pharaoh is not responsible for his choices?” An interesting thing about Bible study is we often discuss hard questions like this and the answers are not always straightforward. Paul wrestles similarly with this issue (Romans 9). He points out God elected to bless Jacob over Esau, Abel over Cain, and he asks, “Is God unjust?”

If you were hoping to get the “right” answer from me, I am sorry to disappoint you. However, I will leave you with the following:

“Europeans and Americans are raised with a system of thought that originated in ancient Greece. This system stresses logic – the kind mathematicians use to deduce axioms in geometry, and the kind Sherlock Holmes made famous for solving crimes. Greek logic insists that opposites contradict each other and cannot both be true.

By contrast, Hebrews believed that opposites are often both true. In the Bible we find Jesus, the apostles and the prophets often holding apparently conflicting ideas in tension. A prime example is divine sovereignty versus human responsibility. . . The Scriptures say both that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart and that Pharaoh hardened his own heart. This is a logical contradiction for Greek-minded people, but for the Hebrew mind it is a profound paradox to be held

together. ‘Both... and’, not ‘either/or,’ is often the biblical viewpoint.”

(LifeChange Series, Exodus, p. 57)

One thing is for sure: it makes for interesting discussion. Bible study meets Wednesday nights at 7:30 PM and Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM. Join us if you are able.

Mary McPherson

From the Editor

[Continued from page 5]

When I look at churches that “have trouble growing,” I see a church that has become so fixated on a narrow aspect of church life it overwhelms members and visitors alike. They can be so consumed by attracting new members they neglect the existing members, or worse yet, they jump on newcomers like a pack of dogs on a three-legged cat. It shouldn’t surprise us that member turnover at megachurches is high.

This returns us to the \$64,000 question: What do we do? Perhaps the fate of the Episcopal Church, and by extension ECA, is to service a niche. Why am I OK with that? Because being who we are does not need to change as long as we are needed. This brings me my alternative. As a congregation we should forget about growth as an end in and of itself and instead focus on sharing our gifts with others. Invite people to become part of our family. Focus on stewardship of our congregation, of our neighbours, of our community, and of ourselves. Most importantly, trust that God will sustain our numbers and worry about mission instead.

Alex Dykes

Oktoberfest



Enjoy Baking?

Many of you have served at Montgomery Meals. One thing I've observed is how many of the folks there like the desserts. Probably because I love sweets myself, I notice the happiness on the faces of people when they come back for seconds and realize there are still desserts left. Dessert donations are harder to come by these days, so Amy Griffith often takes on the extra task of baking for 150 people every other Friday so that the people we serve won't be disappointed in the dessert department.

Starting in January, I will have a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. If you are able to contribute to Montgomery Meals with a dessert (cake, brownies, cookies), please sign up and know that you brought a smile to someone's face.

Mary McPherson

Over 60 people attended the Oktoberfest dinner on October 13. We had a great time! Terrific food and fellowship! This year we decided that the Oktoberfest dinner would feature and benefit the Santa Maria Urban Ministry. After dinner, there was a time for reflection regarding how ECA has been involved with SMUM over the years. Then, the current Executive Director, Omar Torres, brought us up to date regarding what is happening there. Omar and SMUM's Operations Manager, Alfonso Mendes and his wife, were our guests for the evening.

After expenses this year, there was about \$100 left over. That money, along with the excess money that has accumulated over the past 3 years in the Oktoberfest fund, is being designated to Santa Maria Urban Ministry, meaning ECA will be sending them a check in the neighborhood of \$1000. And that's not counting money that some of you designated specifically to SMUM prior to the dinner.

Thanks to the following folks for their help with set-up, food preparation, and clean-up: Betty Consorte, Suzanne Mayo, Maryke Williams, Nancy Romer, Susie Ferguson, Carol MacDonald, Dave and Gayle Byers, Amy Griffith, Debbie Estill, Jim and Bonnie McPherson, Hank and Sheri Winkewerder, and Laura Hall. The high school students who helped out—Will Bond, Nick Martin, Caitlin McPherson, Jason Skowronski, and Annie Hall—did a fantastic job of serving the food, bussing the tables, and cleaning up the kitchen afterwards! Again, it was a great evening!

*Mike and Marianne Schmidt
Gloria Ashdown*

Thank You

Thanks to Maryke Williams and her knitting talents and the beautiful Nativity people she has made for our Sunday School children.

Thanks to Gwen Hacker, Sandie Mueller, Debbie Estill, & Leslie Rousseau who taught Sunday School for us in October.

Thanks to Kelli Casale, Kelly Yamanishi, & Alex Alvarado who were shepherds for us in Sunday School during October.

Thanks to Mary & John McPherson for use and help with "Sunday School in a tent."

Thanks to Nancy Romer for her coordination of Montgomery Meals.

Thanks to Hank and Sheri Winkenwerder for their participation in the ECA Bible study and for bringing delicious goodies to Movie Night.

Thanks to Sharon Mills, Susie Ferguson, Ellen Lukanc, and Wendy Martin for hosting a wonderful welcoming brunch for our new members.

Thanks to John McPherson for caring for the front lawn.



Anniversaries

Warren & Dorothy Willard 9

Birthdays

Mary Moran	1
Liz Criner	4
Todd Lukanc	10
Alex Dykes	12
Brad Bond	14
Cindy Ciccarello	18
Amy Griffith	21
Eilene Lueck	22
Joan Wagner	24
Frances Hinch	25
Helen Beacher	27
Joyce Wing	29



Pledge Drive

We are approaching the end of our annual Pledge Drive. We are encouraging everyone to find a festive gift-wrap for your pledge and bring it to the services on November 4th. At those services, there will be an opportunity to place your pledge on the altar for a blessing of our commitment of financial support for the coming year. It is an excellent opportunity to involve children in the process of returning a portion of the gifts that God has provided us for the support of ECA. Mark your calendars, and remember that daylight savings time ends on that Sunday, so FALL BACK, or you will miss the occasion.

If you are not able to join us on the 4th, bring your pledge card on the next Sunday that you are able to attend and place it in the offering plate. You may also return it or send it to the Treasurer, Bill LaVallee, at the church at any time. We would like to have all the pledges in by the end of November so that the Vestry can prepare the final budget for 2013 in the beginning of December.

Thank you for your continued support of our unique parish family and the work that we do in our community and around the world.

*Andy Kerr & Sharon Hall
Pledge Drive Co-Chairs*



JV News

- A new Policy was officially instituted for the electronic and automatic payment of invoices at the October JV Board meeting. This will insure that a better receipt management system is in place so that the timeliness of payments will be assured. An accounting@jointventurechurches email address has been added to better handle these e-banking alternatives.

- The kitchen refrigerator has been serviced and fixed with a new drain tube and new door hinges that help ensure that it closes properly (and stays closed!). Thanks to Dee Dumont for arranging the service call.

- Work on the mold/asbestos/lead paint problem in old fellowship hall, the big Sunday school room and the small Sunday school room/Nursery began on October 22nd. This proved to be a bigger problem than first anticipated. It became apparent that we needed a professional solution and this hazardous material removal phase is the first part of that process. BIG thanks to Dave Byers who initiated and tracked this important project. Thanks to all for putting up with the inconvenience of sealed off rooms and men in strange white suits with respirators! Hopefully, disruption of church activities was minimized.

- The JV board received new bids for the renovation of old fellowship hall that look really good – more on this to come after the remediation work is done.

Steve Wing

Election Day Eucharist

Let's meet at the same table, with the same host, to remember the same things. We'll remember that real power in this world — the power to save, to transform, to change — ultimately rests not in political parties or presidents or protests but in the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus.

We'll remember that, through the Holy Spirit, this power dwells within otherwise ordinary people who as one body continue the mission of Jesus: preaching good news to the poor, freeing the captives, giving sight to the blind, releasing the oppressed, and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor (Luke 4:16-21).

We'll remember that freedom — true freedom — is given by God and is indeed not free. It comes with a cost and it looks like a cross. We'll remember our sin and our need to repent. We'll remember that the only Christian nation in this world is the Church, a holy nation that crosses all human-made boundaries and borders. We'll remember that our passions are best placed within the passion of Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). We'll remember that we do not conform to the patterns of this world, but we are transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). We'll remember that God's strength is made perfect in weakness. And we'll re-member the body of Christ as the body of Christ, confessing the ways in which partisan politics has separated us from one another and from God.

On Tuesday evening, November 6, make a choice to remember. Let's meet at the Lord's Table. Let's remember together.

Election Day Eucharist,
Tuesday, November 6, 7:30 pm

Please join us for communion
www.electiondaycommunion.org

Turkey Drive

Yes, it's November, which of course means that the Annual ECA Turkey Drive is coming on and around Thanksgiving Day, November 22nd. This is the first call for volunteers that can give time and/or \$ donations to help the Montgomery Meals team cook and freeze turkey for the meals we prepare in our kitchen to feed the homeless every other week throughout the year.

The dedicated MM volunteers do a tremendous job in this fine example of ECA outreach, providing meals for close to 200 hungry people each time. The monetary donations are critical in making sure that complete meals can be put together. Please keep the turkey drive in mind if you're going to be in town over the long weekend and may have some time available. Look for the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall and volunteer to be a part of this great annual event.

Steve Wing (aka the Big Turkey)

ECA Family Hike & Worship

On Saturday, October 13, several ECAers big and small met at Calero County Park for a hike, worship, and picnic. It was a beautiful day with breezes and birds, and the 2.5 mile loop was perfect for our crew of all ages. Some of the party was carried for all or part of the way, while most walked or ran on their own two feet. We saw a number of horses, examined some coyote bones, and stopped along the way for prayer, listening to the sounds around us. We finished with a picnic at a table overlooking a small pond, and decided, 'Let's do this again!' Look for another local hike, likely in January. All are welcome!



Christian Education

This month we will finish our study of Moses and the Israelites. On Thanksgiving weekend Sunday, we will be at the Battle of Jericho with Joshua. As we watch those walls come tumbling down, I hope we will be seeing new walls going up all around us as we continue our exciting renovations of the Learning and Conference Center, Youth Center, and refreshed Nursery and Pre-School areas.

The teachers have been wandering with Moses and the children through Exodus this fall. Teaching can be very enlightening. First, we have to bone up on our scriptures and understandings related to our lessons. Often what happens is that as we prepare for the basics we hope to get across to our students, we move deeper into our own understandings of that particular scripture and lesson. We discover new revelations of God's Word and how it impacts and strengthens our own lives personally. Yes, as we prepare for our children to grow, we often grow. That has certainly been true for me this fall.

I have felt enslaved like the Israelites, wandered at times in a desert, grumbled and complained, been fed from a miraculous God, and moved forward to an unknown but promised future. Yet, when I allow it to happen, God leads me to some very exciting creative solutions and directions. So, what could be better than Sunday School in a tent! And how could it have been better timed than to begin with our lesson, "A House for God." (Special thanks go to Mary and John McPherson who made the tent a reality for us.)

God is sure to make our Sunday School time in a tent a memorable experience for our children and our teachers. I can't wait to hear the stories that will come out of this special time together. This might be a great time to invite new children to join us, too. Who wouldn't want to go to Sunday School in a tent!!

Susie Ferguson



Senior Ministry Growing at ECA

I have been able to gather an abundance of resource materials regarding community resources for seniors in Santa Clara County. This area seems to be catching on to the growing number of older adults who want to make the most of their “golden years,” demonstrated by savvy marketing to this population. Beauty, health, safety, finances, or housing, everyone wants to sell us something! Business opportunities abound for senior-related industries, and we can benefit from this boom.

I shared some of my finds last Sunday after the 11:00 service on October 14th, but it really takes a 1-1 discussion (or 1-2, as the case may be) to pinpoint areas of interest. So please contact me if you are looking for current or future resources to address issues of aging in our ECA community. We did have a representative from the Council on Aging in to speak to us a few months ago, and one of the simplest ways to investigate resources, especially for an urgent need, is to call them at (408) 350-3200. Their staff has been trained to link individuals with appropriate resources, whether it's housing, finances, meals, homecare assistance, transportation, or healthcare issues.

I have been to several senior resource fairs in my quest to build this ministry, and have discovered many good people offering their skills to older adults in our county. Each situation is unique, of course, and some situations need a quick solution, where others might be more of an investigative approach for the future. I am all for advance planning in all areas of life, for all ages, but especially for us near or in retirement. I keep learning more myself

about how to prepare for the many possibilities that await me as I “age in place” (at least so far!)

Rev. Kate and I will be presenting on the subject of Advance Planning on Sunday, November 18, after the 11:00 service (light lunch provided). Please join us to learn more about and discuss health care and financial advance directives, will and trust planning, memorial service planning, residential options, and many other subjects of mutual interest and importance. Please RSVP by Sunday, November 11 so that we can plan the refreshments. And do let me know if you are interested in participating in our Senior Ministry, volunteering to assist a senior (light house or yard work, transportation to appointments, friendly visiting, help with paperwork, etc.) We are here to help each other age well, in the joyful spirit of our ECA community.

Kathleen Eagan



Lenten Meditation

Lent offers us an opportunity to grow in our relationship with God. In Lent we traditionally take time to reflect, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do (repent), deny ourselves something, take on a new discipline, and be generous to those in need.

You may have done this in the past with the help of a printed book of Lenten meditations. This year, ECA will come up with our own book of Lenten meditations, written by members of our congregation. This has been done before, here and elsewhere. It is a wonderfully unifying communal activity.

I will be seeking volunteers to take one day's scripture readings, spend time with them and reflect upon their meaning, and write out thoughts about it to share in a printed booklet. It's a great way to step out in faith, putting trust in the Holy Spirit to give you words to say.

To be completed and printed out by Lent, we need to start this process now. I have the readings for each day and some general instructions. I will collect and compile your meditations. Please let me know if you would like to participate. If you don't volunteer, I may be calling you!

Mary McPherson
marymcp@aol.com

Hiati Update

A year ago, ECA stepped forward to join the church-wide, grassroots "Rebuild Our Church in Haiti" campaign. The campaign asked every Episcopalian in the US to contribute \$10, in hopes of raising \$2M. Happily, the campaign has raised over \$2.7 million to date in cash and pledges toward restoring the physical infrastructure of the Diocese of Haiti.

A 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti in January of 2010 destroyed over seventy percent of the churches, schools, and other institutions there. The Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which was flattened, also served as home to the only music school in the country, an elementary and secondary school, a vocational school, and a convent.

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped us surpass our goal!

Mary McPherson

Neighborhood Watch

I still have some Neighborhood Watch signs for those who attended the workshop last July. If you attended and did not get a sign, please call or email me. Officer Cedeno respectfully asked that only those who attended get a sign, and I gave him my word. Please respect Officer Cedeno and me by only asking for a sign for yourself and not for a neighbor. Remember, God is watching!

Wendy Martin



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The Shape

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