

March 20 13



The Shape

Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden

From the Rector

‘Silence is golden,’ as the old proverb says. And yet we so rarely get a chance for silence anymore. A few weeks ago Jim and the kids left me for nearly a week over school break, and the silence at home was stunning. Mostly I filled up the week with meetings and work, but the silence leaked in around the edges anyhow.

The week began with the three-day weekend in a cabin with several friends and lots of noisy children. I joined my family for the last night of it. Once they set off for southern California, I had the rest of the day utterly free. So I set off to explore the Big Trees off of

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Service Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 AM

11:00 AM

THURSDAY SERVICE

7:30 AM

Rector

The Reverend Katharine Flexer

(408) 364-6524

Staff

Susie Ferguson

Youth & Christian Education

Kristal Kim

Music Director & Organist

Bill LaVallee

Treasurer

Dennis Elliott

Administrative Assistant

Assisting in our Ministry

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

Mary McPherson

Bible Study

Sharon Hall

Children & Families

Worship Schedule

- Mar 3** 3rd Sunday of Lent
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
The Rev. John Buenz preaching/presiding
- Mar 7** Perpetua and her companions
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Mar 10** 4th Sunday of Lent
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday
- Mar 14** Gregory the Great, trans.
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Mar 17** 5th Sunday of Lent
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Sunday
The Rev. John Buenz preaching/presiding
- Mar 21** Thomas Cranmer
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Mar 24** Palm Sunday
7:30 AM Palm Sunday Liturgy
11:00 AM Procession and Palm Sunday Liturgy
- Mar 28** Maundy Thursday
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
6:30 PM Agape Meal and Eucharist, with CCAVUCC
- Mar 29** Good Friday
12:00 Noon Good Friday Liturgy
7:30 PM Taizé Service with Veneration of the Cross with CCAVUCC
- Mar 31** Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service with CCAVUCC
7:30 AM Choral Eucharist
11:00 AM Festive Choral Eucharist

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From the Rector

[Continued from cover]

Highway 4, a grove of giant sequoias. Despite the presence of numerous families of all languages and nationalities, there was something deep and silent about being alone myself amongst those ancient trees. My usual chattering brain quieted down; I stopped planning and scheming. I heard instead the old wisdom of those trees and what they had seen, and was still – still enough to hear God’s voice again in a different way. I hadn’t known I needed silence, and yet once it came, I was deeply refreshed. It carried me through the whole week, so that the silence at home, instead of lonely, felt rich.

Several years ago I spent a week in the Taizé community, living and working and praying with young people from all over the world. Three times a day thousands of us gathered in the enormous church for worship. We sat on the floor, sang quiet repetitive chants, heard short lines of scripture, and prayed. And we sat in total silence – for ten minutes at a time, with no words or music. It was an amazing experience of silence in community. I only knew a handful of those people, yet the intimacy of being silent in prayer together was profound.

At ECA, we are trying out ‘being silent together.’ This is a lively, loving community of people. On Sundays when we see each other, we are thrilled to catch up on the latest news of each other’s lives. We like to laugh and joke together. We love how rich our community feels. All of that is good and a blessing. But we have often neglected in our happy chatter the depth that comes from silence together. And we have often talked right over the real needs of others for silence, particularly in worship and our preparation for worship. In so doing, we have robbed ourselves and others of the chance to really prepare hearts and minds to be in God’s presence – to hear what God’s voice might have to say to us in this time and place.

I have been part of several conversations about this here, with those who love the happy talk of community and those who dearly long for some quiet. The liturgy committee has struggled to find ways to add silence in to the Sunday worship while respecting the character of our community life. This Lent we are trying another way, giving ourselves the discipline of a minute of silence between the announcements and the start of the liturgy. The silence is meant to be used as a time to focus, to be still and allow God to work as we begin our prayer together. I am curious to see how it seems to you.

But I’d like us to do more. We have the luxury of a clearly defined worship space, surrounded on all sides with entryways and areas for fellowship. I think it is time for us to treat our space differently. When we come into the doors of the church downstairs, that space is wonderful for greeting our friends and guests, talking with one another about things of life and affairs of our community. When we climb those stairs (or go up in the lift) and enter that upper room, it is time for us to prepare for worship. I have asked the choir to finish their rehearsal time and allow for a prayerful atmosphere before the prelude music begins. I ask you also to do the same – if you have something to talk about at length, do it downstairs. It doesn’t mean we have to preserve a monastic silence upstairs – I don’t imagine us turning into a crowd of contemplatives. But we need to settle, and to allow others around ECA to settle, into holy space.

Please try this in your next Sunday here. Notice how it feels. Talk about it (downstairs!) with others. Let’s see if we can deepen our experience of God in our midst.

Kate Flexer

Senior Warden

ECA's vestry met in Retreat at St. Andrew's in Saratoga a month ago. We met with the Rev. Canon Brian Nordwick, Canon to the Ordinary for Finance and Administration, to provide input to a Mutual Ministry Review. Collectively we pooled our thoughts regarding what has gone well in the last year, whom we can thank, and what we could do better or discontinue doing in the coming year. This was a most rewarding forum, not only to the returning Vestry persons but to the "newbies." Your new Vestry is energized to serve. You will hear more of the results in the coming months.

A key feature of our Vestry's function is to be representative, responsive, and accessible to you, the good people of the Episcopal Church in Almaden. Toward that end, following is a listing of the Vestry leadership for 2013, slightly adjusted to be more representative of the ministries we do, to be responsive to you and Him, and to do the good works He has given us to do:

Worship: The Rev. Kate Flexer
Finance: Todd Lukanc (Committee is Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, & Stewardship Chairperson)
Stewardship: Andy Kerr / Bryan Bond*
Children & Youth: Wendy Martin
Spiritual Growth: Mary McPherson
Hospitality: Kelli Casale / Alex Dykes*
Communication: Mike Schmidt
Pastoral Care: Kathleen Eagan
Fellowship: Alex Dykes / Kelli Casale*
Charity Outreach: Sharon Hall/ Beth Proudfoot*
Community: Beth Proudfoot/ Sharon Hall*
Junior Warden: Bryan Bond
Senior Warden: George Romer

*Where two names are listed after a Ministry, the agreed intention is the first is the prime contact/ responsible person for that ministry and the second is back-up or understudy.

Within three days, a joint meeting of finance committees of ECA, CCAVUCC, and the Joint Venture Board occurred on February 5 to consider some special challenges so that each member church could finalize its 2013 budget. Agreements were reached and your Vestry, CCAVUCC Council, unanimously adopted their respective 2013 budgets on February 12. There will be more to share on this in the coming month as details are implemented.

Please be prayerfully mindful that your Vestry needs your input, suggestions, and contributions of time to make our Mission live toward our shared Visions. Please use the above list as your entry point to get involved and influence the ways we travel on The King's Highway in Almaden.

George Romer

Palm Sunday Talk

Rick Hamlin, executive editor of Guideposts Magazine, will be with us to talk about prayer and his new book, *Ten Prayers You Can't Live Without*. Rick's book *Finding God on the A Train* was a bestseller when it came out in 1997, and several other books have followed. Rick himself is wonderfully engaging. Join us after the 11:00 service!

Communications & The Shape

First off, I will be the Vestry liaison person for Communication, for the second consecutive year. This means, mainly, that I'm involved with our website, eca-sj.org, and with our monthly newsletter, The Shape. I'm also the point person for any other communication issues that arise during the year. I enjoyed my first year being involved with communication, chiefly because I think communication is so important for an organization such as ours. It is also very rewarding to work with those who work so hard to keep our congregation well informed and up-to-date.

You probably noticed that there were some changes this past month in how The Shape was delivered to you. The post office recently made some changes, which meant that bulk mailing could only be done at one of the Campbell post offices, a considerable distance away. We felt that bulk mail was no longer the best method of delivery. We pared down our mailing list (it had been padded to meet the post office's minimum number), and did our mailing using the standard means of delivery.

More recently, we sent out an email to our entire mailing list, explaining the above change. While the mail will remain the standard way for most people to receive The Shape, we did offer people the opportunity to opt out of mail delivery, and instead receive an email each month when The Shape is available to read online. So far about 15-20 people have elected to read The Shape online. If you have never seen The Shape online, you can find it on our website under the pull-down menu Parish Life/Newsletter.

If you enjoy reading a hard copy of The Shape, by all means, continue using that method. In the future, whenever the timing allows, we will probably hand out as many copies as possible after Sunday services, and mail the rest.

Mike Schmidt



Lenten Meditations

I'd like to acknowledge and thank all of the people who wrote for ECA's Lenten Meditation Booklet, as well as Kate for her brilliant idea. It is truly a blessing to us all. I, for one, am so touched by the thoughtful, personal, beautiful, heartfelt, thought provoking and enriching messages expressed. We often hold our faith very close to our hearts, and it takes courage to "put it out there." Kudos to all who took that step.

Mary McPherson

Senior Ministry

Interest and involvement in our Senior Ministry continue to grow and evolve. Of course, it is not only us “seniors” who sometimes need assistance, and that’s why our Pastoral Care ministries are prepared to help out in times of crisis or temporary disability. I am joining our newly reconstituted Disaster Planning effort, led by Ellen Lukanc, and we will make sure that provisions for our older members as well as those with special needs of any kind are considered. Whether it’s a community-wide catastrophe or an individual emergency that occurs within our ECA family, we want to be ready to respond in a helpful and productive manner.

In our continuing series of Advance Planning workshops, we will welcome Ella Duncanson, an estate planning attorney, on Sunday, April 14, 2013, after the 11:00 am service. She will help us understand the various kinds of legal provisions that are available to provide for our future and that of our families. This is relevant to all, not just seniors, so please join us for a light repast and an interesting discussion!

I am investigating a program called HOME STAY, funded by the National Science Foundation. They have a 40 Step Action Guide that looks to be very helpful in preparing seniors to “age in place” as long as possible. I will share this resource with anyone interested in the near future.

There is also a new website called PREPARE (www.prepareforyourcare.org), which was developed by doctors at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. The website is written in plain language and includes voice-overs of all text, closed-captioning, and large font. This website is very user-friendly and gives excellent suggestions for working with

your doctors, family members and others who may be involved in any illness or change in your health condition in the future, including the advance medical directives that we have been talking about in our senior ministry meetings.

I will be attending a conference at the Hospice of the Valley on February 25 on Advance Planning and will plan to share any applicable resources in our ongoing meetings. Don’t forget to peruse the resource table in the narthex for additional options in our community for a wide range of senior-related needs.

Please continue to let me know of any ECA senior who might be in need of a phone call or other support, or if you would like to assist in this ministry.

Kathleen Eagan



Thanks!!

Joan Okamura for donating a refrigerator to the kitchen, in the memory of her husband, Dick.

Linda and Sam Sarmaçanic for donating a microwave and electric tea kettles to the kitchen.

Maryke and Robin Williams, and Susanne and Arnold Moore, for donating cutting boards to the kitchen.

Betty Consorte, for her skill and loving care in creating the Lenten vestments and altar hangings for our church.

Dave Byers, Matt Gundersen, Tim Miller, Laura Hall, Bonnie McPherson, Jim McPherson, Annie Hall, Triston Taylor, Will Bond, Tyler McPherson, Juliette Rousseau, Sierra Dallas, Meghan Hall, Tyler Kanicsar, Mason Kanicsar, Jason Skowronski, Karen McCarthy, Nick Martin, Lauren Gundersen, William Bernard, Heather Kerr, Andrew Gibson, George Romer, Nancy Romer, Robin Williams, and Mike Schmidt for the hours of hard work they put in prepping and painting the youth center, the conference center, and the nursery. What an amazing team! (from Inge Bond)

Alex Alvarado, Kelli Casale, Phyllis Chai, Gwen Hacker, Wendy Martin, Ann Mayers, Leslie Rousseau, & Kelly Yamanishi for teaching and shepherding our children in Sunday School during February.

Ruthanne, our Bell Choir Director, and her mother for joining Francie Kerr, Gayle Byers, Maryke Williams, and Rae Harris and the special music they offered us on Ash Wednesday.

Birthdays

Tim Miller	1
Anna Spanjaart	1
Jack Jackman	3
Judy Graun	4
Julia Machado	6
Jackie Whitlock	6
Jason Ferguson	16
Ainsley Jaciow	21
Gloria Skowronski	24
Edie Keck	26

Anniversaries

Dave & Gayle Byers	10
Henry & Judy Blankenheim	14





Family Ministry

I am the Vestry liaison for Children and Families. What this means is that I am the go-between for our wonderful youth leaders, Inge Bond and Bonnie McPherson, and our fabulous Christian Education Director, Susie Ferguson, and the Vestry. My job is to report to the Vestry what is going on with our youth here at ECA, what they are doing, their accomplishments, what is to come, and the like. What this means to you is that I am here to help answer questions, help you get to where you want to go if you ask me, and be of service to everyone in as led by God and as needed by the parish. So please feel free to talk to me about any questions or concerns, ideas or projects, or if you feel led to serve, I can certainly connect you with someone in our family and youth ministries and get you on your way to serving God and our community.

By the way, I have once again misplaced my pink UBS drive with photos of youth activities. If you are the one I gave it to, or you happen to come across it by any means, would you be so kind as to give it to me or put it in my box near the office? I would greatly appreciate it. I thought pink would help me keep track of it, but it appears I should have put a clapper or something on it. Ha! Ha!

Wendy Martin

Lenten Classes

Being Church in the Land Between Religions: Nones, Spirituality, and Mainline Christianity in the New Media Age. This three-part series will be taught March 3, 10, & 17 after the 11:00 service, by our own Elizabeth Drescher.

Since late 2012, when the Pew Center on Religion in American Life released a study entitled "The Rise of the Nones," mainstream media outlets have been buzzing about the growing population of the religiously unaffiliated. One in five Americans now identifies as a None. The majority come from Christian backgrounds, with the Episcopal and UCC churches contributing the largest percentage of their membership to the Nones demographic. Clearly, this is a trend that we should be following closely, and Nones are people we need to understand in much greater depth.

Based on more than a year of interviews with Nones across the U.S., Elizabeth will guide us into reflection and conversation on what the growth of the Nones means to ECA and how we can continue to be in relationship as people explore new ways of making meaning and pursuing self-realization in the world today.

Session 1: Who are the Nones?

Session 2: Nones Beyond the Numbers: Listening to the Stories of the Unaffiliated

Session 3: Making Connections, Sharing Meaning: How Mainline Congregations Can Stay in the Conversation

Outreach

Sharon Hall and Beth Proudfoot will be operating as a team to spearhead outreach as our focused ministry. We are looking at outreach as a multi-pronged ministry that reaches out to the community in many areas, helping ECA grow spiritually in the services we provide to the community; as well as enabling growth in how well we connect to and serve the needs of existing, new and prospective parishioners.

The main areas we will focus on growing outreach services are:

1. Community service opportunities, such as providing a place to educate the community on Neighborhood Watch/Safety, Disaster Preparedness, Parent Support services, Exercise groups, etc.
2. Philanthropic and Charitable Endeavors which would include Santa Maria Urban Ministry, Montgomery Meals, Knit Wits as well as investigating new charities that ECA parishioners would like to support.
3. Continuing our investigation of additional services we can offer the community such as child care, after school care, or teen events.
4. Making ECA more visible in the community via more visible signage, increased representation and visibility of the community events and services in the local neighborhood newspapers.
5. Providing more Community fun events such as movie nights, theatrical events, talent shows, bringing in performers.

We will be exploring these different areas of growth for outreach and we welcome all inputs and suggestions. We'd love feedback from all of you, so don't hesitate to let us know of ideas you have for educational, cultural, and/or FUN things you'd like your neighbors (and YOU) to become involved in at the church, especially those things that would be so rewarding for you that you'd like to help!!

Stay tuned as we form small groups to focus on each of these areas. We will need your assistance to make any of these efforts successful! We'll start the ball rolling with one of our favorite things: anybody want to put on a play this summer? Perhaps one that involves local youth? Please contact Beth or Sharon if interested in helping put on a play/musical. We look forward to a fun and exciting time at ECA!

Beth Proudfoot and Sharon Hall



Christian Education

Funny how the Holy Spirit works sometimes, isn't it? I was wandering through the Nursery and Pre-school rooms, the Youth Center, and our Learning/Conference Center checking on progress and being anxious for it all to be done when this scripture was brought to mind:

And Jesus took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, *“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but the one who sent me.”* (Mark 9:36-37)

Imagine if each time we welcome and receive the children who come to us to be in our nursery, to attend our Sunday School, to participate in our youth groups, or just to visit on a Sunday morning, we welcome and receive the Lord. What an awesome truth. It certainly gives my heart a quick start each Sunday morning when I greet our children. It certainly gives a special meaning to all we are trying to do as we grow our programs and reach out to families in our community.

As we looked around our church facility a year ago there were so many places we could see that needed some attention and long overdue TLC. We started with our children and youth areas. I think the Lord will bless us abundantly for that decision. And by the time you are reading this we will probably be “moved into” our newly renovated areas where we can welcome and delight more children in knowing Jesus and His great love for them.

Susie Ferguson



My Neighbor

Our Wednesday evening series continues in March. Beginning with a simple soup supper at 6:00, each week we explore one of the cultural groups in our Almaden Valley. We are sharing this series with CCAVUCC, and have a number of speakers from outside and inside our church communities ready to present to us and answer questions. If we are going to adequately minister to our neighborhood, we need to know more about those who live here!

- Mar 6 Korean Culture, by Hi-Dong Chai
- Mar 13 Indian Cultures, by Saleem Qadir
- Mar 20 Silicon Valley Tech Culture
by Sara Bettencourt Gorman

Book Group

This month we are reading the book *In the Garden of Beasts* by Eric Lawson. This month's meeting will be hosted by Audrey Wiedrick, and we will be meeting at the home of Suzanne Mayo. Everyone is welcome, so join us on Wednesday, March 20th, at 7:30 PM.

Stewardship

Stewardship is alive and well at ECA. As we discovered last year, all of our active ministries reflect our stewardship of the many gifts we receive from God. We should continue to assess how we can share these gifts within our ECA community, in our neighborhood, and around the world. Don't wait for a Ministry Fair or Pledge Drive to find new ways to participate and serve. Also, share the joy and satisfaction that you receive from giving with others by inviting them to participate and help as well. The Rector and Vestry will continue to identify opportunities to be involved and share God's love through the work of the church.

In order to make it as convenient as possible to make cash contributions, we have developed alternative ways to pay your pledge and make contributions to other ECA sponsored activities. It is now possible to go to the ECA web site and look for the Stewardship menu on the right side of the page. Click on "Donations," and you can read the different methods of payment available. This will include payment by credit card and automatic payment from a checking account. If you have questions about these options, please ask Bill LaVallee about them.

Andy Kerr

Recipes

Apple Cake

Grease bundt pan and pre-heat the oven to 350

Beat together:

1 ½ c. oil

2 c. sugar

Add:

3 eggs

Beat till creamy and add dry ingredients:

3 c. flour

1 t. salt

1 t. cinnamon

1 t. baking soda

Stir into batter:

1 t. vanilla

3 c. peeled, cored, and thickly sliced tart apples

1 c, walnuts

1 c. raisins

Transfer mixture into prepared pan. Bake for 1 hour and 15 min. or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in pan before lifting out.

Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

Chili Cook-off Chili

Serves 50

25# ground beef, cooked, drained

5 onions, chopped

15 cloves garlic, chopped

5 (28 oz) cans tomatoes

2 c. chili powder

2 T. cumin

Salt and pepper

2 c. cornmeal

10 c. unsalted stock

Combine and cook for 6 hours.

Amy Griffith

Holy Week and Easter Services

March 24 Palm Sunday

7:30 AM Palm Sunday Liturgy

11:00 AM Procession with Palms & Palm Sunday Liturgy

We begin in the rose garden and process with palms into the church, where we continue with the reading of the Passion and a celebration of the Eucharist.

March 28 Maundy Thursday

7:30 AM Eucharist

6:30 PM Agape Meal & Eucharist, with our sister parish, CCAVUCC

Come for a simple meal in the context of worship, washing feet and breaking bread together. We end with quiet time in the church.

March 29 Good Friday

12noon Good Friday Liturgy

The traditional Book of Common Prayer liturgy with silence and praying the Solemn Collects. We will follow with Stations of the Cross.

7:30 pm Taizé Service with Veneration of the Cross, with CCAVUCC. Come for chant, silence, and prayer together.

March 31 Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service with CCAVUCC. Folk service at the Mockingbird Hill entrance to Quicksilver Park.

7:30 AM Choral Eucharist

11:00 AM Festive Choral Eucharist

Address Service Requested

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