



# The **S**hape

*Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden*

## **From the Rector**

I don't know about you, but Lent seemed to go on a looonnnngggg time for me this year. Perhaps my spirit was undergoing necessary purgation, entering more deeply than usual into the Way of the Cross as the season wore on. Perhaps it's also because I really started Lent sometime around Christmas. Without much of a break at the end of December, and knowing that January would fly by and February would come all too fast, I had to start thinking ahead to what programs and classes we would want to be offering in Lent. While sugarplums still glugged our cupboards, I was pondering soup suppers and penitential rites.

*[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*

## *Assisting in our Ministry*

George Romer  
*Senior Warden*  
Bryan Bond  
*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*  
Kathleen Eagan  
*Senior Ministry*

# Worship Schedule

- Apr 4      **Thursday in Easter Week**  
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Apr 7      **2 Easter**  
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday
- Apr 11     **George Augustus Selwyn**  
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Prayer
- Apr 14     **3 Easter**  
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- Apr 18     **Alphege, trans.**  
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Apr 21     **4 Easter**  
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Sunday
- Apr 25     **St. Mark**  
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- Apr 28     **5 Easter**  
7:30 & 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist



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# From the Rector

*[Continued from cover]*

Such is the nature of parish ministry. Scarcely has one season ended before it's time to be planning the next one. Actually, to be more accurate, scarcely has one season begun before you're planning for two seasons in the future. It doesn't mean you're necessarily ready far in advance – every church I've ever known is a hive of frantic irritability the week before Holy Week – but it does mean that some part of every clergyperson and church musician is always far in the future, even while the rest of the congregation is happily in the present.

Such, too, is the way of parenting. My mother-in-law gave us the helpful advice at Frances' birth that everything with kids is only a phase, that nothing lasts forever. What she didn't say was that this also included childcare arrangements and other scheduled activities. Around about Christmas this year it began to be time to think about summer plans – travels and trips, but more particularly, which camps and other activities could be scheduled to fill in the gaps in between the travels, when Jim and I would need to be working. By March the early-bird discounts for camps were ending, and we had to get our sign-ups in. We got Benjamin enrolled in his new preschool and that began the process of afterschool planning for the fall. Every day I haunted the SJUSD website in search of next year's academic calendar, waiting to see how the two kids' schedules would work out. I pondered next September's drop-off schedule on my morning run, wondering when my runs would have to happen come the fall. And which gymnastics class would Frances be in by then?

Jim tells me I'm insane for all this future thinking. And to a large extent, he has a point. It is one thing to plan ahead for things that need to be figured out in advance. It is another to be constantly worrying

through today and tomorrow all at the same time. Sometimes my planning turns to needless frenzy, keeping me from relishing accomplishments already done, and from enjoying simple pleasures in the moment.

Pop psychology and Eastern mysticism tell us to 'be here now,' to live in the present rather than in regrets from the past or worries over the future. But Paul tells us in the letter to the Philippians, 'Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.' The Christian message is very future-directed, always pointing forward to the hope that lies ahead of us. And yet Jesus tells us in Matthew, 'Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own.' That's a lot of different messages about how to be.

The synthesis of them all might be that God invites us to hope in the future, but not to worry over it. Placing our calendar in God's hands, we do our part of the work in preparing what we can prepare – and then we should let it go, allowing God to do the rest, working in other people and events what we cannot control ourselves. It's not simply about 'living in the present,' but it is about acknowledging our own limitations in foreseeing and controlling all things in the future. Which is reassuring to realize – that we aren't responsible for everything after all, no matter how much I worry. That's an Easter message we all need to hear.

*Kate Flexer*

## Senior Warden

Last month I indicated there were financial challenges with our 2013 Budget caused by our Joint Venture requirement that ECA and CCAVUCC split the budget evenly. The agreements reached required some heavy-hearted decisions regarding Joint Venture staff and facilities:

1. Eliminate the current Office Manager position and create a new Administrative Assistant position with fewer hours while folding in bookkeeping responsibilities.
2. Reduce the hours of the Christian Education Director which will be fully funded by ECA through the Joint Venture.
3. Eliminate one of the two paid Nursery workers positions, supplying the required second position from church volunteers.
4. Update the leased copying machine to enable "paying by the copy" for each church separately.

During this upsetting time of discovery, evaluation/problem solving, and transition, it has been enriching and rewarding to work with our well-meaning and conscientious parishioners from ECA and CCAVUCC. I want to thank Jim McPherson (JV President) for his tireless, dedicated, patient and persistent leadership. When you see him, thank him.

As we look forward through Jesus' suffering and death, we see hope through the Resurrection for a brighter future for our churches, united in new ways through the Joint Venture.

*George Romer*

## What Is Church For?

In Eastertide we will hold a series of classes after Sunday services. With several new members, it is time to teach some of the 'basics' of the Episcopal Church, our history and tradition. But it is helpful for all of us to dig further into our tradition, to know better who we are as Anglican Christians. When we know who we are, we can invite others to join us; when we know who we are, we can reach out from ourselves to serve others. And when we know why we come to church, we can better go out from church to be God's people in the world. Beginning April 21, join the Rev. Kate Flexer and Jim Hinch for a series on living out our traditions in practical ways.

*Kate Flexer*



## Book Group

The April book is *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver. We will be meeting at Suzanne Mayo's home on Wednesday evening, April 17th, at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

## Mission Trip Ruminations

John and I just returned from a trip to Guatemala with group called Medical Teams International. Their mission statement is as follows: *to demonstrate the love of Christ to people affected by disaster, conflict and poverty around the world.*

The three biggest killers of children in Guatemala are acute respiratory infection, malnutrition, and diarrhea, all preventable diseases. We went to a rural village called Campat. Our team of 12 tackled the third preventable disease by installing latrines near 39 of the homes in the village to improve sanitation.

I am still processing the experience of seeing such extreme poverty first hand. I hope to communicate much more about it in due time, but right now I'd like to share just one of the many things I came away with.

Helping the poor is a daunting task. At times I felt the impact of our project was like adding one drop of water to Lake Tahoe. However, we were told that our physical health objectives (installing latrines) were superseded by our spiritual health objectives. How many latrines we installed was not our primary concern.

With poverty come despair, depression, and hopelessness. Our team coordinator and interpreter, Jorge, grew up in a village like Campat, the oldest of 11 children. Here is what he said our visits did for the people of Campat: "They speak to them that they are valuable. They think, 'Here are some educated, white-skinned people in my home.' It raises their self-esteem and lifts their spirits. They see the love we have for them and think to them-

selves, 'We can help each other. There is a God. I am worth somebody's time.' When they see what other people have and realize they are at the bottom, it is easy to ask, 'Does God care about me?'"

When we finished a latrine, Jorge would ask the family if we could come into their house (a hut with a dirt floor). He would ask them if there was anything they wanted to say to us. After they expressed their thanks, we would pray for them. This was the highlight of the trip for me. To pray for them/with them was such a privilege. Though we spoke different languages, it reinforced the message that we were there as ambassadors of God. Our work may have only added one drop of water to Lake Tahoe, but if we encouraged their faith, well, we know that faith has the potential to move mountains.

*Mary McPherson*



# Christian Education

This month we celebrate our Sunday School program moving into new and exciting times in our “new digs.” It is truly exciting to see a vision, long dreamed of, at last materialized. Though there are numerous finishing touches to enhance our program further, I am truly thankful for all that has been accomplished and to all those who have played a part in making our new center, pre-school, nursery, and youth center a reality.

Our Sunday School program continues this spring through Sunday, June 2nd. We welcome children at 10 AM with our program/lesson getting underway at 10:10 AM. At 11 AM when the ECA service begins we continue with our children for a time of music, Bible games, and stories. We then all join the ECA worship service at the offering time. This will be our format through June with some new exciting plans in development for our fall program.

Spring is also a very busy time as we are preparing for VBS which will be June 10-14. Once again, we are writing our own program. This year’s theme is Splash Zone – Water for Life. We are focusing on stories in the Bible that revolve around water and adding a component of water conservation. We will again welcome children aged 4 through 5th grade. It’s not too early to sign up and encourage friends and neighbors to sign up. (There is a discount for early signups.) A registration form can be found on our website or through our CE office. Our program is every morning from 8:45 AM to 12:30 PM with extended care available until 6 PM. Volunteers are always important to our program. Please consider helping out with snack preparation, being extra hands for art times, reading stories to

children, or other ways you may feel comfortable. Let me know your interest and availability and I will match you up in the right space and time.

We are delighted to have Phyllis Chai, Anne Van der Staay, & Elizabeth Cihon leading our centers, Bible Time, Water Wonders, & Creative Expressions, for the week. We also have Julia Samuel and Susana Machado set to go as teen counselors. We are hoping to have 3 groups, so I am busy recruiting one more teen counselor to cover that plan.

During our worship time we hope to have teens help with a dramatization of our daily story focus. Teens for this role do not have to be with us every day but we have to know who will and when. So if you have a teen willing to commit one day with us, let me know so I can work them in. On days they want to help we will ask them to be with us from start to finish (8:30 AM to 12:30 PM).

Kate and I are very much involved in the week and cover a myriad of areas every day and in many ways. We are both very excited about this year’s program and hope to make it even better than last year’s (which received great reviews). Thankfully our current Sunday School year’s program is organized and moving along smoothly so my attentions can now be directed to the development of the VBS program for June.

*Susie Ferguson*

## Thanks!!

Thanks to Alex Alvarado, Kelli Casale, Phyllis Chai, Susie Ferguson, Wendy Martin, Ann Mayers, & Leslie Rousseau for teaching and shepherding our children in Sunday School during March.

Thanks to Ellen Lukanc, Susanne Moore, Nancy Romer, Sharon Mills, and Taylor Wing for helping put the nursery and pre-school rooms back together for use beginning March 17th.

Thanks to Melinda Jennings for coordinating the Women's Retreat.

Thanks to Mary McPherson for organizing, editing, and blessing our new Lenten Meditation Book.

Thanks to Dave Byers for continuing to follow through with completing the work in the Nursery, Meeting/Conference Center, and Youth rooms.

Thanks to Ellen Lukanc for coordinating the quotes for the tree trimming.

Thanks to Jim and Tyler McPherson, and Will Bond, for making a dump run.

Thanks to Elizabeth Drescher for the great Lenten classes on Sundays.

## JV Donations

New to the JV Board, I am head of the committee called, variously, "Gifts and Donations" or "Donations and Memorials." As such, I am the Keeper of the Wish List, which comprises the following categories:

1. You see or hear that we really need something. Recent examples: refrigerator and microwave oven.
2. You feel that we really need something—this is actually more of a desire. Example mentioned by many people: new chairs to replace the pink-upholstered chairs in the narthex and choir room.
3. You know that we need something in particular and would like to donate the item directly or to donate the money to purchase that item (the latter is often easier and more cost-effective). Example: new child-size chair for the Learning Center (Old Fellowship Hall, which has been beautifully restored and is now devoted to Sunday school and adult meetings).
4. Something really expensive is on the list, and you would like to make a donation toward the eventual purchase of that item. Recent example: air conditioning for Fellowship Hall.

Let me know if you see a need, have a wish, or want to donate! Donations can also be designated as memorials.

As well as maintaining the list, I will post the list on the JV bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and will update it periodically.

*Ann Mayers (408) 826-7238*



## Community Outreach

**A**re you concerned about the pollution in Almaden Lake? Our own little pond is one of the most polluted pieces of water in the county. Let's meet with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to figure out what can be done about it! We've arranged for them to come to the church on Wednesday, April 17 at 7pm to make a presentation about the available options for clean-up. Come with your questions and concerns and bring a friend!

Do you have other concerns about what is happening in our community? Do you know of a great resource who might be able to answer questions and concerns for a wide variety of people? Do you have time or talent you'd like to share with the community? Let us know. We are actively pursuing outreach opportunities now.

*Beth Proudfoot and Sharon Hall*



## JV Update

**T**he JV Board has been very busy lately catching up on quite a bit of much needed maintenance around the church. The most notable item is the completion of the Conference and Youth Centers downstairs. As you have seen over the last several months, new floors, fresh paint and an all-new kitchen have made the entire space brighter and inviting.

Please take a moment to stop by and take a look at what has changed in that space.

Also, take the time to thank all the people who worked tirelessly to get this incredible amount of work done: Dave Byers, Jim and Bonnie McPherson, Inge Bond, ALL of the youth (who spent several of their weekends painting the youth center), Jerry and Susie Ferguson... the list goes on and on.

We would like to thank all of those who gave special donations for appliances and supplies.

There will be a significant amount of activity in the coming weeks to get the rest of the church ready for spring. Please see Ellen Lukanc and ask her how you can help.

*Bryan Bond*



# New Archbishop of Canterbury

*[Episcopal News Service]*

Justin Welby was formally enthroned as the 105th archbishop of Canterbury on March 21 during a two-hour ceremony that blended an ancient liturgy with a few modern twists. With Welby's enthronement, he joins a succession spanning more than 1,400 years, dating back to 597 AD when St. Augustine became the first archbishop of Canterbury.

Anglican Communion and ecumenical leaders, members of the British royal family, including His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, and senior representatives of the U.K. government, including Prime Minister David Cameron, were among the 2000 invited guests attending the service.

The U.S.-based Episcopal Church was represented by Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, as one of the Anglican Communion's 38 primates, and her canon, the Rev. Chuck Robertson. Bishops Shannon Johnston of Virginia, Ian Douglas of Connecticut and Andy Doyle of Texas also participated in the enthronement, or inauguration. Jefferts Schori noted during an ENS interview that Welby had attended the Episcopal Church's General Convention in 2009 and House of Bishops meeting in March 2012 and that people who spoke with him appreciated his good humor and depth of spirit.

The archbishop was then enthroned in two seats – the Diocesan Throne and the Chair of St. Augustine. The two enthronements formalized Welby's multi-faceted role as bishop of the Diocese of

Canterbury, Primate of All England and spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion. The cathedral dean installed him as Primate of All England but, perhaps most significantly, the Ven. Sheila Anne Watson, archdeacon of Canterbury, became the first woman to install an archbishop as bishop of the See of Canterbury.

Following months of anticipation and media speculation, Downing Street confirmed on Nov. 9, 2012 that the Queen had approved the nomination of Welby as the 105th archbishop of Canterbury.



Before his ordination to the priesthood in 1992, Welby studied law and history at Cambridge University and then spent 11 years as an executive in the oil industry. After a decade in parish ministry, he was appointed a canon residentiary, and later sub-dean, of Coventry Cathedral. He served as dean of Liverpool Cathedral from 2007-2011.

As bishop of Durham, the fourth-most-senior position in the Church of England to which he was consecrated in October 2011, Welby was automatically granted a seat in the House of Lords.

Welby succeeds the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, who stepped down at the end of 2012 after serving as the 104th archbishop of Canterbury since February 2003.

Welby is married to Caroline and they have five children, ranging in age from mid-teens to late 20s.

# Be Prepared

**W**e want our Joint Venture building and grounds to safe in all respects, and we want to be ready to respond in the event of an emergency, right? There are a multitude of safety precautions, requirements, devices and best practices that apply to ensure the wellbeing of our members and visitors, and they need to be monitored, improved and updated periodically. As for disasters (earthquakes, fires, medical emergencies, intruders and the like), we need to have concrete plans to respond and protect our physical plant as well as our physical selves!

With the changeover of JV Board members as well as the recent construction on our education facilities, there has been renewed interest in our preparedness, and Ellen Lukanc stepped up to lead a new committee which will work on this important area. She has called several meetings on “Joint Venture Emergency Preparedness” which were attended by members from both congregations: Dave Harris, Pat McGarvin, Kathleen Eagan, Kathy Graham, and Marianne Schmidt.

We are starting with a review of our building needs, which Ellen was actively working on with the JV board already, and plans are afoot to spruce-up, repair, or otherwise improve existing problems in the facility. Pat McGarvin began an inventory of our major assets, Dave is working on arranging training on CPR and our AED equipment, and Kathleen and Ellen did a combined safety/disaster response building walk-through to assess preparedness and basic safety issues. Kathleen will be developing emergency and disaster response plans for our senior, disabled and other vulnerable members, and Ellen is also looking into our county-wide disaster planning effort, “CADRE” for ideas as well as

reviewing the previous work done by Joint Venture on this subject.

We are interested in being able to assist our local community in the event of a natural or other emergency as well, but will be focusing on our own preparedness first, just like the flight attendants tell you before your plane takes off! If you are interested in this crucial project, please contact Ellen Lukanc. There will be many aspects to get involved in which will benefit us all, keeping us safe while participating in our church life and helping us to remain safe in the event of a disaster.

*Kathleen Eagan*



## Point Lobos Event

**W**ith the help of Susie Ferguson, Susanne Moore and Nancy Romer we will be having another fellowship outing to Pont Lobos on May 18th. Be sure to put the date on your calendar and check the May Shape for more information.

## Birthdays

Dennis Moran	3
Ryan Hall	4
Steven McPherson	9
Sandie Mueller	9
Juliette Rousseau	9
Jim McPherson	10
Gayle Byers	13
Laura Loe	22
Tyler McPherson	25
Caitlin McPherson	26



## Tabard Theatre

### Anniversaries

Steve & Joyce Wing	19
Todd & Kimberly Axtell	29
Bryan & Inge Bond	29
Karl and Jan English Lueck	30

It's Tabard Theatre Time with Susie & Jerry Ferguson and friends on Friday, April 12th! "Babes in Hollywood" is a fond look back at the music and lives of legendary stars Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. Songs performed will include the glories of the golden days of MGM: *Babes in Arms*, *Over the Rainbow*, and *Strike Up the Band*, to mention only a few. If you like upbeat music and tap dancing and these legendary actors you will love this show.

Susie and Jerry invite you to join them for a pre-theater party at their home in San Jose before the show. Party starts at 5:45 PM. Please bring a hearty appetizer or dessert (finger food preferable) and your favorite beverage to share. Meet some new friends. We leave for the theater in downtown San Jose by 7:20PM to make the 8 PM show time. This will be opening night for this show.

Go to the Tabard website for more information and to arrange for your tickets. Let Susie (susie@thinkuniversal.net) know if you get tickets and want to be part of the pre-theater party. These parties are always great fun. Extend invitations to others you know might like to join us.



ECA Family Hike on February 8 in Santa Teresa Park

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