

July 2013



The **Shape**

Newsletter of The Episcopal Church in Almaden

From the Rector

Every year, the vestry and I engage in a Mutual Ministry Review, a look back over our past year of ministry together. We have been guided in this by Brian Nordwick, Canon to the Ordinary in our diocese. He leads us through four main questions: What did we complete or make progress on, and who was important in that work? What didn't we do, and why? What do we need to carry over to next year, and what do we need to add? And most importantly, whom else do we need to thank? This year we did our review at our February vestry retreat, but due to some mix-up with note-taking, it is only recently that the vestry has had a chance to look at what we discussed. I'd like to share it with you, so you know

[Continued on page 3]

Service Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 AM

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

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

- July 4** **Independence Day**
No Thursday morning service
- July 7**
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
The Rev. Jim Edwards, preacher
- July 11** **Benedict of Nursia**
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- July 14**
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Folk Sunday
- July 18** **Bartolome de las Casas**
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- July 21**
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Healing Sunday
Joaquin Sanchez of IAF, preacher
- July 25** **St. James the Apostle**
7:30 AM Thursday Morning Eucharist
- July 28**
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

JULY 2013 EDITION

ISSUE NUMBER 07012013

E-MAIL ADDRESS Theshape@eca-sj.org

From the Rector

[Continued from cover]

what we've been working on together—a sort of midyear review for us all.

We accomplished many things in 2012. We deepened and renewed our relationship with Santa Maria Urban Ministry, through connections made by Debbie Estill, Sam Sarmecanic, and others. We saw a weekly online prayer group begin, led by Kimberly Axtell. Our website committee made strides on our new site, which launched this spring under a new webmaster, Jason Kazarian. We welcomed new families to our community in October. Our senior ministry got underway, thanks to Kathleen Eagan. A year-round stewardship program raised our awareness and understanding of stewardship and giving, thanks to Andy Kerr. We baptized four and confirmed seven at our 45th anniversary celebration. We saw a revitalized VBS attract new people, thanks to Susie Ferguson. We had a wonderful summer program called Rooahh, led by Elizabeth Drescher. And of course, all the work of renovations in the downstairs Center, youth room, and nursery.

We meant to have training for the whole church on hospitality and welcome, but didn't. We hoped to start a group for young adults, but put that on hold. We wanted to move further in our exploration of community organizing, but our process was slow on that front. We didn't do a good enough job of asking and inviting others to help. All of those went on the list for what to keep working on.

Meanwhile, our ideas abounded for new events and projects: movie nights, more community meetings, more adult ed forums, a singles group with other parishes, disaster preparedness, youth involvement in vestry, expanding our men's ministry, working more on our music in worship, visiting with families who don't attend as often as they used to.

Does it all sound like old news now? The events and achievements of 2012 do seem long ago in some ways. But the work of realizing our good intentions and dreams, and focusing our mission, is ongoing. As we move into the summer, we have the opportunity both for a bit of rest and refreshment and for a bit of reflection on what we have done thus far in 2013. We have renewed our look at incorporating the tools of community organizing, a project I am excited about for its potential to help us with our mission of reaching out beyond our walls. We have welcomed and involved more new families—and we all need to continue working on our welcome to those who continue to be attracted to our church. Our Sunday School program and VBS are high quality now, and are bringing new families into our orbit. We have made changes to our Sunday schedule, to better suit our priorities and needs of quality worship, fellowship, and education for all. We have begun looking at our use of space and how that does the same. And we're on Facebook!

As you rest and travel this summer, please take a little time to think about how we are doing here together as Christ's followers in Almaden. What are we doing well? What could we be doing better? What new things could we try? Pray for our community and our vision, that we might live out well our shared mission:

We are joyful followers of Jesus Christ, serving God and community through the church and in our individual lives. We help each other in our spiritual journeys, striving to nurture and grow a strong faith community where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued, and empowered to serve.

Kate Flexer

From the Senior Warden

Did you see Christopher Reeves in *Superman: The Movie* when it came out in 1978 (yes, 35 years, half my life, ago)? How did you feel during and after seeing it? I recall practically cheering him and feeling hopeful that terrible evil can be vanquished. After all, Superman overcame impossible situations to save lives, Metropolis, and the planet, and he gave people hope. I read and reread the comic books as a child. There is a very strong parallel to Jesus as God's only son, sent to earth to preach redemption and save souls:

- Jesus was very different from his contemporaries in his early life and his later public life.
- Jesus was sent by his father.
- Jesus struggled with his role in the future and with public displays of his powers.
- Jesus healed and brought people back to life.
- Jesus was misunderstood by his closest friends as well as the public he served and anguished over it.
- Jesus sacrificed himself in total service to humankind.
- We believe in his coming again.

Well, Superman has come again. *Man of Steel* opened in the middle of June, “in theaters near you” 35 years later. The messianic metaphor is being marketed to Christian pastors with sermon notes to suggest we answer the question, “How might the story of Superman awaken our passion for the greatest hero who ever lived, died, and rose again?”

This is an interesting question to contemplate. Images of Superman acting as a human doing super-human things conjures up new awareness of Jesus' impact on the locals in the Middle East. For me, Bible study is good for Sundays with interpretation by those trained (read sensitized) to seeing deeper meaning there. Experiencing spiritual emotions in film helps in being able to see different perspectives on biblical scripture. This medium enables experiential conversation of a deeper nature concerning the message and nature of Jesus.

How would the world accept Jesus today? Would the world treat Superman any differently? Would you be able to recognize Jesus and distinguish him from other multimedia renderings of superheroes? What would it take to get your attention? Jesus is asking for your attention. Can you hear him?

George Romer

**Did you know ECA is on Facebook?
Now you do! Just look up
Episcopal Church in Almaden!**



**Find us on
Facebook**

Our Deepest Fear

As ECA embarks on trying new things, we need to remember that there is often a certain amount of discomfort associated with change. Our last vestry meeting brought the following poem to mind.

Mary McPherson

Our Deepest Fear

By Marianne Williamson

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond
measure.

It is our light, not our darkness
That most frightens us.

We ask ourselves
Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented,
fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?
You are a child of God.

Your playing small
Does not serve the world.
There's nothing enlightened about shrinking
So that other people won't feel insecure around
you.

We are all meant to shine,
As children do.
We were born to make manifest
The glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us;
It's in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine,
We unconsciously give other people permission to
do the same.

As we're liberated from our own fear,
Our presence automatically liberates others.



Knit Wits News

God works in mysterious ways! One of the groups we are helping this year is Inn Vision. We used the proceeds from our Christmas Sale of hats, scarves and other cool handmade items and the afghan raffle to purchase fleece fabric for blankets (on sale back in February). This was a project we were going to start this summer.

A couple of weeks ago there was a fire at one of the Inn Vision Residence Centers for Women and Children. The fire caused the families to be displaced.

Saturday May 25th a group of women from ECA (Knit Wits) and friends met to make blankets for these families.

On the same day Sharon and Meghan Hall and other members of the Almaden Valley Branch 2017 of the NCL (National Charity League) were making lunch in our kitchen for their charity for the year. You guessed it – Inn Vision (for the families displaced by the fire). They got enthused about the blanket project and decided to stay and help.

Together (Knit Wits & friends, and our new friends from NCL) made 19 blankets that were delivered to the Inn Vision folks at lunch time that day by Red Cross!! This turned out to be an unplanned wider community project.

If you can cut a somewhat straight line, or tie a knot – please join us on our next fleece party to be announced at a later time. It's fun – we cut, and tie and talk and talk!!!

Kathy Mastre



Community Organizing Update

Exciting news! As many of you know, the vestry and other leaders at ECA have been intensively studying the possibility of affiliating with local community organizing efforts in our area for well over a year now. The organizing work in our area is being led by staff from the IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation), whose purpose is to strengthen institutions like congregations and connect them with others to better serve our communities. Our bishop and diocese, as well as other dioceses around the country, have strongly advocated that parishes pursue this work. Other churches and organizations in the Silicon Valley are signing up. St Mark's Episcopal Church in Santa Clara voted at the end of May to affiliate. Many see in it an opportunity to better live out who we are called to be as churches: to know one another more deeply, grow as leaders, and reach out to the neighborhoods around us.

ECA has wanted to grow and reach out for some time, but we have found it difficult to put our desire into action. Affiliating with the IAF will give us access to training and mentoring help in many things we have been struggling to do by ourselves – as well as ready connections with other faith communities and institutions pursuing areas of common interest in our area. Seeing this, the vestry directed the finance committee to assess the feasibility of becoming a dues-paying member of this organization beginning in our area. The finance committee believes it is possible to fund this initiative for the next few years. We feel the growth in our mission and ministry is well worth the cost of taking this step.

We would like to continue spreading the word to ECA members about this so everyone can be part of the planning. Joaquin Sanchez, an organizer

with the IAF, came to ECA on May 22 to lead an evening with us on what this initiative is about. Joaquin has also met with individual leaders and vestry individually as well as together, and he will be with us to preach at both services on July 21. I hope you will take this as an opportunity to be better informed about organizing and our excitement around this. The more common understanding of this we have as a community, the better we will learn what our shared purpose is and how to live it out together. Please pray for our direction and future as we move forward!

Kate Flexer

Community Outreach

We had an exciting merging of efforts from ECA Outreach groups this past month, all working toward a common goal! This came about after a fire at one of the InnVision shelters. Because of Ellen Lukanc's work with Disaster Preparedness, the American Red Cross contacted her for help in providing meals to the displaced women and children. Ellen contacted Sharon Hall and, to make a long story short, we accomplished the following:

1. Initiated and organized special ad hoc outreach efforts to provide two separate lunches to the 40 women and children displaced by fire at InnVision shelter.

- Organized a group from the Almaden/ Blossom Valley Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) to use JV kitchen facilities to make lunch on May 25th. This exposed 10 mothers and their daughters to ECA/JV. Lunch consisted of pasta salad, ciabatta turkey sandwiches, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit kabobs, and cookies and brownies. The food supplies were all donated by NCL.

- Organized a group of SHYG and ECA members to create a menu, grocery shop, and then make another lunch for Sunday May 26th. Lunch consisted of turkey, ham, and chicken salad sandwiches and chips, fresh fruit, vegetable relishes, and home-made cookies. Supplies totaled ~\$100; we are looking for donations to offset the expense.

- After completing the lunch preparations, we invited the NCL mothers and daughters to participate with JV Knit Wits to make "no-sew" blankets for InnVision. As a result, we delivered 19 blankets along with these two lunches.

- Thanks go to Anne Tysanner, Mike Schmidt, Bonnie and Tyler McPherson, Inge and Will Bond, Wendy Martin, Meghan and Sharon Hall, Kelli Casale, and others.

2. An Outreach Survey was inserted in last month's SHAPE. The purpose of this survey is to let the Outreach Vestry Ministry know what type of community outreach efforts you are interested in doing, as well as what days and times are compatible with your schedule. We welcome your input regarding the area(s) you would like the Outreach Ministry to focus on—either to expand into new outreach efforts or to augment existing ones.

In addition, we are providing an incentive! Every Sunday, a Target Gift Card will be drawn for those who have turned in a survey. Collection boxes for Surveys and for the Raffle stubs are set up in the narthex (extra surveys are available and will also be included in the Sunday bulletin). Results of the survey will be compiled in July. YOUR INPUT will influence setting up additional / alternative outreach opportunities for ECA congregants. So turn in your surveys and stay tuned for expanding opportunities for ECA Community Outreach!

Beth Proudfoot and Sharon Hall

Summer Youth Group Schedule

July 5th – Friday, 5pm Montgomery Meals
July 6th – Saturday, 12 Mystery Spot \$10.00+food
July 14th – Sunday, 5-7:30 pm BBQ/games
July 27th – Saturday, 9 am Six Flags \$29.00+food
Aug 6th-8th – Tues-Thurs camping \$35-40.00
Aug 18th – Sunday, afternoon Swim party
Aug 25th – Sunday, 5 pm Final BBQ

- We really need to get a head count for the “fun activities,” as we must prepurchase the tickets and make sure we have enough car seats for everyone. So, as these events get closer, please let us know if you will be going! If you wait until the last minute, the costs could be higher and we might not have enough seats—I’d hate to have to leave someone behind who wants to go. Contact Bonnie at masaur@comcast.net.

- I listed approximate costs for the “fun activities.” However, we will need to have 15 to count as a group at Six Flags. The camping trip will be close to the cost listed, but once I have a solid count of participants and a menu, I should be able to finalize that number.

- All activities are open to friends, and we encourage you to bring ‘em; the more the merrier . . . just let us know in advance.

Bonnie McPherson and Inge Bond



Movie Night!

ECA Bible study groups are at rest until the fall. In their time frame on the weekly calendar, we invite you to a movie—on Wednesday July 10th at 7:30 p.m. (or Thursday July 11th at 10:00 a.m.).

The Winkenwerders have bought a copy of the DVD *Love Free or Die*, which is a PBS, Independent Lens production. In the words of the PBS:

"This acclaimed documentary from award-winning filmmaker Macky Alston (Family Name) is the story of Bishop Gene Robinson, whose two defining passions the world cannot reconcile: his love for God and for his partner Mark. It is about church and state, love and marriage, faith and identity and one man's struggle to dispel the notion that God's love has limits."

Sheri Winkenwerder

So we will know how many to expect, please contact Sheri: winks83@gmail.com.



Birthdays

Rob McClaine	2
Melinda Jennings	2
Jessica Fahlen	4
Roberta Verderico	10
Robin Williams	10
Guido Spanjaart	11
Dom Consorte	12
Suzanne Mayo	12
Tyler Miller	14
Todd Axtell	15
Annie Estrade	18
Kabeja Fallone	20
Matt Gunderson	20
Kathryn Hussain	22
Ed Mueller	23
Arnold Moore	25
Taylor Wing	30



Anniversaries

George & Nancy Romer	2
Arnold & Susanne Moore	17

Bike & Build

On Friday August 9th, thirty young adults with Bike & Build Inc., a national non-profit committed to affordable housing (www.bikeandbuild.org), are hosting a free bike clinic for children ages 5-14 at the church at 6pm. The bike clinic will consist of helmet and bike fittings and road rules, hand signals and general safety for all ages. The clinic should last about 30 minutes, depending upon the number of participants, and will feature a short ride of about a half mile. All in the community are welcome to attend. Please tell family and friends with children about the bike clinic.

When the bike riders arrive in Almaden on Friday afternoon they will have traveled for more than 10 weeks and have helped to build affordable housing in nine locations, including Davis, CA and Twin

Falls, ID, and a week-long blitz build in Colorado Springs, CO. In order to participate in the trip, each rider raised at least \$4,500 to help fund the trip costs and affordable housing efforts nationwide. The cyclists started their ride in Charleston, SC. Almaden will be their last overnight stop on their way to their final destination in Santa Cruz.

We will provide the riders a BBQ dinner Friday evening, a place to sleep and an egg/bacon/pancake breakfast before they leave Saturday morning. Questions regarding the bike clinic or riders visit should be directed to Jon Mills (408)-316-0192.

Jon Mills

Address Service Requested

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

The Shape