

# The SHAPE

*From the Rector*

## Moving the Rails

The season of Epiphany has brought with us a change to our worship space: until the end of the season in March, we have moved our altar rails out of the church! Why this and why now?

On Epiphany Sunday, January 5, our Sunday school children and teachers dressed up in magnificent robes and brought their gifts to the manger: precious toys and favorite Christmas gifts laid before the baby. They showed us what the story of Epiphany is about—they came journeying from the east, west, north, and south, bringing gifts. “Epiphany” means manifestation, God showing God’s self to us all. It’s an invitation to come and see God in our midst, all barriers gone.

So too, we all come to church, coming together to worship, to see God in our midst. In God’s house, gathered around God’s table, all of us make our journeys over distances internal and external. The architect of our church, of course, meant something unusual. It is built in the round, without aisles or kneelers. Not an Episcopal style church, it seems, at least not like a traditional one. We’re gathered together in a circle around the altar. There is implied flow and movement. But perhaps to make it more Episcopal early on, folks brought in structure that they knew from other church buildings. They imported altar rails not made for the space, which made aisles and processions. The rails shaped how we use the space and how we are as we worship.

Structure and order serve a purpose, of course. In this human urge we are like God, who in the beginnings of creation created order out of the chaos. But sometimes order and structure can become our barrier. It can wall us off from one another, or from God. It can also wall others out we don’t think should be here, as in the medieval churches where the laity were kept far away from the realm of the holy around the altar. Some of our church architecture lingers on from those days, setting apart holy places from the rest of us.

The altar rail can serve for good and for ill, a structure and a barrier both. It is meaningful for many to receive communion kneeling, each of us quiet and intimate with God. It is good for us to receive the gift, remembering that we are not in charge, being fed like children. But it can also block off the holy, separate us from the altar. In our peculiar church, it enforces certain habits of movement that keep us more separate from each other. It can keep us from bringing our whole selves to the center like the magi brought their gifts.

So for the season of Epiphany, we’re seeing what happens without these rails, when we remove one set of barriers we have ourselves erected. We’ll see what kind of flow and movement and energy gets created here. We might be a little more vulnerable and open about bringing ourselves, our whole selves. It might help us with what we are doing in deepening our community and our understanding of God in our midst. I think it may help us with knowing one another more deeply, bringing more of ourselves into our life together, our fellowship, our service, our fun, our worship. All the things we are trying to do as we live out more fully our mission here in this church.

*-The Rev. Kate Flexer*

## Senior Warden Report

### A Time of Constant Transition

Out with the old and in with the new. We are constantly in transition and change. We pause to celebrate the annual milestone’s passing. We pause to reflect on the good and the not-so-good events of 2013 and expectantly look forward to a better 2014. We make pledges to ourselves and our communities to do better. We have much to be thankful for in the last year—too many to enumerate here. We’ll celebrate those in the Annual Meeting.

But I simply must thank each of the “retiring” Vestry,

Joint Venture Board, and Diocesan Representatives. I ask that you take the opportunity to profusely thank Mike Schmidt, Wendy Martin, and Todd Lukanc—Vestry; Sheri Winkenwerder—Vestry Clerk; Jim McPherson, Bryan Bond, and Brenda McHenry—JV Board; and Nancy Romer —Diocesan Representative, for their dedicated service on behalf of us all. They deserve all the accolades you can bestow!

That leaves the expectations of renewal and commitment. The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 26, after the service. Please plan to attend. It is always good to come together to report our accomplishments and thank those who gave of their time and talent to achieve those milestones; vote in new servants for Vestry, Joint Venture Board, and Diocesan Representation; and hear progress on continuing projects. Once elected, Vestry will retreat to form up and build team in early February.

Since I, too, will be "retiring," I thank each of you for supporting your representatives, chipping in when asked, and volunteering for whatever needed to be done. Each and every one of you is a vital part of our "body of Christ." This is what makes the church, the church. Thank you!

*-George Romer,  
Retiring Senior Warden*

## Worship at ECA

### Sunday

7:30 AM Eucharist  
10:30 AM Choral Eucharist  
(Childcare available)  
10:10-10:50 AM Sunday School

### Thursday

7:30 AM Eucharist

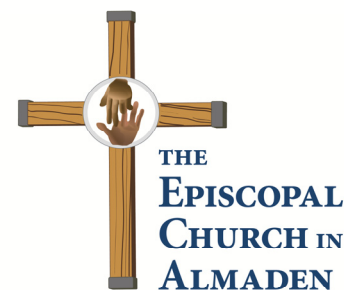
*From the "Editor"*

## A Special Thanks to Alex

As Alex Dykes related in the previous edition of The Shape, he is stepping down from the position of editor after 13 years. When I started attending ECA four years ago and first became aware of The Shape, I found it to be a definite cut above the standard monthly church newsletter. Thanks to Alex for his many years of commitment to seeing that the news of ECA was communicated in a professional and attractive manner. And thanks to the Axtells for providing their materials, equipment, and time for publishing The Shape, year after year. And finally, thanks to all of you for contributing thoughtful and informative articles so that we might all be enriched and kept up-to-date.

Going forward, Todd and Kimberly will be handling the layout portion of the process (hence the new look), and they will continue to do the printing. As the vestry's Communications Liaison, I am the "designated editor" of The Shape, but even after going off vestry I will continue what I've been doing, which is gathering up the articles and sending them on to Ann Mayers for copyediting. I'll also give more thought to what needs to be in The Shape, which means that I might be approaching some of you in the future, encouraging you to write something for The Shape for our mutual enlightenment or edification.

Our goal continues to be to get The Shape into your hands, or mailbox, by the first of each month. Accordingly, articles need to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. The easiest way to do it is email it to



### Rector

**The Reverend Katharine Flexer**  
(408) 364-6524

### Staff

**Susie Ferguson**  
*Youth & Christian Education*

**Kristal Kim**  
*Music Director & Organist*

**Bill LaVallee**  
*Treasurer*

**Margot Janiak**  
*Administrative Assistant*

### 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*

**Mike Schmidt**  
*Shape Editor*

**Mary McPherson**  
*Bible Study*

**Kathleen Eagan**  
*Senior Ministry*

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me (theshape@eca-sj.org). I will try to send you a reply so that you know your article was received.

Bear with us as we try to find our way forward in this process, attempting to keep you properly informed in a timely manner. And if I should tap you on the shoulder and request that you submit something for *The Shape*, please say, "OK."

-Mike Schmidt

## *Christian Education*

# Christmas Pageant and Epiphany Celebrations Truly Intergenerational

Several big events for the Sunday school are now pleasant memories. Both our Christmas Pageant and our Epiphany Celebration were exciting as we made them truly intergenerational with our youngest participant 6 weeks old and our most mature participant being seventyish. I commend all our children, youth, parents, visitors, and other adult members of our congregations for being so cooperative and participating so fully, costumes and all. Both celebrations, December 22 and January 5, were great examples of the church as a family, all ages coming together to share worship, food, and fun with Christ at their center.

A new energy started bubbling up with our "It's a Family Affair Christmas Pageant" event. Families that attended had many good things to say about the experiences they shared. It was a wonderful community builder for all ages. I am most excited about running with this new energy and seeing where it might lead our churches, just whom we might reach, and just how it will lead

us to serve our neighborhoods. So watch for more "It's a Family Affair" happenings and get ready to join in.

VBS planning is also underway. I am hoping to expand our program this year in two ways. First, I hope to expand the number we can accommodate by finding more "staff" to support our endeavor. Second, I am exploring ways to offer our program to children connected to Santa Maria Urban Ministry. God placed this idea of outreach to the SMUM on my heart last year, and I am now ready to see what I can do about that call.

For VBS we need, first, enthusiastic adults who love to work actively with children.

Our children's groups are usually 4 and 5 year olds; 6, 7, 8 year olds; and 9, 10, 11 year olds. We need adults and young people who don't mind a little "grunt work" preparing snacks, cleaning up after, setting out game activity supplies and putting them away, and doing a variety of odds and ends just to make things go smoothly throughout the week. We can also use adults and young people who might like to assist a teacher with a particular age group of children or in a particular curriculum aspect. All activities, supplies, and ideas will be provided with the program that we will be writing and creating for this year.

Please let me know if you would be interested in working with me this year on our VBS program. I will do my best to find a place in our program that fits with your talents and your desire to participate.

-Susie Ferguson

## *Lenten Booklets*

# In Preparation for an Inspirational Lent...

Last year, ECA published an amazing book by tapping into the rich reservoir of cumulative wisdom of 40 people within our congregation. (Who knew?) Because it was so well received and highly valued, we are going to do it again!

Volunteers are asked to write a reflection on one day's readings in the daily lectionary for the 40 days of Lent. The blessings are many. For the writers, this is an opportunity to reflect and share their faith. For the readers, the congregation will be united by a common experience in their Lenten discipline as well as getting to know one another better and receiving valuable insight into each person's unique perspective.

Once the meditations are assembled, I will compile them and Kimberly and Todd Axtell will graciously print them for us in time for Ash Wednesday on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to be a contributor to our second annual Lenten Meditation Booklet, please contact me, Mary McPherson, at marymcp@aol.com for an assignment from the Daily Lenten Lectionary Readings. There are only 40 readings and you don't want to miss out, so don't delay!

-Mary McPherson

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## Outreach

# Coping with the Winter Blues

**D**o you have the winter blues? In addition to being a member of the choir, I'm a psychotherapist, and I keep on top of all of the latest research on what works to help people who are depressed, either because of the season or the events of their lives or . . . just because.

The good news is that there are simple, free, easy ways to combat depression. The bad news is that these are the exact things that it's the hardest to get oneself to do when one is depressed: exercise, meditate/pray, get out and do something kind for someone else. This is one of the reasons why a church community can make a big difference, not only for our own members but for the whole parish. We can provide inspiration—and maybe a little kick in the pants—on the road to happiness.

I've heard that some of our members were a little crabby about coming to the "house meetings" we had before Christmas to talk about Outreach. Part of this is because, I imagine, many of us have had experience with similar meetings that were really covert attempts to shame people into jobs they didn't have time for, which brought them no joy.

I hope that, having experienced the meetings, everyone has come away with the realization that this process is about exactly the opposite intention: we are interested in finding each member's passions and in creating opportunities for all of us to spread our wings, get out of our own heads, and have fun.

Those who have participated in our current outreach programs know how enormously satisfying they can be—and we want to expand

what we do to give more people the opportunity to be exactly that satisfied. So, if you're asked to come to another meeting, please come. Come crabby if you must, but come. Consider this your kick in the pants.

*-Beth Proudfoot*

## Open to Community

# Twelve-Step Meeting Comes to Joint Venture Churches

**A**s a member of Alcoholics Anonymous (it's OK to share your own status in recovery, in case you wondered), I have been interested in bringing an AA meeting to our space for some time. Many AA and other Twelve-Step meetings occur in churches, and in addition to supporting those efforts, I thought it would be a good resource for the Almaden Community.

As a current member of the vestry, I proposed this action, and it was approved by our vestry and the Joint Venture Board. Through my contacts in the AA program, I found a local group that needed to relocate from their longtime meeting place due to an increased rental cost that they could no longer afford. Representatives from the Fireside Big Book Study Group toured our facilities, and we signed a contract for them to begin using our space as of January 7, 2014.

The group will meet every Tuesday night from 8:15 pm to 9:15 pm, using either the Fellowship Hall or the Nursery/Preschool rooms, depending on other group meetings. They are very pleased to be able to stay in the south San Jose area, at a rent they can afford, and I am happy

that we have the opportunity to host an important community service at this time. ECA is always working to deepen our connection and service to our community, and this venture may help us toward that goal.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this matter . . . I will be serving as the liaison between the group and our Joint Venture community.

*-Kathleen Eagan*

## Senior Ministry Programs

# Senior Ministry Talks Planned for New Year

**I**n keeping with the strong interest voiced by members of our Senior Ministry participants, we will be discussing some challenging topics in the New Year.

On Sunday, February 9, we will host Nina Poletika, a therapist from Palo Alto, who works with families and individuals who are dealing with various kinds of dementia. Nina is experienced both personally and professionally with the issues that arise in these circumstances, and she has a warm, compassionate approach to the subject.

On a Sunday in March, the Rev. Roger Wharton will return to give the "Five Wishes" presentation that he mentioned in his sermon when filling in for Kate a few months ago. This discussion will focus on advance planning in all its complex and spiritual aspects. Please join us for light snacks and lively debates!

Meanwhile, I remain available to consult with ECA members who are addressing any of the following subjects that confront us in our "golden years": physical safety in the home,



residential and in-home care options, legal and financial planning, and the practical as well as social challenges of home-bound individuals. Please contact me at kathleeneagan34@gmail to discuss your questions.

Also, don't forget the resource directories in the narthex—there are lots of good ideas, vendors, and information there!

-Kathleen Eagan

### 2014 ECA Women's Retreat

## “Come To The Water: Living Our Journeys”

If you are looking for time to rest, to pray, to learn more about God and each other, then the 2014 ECA Women's Retreat is the perfect place for you. We are excited to announce that the Reverend Canon Linda Taylor will lead the program for this retreat. Linda is the recently retired rector of St Mark's, Santa Clara.

The retreat will be held the weekend of February 28–March 2, 2014 at the beautiful St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista. The cost is \$220 per person/double (\$270 per person/single) including all meals (financial assistance is available—talk to Kate).

If you are interested in attending this wonderful retreat, please contact Melinda Jennings by phone (408-225-0528) or email (melinda1948@gmail.com). We look forward to sharing this special weekend with you.

### Annual Meeting Elections

## Annual Meeting Information

Join us on Sunday, January 26 for 10:30 worship followed by lunch and our Annual Meeting in Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate our 2013 year, thank many people for their ministry, and elect new members for vestry and Joint Venture Board. Read on for biographies of your wonderful and willing candidates.

### Joint Venture Board

**John McPherson** and his wife Mary have lived in San Jose for 32 years and have been members of ECA for most of that time. They have two sons, Ryan (22) and Steven (20), who were baptized and brought up in ECA. John previously served on the JV board for three years, ending about five years ago. More recently, he has cared for the church lawn with others for the last two and a half years. He was also active with Boy Scout Troop 294, which is the troop that meets in our Fellowship Hall on Monday evenings. John recently retired from IBM and enjoys traveling and many outdoor activities.

**Dennis Moran** is a retired high school art teacher and has a part time business drawing caricatures for parties and corporate events. Dennis and his wife Mary enjoy travel and taking their grandkids on adventures. Dennis came to ECA about 1966 when Fr. John Buenz commissioned him to create a processional cross when both congregations were worshiping in the prune shed. Dennis was attracted to the Joint Venture concept, after serving as Musical Director for two Cursillos, which was moving in an

ecumenical direction. At ECA, Dennis has served on three Search Committees and was head of the Lay Readers for many years. Mary and Dennis also open church for the early church service. Both are both practicing artists and docents at the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine Museum. Dennis has also created religious art for St. Thomas, Sunnyvale; St. Jude's, Cupertino; St. Edward's, San Jose; Trinity Cathedral, San Jose; El Camino Hospital, Mountain View; and Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, San Jose.

### Vestry

**Leslie Rousseau** first attended ECA in the fall of 1997. She started teaching Sunday School not too long thereafter, conducted Kids' Breakout for several years, and has participated in Montgomery Meals and Good Sams. Leslie grew up Episcopalian, but didn't really develop a close relationship with God until dealing with severe postpartum depression after her youngest daughter Juliette was born. Leslie has been married to Ken for 34 years and has three lovely daughters (Jacqueline 23, Monique 21, and Juliette 13). She worked as a chemical engineer for many years, stopped working to focus on family, and is now changing careers to become a nurse. Leslie loves to garden, ski, volunteer (among other things, she's a Girl Scout leader—cookies, anyone?), and learn new things. Family is very important to her.

**Elizabeth Guichard** grew up in the Midwest (Minnesota and Ohio). In 1981, after a short stint as a high school teacher in Ohio, she moved to California, joining the corporate business world, where she worked for 20 years at two different financial institutions. For the last 10 years, she has worked at the Santa Clara Valley

# ECA Activities February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Eucharist 12pm Liturgy Committee Meeting 1pm Parenting Class	3	4	5 11:30am Women's Lunch 4:30pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30pm Bible Study	6 7:30am Holy Eucharist 8am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 3pm Montgomery Meals	8 9am Vestry Retreat @ St. Andrew's, Saratoga 10am Knit Wit Meeting
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Eucharist 1pm Senior Ministry – Dementia Care 1pm Parenting Class	10	11	12 11:30am Women's Lunch 4:30pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30pm Bible Study	13 7:30am Holy Eucharist 8am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 Deadline for submitting articles for The Shape
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Eucharist 3pm CCAV Ordination Service for Melanie Weiner	17	18 7:30pm JV Board Meeting	19 11:30am Women's Lunch 4:30pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Book Club Meeting @ Joan Okumura's home	20 7:30am Holy Eucharist 8am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 3pm Montgomery Meals Youth Beach Trip	22 10am Knit Wit Meeting Youth Beach Trip
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Eucharist 1pm Parenting Class Youth Beach Trip	24	25	26 11:30am Women's Lunch 4:30pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30pm Bible Study	27 7:30am Holy Eucharist 8am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 ECA Women's Retreat @ St. Francis Retreat Center	

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Water District as a Sr. Management Analyst in the Facilities Dept. Elizabeth met Alain in 1997 and they married in 2001. Through Alain, she has four stepchildren and five grandchildren, three in France and two in San Jose. Since joining ECA a year ago, Alain and Elizabeth have become coffee hosts, and Elizabeth has joined the book club, become a counter, and served for Montgomery Meals. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family, travel, reading, shopping, and going to the gym.

**Alexanna Alvarado** has been attending ECA since Mother's Day in 2011 and has since become involved with Sunday school and the website team, and she loves to photograph at worship and other ECA events. Alex, as she's better known, moved to San Jose in 2006 to attend San Jose State University and earn her fine arts degree. She graduated from SJSU in 2010 with a BFA in Photography and a minor in Art History. She has utilized the degree to its fullest, exhibiting her photographs in galleries downtown and attaining several positions at the San Jose Museum of Art: gallery teacher, lead museum representative, and volunteer positions of curatorial intern and docent. At home Alex is the onsite manager for Backwater Arts, an 1870's farmhouse converted to live/work space and galleries for artists. She has lived there five years and finds it an integral part of the art community of downtown San Jose. Come by the house any time to view the art, chat with the chickens, or lounge around the fire with a herd of artists (and cats).

**William Bond** is a senior at Leland High School, where he is a huge fan of sciences and technology and plays on the Leland Lacrosse team. He has been going to ECA his entire

life—he was baptized here and has been a very active member for many years. His involvement began during fifth grade when he became an acolyte. Then he joined the youth group, and in eighth grade, when his brother graduated from high school, he became the Acolyte Master. During the next few years, he will be attending West Valley College, preparing to transfer to UC or CSU to get a degree in mechanical/computer engineering. He is looking forward to serving this church even more and helping to grow it and himself.

### *Christmas Dinner*

## **Thanks to all for a great success**

The annual Christmas Dinner, held on December 14, was nothing short of a success. Under the guidance of Alain Guichard, the kitchen crew, which included Dwight Dorsey, Francie Kerr, Suzanne Mayo, and Linda Sarmecanic, created a dinner you just didn't want to miss. And this may be a hint of what may be offered in the near future.

The day started out with Betty and Dom Consorte, with the help of Jerry Ferguson, Gayle Byers, Pete Mayo, Elizabeth Guichard, and Anne Tysanner, setting up tables and chairs and making the place settings "proper" and beautiful for the event.

The kitchen crew sliced, diced, baked, and did some wonderful things for the meal to come. It was the intention to provide a flexible menu. Children were welcomed to this event and were kept occupied by Susie Ferguson with a crafts table, which saw lots of use.

Three of our acolytes jumped in and helped with serving, sustaining,

and cleanup. A big thanks to Will Bond, Nick Martin, and Tyler McPherson.

After dinner, the job of cleaning up is certainly nothing anyone looks forward to. However, as has been the case more often than not, Hank and Sheri Winkenwerder jumped into the kitchen and did what no one else wanted to do. They had lots of help from Bonnie and Jim McPherson, as well as the aforementioned Will, Nick, and Tyler. In short order, any semblance of chaos was replaced by a sense of order, and no one could tell that the kitchen had been the scene of the creation for this event.

I'm sure I missed several people who helped out, for which I apologize and promise to do better in the future.

Thanks to all! Sorry we missed some of you at the event, but I hope that we can do a curtain call of sorts in the Spring. Who knows what Alain may have up his sleeve?

Money left over from the event was forwarded to the General Fund of ECA.

Last but not least, I want to thank Andy Kerr, our Folk Music Director. I asked Andy if he'd like to come up with some music for the Christmas Dinner, and in usual Kerr fashion, Andy didn't hesitate to say, "Yes." Andy came up with a plethora of Christmas songs we could all respond to, even the usual 12 Days of

## Worship Schedule

### January 26

3 Epiphany **10:30 a.m. (only)**  
Holy Eucharist  
followed by Annual Meeting

### January 30

Andrei Rublev, trans.  
7:30 a.m. Thursday Eucharist

### February 2

Feast of the Presentation  
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### February 6

Martyrs of Japan  
7:30 a.m. Thursday Eucharist

### February 9

5 Epiphany  
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist-  
Folk Sunday

### February 13

Absalom Jones  
7:30 a.m. Thursday Eucharist

### February 16

6 Epiphany  
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist-  
Healing Prayer  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist-  
Healing Prayer

### February 20

Frederick Douglass  
7:30 a.m. Thursday Eucharist

### February 23

7 Epiphany  
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Christmas. Andy decided to change it up a bit and asked all of us to be somewhat creative. This idea was, without a doubt, a hit with everyone. Some interesting and funny takes on the 12 Days of Christmas rounded out a great night that was had by all. Thanks again, Andy.

- David Byers

## Thursday Eucharist

## Join Us at 7:30 a.m.

Looking for a way to include more prayer and meaning in your week? Come join us for mid-week Eucharist.

Every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., a small group gathers in the church for a simple, informal service. Each week, we hear about a different saint of the church, someone from ancient or recent past who continues to serve as a witness to the world. We share thoughts about that witness and pray together for needs of the world and of our hearts, and we gather around the altar to share communion.

We finish by 8:00, in time for men to head off to their breakfast at the Country Inn or commuters to drive to work. Come worship with us!

## Gifts of Gratitude

## Our Thanks to...

- Kathleen Eagan, Jim Edwards, Ann Mayers, Linda Sarmecanic, Kathy Mastre, Pauline Gilligan, Sheri Winkenwerder, and all others who have labored on the library project.
- Sheri Winkenwerder for her faithful service as clerk of the vestry.
- Andy Kerr for invaluable musical leadership and support throughout the Christmas season.
- Susie Ferguson and all her helpers for a wonderful Christmas pageant preparation and service.
- Betty Consorte for the beautiful new white vestments and church hangings.
- Members of the core team for inviting, pursuing, and in every way encouraging participation in the house meetings—and for leading the meetings, listening well, and working with the results afterward: Bryan Bond, Andy Kerr, Sheri Winkenwerder, Sam Sarmecanic, Wendy Martin, Kelli Casale, Kimberly Axtell, and Jason Kazarian.
- Those who decorated the church for Christmas: Joan Wagner, Diane Hawes, Pat McGarvin, Ana Spanjaart, Carla Gerber, Amy Griffith, Dot Alfrey, Jim Hinch, and Betty Consorte.
- Those who did the setup and takedown of the outdoor Nativity scene: Bill Lavallo, David and Roger Hoyt, and Dominic Consorte.

-Joint Venture Churches



## Youth Group

# December Was One Busy Month, Beach Trip Planned

Well, December sure was a very busy month for our youth group, not to mention our fantastic, energy-abounding leaders!

On Sunday, December 8th, the youth shared dinner and talked about money—the good, the bad, and the ugly of it. What did they learn, you may be wondering? We debated the good and bad of Black Friday (and even Thanksgiving Day) shopping, about how giving brings joy to both the giver and the receiver, and how we live in an area that



can skew our perceptions of what we want versus what we truly need.

On Friday, December 13th, the youth met to play games and bake cookies for the upcoming bake sale that Sunday, December 15th. Cookies were sold after the 7:30 ECA service, before and after the CCAVUCC service, and before and after the 10:30 ECA service. The youth were able to raise additional funds for

their adopt-a-family, making a grand total of cookie and pie sales of over \$700! The youth took their hard-earned cash and went shopping for their adopt-a-family, enjoyed lunch together, then returned to the church and wrapped gifts. The joy of gift giving! Can you tell which are the warm pajamas, blankets, craft toys, soccer balls, and other gifts, plus a generous grocery gift card?

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*And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35*

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A sincere "thank you so very much for your generosity" to all who purchased pies and cookies to help support our youth in their outreach ministry this holiday season! Ashley, Nick, Tyler, Will, Katie, Jason, Lauren, Kaylyn, Hannah, Alison, Annie, Bonnie, Sofia, Meghan, and Triston

On Saturday, December 15th, a few of our faithful youth worked the ECA Christmas dinner by helping to set up, serving us, then staying until 10pm to do clean up! We surely will miss these dedicated young men next year as they move on to college!

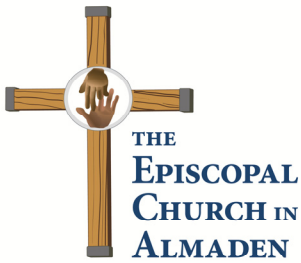
On Sunday, December 22nd, our dedicated leaders were at it again and took our youth to Vasona Park in Los Gatos to see the Christmas lights.

On Saturday, January 4th, the youth gathered to enjoy an evening of games and movies. They never got

around to the movies, instead playing a new game, Anomia, lots of sardines and hide and seek, and finishing up with the classic, Scattergories.

A beach trip has been scheduled for the youth and their friends for the weekend of February 21-23. Some students have that prior week off from school for winter break. Since there isn't enough snow, we turned our snow trip into a beach trip, staying at a house on the sand in Rio del Mar. We'll play on the beach and go to the boardwalk, and if it gets cold we can stay in and play games. Approximate cost is \$140/person. Talk to Inge and Bonnie for more information and to sign up.





6581 Camden Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95120

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sharon Mills	1/4
Pat Rimroth	1/6
Jacqueline Rousseau	1/12
John Beacher	1/13
Karl Lueck	1/22
Henry Blankenheim	1/24
Jacob Fahlen	1/26
Hans Spanjaart	1/27
Lynda Fahlen	1/28
Payton Jaciow	1/28
Douglas Lukanc	1/28
William Bond	1/29

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Connie Rimroth	2/1
Alyce Gallego	2/2
Bailey Bishop	2/5
Pete Mayo	2/6
Ellen Lukanc	2/7
John McPherson	2/7
Ryan McPherson	2/7
Ann Avoux	2/12
Sam Sarmecanic	2/13
Andy Kerr	2/15
Jeff Nollette	2/16
Monique Rousseau	2/16
Mary McPherson	2/18
Zachary Nollette	2/21
Taylor Mills	2/23
Mel Stonehocker	2/24
Valerie Tysanner	2/24
Nicholas Martin	2/25
Kimberly Axtell	2/27
Brooke Mills	2/27

## The SHAPE

Volume 43, Number 1,  
January/February 2014

Deadline for the March 2014 issue:  
Friday, February 15, 2014

Published 10 times a year by the  
Episcopal Church in Almaden,  
San Jose, CA

Also available online at:  
[www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org)

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