



The Episcopal Church in Almaden

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THE MIDWEEK *E*-BULLETIN 9 FEBRUARY 2010

UPCOMING WORSHIP

February 14, Last Sunday After the Epiphany

7:30am Holy Eucharist

11:00am Choral Holy Eucharist

ONGOING BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY CANCELLED THIS WEEK ONLY Thursday, February 11. For further information, contact: Mary McPherson 268-9559, marymcp@aol.com.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK: SEE DETAILS BELOW

- That Was the Church That Was Workshops
- Lent is Approaching
- SHAPE Deadline
- Women's Retreat
- RIP: Bill Allfrey of AVUCC

SERMON SUMMARY: 7 FEBRUARY 2010

Sometimes, late at night, if I cannot sleep, I turn to Cable television. One of the shows I am sure to run across recounts the adventures of Alaskan crab fishermen as they ply their trade in the cold and choppy waters of the Bering Sea. It is a difficult and dangerous job, and the show always makes me glad to have a nice warm office to go to in the morning. Plus, I feel so exhausted after watching that I fall right to sleep.

The disciples, in our Gospel account, return exhausted – and empty-handed -- from a busy day of fishing. Peter is skeptical when our Lord tells him to set out once again, but remarks wearily, "If you say so..." His skepticism turns to amazement when the large catch nearly capsizes the boats.

As a latter-day disciple myself, I sometimes wonder if I should not be hauling in a larger load. After all, our Lord tells Peter and the other disciples that they "will be catching people." Indeed, perhaps we should all be concerned about our evangelism. Are we ever really doing enough to let others know and feel the love of Christ in their lives?

But then I think of all the wonderful parishioners I have known over the years. Most of them are not prone to "fish stories" or exaggeration, but if you consider all the lives and people they have touched over their decades, it becomes clear that they are the real fishers of people today. A kind word here, a good deed there, a smile, a helping hand, volunteer activities at church or in the neighborhood,

helping a child or elder – all of these things are of God. None of us will ever know the good we have done by simply living our faith day to day. None of us will ever truly know the size of our “catch.”

Whether we, like Peter, find ourselves praying to the Lord, “If you say so,” I will do it. Or, whether like the Prophet in our first reading, we jump up and eagerly proclaim, “Here am I; send me,” will probably depend upon our temperament and faith.

But the important thing is that we respond to the Lord’s bidding and, like the disciples, follow him in everything.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEARN ABOUT LENT Our Sunday forum this coming Sunday, February 14, will be a discussion of the Lenten season which is right around the corner. Where did it come from? Why do we still have it? How can we make the most of it? It should prove to be an interesting discussion, so grab a cuppa joe, bring a question or two, and head for the music room, 8:35 – 9:15am or 12:30 – 1:00pm.

SHAPE DEADLINE Heads-up for deadline on Tuesday, February 16. Submit materials to newsdesk@eca-sj.org.

CHANGES IN LITURGY Beginning this Sunday, February 14, we will commence using Prayers of the People Form I, Eucharistic Prayer A, and Post-Communion Prayer II. This will be clearly indicated in the Order of Service. See the February SHAPE for details.

SHROVE TUESDAY Also known as Mardi Gras, marks the end of the Epiphany season. Join with your fellow parishioners for an old-fashioned pancake supper on February 16 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Fun for everyone!

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT Ash Wednesday falls on February 17 this year, and our services will again be at 7:00am and 7:00pm, consisting of Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes. Be sure to get this important liturgical day on your calendar. And, consult the upcoming February SHAPE for details of our Lenten program.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN PROGRAM Our evening Lenten program will begin at 6:00pm with a potluck supper followed by program, discussion and prayer, concluding no later than 8:00pm. The discussions, “Back to Basics,” will deal with some of the fundamental issues of faith and will be ideal for newcomers and old-timers alike. Get these dates on your calendar right now: February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24. Sign-up sheets and details are available on the ECA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The programs will be held in the Parish Youth Center here at church. For further information, contact Amy Griffith at 268-0920 or amy-g@pacbell.net.

LENTEN THURSDAY MORNING EUCHARIST Sanctify the Lenten season by attending our Midweek Holy Eucharist Thursday mornings at 7:30am in the Sanctuary. For your calendar or Blackberry: February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1. We will have you out and on your way to work, or elsewhere, by 8:00am.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME Join with your search committee and fellow parishioners for discussion of our parish community and its future! These workshops, scheduled for Sunday afternoons on February 21 and March 7 from 11:30am to approximately 3:00pm, will be critical as we reflect on who we are and have been – and as we plan for the future. Sign up on the ECA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Note that our 11:00am Eucharist on these days will be shorter, allowing us additional time for prayerful reflection during the sessions.

NO VERBAL ANNOUNCEMENTS From the pews at the 11:00am services on February 21 and March 7. Get all announcements beforehand in writing to Father Frank at frfrank@eca-sj.org or newsdesk@eca-sj.org.

NO BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITIONS At the 11:00am services on Sundays, February 21 and March 7. But plan now to attend the Sunday before or after for the usual prayer!

RITE OF RECONCILIATION AND HEALING Lent is always a good time to look back and make peace with what has been – perhaps especially this year following our recent Forum sessions on ECA history and our programs on the “Shape of Things to Come.” Join with your fellow parishioners during Forum time on Sunday, March 14, for informal prayer and healing reflection. Music room at 8:35 – 9:10am or at 12:30 – 1:00pm.

ECA WOMEN'S RETREAT If you want to build a deeper relationship with Jesus and the other women in our parish, then the ECA Women's Retreat is the perfect opportunity. It is entitled *The Women Jesus Knew* and will be led by the Rev. Dr. Bonnie Ring, February 26-28, 2010, at Saint Francis Retreat and Renewal Center in San Juan Bautista. The weekend will cost \$170.00 per person/double (\$210.00 per person/single) including all meals. Space is limited. Contact Melinda Jennings 225-0528 or jen2how4@aol.com.

THE BISHOP IS COMING Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves will be joining us on Easter Day as our guest celebrant and preacher at the 7:30am and 11:00am services! Plan now to attend and join in welcoming our Bishop.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REST IN PEACE Bill Allfrey, of the AVUCC community, passed away on Saturday, February 6. Please keep him and the family in your prayers. Services are pending.

ECA E-SCRIP NEWS The response to my request for eScrip renewal has been awesome! Thank you! Many of you have been able to update yourselves. Good job! To those of you who would like help, I am sorry I was not able to attend to everyone who had questions at coffee hour on Sunday. Please don't give up - I'll be working on this a while and we'll figure it out eventually. For those who use their phone numbers to access their Safeway Club Card, we will need the actual Safeway Club Card number to enroll you. If you can't find your Club Card number, Safeway can help you. Another complication is that if you have ever enrolled in eScrip, it will remember you even if you don't remember your old user id or password. If your email hasn't changed, you can enter your user id (which I have) and click on "forgot my password." They will email your old password to you. Nobody said free money would be easy money! We won't let it dissuade us! I am happy to work with anyone who needs individual attention. Please don't hesitate to contact me. Mary McPherson. 268-9559 marymp@aol.com

VALENTINE'S DAY An ancient pagan fertility cult was celebrated in mid-February. It appears that the connection to the feast day of Saint Valentine, an early martyr, is purely historical happenstance. Interestingly, since the very existence of Saint Valentine cannot be proven, his Day is no longer celebrated in the calendar of the Church.

SPECIAL REQUEST Gwen Hacker is seeking help locating 1950s-era telephones, television cameras, and similar artifacts for a school play. She also has information to share on upcoming Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale concerts. Contact

HAITI RELIEF If you would like to make a donation toward earthquake relief in Haiti, please make out your check to ECA, but with a notation “Haiti.” We will see that the donations get to ERD, Episcopal Relief and Development. Or, pick up an ERD flyer and send your donation directly to ERD.

SUDANESE YOUTH ORGANIZATION Peter Nyok has organized efforts to support orphans and marginalized children through this new organization. The goal is to pair donors with the refugee Sudanese children living in Kenya. Let these children know that they can count on support for their schooling fees. For \$20 per month, one student's schooling fees are covered for an entire year. You'll receive a photo and updates, and you may send your student a note. If you prefer, you can write an \$80 check three times a year (in August, December, and April). Contact: Sandie Mueller 997-1642, slm1269@sbcglobal.net, or www.sudaneseyouthopportunity.org

BENEFICIO COFFEE It's MORE than fair trade coffee, and the farmers will be happy for your support! To order a 12-ounce bag (\$8.25 each) contact Phyllis Chai, 408/226-7150

OLD EYEGLASSES Do you have old eyeglasses that you are ready to throw out? Bring them to the church and put them in the labeled plastic container under the coat rack in the hallway just outside the Christian Education and JV Music Director's office. Amy Griffith, 408/268-0920

THIS WEEK'S READINGS: LAST EPIPHANY

Follow this link... http://www.io.com/~kellywp/YearC_RCL/Epiphany/CEpiLast_RCL.html

SERVING CHRIST AT WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Folk Music Director	Andy Kerr
Music	ECA Folk Choir
Lay Readers	Robb Moore, Bonnie McPherson, Jerry Ferguson
Altar Guild	Pat McGarvin, Joan Wagner, Betty Wood, Joy Austin-Lane
Acolytes	Brennan Hall, Ashley Martin
Ushers	Doug Wood, Steve Wing
Coffee Hosts	Jackie Whitlock, Pat McGarvin
Greeters	Jon & Sharon Mills
Counter	Martha Lou Reynolds
Flowers	Phyllis Chai

ONGOING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ADULTS

Men's Breakfast Thursday Mornings. 8:00 am at the Country Inn.
The Knitwits Second and Fourth Saturdays. 10:00 – 12:00 noon

TEENS

We have two youth groups, the JHYGs (Junior High) and SHYGs (Senior High). JHYGs meet every other Friday evening SHYGs meet every other Sunday evening for fellowship and activities in the community. Check our website for current information.

ABOUT THIS MID-WEEK E-BULLETIN

E-BULLETIN. Please email your items for this Mid-Week E-Bulletin to newsdesk@eca-sj.org by mid-day Tuesday. If you want off this email distribution, likewise contact the News Desk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Please submit items for the Sunday bulletin by Tuesday afternoon to newsdesk@eca-sj.org. Father Frank would also like a heads-up on oral announcements during the services. It is always best if there is a written announcement for each oral one made during the service.