

The Stillpoint

July 2009

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, California 94588

It's summer vacation time for many of our members, but our parish life is as active as ever. A committed group of volunteers is planning a third Career Skills Workshop on July 11 and we've started selling tickets for a great big Barn Dance fundraiser on August 1, hosted by Shawn and Beth Seufert at their farm. The youth are taking a break over the summer, but will gather for some cool fun with Broomball at Dublin Iceland and a lock in on August 14. There's another Habitat for Humanity build on August 22, and our Open Heart Kitchen volunteers are still serving meals every month over the summer.

So, if you are going away, enjoy your vacation. But make sure you don't take a vacation from your pledge. It helps keep our great worship, fellowship, and mission programs going strong all summer long!



**Get your tickets now
for the August 1
Barn Dance!**

Details on Page 5!

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St. Clare's Vestry

Senior Warden	Stanley Sommer	447-1862	ssommerdds@sbcglobal.net
Junior Warden	Doug Perreira	485-3646	douglascalford@att.net
Treasurer	Jennifer Loyer	417-8590	jenniferloyer@yahoo.com
Vestry Clerk	Julie Casamajor	846-6069	casamajor@earthlink.net

Administration Team

Stanley Sommer, Chair	447-1862	ssommerdds@sbcglobal.net
Jennifer Loyer	417-8590	jenniferloyer@yahoo.com
Doug Perreira	485-3646	douglascalford@att.net
Jim Shiffer	846-8892	jim.shiffer@arm.com

Parish Life Team

Beth Roddy, Chair	249-1894	bethroddy@comcast.net
Paula Huettig	426-1819	dnphuettig@comcast.net
Mike McKee	876-0969	mckeejr@sbcglobal.net
Mike Sundstrom	600-0716	mjsundstrom@comcast.net

Mission Team

Hardy Lipscomb	398-7112	hardylipscomb@yahoo.com
Virginia Crowe	243-0978	vic_dac@earthlink.net
Dave Willmore	828-3372	willmore@sbcglobal.net

Other Ministries in the Church

Church Secretary	Diane Granlund	462-4802	stclare@att.net
Preschool	Meg Bell	462-0938	stclarepreschool@sbcglobal.net
Organist-Choirmaster	Jason Fredrick	922-9329	jasontheorganist@gmail.com
Assisting	The Rev. Susan Geissler-O'Neil	846-2409	sgeissleroneil@comcast.net
	The Rev. Dr. Rudy Johnson	846-6084	rudymargejohnson@comcast.net
Rector	The Rev. Ronald D. Culmer	462-4802	onebreadonecup@msn.com

Deanery Representatives/ Convention Delegates

Dodie Arterburn
Denise Moscone
Karen Peterson

Alternates

Brian Clay
Diana Culmer
Patricia Haller

(more ministries on inside of back cover)



Heart to Heart

.....With Rev. Ron+

There is a mantra these days that seems to be just about everywhere: “Too Big to fail.” The saying seems to apply not only to big banks but to churches as well. How many of us have said “Oh, if only we had a ministry the size of” ...you fill in the blank with your favorite large church. The power of being large seems to be on the forefront of our minds.

However, the bible speaks of another power rarely spoken of these days. It is the power of the small. Consider for a moment the story of David and Goliath, a true story about the power of the small.

This ancient story offers a contest that appears to be a completely lopsided mismatch. David is “just a boy,” says Saul, the king of Israel, while Goliath “has been a warrior from his youth” (1 Samuel 17:33). There seems to be no way that David the shepherd can prevail against 10-foot-tall Goliath of Gath, standing strong with a helmet of bronze, a coat of mail, a javelin, a spear, a sword and a shield (vv. 5-7).

“You come to me with sword and spear and javelin,” says David to Goliath, “but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head” (vv. 45-46).

David knows that if he believes, anything can happen. He’s convinced that the battle is not his, it is the Lord’s. Trusting God all the way, David runs quickly toward the battle line, flings a stone at the Philistine, and knocks him to the ground. Then he draws Goliath’s own sword, and uses it to cut off the giant’s head (vv. 48-51).

“I come to you in the name of the Lord,” says little David. “This very day the Lord will deliver you into my hand” (vv. 45-46). David is not full of *self*-confidence as he faces the giant — he is full of *God*-confidence. He knows that if you believe, anything can happen. He trusts that God will deliver Goliath into his hand, and God does just that. So what’s this story worth? Just this: When we talk about the power of the small, we are really talking about the power of God! The extraordinary happens when the small place their hope in God’s power not their own. The ministries of St. Clare’s have power

not so much because of the size of our congregation, but rather because of the size of our God.

“In a big world, the small church has remained intimate,” writes Carl Dudley in his book *Making the Small Church Effective*. “In a fast world, the small church has been steady. In an expensive world, the small church has remained plain. In a complex world, the small church has remained simple. In a rational world, the small church has kept feelings. In a mobile world, the small church has been an anchor. In an anonymous world, the small church calls us by name — by nickname!”

The next time you find yourself saying “If only our congregation was like...” think again! Think of the power of the small, the power of God to empower, to lift up, to transform, to make new, to knock down the giants of this world.

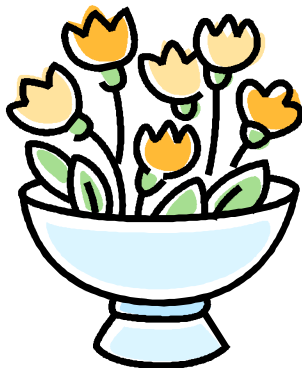
Yours for the reign of God,

Ron

Sign up for Altar Flowers

Your money goes farther with a gift of altar flowers. Flowers beautify our altar and enhance our celebration of the eucharist, and then go on to bring joy and comfort to other members of our St. Clare's family. In this economy, where can your money do so much?

Sign up on the kiosk to donate flowers (in memory, in honor, in thanksgiving, etc.). The cost is \$20 and you will be billed after the date your flowers are at the altar.



Summer Sunday School



Summer is upon us and we want to give our Sunday School teachers a much-deserved break! We still need volunteers to teach Summer Sunday School.

Surely you can help us out and volunteer to teach for **just one Sunday** this summer! The curriculum and craft will be all set up and ready to go. Our class includes preschool to grade 5 ages.

If you think you might be interested, or if you have never done this before and just want more information, please contact Tracy Brown: 925-373-0519.

Country Barn Dance Saturday, August 1 7-10 p.m.

Get your tickets today for a fun Country Barn Dance hosted by Shawn and Beth Seufert in the barn at their Terra Bella organic family farm. Invite your friends for a fun evening of great food, live music and line dancing! Tickets are just \$35 per person or \$100 per family, and all the proceeds will benefit St. Clare's ministries.



The farm is located on Foothill Road in Pleasanton, just south of Castlewood Country Club. Parking is very limited so plan on carpooling.

Coming Soon: A new look for the Stillpoint

This September, the Stillpoint will get a make-over as part of a plan that could save St. Clare's up to \$1,200 per year in printing and paper costs, and spare our church secretary and volunteers from the monthly chore of copying, collating, folding and labeling the newsletter.

St. Clare's will be working with C&M Publications, which prints church newsletters at no cost, making their profit by selling ads, which appear on the back page of the newsletter. These ads, which will be offered first to our church membership, then to area businesses, are sold for a yearly cost, starting at \$240 per year. The company does all the work to sell the ads. Then, once the Stillpoint is approved by Father Ron, a pdf file of the newsletter is uploaded to the C&M website. They print it, collate, fold, staple, and label it. The newsletters are then returned to the church the next day for us to mail as usual. The company would also send back an electronic file with the final newsletter (including the ad page) for our website and to e-mail out to those who want the Stillpoint in their in-box instead of their mailbox.

What changes will you notice? First, there will be a page of ads. In addition, the Stillpoint will be larger and the cover will be in color. We plan to add a monthly calendar that you can take out and put on your refrigerator or bulletin board. All that for about \$100 less than we currently spend each month! But it will remain your source of information on the events and programs at St. Clare's!

Habitat for Humanity

Help build homes for those in need on August 22!

Please sign up on the kiosk or on-line at www.stclarespleasanton.org for upcoming work days at Habitat's Edes Avenue Development in Oakland. Sign-up now if you want to be part of our 8-10 person teams on:

- August 22nd
- October 17th

It's easy to sign up or get more information. Just contact Dave Willmore at church, e-mail him at willmore@sbcglobal.net, call him at (925)548-0912, or, just sign up on the kiosk notice board for the date or dates you want to participate.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and minors (under 18) must have a parent sign a youth waiver form. There are some restrictions for youth volunteers - they can't operate power tools or work at heights above six feet. No construction experience is necessary and Habitat provides the tools, training, and safety equipment.

Open Heart Kitchen 4-6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 14

Help feed the hungry by being part of St. Clare's monthly ministry at Open Heart Kitchen! Adults and teens are invited to join us at Asbury Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore on the 2nd Tuesday each month. To join or find out more, contact Katherine Smith at 846-7480.

Open Heart Kitchen is now serving about 3,500 meals each week and the demand keeps increasing. Did you know that there are now 6,229 people in Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton living below the poverty line? They need your help! Just \$15 provides food to feed 10 people a hot meal. Donations should be sent to: Open Heart Kitchen, 1141 Catalina Drive #137, Livermore, CA 94550.

A letter from Janis Farmer

Dear friends,

I want to say thanks for all the prayers and good wishes sent the way of my triplet grandbabies born December 9, 15 weeks early. After several collective surgeries and many procedures to correct their immaturity, the last one came home on May-day. Sophia continues to be on oxygen but hopefully not for long.

All three are smiling and Alivia and Lucas are beginning to gurgle and "coo." Sophia's eyesight has been saved by the use of an experimental drug. They are truly little miracles and I love them to bits!

*Thank-you.
Janis Farmer*

CAREER SKILLS WORKSHOP

FREE!

Saturday, July 11

8 a.m. to Noon

Expert help for
to make your
job search
successful

Looking for Work?

Get hands-on help to jump start your job search and connect with the resources you need right now! Volunteers — including HR Professionals — will be at St. Clare's to help you:

- Write or polish your resume
- Sell Yourself — Improve Your Interview Skills
- Post Your Resume & Network On-Line — including a revolutionary site JUST for students!
- Search On-Line Job Sites & Fill Out Applications
- Get personalized help to target your job search
- And MORE

The services will be provided free of charge. Those who are able are asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food to share. Food will be available for those who need help feeding their families now, and extras will go to the food pantry in Livermore.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church

3350 Hopyard Road
Pleasanton
(Across from the Sports Park)

Phone: 925-462-4802
E-mail: stclare@att.net
www.StClaresPleasanton.org

Kudos Korner



This month we honor:

- Karen Haley Allen and all those who worked on the Career Workshop
- Everyone who made Pentecost such a remarkable day
- Chili Cook Off participants - the Bishop loved it
- Newcomers' Potluck people - you know who you are
- Tanya and Mike McKee and Brian Clay and those who opened their homes to the God Squad - thank you for a great year
- Charles Shippley, head of Grace Cathedral's Verger's Guild

You Shop... St. Clare's Wins!

Sign up with eScrip and every time you shop at any of over 6,000 merchant locations, a percentage of your purchase will go to St. Clare's! Go to www.escrip.com. Click on Sign Up. Enter our Group ID# 5596301.



It's Free, It's Easy, It's Powerful!

Senior Warden's Corner

Stanley Sommer, Senior Warden

The Vestry will be attending a mid-year retreat in June to do some teamwork formation and to evaluate the mission and vision of our parish. As you are aware, we have received feedback from the parish through several surveys during the past year and we have been discussing the future plans for our parish. With our efforts during the mid-year retreat, we hope to rekindle our understanding of the mission of our parish in order to align our priorities and future goals with that mission. The Vestry welcomes any feedback or further input prior to the mid-year retreat and we look forward to reporting back to the parish. Some of the potential questions we will be discussing are:

- do we have the appropriate vision for 2009?
- is the mission statement of our parish still current?
- what ministries are most important to us?
- what makes us unique and special as an Episcopal church?
- who are we welcoming into our parish and who are we seeking?
- what should we be doing in the community?
- how is the preschool best integrated with the parish?
- what programs are needed for our children and youth?
- how much of our income should be spent on "fixed" and staff expenses?
- how should we deal with the mortgage and any future building plans?
- are we a 100-pledge, 135-pledge, or 200-pledge church family?
- does it matter how many pledges we have as long as we are doing God's work?

Our vision as stated in the August 2003 Parish Profile was: "We believe we are called to grow our church, particularly given the growing population and number of unchurched people in our area. We believe we must focus on attracting and retaining new families while more adequately serving our diverse members and their needs. We believe the ministry and services we offer to our teenagers and young adults must improve as we have seen many of them leave. We believe our Preschool is an important vehicle for attracting new members to our church as well as a ministry to our community."

Why Are We Here?

By Brian Clay

I came to St. Clare's in January 2002 because I was in need of a church community that I had been without since graduating college in 1999. I came to the Easter service in 2001 to see what the church was like and hid in the back. I met Rev. Meg Brogan right after the service at coffee hour and talked to her a little bit about the church. A couple months later, I was at Gene's Fine Foods for lunch and she recognized me and even remembered my name. I was impressed!! Then I saw the church was having a "Faith Alive" weekend and decided it was a good time to meet the people of the church. And it was. The small groups were great, and getting to meet people of all ages in communion together. I enjoyed meeting people from both services and didn't feel too out of place because a lot of 8 o'clockers and 10 o'clockers were getting to know each other as well. I felt like part of the church from the beginning and I met a lot of people that I am still good friends with today.

I was fortunate to find a church that had a great sense of community inwardly along with wanting to be a part of the bigger Tri Valley community. St Clare's has given me a chance to step outside my comfort zone and take on some roles I never thought I could. This has allowed me to be involved within the church from day one. From working with the Youth on projects within the church, to going out into the Pleasanton community and helping with First Wednesday and VBS, to going to Mexico on the Corazon projects. This has been a big part of my ministry at St Clare's, but the Holy Spirit has led me to other ministries as well. A few are being a Lay Reader, LEM and recently being part of the Family Choir and Altar Guild. St. Clare's has offered me countless opportunities to grow and try new things in a setting that is full of love and compassion. Even when I have failed, there have been people to lift me up and encourage me to try again. This is the way I have tried to be a steward to the church and the community. Find something that interests you and ask if you can help. I am very thankful for the community of St Clare's and look forward to seeing where the church can go especially when everyone gets involved.

"Why Are We Here" is a series of monthly columns by some of our parishioners about why they have chosen to give of their time, talent and treasure to St. Clare's. If you are interested in sharing your reasons for being an active participant in the life and work of our parish, speak to Senior Warden Stanley Sommer, Father Ron, or a member of the vestry.

Why Are We (Still) Here?

By Julie Casamajor

We completely missed St. Clare's the first time we looked for it in the fall of 1975. It was difficult to recognize the mission church on Rose Avenue because it was actually a house. It looked nothing like the Episcopal churches I had grown up in as a child of the Mid-West and East. Nonetheless we were quickly at home in an exceptionally warm and active community.

At that time, St. Clare's had a half time priest, Bill Smith, who worked full time at General Electric. The Diocese paid most of his salary. We shared the small building with a pre-school to help cover the rent. So every weekend the entire sanctuary had to be set up and taken down. Our Sunday school children left the building and were led to meeting spots elsewhere as there wasn't enough room for them in the church.

The altar was set up in front of a fireplace over which there were painted panels depicting the Trinity, St. Clare and St. Francis. This art work had been drawn by the seminarian and painted by the youth group. When we moved to the new building it came with us. During the last renovation, it disappeared as did other items representing the parish's past such as pictures of former priests.

That little house on Rose Avenue was the site of the ordination of the first woman Episcopal priest in California, Susan Bergman, one of our seminarians. Another former seminarian, Nedi Rivera, is now the Provisional Bishop of Eastern Oregon. At least two parishioners have entered the priesthood. Over the years many people have served God and each other at St. Clare's. Each one contributed to the texture of the congregation which we now share.

Any community takes work and decisions which don't always make people happy. On more than one occasion, I have been a vociferously unhappy parishioner. One reason I'm an Episcopalian is because we are allowed to have and to speak our opinions. Even when I was most unhappy, the spirit moved others to reach out to me and help me through the difficult times.

St. Clare's has come a long way since it was founded by 12 people in a private home during Epiphany. But the wonderful, sometimes disconcerting, continuous work of the spirit in our community has remained a constant. That's why I am still here.

Church Finance FAQ

*In response to questions about pledging, budgeting, etc. at the annual meeting in January, we continue here a series of articles about how church finances work. This month we take a look at **restricted funds**.*

What are restricted funds? *They are funds given for a specific purpose. According to church canons, there are two types of restricted funds: permanently restricted assets that have donor-imposed restrictions that cannot be changed; and temporarily restricted assets which have donor imposed restrictions that expire with time or can be changed by a vote of the vestry. At St. Clare's all of our restricted funds are temporarily restricted, which means the vestry can vote to spend them for other purposes, but they are committed to honoring the intent for which they were given.*

What are St. Clare's restricted funds? We have seven main restricted funds:

Memorial fund: Donations given to the church in memory of loved ones goes into the memorial fund. This money is used to pay for memorial items for the church like the stained glass windows, vestments, altar linens, and church furnishings.

Building fund: This fund was established to pay for our building project. All the money in it has been disbursed to pay for the sanctuary renovations. Any additional contributions made are being used toward our building loan payments.

Pallesen Fund: This fund was established in memory of long-time parishioner David Pallesen and is designated to be used to help other individuals with medical expenses in times of great need.

Organ Fund: Used to pay for the new organ, its installation and maintenance.

Kitchen Fund: Money set aside to pay for repairs or upgrades to the kitchen. The most recent use was to replace the broken dishwasher and replace the kitchen faucets.

Choir Outreach: This fund is a depository for money raised or donated by the choir and is used to fund such things as the Toronto trip, visits to local seniors, trip to San Francisco to participate in the worship at another church, etc.

Endowment Fund: The principal balance of this fund is invested & the interest earned is used to help pay for our ministry expenses.

Where does the money in restricted funds come from? Anyone can donate to one of these restricted funds simply by indicating the donation's purpose on their check or pledge envelope.

Having Fun While Raising Funds!

By Jim Shiffer

Planning for stewardship events is underway! We still are looking for people to host events and people to sponsor events. Our tentative program so far is:

- **July 18** - E-Waste recycling in the church parking lot. Bring all of your old electronic devices to be recycled at no cost to you, and St. Clare's will be paid per pound by the recycler for all items brought in.
- **August 1:** Country Barn Dance hosted by Shawn and Beth Seufert in the barn at their Terra Bella organic family farm. Invite your friends for a fun afternoon of food, music and line dancing! Proceeds will benefit St. Clare's ministries.
- **In or around September** - 3rd Annual St. Clare's Wine Tour of Livermore Valley - Come taste wine at a number of Livermore's finest wineries and leave the driving to your hosts.
- **October 3** - Oktoberfest hosted by Patricia and Kurt Haller
- **December 6** - Advent Tea & Crafts

Still in the planning stage is:

- **1st Annual St. Clare's Bocce festival** - date TBD — A fun afternoon of Bocce at Campo de Bocce

We are still looking for someone to host a backyard party of some sort, and we are open to any other ideas for events that anyone might want to help us host or sponsor. If you have any ideas, please contact Stan Sommer or Jim Shiffer, and check next month's Stillpoint for more information on all events!



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

At the June 16 Meeting, your Vestry . . .

- Approved purchasing benches and several grounds improvements, including parking lot repairs
- Expenses and income are within budget and pledges "caught up" in May
- There have been several recent safety incidents in the church which remind all of us to take care
- The Vestry mid-year retreat is scheduled for June 27th and youth ministry will be a topic of specific attention
- The Barn Dance is August 1st and tickets will be available soon
- The visitor and newcomers programs are being reengaged and over 35 people attended the Newcomers potluck in June

The next regular vestry meeting will be July 21 at 7 p.m.

Deanery Day!

Saturday, August 22

Get together with other Episcopalians from the Southern Alameda Deanery for "The BASH," a day of fun in the sun at Shadowcliffs Park in Pleasanton. We will gather at the beach picnic area at 10:30, with worship at 11 a.m. and a barbecue at noon. The Deanery will provide the main course — hamburgers, veggie burgers, chicken and hot dogs — and the paper plates, etc. Families are asked to bring side dishes to share. After lunch enjoy some organized games, or you can swim, rent paddle boats, or just relax. The picnic is free, but the park charges \$6 for parking and a fee for boat rental, etc. For info on Shadowcliffs, visit http://www.ebparcs.org/parks/shadow_cliffs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy July birthday to:

- 1 Pat Wirth, Gregg Whitelock, Mia Kodama
- 2 Ed Ault
- 3 Heather Rizzoli
- 4 Chris Scott, Grant Miller
- 6 Rebekah Flaming, Megan Cross
- 7 George Richmond
- 8 Beth Foort, Margaret Blades, Marlene Look, Amanda Galvin
- 9 Cecilia Melby
- 11 Ian Menk
- 12 George Perry
- 13 Marty Mangels
- 15 Emily Woodbury, Colin Davis
- 16 Paige Melby
- 17 Angela Gould
- 18 Abigail Hery
- 19 Brandon Lipscomb
- 20 Corinne Jansen
- 21 Julia Clock
- 22 Denise Moscone
- 24 Stephen O'Neil
- 25 Sharon Hatch, Nick Mobley
- 26 Margaret George
- 27 Michael Allen
- 28 Cameron Minniear
- 29 John Slade, Tracy Brown
- 30 Oliver Edwards, Steve Flaming, Maggie Sepeda

Have we missed you?

If your birthday or anniversary are not in the Stillpoint & Clarion, it probably means we don't have it!. Please contact the office at 925-462-4802 or stclare@att.net and we'll get you the paperwork that will make you OFFICIAL members of St. Clare's and enable us to recognize your special days and include you in our regular prayer cycle.

Happy July anniversary to:

- 2 Mark & Katie Melville
- 6 Jeremiah Johnson & Paola Monje
- 8 Bruce & Sharon Marts, Michael & Julianne Sundstrom
- 9 Shawn & Beth Seufert
- 13 Dave & Dodie Arterburn
- 15 Michael & Tanya McKee
- 24 Stanley & Sonja Sommer

Youth Group News!

Broomball Overnighter Coming August 14!

Our youth will be getting together with teens from Holy Cross in Castro Valley, St. Bartholemew's in Livermore, All Saints in San Leandro and St. Anne's & St. James in Fremont on Friday, August 14 to have some FUN!



We'll start the evening with a game of Broomball (like hockey without skates) at Dublin Iceland open to middle school through high school ages. After Broomball, we'll make a midnight run to IHOP to refuel, then split the ages for the overnight.

Middle schoolers will be overnighing at Holy Cross in Castro Valley.

High Schoolers will head to St. Clare's Pleasanton for . . . well, what do YOU want to do? Suggestions so far include mountain dew & munchies, movies, glow-tag . . . You can post your ideas on the Facebook Event page (search for Deanery Youth Overnighter or go to <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/event.php?eid=113603901744>) or just talk to Father Ron.

We meet at St. Clare's at 10 p.m., then carpool to Dublin Iceland. Parents can pick kids up at Dublin Iceland at Midnight, or at the churches by 9 a.m. on Saturday. Details on cost, etc. will be coming soon!


And yes, you can bring your friends!

Broomball and Pancakes and Lock-In – OH MY!

A JUICY fundraiser for the Preschool!


Get thirsty for a Jamba Juice fundraiser for St. Clare's Christian Preschool! Just present a fundraiser coupon when you buy any Jamba Juice, and 20 percent of your purchase will go to the preschool to help buy new balls and other playground equipment! The fundraiser runs from Monday, June 29 to Friday July 3 and coupons will be available in the Church narthex and on the preschool sign-in table.

Get Thirsty for our kids!



Jamba Juice is the leading blender of fruit and other naturally healthy ingredients. For a complete menu, the nearest location, or to learn about fundraising opportunities visit jamba.com

Raising Money? Count Us In.



Bring this flyer with you to the participating Jamba Juice during the fundraising date(s), and **20% of your entire purchase** will benefit

St. Clare's Christian Preschool

June 29-July 3

Date(s) _____

4555 Hopyard rd Pleasanton Ca
Participating Location

Valid only at location listed on date indicated. You must present this flyer at the time of purchase. This flyer may not be altered. Incomplete flyers are not valid. 20% of total pre-tax sale will be donated back to the organization listed. Offer not valid on jambacard purchases. No cash value. One flyer per customer per visit. © 2008 Jamba Juice Company.



Who Will Take Over for You?

*By The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP
Gift Planning Officer, Diocese of California*

If you voted for President Roosevelt, you may be in a pickle. You may have outlived most of your contemporaries and you may not have any family members living in this part of the country. So who can you name as your healthcare proxy or as executor of your will or trust?

Parish priests are sometimes asked by parishioners to serve in one of these capacities. However tempting to fill the evident need, this is not appropriate.

Fortunately, there is a good solution: a professional fiduciary.

Recently, a rector alerted me to a situation in which a widowed parishioner needed to update her 25 year old revocable trust and was at a loss. Key people mentioned in her original trust were no longer living, and at that time she had named her bank as successor trustee. This meant that if she became unable to manage her own affairs, a representative appointed by her bank would take over. She wished to change this. She wanted someone to take over who she would know and trust. This is an advantage of a professional fiduciary.

A professional fiduciary is trained and now licensed by the State of California to perform such services. A fiduciary can also identify and contract for needed homecare, arrange to have medications monitored, pay bills, and so on.

For people of any age, engaging a professional fiduciary as executor of your will or as successor trustee on your revocable trust may be a good alternative to naming a friend, distant family member or an impersonal institution. For more information about choosing an executor or trustee, or for referrals, contact your Gift Planning Officer. My ministry is to serve you in your desire to be a good steward of all that God has given you.

The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP
Gift Planning Officer
Episcopal Diocese of California

(415) 869-7812
RichardS@diocal.org
EpiscopalGift.org

More Ministries

Acolytes/Crucifers			
recruitment	Julie Curtis	417-0296	julie.curtis@sbcglobal.net
training	Kim Baumann	828-0678	kimmerlyb@hotmail.com
Altar Guild	Paula Heuttig	426-1819	dnphuettig@comcast
Altar Flower requests	Bev Struthers	462-5331	bevstruthers@mac.com
Altar Flower arrangers	Bev Struthers	462-5331	bevstruthers@mac.com
Coffee Hour	Volunteer Coordinator Needed		
Fellowship Supplies	Paola Monje		paola@miahjohnson.com
Cursillo	Dale/Laura Bowman	462-1184	dbowman@ladfss.com
Environmental Stewardship	Volunteer Needed		
Fellowship Circles	Jeannie Pullen	462-2356	pullen5@sbcglobal.net
Helping Hands	Dodie Arturburn	510-432-2098	luv2hyk@comcast.net
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Chuck Bridley	828-2239	chuckbrid@comcast.net
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Nursing Home Worship	Volunteer Needed!		
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