



# "The Ark"

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Fallbrook, California  
April 2009**



Dear friends of St. John's Episcopal Church.

As I write my Easter article for our little ARK I have just heard the real good news that the "Dale New vs the Anglican Church of St. John's" has gone in favor of Dale New! With that as my background read on.

I once saw a terrific Video on America's Funniest Videos TV program. The Video was shot from the back of the church looking up the aisle toward the Bride and Groom. Because of the camera angle, you could see several members of the congregation. Suddenly, during the vows, a man jumped up from his pew and yelled, "Yes, Yes, Yes!" as he pumped his fist vigorously in the air. Then he froze and slid down into his seat--and very sheepishly took off his tiny set of headphones. It turned out he had been listening to the Auburn-Alabama football game, and his favorite team had just scored.

Easter is a day for Christians to pump their fists in the air and shout, "Yes, Yes, Yes." Yes is what Easter is all about. God's yes to humanity, as God grants to us the gift of immortality. God's yes to Jesus and all Jesus taught us about the meaning of life. God's yes to the victory of life over death, love over hate, faith over fear, hope over despair.

Everything about Easter says, "Yes, Yes, Yes." You know the basic story so I will not even go over it briefly. Be there at church for further details on Easter Sunday, and bring family and friends if possible, OK?

Here's the Readers Digest summary. First of all, Easter is an act of God. God raised Jesus from the dead, says the Apostle Peter. Easter is an act of God. We benefit from Easter, but we did nothing to bring it about. Wild fires are an act of nature, not an act of God.

But when people who have the love of Jesus in their hearts open their homes to wild fire victims, then that is an act of God. Easter is also a summons to grateful living. We have God's favor. God has rolled away the stones of fear and death. Now it is our turn to live as Easter people, to let our lives say, "yes!" to the new day that is before us and the people we will meet each day.

Like the excited football fan yelling "Yes, Yes, Yes!" This is how life is in the light of Easter. Easter is an act of God, an act of grace, and a summons for all of us to continue to live grateful lives. The strife is over the fog is lifted, the Victory is won! Now let us live in the light.

Until I go or He comes - I am,

Father Wayne+

A Blessed Easter to each and every one of you.

**SAN DIEGO: California Supreme Court rejects Fallbrook church request for hearing**  
**Appellate ruling stands; diocese retains property**

By Pat McCaughan, March 17, 2009



[Episcopal News Service] The California State Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal of an earlier court ruling that St. John's Church in Fallbrook could not disaffiliate from the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of San Diego and continue to control church property.

The decision effectively lets stand an October 21, 2008 appellate court ruling in the case of *New v. Kroeger*.

Representatives of the Diocese of San Diego applauded the decision. Chancellor Charles Dick called the court's refusal "a very important decision in favor of the Episcopal Church. It vindicates

our position that the actions of the dissident congregation were extralegal and in excess of their legal authority," he said in a prepared statement.

Bishop Jim Mathes of San Diego also issued a statement, saying he was "overjoyed with this result which will finally allow the Episcopalians of St John's to return to their church. It is now time to bring to a close this unnecessary legal proceeding. The Episcopal Church will continue its ministry of following Jesus as an inclusive, servant church," he said.

"The fact that the Supreme Court has now "unfrozen" the St. John's case and returned it to its prior status is disappointing, but not completely unexpected," Eric Sohlgren, attorney for Payne & Fears in Irvine, Calif., who represented St. John's Anglican congregation, told ENS. "St. John's is considering all of its options but there are a number of issues to be resolved before any further steps could be taken with respect to the property." He said the congregation's representatives are in discussion with the diocese about a number of legal issues, "so we don't have any definitive news about the disposition of the property to report at this time."

Last October the Fourth District Court of Appeal unanimously reversed a judgment by a San Diego County trial court, which held that California law permitted a vestry to amend parish bylaws in order to quit the Episcopal Church. Using the "neutral principles" approach, which looks only to the property deeds and legal charters, the trial court permitted St John's Fallbrook to amend its bylaws to remove its accession to the canons of the Episcopal Church.

Continued on page 3

But the appellate court disagreed. "We must give deference to the Episcopal Church and San Diego Diocese's determination as to who constitutes the true members of St. John's Parish," the court said..

The parish's articles of incorporation stated it would continue "perpetually" as a part of the Episcopal Church. While the appeals court accepted the lower court's use of "neutral principles," it found that diocesan and national church canons had been incorporated into parish bylaws. It said the trial court had erred in not looking at diocesan canons for guidance.

Following a vote in which the majority of St. John's congregation chose to leave the Episcopal Church, the Bishop of San Diego, the Rt. Rev James Mathes, replaced the vestry, appointing a new board loyal to the diocese. The trial court held that this action would not divest the breakaway vestry of control of parish property, but the appellate court decision reversed this ruling, and vested control with the loyalists.

The Supreme Court's decision not to hear the case lets the appellate decision stand.

The Rev. Donald Kroeger, rector of the breakaway congregation, said he was disappointed, but "would abide by the court's decision.

"What's happened is the Supreme Court has issued its order and that means that the judgment of the appellate court is republished and the Appellate Court will order the Superior Court to issue a judgment in behalf of those who sued us," he said. "When that goes into place we'll know the terms. I'm not sure exactly what they will be but we will abide by whatever the terms are.

"It's never been about the building, it's always been about the Gospel. We're prepared to leave if that's what God wants us to do and if he wants us to go, we'll go. I think that if not all, 99 percent of the people worshipping with us will go with us."

Kroeger said that the congregation has been invited "to share a church in our community from a completely different denomination. They said to come and use worship space free of charge as

long as you need to worship there."

He was not sure how soon that might happen.

-- The Rev. Pat McCaughan is Episcopal Life Media correspondent for Provinces VII and VIII and the House of Bishops. She is based in Los Angeles.

## HANDMADE CROSS MARKS FAITH, HOPE.

I sometimes let my mind wander during Sunday services, and recently it has drifted to the handmade wooden cross that seems to symbolize the struggle our little congregation has endured over the past 2½ years.

The cross – large enough to hold a man – was lovingly built one afternoon by Dale New and Steve Jones. It stands tall above our weekly services, and then is quietly tucked into the storeroom of our temporary home at the Fallbrook Community Center.

Recent back-to-back sermons by the Rev. Wayne F. Sanders helped to underscore the cross' significance in my heart and mind.

His first sermon told of questions that a Russian soldier posed to a priest as he passed through a checkpoint. The sermon left us wondering whether we, as Christians, are doing all we can to spread the word of God.

His second sermon asked each of us whether we have taken up a cross to help or heal or ease the hurt suffered by our fellow man.

Father Sanders then paused to ponder a newspaper quote attributed to the Rev. Donald Kroeger, the pastor of the faction of St. John's that spun away from the Episcopal Church in July 2006. That rift sparked a lengthy court battle over the possession of our disputed 60-year-old sanctuary with its lovely bell, a thrift shop and a future expansion site.

In that newspaper quote, Father Kroeger rejected the possibility of reconciliation by saying we, the ousted faction, are following "another gospel."

Father Sanders countered that we, as did Jesus, welcome all to our table. All of us – male, female, gay or straight, adult or child – are free to hear, speak, question and follow the word of the Lord. We are all able, in our own way, to take up a cross to help those in need of prayer or purpose.

We hope that someday, perhaps soon, we will return to Iowa Street. Once there, we hope to welcome back our breakaway brothers and sisters. We hope to convince them that there is but one God and one gospel. We hope to persuade them that all persons, and all faiths, have a place in the heart of the Lord.

We hope also to find a place of honor and dignity for our humble, handmade cross. We hope, as expressed by Kathy Wood, our senior warden, that our wooden cross will be cherished and recognized as a symbol of our faith, tenacity and strength in our beliefs.

May we all soon carry that cross. May we all soon ring that bell.

Till our bell rings, Tim O'Leary

# ABOUT ST. JOHN'S FAMILY



Some Leprechauns recently were at work for our social hour and the table they prepared had a festive St. Patrick's Day theme for a special celebration. **Kathy Sanders** was dressed for the part of leader of the little people and **Gail Jones** had her decorating flair in use with **Peggy Johnson** providing punch and the coffee with an Irish touch. Kathy made her Irish soda bread, always a treat, and the wide array of goodies had items we knew were also added by some of our talented bakers. Our appreciation to everyone.

**Gail** and **Dr. Steve Jones** were in Sacramento for continuing education classes for Steve and she evidently came back with a lot of energy.

Since **Jane** and **Pen Millsap** will be traveling, Jane is going to get the Ark out early so we will report later on some of our travelers who will be back in April. We do know that April will be important for **Susan Ortler**, the mother of the bride, since her daughter has a wedding date.

When we opened The Village News, we noticed that one of our acolytes was featured in a story and recognized for her piano skills. **Cassidy Burchard**, daughter of **Amy** and granddaughter of **Frankie Schwenderman** comes from a talented family, and when all of those family members assemble we enjoy them. Frankie gave a good report on granddaughter **Isabella Deborn** who is in school and after all of her treatment we keep her in our prayers so that she may resume a normal life free of hospitals.

Watching our acolytes is a source of joy and when **Pam** and **John Stephens** grandson, **Ian**, came skipping away from the altar one day that was a precious moment to see the happy look on his face.

So pleased to see some of our members back who have been troubled by health issues. Both **Debbie Chaney** and **Dr. Charlotte McCutchen**, and **Nancy Wilshire** have been able to be with us. Debbie and sister, **Diana Lee's** new granddaughter is doing well.

Our prayers go to **Arthur Brown** on the loss of his mother. **Arthur, Rebecca** and **Alexander** are an important part of our St. John's family and we wish their family peace and acceptance of the hope the Easter season brings.

Apparently we have plans for an Easter brunch following our services so everyone will meet then following our worship together.

Safe travel to those who will be on the road for school breaks and other plans.

Rejoice in the Easter message!

Blessings, Janet Watson

## FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY!!!

In Florida an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians, Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

---

Lenten Bible Study



Canon Howard Smith visits us about our court case



## APRIL 2009

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE YEAR B

Date	1st Lesson	Psalm	2nd Lesson	Gospel	LEM
April 5	Marcia Pick Genesis 9:8-17	Marcia Pick 25:1-9	Keith Goard 1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1: 9-15	Rebecca Brown Franya Sidoroff
April 12 EASTER	Dale New Genesis 17:1-7,15-16	Dale New 22: 22-30	Jane Millsap Romans 4:13-23	Mark 8:31-38:	Keith Goard Jane Millsap
April 19	Rebecca Brown Acts 4: 32-35	Rebecca Brown 133	Patty Campbell 1 John 1-2, 2	John 20:19-31	Frankie S. Gail Jones
April 26	Franya Sidoroff Acts 3:12-19	Franya Sidoroff 4	Frankie Schwenderman 1 John 3: 1-7	Luke 24:36-48	Marcia Pick Dale New

---

**Psalm is read by the First Reader**

---

**Prayers of the people are led by the 2nd reader**

---

### HEALING PRAYER

My two hands cupped full of beach pebbles,  
 Raised toward the white blazing sun.  
 The rocky shore reaches away to nothing,  
 Along the edge of the eternal sea.  
 The myriad stones cry out,  
 Clamoring with pain and grief and fear.  
 Just these few in my hands  
 I lift to you, O Father.  
 Forgive me; I cannot hold more.  
 Some slip burning between my fingers,  
 To fall back to earth like ash.  
 Some lie peaceful in my palms,  
 Content only to be lifted up.  
 But a precious few—oh thank you, Jesus!--  
 You change to diamonds,  
 Sparkling like reflections of the sun.

By Patty Campbell

## Community in Action

Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you for all of your support—prayerful and financial. As most of you know, I attended a college-age Episcopal Church gathering in Colorado from December 28 thru January 1st. It was a very special and uplifting experience. It was at a YMCA camp in the Rocky Mountains. It was an absolutely beautiful setting! All the people were wonderful—but I would expect nothing less, they were Episcopalians after all! The services were great as well; we had a morning prayer service and a Eucharist service every day. There were several workshops that I attended, one of them being about the Young Adult Service Corps—a global mission organization through the Episcopal Church. I have been interested in this type of work for a while. I will be traveling to Florida for the first weekend in February for a retreat put on by the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC). We will discern where I will go and what I will do. I'm very excited about the opportunity! I look forward to seeing you all soon—maybe even back at our old church building! God Bless!

Tyler Pearson

To the People of Saint John's Church,

From Barbara Paster,

Thank you so very much for the prayer quilt, I will certainly enjoy it.

Sincerely, Barbara Paster February 20, 2009

Dear Kathy and Father Sanders,

What a lovely surprise to find your note and a generous check! Thank you so much for your acknowledgement and so timely as I will be flying to San Antonio to greet my first grandchild, Isabel Marie, after her birth in early March.

It was wonderful to work with Father Sanders, and to know that you would soon be back in your church buildings.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and lovely gift.

Sue Adams, St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Sue was the person that typed and copied our Sunday Bulletins before I started doing it. Jane

**JUDAS ASPARAGUS** Through the eyes of a child: The Children's Bible in a Nutshell

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one, but I think He must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did.

Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.....Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something. One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check. After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable.

God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats.

Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a great man.. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.



St. John's celebrates with you on your birth.

Look with favor we pray, on your servants

Wayne Sanders	3rd
John Stephens	8th
Rory Nocon	9th
Dick Goodlake	12th
Steve Wood	16th
Barbara Woods	22nd
Daniel New	20th
Gail Jones	27th

as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

## Anniversaries

Jan & Emory Thurston	7th	Wayne & Kathy Sanders	15th
Wade & Michele Pearson	17th		

May the love that began these relationships continue to be nurtured by Almighty God.



Blessings on  
on this Very  
Important  
EASTER

**Save those Major Market receipts for Franya Sidoroff! The store will donate a percentage of the total to support our local kids' soccer team. Thank you to a public-spirited Fallbrook business!**

## From the Desk of Lesslie Keller

It is good to be able to spend time with children during the holidays. At ECS, our youngest clients – over 2000 children younger than six years – are in the forefront of our seasonal activities.

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in December I was with dozens of them at a California Ballet Company production of the Nutcracker. Tickets for our clients had been arranged by a loyal supporter and the ballet company. It was hard to keep my eyes on the stage while watching the two small children on either side of me who were transfixed by the beauty of the performance. They sat wide-eyed and very still in their booster seats, the small boy on my right gently dancing his nutcracker doll across his lap. They ooh'd when the Snow Queen appeared and laughed when Mother Ginger's children danced out from beneath her skirt. They squealed when the canons fired in the battle between the soldiers and mice. When the final curtain came down they left their seats slowly, still gazing at the stage. Their behavior was mirrored by ECS children all around me.

The next week volunteers helped us collect, sort and wrap donated new items. ECS' offices looked like Santa's workshop with thousands of toys. Every child in Head Start (including their siblings under the age of sixteen) and all the children from our Julian's residential and Para las Familias counseling programs received a gift. Many adults also received gifts from the hundreds of blankets, toiletries, clothing and other special items given by generous donors. Donations were wrapped and

delivered to all our Safe Haven and Friend to Friend clients. Bags and bags of food were distributed at Emergency Assistance and Desert Vista. Our Head Start teachers shared extra home-baked cookies with the mentally ill homeless at our Friend to Friend program. All around there were people doing things for others.

And while this was heightened activity in a concentrated period, it was not unlike what happens all year long at ECS. Providing beauty and art and fun for young children does not replace the need for safe housing, education, nutrition, and counseling. Gifting warm blankets and hand-knit caps to the homeless goes hand in hand with helping someone who is living on the street find shelter and food and seeing that a suicidal client gets transported to a secure therapeutic environment. Those activities happened during the holidays, too.

Our days will be filled in the new year with service and surprises. We will welcome the San Diego Symphony for a special concert for our children. We will also feed hungry people, offer supportive housing, provide counseling and referrals. Our loyal supporters will be joined by new friends. We will have many successes and we will grieve our inability to help everyone who walks through our doors. In short, our work will not be seasonal. Our work will continue with the support and generosity of the many people who believe that what ECS does is important. We value this partnership. Thank you.

Happy New Year. ☺

Lesslie was with us at St. John's on Sunday, March 8th with Canon Howard Smith and his wife. She was very gracious.. She was glad to find a contact at St. John's because the work that the ECS, (Episcopal Community Service) provides to the diocese is very important as you can see from the article above. We will be hearing more from Lesslie and her work in the diocese.

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

St. John's Episcopal Church  
P. O. Box 1576 Fallbrook, CA 92088  
Phone (760) 599-3404  
Web Site—stjohnsepiscopalfallbrook.com  
The Rev. Canon Wayne F. Sanders  
Priest in Charge  
Altar Guild—Pam Stephens, Kathy Wttkoff  
Choir—Kathy Wood, & Kathy Sanders  
Christian Education—Steve Wood  
Clerk—Patty Campbell  
Cursillo—Kathy Wood  
Daughters of the King—Kathy Wood  
Directory—Anita Province  
Healing—Patty Campbell, Jane Millsap,  
Frankie Schwenderman  
Hospitality—Susan Ortler  
Internal Communications—Gail Jones  
Liturgy & Music—Keith Goard,  
Kathy Wood & Kathy Sanders  
Newsletter—Jane Millsap, Janet Watson,  
Patty Campbell & Tim O'Leary  
Outreach—Bob Watson—Peggy Johnson  
Parish Life—Peggy Johnson, Bob Watson  
Pastoral Care—Bob & Janet Watson  
Phone Tree—Gail Jones  
Planning—Arthur Brown & Dale New  
Prayer List—Patty Campbell  
Prayers & Squares—Mary Mazy  
Sunday School—Steve Wood  
Treasurer—Carol Pearson  
Website—Rick Barclay  
Youth—Keith Goard

Stamp

Address Label



## VISION STATEMENT

We are committed to welcoming, teaching, and inspiring others with the Good News of Christ. . We strive to restore people to unity with God and each other in Jesus Christ, by equipping God's people for ministry and caring for God's world.

## MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's mission is to serve Christ in others by gathering all with open arms into the Kingdom of God and celebrating Christ's transforming power in our midst. We seek to reach out in justice and compassion, both to the world and to each other.