



## Christ Church, Inc.

### SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES † † †

8:00 am  
Rite I

10:00 am  
Rite II

### Morning Prayer Service

Tuesday-Friday  
9:00 am  
Library

Mid-Week  
Eucharist  
Thursday  
12 pm Noon  
Fireside Room

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What is the difference between a business and a church? I find myself answering that question a lot here in Silicon Valley where people are far more likely to work between sixty and eighty hours a week than to go to one hour of church on Sunday. Because the domain of commerce continues to expand with more wage earners in each household working more and more hours, we need to be clear about who we are as God's people.

On the surface the church may look like a business and you might be tempted to regard me as a kind of CEO. We follow accounting rules, we have balance sheets and cash flow statements. We are a legal corporation, which holds property with a board. We are subject to the state's laws about personnel practices. But despite outward appearances we are not merely a wholly owned subsidiary with exclusive Los Altos branding rights licensed through the national Episcopal Church. CEO's don't serve under a bishop and make lifetime vows to serve the poor, to study and to pray. In distinction to CEO's rectors function as the chair of their own governing boards and have what is described as tenure in the academic world.

Although I could go on at length about this topic, let's examine three important differences between a business and the church.

1. The first has to do with money. One of my most memorable moments here came many years ago at the 8:00 a.m. service when I had to announce the first budget deficit of my ordained ministry. I was feeling pretty depressed about this until John Lopez pointed out that the church is in business to give money away, not to accumulate it.

It was a startling statement for me. To use a familiar metaphor, God calls us not to be consumers but to be consumed, to give ourselves away for the sake of Jesus' love. Although businesses may have other goals, having the bottom line as their primary one does clarify things. When your goal is to make money it is easier to measure progress and compare various proposals. How to be God's people, how to be Christ's body, in the world isn't always as clear. At the same time, churches don't really earn their money, we receive it as a generous gift. Last month when we came up seriously short in our budget we experienced a kind of miracle as people who love the church made up the difference. I can't imagine that happening at HP, Intel, Google or Apple.

2. The second difference has to do with the church's greatest asset. At January's vestry meeting someone asked why our spiritual formation programs haven't seemed as compelling in recent years. Others have asked me why the Third Place is such an important part of our ministry now.

The short answer to both questions is that we do well at what people here have a passion for. Five years ago when Roger Corliss offered the program on world religions, when we did Via Media and the Alpha program, we had people who really cared about putting these on. Right now we have an extraordinary committee both of church people and community members who support Elisa's The Third Place.

Continued page 2

Christ Church Inc. Continued

We own a certain amount of property, we have almost a million dollar budget, we have a tiny staff – by far our greatest asset is volunteers, people who serve the world in Christ’s name. One of the things I most love about Christ Church, is that of all the places I have served, we have the best programs for healing ministry and for making pastoral visits to people in hospitals and who are shut in. I never take this for granted. Every week this work seems like a miracle to me. The reason this happens is that people here care about it a great deal. Unlike businesses churches never really know how much they have. This all depends on what God inspires people to do.

3. Finally, unlike businesses churches aren’t primarily in the role of serving customers or generating a return for shareholders. Instead church, the group of people who through the spirit preserve the mission of Jesus Christ, is what equips us to do ministry. The church exists to make it possible to serve others in God’s name. The wonderful thing about it is that we offer each other ministry opportunities by being in need ourselves. We need fellowship and encouragement from other people who understand themselves as children of God.

In conclusion, the church is the body of Jesus acting in the world today. During Lent especially, we focus our attention to bringing reconciliation and healing to a sinful world. At this season we are conscious not only of our need to repent as individuals, but that this church is God’s kingdom now and the sign of the kingdom coming into being. Our life together is part of the way that creation worships the loving God who made everything. In Christ, Malcolm

## From Jim's Desk

As I write this we’re almost into the Second Week of Lent. The First Week has gone so well that I look forward to a very rewarding and spirit-filled Lent and Easter. Our Wednesday evening Lenten Series began with nine of us discussing and sharing our thoughts about the difference between “Religion” and “Spirituality.”

We were unanimous in declaring that while we’re each on our own faith journey from *Dependence* to *Independence* to *Interdependence* to *Unity*, few of us will ever reach the so-called *Unity* level, which was defined by Thomas Merton as “Intuitive discernment of the Infinite.” Maybe we’ll reach that level in the next life!

Please join us for the next four Wednesdays to continue this fruitful discussion of “Beyond Theology.”

I’m now looking forward to our Parish Retreat March 19-21 at the Bishop’s Ranch. Our facilitator this year is the Rev. Whitney Roberson, formerly Canon for Family Ministries at Grace Cathedral. Our program for the weekend is “Playing, Pondering, Proclaiming.”

We will be dealing with what’s important to us personally, to our families, and to our Church. We will have a “sacred storytelling” focus, and that will enable us to do a better job at integrating all ages than we have done in the past.

It’s important that we know who is planning to attend the retreat, so we can let the Ranch know. No need to write that check now, just call to say you’ll be there, and mail in your check before March 15. Registration forms are on the table in the entrance to the Parish Hall.

Meanwhile, our Sunday morning Forums continue with ever increasing attendance. Our session on St. James was the most well received of all the “People of the New Testament” that we have dealt with this year. The segment was so critical for our understanding of that important, but underrated Saint, that I will repeat “James” at the end of the series.

Our March Forums will feature Judas and Pontius Pilate. See you there. Have a truly blessed Lenten Season.

SUNDAY FORUMS:  
Great Figures of the New Testament  
24 Sessions

2/28	The Herodians
3/7	Judas Iscariot
3/14	Pontius Pilate
3/21	<b>PARISH RETREAT/NO FORUM</b>
3/28	<b>PALM SUNDAY/NO FORUM</b>
4/4	<b>EASTER SUNDAY/NO FORUM</b>
4/11	Stephen
4/18	Philip
4/25	The Centurions
5/2	Paul, the Hero of Acts
5/9	Paul, the Epistolary Evangelist

## CSA Food Drive

Just a reminder that 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays are collection for CSA food.

This Month March 14<sup>th</sup>  
February's collection yielded  
325 pounds of food  
Way to go!

## REBUILDING TOGETHER



The national Rebuilding Together work day is Saturday April 24. There will also be a 'prep day' on Saturday April 17. Michael Brown is Christ Church's volunteer captain. Our project this year is a small homeless facility in Mountain View called "Innvision"

Please sign up with Michael Brown or a member of the Outreach team. We will have sign-up lists available in March.

## CHRIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Practices: Occasional Sundays 11:15 – 11:45 am

Upcoming Performances

March 28    April 25    May 9

Interested – Please email

Susan Keck-Truman if you would like to be a part of the choir [skeck@earthlink.net](mailto:skeck@earthlink.net)

Ever wonder how you can add yourself to the ***Christ Episcopal Church, Los Altos (CCLA) web-based email list?***

Just following these steps and you to can enjoy receiving parish email:

- *Go to the CCLA website – [www.ccla.us](http://www.ccla.us) .*
- *Click "**Parish mailing list**" in the upper left corner, which will take you to "**Parish -- Christ Church parish announcements.**"*
- *Provide the information in the middle section called "**Subscribing to Parish.**"*
- *Click "**Subscribe.**"*



# Annual Parish Retreat

**Christ Church, Los Altos**

**March 19 – 21, 2010**

**The Bishop’s Ranch - Healdsburg, CA**

**Retreat Leader: The Rev. Whitney Roberson**

The Bishop’s Ranch in Healdsburg: On a sunny knoll nestled among the forests, farms and vineyards of Sonoma County is The Bishop’s Ranch. The ranch has 240 acres of gardens, pasture and woodland for solitude or play. Accommodations are quaint and comfortable. This year we can accommodate 65 people. We will convene early evening on Friday, and will wrap-up with lunch on Sunday. Separate activities for adults and children will be built into the program, as well as times for the whole community to be together. Rates for the entire weekend, including meals [Friday Dinner to Sunday Lunch] are:

Webb Lodge*	\$221 per person
Ranch House (adult)	\$203 per person
Ranch House (youth, 13-18 years)	\$132 per person
Ranch House (child, 3-12 years)	\$100 per person
Cottage Dorm Rate (adult)	\$175 per person
Cottage Dorm Rate (youth)	\$120 per person
Cottage Dorm Rate (child)	\$ 90 per person

\* Webb Single Room Surcharge \$46

**Webb Lodge**

**Ranch House**

**Cottage**

**Registration:**    **Name (s):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Adults _____	@ \$ _____	= _____
# Youth _____	@ \$ _____	= _____
# Children _____	@ \$ _____	= _____
Donation _____		= _____

**Total = \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable in advance)**

**Donations are greatly appreciated and will be used for scholarships\*\* & staff expenses.  
Return to: Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Rd., Los Altos, CA 94024**

**Please make check out to “Christ Church.” Write “Parish Retreat” on memo line.**

\*\* To request a scholarship contact Jim McKnight in the Church Office

**THE LAST EVENSONG/CONCERT** of this current season will be on March 14 at 4 o'clock and will feature the Peninsula Harmony Chorus that is an all-volunteer group of singers from the local community whose purpose is to share their love of four-part *a cappella* choral music, and to encourage others to explore this rewarding avenue of musical expression.

The chorus of twenty-four men and women has been singing for over ten years, incorporating three "seasons" of music into its annual repertoire: love songs and madrigals in the winter; doo-wop and rock 'n' roll in the spring and summer; and holiday music at the end of the year.

The chorus rehearses at Christ Church, and sings at local events, including the Los Altos Village Association's Holiday and Spring Strolls, The Festival of Lights Parade, and Rock Back the Clock, as well as other venues throughout the Peninsula and South Bay.

The Peninsula Harmony Chorus was founded in 1999 by Paul Prochaska, as one of the Urban Harmony voices of the Contemporary *A Cappella* Association (CASA). Today, the chorus sings under the direction of Mark Wanless, who brings to the chorus a strong background in musical theatre, music arrangement, and performance.

**MY THANKS** to those who have become **Friends Of Music** through the Music Guild. If you have thought about become a Friend, this would be a good time. The budget for music covers only a small portion of the costs involved in our Evensong/Concert series and a series of giving levels has been established for people who want to give a bit more (*The Brass Section--gifts up to \$25.00; The String Section--gifts from \$25.01 to \$50.00; The Percussion Section--gifts from \$50.01 to \$75.00; The Woodwind Section--gifts from \$75.01 to \$100.00; The Choral Section--gifts from \$100.01 to \$500.00*). Friends of Music feel a deep satisfaction from supporting a tradition of beautiful music in our inspiring church. For more information, please contact a member of the Music Guild or Dick Coulter.

*Soli Deo Gloria*

## Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday	8 am & 10 am
Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm
Good Friday	12 noon
Holy Saturday	7 pm
Easter Sunday	8 am & 10 am

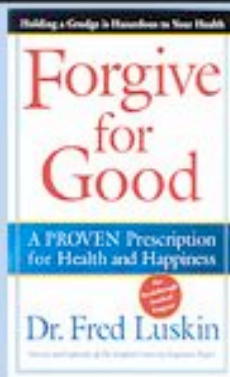


Easter Egg Hunt  
Easter Sunday 11:15 am

**Forgiveness** Make forgiveness part of your Lenten discipline of repentance!

How do you know that you need to forgive? When you tell the same story more than twice to the same person, or more than two days in your mind, or if it continues to upset you in a way that you feel it physically, or if you see another person as the villain, or you haven't checked the story for accuracy. This is especially true if we are talking about something that happened a long time ago.

Fred Luskin from the Stanford Forgiveness Project will be joining us for a presentation on Wednesday March 10 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for his lecture and for the follow-up discussion called "Everyday Forgiveness" which will be at 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. on Thursday March 18 and 25. If interested in the workshop "Everyday Forgiveness" please RSVP to [elisa@thethirdplace.org](mailto:elisa@thethirdplace.org). Childcare available \$5 per child.



The Third Place  
invites you to an evening with...

**Fred Luskin, Ph.D.**

Wednesday, March 10

6:30 p.m. Community Social

7:00 p.m. Presentation

This popular author and speaker will share his groundbreaking research on the science and practice of forgiveness. As director of the Stanford Forgiveness Project, Dr. Luskin has studied the surprising healing powers and medical benefits of forgiveness, and practical steps that actually enable people to forgive—and measurably increase their mental and physical well-being.

**Key points of Dr. Luskin's talk will be:**

- ◆ **Why holding a grudge is actually hazardous to your health**
- ◆ **Why forgiving benefits the forgiver**
- ◆ **Nine Proven Steps to Forgive for Good -- even a hit-and-run driver, a boss who makes your life miserable, a cheating spouse**
- ◆ **How to teach your children this life skill – for their health and happiness**



Fred Luskin, Ph.D., is the author of *Forgive for Good* and one of the world's leading researchers and teachers on the subject of forgiveness. He is the director of the Stanford Forgiveness Project, a senior fellow at the Stanford Center on Conflict and Negotiation and an associate professor at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology. He is also the author of *Forgive for Love* and, with Dr. Kenneth Pelletier, *Stress Free for Good*.

***This non-denominational program is free and open to the community!  
Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos 94024***

**Please RSVP: <http://forgiveforgood.eventbrite.com>**

**Childcare available, \$5/ child with advanced reservation, space is limited.  
Questions or childcare reservations contact [elisa@thethirdplace.org](mailto:elisa@thethirdplace.org) T(650) 948-2151**





### No Will? No Problem!

If you are among the majority of Americans who do not have a will valid in the state in which you currently reside, no problem! The State of California will know what to do—but you may not like it.

The good news: Even without a will, you already have an estate plan. The State of California has you covered. The Probate Court will distribute your belongings, pets, minor children and property as it deems best.

The bad news: Distribution of your estate and/or guardianship of your minor children may not reflect your wishes or values. Distribution to your closest blood relatives may not reflect the relationships that are most important to you, and it will certainly not include your church or any other charity that is close to your heart.

Sometimes folks resist writing a will because they think that if they write a will, they will die. And in so thinking, they are correct. The only alternatives are to die with a will or without one.

Other folks don't trust lawyers or like to pay them. Some feel this way about surgeons. But professional judgment and skill is sometimes worth paying for.

To find an estate planning attorney recommended by the experience of fellow Episcopalians, contact your Gift Planning Officer. Did you know that you can make a confidential appointment with an attorney who will prepare a simple will for as little as \$75? To find out how, click on "Making a Will" at [www.EpiscopalGift.org](http://www.EpiscopalGift.org) or give me a call with your questions.

For those utterly opposed to obtaining professional counsel in this matter, there is a statutory fill-in-the-blanks will form. If you are willing to risk this, I'll send you one.

Not for nothing does *The Book of Common Prayer* speak of "**the duty** of all persons to make wills, while in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting if they are able to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses." (p. 445)

You have the power to TELL the State of California how you wish your leftovers to be distributed. You have the opportunity for your estate plan to reflect your own faith and values.

Just do it, while you still have the chance. Happy Easter!

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

415.869.7812  
RichardS@DioCal.org  
[www.EpiscopalGift.org](http://www.EpiscopalGift.org)

#### Staff

**Rector** The Rev. Dr. Malcolm C. Young  
**Associate Rector** The Rev. James McKnight  
**Organist & Choirmaster** Richard Coulter  
**Parish Manager** Jani Wild  
**Youth Minister** Heidi Ho  
**Ventana School Director** Maria Davis  
**Ventana Acting Director** Margaret Wachtler

#### Vestry

**Senior Warden**  
**Junior Warden** Lucy Carter

#### Vestry Members

Marge Berglund, Paula DeRitis, Alice Larse,  
Katherine Pawlick, Jennifer Stickeler  
& Jamie Shepard

**Treasurer** Loretta Reid  
**Vestry Clerk** Nelson Crandall

Christ Episcopal Church  
1040 Border Rd.  
Los Altos, CA 94024

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## Christ Episcopal Church

Established 1913

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Web Site: [www.ccla.us](http://www.ccla.us)

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Submissions to  
The Messenger may be sent  
via email to the office  
or to Jani Wild at [Jani@ccla.us](mailto:Jani@ccla.us)

Please indicate  
“For the Messenger”  
in the subject line.  
Deadline is the 21st of the month.

## SUNDAY SERVICE

TIMES

† † †

8:00 am

Rite I

10:00 am

Rite II

Choral Eucharist

Christ Episcopal Church

*Nurturing Minds and Hearts*

Come grow with us



*Jesus says, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” At Christ Episcopal Church, we nurture the minds and hearts of people living in the Silicon Valley. Join us as we grow and bring Christ’s message of love and reconciliation to a busy, modern world.*