



The Episcopal Church IN ALMADEN



THE SHAPE

February 2001

From Nolan

For those who see

Dear Family in Christ,

Driving down Highway 1 from San Francisco to Seaside is a beautiful experience. Ann and I had the opportunity to make that trip after being with a parishioner going into surgery in San Francisco early on a Friday morning. As we left the hospital for the Diocesan Convention in Seaside it was overcast, cold and wintry. As soon as we reached Pacifica the sun appeared and the ocean sparkled, with large waves crashing against rocks and beach. That journey, following the California coast, was a refreshing gift spaced between the seriousness of surgery for a loved member of our community and the discharge of duty, attending convention.

God gives us gifts like that almost every day yet we seldom recognize them because we are so caught up in other, seemingly more important matters. It often takes a two-by-four to get my attention. Descending down the hill into Pacifica with the sea right before my eyes was one such two-by-four. Fortunately I got the message and reveled in God's creation for the remainder of the trip. I needed that time of refreshment and centering and it

carried through the remainder of the weekend. Because of that, it was one of the best conventions ever for me.

Epiphany is about the manifestation (appearance) of Christ in the world, not only following his birth but also continuing today. I love that folk song that asks and answers the question "Have you seen Jesus my Lord?" "He's here in plain view, take a look open your eyes..." Seeing him is often as simple as stopping and looking at something of beauty that has caught your eye and letting the spirit lead you into that incredible presence. One rainy morning as I pulled into the church parking lot I looked up and right in front of me was a partially visible rainbow. In just that moment a connection was made with Christ that colored the remainder of my day.

With the rainy season upon us, an energy crisis hanging overhead, a downturn in the economy and numerous other less than happy distractions vying for our attention, why not look up, out, beyond or within and discover a gift that God wants you to have. A gift that will put all of these troublesome matters into perspective. We don't need to wait for the two-by-four attention getter. God seems to prefer subtlety expecting "... those who have eyes to see". Experiencing Christ's appearance in our lives and the world is as much a matter of practice as it is anything else.

God has some beautiful experiences waiting for us, why not take a moment and enjoy them, the life you change will be your own.

Please note: Susie Ferguson is beginning another Alpha program, beginning February 7, 6:30 p.m. at her house: 1446 Kew Gardens Court. If you are looking to explore your faith or grow in understanding the basics of Christian belief this is a great opportunity. And, knowing Susie and Jerry, it will be fun as well. Check it out you won't be disappointed.

In Christ's love,





Evangelism & Growth

I pray that the
eyes of your
heart may be

The Alpha Course

heart may be
enlightened, so
that you may
know what is
the hope of His
calling, what
are the riches
of the glory of
His inheritance
in the saints,
and what is the
surpassing
greatness of His
power towards
us who believe.

...It's Happening!

Looking for renewed energy, a new direction, a sense of belonging, or just a better grasp of the Christian faith? Alpha could be the opportunity for you to make new friends, find some answers to life's meaning, and get re-fueled to cope with the fast lane of Silicon Valley.

Join Susie and Jerry Ferguson at their home for a gourmet dinner and an introductory evening on the Alpha Course. Meet, via videotape, Nicky Gumbel, the Anglican Priest who developed the course. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship and see what you think.

Eph. 1: 18-19

When: Wednesday, February 7

Time: 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Susie and Jerry Ferguson's
1446 Kew Gardens Court

RSVP: By Sunday, February 4

Home: 997-0107, mailbox #2

Susie's Work: 452-2750

This class will be held on Wednesday evenings and will always include dinner. The Alpha Course runs 10 weeks plus a Saturday retreat on the Holy Spirit. Specific dates will be outlined at the introductory dinner.

Looking for a Lenten discipline? This might work! The course will be running during Lent.

- Susie Ferguson



Announcements

Dori's Stole

Deadline is near for Dori's stole. Get your material to Virginia Jones or Penny Sabin by Valentine's Day - Please! This stole will be given to Dori from ECA at her ordination on Saturday, May 23 at Trinity Cathedral. Party to follow at ECA

Bunko

On February 27, Bunko will be at 7 p.m. following the Pancake Supper in the Choir Room

Happy Hoofers

The Happy Hoofers are hell bent on a Holy Lent! Care to join them?

Consider joining the Happy Hoofers on Wednesdays during Lent. They meet in the ECA parking lot at 6 a.m., hike up to the library, then to the Country Club, down to Starbucks, pick up coffee, and then back to the church for Morning Prayer at 7 a.m. Rain or shine, frost or freezing. Fun, fellowship and food for the soul!



Fellowship

Women's Book Group

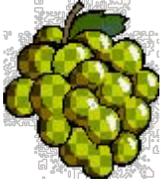
The Book Group now meets the SECOND Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall. Book selections are as follows. Please join us for:

February 8: *My Dog Skip* by Will Morrison

- Carol Pullen 268-2868



Thank You



Gold Grapes

Have you noticed someone doing something special at ECA that you think should be praised, thanked, or recognized? That's exactly what Gold Grapes are given for - thanks and recognition for service. This month we give Gold Grapes to:

- For Earl Griffith who does so much behind the scenes at ECA, digging, caulking, plunging, etc.;
- For Brenda, Ed, Terry, & Susie, our outgoing vestry members - thanks for your service the last three years;
- For all the kitchen angels who set up and cleaned up after the annual meeting;
- God bless you for your service



Prayer Vine Corner

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to

New beginnings

It's easy sometimes to take things for granted, to assume jobs will get done as they always do, events will happen as they always have, and peoples needs and cares will be addressed and provided for as usual. Is that how it is in your home or at your work? How about at ECA?

This month our new vestry begins its course for 2001. Twelve individuals from our parish will work together and probably won't take things for granted! Twelve individuals with a variety of strengths and talents who will provide us leadership and vision so that jobs get done, events still happen, and peoples needs and cares are addressed and provided for as usual or maybe, this year, with even greater inspiration.

**the needs of the
saints,
practicing
hospitality.**

The Lord has a plan for ECA and our vestry must guide our course to follow that plan. This month let us join in prayer for our leaders to see clearly the Lord's vision for us and inspire us to move and grow in the directions the Lord desires.

For specific prayer requests of thanksgiving or needs, please call Dorothy Willard @ 268-1212. Dorothy lovingly leads a group of ECA parishioners devoted to intercessory prayer for you.

- Susie Ferguson



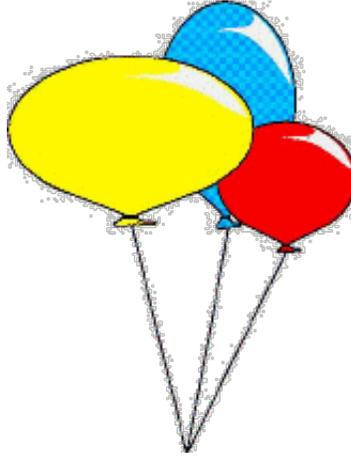
February's Prayer

We lift up to you, Lord, our vestry: Bev, Russ, Alex, Ginger, Belinda, Natalie, Warren, Roberta, Len, Vicky, Bonnie, & Dave. Touch their hearts with your visions and desires for our parish. Fill them with your Holy Spirit and give them your passion to lead and inspire. Draw us all closer through the love of Christ.

Amen.



*Happy Birthday
and
Happy Anniversary
to those celebrating
in February*



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