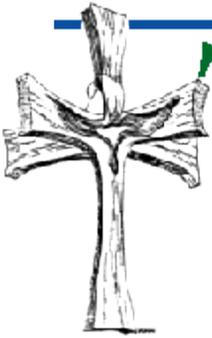




The Episcopal Church IN ALMADEN



THE SHAPE

April 2001

From Nolan

New life

Dear Family in Christ,

I hope you are having a fruitful Lent. Daffodils, tulips and poppies breaking through the ground, leaves bursting out, flowering trees and lengthening days all point to the welcome presence of a new spring and the promise that Easter is near.

Ann and I just returned from a week of continuing education. I needed to take time out to prepare a curriculum for confirmation that focused on discernment rather than catechism. Mission accomplished, I now have in hand a six-week plan, for both adults and youth, which, I hope, will help participants discover their unique ministry in response to the Baptismal Covenant. As soon as I can find open calendar dates I will begin scheduling the classes that will end before summer is fully upon us.

Catechism is still an important part of our preparation for our life in Christ. Debbie Bishop has been working hard since last fall to put together a catechism program for young people that will begin soon. The Alpha Program, under the guidance of Susie Ferguson, is providing adults with an excellent understanding of the basic teachings of Christianity. I hope that this program will continue to grow in the years to come. The

only other piece that is missing is scheduling Inquirers Classes to teach about the Episcopal Church in particular and I will be looking for time to offer that before the Bishop's anticipated fall visitation.

I would love to have all of those who are confirmed or considering it to participate in the discernment classes. And, when the Bishop next visits we could have confirmations and reaffirmation of confirmation vows. This approach is new, certainly to me, and to the best of my knowledge most of the Episcopal Church.

May the remainder of this Lenten season help you prepare for an incredible Easter celebration.

In Christ's love.



Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

I have been put to death with Christ on his cross, so that it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for



at The Episcopal Church in Almaden.

April 8 - Palm Sunday
10:10 a.m.: Walk through Holy Week.

April 12 - Maundy Thursday
6:30 p.m.: Dinner & Ministry of the Word _ Fellowship Hall.

gave us me for
me.

7:15 p.m.: Holy Communion followed by Tenebrae - Sanctuary

Galatians 2: 19-
20

April 13 - Good Friday

12 to 1 p.m.: Good Friday Service

2 to 3 p.m.: Silent meditation before the cross

April 15 - Easter Sunday

6:00 am: Sunrise Service, Mocking Bird Lane County Park

7:30 am: Feast of the Resurrection with organ

11:00 am: Feast of the Resurrection with choir and organ



Musical Notes



Taizé Service schedule

Taizé services, which provide opportunity for peaceful prayer and music in our candlelit sanctuary, will be held the 3rd Sunday of alternating months at 7:00 p.m.:

May 20

July 15

September 16

November 18

Mark your calendar for rest of the year!

Good Friday Music and Worship

featuring the Joint Venture Adult Choirs.

Friday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m. the adult choirs of AVUCC and ECA will sing meditations on the seven last words of Christ, in *A Service of Darkness* by Dale Wood. The music, sung in English, is hauntingly powerful. The choirs will also sing beautiful music by Mozart and C. V. Stanford. Guest organist Kyoko Kato will accompany. This will be an opportunity for meditation and worship centered around the cross and crucifixion of our Savior. Plan now to make this special service a part of your Lenten/Easter journey.



Organ Recital April 29

by Kvamme and Friends

Sunday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m., Margaret Kvamme will perform on our new Phoenix organ, joined by trumpeter Karen Baccaro (principal trumpet, the Women's Philharmonic and faculty, UC Santa Cruz) and Shirley Harned Kelley (who has sung many roles with the San Francisco, Seattle, and San Diego Opera companies). Included will be works by Corelli, Mendelssohn, Vierne, and the comedic King of Instruments for organ and narrator by William Albright. This will truly be a concert for all ages and musical appetites. Childcare will be provided; reception to follow. Suggested donation: \$10 General, \$5 students.

Thanks,
Margaret



Illumined

e-mail Prayer Group

Doesn't it seem sometimes like we spend our whole lives in front of the computer monitor? Life could pass us by, and we wouldn't even know it until we checked your homepage news summary. I have a suggestion to help keep us connected during our crazy work week. Send me your name and e-mail address, and any prayer request you would like to share within our "on-line prayer group". I will put all e-mail prayer requests into one message, and send that summary prayer request out to everyone on the

list.

This is a wonderful way to take only a few minutes out of all the busy-ness of the day to pray for the needs of our community, in real time. Again, just e-mail me your name and e-mail address.

- Ken Wratten
Phone: 223-7077
ken@kwratten.com



Joint Venture

Sounding Good!

The audio system in the sanctuary has been rewired and improved. Everyone can now be heard loud and clear throughout the sanctuary. A special thanks goes to Ed Mueller, Kevin Haley, Tommy Haley, Andy Kerr, Dennis Moran, and Terry Shoup. This remarkable team spent time planning the new system and then spent considerable time on ladders to make it happen. Kevin did the high-wiring act strapped into his mountain climbing harness. This system has been underwritten by the Joint Venture Council. Thanks to all for making it happen.

- Betsy Shoup

Finally,
brethren,
whatever is true,
whatever is
honorable,
whatever is
right, whatever
is pure,
whatever is
lovely,
whatever is of
good repute, if
there is any
excellence and
if anything
worthy of
praise, let your

Church Library

Our church library is useable again after a long season of neglect. I've reorganized, labeled, discarded, straightened and, yes, even dusted; and my hope is that the area is again welcoming for browsing and borrowing. There is a sign-out sheet on the resource cart where you may check out materials. Returns and donations may also be deposited there. Now that I'm no longer working full-time, I have the time to make available an inventory of the books and tapes in our library.

There are now lists of library holdings available on the small cart. There is a list of adult books by category. And there is a separate list for children's books. The books are arranged by author's last name under the categories. Please take a list and become acquainted with our church library. Notice that for each congregation there is a category

mind dwell on these things.

Phil. 4: 8

and shelf for books pertaining to the specific congregation. A new book just added to the ECA shelf is *A Brief History of the Episcopal Church* by Holmes.

During this time of year we will be featuring books about the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter. Among the many titles we own by Henri Nouwen is one called *A Walk with Jesus: Stations of the Cross*. Displayed in the children's section is a new acquisition by Aileen Fisher called *The Story of Easter*.

We have other exciting new donations in our library. *Old Turtle* by Douglas Wood is a beautifully illustrated prize-winning picture book about the impact of people on God's creation. In *Circle of Days* watercolor collages celebrate nature and the seasons. *A Child's Book of Prayer in Art* by Sister Wendy shows how looking at art can be a way of discovering faith. *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong describes the history of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This is a book which cannot be read in a night or two, but was so fascinating to so many people that it was on the bestseller list for months! *Attitudes of Gratitude* by M. J. Ryan; *Amazing Grace* by Kathleen Norris and *The Best Christian Writing 2000* by various authors are all books which do not need to be read cover to cover by can be sampled as time or interest dictate. Reading just a few of the positive meditations in *Attitudes of Gratitude* could make one a little nicer to the world at large, I think! Kathleen Norris' personal, but learned definitions of "prayer", "belief", "silence, etc. I found interesting and thought provoking. I read two essays in *Best Christian Writing*, which I liked. "What Shall We Do With Mother?" discusses how we treat our elderly citizens. Another essay deals with the faith of Abraham Lincoln. It is called: "Abraham Lincoln and the Last Best Hope." Last, but not least, we have a copy of the bestseller *Tuesdays with Morrie* in which a famous sportswriter writes about the life and death of his favorite teacher. Morrie's philosophy of life could be summed up in the phrase "Love or perish"!

If you have any questions or comments about the library, please contact me at 978-5477 or e-mail jjtthhoomm@worldnet.att.net. Also contact me if you are interested in helping out in the library. I could use a helper or two!

- Judy Thompson, AVUCC



Finance



We are running this letter again because in talking with some different members at ECA we have found out that not everyone received this letter and the 10 fish that was sent out last month to everyone.

If you didn't receive the letter with the 10 fish, please take the time now to read the letter below, and then you may pick up your fish for the remaining months in the narthex of the church.

If you accidentally tossed your fish and would like more, there are some extra fish in the narthex of the church.

If you received your letter and the 10 fish but haven't put anything in the fish bowl yet, don't worry you have 9 more months to do so. Please fill out the fish and place it with your contribution in the fish bowl anytime during the month.

If you received your letter and the 10 fish and have already placed your March fish in the fish bowl - Thank You!!

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...

Phil 3:7-8

Dear Fellow Members,

We have a minor problem and a major opportunity. The projected revenue for 2001 is going to fall about \$10,000 short of our 2001 Budget. The problem is we might have to cut back several of our ministries. The opportunity is to come up with a painless way to cover this shortfall.

ECA's theme for 2001 is centered around the word FISH so with that in mind we have come up with a simple plan centered around a Fish Bowl. You probably have seen one "floating" around the church in recent weeks. Besides being in the Shape this letter has been mailed to each family with 10 little paper fish enclosed, a fish for each remaining month of this year. On each fish there is a month and place to write your name and a dollar amount. The goal is to drop a fish and your contribution into the fish bowl each month and by yearend we hopefully have covered our shortfall.

We will be blessed with whatever you feel you can contribute. And if you cannot contribute still put the fish in the fishbowl. At yearend we will draw a name from the bowl and the winner will receive a very nice prize. Your chances here are certainly better than with the State Lottery. I think the Lord would approve of our plan.

Sincerely,

The Finance Committee



Prayer Vine Corner

For we all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Cor. 3:18

Transformed by Grace

Did you know the Lord is in the business of transforming lives? That's right. He wants to transform each one of us more and more into His likeness during our lifetime. Only one problem, we must be willing to be transformed? And that takes a little bit of effort. First, we must be open to hear His beckoning or feel His nudging? Next, we must take that first step as He calls and leads. Then, we must continue step by step with Him in order to realize the plans He has for us. Exciting. Risky. Rewarding.

Are you up for a challenge? Why not try something for the next "40 days." (For Lent.) Let's pray daily for a transformation in our lives and at Easter let's compare notes and see what happened.

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



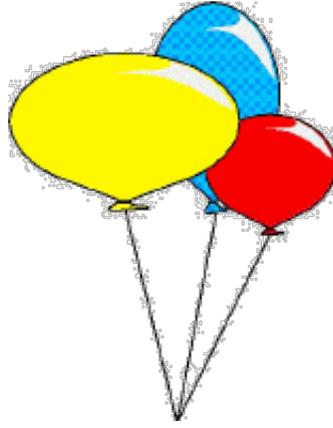
April's Prayer

Soften my heart, Lord, that I might recognize your spirit within me. Give me a desire to listen for your voice and the courage to set forth as you lead me.

Amen.



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



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