



The Episcopal Church IN ALMADEN



THE SHAPE

June 2001

From Nolan

Leadership ECA style...

Dear family in Christ,

Interesting things these minds of ours. As we age we have more experiences to remember and a memory that doesn't always keep them fresh. Ah to be 61 again. However, some things make such an impression that they refuse to fade away. As summer approaches my mind loves to revisit favorite summer experiences that are as clear as if they happened yesterday.

One of those remembrances has to do with family camping in British Columbia during the month of June. Early summer in western Canada is like a California winter, rain, sun, hot, cold all in a sequence of days. Preparing shelter, food and fun for a family of six in the BC wilderness is a challenge.

Ann and I learned early on in our camping experiences that we were blessed with great kids. Perhaps it was because Ann was such a merciless chore giver or more likely good genes from her side; our kids have always been hard workers. Camping with them was such a snap because before you could ask for help setting up the tent, splitting wood, fetching water, building a fire or stirring the beans and hot dogs, they were right by

your side to help you do it. If I had ever split my finger instead of the firewood Scott would probably have immediately handed me a band-aid and then picked up the ax and finished the job while I nursed my injury.

When I look back on those years, even though I didn't realize it then, I was learning about ministry and leadership from my wife and family as we made temporary homes for ourselves in those beautiful woods. I learned an ideal way of living as a family that has never faded away.

Those camping days in the 70's look to me like I was being prepared to be the Rector of ECA; a congregation that had that same style of working together before I came here. As we are beginning to build a parish profile to be used in the search process for my successor we can all be comforted that ECA has long history of strong lay leadership. I have the happy responsibility over the next thirteen months to step aside when ever possible and cheer you on.

It isn't the norm in the Episcopal Church for a rector to be in place during a search process that leads to the election of the next rector. There are good reasons for an interim period, some of which are dealing with the grief of ending a long relationship; clarifying parish identity and making decisions that aren't influenced by the previous rector.

With this in mind I want to make it clear that in matters that concern the election of the new rector I intend to step aside, even absenting myself from the discussions so that all decisions are made free of my influence. If you catch me offering an opinion or even arching an eyebrow in these matters, call me on it. Bev Deveaux, your senior warden, and the vestry are capable leaders, as are so many of you in this parish and you are more than capable of making the right decisions that will lead to a successful transition.

In all other matters I am still the Rector, and happily so. In choosing to go into this process without an interim the vestry wanted us to continue to move forward and not lose momentum. Some lucky person is going to be called to serve this congregation next year and I expect them to be able to step right into their new family in Christ, pitching tents, fetching fire wood, feeding the hungry and celebrating the love of Christ, along side other happy, helping campers in a new wilderness experience.

Have a renewing summer!

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John +", is superimposed over a faint, light-colored grid pattern.

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4



From the Senior Warden

As we prepare for Nolan & Ann's retirement, the Vestry has started on the Church's Profile. We are also looking for a cross section of the members of the church to serve on the Search Committee.

Please pray that if it is God's will for you or someone you know to serve on this committee, you will consider submitting your name or theirs to me by the end of June 2001.

Yours In Christ

- Bev Deveaux, Senior Warden

For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

Ephesians 1: 15-17



3 Day Cancer Walk Program

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

My 2 sisters, Betsy and Cathey, will be here the middle of June. On Thursday, June 21 at 7:30 p.m. they will be doing a program here at church in the choir room. Please come and join us.

Love, Ann

Below are parts of the letters Betsy and Cathey have sent to their friends - very touching to me!

The weekend of August 10, 2001, I'll be participating in a special and powerful event in the fight against breast cancer. It's called the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day. I will be

...
 praise, let your
 mind dwell on
 these things.

Phil. 4: 8

walking 60 miles, from Enumclaw to Seattle, with 3,799 other people to raise money for breast cancer research and support for non-profit health programs in every region of the country. The Avon Products Foundation, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization operated exclusively for charitable and education purposes, will award grants to these types of organizations.

As I am finishing my own chemotherapy for breast cancer and my sister, Ann, is being treated for metastasized breast cancer to the bone, I am very excited about this personal challenge for me. My interest was peaked in late January when I saw a newspaper ad orientation for it, then proceeded to tell myself all the reasons I couldn't possibly do it.

Then one morning I was reading one of the scripture readings for the day: "In light of all this, here's what I want you to do... I want you to get out there and walk... on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline _ not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences." (This is Ephesians 4:1+ from the Eugene Peterson's The Message. The New Testament in Contemporary Language.) Seemed clear to me! I signed up and have started training and so has my sister, Cathey.

And I've agreed to raise at least \$1900 in pledges before July 13. My personal goal is \$4,000 and I need your help. Would you please consider making a fully tax-deductible pledge to help me meet my goal?

Love,

- Betsy Teays

I have two sisters with breast cancer. Ann is not well enough to make this walk with Betsy and me, but we want to do it for her and for all the other sisters, daughters, mothers, wives, aunts, friends, girlfriends and women out there. When Betsy shared her scripture reading experience with me, I once again felt so inspired by her and the gifts she has brought into my life. I wanted to share this adventure with her. My reservations were gone.

With warm thanks,

- Cathey Priddy

The trail of a thousand miles begins with just one step.



Shine

Fellowship

I have been asked to write about this word, and it's meaning to us all. Webster's Dictionary defines Fellowship as:

"Community of interest, activity, feeling or experience. To join in fellowship esp. with a church member."

I was then skimming through a book that my sister had given to me, Graces by June Cotner, and found this Grace and felt that it was just what I needed to share with all of you. "We remember now to thank our Creator for all that we are and all that we have. May our sharing with one another embody the generosity made possible for us by the Giver of the original gift." —Philip Foubert

Please share yourself and your time to help us out at the various Church events, for which there are sign-up sheets on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall.

- Bonnie Ashurst, Ann Avoux & Warren Willard.

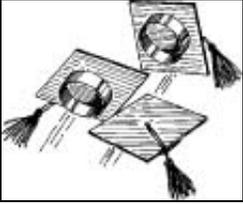
Dinner Groups

Hats are on the ECA bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. One hat is for family groups and one hat is for adults only groups. The dinner group will meet for approximately six months. If you are interested in being in a dinner group please put your name in a hat and/or hats.

Last day to put your name in will be Father's Day, June 17. The week of the 17, TLC will draw names from the hats to form groups and you will know your groups around July 1.



Dori's Ordination



Through the grace of God and with the consent of the people of God

***The Right Reverend Richard L. Shimpfky
Bishop of the diocese of El Camino Real***

will ordain

Dorothy Ellen Torrey

a transitional deacon

***Saturday, 23 June, 2001
Ten o'clock in the morning***

*Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
81 North Second Street, San Jose, California*

*Your prayers and presence are requested
Reception to follow.*

*A private reception will be held
Saturday, 23 June, 2001,
Two o'clock in the afternoon*

*The Episcopal Church in Almaden,
6581 Camden Avenue, San Jose, California*

*RSVP to the church office
(408) 268-0243*



Musical Notes



Florida Youth Choir here on June 19

The Kirk Singers, a group of 45 high school students from First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale, will perform at Joint Venture on Tuesday, June 19 at 7:30 pm.

The group is on tour for a week in California and brings a program of contemporary spiritual songs including a medley from "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", anthems incorporating liturgical dance, Gospel tunes, and more. The concert is free (donations to benefit the Joint Venture Adventures in the Arts 2002 Concert Series gratefully accepted) and open to the public. This performance will be of particular interest to young people, so fill your car with them and come enjoy!



Christian Education

Sunday School Celebration

10:00 - June 10

J.V. Church Service

This will be a service to say thank you to our teachers and youth leaders and acknowledge the youth and children.

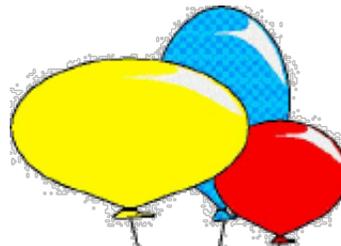
The service will feature a J.V. Folk Choir (no communion will be served). B.B.Q will be served following the service.



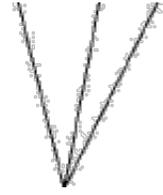
Happy Birthday

and

Happy Anniversary



*to those celebrating
in June*



The Episcopal Church in Almaden
6581 Camden Avenue, San Jose, California 95120
www.eca-sj.org (408) 268-0243