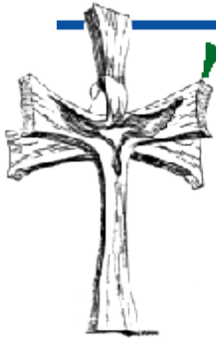




The Episcopal Church IN ALMADEN



THE SHAPE

**Therefore, since we have so
great a cloud of witnesses
surrounding us,** **January 2002**
From Nolan

**let us also lay aside every
encumbrance, and let us run** ***Taking note of things...***

**with endurance the race that
is set before us...** **Dear Family in Christ,**

Hebrews 12: 1

During the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services I was aware of doing them for the last time and it was hard. A number of people commented on this as they came down from the sanctuary making it all the more touching and difficult. It is beginning to sink in that in a few short months my life will be different, as will all of our lives here at ECA.

On January 13th, following the 11:00 am service I will preside over my last Annual Meeting. This is an important meeting for all of us because it marks the beginning of a true transition for our congregation; the Vestry that chooses my successor will be formed at that time with new four members being elected. Elections for the Joint Venture Board and Delegates to Convention will also take place to help provide leadership for the new eras in the life of ECA.

2002 promises to be full of challenges for all of us. The early retirement that the Vestry envisioned would be helpful for Ann holds the promise of being a healthy one for her, certainly in the short term. And I see a strong healthy, future for this parish.

I've had the pleasure of watching children grow into maturity here as I've seen this congregation mature as well over the years. I've proudly observed people consistently stepping up in the face of all kinds of trials; employment, financial, health and grief and all the while growing stronger and stronger spiritually. This was a healthy parish when I arrived here and it continues to become stronger each year by keeping focus on being a community of faith that trusts in God's power.

What can we anticipate in the next year?

- Change, it will occur and, while it may be painful, it will be good.
- ECA will persevere as a community that has a healthy self-identity.
- Financial stability will continue in a parish that knows good stewardship.
- Spiritual growth will mark the journey and keep ECA focused.
- A new rector will discover the joy of serving this special family in Christ.
- And...Ann and I will continue to love and cherish ECA...always.

Let's get used to the idea of doing "last things" together over the coming months, celebrating what has been and what is coming. God is in the midst of all of this and in God it is good.

Happy New Year!

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John +", with a small cross symbol at the end.



Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 13, we will hold our Annual Meeting. We will have finger food at 12:15 (after service) and then we will move upstairs to discuss and vote (as necessary) on the following:

1) Vestry Positions: the Vestry meets the second Tuesday of every month, plus any additional committee meetings. Confirmed Vestry nominees are:

Jodie Purcell

Alex Dykes

Elizabeth Ward

Ken McCormick

2) Joint Venture positions: the Joint Venture board meets the first Tuesday of every month, plus any additional committee meetings. Confirmed JV nominees:

Betty Consorte

3) Delegates to Convention: the delegates attend the Annual Convention and deanery meetings.

4) Annual Budget.



Thank You

**I thank my
God in all my
remembrance
of you,
always
offering
prayer with
joy in my
every prayer
for you all, in**

My Dear Friends at ECA,

This note is to say how thankful I am for the time I was with you. The love, support, care, and friendship have meant so very much to me. You walked with me through some difficult times, you rejoiced with me, you lifted me up in ministry and carried me forth on your prayers. And I thank you.

You take hospitality, and generosity to new levels. The only ones who were not welcomed at ECA were those who could not take having you

view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1: 3-5

welcome them in grand numbers and style. And your willingness to give shows forth in the cooking of turkeys, your faithfulness to Montgomery Meals, your reaching out and touching each other through food, and time, and care.

The generosity you poured on me as I was launched into ministry was overwhelming. You prayed for me, you worshipped with me, you celebrated with me, you gifted me, you filled my pantry, and took the time and great energy to load me up and send me off to Sacramento.

I will never forget you. And I hope that as you travel I-80 or I-50 to Reno and Tahoe you may stop in Carmichael to say hi, or just say a prayer for me as you travel through. You have given me a model of ministry that I hope to carry with me where ever the Lord leads me.

Please put Saturday February 16, 2002 on your calendars. This is the date of my Ordination to the Priesthood. It will be here at St. Michael's at 11:00 in the morning. Bishop Shimpfky will be here to preside at the service.

My ordinations say a great deal about you; who you are, and what you stand for. I hope that you will consider coming and celebrating once more as a parish family, and as part of the family of the Episcopal Church.

My love and wishes for a truly wonderful New Year to you all. May God continue to shower each of you with his never ending flow of love and blessings.

In His Service,

Dori Torrey

A Letter from Scotland

Dear all

This comes from bonny Scotland with all the best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New Year. We wish this especially for our friends in America who have had to suffer a particularly appalling year in 2001. May the Good Lord give you a better year to come. Please pass this message on to anyone who knows us in Almaden particularly.

With all our love

Gordon and Alison Tams

PS We know we are a bit previous in our greetings but we are 8 hours ahead of most of you!!

Christmas Dinner

Thanks to the committee, those who hosted the dinners, all the helpers that cleaned up - it made the Christmas Party/Dinner fun for everyone.

- Amy Griffith

Musical Notes



Soup and Sound

Don't miss the Soup and Sound Organ Recital Series Friday evenings in January.

6:30 pm Soup and bread supper

in the Fellowship Hall - sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

7:30 pm One-hour Organ recital

Plus: The work of local artists will be on display for browsing before and after the performances. (check out Julianne's water colors and weaving on January 25, and Nolan's photography on February 1. On January 18, Ariss Thomas' students' "wearable art" will be on display.)

Childcare will be provided from 7:00 - 8:45 pm.

January 11 - Margaret Martin Kvamme

Musical Mechanics: Clocks, Toys, and Locomotives

Organ Music inspired by things that go "whir", "tick" and "pop".

January 18 - Randall Wurschmidt,

Music Director, West Portal Lutheran Church and School, San Francisco

An eclectic program of works by Handel, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and others.

January 25 - Kyoko Kato,

Freelance performer and teacher

German and American music including Julius Reubke's dramatic "Psalm 94".

February 1 - Angela Kraft Cross,

*Organist, Congregational Church
of San Mateo*

"*C'est magnifique!*" French music for the King of Instruments

Suggested Donation for each concert:

\$10 General, \$5 Students

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for these and more
AdVentures!

- Margaret Kvamme



House



Joint Venture Board Update

The Venture Board would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and a Happy New Year!!!

We wish to thank all the Board members for their dedication and true commitment to our Joint Venture cause. We especially appreciate the dependable support given by Stan Yumen, Sandy Baldwin, Hilda Turner from UCC and Robb Moore and Marilyn Wendt from ECA for two strong years. Thank You.

New members will be appointed to the Board and we welcome them for the coming years.

Some concerns

1) If you need a key to enter the church because of your responsible position please contact Julianne or Nolan and make sure that you are completely aware of how to open and close the alarm. They will give you accurate instructions on how to do it properly.

2) Professional Cleaning service usually start their work about 10:30 pm and work 3-4 hrs finishing by 1-2 am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights. If you are in the building while they are working, they will set the alarm and shut all the doors before they leave.

However, if you enter the church and leave the church before they arrive you must take the responsibility and set the alarm before you leave and shut the door tight. We are trying very hard to eliminate errors, so it is extremely important that as we enter the church, as you open the door to go right to the box and use your code to shut the alarm off as you enter. When you leave you must be certain that all the doors are shut and then proceed to the box and set the alarm on using your code and quickly exit through the front door after you made certain that the door is locked properly.

Paying attention to details is extremely important to prevent false alarms. If the alarm goes off the alarm company calls one of our members to investigate, and if they cannot be reached and police are notified it will cost us up to 250,00 dollars regardless of whether the crime is committed or not. And the poor person loses his sleep at 1-2-3 in the am. We need the alarm system to keep the vandals out but we must try very hard to avoid false alarms.

So please shut all the doors properly and use your code to set the alarm as you prepare to leave and exit quickly out the front door and make sure it is closed tight. Unfortunately the alarm goes off too often due to some errors so we must make every effort to prevent it from happening. Thank you for your attention.

3) The Facility Committee of the JVB is trying very hard to keep the facility functional and appealing. It takes a lot of time and effort to fix problems as they arise, but if we can get more people involved and committed, it makes the work so much easier to handle and get it done. We all know the cost of calling a plumber, electrician, and ventilation man! It is prohibitive!!!

We must be fiscally responsible and we must keep our budget at a reasonable level but still try to keep our church a clean and respectful place of worship, one that we all enjoy. So lets all support our church by volunteering in any way that you can help. Remember, what little time you can give will go a long way towards making your "Church" look and function better.

Have a great holiday season!!!

Shalom and thanks,

JOINT VENTURE BOARD

Calendar update

The JV calendar should be up to date through April. Check and make sure your dates are correct. Please fill out the forms next to the calendar to add or change a date. I don't mind getting calls to check a date, but the form lets me have a record of the requests in case I need to refer back to them.

Again, I appreciate the cooperation I have received from everyone.

Thank You,

Amy Griffith



Shine

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Wow!

We were busy during the Christmas season and although final figures will not be available until March, the following update suggests all projects were richly supported. I will publish final results in March; however I wanted to give you a taste of how we did in December.

Alternative Christmas -

This project, a UCC/ECA Joint Venture effort has thus far, as of 12/16/10, earned approximately \$4,900.00. With one exception, I do not have specific information on donations, but the projects include:

Sacred Heart Community Services
African Team Ministry

Santa Maria Mission

Habitat for Humanity

Heifer Project

The Giving Tree (Innvision)

Karen Haley has received 25 new blankets and 6 used blankets. This

includes blankets she has purchased with Rinds received from UCC/ECA members. Karen seeks out sales so she can get the biggest bang" for the donated buck. We are fortunate to have the talent and energy Karen brings to the project.

I started out by saying "WOW"! I do believe the generosity exhibited by our membership is outstanding -WOW!

Habitat for Humanity -

The next HFH Aluminum Can Drive is scheduled for January 12 and 13. Save those cans!

The Christmas Fund - This church wide mission held 12/9, earned \$309 for the retired ministers' fund.

Friends Outside - Carolyn Dingman reports that 14 boxes of food and gifts were collected for three families. Excellent work Carolyn!



God Squad

On January 10 at 9:30 am there will be a reorganizing meeting at the Rectory. Please join us for breakfast. This meeting is for anyone who would enjoy incorporating new people into our daily lives.

Potluck and Bible Study

On Wednesday, January 9, Potluck and Bible Study will resume. Join us at the Rectory in reading and discussing the Screwtape Letters. Potluck is at 6:30 pm, Bible study is at 7:30 pm.

Save the Date

Ladies, mark this date on your calendar: Saturday, March 16. It's Women's Day. This fun day of interesting workshops and lunch begins at 8:30 am. Let's carpool to Salinas.

Dori's Ordination

On Saturday, February 16, Dori will be ordained at her church in Carmichael. Let's be there to support her final step into the priesthood.

Other dates:

Tuesday, Feb. 12 Pancake Supper

Wednesday, Feb. 13 Ash Wednesday

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday

Friday, March 29 Good Friday

Sunday, March 31 Easter

May 17, 18 & 19 Church camping

weekend at Big Sur

Bunko

This fun event happens the on the first Thursday night of each month. If you missed us on January 3, be there on February 7 at 7:30 pm for lots of fun.

Ladies Luncheon

On Thursday, January 17 at 11:30 am will be a Ladies Potluck (Salad) Luncheon at the Rectory. This is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a small salad to share.

CPC Sunday

Sunday, February 10 is the Church Periodical Club Sunday. Save your pennies and bring them to church on this Sunday. This is an Episcopal Church Women project and Pat Fox is in charge of CPC for our Diocese of El Camino Real. The pennies we collect are used for books for people around the world and they will be donated at a special service at Women's Day in Salinas on Saturday, March 16.

AVUCC Women's Group

Book Group

The Book Group now meets the third

Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at Robyn Dorsey's house, 1452 Kew Gardens

Book Selections are as follows. Please join us.

January 17: Reservation Blues
by *Therman Alexir*

February 21: Chocolat
by *Joanne Harris*

March 21: To Be Announced

April 18: Bonesetters Daughters

A River Runs Through It

The All Saints, Carmel campground located on the Big Sur River has been reserved for ECA May 17 and 18.

This is primarily a meadow campsite with the river just footsteps near and the Pacific a short car ride or many footsteps near.

Some fun fellowship activities are being planned for all ages.

If you have any ideas to share or questions, please call Belinda.



Happy Birthday

and

Happy Anniversary

to those celebrating

in January

The Episcopal Church in Almaden

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