



The Episcopal Church IN ALMADEN



THE SHAPE

January 2002

From Nolan

A Cycle of Life

Dear Family in Christ,

The fragile, fleeting beauty of flowers easily draws my attention these days. I feel invited, even drawn, to look closely at the unique individual detail and color that each produce, and marvel at the wonder of their creation. When winter is upon us and blooms are scarce I'm given pause to reflect on my life and relationship with God by observing their life cycle.

This past Christmas Ann and I received several Amaryllis bulbs (a long stemmed plant with a large flower), and at this writing they are still producing exquisitely beautiful blooms. I haven't always appreciated flowers, but now I can spend hours in a botanical garden and never tire of photographing them and meditating.

As I prepare for Lent, which arrives on February 13th, the Amaryllis has given me more than beauty. The life cycle of this amazing plant is helping me get ready for a season of self-examination, and prayer.

This plant begins its' blooming cycle from a bulb buried in the soil. Over time and under the right conditions it starts to develop green shoots that grow into a long stem and eventually produce several huge yet delicate, colorful flowers. After a period of time (far too short for me) they begin to die. While the flowers die the plant doesn't, it can and will produce again given the right conditions. If the leaves are cut

back, the bulb is removed from the soil, cleaned and stored in a cool place for some weeks it will bloom again.

Our spiritual life is much like this. The Church year begins with a season of preparation for the birth of the Christ Child and then the extravagant, enthusiastic season of Christmas bursts forth. Epiphany brings us a time to see the fruit of this event in the manifestation of Christ to the world, a wonder we love to behold. Lent comes bringing



with it an austere season of penitence, denial and self examination, a time for quiet and solemn meditation before a new life breaks out with another exuberant celebration of new life in the resurrected Jesus.

Our Amaryllis bulbs are nearing the end of their flowering period just as Epiphany is coming to a close. The time is approaching for cutting back and drawing inward for a period of quiet and rest.

On a parallel spiritual path, as our Prayer Book reads; On behalf of the Church, I invite you to the observance of a Holy Lent...

And for a proper beginning: Ash Wednesday services February 13th 7 am and 7 pm.

In Christ's love

Let us set ourselves to know the Lord; that he will come is as certain as the dawn; his judgement will rise like the light, he will come to us as showers come, like spring rains watering the earth.

Hosea 6:3



Search Committee



An Update

No news at this point is probably good news. My last three articles have made it to a place far, far away, and I'll be dipped if I know where they landed. Someone was trying to tell me something, so I won't even try to re-hash what I had written. Just to let you know, I had made some comment about Dennis Moran taking pictures during the late service a few Sundays ago. Dennis looked like a war correspondent going for the best shots while Father Nolan was trying to conduct a service. The choir is singing, Father Nolan is doing his best to stay on key, and Dennis is rummaging around for the Pulitzer Prize winning shot to put in our church Profile. Needless to say, being the consummate artisan that Dennis is, unfazed and

**I am the vine,
you are the
branches.
Whoever
remains in me,
with me in
him, bears
fruit in plenty;
for cut off
from me you
can do
nothing.**

John 15:5

unflappable, (you should have been there) Dennis is photographing and SINGING along with the choir during the service. Dennis seemed like he was singing along with the hymns, but I think I caught him singing his own tunes a couple of times.

So, since I didn't get my last few articles in, I will leave the part about Dennis out of this article as well. If you missed the annual meeting, you missed my state of the committee speech as well. Actually, you probably heard I was going to give a speech and decided not to make it. Good for you, but you missed out on a couple of other fine speeches as well. Father Nolan said some very nice things, and it will be hard to see him and the venerable ANN heading down the road come July. Let's make the best of it while we can, ok?

I told a joke, that I won't repeat here in print. The next thing I spoke about was that the committee is like painting a house. I actually used that analogy. The prep work is the pits and the actual painting is a whole lot easier. This, of course, coming from someone who thinks that painting is telling the professional how you want it done.

We have completed the work on the profile and have submitted our stuff to the Church Deployment Office (remember the CDO?). That is the place that keeps everyone's stuff, especially if they are interested in venturing out from their present calling. As I write this (January 21, 2002) we have not received squat from the CDO office, however, once we do, we are ready to take on the next phase of the search.

SOOO - That is the state of the Search Committee. Comments, questions, opinions, delegations, whatever, if it makes you feel better to grab one of us after church, before church (but not during, please), or any other time, please do so.

On behalf of Drew, Ed, Winnie, Kelli, Mary, Robin, Doug, Harold, Pat and Dennis, we all hope you had a great Holiday and are preparing for a wonderous New Year.

Sincerely,

David Byers,



Christian Education

**Your word
is a lamp to
my feet and
a light to
my path.**

Sunday School Schedule

February 3 _ March 17: Sunday school

March 24: Palm Sunday. Walk Through Holy Week. No regular

**Psalms
119:105**

Sunday school. Please encourage your children to attend. Adults are welcome too. (We will be asking for adult participation.)

March 31: *Easter Sunday*. No Sunday school. There will be an Egg Hunt at 10:10 am

April 6 _ May 19: Sunday school

May 26: *Memorial Day weekend*. No Sunday school

June 2: Last day of Sunday school

June 9: Sunday school celebration. This is a JV service in honor of our Sunday school youth, teachers, Celebration Choir and their leaders. Please come whether you have children in the programs or not. This is a celebration you shouldn't miss! A BBQ will follow the 10:00 service.



Vestry

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

Musing On My Vestry Experience

My first thought? Three years has gone by?! Whew! I remember when I first walked up to Winnie Jackman in the Fellowship Hall three years ago to ask how I could be on the vestry. Her eyebrows went up and she had this wide eyed look of surprise about her as if she was wondering if this guy was for real.

A few things come to mind. First of all, it has been quite an experience in government. We were the Senate, the Congress, the City council. What an honor to be an elected official! What a responsibility. What a balancing act. I sit on the Redman's couch thinking, oh man. I only get one vote? Wait a minute, two people are absent. I claim dibbs on their votes! I have to what? Compromise? Aagh. Not quite the same as when I sit on the couch at home, with control of the remote.

And then there is this "Consensus" thing. So now we all have to agree, or agree to disagree? Where is a dictator, when we need him!?! (Just be sure to run things my way, Okay?) Alright maybe I did learn

Episcopalians
5:1-2

something from Nolan.

Did you know that the majority of U.S. Presidents come from the Episcopal faith? Shows you what a tough training ground the vestry is.

Thank goodness for Robert's Rules. We'd have had to move out the coffee table to make room for wrestling otherwise. Yea, you all never figured on Susie standing up waving her fists would you?? We were good on keeping secrets. Just kidding Susie.

Fortunately, through it all, it was clear what our purpose was. When things got real muddled, I could always ask myself, "What would Jesus do?" I came to understand what it means to listen to another idea, to accept that there are different viewpoints than mine. I've had some successes. And I've had to accept some failures of my own. It's easy to come up with grand ideas. Finding the time to carry them out is another thing.

The FISH was the best. Take the quietest person around (Warren) and ask him to color a fish. Suddenly he is an orator without match. The spirituality of people really came out in that simple act of coloring a fish and using it to describe their relationship with ECA. Thanks Ginger. You can tell good parents by their kids.

Did you know the Episcopal Church had it founding in the American Revolution? That always made me feel good. I'm getting a say in running my church. Maybe we were not hashing out the text of the Declaration of Independence, but all the same it's just as important. With God as our co-pilot, we are determining our future.

I couldn't have asked for a more spirit-filled group of people to share this experience with. Thanks.

- Russ Petruzzelli



Letter

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

Here is a letter, just arrived, from Bishnu Khadka who lives in J House (orphanage) in Kathmandu, Nepal. (Bishnu lived with us for six months while he underwent and recuperated from major surgery at Stanford Hospital in 1995. He was 12 then and neither spoke nor wrote English.) Since his return to Nepal he has started school and made friends and even plays basketball. He has two more years of schooling to go before he takes the exams for university.

"Dear Sandie and Ed, Namaste!

Hope you are fine and doing well up there. As for me I am fine and

Philippians 1: doing well in my studies.
3-5

Now days I'm on a holidays. My second terminal examination is over and the result has come out. I passed the examination with good marks except in science. I find difficulties in science though I'm giving priority it. I am busy doing my winter vacation homework. The teachers have given lots of homework. And we are having some extra classes during the afternoon. Do you know we have a basketball court? In the afternoon we play for some time. In the evening we have Tuition classes for one and a half hours. The interesting thing that is happening during my holidays is that we have a project work to visit different temples and write information about the temple and the place. I find very interesting doing that.

As you know I am having kidney stones. I drink lots of water and I am very careful about my health. I still have got the stones in the kidney. The doctor who looks me examine my 24 hours urine and found out nothing. That's why I am worry about it.

At last I would like to wish you marry Christmas and happy New Year 2002, though it is late. Reply me very soon.

I love, Bishnu



Joint Venture



Meet the Church Secretary

Hi! I'm the Church Secretary, Shirley Harned-Kelley. I attend ECA, singing in the choir with my husband of 2+ years, Roger Kelley, a psychologist with Kaiser. I'm a retired opera/concert singer and before I set out to seek my musical fortune (I got to do a great deal of singing but the fortune part eluded me!), was a graphic artist and photographer in production of publications and visual aids for the Federal Government for the Occupational Health Research and Training Facility in Cincinnati (2 years) and the Canal Zone Government Administration Division in the Panama Canal Zone (3.5 years) where I grew up. In those days, the government-ese for my job was "Visual Information Specialist"! Also, during my 25 plus years as a professional singer, I produced my own PR materials and those of several of my colleagues as a way to stretch my income. I still do free lance graphic design on occasion for long-time clients.

Here at Joint Venture Churches, I have been putting my publication experience to good use in the production of MANY MANY bulletins!! A week with only two bulletins is a rarity! On February 20, I will mark the completion of one year working as the secretary for JV. I have gotten to know a lot of people's names and have made some progress in attaching faces to those names. Please come by and introduce yourselves so I can put your face to your name. I am here to serve you all. It gives me great satisfaction and pleasure to use my various proficiencies and proclivities in service to the Lord by serving His Church—and that's you!

Love in Christ,

Shirley



Shine

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba, Father!"

**Romans
8:14-15**

Can you help?

Dear Episcopal Church in Almaden,

Would you partnership with Help One Child in 2002 to help in finding and supporting Christian homes for children in foster care? Our network currently has about 85 homes supporting about 165 children as the enclosed year-end report details. (Our year end report is available on request. It can also be viewed at the helponechild.org website.)

In 2001 there were about 1000 children taken in by our county that needed placement out of their biological parents home because of abuse or serious neglect. About half are placed with relatives. The number needing foster homes continues to grow while the number of available foster homes is declining. The need for 500 foster homes in the next 12 months can be met by the 700 Christian Churches in the county each sheltering one child.

Help One Child partners with Churches like yours to find homes and helpers for these children. Since a babysitter for a foster child must be over 18 and cleared, it is helpful to find people in the same Church community that will be cleared helpers to Church families that are able to do fostering.

Helping a child through this traumatic experience and showing them what a loving family can be like is a tremendous witness of the love of God. It is often a life changing experience for all involved. Having the Church involved to become an extended family for children is valuable. Children are in foster care because they are family-less.

Please consider having a Help One Child foster parent come and give a brief or extended talk at your Church in the future to encourage volunteers.

Sincerely,

Mary Johnson



Diocesan News



Diocesan Convention from where I sit

The 22 Annual Diocesan Convention is meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Seaside, Friday and Saturday in late January. Bishop Shimpfky opens the Convention meeting stating that we must be aware of the "newness of God, He is with us." The Bishop states that we are gathered here with "dedication and priorities, rallying around the Gospel." We are in a "place where dreams and Godly aspirations find fulfillment to make a difference in the world."

Having gathered our packets, badges and voting cards, twelve of us from ECA sit at our round table in the grand ballroom filled with round tables. Dori Torry (one of our twelve) is with us even though she is now at a church of her own in our next door Diocese of Northern California. Because she was a seminarian in our El Camino Real Diocese we can claim her for a few more days and our Bishop will help ordain her in mid-February.

I love Convention: the gathering of representatives from all the forty-nine churches in our Diocese. I love the resounding sound we all make standing and heartily singing together. I love the news that gets shared. I love the formal remembrance at convention of everyone who has died in the past year. We remembered Bill Mac Donald and Jodie Moore. I love the orderly system provided by the Parliamentarian relying on the Constitution and Cannons and Robert's Rules of Order for the business of the convention. At Convention, no matter how passionate the argument, no matter how opposed the debaters, everyone gets to be heard, and all sides of the issue are explored before we delegates vote.

The Diocesan DIEM (Department of Intercultural Evangelism and Ministry) has been struggling for years to be a strong support for building inclusive new churches reflecting the variety of cultures around us. There are currently three Asian ministries: (1) Filipino, Holy Child in east San Jose; (2) Chinese, Holy Light in Campbell; and (3) and a Vietnamese ministry in development. We have Spanish ministry both in the northern and central parts of our Diocese. You will find a fine Asian Ministry Report on the ECA bulletin board. Please read it

and other Convention material to get a better hold on the statistics and details.

We elected representatives to all the Diocesan organizations including an overwhelming vote for Ginger Redman on Standing Committee. People in our Diocese know and have great respect for Ginger. So congratulate her when you see her (ask her what Standing Committee does, it's a very important committee), and ask questions about Convention 2002 of our attendees: Amy and Peter Jacobs, Todd and Kimberly Axtell, Ken Wratten, Pat Fox, Sandie and Ed Mueller, Ginger Redman, and Ann and Nolan.

- Reporting:



Upcoming Events



Women's Day

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

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.

Pancake Supper

The Youth Group is providing a pancake supper again this year on Shrove Tuesday, February 12 from 5 pm to 7 pm. Cost: \$4 for adult, \$2 for children under 12.

Ladies Luncheon

We will meet a church at 11 am, Tuesday, February 21 and we'll carpool to somewhere.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Services are 7 am and 7 pm on Wednesday, February 13.

Godsquad

Godsquad is Thursday, February 14 at Jenny Hoyt's home at 9 am.

Final Gifts

One of our Lenten studies will be a discussion on the book *Final Gifts*. It will be held Sunday mornings between 10:10 am and 10:50 am in the choir room, February 17 through March 17. The leaders will be Dr. Sandra Basel (Sandie),

Ellen Lukanc, an oncology nurse, and Edie Keck, a great support group member.
We will be discussing end of life issues.

Come join us,

Love, Ann

AVUCC Women's 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.

February 21: Chocolat

by Joanne Harris

March 21: To Be Announced

April 18: Bonesetters Daughters

by Amy Tan

- Carol Pullen

Happy Birthday

and

Happy Anniversary

to those celebrating

in February

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