



The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

From Stephen

It is hard to believe that Ellie, Faith and I have been here eight months already. The time has flown by. I have to confess that I feel guilty I have not done some of the things I promised to do when I first came here. The crush of having to “learn the ropes”, hiring a Secretary/Administrative Assistant, getting the office reorganized and establishing search committees for both the Music Director and the Christian Education Director, as well as planning for a possible Youth Coordinator have occupied most of my time. I believe much has been accomplished and that these accomplishments will start bearing fruit in the coming months, but much is also left undone. I have not gotten to know all of you as well as I would have liked. I want to remedy that. As a first step Ellie, Faith and I would like to invite all of you to an Open House at the Rectory from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 7th. We will supply the beverages, and we would ask you to bring something light to share. We want you to see how much love and care your fellow parishioners at ECA have put in fixing up the rectory and how beautiful it was for our arrival.

On the church front we are in the beginning stages of a new Evangelism program. It is amazing how

serendipitously this program has come together from a variety of sources. The basic goals of the program are:

Goal #1: Develop a brief statement expressing our identity that says who we are and what makes us unique to use in an Evangelism and Advertising Campaign.

Goal #2: Increase visibility in the community

- a) New sign with Episcopal Symbol prominent and service times listed. Readable from Camden Avenue.
- b) Joint ads with other churches for Christmas and Easter.
- c) Participate in community event such as the Art and Wine Festival.

Goal #3: Make the building more user friendly

- a) Put signs inside and out directing visitors where to go.
- b) Have a Visitor’s Center in the narthex.
- c) Continue the existing greeters program.
- d) Paint and redecorate Nursery.
- e) Adopt new nursery policy.

Goal #4: Strengthen existing welcoming procedures

- a) Assign shepherds before people join.
- b) Arrange lay visits to newcomers
- c) Continue existing welcoming program.

(Continued on page 2)



Contacting *The Shape*

Editor: Alex Dykes
Assisting Editor
Pro Tem: Marion Grungé
Tel: 408 268-0243
Email: shape@eca-sj.org
6581 Camden Avenue
San José CA 95120

The Shape is a Monthly Publication of
The Episcopal Church in Almaden



A Word From the Editor



Writers block is a funny thing. It seems to come and go, and every so often, (way too often) linger.

It's a pity modern science has not found a miracle cure for writers block that you can buy on midnight TV for three easy payments of \$19.95.

For those of you out there who know someone at risk for this debilitating condition, please pay special attention to the following early warning signs:

- a glazed expression
- eyes staring off into the ether
- jaw hanging
- pens & pencils on the desk idle
- pens & pencils stuck in acoustic ceiling tiles...

Writers block strikes at the most inconvenient times. During an English exam, preparing for a speech, when writing an article for The Shape, when completing a customs form... Customs forms are tricky devils anyway. I never know quite what to put on them,

should I declare X, Y, and/or Z? Or should I throw back my head, push my shoulders back, look straight ahead and walk through the "nothing to declare" gate? What? Are there really 15 of those in there? Must have been my kids... Oh wait, I don't have any...

Alas, I digress. Happens when you take some fiber, helps the words flow. That brings me to some things you can do to help prevent or reduce the effects of writers block, like doing some pre-writing exercises:

- lift your coffee mug up and down
- sharpen your pencil
- test your pen by drawing squiggles
- crack your knuckles
- bang your head rhythmically against your desk
- write gibberish (like this)

And of course, always always be verbose, remember, excess verbiage is like excess baggage. Other people many not like it but it makes you feel better knowing you used/packed everything you have.

- Alex Dykes

From Stephen

(Continued from page 1)

Goal #5: Plan an Advertising Campaign to draw people to ECA.

- a) Determine the most cost effective form of advertising
- b) Seek to work with other churches (AVUCC or St. Stephen's) or other organizations (Almaden Adventures in the Arts) to lower our costs and make the program more cost effective.

Some of these goals are already underway or have already been accomplished. Others will take longer. What we need your help with right now is goal number 1. We need a group of people to get together with Ken McCormick and myself to develop a brief statement of who

we are as a congregation and what makes us unique. The secular version of this term is "branding". It is not an easy task. It will call on us to take a difficult and prayerful look at ourselves. But it is also a vital task. Once we truly have a sense of "identity" I believe we will have a clearer picture of who we are and will feel less threatened by change and growth. I hope you will and do feel called to join us. If you do so please contact Ken or me.

Salaam,

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Avenue, San José CA 95120
Tel 408-268-0243 • Fax 408-268-4207
www.eca-sj.org

RECTORY

6884 Burnside Drive • San José CA 95120
408-997-1502

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

RECTOR

The Reverend Stephen Mills
408-802-5347
rector@eca-sj.org

VESTRY MEMBERS

Ann Avoux	CHRISTIAN ED., OUTREACH
Lele Blackman	FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH
Alex Dykes	COMMUNICATION
Susie Ferguson	FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, WORSHIP LIAISON
Allan Jones	JUNIOR WARDEN, COMMUNICATION, RECTORY
Ellen Lukanc	CHRISTIAN ED., YOUTH
Ken McCormick	SENIOR WARDEN FELLOWSHIP
Jon Mills	CHRISTIAN ED., YOUTH
Pat Rimroth	FINANCE
Terry Root	OUTREACH, RECTORY
Elizabeth Ward	FINANCE, FELLOWSHIP
Len Whitlock	FINANCE

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

ACOLYTES	Taylor Wing
ALTAR GUILD	Judy Graun, Katherine Hussain
COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
GREETERS	Sharon Mills
GOD SQUAD	Jenny Hoyt
GOOD SAMS	Jenny Hoyt
LAY READERS	Dennis Moran
MONTGOMERY MEALS	Amy Griffith
PRAYER VINE	Dorothy Willard
TLC	Jan Day
USHERS	Dave Byers
WORSHIP	Francie Kerr
WEB EDITOR	Kim Petruzzelli

ECA STAFF

MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORGANIST	
CHRISTIAN ED. DIRECTOR	
TREASURER	Maryke Williams
YOUTH DIRECTOR	



Scrip, Scrip, Scrip Empty Page...

Please, take a moment and log into www.eScrip.com, set up an account and start a painless donation to ECA in motion. We need to stay creative in today's economic climate and this is an easy way to help us meet our budget. A sign up form is included in the SHAPE for your use as well and is also available at the church office. You may also contact Elizabeth Ward (997-9806) or Pat Rimroth (323-8218) for more information. Strong participation by our congregation will go a long way toward helping us meet our financial commitments at no cost!

- The Mysterious Budget Team

Rather than put one of those little lines that says "Page intentionally left blank" somewhere in this month's Shape. I decided instead to put when you're reading in instead. We seem to be a little short on stewardship items this month, so I'll add my own two cents worth on the subject.

Bottom line my friends is that we're running a \$40,000 plus deficit budget this year. This is really really not good. I know the economy is bad, and I know that we're a non-profit. But "non-profit" really means "break-even" not "dig-the-hole-a-little-deeper-every-year." So if you have any creative ways of making up the deficit, increasing donations, or heck, just having a fun time with your fellow ECA members drop the vestry a line, we're here to serve and we love hearing from you!

-Alex Dykes





News From Everywhere[else]

The Primates Meeting 2003

[Anglican Communion News Service]

The chief archbishops of the Anglican Communion have arrived in Southern Brazil for their regular 'Primates Meeting', hosted by the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brasil. This is Archbishop Rowan Williams' first meeting as Archbishop of Canterbury, but he is no stranger to the Primates. He has attended the last three meetings as Archbishop of Wales.

Other Archbishops of Canterbury have paid pastoral visits to Brazil, the first was the visit of Archbishop Michael Ramsey in 1974, then Archbishop Robert Runcie in 1990 and Archbishop Carey in 1999. This is, however, the first time the Primates as a group will be in Brazil and they have come in particular to honour the retiring Primate, the Most Revd Glauco Soares di Lima.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the spiritual leader of the 70 million Anglicans worldwide, as well as Primate of All England and Bishop of the Diocese of Canterbury. He is president of the Anglican Consultative Council and is seen as 'first among equals' in the college of Primates. He also hosts the Lambeth Conference, the last of which was held in 1998.

The Primates Meetings are always private. They are centred in prayer, study and Eucharist. Each primate brings to the table of discussion concerns in his province or beyond. Items identified to the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion in preparation for the time table include: AIDS initiatives in Africa, a document commissioned by the Primate of the West Indies on same-sex blessings, and theological education needs in various places.

The bishop of the Southern Diocese, the Rt Revd Orlando Santos de Oliveira, was on hand to welcome Archbishop

Williams and the other primates as they arrived in Brazil. He said, "On behalf of the clergy and the people of our diocese, I welcome warmly the participants for this first-ever Primates Meeting in a Latin American country. It is very important for our Diocese, the oldest one, to host such a gathering. It was a special honour to me to be asked to assist with the chaplain for the coming week."

The Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil is one of the 38 Provinces of the Anglican Communion, and its work began in 1890 as a result of the missionary work of two north American missionaries in Porto



Alegre: James Watson Morris and Lucien Lee Kinsolving. Its autonomy was established, with the blessing of the Episcopal Church of Unites States in 1965. With more than 100,000 baptised members and a team of more than two hundred clergy, among those 30

female priests, the Episcopal Church has today established communities and educational and social institutions in the main urban areas of Brazil. Today the Brazilian Province is composed by seven dioceses: Southern, Southwestern, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Recife, Brasmlia and Pelotas; and two missionary districts: Amazon and West.



Photo: IEAB/Mello

ROW ONE left to right: Central Africa, Melanesia, Ireland, Pakistan, West Africa, England, Brazil, Canada, Wales, Uganda

ROW TWO left to right: Canon Herman Browne, Lambeth Palace, Japan, Australia, West Indies, Sudan, Nigeria, USA, Secretary General John Peterson, Southern Africa, Diocesan Bishop of the South, Orlando Oliveira, Rwanda, Congo, Jerusalem and the Middle East, Burundi

TOP ROW left to right: Philippines, Cental American Region, Myanmar, Mexico (Acting), Indian Ocean, Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Korea, Tanzania, Southern Cone, Kenya

ABSENT FROM PHOTO: Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea

ABSENT FROM MEETING: Hong Kong, South India, North India, Scotland, Bangladesh

Vestry Vibes



Meet our Vestry

Meet your two vestry representative to the JV's search committee for a Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Jon Mills

Some might refer to him as the “new Skid on the block.” He came to ECA a year ago February finding us via the Yellow Pages. He relocated here from Pennsylvania with his wife Sharon (our “Greeter Coordinator”) and their two girls, Taylor, 13 and Brooke, 10. In these past 15 months Jon has found himself employed, unemployed and thankfully, once again employed. As of May 12, he as a biologist and research scientist for

Symyx Therapeutics. Jon found ECA to have a very comfortable feeling, like home, a place where he felt welcomed and wanted to spend time. And so, he and his family have jumped right into our ECA family, blessing us with their involvement in a variety of activities and responsibilities. Both Jon and Sharon have participated in the Alpha course for adults. Both teach Sunday school with Jon being one of the facilitators for our

youth Alpha program. Jon cared deeply about our Christian Education and Youth programs. We see this in his direct involvement in the ministries as well as his leadership role representing them on our vestry. Jon is a quiet, sincere Christian who offers an important balance and perspective to our vestry.

Ellen Lukanc

Asked almost every year for the last five or six to serve on the vestry, Ellen finally consented. It's not that she doesn't like to serve, because she has done so time and time again whenever and wherever there is a need she can fill. Most recently she organizes and manages our kids breakout and has since its inception several years ago. She currently serves with Katie McCormick, Connie Rimroth, and Debbie Bishop as our ECA Reception Committee. This group organizes and facilitates special receptions

as needed for memorials, funerals or special visitations, to mention a few. Ellen was one of the leaders for the adult education class Final Gifts. Her nursing background and personal experiences were assets in helping the participants grapple with some very difficult issues around death and dying, having lost her infant daughter, Laura Ann, several years ago. Our beautiful gazebo and “Laura Ann rose” in our Rose Garden memorialize her short life. Ellen brings a strong sense of caring and compassion to

our vestry and her ministries. Ellen and her family, husband, Todd, and sons, Greg, 14, and Douglas, 11, came to ECA 15 years ago having been invited by another family. They in turn have continued that practice of evangelism, reaching out and inviting friends. The Beachers are one such family to their credit. Ellen and her family are a blessing on our midst.

Polling the Vestry: Perhaps you have a question you would like to pose to those who are serving you on this year's vestry. If so, submit your question to Allan Jones, who chairs our communications ministry this year. He, in turn, will seek responses and see that they are published in this column. You can submit your questions via e-mail: adjones9966@yahoo.com or by phone (408) 268-3322.





Fellowship

A Gift of Gratitude

ECA is blessed with people who give generously of their time and talents; some with a big fan fare that everyone notices and others with a whisper. In both cases, ECA is grateful for their gifts. Perhaps, you will notice someone during the next month that you would like to give the “gift of gratitude.” If so, please just submit their name and what they did to the Shape Editor by deadline so they can receive their gift right here.

Kim Petruzzelli and Wai Mun Syn: Thank you for your talents and time to post the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry Coordinator job descriptions on the websites.

The Jon Mills family would like to thank you: for your prayers about Jon’s job search. He was recently blessed with an exciting opportunity with a firm in Santa Clara. Our prayers are with those still seeking employment.

Robin Root and her team, Terry, Jenny, Suzanne, Amy, Anna, Taylor, Evelyn, Alex, Bailey and Daniel: for your hours of cooking and preparing and serving for the Almaden Adventures in the Arts patron’s reception. All who attended send you accolades of praise.

Dennis and Mary Moran: Thank you for being such wonderful guides and introducing us to New Almaden and its rich history.

Belinda Byerly-Robins: Thanks for organizing our camping trip to Big Sur. By the next edition there should be lots of tales to tell from those who enjoyed the experience.

Francie Kerr: Thank you for your years of service, dedication, and leadership of the worship committee.

The Lobster Committee: Thanks for your quick action and getting things rolling for our June 13th event. May you enjoy the evening as much as we enjoyed the party planning it!

Thank You from Penny

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve our churches.

Thank you for serving with me.

Thank you for sharing your children with me.

Thank you for saying yes to teaching.

Thank you for painting the Sunday School rooms.

Thank you for making suggestions for and teaching adult classes.

Thank you for saying you would substitute.

Thank you for wonderful secretaries.

Thank you for Christian friendship.

Thank you, children, for your joyful noise..

Thank you for helping with :

The Christmas Pageant,

BBQ’s,

Vacation Bible School,

Walk Through Holy Week,

Cleaning Sunday School cupboards,

Stuffing Easter Eggs,

Hiding Easter eggs,

Cleaning out the junk in the Sunday School rooms,

Getting the rats out of the manger,

Parties,

Making costumes,

Putting costumes away,

Buying room dividers,

Buying the television.

Enthusiastic ideas.

I could never have done this job without ALL of you.

Thank you, Karen, Melanie, Ariss, and Diane making my beautiful quilt, it will have a special place in our new house. It’s a wonderful reminder of the Joint Venture.

Thank for you all the kind words in the Shape, it made me feel very special. I will always treasure the memories you have given me, and how you have helped me grow in the Lord.

Yours in Christ,
Penny

Fellowship



ECA Annual Camping Trip

What stories will ECA campers come back with this time? I guess you'll have to wait until next month to read about it here. At press time 50+ variety of ages are packing gear to spend a three day weekend on the river in Big Sur. At last count we had 38 scheduled to rough it, one night or two, and somewhere around 20 trying the local "Hiltons" for their nighttime accommodations. Many thanks go to Belinda for getting this fellowship event on the calendar!

Ferguson's Garden Party

This was one of the auction items last November. Sixty people purchased a place at this party to celebrate the Summer Solstice. If you were one of them, the party is just around the corner. Saturday, June 21, the Ferguson's will be ready to greet you in the garden from 5pm to 8pm. Can't remember if you purchased this item? Give Suzie or Jerry a call at (408) 997-0107 to confirm if you are on the list.

Lobster Fund Raising Event Friday, June 13th

If you like Maine lobsters, you won't want to miss this event. Come enjoy dinner at ECA from appetizers to dessert, beverages (wine and beer included), and your choice of lobster or steak. We'll give it to you all for a mere \$39.13 per person. (We will accept checks rounded to \$40.) Raffle tickets are also available. Final count for lobsters and money is Sunday June 7. Check the poster in the fellowship hall for more details or call any committee member.

Almaden Hike Proceeds for Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

Thank you to all who made donations to our Avon Walk Fund through ECA. If you have not made a donation and would like to just mail or give your check to Maryke made payable to ECA with Avon Walk noted in the memo.

ECA Ladies Luncheon

The ECA Ladies Luncheons – (3rd Thursday of the month) will start again in June!

The June lunch will be on the 19th, 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

At this lunch we would like ladies to sign up for the other months of the year-the lunch can be at church, maybe a restaurant, a lunch and event, a mystery lunch that only the driver's know where, or anything you can think of that will be fun and good fellowship. Guests are always welcome so sign up in Fellowship Hall!

Contact Amy Griffith for more information

*-Amy Griffith
(408) 268-0920
amy-g@pacbell.net*

Fellowship Calendar

May 30, 31, June 1 (all ages)
Camping at Big Sur, all ages

June 14 (adults only)
Lobster Dinner & Event Fundraiser

July (all ages)
Road Rally,

September 13
BBQ & Line Dancing

October 12
Evensong At Grace Cathedral

October 25 (all ages)
Pumpkin Carving and Simple BBQ

November 1
Possibilities being considered

December 13
Christmas Party

January 2004
Possibilities being considered

February 2004
Valentines Party with St. Stephen's Church

February/March
Adult Ski Weekend

March 22
Something new in the works to welcome
in spring



Joint Venture News

Music Director Search Continues

The search for a new music director continues.

Unfortunately, there are a number of churches in the area that are also looking to fill organist/choirmaster positions. The region's employment market would appear to have more openings than applicants at this time.

Consequently, the Music Director Search Committee has decided to broaden the search to include the national publication and web site of the American Guild of Organists as well as the group's southern California chapters. These listings will run in June.

In the meantime, the committee has scheduled various substitute organists who will provide music throughout the summer.

The Vestry and Council each selected three members from their respective congregations to serve on the search committee. The ECA members are Gwen Hacker, Andy Kerr and myself. The AVUCC members are Sandy Baldwin, Lynn Widman and Bob Hawes. In addition, AVUCC Pastor Julianne Stokstad and ECA Rector Stephen Mills also serve on the committee.

With God's help, we hope to enable the churches to maintain the excellent quality of music and musicianship with which we have been blessed for many years. We ask for your prayers to help in the search process.

—Todd Axtell, Music Director Search Committee

Missing Tablecloths

We recently did a church tablecloth inventory and discovered that a number of them are missing from the tablecloth closet. Could you please check to see if you have any of the following:

- Dark green square tablecloths
- Burgundy round tablecloths
- White square tablecloths
- White round tablecloths
- White rectangular tablecloths

If you find any of the above, please return to the church kitchen so that we can include them in the tablecloth inventory.

—Jan Day, TLC Committee
268-6690

USA and Wales Primates Elected to Standing Committee

[Anglican Communion News Service]

During the Primates Meeting in Brazil, the Primate of the United States, the Most Revd Frank T Griswold, was elected by the Americas region as their representative on the Primates Standing committee. The Most Revd Barry Morgan, new Archbishop of Wales, was elected by the European region for the same committee.

The Primates Standing Committee meets with the Anglican Consultative Council Standing Committee each year as the Joint Standing Committee for the ongoing work of the Anglican Communion.

RED TAG SALE



33%

OFF

Take 33% off of all Coit Services including:
Carpet • Upholstery • Drapery • Air Duct • Area Rug • Tile & Grout Cleaning

SINCE 1950, ALL COIT SERVICES ARE 100% GUARANTEED.



COIT

People & Experience You Can Trust.™ www.coit.com



Call the man in the shiny black van at...

1-800-FOR COIT



Hiking Tour in New Almaden

If you missed it (and many of you did) you missed a great morning of “local color” and “local history” hosted by Mary and Dennis Moran. Thirteen of us gather at church and caravan to the Quicksilver Mining Museum located in what many of you may remember as the Old Opera House/Hotel and stage for melodramas. We were treated to an excellent docent led tour of the museum and the local



history of mercury mining by John, Kitty, and of course Dennis. (Mary took the pictures!) After our history lesson and viewing the artifacts we set off on a 1.6-mile walking tour of the local historical sites. It was a perfect day to stroll through this community, even the cemetery. An added highlight on our walk came when a local resident shared his miniature



logging steam engine and train that he ran for us in his front yard’s scaled setting. We ended our tour with a high five with one-armed Bert (short for Bertram.) Best that you ask Dennis about that bit of folklore.

The Museum is open to the public on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10-4. During the week they do open for school tours. Teachers can arrange tours for their

classes. Van tours are given twice a month on Saturdays, from 9am until 1:30pm. Space is limited, call for availabilities, if you are interested. You can contact the Museum by phone, (408) 323-1107



The ECA Reporter Hits the Pews

Penny & Jim Sabin are moving in the near future. Do you have a special memory of them you might like to share?

Penny Sabin has such encouraging optimism and deep faith that it has been a joy to be one of her Sunday school teachers. Penny has over the years provided us with curricula that are Bible based and inspiring to use. When we discovered the need to introduce the Bible itself to children who hadn’t yet learned to use one, she came up with a lesson book that has been a significant tool in making the Bible user-friendly. We have all grown in our abilities to teach because of her leadership. I am personally grateful.

Sandie Mueller

It is very difficult for us to see the Sabins move on. Knowing and working with Penny and Jim over the years has been very special, particularly with their contribution to our church as individuals and as a family. I have been involved with both doing countless tasks around the church and there are no finer people to work with. Given a job, it gets done. Need an opinion or a decision, it is made. Always the right decision at the right time. (They also make great margaritas!) Their deep love for our church and JV will be sorely missed.

Pete Mayo



Youth Outreach Project-How Does your Garden Grow?

Do you want to get your hands dirty? Would you like to get to know our youth a little better? How about an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life who is at risk of being hungry by providing fresh produce in their diet? If any of this appeals to you, the youth group has the answer for you!

On April 29th Joint Venture approved a proposal for the youth group to build and maintain a vegetable garden out near the sheds and the rose garden. This is to be their mission or outreach project for 2003: To help people in their own community who experience food insecurity. The youth plan to grow and donate vegetables to the Second Harvest Food Bank in conjunction with the Plant A Row program sponsored by the Garden Writers of America and specifically the San Jose Mercury News. This program encourages gardeners to plant an extra row of vegetables and then drop them off at the food bank for distribution to senior and school lunch programs as well as programs such as Montgomery Meals and Santa Maria Urban Mission.

We are fortunate in that Ken McCormick had a Boy Scout in his troop who was in need of an Eagle Scout project. Stephen Hoang, a senior at Leland, is spearheading the design and building of the enclosed garden. Arnold Moore of ECA has generously donated his expertise and time and is working with Stephen in designing the raised beds, the fencing, and the irrigation system.

Funding for this project comes from Youth Group fundraisers such as the Shrove Pancake Supper and the Rotary Club that supports the Eagle Scout and his project. The Master Gardener's of Santa Clara County are donating some

seedlings as well as a worm bed for compost. Plant A Row has sent seeds and row markers.

Planting should take place in mid-June. So, how can you become involved? We would like to have this project be one that is intergenerational in nature. It is a terrific opportunity to get to know our enthusiastic middle school youth and to do some outdoor gardening as well. The youth will require some supervision throughout the summer as they monitor the progress of their garden, weed and fertilize as needed. If you would be willing to pair up with a young person or persons and donate two or three hours a month throughout the summer, please

contact either Melanie Click (323-8283) or Robin Root (268-1203). We promise that you will have a lot of fun getting dirty and getting to know our youth!

-Robin Root

Youth Group Update

The JV Youth group remains quite busy! Several of our youth attended the New Beginnings retreat at Mt. Hermon Conference Center, and we hear that it was a great retreat.

Our newest project is the construction of a vegetable garden. We intend to grow vegetables to donate to Second Harvest. The construction of the raised beds and the watering system will be managed by a Boy Scout, Stephen Hoang, and then the Youth Group will take over planting and maintenance. We will have plenty of support from the Master Gardener program, Plant A Row, and resident experts from the congregation. We also hope to build community within the churches by setting up partnerships between youth and adults for working in the garden. If you are interested in working with this project, please contact

Melanie Click at 323-8283 or Robin Root at 268-1203.

We have just had our last bake sale for the year. We raised almost \$600 from two bake sales and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Many, many thanks to Sharon and Taylor Mills for organizing the bake sales. You are amazing! Many thanks also to our many supporters who have bought cookies, brownies and coffee. Your contributions are making our garden project possible!

If you have any questions about the Junior High Youth Group or its activities and projects, please contact Cliff and Melanie Click at 323-8283 or mjclick@sbcglobal.net.

- Cliff and Melanie Click



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat West had its beginning at HAVUCC in 1978, when a group of 12 church members accepted the invitation with Rev. Jack to discuss interest in supporting Habitat for Humanity, a maverick organization that was just getting started in Americus, Georgia. This organization has the unusual idea of helping people gain home ownership by building simple houses and selling them at no profit, charging no interest, and the new homeowners giving “sweat equity” for their down payment. The idea of helping people help themselves really appealed to all of us. Soon we began raising money, and then became a resource center to not only raise money, but also to distribute information about the organization. In time, we helped start an affiliate organization to actually build houses. The affiliate became known as Bay and Valley and built its first homes in Capitola.

Today, Habitat West is known as the western region and includes the 13 western states including Hawaii. 4,159

homes have been built in the western region by the end of 2002. More have been completed this year. California has built more homes than any other state, having completed 935 homes during that same time. Our local affiliate, Silicon Valley, has completed 24 of those. Silicon Valley is currently building a home in Los Gatos, will start two more Victorian “rehab” this fall, and will break ground on 3 homes in Santa Clara around September.

I doubt any of us knew exactly what we were helping to start when we gathered back in 1978. God certainly helped plant the “seed,” led people by the hand to donate and volunteer, and helped many families have truly a new way of life.

Habitat – May we all continue to support this worthy organization.

-Phyllis Green

Labyrinth Interest

Members in the ECA and UCC community have expressed great interest in exploring the revised awareness of the use of the labyrinth as a spiritual tool. Members are asking “what is a labyrinth, what does it do, and how does it work?” In the context here, the labyrinth is a spiritual tool that has many applications in various settings. The act of walking the labyrinth is to discover our inner sacred space. It “works” by reducing stress, quieting the mind and opening ones’ heart. It is a walking meditation, a path of prayer and shows the walker the possibilities it brings for renewal, change, healing and joy.

Anyone interested in learning about, exploring and experiencing labyrinths are invited to include your name on a sign-up sheet posted on the JV Bulletin board or contact LeLe Blackman, 997-8027. Perhaps this is something we would want to have in our community.

- LeLe Blackman

Lay Reading Ministry

Our parish is blessed with a fine dedicated group of lay readers who give their time and energy in making our worship services a more meaningful spiritual experience for you. Doug Dunham, Mary Leal, Robb Moore, Brenda McHenry and I assist Father Stephen at the 7:30 a.m. service. Jenny Hoyt, Gary Keck, Francie Kerr, Russ Petruzelli, and Taylor Wing serve at the 11:00 a.m. service. Belinda Byerly-Robbins has also served this ministry in the past. They assist by reading scripture, bearing the chalice during communion, leading the congregation in prayers and psalms. Each

person normally participates in the service once a month. During Christmas, Lent, Easter they give of their time to help with special services. We are always looking for anyone who thinks this might be a ministry where they would find joy and fulfillment in serving the Lord.

In September, Taylor Wing will be going to Louis and Clark college. He has not only done an outstanding job as a Lay Reader, but also has served as head of the acolytes. We will miss his presence at our services. We will need to find someone to fill in the space he leaves.

Lay reading can help you gain more confidence with skills involved in standing before a group and presenting information. If you have enjoyed simply reading stories aloud to your family and children, this might be a rewarding ministry for you. We will give you the training and support to help you become a more effective speaker and you can add an exciting element to your spiritual journey. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Dennis Moran at 279-0474, or give your name to Stephen and he will pass it on to me.

- Dennis Moran, Lay readers Ministry



Parish Life

Search for Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry Coordinator Begins

Three members from AVUCC (Carolyn Dingman, Janey Sanders, and Byron Henderson) and three members from ECA (Ellen Lukanc, Linda Nollette, and Jon Mills) are serving on the Search Committee. The committee thanks AVUCC Moderator Marcia Bush and Pastor Julianne Stockstad, and ECA Rector Stephen Mills for their valuable insights that they are providing at committee meetings. The committee is responsible for establishing job descriptions, advertising, interviewing, and recommending a candidate or candidates to a Selection Committee representing the governing bodies of AVUCC and ECA.

To date (April 11) the Search Committee is finalizing the job descriptions and within the next two days will send them to members of the AVUCC Council and ECA Vestry for their suggestions and approval. Efforts are now focusing on advertising the positions and methods for evaluating the candidates. We will begin advertising and collecting applications before the end of April. Job descriptions and applications will be available in the church office and on the AVUCC (www.avucc.org) and ECA (www.eca-sj.org) websites. The search committee hopes to be able to present a short list of candidates to the Selection Committee by June 1.

responsibilities will be to deal with this important topic. The primary task for the JV Christian Education Committee will be to work with the Youth Ministry Coordinator and Director of Christian Educational in planning and coordinating in their programs.

The Search Committee welcomes your questions, suggestions, and concerns. Please pray for a successful search!

- Search Committee Members

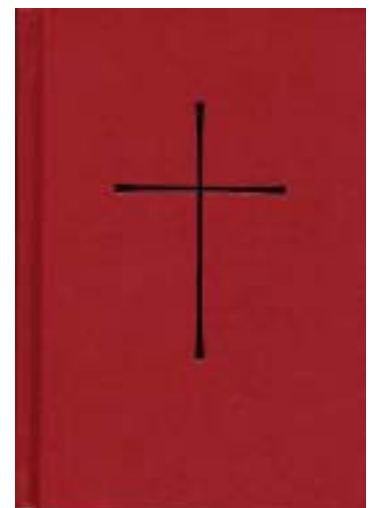
The Search Committee would like to thank the 63 Christian education surveys that were received from members of AVUCC (33) and ECA (30). Of the various aspects of Christian education, Sunday School and Youth Group had the highest ratings. For skills and traits the most desirable were good communication skills and a sense of humor.

The Search Committee looked into finding a solution to issues surrounding Children's Breakout during the AVUCC and the second service at ECA. Rather than giving this responsibility to the Director of Education, the Search Committee is recommending that a Joint Venture Christian Education Committee be formed and that one of their

Prayer Book Replacement!

In 1979 the national convention of Episcopal Church in the United States ratified a new Book of Common Prayer, the first revision in 51 years. Many of you may remember this historic event in the church. Many of you may also notice that ECA hopped on the bandwagon right away and that's why some of the prayer books in the church still say "Proposed" on the cover page. And judging by the condition of most of the books it's been a hard 24

years of heavy use. Responding to the need for new prayer books we invite everyone in the congregation who would like to donate money towards new books to fill out the insert in your bulletin in April and donate books in memory, celebration, recognition, or honor of anyone you like. We need 100 new books to retire the aging books in the pews. Please remember to fill out those inserts!





Inreach Activities

Some of us at ECA have had many opportunities to get to know Stephen and Ellie through a variety of activities since their arrival. But in the course of very busy lives, many of you may not have been so blessed. Your vestry would like to facilitate more opportunities for you and Stephen and Ellie to get to know one another. We are starting Thursday night dinners for this very purpose. (Choir members, here is your chance while you are on hiatus for the summer.)

We will be holding small dinners in our homes throughout the summer months. Susie Ferguson will be coordinating the

schedule and guests lists. What could you do? First, if you know right now you would like to attend such a dinner, call Susie and get on the guest list of a Thursday night, which is good for you. Second, if you would like to host such a dinner, the vestry would be delighted to have you help us. Again, call Susie to get on the calendar for the Thursday of your choosing.

Susie is hoping to have her phones ringing off the hook. You can reach her in the evenings at 997-0107 or during the day at her office at 452-2750.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 Evelyn Wing	17 Taryn Kelly
3 Alexandra Bishop	17 Tyler Nollette
8 Jenny Hoyt	18 Winnie Jackman
8 Jonathan Byers	21 Lucas Kianidehikian
9 George Romer	22 Frank May
10 Charlotte Boileau	23 Gregory Lukanc
11 Fabrice Akue	25 Margaret Halliwell
14 Tony Moore	28 Michael Taylor
14 Bill Flemming	

Anniversaries

10 Ron Howie and Melinda Jennings??
10 Terry and Mel Stonehocker
12 Robin and Maryke Williams
14 Ed and Sandie Mueller
14 Ted and Lynda Fahlen
15 Russ and Kim Petruzzelli
16 Stephen and Ellie Mills
17 Roland and Betty Darnell
19 Melinda Jennings and Ron Howie??

Things Offered, Things Needed

Needed:

Single mother of two small children needs a reliable donated car. This very low income single mom student will be transferring to UC Santa Cruz from West Valley College in the fall. Her current auto is "on its last wheels" and will not make it "over the hill". Her story is an incredible tale of struggles, sacrifices, courage and determination. She is graduating with a 3.87 GPA and has been the sole support of her 2 children. If anyone is thinking of donating their older auto to

a charitable organization or person, this student would be a good choice. Please contact me with any questions or your donation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Romer
Director, EOPS/CARE
West Valley College
408-741-2593 work
408-268-4435 home

I work with very low income students (they are the poorest of the poor) at West Valley College and at times one of them has a need that my program cannot fulfill. Such is the case that I would like to post in our Shape. (Over the years, many people in our congregation have been generous with our students and I have been most appreciative.)

-Nancy Romer





Adventures in the Arts News

San Fransisco Chamber Orchestra to Perform at Joint Venture Churches on Saturday, July 26

The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra will perform the original 13-instrument version of Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring" as part of a program to be held at Joint Venture Churches of Almaden on Saturday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the concert are \$25. Parishioners may purchase tickets in advance for \$20 each.

The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra is celebrating its 50th year. Its Musical Director, Benjamin Simon, will conduct. Featured soloists will be Tod Brody, flute; Marilyn Martella, clarinet; and Deborah Kramer, bassoon.



In addition to Copland's "Appalachian Spring," also included on the program will be Ernest Bloch's "Suite Modale for Flute and Strings," Mozart's "Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in A Major, K. 581," and Vivaldi's "Concerto for Bassoon and Orchestra in C Major, F. VII No. 13."

The ensemble is performing the same program on Friday, July 25 at the Napa Valley Opera House and on Sunday, July 27 at the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival in San Francisco.

The Saturday July 26 concert here at Joint Venture Churches will be the south bay's exclusive performance of this program.

It is being presented by the Almaden Adventures in the Arts, a joint venture of AVUCC and ECA. The concert committee is committed to a mission of bringing music and other arts to the valley and, hopefully, in so doing, bringing some new folks to our churches.

The Almaden Adventures in the Arts has just completed its third season. In fact, it was a joyous finale featuring an uplifting

and soulful performance by Erlene Davis and Joy (Faye Norman, Karen Colbert and Marilyn Brown). Some numbered the crowd at close to 140, which was most impressive considering that

there were a number of parishioners from both churches who didn't attend because they were out of town or had other commitments.

The concert committee would like to express its sincere gratitude to the patrons who donate to the concert series. The series simply would not be possible without this commitment from our contributors. We thank you. And we would like to thank all those who attended the concerts and helped make the season such as success.

Plans are underway for next season. We've already confirmed bookings with the jazz-fusion quintet Primary Colors, the all-saxophone band Nuclear Whales, and

organist John Karl Hirten. Stay tuned for news about the balance of the schedule to be announced as soon as the details are finalized.

The hard working volunteers who comprise the concert committee are Marion Grunge, Betsy and Terry Shoup, Doug Dunham, Alex Dykes, Bart Smith, and co-chairs Kevin Haley and Todd Axtell.

Vestry Minutes - May 2003



Attending: Ken McCormick, Allan Jones, Len Whitlock, Stephen Mills, Ellen Lukanc, LeLe Blackman, Jon Mills, Susie Ferguson, Ann Avoux, Pat Rimroth, Terry Root, Pete Mayo (guest), Kimberly Axtell (guest), Lorraine Zeller (vestry clerk)

The meeting was called to order following the opening prayer at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: March minutes were approved. April minutes were amended and approved. Vestry requested that finalized vestry minutes be posted on the bulletin board and Lorraine will do this. Vestry and Lorraine also committed to a policy for minutes distribution and approval as follows: a draft of the minutes will be written up within a week of the vestry meeting and emailed to all vestry members for revisions as needed, vestry will provide revisions and/or corrections and email back to Lorraine, revisions/corrections will be made and revised minutes will be emailed to vestry, vestry members will email approval or final corrections to Lorraine, and Lorraine will send out the final draft to vestry and post on the bulletin board. The whole process should be complete by two weeks after each vestry meeting.

Christian Education Search: Ellen Lukanc reported that job descriptions for Christian education director and youth director have been posted on both websites and are also in the church office. She commented that these jobs have been opened up to members of both congregations. It was suggested that emails with both job descriptions be sent out to both congregations. The Christian Education committee plans to start presenting candidates in June. Funding for the youth director still needs to be finalized and coordination for Youth Breakout still needs more discussion with each congregation. Salaries for each ¼ time position will be around \$10,000 per year each, but the hiring committee will make the final determination on salary, taking into account a number of factors which will be clarified as the search narrows, near the end of the hiring process.

Music Search Update: Ken asked Stephen for an update on the music and choir director(s) search. Stephen shared that the job descriptions are both completed and publicized in the American Guild of Organists magazine, but there has not yet been much response. In order to broaden the search, Stephen will contact St. Jude's in Cupertino regarding their recent search for a music director and see if they have any applicants, since they have staffed their position, that they might refer to us. Stephen will also ask for information about the search strategies St. Jude's used and where they publicized their opening. Stephen noted that we do have organists lined up through July.

NEW BUSINESS

Evangelism Program: Stephen reported that he and some members of vestry have been working together on a plan for evangelism. He presented an Evangelism Program document outlining the goals and activities designed to attract new members to ECA. This was in response to our goal for congregational growth and to emails from Kimberly and Todd Axtell. Kimberly discussed and presented a document about "Brand Focus Advertising." A number of specific marketing strategies were proposed by various members of vestry as follows:

- Developing a mission statement identifying who we are, what we value, how we are unique as the Episcopal Church in Almaden.
- Sending out postcards to targeted zip codes
- Open House, Block Party, and/or Children's Concert with invitations sent out to neighboring residences.
- Requesting lists of new area residents from realtors (we have at least one in our congregation) and sending welcome and ECA information to them.
- Talking to members of the Los Madres groups who use our facilities and inviting them to come to church.
- Bring a friend to church day.
- Doing away with the Joint Venture sign and putting up prominent signs identifying each congregation.
- Confering with the marketing volunteer AVUCC is working with.
- A flyer or brochure designed to market and inform visitors and the public about ECA.

Following up on some of these proposals: Allen will present the ideas regarding outside signage to JV Board. Pete Mayo volunteered to take charge of procuring, obtaining, and posting outside signs, and Lorraine is working on an ECA brochure. Stephen pointed out that he and God Squad have worked out and are implementing a plan to strengthen welcoming procedures. Pete and Kimberly both pointed out that hospitality - making a point of welcoming and talking with visitors at church and events - is an important part of evangelism. Pete also noted that it's important to keep in mind the importance of in reach, to stay in touch with our current members, as well. Susie expressed her concern that we have people committed to follow through with our plans for evangelism. Kimberly suggested that we put together an evangelism focus group, or committee. Stephen volunteered to co-chair the committee. An article will be published in SHAPE and announcements will be made during worship in order to recruit people to work on this committee.

Year End Report: Stephen passed out documentation for the 2002 year-end report, referred to as the Parochial Report. This report needs to be reviewed and approved by vestry before sending to the Diocese. The report was approved by vestry contingent on a review of financial statistics by Pat Rimroth and Elizabeth Ward.

Rector and Vestry Evaluation: Evaluations for both the rector and vestry will be coming up. Stephen and Ken will work on evaluation tools and present them to vestry next month. The

evaluation on Stephen Mills as our rector is due at the one year anniversary of his service, which will be September 1, 2003.

FINANCE

Pat Rimroth reported that plate and pledge contributions have added up to 43% of budget income expectations for the financial year. It was pointed out, however, that some people do pay their entire pledges at the beginning of the year. Pat commented that the largest contributor to expenses, as would be expected, is personnel costs. The second largest expense is for the JV operating fund, and third is for our fair share contribution to the Diocese. Pat stated that we have, so far this year, been bringing in roughly the same amount as we have been spending, but he anticipates that, if we continue spending at the same rate as we have been, our deficit will be around \$40,000 by the end of the fiscal year. This means, he claimed, that we need to find ways to cut expenses, increase revenues, or both. Trying to reduce our fair share by negotiating with the Diocese was suggested as a cost cutting option. It was mentioned that we have used this as a solution in earlier tight times and we were successful in reducing fair share and paying back the Diocese as soon as we were able. Pete volunteered to write up a position paper to the Diocese requesting a reduction of our fair share contribution based on our present fiscal situation. Pete will ensure that the paper is based on information from our Finance Committee and Maryke Williams. It was pointed out that we still haven't contacted those members who pledged last year, but have not yet pledged this year. Susie suggested publishing in SHAPE that we have a certain number of families who have contributed a certain amount of money and we might publish notes of appreciation to acknowledge folks who have made recent pledges and those who have turned their pledges in on time. Ken suggested that Maryke can give Pat information about member pledges and Pat can develop a running article for SHAPE on the progress of contributions, praise for contributors, and a plea for continuing contributions.

Investment Report: Len reported that the Shaddinger Fund has been converted to cash and the paperwork to transfer this fund to Fidelity is soon to be completed.

JV Board Finances: Allan reported that JV Board proposed reducing maintenance funds by cutting the frequency of janitorial services. They also are considering deferring long term expenses, but have yet to ascertain which long term expenses can reasonably be deferred. Final JV budget decisions will be made at their meeting on June 3rd.

* * *

Fellowship: Susie proposed putting a note in the bulletin every first Sunday (SUSIE, COULD YOU REMIND ME WHAT THIS WAS ABOUT). Susie reported that the walk and tour of the mining museum went very nicely with 13 folks attending. Note was made that the time of the event was not well publicized. Lorraine reminded vestry that she needs details about events including specific times for publication, calendaring, and facilitating communications. The \$40.00 (OR \$39.13) price for the upcoming Lobster Feed on June 13 will include beverages, lobster, and all the fixings. The event will also include a raffle coordinated by Lele Blackman and Debbie Bishop. Susie announced that the sign-up list for this event is located in fellowship hall. It was noted that Worship Committee will be meeting this Sunday after late worship. Inreach efforts include dinners at Susie and Jerry Ferguson's home for new members of the congregation to mix with more seasoned members and get to know Stephen Mills. Volunteers to hosts dinners are welcome and vestry members are strongly encouraged to attend. Pete volunteered to host a dinner at his home. Susie suggested making sure that visitors get newsletters. Pete noted that he asks visitors if they would like to receive a newsletter. Susie also proposed that proceeds from our prayer book fundraiser be donated to the worship committee and that we announce this in our bulletins and newsletter. Allan suggested a dinner fellowship for those members who are single.

OTHER BUSINESS

Housing Allowance: Stephen requested that \$15,000 of his salary be designated as housing allowance. This request was approved.

Nursery Policy: Stephen presented a nursery policy developed, in part, as a response to an child who was unattended on Easter Sunday. He noted that this policy is designed to make sure this doesn't happen again. Vestry approved the nursery policy for ECA use and determined that this policy may also be adopted by UCC at their discretion. It was suggested that Elizabeth Ward review the policy and after her feedback, the policy will be emailed out to vestry members for approval.

Open House: Stephen announced that there will be an Open House at the rectory on Saturday, June 7 from 2 - 5 p.m. Beverages will be provided and people are encouraged to bring appetizers.

Labyrinth: Lele remarked that Julianne is eager to have a labyrinth on site. Lele is researching types of labyrinths and costs. Upon being asked what a labyrinth is, Lele explained that it is a spiritual tool, a type of maze, used for walking meditation. It was pointed out that, in addition to use of the labyrinth by our congregations, having one on site could be publicized and would provide an outreach to our community.

The meeting was closed with a prayer at 9:15 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Zeller



Events Calander for June, 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Holy Communion 7:30 am Holy Communion 11:00 am	2 Duplicate Bridge 6:30 pm	3 Joint Venture Board Meeting 7:30 pm	4 Morning Prayer 7:00 am TLC 9:30 am Mah Jong 1:00 pm Childrens Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm	5 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Mexican Train 7:00 pm	6 Bridge Group (JV) 7:30 pm	7 Open House at the Rectory 2:00 pm
8(folk Sunday) Holy Communion 7:30 am Holy Communion W/Childrens Choir 11:00 am Jr. High Youth 6:30 pm	9	10 ECA Vestry 7:00 pm UCC Council 7:00 pm	11 Morning Prayer 7:00 am TLC 9:30 am Mah Jong 1:00 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm	12 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am God Squad 9:00 am	13 Lobster Feed and Fundraiser 6:13 pm	14 Aluminum Can Drive Hiking New Almaden Adventures in the Arts Patrons Reception 4:00 pm
15 (Fathers Day) Holy Communion 7:30 am Holy Communion 11:00 am Shape Deadline 11:59 pm	16	17	18 Morning Prayer 7:00 am TLC 9:30 am Mah Jong 1:00 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm	19 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am Ladies Luncheon 11:30 am	20 Montgomery Meals 3:00 pm	21
15 Welcoming Sun Holy Communion 7:30 am Welcoming Breakfast Holy Communion 11:00 am Jr. High Youth 6:30 pm	23	24	25 Morning Prayer 7:00 am TLC 9:30 am Mah Jong 1:00 pm Childrens Choir 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm	26 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am	27 Montgomery Meals 3:00 pm	28
29 Holy Communion 7:30 am Holy Communion 11:00 am	30					