



The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

From Stephen

We will not have an issue of the Shape in January. It seemed somewhat Scroogish to try to gather a group of people to fold and assemble the Shape on Christmas Eve. Instead what we will do is combine two issues in one. That does not mean we will not be communicating with you in January. The vestry plans to produce an “Annual Report” to recap the highlights of the past year, to chronicle the events, and to give some idea of the future. Meanwhile we are just two weeks away from Advent.

Don't you just hate Advent? It is the worst time of year to be an Episcopalian. When the whole world is busily singing Christmas carols and walking through brightly lit stores with joy in their hearts, we poor Episcopalians are sitting in the darkness, waiting for God. Why do we sit in the darkness and wait for God? Because we believe that true joy will not be found in gifts or possessions. True joy can never be bought. If you want true joy it will only be found with God. That is why we wait in the darkness. We wait for God. And God will come. God always comes. But God is sometimes difficult to see. We need to wait it the darkness until our eyes become accustomed to the night, so we will see God when God comes!

In order to help us see, we have a number of events planned, throughout Advent and beyond:

On December 7th we will have “Alternative Christmas” which gives us an opportunity to witness to the love of the Child who is to come for the whole world and acknowledge that we are part of the whole human family.

On December 13th we will have our ECA Christmas party, a sit down dinner for adults at a cost of \$25/person – a chance to gather and to be with one another.

On December 14th we will have our Joint Venture Christmas Pageant at 10:00 am. We will have a 7:30 ECA service that morning but not an 11:00 one. This year we are doing an “instant pageant” – no rehearsals, just come and every child gets to participate. In fact, invite your friends, especially those with children.

On the evening of December 21st we will have our service of Darkness to Light at 5:30pm. Our culture does not handle grief or pain well or easily – “stuff and deny” seems to be our motto. This is especially true during the Christmas season. Yet many of us carry griefs this time of year. The loss of our loved ones seems particularly acute. Our brokenness comes to the fore. The service of Darkness to Light is a chance to feel these feelings and have them transformed.

Continuing our preparation for Christmas, on December 21st, we have a special treat. We get a sneak preview of the miracle of Christmas as we baptize Maryke and Robin Williams' newest granddaughter at the 11:00 service.

On Christmas Eve we will have our usual line-up of services. At 5:30 p.m. we will have the Joint Venture Family Christmas Service and Eucharist. At 7:30 AVUCC will celebrate Lessons and Carols. At 10:30 the ECA choir will have a participatory carol sing (note: this is not just a

Continued on Page 2



From Stephen *[Continued from front page]*

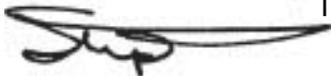
will have our ECA “Midnight Mass” complete with choir, Eucharist (communion), and sermon. (Yes, I know it was left out of last month’s schedule).

On Christmas Day, at 10:00, we will have our “Come as you are” Christmas celebration. Pajamas are acceptable attire with communion and some words of quiet prayer.

On the Sunday after Christmas our Folk choir will lead us in a joyous celebration of Christmas (we have 12 days not, just one).

Finally, on January 10th, the Sunday after the Epiphany, we may have a visit from the three kings. We continue January with a celebration of the season of Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (us).

May you be truly blessed as you prepare your heart to welcome the Lord with joy.

 †

Salaam,
Stephen

A Word from the Editor

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COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
GREETERS	Sharon Mills
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GOOD SAMS	Jenny Hoyt
LAY READERS	Dennis Moran
MONTGOMERY MEALS	Amy Griffith
NURSERY	Lorry Long
PRAYER VINE	Dorothy Willard
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December Financial Update

At ECA's November 1st annual meeting, we reviewed ECA's 2003 financial performance, and discussed financial goals for 2004 stewardship:

2003 Finances in Review

ECA began 2003 with projected contributions of \$209,000 and projected expenses of \$263,000, resulting in a projected deficit of \$54,000. Beginning the year with a projected deficit is not new to ECA; for many years we have operated on a faith-based budget.

The 2003 deficit was reduced through the Lobsterfest fundraiser and fellowship event, slashing budgets allocated to ministries, staff members reducing salaries, Joint Venture reducing facility expenses, and increased activity in eScrip and Alberton's Community Partners contributions.

Despite these efforts, a significant deficit and cash flow shortage remained. The cash reserve account of \$10,000 was depleted to meet expenses. In August the Vestry voted to suspend its monthly payments of approximately \$4,000 to the Diocese for ECA's Fair Share. After discussions with the Diocese Finance Committee, ECA agreed to remit payments of \$200/month to the Diocese, with the unpaid amounts to be paid back to the Diocese at a later date (in other words, the unpaid Fair Share remains an obligation of ECA).

As of November 1st, the projected deficit (including Fair Share) totals \$51,100. Although Fair Share payments have been deferred, we estimate that there will still be a cash shortfall of \$21,100.

We will have no choice but to turn to restricted funds (i.e., the Shadinger Fund) to make up the cash shortfall unless additional contributions are made between now and the end of the year. During the annual meeting, parishioners asked what would be needed to avoid using restricted funds. To fully eliminate the deficit, a contribution of \$631 per pledging unit is needed. To eliminate the cash shortfall, a contribution of \$260 per pledging unit is needed. If you would like to contribute any amount toward reducing the deficit and minimizing the impact to restricted funds, please make a note on your check that the contribution is for deficit reduction.

2004 Stewardship

It takes approximately \$263,000 for ECA to have a presence in Almaden, i.e., to pay bills, salaries and keep the lights on. ECA's pledge goal for 2004 is \$300,000. We want to do more than simply have a presence!

As of November 17th, a total of 65 families have pledged a total of \$173,384. We have 8 new families pledging, and 34 families have increased their pledges from 2003.

After the 2004 stewardship campaign is completed, the Finance Committee will meet to finalize the 2004 budget, which will be presented to ECA in January 2004. The Finance Committee will use its best efforts to present a balanced budget so that ECA is not faced with a deficit during 2004.

Sincerely,
The Finance Committee





Stop for Prayer! It is fundamental to everything we do

[ACNS source: The Door] Thousands of people are expected to pause for prayer at the launch of a new mission started by the Bishop of Oxford.

The “yourkingdomcome” prayer mission will kick off on All Saints Day, 1 November, and will run until Advent with a whole series of events around the Oxford Diocese.

The aim of the mission is to stimulate churches and individuals to look again at their prayer life. Due to the stresses of everyday life, many find it difficult to set aside time for private prayer, but with divisions both abroad and at home, prayer is now more important than ever, said Bishop Richard.

“It is absolutely fundamental to everything we do, both as individuals and a Church,” he said. “Everything we do that is not rooted and grounded in prayer is useless. We have to revivify our prayer life - like everything else, it can get stale. This is a chance to give it renewed impetus.”

The power of prayer has made headline news recently, as scientists hailed a new study which proved its healing powers. Independent research found that heart disease patients were ‘significantly helped’ when prayers were said on their behalf. The theme for the Diocesan Prayer Mission - yourkingdomcome - is based on the Lord’s Prayer. It also ties in with the fact the period from All Saints Day until Advent is known as the Kingdom season, when we are encouraged to think about God’s Kingdom.

Bishop Richard said nothing surpassed the Lord’s Prayer. ‘It is absolutely extraordinary how the Lord’s Prayer continues to be so sustaining and fresh day by day. Often other prayers seem exciting at first but nothing keeps sustaining us like the Lord’s Prayer. When you consider the sort of world we are in at the moment, the problems in Iraq, the awful cycle of

violence in Palestine and Israel, we need prayer more than ever before. The Church also needs prayer, to help it through current divisions.”

Though the event has been planned for months, its timing is particularly relevant following the furore in the Diocese over the proposed appointment of Canon Jeffrey John as Bishop of Reading. The Archbishop of Canterbury called for a period of reflection following the controversy this summer. The prayer mission hopes to encourage people that listening is as important in praying as speaking. Events will be held in the three Archdeaconries to mark the start of the mission. In Berkshire, a day of seminars and services will run from 9:30am to 4pm at St George’s Church, Wash Common. There will also be a series of seminars, and Bishop Richard will preside and preach at the Eucharist. No booking is necessary. In the Buckingham Archdeaconry, Bishop Alan Wilson will be in the Wendover and Newport deaneries and there will be a host of local events.

In Oxfordshire, a day of events will start at 9:30am at the Marlborough School in Woodstock. There will be workshops, a creche and lively worship.

Religious communities will also be involved with “yourkingdomcome”. Most offer hospitality for retreat and help with prayer. Movements like the Quiet Garden Movement combine hospitality in the quiet space of a garden with help and teaching on prayer.

For more information about “yourkingdomcome” please contact:

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Oxford OX2 0NB
England
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1865 208200

Rebecca Paveley



Worship at ECA

Worship at ECA continues to grow and develop to meet the needs and desires of our present congregation and members. You are most fortunate to have a Worship Committee that is dedicated to being responsive to you. Providing meaningful worship experiences at ECA is important to them.

ECA's Youth is one of their priorities. How do we help our youth learn and understand our Episcopal traditions and appreciate our Eucharist and worship? How do we keep our youth "engaged" in our worship service and open to the Holy Spirit and Christ? At this point in time we do not have all the answers, but we are searching and making a start.

Youth Sundays have been designated for the third Sundays of each month. These Sundays will be distinguished by prominent youth involvement in as many ways as possible on that Sunday. At present, involvement will include acolytes, ushers, and lay readers reading the lessons, psalms, and prayers. (Regularly scheduled ushers and lay readers on those Sundays will continue to serve on Youth Sundays in the capacity of mentors, guiding and assisting, as needed, the youth sharing their position. Mentoring is a very important role.) Sometimes involvement will include drama or skit presentations of one of the lessons, or in lieu of a sermon when appropriate material is available. Youth involved in any of these activities will be prepared and coached as best we can given various time constraints and cooperation by all concerned. However, we feel the most important factor is for our youth to be involved in as many ways as they feel comfortable and provide them with opportunities to try different roles within our service parameters.

Surrounding our Youth Sunday we are looking for adults who might like to be part of our Youth Sunday Visionary Group. This group will help set a course

for us for these Sundays. If you might like to serve ECA in this capacity please give me a call.

Music at ECA has taken some new directions with our music director, John Leslie. He brings new energy and new direction to our worship. We want to encourage and support his enthusiasm and direction. He would greatly appreciate some new voices in our choir. Perhaps, you have noticed some younger faces there already. We ask that you consider this possibility for yourself. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. It's likely you will be blessed immeasurably.

There are so many ways you can serve at ECA. In light of worship alone, there are opportunities for acolytes, ushers, altar guild, choir (regular or folk), lay readers, greeters, coffee hosts, breakout supervisors, and now Youth Sunday Visionaries. Serving in any capacity will make your life at ECA far richer. Try it and see for yourself.

*Susie Ferguson
Worship Chair
(408) 997-0107 Home
(408) 452-2750 Work*





Events

Music Notes

Joint Venture Bell Ringers are in rehearsal for special music for UCC Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 23, UCC and ECA Advent IV Sunday, December 21, and possibly Christmas Eve, depending on how many ringers are available. We have several young people joining us and learning, and more people are always welcome. Rehearsals through December will be on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 (except Thanksgiving and Christmas Eves).



Joint Venture Family Choir is being formed to sing for the Joint Venture Christmas Eve service. Children, parents, singles and grandparents all are invited to sing with us. UCC rehearsals will be Sunday mornings at 10:00am (before Sunday School) and ECA rehearsals will be at 12:00 following worship. This will begin the first Sunday of Advent, November 30. Members of each church will rehearse at their own times, and then combined to rehearse together on Sunday, December 21 at 1:00 noon. Instrumentalists are also welcome.

When the Saints Came Marching In - Thanks to all the choir members and instrumentalists for bringing so much spirit to our worship service on All Saints

Sunday, November 2. It was wonderful to see and experience so many diverse people singing and playing praise to the Lord! Hallelujah! Amen!

Special Advent music plans - UCC will follow a Hawaiian "Aloha" format for the lighting of Advent candles this year, followed by one verse of a Christmas hymn for the children. ECA will highlight the nature of preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord by singing the psalms and using more service music during the Eucharist. Please let us know what you think!

Private Music Instruction - John Leslie still has lesson times for either private piano or voice students. This could be a great Christmas gift for a special music fan in your life! If interested please pick up an information brochure in the lobby outside the church office.

Cursillo 2004

ECA is well represented on the Core Team for the 2004 Cursillo Weekend being held September 30 thru October 3. Leading this weekend, as Rector and Rectora will be Doug and Kathy Dunham. Their Head Cooks will be Susie and Jerry Ferguson, while Tim Miller will be serving as one of the lead musicians. Our very own Stephen Mills will be one of the Spiritual Directors.

If you are interested in working or attending this weekend, you can find applications for both online through the "Cursillo Link" from ECA's web page at www.eca-sj.org. The team will be formed in the early part of 2004 with team meetings beginning in May. If you are interested in attending the weekend, it is never too early to turn in your application. Some weekends fill very fast and waiting lists are necessary. Talk to any Cursillista from ECA for details and help.

Kathy & Doug Dunham

Sunday School



Sunday School Updates

Sunday School is going very well because our teachers are so wonderful. I am planning a progressive dinner toward the end of the first semester to celebrate, welcome new teachers for the second semester and wish well our two teachers who are expecting. If those of you who are not teaching would like to help with this celebration please contact me.

There is a bit of a space problem and we've been playing musical classrooms with the High School, Junior High, and 5th and 6th grade classes. For the passed two weeks we have been blessed with the use of the Shipe and Mayo travel trailers to use as classrooms. This is a temporary solution to a wonderful problem but we are looking into other solutions. So please be patient.

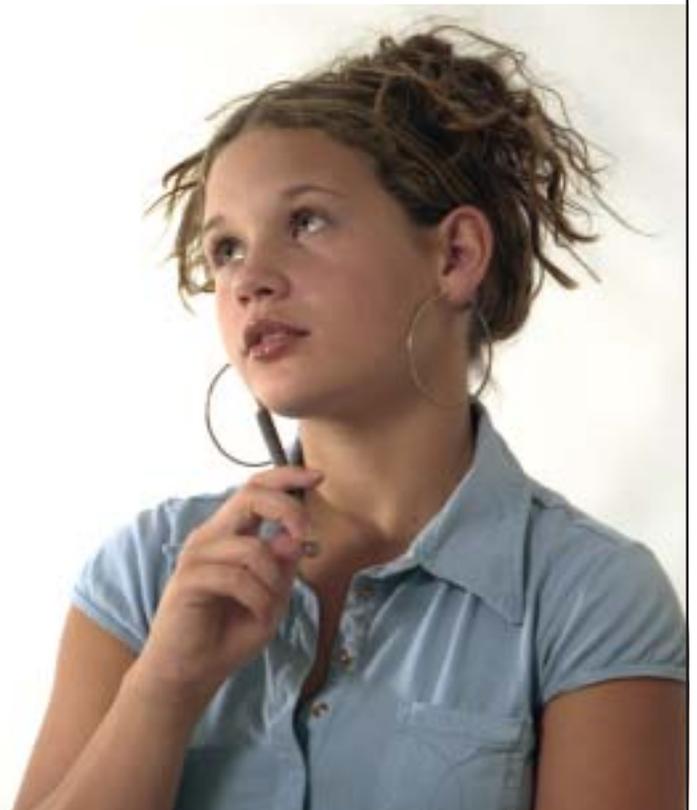
Our Christmas pageant is coming up and this year it will be an "instant pageant." That is, we will have a narrator, a lay reader, and any and every child/youth who would like to participate come down to quickly dress in a simple costume and join the others "on stage." Parents please encourage your children to participate. There will not be a sign up for this but there will be prizes for those who don a costume! Sharon Mills is helping organize this pageant. We need at least 6 more adults to help with the costumes and I'm still looking for a baby Jesus. This is the first time I've been involved in a Christmas pageant so, as with most things, I'll need all the help I can get!!

I have many people to thank for all of their time and support, but one family is due some special recognition. The Nolette family has been so generous and is the reason the Youth center is what it is today. Linda called me early in the fall and said, "Go buy what you want for the youth center up to such and such amount." WOW! It has been fun to bring things into the center and see how the kids have enjoyed the games, beanbag, couch, etc. And we're not done yet!

The Nolette's dedication to the youth of our church is heart warming and so appreciated.

Lastly, I would like everyone to know how much I am enjoying working at the church. I still feel a little like my nose is just above the water. But the feeling of love and support from both churches, Stephen, Julianne, Lorraine, Diane and John is wonderful. Every day is full of smiles and great camaraderie. Thank you all.

Katie McCormick
(408) 838-6143





Youth Group

Senior High Action

Our Senior High Group continues to grow and we're not only having fun, but we're learning a lot about how to share in a group, and discuss tough issues. Our past two topics had us discussing both peer pressure and stress—we're working through ways to deal with both.

homework. We're eating communally at 6:00 thanks to Terry who is cooking for us all—His first feast was a delicious meal of spaghetti, garlic bread and salad—Thanks Terry! And thanks for the goodies contributed by Jenny Hoyt and the middle school bake sale. Teens can sure eat!

We're enhancing our time together 2 Sundays a month by opening the youth center as a study hall for all who want to come early at 4:30 and do their

Our calendar through the first part of March is below. Please call if you have any questions about our activities!

December

7th – Sing at UCC service – Be there at 8:45 a.m.

Servant Auction concludes at Alternative Christmas—all coffee hours. All try to be there at 12:00.

4:30 Homework Center • 6:00 Dinner • 6:30-8:30 Talk Sheet on 'Friends'

14th – Go shopping after church (11:00 ECA service) for Christmas presents for adopted family—Back by 3:00. Bring lunch money.

21st – 1:00-8:30 Gift-wrapping and babysitting at the church for Christmas shoppers (This is a fundraiser for our adopted family). Pizza dinner.

7:15-8:00 Christmas Carolling at the Atrium (Retirement Community).

January

4th – Fun night—Cuetopia (family billiards parlor) and dinner 5:00-8:30 – Meet at church. Beginners are o.k.! - Instruction will be provided.

9th (Friday) – Adventure in the Arts concession stand—We will provide baked goods at church during intermission. Time will be determined later.

18th – 4:30 Homework Center, 6:00 dinner, 6:30-8:30 -Talk Sheet on 'Parents'

Youth Group Ski Trip

Good news for youth—it'll soon be time to hit the slopes. You'll forget school while you cruise the "white stuff" on the weekend of February 20-22. You'll be staying at the beautiful Sylvester 4H camp located just 3 miles from the fresh powder on the slopes of Dodge Ridge. The camp has heated wood cabins with bunk beds that are specially designed to gently shock adults that snore. Bathrooms and showers are in a building nearby—but don't worry it won't be like when your parents had to walk barefoot ten miles uphill both ways in ten feet of snow just to go to school. After a leisurely hot breakfast we'll still get to the slopes before anybody else to carve the first tracks of the day. Lodging plus 5 meals (2 breakfasts, 2 bag lunches, & 1 dinner) will cost your parents \$65. Lift tickets, top of the line equipment rental, professional

lessons, new colored-coordinated ski apparel, gifts for the organizer(s), etc... will cost your parents even more. A little advice... remember to ask nicely, always say thanks, and if you give 'em a hug you'll probably get more. There should be some extra room so if you have a friend that would like her/his parents to spend some money for them to ski invite them to come along. This is a Senior High—Junior High outing, but younger children (eight and up) can attend if accompanied by their parent. More information is forthcoming in early 2004. Looking forward to seeing you on the slopes.



Jon Mills
Olympic Skier 1982

Youth Group



Jr. High Rock Climb

On November 9, the Junior High Youth Group had a fantastic trip to Planet Granite to go indoor rock climbing! We had about 10 youth, 2 high-schoolers and 3 adults. The two high-schoolers and one dad had been to Planet Granite before, and belayed for the youth. Cliff took a twenty-minute belaying lesson, and then joined in the fun. The youth took turns climbing up to insane heights and then “pushing off” from the rock face, to dangle from the ropes in their safety harness while the belay slowly lowered them to the ground. Yes, your youth were truly in our hands! David climbed to one of the overhung walls while I was belaying, so when he “pushed off” he was really swinging on the end of a rope thirty feet over my head! After an exhilarating afternoon of climbing we ate pizza and went home with some very happy kids.

On November 15, we held a bake sale during the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert. Several youth and their families provided a delightful assortment of cookies and brownies and six of the youth and several parents came to set up, sell and clean up intermission. We made \$56 for youth group activities! Many thanks to the youth and parents who participated and to our very generous customers.

Our largest bake sale of the year is coming up. We will hold this one during the annual Alternative Christmas Event on December 7. In addition to selling cookies, brownies and cakes, we plan to take orders for pies, which will be available for pickup on December 21.

Here is what is coming up in December and January:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Sun., Dec. 7 | Alternative Christmas Bake Sale |
| Sun., Dec. 14 | Planning Meeting for January 11
Bowling Trip |
| Sun., Dec. 21 | Wrap gifts at church and bake pies
ordered during the bake sale
Christmas caroling at The Atrium |
| Sun., Jan. 11 | Bowling |
| Sun., Jan 25 | Talksheets, fellowship, and fun and
games |

The Junior High Youth Group meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in the Youth Center. We welcome all junior high students and their friends.

Cliff and Melanie Click
(408) 323-8283
mjclick@sbcglobal.net





Alternative Christmas

Don't give the same old tie or bottle of lotion this Christmas. Give a gift of the heart that helps someone else throughout the coming year!

Make your shopping list soon because it's coming! It's your opportunity to buy a lasting gift in honor of a

friend or family member, or to purchase a Christmas gift that has lasting value. Alternative Christmas will be held after all coffee hours on Sunday, December 7th.

Robin Root

Alpha Course

The fall Alpha Course at ECA has now finished. We met once a week for eleven weeks plus one Saturday for our Holy Spirit Retreat. We averaged 16 in attendance each week for dinner and discussion. Those who had previously taken the Alpha Course at ECA (our Alpha graduates) generously provided our dinners. Their generosity was a blessing to all who led or participated in this course.

One of the most exciting side benefits of the Alpha Course is the spiritual community it builds with those participating. Sharing one's faith, doubts, and questions in a safe environment is a very strong community builder. Many experience a great void in their week when Alpha is over. Finding ways to continue and grow this experience is certainly a worthwhile endeavor and one your Alpha leaders at ECA are prayerfully pursuing.

We would commend each of you to find or even better, start a regular group for Bible study, prayer, and support in your Christian life. Such groups can bring its members strength, comfort, inspiration, joy, knowledge, and peace (mentioning only some of the benefits.) If you would like to help us start such groups at ECA, please give either of us a call and let's get some good things going.

Russ Petruzzelli
(408) 268-1956

Susie Ferguson
(408) 997-0107

Annual Meeting

A HUGE "thank you" to everyone who attended our Stewardship dinner and Annual meeting. We all had a fun time while also conducting some very important business. The Vestry presented the year in review while also focusing on our current financial situation and where we need to be for the present and the future. Thanks to Pat Rimroth, Elizabeth Ward and Len Whitlock (our finance committee) and Maryke Williams (our treasurer) for their hard work this year. In their Shape article, the finance committee will address all of the questions asked at the annual meeting. Before the meeting everyone was escorted through our nursery and youth center so they could see all of the improvements that have been made. Our folk choir led everyone in song before and after the meeting, thanks again to our wonderful folk choir. After our meeting we all enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by Amy Griffith and our Montgomery Meals staff - thanks to everyone. We had beautiful table decorations prepared by Suzanne Moore, balloons by Ron Howie and Melinda Jennings; All of the logistics were covered by Susie and Jerry Ferguson.

Thanks also to Len Whitlock and Ann Avoux for their 3 years of service on the vestry and welcome to Jack Jackman, Kim Petruzzelli, Mary McPherson and Kathy Dunham our newest vestry members.

Ken McCormick
Senior Warden

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.

Amy Griffith and her Montgomery Meals team: Thank you for the delicious meal you prepared for our Stewardship dinner. Your “secret ingredient” made many a diner smile.

Susanne and Arnold Moore, Melinda Jennings and Ron Howie, Jerry Ferguson: Thank you for your work to set up and decorate for our Stewardship dinner and Annual Meeting. Everything looked fabulous.

Daniel Root, Elizabeth Hoyt, Greg Lukanc, Evelyn Wing, Eric McCormick: Thank you for your willingness to serve and clean up at our ECA birthday, November 1st.

To everyone who just pitched in to help as needed at the Stewardship dinner: It is that selfless act of kindness, which is a trademark of so many at ECA. You truly bless our parish.

ECA’s 2003 Vestry: Thank you for all your hard work, service, and dedication to ECA this past year. Especially thanks for your generosity in giving and serving this congregation at our Stewardship dinner and Annual Meeting.

John Buenz: Thank you for sharing some of ECA’s history and inspiring us to greater stewardship.

Andy Kerr and the Folk Group: Thank you for your joyful music contribution at our Annual Meeting and birthday celebration.

Nancy Romer: Thank you for coordinating all our Alpha dinners.

To all who have provided dinners for Alpha: Your generosity has made the Alpha leaders job so much easier. Thank you so very, very much.

Robin Root: For volunteering to help proofread The Shape.

Jan and Al Day: For the new table top to the foosball table

All the Sunday School teachers who step in even when they aren’t scheduled to teach.

Robin and Terry Root: For the outstanding dedication to our youth

Pat Rimroth, Cliff Click, Hans Spanjaart, Matt Rimroth, and Eric McCormick: For their major help in getting the climbing outing off the ground!

Melanie Click: For your willingness to run meetings even if chaos reigns elsewhere!

Fellow cherry lovers. You know who you are.





History

Episcopal History Series, Episode 4

The American war of independence was devastating for the Anglican Church in America. There were a number of reasons for this. Firstly the 1662 Book of Common Prayer in use in the colonies at the time included a collect for the English monarch to be used daily during morning and evening prayer. All Priests and Deacons were to say the collect daily “... *strengthen our most gracious Sovereign Lord, King George that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies.*” In addition all clergy at the time of ordination had made a public promise before God and the church to obey the king. Consequently, when the war for independence broke out the vast majority of clergy felt clear that their allegiance was to the crown.

In the southern colonies of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, where the colonial government itself had established the Anglican Church, there was more local control. When the war broke out, the colonial governments acted swiftly and ordered clergy to omit any references to the King of England. For a large part clergy in these colonies followed the government that was closest at hand. Similarly, a large portion of the Anglican laity in the south supported the revolution. Two thirds of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Anglicans many of them were from the southern colonies. In contrast, the Anglicans in the north were loyalists and either stayed and fought in the King’s American Regiment, or fled to what is now Canada.

During the war of independence many parishes stopped functioning. Parishes in the north for a large part supported the crown and refused to omit the prayers to the King. In the South, many parishes continued to function and many vestries played a vital role in communication for the revolutionaries. The middle colonies it was somewhat a mixed bag with some parishes remaining loyalists and some revolutionary.

Between 1776 and 1778 the state legislatures moved to suspend the salaries of the clergy and dismantle the state funded church system. They also drafted new prayers to be used in the place of the prayers for the monarch of England. In addition they reorganized the Anglican colleges and universities to remove any loyalists that may have remained in positions of authority. During this time, the colonies retained the power to appoint parish clergy and in general meddle with parish affairs in the Anglican parishes. It is because of this that the Anglicans became one of the most vocal supporters of the complete repeal of establishment. However it was not until 1783 that the Anglican parishes finally had total control over their own affairs.

In 1780, the Anglican Church in Maryland was first referred to as the “Protestant Episcopal Church” which to this day is still the official name of the Episcopal Church. The church is Episcopal because of the historic episcopacy that is central to who we are. It is Protestant from the Latin “protestation” which means, “an open declaring of one’s mind.” The term was first used on the European continent to declare their mind against the authority of Rome. This was the mindset was mirrored in America. The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America became official in 1783 to define our freedom from not only Rome, but also the authority of the British Crown.





In 1783 there were still no American bishops, so Samuel Seabury accepted the call of the New York convention and departed for England. Unfortunately in England, the law required an oath of allegiance to the crown, which would undermine the credibility of any American candidate. Seabury, undeterred by the law, went north to Scotland and on November 14, 1784 was consecrated by three Scottish bishops who had never sworn allegiance to the crown after the English Civil war, and therefore were not bound by oath to obey the monarch. In addition, he signed a document with the Scottish Episcopal Church recognizing its legitimacy (it was not recognized by the Church of England) and he also agreed to attempt to persuade the American church to use the Scottish prayer for consecration (derived from the English prayer book of 1549, Church of England consecration prayers come from the English prayer book of 1552).

At the first general convention in 1785-86 the Episcopal Church began to take shape. The first constitution was created and the organization of the church was devised. Much like the government of the United States of America, the Episcopal Church is a confederation of dioceses with a House of Bishops and a House of Clerical and Lay Deputies. Official action by the National Church, such as the adoption of a new Book of Common Prayer must pass both houses. The president of the House of Bishops is the Presiding Bishop and the head of the Episcopal Church. The General Convention meets every three years and during the time between conventions, the Executive Council conducts the business of the National Church. The Executive Council is composed of elected bishops, priests, and laypersons, and is headed by the Presiding Bishop.



Recycle for Youth Programs Pays!

We just (as of this writing) sent our first batch of 50 cartridges to the Empties4Cash and received our first payment of \$84 for Joint Venture Youth Programs. (A few cartridges were not acceptable as they were Epson or the print heads were damaged.) As long as Joint Venture Churches continues to recycle cartridges we will continue to raise funds for our youth programs, so keep those cartridges rolling in!

Any cartridge with a print head can be recycled, including HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Samsung, Kodak, Canon or Apple. Bring your empty cartridges to church (use a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) and put them in the Empties4cash box in Fellowship Hall on Sundays or in the office workroom during the week.

NOTE: Empties4 Cash will not accept Epson or any cartridge (or toner) larger than the size of your palm.

Thanks for helping to keep the earth clean AND raise funds for our youth! This is a Joint Venture fundraiser. Everyone is urged to participate.

Your *Recycling Person*
Lorraine Zeller



Adventures in the Arts

Servant Auction

Get ready to bid for the expertise our teens will be putting on the auction block at their first fundraiser of the year. The 'Win a Servant' Silent Auction kicks off during all coffee hours on Sunday, Nov. 23rd and the last silent bid will be accepted at the end of Alternative Christmas on Dec. 7. Our teens will be offering their time and talent as gardeners, chefs, pet sitters, tutors, musicians and well, the talent knows no bounds! They'll auction themselves off as servants to provide you with a multitude of offerings for your next event, party or need around the house. You'll be surprised at how much talent they have and how willing they are to work!

The format will be a silent auction, so check out the auction items on Nov. 23, and make your first bids. Then come to Alternative Christmas on December 7th and be there when the bidding closes. All proceeds from this event will be used to support a family that we have 'adopted' from the Santa Maria Urban Mission. Our family is headed by a single, unemployed mother, with 5 children ages 12 and below. If you can't be present at the final event, please call Robin Root (408) 268-1203 with your top bid and she'll make sure it is submitted for you.

Robin Root

Calling All You Angels Christmas Pageant Premieres Soon

Joint Venture Youth Pageant
10:00 am December 14th

There will not be an 11:00 am service on the 14th.





JV Office Updates

As you read this, Diane is packing to join her family in Rochester, New York. She will be sorely missed. Diane has taught me a lot and been a supportive, helpful, and kind office mate. As her move was anticipated by our pastors, they asked me to consider serving as secretary for both churches. I agreed and look forward to working with all the good folks of UCC and ECA.

You might see me wearing a new hat that has a rotating headband that turns to the front for whichever church I'm working for at any particular time. It could say UCC, JV, ECA, and . . . I don't know. But though I'll strive to work certain hours for ECA and other hours for UCC, there will be crossover and I'll deal with a smile (okay – most of the time).

Here are some details for you about how this will work. I'll be cutting back my service to ECA from 30 to 20 hours weekly and adding on the 16 hours that Diane was working (officially on the clock, I mean) to serve AVUCC. My hours will be:

Monday	8:45 – 11:00	**
1:00 – 4:45	Office closes at 4:30	
Tuesday	8:45 – 12:00	
1:00 – 5:15	Office closes at 5:00	
Wednesday	8:45 – 12:00	
1:00 – 5:15	Office closes at 5:00	
Thursday	8:45 – 12:00	
1:00 – 5:15	Office closes at 5:00	
Friday	8:45 – 11:00	**
1:00 – 4:45	Office closes at 4:30	

** Note that there is a 2 hour lunch hour these days

The first four hours of each day from Monday through Thursday will focus on UCC tasks. During remaining 20 hours of the week the focus of my work will be for ECA. Hours will be posted. Don't worry, I won't turn you away if you call or come in during the time my focus isn't on your church! These are just guidelines that Stephen, Julianne, and I would like you to be

aware of. Email communications are great for work requests or questions. For now I will keep my office@eca.sj.org account for ECA and use the secretary@avucc.org account for UCC business.

Thanks to folks who have already volunteered to help in the office. You'll be hearing from me! If you have any questions about all these changes, please ask me, Julianne, or Stephen.

Shalom,
Lorraine Zeller

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December	24	Toni Hird	
1	Jannah George	January	
2	Marion Grunge	1	Amanda Pulling
4	Patricia Kabeja	4	Sharon Mills
4	Anne-Lee Tomczyk	11	Patrick Ward
5	Betty Consorte	12	Jacqueline Rousseau
5	Shelley Moore	15	Kathy Dunham
6	Lola Fahlen	20	Ryan Kelly
7	Donna Miller	21	Jonathon Beacher
7	Faith Mills	21	Kim Petruzzelli
11	Ellie Mills	22	Karl Lueck
11	Kyle Guichard	22	Juliana Lavery
13	Susie Ferguson	24	Henry Blankenheim
13	Danielle Miller	26	Jacob Fahlen
16	Stephen Mills	27	Hans Spanjaart
16	Susanne Moore	28	Lynda Fahlen
19	Kathleen Eagan	28	Douglas Lukanc
19	Gary Keck	29	William Bond
19	Francie Kerr	29	Hunter McCord
19	Jason Skowronski		
23	Hannah Ward		

December	
4	Frances and Sandy Sandrock
6	Dennis and Mary Moran
19	Tim and Donna Miller
20	Jack and Frances Steitz
30	Terry and Robin Root

January	
11	Dennis and Gloria Skowronski
13	Hank and Mariolein Ciappa
16	Tom and Lola Fahlen
19	Bill LaVallee and Elaine
26	Bill and Sandy Taylor



Parish Life



ECA Christmas Party



6:00 pm December 13th

Catered dinner

Fine Wine

Music & Caroling

\$25.00 Per Person

Adults Only Please



Vestry Highlights

Meeting of November 11, 2003

Senior Warden Ken McCormick welcomed Jack Jackman, Mary McPherson, and Kim Petruzzelli as our new vestry members.

The vestry presented their answers to the appreciative inquiry requested by the Joint Process Committee of the Diocese of El Camino Real. They were asked to describe what they value most about being part of the Diocese of El Camino Real. Answers from vestry members were:

- The New Beginnings for Youth
- Happening for Youth
- The Youth Program in General
- Santa Maria Urban Mission
- The prominent role of women in the Diocese
- That the Mission Bell is posted on the website

The wishes vestry members have for a new bishop are:

The Episcopal Church in Almaden is looking for a Diocesan bishop, not a bishop coadjutor, who will lead the diocese to healing and fiscal responsibility through integrity, inspired preaching, and good communication.

Pat Rimroth reported that October revenues were down. The Finance Committee will meet with the treasurer to determine from what accounts funds could be taken to keep the bills paid.

Pat also reported that at the present time we have 56 pledges for \$164,124. Of those 56 pledges, six are new pledges and 31 pledgers have increased their pledges

Susie Ferguson reported that the Worship Committee has designated the 2nd Sunday of the month as Folk Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of the month as Youth Sunday, and the 4th Sunday of the month as Healing Sunday.

Stephen Mills reported that Betty Wood is the new head of the Altar Guild and Elaine Lavalley is her assistant.

Allan Jones reported that the Shape was delivered on time. Vestry decided to send out a two-month edition of Shape, since the usual send out date would be Christmas Eve, but that the vestry would prepare an "annual report" to be delivered to the congregation in January.