



The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

From Stephen

Lent is upon us once again. Lent is that time in the liturgical year when we take an honest and searching look at ourselves and at our lives. Are we that person God created us to be? Are we living our lives in accordance with God's Kingdom? To facilitate this process, we will have a course offering and a quiet day. The quiet day will be some time in April and you will hear more about it in the April Shape. The course will be based on the book, *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren and facilitated by Mary McPherson (see, I got it right this time, Mary). The premise of Rick's book as I understand it is that God has a purpose for each one of us and unless and until we find that purpose we will not be satisfied with ourselves or with our lives. The reviews I have heard from my colleagues seem to be that the writer is perhaps a bit more evangelical and fundamental than the mainstream Episcopal Church, but that the basic premise of the book is good. From the little I have read, I agree with that premise. We find ourselves not by meeting our every whim or desire but by losing ourselves in something much larger than ourselves. Paradoxical as it may seem that is one of the great spiritual truths at the heart of life. So, if you would like to explore this and other aspects of your life, please come on Wednesday evenings, beginning on March 3rd from 7:15 pm to 9:15 pm at the church. Note: Good news and bad news. Bad news — You have to start reading the book on February 25th (Ash Wednesday) to start the forty days. Good news — you get Sundays off because Sundays are not part of Lent.

Mailed with this newsletter (hopefully) is an important document. The ECA Annual Report represents the work of a number of the leaders of this congregation to inform and summarize the events and accomplishments of the past year. Much work has gone into this document and I commend it to your reading. The true significance of last year or any year for that matter will only become apparent through the lens of history, but I believe that last year was a watershed year in which we began to build on the excellent foundation which has been laid. I believe the future of ECA lies in youth. You have no idea what a blessing it is to have so many young people in our service. There are Episcopal Churches where the average age is gray and above who would love to have the young people we have. One of the really wonderful blessings for me is to see four or five high school students at the worship service even on Sundays when we don't have anything special for youth. We also have 17 Junior and Senior High school students going on the Diocesan Ski Trip this year. These are all signs of hope and health and I rejoice in them. It says we are taking seriously our commitment to minister to OUR children — the youth of this congregation.

Please keep this ministry to youth in your prayers this Lent. And please come and join the Wednesday evening Lenten series. May we meet there as fellow pilgrims on the way.

Salaam,
Stephen



A Word from the Editor

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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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
NURSERY	Lorry Long
PRAYER VINE	Dorothy Willard
TLC	Jan Day
USHERS	Dave Byers
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Tacky Luncheon & Fashion Show

In the Tradition of Ann Redman

Join us for an Ocean Cruise

Last year the money collected from the Tacky Luncheon and Fashion Show was enough to build the ceiling in the Women's Building in the Diocese of Muhabura, Uganda. This year we want to send money to install water and electricity. The Women's Building is used for gathering together and for training women to become breadwinners as Menders and Bakers. Please help us raise funds for a project that Ann loved: to finish the Women's Building



Tacky Lunch & Fashion Show
Episcopal Church in Almaden
6581 Camden Ave. San Jose

- Tuesday April 27th, 2004 at 11:30 am
- RSVP by April 20, 2004 to:
Mary Leal (408) 268-0230 or Sandie Mueller (408)997-1642
- Donation of \$10.00 (For Uganda Women's Building)
- Make checks payable to: Episcopal Church in Almaden
- Bring a salad for six
- Wear your tacky clothes
- (If you haven't any, borrow some)

Fashions by the Unicorn Thrift Shop which raises funds for EMQ, a leading provider of mental health and social services for children and their families.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

Monte & Debbie Bishop	3
Chris & Tristiana Joslin	7
David & Gayle Byers	10
Henry & Judy Blankenheim	14
Wayne & Anne-Lee Tomczyk	28

Birthdays

Tim Miller	1
Hayley Moore	1
Anna Spanjaart	1
Bill Taylor	1
Jack Jackman	3
Greg McCormick	3
Judy Graun	4

Luke Appleton	6
Julia Machado	6
Jackie Whitlock	6
Tristiana Joslin	10
Jason Ferguson	16
Lauren Keats	16
Taia Ann Kvitek	17
Brian Appleton	18
Marie Deveaux	19
Len Whitlock	19
Ainsley Jackiow	21
Blake Jackiow	23
Gloria Skowronski	24
Edie Keck	26
Robin Root	28



Worship

Worship at ECA

This Month's Focus – Our Acolytes

In the Episcopalian tradition there are a number of ways you can serve in our worship service and at the altar. One-way of serving is as an acolyte, which, our youth, at this point, are prominently involved. We are especially fortunate to have a very capable and dedicated young person to be leading this ministry for ECA, **Evelyn Wing**.

You may remember Evelyn in two of our worship drama presentations in the last six months. She had a conversation with God in our Lord's Prayer presentation and later dramatized the King in "The Quilt Maker." Drama is only one of Evelyn's many talents. She is also passionate about her track and running endeavors.

Presently she is a member of the Heritage Track Club competing in indoor track at the National level. Evelyn runs the mile, the 800 (2 laps around a track for you novices) and some relays (the 4X4 and 4X8.) At the time of this writing she is heading for Pocatello, Idaho for a competition. (Be sure to check in with Evelyn after you read this Shape to see how she did.) Evelyn's goals with her running are to have fun, compete statewide, nationally, and, maybe, even for the Olympics. Wouldn't that be fantastic!

Evelyn is a junior at Valley Christian High School where she is an excellent student and involved in many activities. Her latest is in starting the "Culinary Society." Basically, we could say, "*Evelyn, eats and runs.*" Her mother would add to that, "shops!"

Evelyn took the lead of the acolytes from her brother, Taylor, and has carried on that exceptional "Wing leadership." In her first year, Evelyn had been proactive in recruiting and training many new acolytes as well as being a strong role model for our acolytes. Just look at all the wonderful youth we have serving currently in this ministry.

Danielle Petruzzelli, Brooke Mills,
Tyler Nollette – 5th grade

Bailey Bishop, Marcus Bond,
Fallone Kabeja – 6th grade

David Hoyt, Faith Mills,
Kristen Petruzzelli – 7th grade

Alyce Gallego, Taylor Mills – 8th grade

Valerie Tysanner, Jacqueline Rousseau – 9th grade

Hannah Ward – 10th grade

Evelyn Wing – 11th grade

P.J. Gallego – 12th grade

Thank you, to all of you and your families for your support of this important ministry each Sunday. There is always room for more involvement and participation so if you feel called to join ECA's acolyte ranks, just give our fantastic leader, Evelyn Wing, a call.

*-Susie Ferguson,
Worship Chair*





Music Notes

Music is now underway and in rehearsal for Lenten services at both ECA and AVUCC. The AVUCC Shalom Choir will be singing a meditative Introit at each Sunday Lenten service. The ECA Choir, with the assistance of Kimberly Axtell (seminarian), will lead new service music: Kyrie (no Glorias or Alleluias during Lent), a new Psalm Tone, Sanctus and Lamb of God. Lent is a penitential season, as is Advent, and there are no joyful Alleluias or bell ringing to be heard, until we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. Musicians are needed to play on Easter morning, hopefully for the 9:00am AVUCC and 11:00am ECA services. Please contact Music Director John Leslie at the church phone number if interested and available. Both churches will have special presentations on Sunday, March 21, when the lectionary provides the popular parable of the Prodigal Son. At ECA, the Youth Ministry will present a dramatization of the Prodigal Son, and the AVUCC choir and families will present a "Broadway"-style version, utilizing familiar (and some unfamiliar) show tunes to help re-tell the story.

Both choirs are anticipating the look and feel of new choir robes. ECA Choir has fabric and the cutting and sewing should happen real soon! AVUCC Shalom Choir has been blessed with a \$2,000.00 anonymous gift for new choir robes, and they are currently looking at styles, colors, fabrics and stoles. AVUCC has also been blessed with a brand new electric digital keyboard, which will be used for both AVUCC and ECA music rehearsals. Patty and Ross's son Greg Bergantz and John Leslie went "piano-shopping" and the selected piano was purchased with money from the Ross Bergantz Memorial Fund. (Thanks to all who contributed to this Fund!!!) With God's help, and with plenty of parent volunteers, there will be a new schedule for

children's choirs to rehearse during March and April, in the hopes of them singing on Easter Sunday, as well as on Mother's Day in May. The Bell Choir has added three new players...Hooray! We changed rehearsal time to Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30pm, so we were able to bring in 3 additional ECA players. If any other prospective players are available at that time on Wednesday afternoons, please contact John Leslie by calling the church phone number.

Mr. Leslie is also hoping to be able to meet with the High School Youth Group to discuss their interests in music: singing, instrumental, and the styles of music they enjoy listening to, so we can find similar christian music they would enjoy hearing to augment their personal spiritual lives, and possibly presenting such music during our worship services.

To God be all the Glory!

-John Leslie





March Calendar for Senior High Youth Group - SHYGS

March 5-7-A Mission Trip to Heifer International in Ceres, CA. Learn about how Heifer provides livestock in both 3rd world countries and in poverty-stricken areas of the United States. Spend a day in a village to learn what it is like to work all of your needs. We will leave after school on Friday and return early Sunday evening.

March 20-A SATURDAY-We're taking the group to Danville for the day to hear Dr. John Townsend speak. He is doing a workshop called 'Boundaries in Dating for Teens-Discover God's Plan for Great Relationships'. Some of the topics covered: How to choose people who are right for you; How to set limits on physical and financial involvement; How to avoid the pitfalls of dating; How to learn from the past without repeating it; I **recommend this for everyone in SHYGS**. I have heard Dr Townsend speak in person before and he is regularly on KFOX with Dr. Cloud. He is very engaging speaker and is very funny as well. This will take place of our regular meeting which would have been on March 21st. We'll have dinner on the way home.

March 27-Bake Sale during intermission at the Music Program-Another opportunity to earn money to pay for the raft trip. The last one raised \$127, so let's have a good turnout!

April 4 and April 18-Regular Meetings and homework center starting at 4:30

April 11-Sunrise Service-Youth group has TRADITIONALLY led this short service up in the parking lot at the end of Mockingbird Hill. It is a beautiful way to welcome in Easter Sunday, watching the sun come up. I KNOW how much you teens like to get up early :).Put it on your calendars-Doughnuts and cocoa will be provided.

- Robin Root



Senior High Youth Group Updates

February was a busy month for our SHYGS. Many of them are student-athletes and it seems like this was the month for competitions away from home. We have teens running track, swimming, wrestling, playing tennis, soccer and lacrosse, and in competitive dance. So, we are happy when they are in town and able to participate in youth group and we keep them in our prayers when they are away in competition.

Our topics this month were 'Parents' and 'Communication with Parents'. What we found was that most of our parents had many of the same issues with their parents when they were teens. Rules about dating, friends, clothes, grades, chores and money were around in the last generation and they are here now for these teens. What we are working on as a group is how to talk to our parents in a non-combative way about some of the issues that there may be some give and take on. So parents, if your teen approaches you and tries to initiate a conversation this month, listen carefully. They may be trying to talk to you in a new way. We have talked about rules that probably won't change and about rules that could probably be negotiated. If your teen asks if there is any way that some renegotiation can occur on some of the 'hot' topics that occur in your house, see if there is a way for you to gain some small agreement that will encourage further communication and trust between you.

Look to the Senior High Calendar for updates on what is happening in March! If you would like to be a driver

on March 20 and sit in on Dr. Townsend's session on Teen Dating, please call me at 268-1203.

I want to again thank Ann Mayers and Jeanne Cassetta for their regular attendance at SHYGS meetings and for being such great support for both the teens and Terry and I.

-Robin Root





Fellowship Events

Gift of

Thanks to our host Belinda Byerly-Robins, and an enthusiastic group of volunteers, we have many fun fellowship events scheduled for the next year. These events, some of which were already in the works, include:

March 20

Hiking at Point Lobos (all ages)

April 2

Tennis Social (adults)

April 11

Easter Egg Hunt (kids)

April 27

Tacky Luncheon (women & a few select men)

April 30 – May 2

New Beginnings (Junior High Youth Group)

May 9

Birthday Boys' BBQ (aka BBBQ) (all ages)

May 14 – 16

Camping Trip (all ages)

May 16

Swim Party (Senior High Youth Group)

June 19

Lobster Dinner (adults)

June 25 – 27

Camping Trip (Junior High Youth Group)

July 2 or 3

San Jose Giants & Fireworks (all ages)

July 17

Movie Night (all ages)

August 14 – 16

Raft Trip (Senior High Youth Group)

August 29

Road Rally & BBQ

September 18

Progressive Dinner Scramble (adults)

Movie Night (kids)

September 30 – October 3

Cursillo (adults)

October 16

Restaurant Night (all ages)

October 17

Pet Blessing (all ages)

November 6

Annual Meeting (adults)

December 4

Christmas Party (TBA)

January 15, 2005

Game Night (all ages)

February 5, 2005

Mardi Gras (adults)

There will be a poster in the Fellowship Hall with the activities listed. Many volunteers have already stepped forward and offered to organize an individual event but there are still many more helpers and coordinators needed. The best thing about being in charge of an event is that YOU get to decide the details of the event. The second best thing about being in charge is that everyone else at ECA is eternally grateful to you, and you'll probably be off the hook for the next few events. It's also a fun way to get to know your fellow parishioners.

If you have suggestions or would like more information, please see the poster in the Fellowship Hall or ask your friendly Fellowship representatives

Kim Petruzzelli, Terry Root, Allan Jones, Ken McCormick



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.

Belinda Byerly-Robins and Scott, Marshal and Avery: Thank you for hosting our fellowship planning party. We appreciated your hospitality and generosity of sharing your home with us.

Kim Petruzzelli: Thank you for leading our planning and coordinating our fellowship events for the coming year.

BSA Troop 294 Eagle Scouts: Thank you Matt Rimroth, Josh Dollahite, Roderick Santos, and Stephen Hoang for your donations to ECA and UCC through your Eagle projects. Matt’s project the ball wall, Josh’s project the new benches on the patio, Roderick’s project the new fence in the play yard, and Stephen’s project the new garden and fence, are all added benefits to our JV Church’s facility and life.

Robin and Terry Root, Jon and Sharon Mills, & Katie and Ken McCormick: Thank you for leading our youth and giving them fun activities.

Sandie Mueller, Byron Henderson, and the 4th, 5th grade Sunday School class: Thank you for a wonderful performance on the story of Esther at our Youth Service.

Fran Sandrock, Head Counter and her crew (Jerry Ferguson, Roger Hoyt, Jerry and Lorry Long, Ken Mannina, Terry Root, Sam Sarmecanic, and Anna Spanjaart.) Thank you for the superb job they continue to do to record the Sunday Offerings (accurately!) and deposit them safely in the bank every week. It is a job that takes several hours and each counter does it several times a year. The counters are: Thanks!





Worship Committee Meeting

Your Worship Committee will be holding its quarterly meeting over dinner at the Fergusons on Friday evening, March 5th. If you have any praises, questions, concerns, or general comments regarding the Worship Services at ECA, please share them with one of the Worship Committee members before that date, so your interests can be considered at that meeting. You may contact Dennis Moran, Evelyn Wing, Dave Byers, Lorry Long, Andy Kerr, John Leslie, Elaine LaVallee, Betty Wood, Peter Mayo, Sharon Mills, or Susie Ferguson with any of your special needs or interests regarding Worship. Our focus at our March meeting will be to fine tune our services for March and April and plan May, June and July.

*-Susie Ferguson,
Worship Chair*

Help Wanted

We are looking for some able bodied volunteers to help out at the rectory on a weekly basis performing yard work. Due to our budget constraints we have had to let the gardener go and we are looking for volunteers to mow the back lawn and blow the yard. All of you high school students that need to perform service hours for your graduation requirements, this would be a great opportunity to complete your service hours. It would be great if we can get a lot of volunteers for this project. Please contact Allan Jones or Ken McCormick if interested.

-Ken McCormick

Lenten Study

Join us in a Lenten study of the book, The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren. The book is broken into 40 short chapters to be read one per day. We began reading Chapter 1 on Ash Wednesday, February 25 and the assignment is to read a chapter a day. If you haven't started, it's not too late! The book helps answer the question "What on earth am I here for?" The author claims that knowing God's purpose reduces your stress, focuses your energy, simplifies your decision-making, gives meaning to your life, and prepares you for eternity. Quoting from Ephesians 1:11 (The Message Bible):

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ, ... he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

Discussion groups will meet the following six Wednesdays in Lent, beginning Wednesday, March 3 continuing through to Wednesday, April 7 from 7:15-9:15 pm at the church. Even if you can't join in the discussions, pick up the book and read along! Contact Mary McPherson (408) 268-9559 if you have any questions.

- Mary McPherson

Toiletries

Our toiletry collection project was so successful that the senior high group will continue collect items throughout the year, and make a distribution about 3 times a year. Look for the new box in Fellowship Hall the first Sunday in February. Please donate only unopened items! We donated the first 35 bags and boxes of items to Next Door-Solutions for Domestic Violence. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach.

- Robin Root



Why Cursillo?

The Cursillo Movement is focused to help each of us fulfill our baptismal responsibility: to go forth, as apostles, and proclaim the Gospel. We can no longer afford to sit passively by and “hope” that the world comes to know Christ. We must make a conscientious effort to “tell” the world about Christ. The Cursillo Movement provides us with the necessary tools for fulfilling our baptismal responsibility along with the training for using those tools. It encourages us to use these tools through our actions and attitudes in our church family and our daily lives.

To explain Cursillo to someone who has never experienced Cursillo is at best, difficult. Often, for those who have experienced Cursillo it is still somewhat mystifying. This is not because the Cursillo Movement is a “secret” organization. The reason behind the mystery is God. No one can fully explain how God touches each person in His special/unique way throughout the various elements of the Cursillo Movement. The important thing is that Cursillo will encourage you to make Christ more present in your everyday life, which in turn empowers you to bring the love of Christ to everyone you touch.

The next Cursillo weekend will be held September 30th to October 3rd. That may seem like a long way off, but time slips by quickly. So act now and sign up for a spiritual and care filled weekend at a private beach retreat. Kathy and Doug Dunham, along with many other members of our local congregations are in preparation already to make it an unforgettable experience. For more information, or to sign up, call Kathy or Doug at 408-281-0468, or talk to anyone that’s already attended.

Dare to Soar with Christ

-Doug & Kathy Dunham

Alpha

Four years ago a few people got together to run an Alpha course. Time flies. Since then, Susie and Jerry Ferguson have held a number of courses in their home and Kim and I have held one in ours. Maybe you are new to ECA or Alpha. Alpha is a short course on Christianity. It’s a video series begun in England, and now being run by churches everywhere. Of all the people I’ve talked to who have taken the course, no matter how well versed in Bible knowledge, no one has said they did not gain a lot from the video and ensuing discussion over dinner.

Alpha is an easy way for us shy Episcopalians to spread the Word. God calls on us to love him with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength. He calls on us to love our neighbor as ourselves. What is love? It is more than emotion – it is an attitude expressed in our actions. And Jesus’ call to action is for us to go and tell our neighbors about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; to teach them everything He has commanded us. Alpha Courses provide us with the means to do just this.

Will you consider helping to run a course? Or taking the course? ECA’s many angels provide the wonderful dinners relieving the host and other leaders of much of the work. As a course facilitator, you are there to stimulate conversation if need be and to share your own personal experiences. But - let me tell you - most of the time, people are full of questions and insight, and it only takes a small spark to ignite the dinner conversation. You don’t need to be a Bible expert. In fact, it is better if you are not. Your own questions show everyone else that it is okay to not have all the answers.

Alpha brings us together, lets us get to know each other, and allows us to grow spiritually bringing ourselves and our neighbors closer to God.

-Russ Petruzzelli



Parish Life

Vestry 2004

From Our Senior Warden

The vestry is off and running into 2004. We started with a very successful retreat where committees were formed and action plans set in place. We have published our 2003 Annual Report, planned our 2004 fellowship events and the Senior High and Junior High youth groups are going to be very busy for the next few months. The 2004 Vestry Committees are as follows:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Jon Mills
Mary McPherson
Ellen Lukanc
Terry Root

COMMUNICATIONS:

Kim Petruzzelli
Alex Dykes

FELLOWSHIP/IN REACH:

Allan Jones
Terry Root
Kim Petruzzelli
Ken McCormick

FINANCE:

Pat Rimroth
Elizabeth Ward
Jack Jackman

RECTORY:

Allan Jones

OUTREACH:

Kathy Dunham
Alex Dykes

YOUTH:

Ellen Lukanc
Jon Mills
Terry Root

WORSHIP LIAISON:

Susie Ferguson

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND EVANGELISM:

Kathy Dunham
Mary McPherson
Susie Ferguson

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION:

Allan Jones
Jack Jackman

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for the various committees please contact the committee members.

Lastly, if you haven't had the opportunity to check out the Church website I would suggest you do. Kim Petruzzelli has done a wonderful job and it is a very informative site. Thanks Kim for all of your hard work.

*-Ken McCormick
Senior Warden*