

The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

FROM STEPHEN

In a recent survey of employers, the researcher asked them what they were looking for in an employee. They got back all the answers you would expect: dependable, reliable, honest, hard working, creative. But there was one quality employers definitely were not looking for which was a surprise – that quality was passion. Employers did not particularly want employees with passion. Yet isn't that what drives most of us. Don't we have to believe in what we are doing in order to do the job? We have to have some sense that what we are doing is important and that it makes a difference in people's lives. The last week of Jesus life on earth – the week of his death and resurrection is called Holy Week or Passion Week. There we see in tangible form the great love God has for us. You are invited to witness these events in a series of vignettes. On Palm Sunday, in addition to our 7:30 worship, we will have a dramatic presentation of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem through the crucifixion presented by the Susie Ferguson players (eat your heart out Mel Gibson).

Then on Maundy Thursday (April 8th), at 7:30 p.m. we will see Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples and experience his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane through the service of Tenebrae. This is a joint service with AVUCC and will feature a joint choir presentation.

On Good Friday (April 9th) we will witness Jesus' death on the cross at noon with the Good Friday Liturgy and walk the Via Dolorosa (the way of the cross) through the Stations of the Cross at 1:00 p.m.

On Easter Sunday (April 11th and for the seven Sundays after Easter) we will, at last, experience the joy of the resurrection through the celebration of Easter. We will be

doing things a little differently this year. There will NOT be an Easter Sunrise Service.

There was not a tremendous groundswell of support from the youth or the folk people to do it this year. It may be an idea whose time has come and gone. Instead we will have Easter celebrations at both the 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services with music at both services. We will also celebrate the day with a baptism at 11:00. Please bring flowers and bells to both services.

In April we also offer New Beginnings, a Cursillo style weekend for those youth of junior high age. The weekend will begin the afternoon of April 30th and run until noon on Sunday, May 2nd. It is a fun weekend run primarily by the junior and senior high school youth of the diocese. The spiritual directors for the weekend will be the Reverend Jan Wood and myself. The Reverend John Buenz will be the celebrant and preacher at ECA on Sunday, May 2nd.

Finally, I want to especially thank Mary McPherson for facilitating our Lenten Study Program based on the Purpose Driven Life. The attendance for the course has been excellent and Mary's questions have been thought provoking at a very deep level.

I also want to thank Susie Ferguson for the wonderful dramatic presentations of the Gospel on March 21st. Susie has done a wonderful job organizing the youth Sundays and it warms my heart beyond belief to see so many youth at ECA. Thank you and bless you!

Salaam,



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to 2004. I know that it's a bit late, but I have been so busy I haven't had time to stop and smell the roses, let alone the peonies, begonias, lilacs, poppies, and an odd daffodil or two...

We're back on track this month with our sections, well, mostly. We have the Episcopal History section back, and next month we will start answering any questions you may have. So if you have a question about what something means, where something came from, why we do it, say it, etc. drop a note in my box, or send me an e-mail. I will then research the matter, and with Stephen's help, craft a response to be published in the next edition of the Shape. So start cooking up those questions!

As it's way too late to create my own semi-random column for The Shape this month I have decided to import some from a good friend of mine John Kua. (*See below*)

INSCRUTABLE EXHORTATIONS OF MY SOUL

Have you ever been thinking about something when you're driving, be right on the edge of a decision/realization/something and then get distracted by something (car/billboard/etc)? Then once your mind wanders back from the distraction you've completely forgotten what it was all about? And try as you might, you can't remember it?

That happened to me today. On the way to school, I was distracted by the sight of an new Accord with a hood that almost seemed to look like it was a slightly different shade of color from the rest of the body. After staring at it for awhile in my rearview mirror, I determined it to be just a trick of the light and the body styling. But then I lost my original train of thought. I could remember what I was thinking about *before* that last thing I thought about, but I couldn't recall that one... thing.... It drove me nuts for most of the rest of the drive. It's a rather unsatisfactory state of mind to be in, I must say. I knew there was something that I had reached an, "Ah-ha, I must remember to do that later," point, but nope, it was gone.

Swift are the fleeting thoughts. If do not seize them when they are near you, grasp as you may, all you will end up with is a fistful of air.

- John Kua

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

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
WORSHIP	Francie Kerr
WEB EDITOR	Kim Petruzzelli

ECA STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Lorraine Zeller
CHRISTIAN ED. DIRECTOR	Katie McCormick
MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORGANIST	John Leslie
TREASURER	Maryke Williams
YOUTH DIRECTOR	Katie McCormick

Contacting *The Shape*

APRIL EDITION	
ISSUE NUMBER:	040104
Editor:	Alex Dykes
Telephone Number:	408 268-0243
Email Address:	Adykes@coit.com

Mailing Address
6581 Camden Avenue
San José, CA 95120

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



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

Steve and Joyce Wing	19
Todd and Kimberly Axtell	29
Bryan and Inge Bond	29
Karl and Jan English Lueck	30

Birthdays

Dennis Moran	3
Stephen Taylor	4
Lynn George	5
Hank Ciappa	7
Natalie Mena	7
Steven McPherson	9
Sandie Mueller	9
Juliette Rousseau	9
Elizabeth Ward	10

Diane Conrad	11
Doug Dunham	11
Trevor Wilson	11
Grace Yomtov	11
Gayle Byers	13
Sean McCormick	16
Brooks Mancini	18
Ginger Redman	18
Penny Handorf	21
Avery Robins	21
Mariolein Ciappa	22
Vickie Jones	22
Laura Moore	22
Sandy Taylor	22
Stacey Abbott	26
Georgina Dunn	26



WORSHIP

WORSHIP AT ECA

Your Worship Committee met last month on March 5th for their quarterly dinner meeting. At that meeting services through Easter Sunday, April 11th were fined tuned, while services for the months of May, June and July were roughed out. At every quarterly meeting we discuss issues that may have been brought forth by our parishioners as well as issues each of our ministry leaders may have.

Announcements and “length of service,” particularly the Family Service at 11 o’clock are discussed at every meeting. Someone always has approached a Worship Committee member with concerns over these two issues. Being your servants we tackle these two issues diligently at each meeting given the new input and in light of the viewpoint of the individual bringing forth the concern. We brainstorm ideas and alternatives. We look at possible solutions and changes to our usual format. We work over all the pros and cons of a variety of possibilities. And perhaps, to some of your dismay, we have no definitive solution.

The truth remains that ECA is a very unique and special congregation. The personalities and flavor that our announcement time brings forth are what makes us the church that we are. Just look around on a Sunday morning as our congregation comes into the sanctuary. The excitement and delight with which most of our parishioners greet one another and visit prior to our service’s beginning is indicative of our unique family feeling. We come together in an attitude of genuine and hearty celebration.

For a few of you this “celebration” is not what you expect or desire at the beginning of a service. Your Worship Committee knows this and appreciates your sensitivity around this issue. However, you, as well as your Worship Committee, must know all too well how difficult it is to change the masses. For the time being we want to encourage everyone to give some thought and consideration to all who attend our services and recognize we all have different expectations and

preferences as to our worship atmosphere and how we worship.

Let’s all come on Sunday recognizing it as a day of celebration of what Christ did for us. Let us share at the feast with one another every Sunday. Let us share with each other joy, laughter, concerns, prayer, and Eucharist. We are a family. We are Christ’s.

-Susie Ferguson

ECA DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

DE VOSS, Colleen (408) 268-2799
6572 Camelia Drive
San Jose, CA 95120-2799

DUNN, Tony and Beverly (408) 323-1364
1119 Calle Almaden
San Jose, CA 95120-1775
bevdunn@pacbell.net

STEVENS, Elizabeth (408) 264-2115
1009 Blossom River Way, #246
San Jose, CA 95123-6314
(Mary McPherson’s mother)

VERDERICO, Roberta (408) 776-3537
576 Calle Florencia
Morgan Hill CA 95037-3143

WOOD, Doug and Betty (408) 997-3573
5911 Kyburz Place
San Jose CA 95120-1711
jdougwood@sbcglobal.net

MANCINI, Brooks and Diane (775) 826-8630
1527 Kestrel Court
Reno, NV 89509-3983 (2/25/04)



Music Notes

Rehearsals are now underway for Holy Week and Easter music at both ECA and AVUCC. Both choirs will unite to sing special music for the Joint Venture Maundy Thursday Service, April 8 at 7:30pm. This is the night we remember the Lord's Last Supper, as well as Jesus demonstrating for us his servant-hood in the washing of his disciples' feet. The choirs will sing several hymns and anthems detailing these acts, thus highlighting the meaning of "Maundy" - the first words for the antiphon for the day before Good Friday: "Mandatum novum do vobis" meaning "commandment" or "mandate." "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (St. John 13: 34)

Easter morning musicians are still needed to play, hopefully for both the 9:00am AVUCC and 11:00am ECA services. It's not too late to contact Music Director John Leslie at the church if you are interested in playing for either or both of these festival services.

SPECIAL SUNDAYS IN APRIL!

April 4 - Palm/Passion Sunday

9:00am: special piano-organ prelude by Joanne Specht and Phyllis Chai

April 11 - the Resurrection of Our Lord

7:00am ECA: hymn-singing with Music Director John Leslie at the organ

9:00am AVUCC: hymns with organ and instruments, special Easter anthem by the choir

11:00am ECA: hymns and special Easter music by the Adult Choir

April 18 - Easter 2 - FOLK SUNDAY

9:00am - Rev. Julianne's last Sunday with us - special choir anthem in addition to Folk Sunday,

April 25 - Easter 3 - BELL CHOIR will play at both 9:00am and 11:00am services

Two weeks ago, an E-mail and some snail mail were sent out to parents/care-givers of Sunday School students to determine interest and availability in children's choirs. As of the deadline for this article, no responses have been received.

To God be all the Glory!
John Leslie, Director of Music





HISTORY PART 5

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.

The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America was finally born in 1785. By 1786, there was a proposed book of common prayer that was used until 1790, when it was replaced by one that was more closely in tune with the Church of England's Book of Common Prayer (1662 [UK] Book of Common Prayer). It is interesting to note that while the ECUSA has now had five official BCPs since 1786, these being the 1786, 1789, 1892, 1928 and our current 1979 edition, the Church of England still officially uses the 1662 edition, and compared to the current US edition is quite different. In the UK, not only do the lay and clerics approve a revision to the Book of Common Prayer, but Parliament must also approve it. And though there have been many attempts, Parliament has yet to approve any revisions for the last 342 years.

There seems to be a great deal of confusion on the subject of how the Anglican Communion operates. This is as confusing to some Anglicans as the Christian faith is to non Christians. We are many churches, and yet are one. We have one focal point, yet no head. We have different prayer books, yet believe the same thing. This all connects back to the See of Canterbury. This probably something you have referred to before, and thought "There's no sea of Canterbury, I know where Canterbury is and there's no sea there!"

"See" or "Sedes" is a seat, more specifically the official seat or throne or "cathedra" of a bishop. And it is usually

found in the cathedral of the bishop's diocese, hence the word "cathedral." So, the "See of El Camino Real" can be found on North Second Street & St. John in San Jose. The See of Canterbury however is more than just a physical location (Lambeth Palace); it is the symbol of Anglican unity created by Parliament hundreds of years ago. When we refer to the Anglican Church as a whole, we are referring to the 70 million people, in 38 provinces, in more than 160 countries that are "in communion with the See of Canterbury." Just like the Roman Catholic Church would have no direction or unity without their Archbishop, so too would the Anglican Church have a lack of focus and unity without the See. The Lambeth Conference of 1930 defined the Anglican Communion as: "part of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Its center of unity is the See of Canterbury. To be Anglican it is necessary to be in Communion with that See." So it's not enough that a church look like an Anglican Church, or use our Book of Common Prayer, but in order to be an "Anglican Church" you must be in communion with the See. Make sense? Or does something smell fishy? You may recall the New Anglican Mission in America? They are not in communion with the See of Canterbury.

So now you ask, ok, so we have a Bishop in Canterbury, we're in communion with his "See," What next? Well, here it gets sticky. The "head" of the church, technically, is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Though this position is mostly ceremonial today, she still has the power to appoint bishops, and archbishops (York and Canterbury) and deans of the cathedrals in the two provinces of England (the Queen does so on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Bishop's Council however). (Side note: the archbishops and 24 senior bishops also sit in the House of Lords in the British Parliament.) OK, so, the Archbishop of Canterbury, not the Queen, is the link to the other 38 provinces in the world. Every ten years he calls a conference, the Lambeth Conference, in which the unity of the church is created. He may also call special meetings at other times as needed. The Archbishop is the focal point, the organizer, but not the "pope" of the church.

-Alex Dykes

SUNDAY SCHOOL



SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

There is a subject I feel is very important to discuss with our youth in our church environment. The subject is sexuality. They get information from school, peers, some from parents, lots from media, and none from church. I found a curriculum that is open, ties this subject to the bible and helps teens to bring Christ into decisions they make regarding their sexuality. The Christian Education committee has approved this curriculum. I have sent the primer (explanation) of what the curriculum goals are and the leader guide of lesson 1 to all regularly attending high school student's parents. We are starting the lessons on March 28th. The leader guide will be available for you to look over Sunday, March 21st during Sunday School in the narthex.

Prayerfully,
Katie McCormick
Sunday School Director
(408) 838-6143
mac6558@aol.com

NEW BEGINNINGS YOUTH CURSILLO

Cursillo means 'short course' in Spanish and New Beginnings is the youth Cursillo for the Junior High youth group. Our Joint Venture Churches have a strong history of participating in the cursillo weekends for the adults. Having attended the adult cursillo weekend and experiencing loving surprises and joy throughout my stay I am encouraging you to send your children to New Beginnings for their cursillo. Stephen Mills will be one of the clergy participating that weekend. I will be accompanying the youth during the weekend and pray for your participation in either attending, setting up prayer partners, or preparing the welcome home party. The youth budget will underwrite the cost by \$40.00 for each youth which brings the cost to \$35.00 each. Registration is due by April 5th. If you have any questions please call or email me.

-Katie McCormick

COMING OF AGE CEREMONY

The 5th and 6th graders will be participating in a ceremony honoring them as members of the Christian faith and presenting them with a bible on March 21st. We're calling this The Coming of Age Ceremony. This was a memorable service I was honored with as a 4th grader growing up in the UCC church and wish to continue this tradition at the Joint Venture Churches. We're including the 6th graders this year because both grades are in the same class. In the future, we will have an annual service only for the 5th graders.

Please have your child dress nicely. They will be wearing a stole with a cross pin they may keep. All the

5th and 6th graders must be in the youth center where they will put their name tags on by 10:10am. The ceremony will begin with a hymn at 10:15am. Once the music starts the children will process in and stand around the kneelers. They will be honored with a service given by both Julianne and Stephen during the Christian Education hour and presented with their bible.

There will be no Sunday school classes on March 21st because all Sunday school classes will be in attendance.

-Katie McCormick



YOUTH GROUP

CALENDAR FOR SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

April

Fri, 2nd-Attend 'The Passion of Christ'-Parental Permission required-Slips have already been mailed to parents-Plan on meeting at church at 6:30.

Sun, 4th-4:30 Homework Center, 6:00 Dinner,6:30-8:30-TalkSheet 'Walking with God'. We'll pass out tickets for pre-sales of our car wash fundraiser on the 18th.

Sun, 11th-Sunrise Service-Cancelled

Fri, 16th -Event may be planned for this night-Keep the date open

Sun, 18th-Car wash during all church services-This is mandatory for everyone who is going on the raft trip! If you have a reason that absolutely prohibits you from helping with this fundraiser, call me. Time for this event will be announced.

Sun, 25th-2:00-Garden Planting for our summer service project-Plant a Row to help with hunger in Santa Clara County-Food will be donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank-Dinner and hanging out after the work-

bring your music. I expect everyone to be there for this one if you can-lots of hands make the work go quickly! Eric will train anyone who wants to work the b-b-q for our summer volleyball nights.

May

Sun, 2nd-Tweek Hunt - Kyle Dando has agreed to make a special appearance and will help organize this event. 4:30 Homework; 6:00-8:30 for dinner and Tweek Hunt

Fri-Sun, 14-16th-No Youth Group-Terry and I are going on the ECA camping trip-If your family is not going and you would like to camp, see me.

Sun, 23rd-4:30 Homework Center, 6:00 Dinner,6:30-8:00-How do I talk to God-Is he listening?

Sun, 30th-Miniature Golf-Memorial Day Weekend-We'll go with whoever is in town. Meet for homework 4:30;Dinner and Golf at 6:00-Bring \$10.00.

-Robin Root

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

This dinner is put on by the Joint Venture Youth Groups on Shrove Tuesday every year. The kids do the setup, cooking, and clean up. This year we did not advertise and hid about 110 people. We began serving at about 5:45pm and ended around 7:30pm. The price charged for dinner was \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for kids. We spent \$212.00 for supplies and took in \$358.00. The money made will be divided between the Junior High and Senior High youth programs.

Drinks were served from the kitchen counter and two buffet tables on either side of the North door were set up. One of the tables had three chaffing dishes with sterno going to warm the pancakes, sausage and bacon. The toppings, fruit and syrup were on the other table. There was another chaffing dish with warm water set up for the two types of syrup.

There were plenty of kids working in the kitchen cooking. Anyone who wanted to take a turn flipping pancakes got a turn. The kids were helpful right from the start all the way to mopping the floor at the end. Thank you everyone who helped, cooked, served, and ate our wonderful Fat Tuesday dinner.

-Katie McCormick





SHYGS SERVICE AND LERNING: THE HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

Last weekend, members from the Senior High Youth Group took a trip to Heifer Project International in the central valley. There were six of us—Valerie, Brad, Eric, Cyrus, Monique, and me—as well as four adults. We arrived there on Friday night, and listened to a short presentation about Heifer and its goal, and what we would be doing that weekend.

We started bright and early Saturday morning with a tour around the farm. We got to see all of the many animals they care for there, and learned a little more about the way Heifer helps communities in third world countries. After that, we were divided into groups with three of the volunteers. We all spent an hour on each of the chores: weeding the gardens, painting a shed, and cleaning out the animal stalls. It was hard work, but fun.

On Saturday afternoon, we did some teambuilding activities, games where we had to work together and trust each other to complete it properly. All of this was in preparation for the global village we would be participating in later that night.

That night we all participated in the global village, and lived like we would in a third world country. We were paired off, and given instructions for the night. Brad and Monique were living in the Asia house (made of bamboo), Cyrus and I were living in the Latin America house (made of straw and mud), and Eric and Valerie

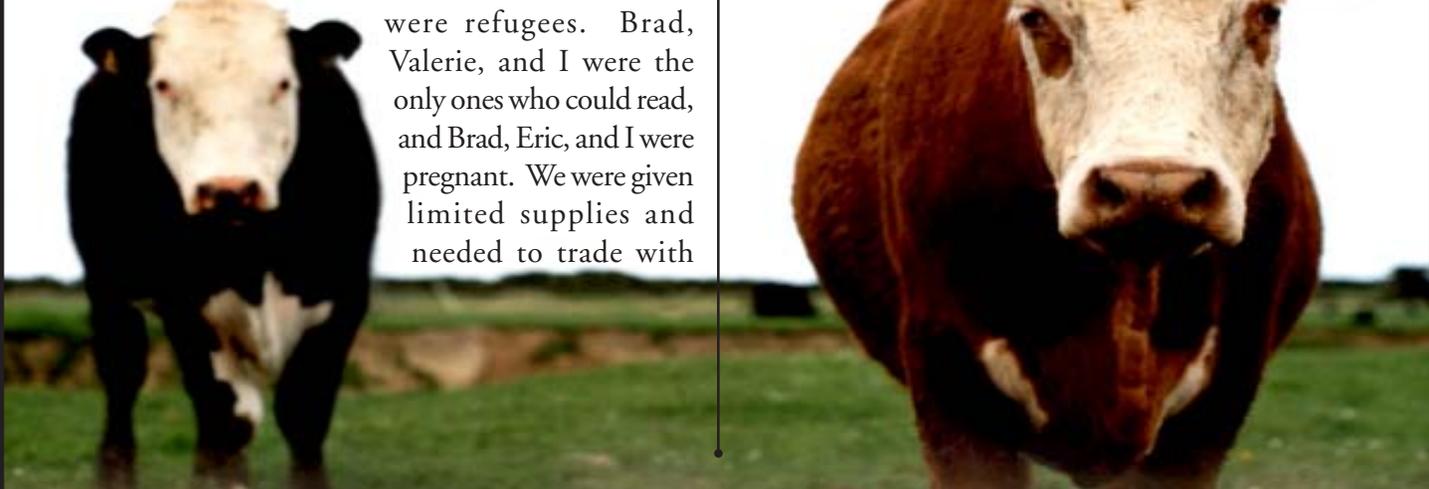
were refugees. Brad, Valerie, and I were the only ones who could read, and Brad, Eric, and I were pregnant. We were given limited supplies and needed to trade with

each other to have enough food for the night. The refugees had nothing, and needed to provide labor for a place to sleep and a meal. To make things even more complicated, the adults were two-year-olds, meaning they couldn't do any work and we had to keep an eye on them at all times.

It took us a while to get a fire started and to figure out how to cook with what we had, but we managed. Then, when the sun went down, we were like, what do we do now? We didn't have any light or other luxuries, and had to figure out how to entertain ourselves. We talked, and ended up going to bed early. The night was cold, the ground was hard, and I think we were all grateful when the rooster crowed, signifying the end of our global village.

That morning we sat down and discussed our feelings about the whole experience, and what we learned. We all agreed that overall it was fun, but that was partly because we knew it was only for one night—not forever, like it is for many people in this world. I think we each left that day with some valuable lessons, with a new appreciation for the things we all take for granted each day. It was a truly humbling experience.

*-Jacqueline Rousseau
SHYGS member*





YOUTH GROUP

CACHE CANYON RAFTING TRIP

Hi Parents, current eight graders and all high school youth group members, I have booked the rafting trip for August 14-15. We will be camping Friday night and head into the waters Saturday morning. This trip is to welcome the new 9th graders and to say farewell to the graduated Seniors. I need a strong commitment from all who will be in town and willing to have a great time, good food, and fun fellowship. The entire payment is due by March 31. I've sent one check off already anticipating good attendance. The SHYG has done several fund-raising activities and more is planned to defray most of the cost which is \$145. per person plus the cost of dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday morning. What I'm asking for is \$50.00 from each of you by March

30. Make yours checks out to me and please send it to, attention: Katie McCormick, Joint Venture Churches 6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120 or drop it in my mailbox at the church. I'm sorry this is sort of short notice and if you need assistance please let me know and we will work something out. Robin and I really want all of you to go. There is one requirement that I am putting in place for this outing and that is no one will be invited that is not a regular member of the youth group. If your friends want to join now and participate in our meetings and fund-raising they are more than welcome them to join us.

*Katie McCormick
J.V. Youth Director
(408) 838-6143*





QUICK UPDATES-SHYGS

- Did you win an auction item last fall? The word I have from those who have cashed in on their servant's times, is that the Senior High workers are really great. Please keep in mind that your auction item expires August 15th, so book your servant soon. (If you won Liz Hoyt or Betsy Dingman, your expiration date is July 15th because they will be going away to college!)
- Our trip to Heifer International was a huge success! Please read SHYGS member Jacqueline Rousseau's account of their experience elsewhere in the newsletter. Thank you to Tina Ghadiri, Terry Root and Katie McCormick for chaperoning this event. Heifer gave us some sobering world statistics at this event that are posted on the Youth bulletin board-these are worth reading if you have an opportunity.
- We will be sponsoring a car wash to fund our August raft trip. Pre-sales tickets will be available in April at coffee hour. The car wash will be held during church services on April 18th. Please keep your car dirty that week and support the teen's effort to pay their own way!
- Check out our calendar for other activities in April and May.

-Robin Root

JR. HIGH CALENDAR UPDATE

- March 19 - Meeting at church 6pm to 8pm
- April 2 - miniature golfing meet at the church at 6pm
- April 8 - Maundy Thurs. Spaghetti dinner canceled
- April 11 - Sunrise service - canceled
- April 16 - Meeting at church 6pm to 8pm planning for New Beginnings Youth Cursillo
- April 30 - New Beginnings weekend retreat meet at church at 5:00 we'll have dinner before we leave for Mt. Hermon's Redwood Camp
- May 14 - ECA church camp out UCC kids are welcome to attend with the McCormick's
- May 21 - meeting at church 6pm - 8pm
- June 11th - Swim party at McCormick's. Welcome soon to be 6th graders and farewell to the soon to be 9th graders.



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

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:

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

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.

Robin and Terry Root, & Katie McCormick: Thank you for giving the Senior High Youth a memorable, enriching experience at the Heifer Project in Ceres.

Kim Petruzzelli, Alex Dykes: Thank you for your hard work in publishing a high quality Annual Report for ECA.

Jon Mills and all the Adult Chaperones: Thank you for your willingness to attend the Youth Ski Trip as chaperones.

Katie and Ken McCormick: Thank you for providing Friday Night ‘s Dinner to those who attended the Youth Ski Trip.

Dorothy Willard: Thank you for your continued service to ECA by being our Prayer Vine Chairman. Your faithfulness to prayer is an inspiration.

Brad & Marcus Bond, Georgie Dunn, Tyler Nollette, P.J. & Alyce Gallego, Brooke Mills, Douglas Lukanc, Fallone Kabeja, Steven McPherson, and the cast of the Prodigal Son drama (listed elsewhere in this issue.): Thank you for energizing us by your participation on Youth Sunday as readers, acolytes, ushers, and in the drama.





NO EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

After much soul searching, Julianne and I in consultation with Katie McCormick, Robin Root, the Christian Education Committee, and our folk music leaders, have decided NOT to have an Easter Sunrise Service this year. I know for some of you, that will be difficult and for us it was a difficult decision, but it felt like we were pushing a big rock up a large hill to do the necessary planning and preparation for the service. The energy and the enthusiasm just weren't there. Maybe it is an idea whose time has come and gone. Maybe we just need to rethink it and configure it differently next year. If the energy is there we are open for suggestions for next year. In the meantime we will have our usual Easter celebrations for ECA and AVUCC at 7:30 am and 11:00 am and 9:00 am respectively.

*Yours in Christ,
Stephen Mills*



ECA GOES HAWAIIAN

Saturday, September 18, 2004 @ 5:00 pm

Move over Gidget! Now it's ECA's turn to head for the tropics. Of course we have our own special way of doing things so instead of using your air miles, we're going to bring the island to the church.

Mark your calendars for a September 18th luau and stay tuned for more details about this dinner, auction, Fant-ECA Island event.

Aloha!



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



THE PRODIGAL DAUGHTER BECOMES AN "INDUSTRIAL GIANT"

Did you miss the Youth Sunday on March 21st? If you did, you missed a unique presentation of the Prodigal Son Bible story by our youth. The modernized version of this timeless story featured the "Prodigal Daughter" (only because of a prevalence of actresses) as an "industrial giant" destroying the environment, her legacy from the Lord, for her own personal gain. When all her monetary gains were lost and she was penniless, she returns to the Lord seeking forgiveness. You know the story. Our prodigal is forgiven and brought back into the "family" by grace.

Our youth raised the same questions many of you may have asked. Why? How can that be fair? Why should someone do what is right all along, when you can just do whatever you want and then just ask for forgiveness? Hopefully you were in church on the 21st to get some answers or maybe, more questions.

At this time we want to thank our superb cast for their presentation. Each member of the cast was responsible to be at our one and only practice, put their own

costume together and to find their own props. Everyone did a wonderful job to make the presentation meaningful and fun for all, participants as well as spectators.

A special thank you to Doug Lukanc, P.J. Gallego, Ryan McPherson, Julia Machado, Taylor Mills, Bailey Bishop, Amy Vosters, Jacqueline Rousseau, Valerie Tysanner, Christa Pulling, Alex Bishop, Brad Bond, and Elizabeth Hoyt for all your cooperation, energy, and spirit in preparing and performing the drama, "The Prodigal Son."

Our future Youth Sundays will be April 18th also a Folk Sunday (the Sunday after Easter), May 9 which is also a Folk Sunday and Mother's Day, June 20th (Father's Day) and July 18. Youth Sundays are great opportunities for families to invite families to our church.

-Susie Ferguson

FAREWELL TO JULIANNE

Please join us in Fellowship Hall Saturday evening, April 3, 2004, in celebration of Julianne's ministry at AVUCC. Sign up in Fellowship Hall to bring a hearty appetizer or salad. All are welcome! Look for more details in your Sunday bulletins.

*Janey Sanders,
AVUCC Fellowship Coordinator*



ADVENTURES IN THE ARTS

GUITARIST ALEX DE GRASSI TO PERFORM AT ECA ON APRIL 24

Noted master guitarist Alex de Grassi performs in concert on Saturday, April 24, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series at Joint Venture Churches of Almaden.

The Grammy nominee de Grassi is considered one of the world's top fingerstyle, steel-string acoustic guitarists. Renowned for his impeccable technique, innovative artistry and compelling compositions, de Grassi's two decade career has drawn acclaim for his 13 recordings released by Windham Hill, RCA Novus, Tropo Records and other labels, as well as for his live performances as a soloist and within ensemble settings.

His 14th and latest release, *NOW AND THEN: FOLK SONGS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY* (33rd Street Records), is a solo guitar recording featuring contemporary arrangements of 11 treasured tunes from American standards repertoire, including "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," "Swing Low (Sweet Chariot)," "Single Girl" and "Bury Me Not."

NOW AND THEN is Alex's attempt to tell a few American stories and weave a musical fabric whose threads reach through time to unite the present with the past...music for now and then. "In rediscovering these songs," he explains, "I have come to appreciate the maxim that folk music is a 'living' tradition, and that each generation will find relevance and a way to reinterpret these songs. In that spirit, I have arranged traditional melodies to reflect the musical idioms and social climate of today's multi-cultural landscape. Thus, the cowboy classic 'Streets of Laredo' is transformed from a waltz to 4/4 time with an urban hip-hop beat, 'Oh Susanna' becomes a slightly demented 'banjoesque' samba, and the frontier lament 'Single Girl' draws inspiration from the horn section of an R&B band."

Such a broad and creative vision is to be expected from de Grassi. Born in Yokosuka, Japan, and raised in the

San Francisco Bay Area, Alex was exposed from his earliest years to a variety of musical influences. His grandfather led a string quartet and was violinist with the San Francisco Symphony. His father was trained in classical piano, while his mother was a fan of jazz. "The two recordings I heard the most as a child," de Grassi recalls, "were Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 and the Louis Armstrong/Ella Fitzgerald version of Porgy & Bess." His first instrument was trumpet, but at age 13 de Grassi switched to guitar and began playing folk and blues and popular music. Early influences include British fingerstyle acoustic guitarists Bert Jansch and John Renbourn, American innovators Leo Kottke, John Fahey and Ralph Towner, and much of the rock, pop and jazz music of the Sixties.

Almaden Adventures in the Arts, a joint venture of the Almaden Valley United Church of Christ and Episcopal Church in Almaden, is an effort to share the arts with our own church community as well as our neighbors from surrounding communities. In addition, it is an effort to introduce our churches to newcomers

Tickets are \$15 General and \$8 Students. Child care will be provided. For more information, please call 408/268-0243.