



The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

FROM STEPHEN

What a grand and glorious Easter it was. The 11:00 service was packed. I feel very honored and blessed to be allowed to baptize Taylor Ann Cook at that service. I believe it added a wonderful dimension to the meaning of Easter. I thought all the Holy Week services were particularly focused and meaningful this year. Susie Ferguson assembled a wonderful cast and made the celebration of Palm Sunday much more real. John Leslie and the combined ECA and AVUCC added a wonderful note to the Maundy Thursday celebration which was pared down and simplified. Good Friday was simple and dignified with a "Good Fridayish" feel. Betty Consorte, Aris Thomas and Pat McGarvin did a superb job of decorating the church. Betty wood and the Altar Guild were there and ready for each of the many and varied demands throughout the week. The acolytes, readers, ushers and chalicebearers were likewise competent and prepared throughout the week. Thank you all and bless you!

Speaking of blessings, Mary McPherson gave all of us a huge blessing with our Lenten Study series based on the book *The Purpose Driven Life*. I thought the book was very thought provoking and an open invitation to go deeper in the spiritual journey. Mary's questions and the discussions were a wonderful blessing to all of us who took the course and the sharing and the opportunity to speak with others about our spiritual lives was fabulous. Thank you and bless you, Mary!

As I write this it is mid-April and Julianne's last Sunday as pastor of AVUCC is rapidly approaching. At the present time, AVUCC has lined up several people to lead Sunday

worship, but an interim pastor has not yet been selected. When that happens, I will let you know.

The Youth Group has been laboring mightily to refurbish the volleyball court under the leadership of Eric McCormick. Although adults have been present both days, the leadership and the work has been done by the youth for the youth. They hope to have Wednesday volleyball and barbeques during the summer.

Bishop Shimpfky has officially retired and the Standing Committee is now the ecclesiastical authority in the diocese. They have scheduled a conference of lay people from throughout the diocese (no clergy allowed). The conference is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am on May 22 and if you get your reservation in early (by May 10th) lunch will be provided. The location is St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in San Jose. This conference is open to all the laity of the diocese, not just delegates to convention. The purpose of the conference is to: "learn more about the financial situation of our diocese and to help plan for our common future." I hope ECA is well represented.

Speaking of being well represented, ECA and AVUCC will have seven youth and three adults at the New Beginnings weekend in April. I will be one of the Spiritual Directors, Ellie is the Camp Nurse and Katie McCormick will be a sponsor. Please keep all of us in your prayers. I will be gone on Sunday, May 2nd, but John Buenz will be here to celebrate and preach.

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Every so often in the past I wondered what life was like before the car stole the hearts and minds of America. Content just to wonder, I never thought much on it until last week. That's when I opened my mail and discovered, unfortunately, that I had spent almost \$350 on gas that month. So doing the math on this one, I am spending almost \$1200 a month between car payments, insurance and gas. If this sounds cheap to you, would you drop me a line so I can change my line of work... (But I digress) After sitting down, and having a heart to heart with me, myself and the telephone pole, I decided that public transit and the trusty old bicycle was the way to go. So I went out to REI and got a few accessories for my new commuter vehicle. I figured that \$350 on accessories was ok, I'll recover the cost in a month.. So now I'm decked out in all that Velcro, Lycra and Spandex have to offer. Of course I also had to get the appropriate bags, mirror for the helmet and some cycle clips. Please, no pictures, I don't want my future children to see their father looking the role of the fool... And playing it oh, so well...

Today was my first attempt at riding with any real purpose. So I got up bright and early and started getting ready. I put my laptop in my nifty new backpack, loaded up the saddlebags with the appropriate necessities of self-propelled travel and got underway. I had to visit the new San Jose office on 880 Savaker Rd. first. So I took with me my printed MS Maps directions. Now, usually, the way I would go is hang a left on Jacklin Rd. take 680 down and then exit Race St. and turn right on Savaker. Sounds simple right? Try that without the freeway, and at an average of (gasp) 11.67 MPH. My simple commute turned into a 55 minute long 23 turn nightmare culminating in sore shoulders, legs, and back. And that was without the return trip.

The simple fact of the matter is that in ages past we were less spread out, and nobody commuted 45 miles to work. Only then can we really function without a car easily. Will this stop me on my quest to reduce expenses? Maybe not. I find myself completing this thought on Caltrain # 66 heading from Santa Clara to Burlingame for \$119 a month, preparing for that short three mile ride from the train station to Coit. So if any of you happen to be taking a jaunt up the peninsula, look me up. And if you have a minivan, or an SUV, give me & my poor bike a ride...

Alex Dykes

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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www.eca-sj.org

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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	Evelyn Wing
ALTAR GUILD	Elaine LaVallee, Betty Wood
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	Susie Ferguson
WEB MASTER	Kim Petruzzelli

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

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WHERE ARE THE TABLECLOTHS?

Please check to see if you have any of the church tablecloths at your home in your laundry room, linen closet, drawers, etc. The following tablecloths are missing:

- Dark green squares
- White squares (13 of the 14 are missing)
- White rounds and rectangulars
- Burgundy rounds and rectangulars

If you find any of the above, please return them to the church tablecloth closet in the Fellowship Hall.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT NOTHING FROM THE CHURCH KITCHEN OR THE FELLOWSHIP HALL CAN BE BORROWED FOR PERSONAL USE.

*Jan Day
TLC committe
(408) 268-6690*

GORDON & ALISON TAMS

Dear friends in ECA,

We have never worked out the difference in time between Scotland and California. You would have thought, given the intelligence of Alison and myself, we would have got it right by now! This comes with our personal wishes for a very happy and joyful Easter celebration. We wish we were with you at this time.

You will be delighted to know that we have a new Priest-in-Charge of St. Mary and All Coldstream with whom we are all delighted. (Included Gordon!). You are all in our prayers weekly and we both have so many happy memoies of your fellowship and love towards us when we were with you.

With all our love.
Gordon and Alison Tams

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversaries

Earl & Amy Griffith	2
Scott Robins & Belinda Byerly-Robins	4
Matt & Natalie Mena	28

Birthdays

Genie Yomtov	2
Scott Byers	3
Trace Rimroth	4
Jennifer Majors	7
Christopher Deveaux	8
Jerry Ferguson	9
Jim Ward	9
Jon Mills	10

Terry Stonehocker	11
Mary Beth Majors	11
Michaela Fahlen	12
Pat Fox	14
Russ Petruzzelli	14
Miriam Lueck	15
Nestor Kabeja	16
Christopher Consorte	18
Warren Willard	20
Jennifer Miller	21
Tom Fahlen	23
London Joslin	24
Kerry Sisler	24
Danielle Petruzzelli	26
Alyssa Kianidehkian	31



WORSHIP AT ECA

Drama and the visual expression of scripture is one way to bring it more alive to some. At ECA we try to do that occasionally. Most recently we have had two such opportunities. One was with our youth and their presentation of the Prodigal Son in March, and more recently, Palm Sunday, with the presentation of the Passion of Our Lord.

Many of our parishioners gave generously of their time and talent to make the Palm Sunday presentation possible. Our cast made themselves available for practices and of course, spent much time outside of our practices memorizing their lines. At this time we want to recognize and thank each of them: David Byers, Jon Mills, Ken McCormick, John Beacher, Hans Spanjaart, Steve Wing, Terry Root, Dwight Dorsey, Warren Willard, Sandie Mueller, Jeff Nollette, Evelyn Wing, Taylor Mills, Jacqueline Rousseau, & Valerie Tysanner. Portraying such a serious event is challenging and often a little threatening. This cast met the challenge head on and did a superb job.

Like any “major production” there are always lots of extras. ECA’s Passion was no exception. Dorothy Willard, Pat Dorsey, Kristen and Danielle Petruzzelli, Tyler Nollette, Bailey Bishop, Todd Axtell and Betty Consorte filled their “one-liner” roles easily and confidently and helped bring us all into the story.

Our musical solo “Gethsemane” by Andy Kerr, accompanied by Francie Kerr on the bass and John Leslie on the organ added greatly to the mood and sentiment of our presentation. Aren’t we blessed at ECA to have such talented musicians?

Simplicity was the theme this year, so we chose to forgo the “make-up.” Our costumes, however, were outstanding. For them we have to thank Sandie Mueller and Anna Spanjaart for all their hours of creation, measuring, sewing, pressing, and organizing. ECA

always has special angels who come forth when we need extra hands and this time Suzanne Mayo, Ellen Lukanc, and Sharon Mills stepped up to help Anna and Sandie at the 12th hour.

Through all our drama experiences at ECA we discover we have many who are talented Thespians. Thank you to all who enrich our understandings of scripture through your participation in these dramas.

Youth Sundays coming up will be in May, Mother’s Day, and in June, Father’s Day. If any one wants especially to do one of the readings, the prayers, or usher, please call Susie Ferguson and get yourself on the schedule.

Your **Worship Committee** meets quarterly to discuss, plan, and prepare for your worship experiences. Their next meeting is scheduled for the first week of June. Please contact any of the members with your praises, concerns, and suggestions so that your voice will be heard.

Maybe you noticed the length of our services in the last month have been “shorter?” Even those you may have expected to be “longer” just by the nature of all that was scheduled to happen on that Sunday? Maybe you noticed music from our alternative hymnal was joyful, uplifting, and familiar Cursillo songs? These changes are a result of your Worship Committee being responsive to your input and seeking diligently to make your worship experience as meaningful as we can for you within the Episcopal traditions and liturgy. You are listened to and if it is possible we put in process changes to better meet your needs and desires. Your Worship Committee will keep listening as you keep sharing.

*Susie Ferguson,
Worship Chairman*



DIOCESAN LAY CONFERENCE

The Standing Committee is planning a special Lay Conference on Saturday, May 22 at 10 a.m. to give the laity of the diocese an opportunity to

- 1) learn more about and discuss the situation in our diocese
 - 2) help plan for its future and the call of a new bishop.
- We hope that this Lay Conference will be marked by transparency and openness. It will be facilitated by the Rev. Ron Reed and Mr. Dale Simison. Fr. Reed is the former Director of the Office of Stewardship Education of the Episcopal Church, and Mr. Simison assisted our diocese in the formation of the El Camino Real Foundation. Other than Ron Reed, no clergy will be present. This is an event for the laity. The outcome and suggestions of the Conference will be reported to the clergy when they gather for their facilitated Clergy Conference the following week.

We hope that members of all congregations in our diocese will attend, so your voices may be heard. We encourage members of your Vestry, Convention Delegates and Alternates, and all interested congregational leaders to attend so that all congregations in our diocese are represented. The Lay Conference will be held on May 22 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Stephen's in the Field, San Jose. Lunch will be provided, so please let the diocesan office know how many people to expect.

Diocese of El Camino Real Lay Conference
St. Stephen's in the Field
7269 Santa Teresa Blvd.
San Jose, CA 95139

RSVP by May 10 to the Diocesan Office
(831) 394-4465

FROM STEPHEN

[continued from cover]

Following New Beginnings, I will be leaving for a week of continuing education in Florida, sponsored by the Church Pension Fund. The conference is called CREDO and Nolan Redman recommended it to me highly. I will let you know who will be taking my place on May 9th.

Finally, Sunday, May 30th is the Day of Pentecost and we will once again be doing the bible in many languages. If you speak a foreign language (you need not be a native speaker – after all who is going to know) and you would like to be a part of this celebration, please contact Susie Ferguson as soon as possible.

Salaam,
Stephen



JOINT VENTURE

JOINT VENTURE - UNIQUELY OURS

This column will attempt to answer the question, "Just what is this church, Joint Venture all about?" A copy of the by-laws of the Joint Venture Churches of Almaden, Inc. has been enclosed for our members.

The Joint Venture Churches of Almaden, Incorporated was formed by the member congregations for three specific reasons:

1. Their desire to move toward an expression of the Oneness of the Church of Christ.
2. Out of the scarcity of resources available to satisfy the needs for Christian Ministry to this rapidly growing community and;
3. In recognition that the unusual community requirements today, for those services which are rendered only by the Christian Mission, demands united effort.

In so doing, The Almaden Valley United Church of Christ and The Episcopal Church in Almaden agreed to sustain a cooperative venture to jointly develop, support, administer, and maintain the facilities and program necessary to implement the Christian ministry in the Almaden area.

The Board of Directors consists of a staff cleric and six members of each Member Church. This year's Directors are:

Stan Yumen
 Joan Wagner
 Julianne Stokstad (UCC Pastor)
 Terry Shoup
 Al Nieders
 Stephen Mills (ECA Rector)
 Ellis Mills
 Pat McGarvin
 Mary Leal (Treasurer)
 Dave Hennings
 Beverly Deveaux
 Hi-Dong Chai
 Marcia Bush

The Joint Venture Corporation is responsible for the following:

1. All financial obligations related to the assets of the Corporation
2. All financial obligations associated with repairs, modifications, improvements and additions to the properties and facilities and others acquired or developed.
3. The Board of Directors shall determine the need and means for acquisition or development of additional properties, facilities and furnishings to accommodate the growing needs of the Corporation.

In order to oversee the repairs, modifications, and improvements to the property and facilities of the Joint Venture Churches, the board of directors selected individual areas of responsibility. Any concerns related to the individual areas may be addressed directly to the appropriate member of the board. Please do not hesitate to call or email.

Joan R. Wagner

E
 UCC
 A



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!

IT'S BBQ TIME!

Warm weather is upon us and with the sunshine comes hamburgers, hotdogs and fellowship. Beginning Sunday, May 9th you're invited to have lunch on the patio following the 11:00 a.m. Folk Service. Not only will the men's group be manning the grill, each month will bring a new bunch of uniquely qualified men who want nothing more than to cook that doggie the way you want it!

Our celebrity cooks for May include Jerry Ferguson, Jon Mills, Russ Petruzzelli & Jim Ward.

There is no charge for your lunch, but a \$2 or \$3 donation will raise enough money to buy the food for the next month's barbecue.

Join Us!

BBBQ
BIRTHDAY BOYS BARBECUE



SUNSET MAGAZINE

Seventeen women travelled to "Sunset" magazine headquarters in Menlo Park in April to visit the magazine's gardens and then to enjoy a delightful lunch at "Mike's Cafe" across the street from the gardens. This was another one of ECA's ladies' luncheons which are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of every month. We do need someone to take responsibility for planning each month's location and to have a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall for that event.

It is really a lot of fun to plan such an event as the person or persons in charge have the opportunity to plan anything they would like to do and it really does not take a lot of work or effort. It is helpful to call each person a few days before the scheduled luncheon to reconfirm the time and date.

We do want to thank all of the women who did attend and am sorry that a few could not join us as a fun time was had by all.

*Carol MacDonald
Suzanne Mayo*





YOUTH GROUP

MONTGOMERY MEALS

Are you wondering how to use up those 40 community service hours that you need to graduate from high school? Have I got a great idea for you.

Right here at ECA we have a fun opportunity for you. It's close to home and you can bring your friends also. Every other Friday, our wonderful cooks at ECA prepare meals to serve for the homeless at the Montgomery Street Shelter in San Jose. This shelter is part of Inn Vision in San Jose. We leave ECA to serve meals at the shelter from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m. This happens every other Friday throughout the year. The next opportunity in May is May 14th and/or May 28th, but don't worry we continue every other Friday during the year. So if you'd like an easy and fun way to use those hours, please join us to serve meals to the homeless at Montgomery Street shelter.

If you would like to join us, please call!

Amy Griffith *Suzanne Mayo*
(408) 268-0920 (408) 268-0754

ERATTA

- The Sunday School celebration will be on May 23 during the Sunday School hour.
- Vacation Bible School - July 6-9
- ECA Big Sur campout is coming soon. Sign up is in the fellowship hall.

TOILETRIES PROJECT A SUCCESS!

Your generosity has made it possible for SHYGS to compile 35 gallon-sized Ziploc bags of toiletries for donation this quarter. In assembly line fashion, the teens made sure that each bag had a selection of lotion, shampoo, conditioner, razor or toothbrush, soap, shower cap, etc. It is amazing how fast your donations add up to enable our group to run this project.

We picked a new beneficiary this time, the EOPS (Extended Opportunities Program and Services) students at West Valley College. Nancy Romer of ECA is director of this program and she has shared this information about who these students are:

“Our students are all low income and live a meager life. Some are homeless as they are striving to reach their educational goals. Some are trying to support families with wages below the poverty level. Their life barriers are larger than most people have to ever imagine. That's the bad news. The good news is that they are educationally successful. Most either graduate or transfer to a 4 year university! Your help, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated. It will mean that for many students, they can choose to eat a meal rather than buy soap or lotion or other health supplies.

EOPS is a state funded program with strict mandated guidelines for program eligibility. They must be on Federal Financial Aid (which means they make less than \$12,000/year) and meet an educational disadvantage which is outlined by the state. We have many single parents, first generation college students, English as a Second language students, and disabled students. Currently we are serving 430 students.”

We are continuing to collect toiletries throughout the year and will do another distribution in September. Thank you again for your generosity.

Robin Root

YOUTH GROUP



QUICK UPDATES-SHYGS

SHYGS had a busy April. Eight teens attended 'The Passion of Christ' as a group, and many participated in a de-brief of the movie at our 04/04 meeting, with Stephen Mills helping to facilitate. It was a good discussion. The group also planted the vegetable garden on the fourth, so if you have an opportunity, walk over and check it out. On the way back, you can see the rebuilt volleyball court in the tree lot that many of the SHYGS group worked on during spring break. It's going to get a great workout this summer.

We had a great meeting discussing 'Walking with God' and we found that we are not as intimate with God as we would like to be. We discussed whether or not God would be content with us as pets just taking care of us or if he really wants a two way relationship-Good stuff!

Our big raft trip fundraiser was held on the 25th and got us well on our way to paying off the cost of that endeavor. Thank you to all who bought tickets and brought your car(s) in on that day. We appreciate all of the support.

Check out our May calendar for our next events. Here is a reminder that if you have a teen who would like to attend the ECA camping trip on May 14-16 at Big Sur, and you are not a camper, Terry and I will be happy to include them as part of our SHYGS family. Just give me a call. 268-1203 or robinroot@yahoo.com

Robin Root

CALENDAR FOR SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, May 2: Tweak Hunt led by Kyle Dando-Meet for homework center and dinner at 4:30. Dinner and Tweak Hunt 6-8:30.

Friday-Sunday, May 14-16-Terry and Robin will be off on the ECA camping trip. Any teen from either church who wants to camp and isn't going with their family should contact Robin or Terry Root-We'll make space in our campsite for you!

Sunday, May 23rd-4:30 Homework Center, 6:00 Dinner, 6:30-8:00-Talk Sheet 'How do I talk to God-Is he listening?'

Sunday, May 30th-Miniature Golf-Memorial Day Weekend-We'll go with whoever is in town. 4:30 Homework Center: Dinner and Golf at 6:00-Bring \$10.00.

SHYGS TO SPONSOR COAT DRIVE

Now that it's nearly summer are you getting ready to put older coats and jackets in the give-away pile? Have your children outgrown their perfectly good jackets? Are you a fashion maven who has to have a new Land's End jacket every season?

STOP RIGHT THERE! SHYGS will be collecting clean, warm coats in the fall to benefit the EOPS students of West Valley College and their children. But we want to catch you now before you give anything away. We will be collecting on two Sundays in May, the 23rd and the 30th. Please bring your clean jackets to the youth center on either of these Sundays. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this endeavor.

Robin Root



FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

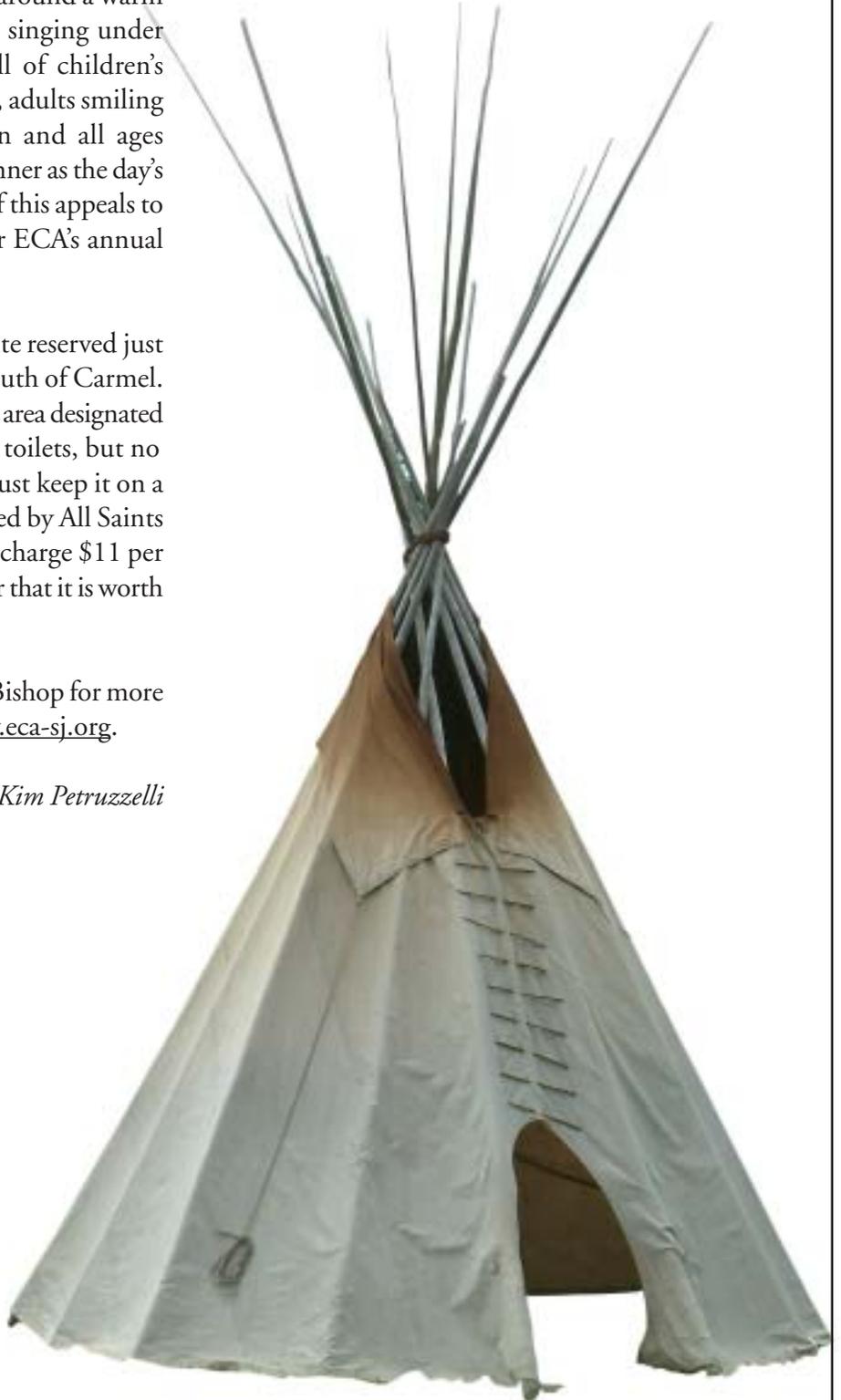
2004 ECA CAMPING WEEKEND - MAY 14-16

Want to spend a couple of nights around a warm Big Sur campfire, relaxing and singing under the stars? How about a Saturday full of children's laughter from innertubing on the river, adults smiling after a spectacular hike to the ocean and all ages gathering for a delicious community dinner as the day's light slips into a special evening light? If this appeals to you and your family, please join us for ECA's annual camping weekend May 14-16.

We have a beautiful oak tree studded site reserved just for us on the Big Sur River, 20 miles south of Carmel. Tent camping is best here, but there is an area designated for small R.V.s as well. There are flush toilets, but no showers. If you bring your dog, you must keep it on a leash at all times. This campsite is owned by All Saints Episcopal Church in Carmel and they charge \$11 per person, per night. We found out last year that it is worth every penny!

Contact Katie McCormick or Debbie Bishop for more information or see the website at www.eca-sj.org.

Kim Petruzzelli



GIFT OF GRATITUDE



ECA is blessed with people who give generously of their time and talents; some with a big fanfare 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 the deadline so they can receive their gift right here.

Mary McPherson – Thank you for listening to the Lord’s call and answering “yes.” You were an excellent facilitator and leader for our Lenten Study, The Purpose Driven Life.

The Cast and Crew for the Passion on Palm Sunday – Thank you for an inspiring and moving presentation of our Gospel reading from Luke.

ECA “Hikers” at Point Lobos – Thank you for the special day of fellowship at Point Lobos in Carmel. Thank you for all the food, the fun, and the laughs shared that day.

SHYGS - Thank you who came out in April and planted the Spring and Summer garden to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank: Brad Bond, Rochelle Ciappa, Eric McCormick, Evelyn Wing, Julia Machado, Beth Nollette, and Val Tysanner- Thanks also to Terry Root who fed the hungry gardeners!

Father Stephen - for the hour he spent attacking a tree stump with an ax on his day off to help the SHYGS get the volleyball court ready for this summer. We hope it was as therapeutic for you as it was helpful to us!

Eric McCormick - who championed the idea of a rejuvenated volleyball court through Joint Venture and who lead the team who did all of the work. It was a great project that adds value to our property and youth program. Great job Eric!

SHYGS - Thanks for coming out on their spring break to dig, rake, build, dig, rake, haul, and all the other tasks it took to get the volleyball court redone: Val Tysanner and her friend Katie, Cyrus Ghadiri, Brad Bond, Evelyn Wing, David Mastriana, Greg Lukanc and Eric McCormick, Sean McCormick; Thanks too, to the members of the middle school youth group who came out and gave their time as well: Doug Lukanc, Bailey Bishop, Ryan McPherson, and Trace Rimroth. This group along with members of Boy Scout Troop #294 volunteered approximately 400 person hours over 3 days to complete this project. Adults who assisted were Ellen Lukanc, Ann Mayers, Corrin Degnan, Katie McCormick, Robin and Terry Root and some of the boy scout dads.





WATER EVERYWHERE

Summer is fast approaching. School gets out. Vacations are scheduled. ECA families head off for new adventures far and wide. Some of us travel the U.S. Others travel into foreign countries. All of us miss a few Sundays throughout the summer as we rest, relax, and rejuvenate ourselves for the usual hectic and over-scheduled “school year” that once again will begin in September.

Last year we encouraged all of you to bring back a little water from where you travel on your weekend outings and vacations. We want to encourage you to do the same again this year. Put your water in a plastic bottle or some other container, labeled where it is from and your family’s name on it. There will be a prominent place at church to put your water bottle. We will begin our collections with water from our ECA camping weekend in May.

During our Kick Off-Welcome Back Sunday in September, we will pour all of the water together into our Baptismal font to symbolize all of us returning as a church family to begin our fall programs.

Help us continue this new tradition and celebration of our ECA family.

Susie Ferguson

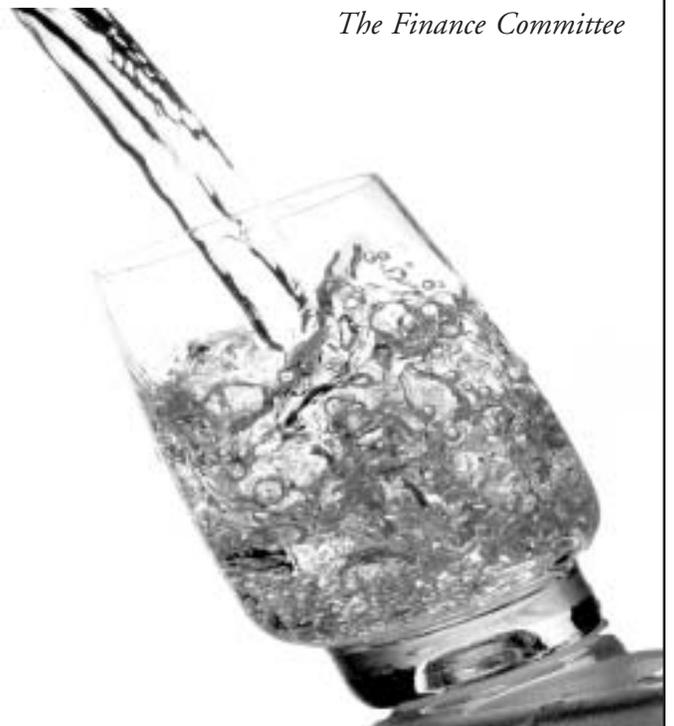
ECA FINANCIAL UPDATE

As you know, we began 2004 with a significant budget deficit. To ensure that ECA keeps a positive cash flow and can keep the lights on, the Vestry asked the Diocese’s Financial Committee whether ECA could reduce its monthly payments toward its 2004 Fair Share, which totals \$42,589.

The Diocese has agreed to allow ECA to pay the outstanding balance carried over from 2003, as well as a small payment toward ECA’s 2004 Fair Share obligation. ECA is currently remitting Fair Share payments of \$1,836/month (\$1,636/month is applied to ECA’s 2003 remaining balance of \$19,630, and \$200/month is applied to ECA’s 2004 Fair Share). At this rate, ECA will have an outstanding balance of \$40,187 at the end of 2004. We have also advised the Diocese that if ECA’s financial situation improves, our payments to the Diocese will increase.

If you have questions about ECA’s financial position, don’t hesitate to ask members of the Finance Committee (Jack Jackman, Pat Rimroth and Elizabeth Ward).

The Finance Committee





HISTORY OF THE TLC GROUP

Some time ago Julianne asked me if I would put an article in the “Kalos” and the “Shape” giving a little history of the TLC (Tender Loving Care) group that meets Wednesday mornings at 9:30. I am the only one left of the original core group that took on the job of helping with projects around the church almost 18 years ago.

In the fall of 1986 Nolan Redman was about to be installed as the new rector of the Episcopal Church. Everyone was working on finishing up the new addition of the Fellowship Hall and the kitchen. The pews in the sanctuary had been reupholstered and new carpeting was being installed on the stairways leading up to the sanctuary the morning of Nolan’s Installation. The Episcopal bishop was coming for the ceremony so several ECA women got together to spruce up the church. I volunteered to help. We all worked so well together that some of us thought that we should meet on Wednesday mornings to do odd jobs around the church. We called ourselves the TLC Group and somehow I got appointed to head it. Guess it was because I was outnumbered by all those ECA women.

Over the years the TLC Group’s main jobs have been working on the monthly church newsletters, doing mailings for the office, etc. Other jobs have included: taking care of the kitchen, organizing closets, upholstering chairs, painting, doing yard work, baking for the ECA Shelter feedings, helping with Sunday School projects, cleaning windows and blinds, keeping the church library organized, etc. We always enjoyed working on holiday projects: helping the Youth Group with their Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, getting the Easter eggs ready for the Sunday School Easter egg hunt, cooking for the Maundy Thursday dinner, cleaning out and washing all of the turkeys (usually over 60 of them) before Thanksgiving for the ECA shelter feedings, helping decorate the sanctuary and the narthex for Christmas, working on props and costumes for the Sunday School Christmas pageant, and getting the candles ready for the Christmas Eve service.

TLC also reached out to help members of the church community. One year someone from ECA was hospitalized before the holidays so we baked all of her Christmas cookies for her. We helped a daughter clean out her mother’s house after her mother, an ECA member, passed away. Another time we helped a church member move into a new apartment. We helped Ann Redman after she had her two cancer surgeries. The TLC Group had a great time helping Ann put on one of her famous “Tacky Luncheons.” This group of women also volunteered to do our daughter’s wedding reception which was held in our church Fellowship Hall almost ten years ago.

There were a lot of gals who came and went from the TLC Group during those almost 18 years. Three of the hardest working and most talented were Ann Redman, Jody Moore, and Carol Olmstead. Without them there never would have been a TLC Group. I looked forward to working with the three of them every week. We shared a lot of great fellowship over the years. Ann had a great sense of humor and she loved April Fools’ Day. Every year she came up with some new way of fooling people. Jody was a woman of many talents: sewing, wallpapering, upholstering, baking wedding cakes, etc. Carol was always there to lend a helping hand with her talents, too. These three friends all passed away from cancer within a period of 13 months.

There is still a small group of TLC’ers that meet on Wednesdays to do the church newsletters and any other small church project that needs doing. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. After our work is done at the church, we sometimes go to La Playita for lunch.

Jan Day



ADVENTURES IN THE ARTS

OAKLAND INTERFAITH GOSPEL ENSEMBLE PERFORMING AT ECA ON MAY 15

The acclaimed Oakland Interfaith Gospel Ensemble performs in concert on Saturday, May 15, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series.

The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Ensemble is a subgroup of the Gospel Academy Award-winning choir. Under the direction of Terrance Kelly, the Ensemble is a multiracial, interfaith group of 16 vocalists and five musicians united in their love of gospel music with its message of hope, joy, unity and justice. Profiled on CBS-TV's Sunday Morning, the full choir has released three CDs and performed on Grammy-winning albums by Tramaine Hawkins, Linda Ronstadt and MC Hammer.

With extensive musical credentials in both gospel and jazz music, Mr. Kelly's operatic range and joyous emotional feel for the music make him a popular soloist as well as an accomplished director, composer and arranger. His credits include choral arrangements on albums by Ms. Ronstadt and the Kronos Quartet, and gospel arrangements of popular music for TV and video soundtracks. In addition, he wrote and arranged most of the music for all of the choir's recordings.

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 newcomers to our churches.

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

This concert is the last for the 2003-04 season. Planning is underway for a fifth season. If you've got suggestions of artists to invite, please pass them along to a member of the Joint Venture Churches Concert Committee.

They are: Sandy Baldwin, Doug Dunham, Alex Dykes, Marion Grunge, John Leslie, Betsy Shoup, Terry Shoup, Bart Smith, and co-chairs Kevin Haley and Todd Axtell.



The concert committee is hoping to present another concert this summer after the success of last year's San Francisco Chamber Orchestra performance. Next season, we are also hoping to do some specific programs that will appeal to families with children along with continuing to present a diverse line-up of talented, quality performers. Stay tuned for further details.

Finally, the concert committee wishes to thank the season subscribers, concert goers and other supporters without whom it would be impossible to sustain this joint venture to share God's wonderful gift of music with ourselves and our community.

Todd Axtell