



The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

FROM STEPHEN

By the time you read this the Day of Easter will have passed, but we will be very much in the season of Easter. My experience has been that just as Advent/Christmas are times of crisis and healing, so too Easter is a time of change and growth. We have and will experience much of that at ECA this year. We were blessed by a visit from Bishop Romero on Palm Sunday when he confirmed Taylor Mills, David Mastriana, Alex Bishop, Ryan McPherson, Kristen Petruzzelli, David Hoyt, Trace Rimroth, and Faith Wakefield-Mills. We also had a lively group averaging about sixteen who spent the Mondays in Lent discussing Stewardship. I am very impressed by the spiritual depth I see at ECA.

We are going to call upon that depth in the coming months. I believe that the Diocese is wrestling with the issue of how we can rebuild trust with the congregations. I believe that both Bishop Romero and the Standing Committee are working towards that rebuilding. I also believe that we have an opportunity to structure the diocese to become what we want it to be. Those issues are already being raised in a peripheral context with the 10-10-10 proposal for funding the diocese whereby each person is challenged to give 10% of their income to the local church, each congregation is challenged to give 10% of its income to the diocese and each diocese is challenged to give 10% of its income to the national church. Obviously, this is a rather explosive and emotional political issue. If giving to the local church did not increase substantially, the diocese would

only have half of the current budget and the issue becomes what kind of diocese could you fund with only half the current income? The issues are deep and complex, but I believe we need a diocese staffed and structured for mission. We in the Episcopal Church do not do mission well. Virtually all our mission work tends to be seriously under-funded. Once begun, we tend to hang on far too long. We also need a new model for doing mission work. The debate over whether mission work is best done at the diocesan level or the parish level presents, I believe, a false dichotomy. I believe that mission work is best done by the diocese *in conjunction with* the local congregations and that mission work is the responsibility of every Episcopalian.

I also believe that the challenge that lies ahead for ECA is to begin to reengage with the diocese. I believe that we have tacitly opted out of participating with and in the diocese. I also believe that there were some good and cogent reasons for ECA to opt out. I am not asking to leap back into something but simply to keep an open mind as the diocese seeks to reestablish the trust that was broken. I also believe that these are exciting times and that there is a tremendous potential for developing new models and new ways of doing things that will bring us much closer to God and God's Kingdom. I ask you to prayerfully consider what I have said.

Salaam,
Stephen



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR



Recent events have caused me to think about some things that normally we as a society do not like to contemplate. What is life? What is death? Like most Americans, (apparently 75% of adults) I don't have a living will, a durable power of attorney, an advanced medical directive, or really anything that says "when the grim reaper comes, do X, Y and Z." Many points aside, I wonder, why are we so scared of the inevitable that so few are prepared? Perhaps if we put paper to pen, it makes our own mortality more tangible than before. With all that has transpired in Florida, some part of me is saying, perhaps it may be better to think on the subject than not, better to be prepared in some fashion than not. All details aside, and there are a lot of details there: mixed emotions, court rulings, fights, politics, religion, faith, love and bitter despair... All the problems boil down to the lack of one simple document, an "advanced medical directive" as it's called in California. If such a document had been made, there would be no argument, no federal case, and no families torn apart. You and I will truly never know what Terri Shiavo wanted. We can speculate, we can take sides, but hopefully, we will take this to heart and learn from this example.

Last July as some of you may recall my grandfather passed away. He had terminal cancer, and although the circumstances of his illness were different, the situation was the same. My grandfather had never sat down and written out his wishes, so it was left to my grandmother, dad, aunt, and uncle to decide what to do. After consulting with all the family present we knew what he had told us when he was able, he didn't want to be a "vegetable." Consequently for 6 days we spent every waking moment at the hospital watching him basically starve to death. In my mind I knew we had done the right thing, but no matter how steadfast you are, nothing is as gut wrenching as the thought "what if we're wrong?"

In true human nature, it has been 8 months since my grandfather's funeral. As far as I know, none of the family that was present has run out and updated wills, created advanced health care directives, or otherwise planned for their own end. The bad part is, this is just how we all operate. Food for thought perhaps?

California Attorney General's End of Life Planning site
<http://ag.ca.gov/consumers/general/care.htm>

Alex Dykes

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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The Reverend Stephen Mills
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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

ECA STAFF

CHRISTIAN ED. DIRECTOR	Katie McCormick
MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORGANIST	John Leslie
TREASURER	Maryke Williams
YOUTH DIRECTOR	Katie McCormick

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ADVENTURES IN THE ARTS CONCERT ON APRIL 2

Instrumental guitar group Incendio performs in concert at Joint Venture Churches on Saturday, April 2nd at 7:30 p.m. as part of our Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series.

Comprised of Jim Stubblefield on guitar, Jean-Pierre Durand on guitar and guitar synthesizer, Liza Carbe on bass, and Joe Shotwell on drums and percussion, the group refers to their music as "Latin Guitar World Fusion."

Having released four recordings since 2000, *Wind & Wire* magazine called the group "one fiery bunch of musicians" while Amazon.com said "they have the chops to generate gratifying Latin guitar fusion."

Incendio in both Italian and Spanish means "fire" and this moniker is fitting for a musical group whose sound is all about energy, exploration, and passion. At the heart of Incendio's sound is the Latin, or Spanish, guitar.

Tickets are \$15 advance/\$20 door for adults and \$8 advance/\$10 door for students with ID. Childcare will be provided. For more information and to arrange for advance (will call) tickets, please call the church office at 408-268-0243.

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.

Please plan on joining us. **Music at Joint Venture Churches needs your support!**

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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
Amanda Degnan	9
Elizabeth Ward	10
Jim McPherson	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
Matthew Degnan	20
Penny Handorf	21
Avery Robins	21
Mariolein Ciappa	22
Vickie Jones	22
Laura Moore	22
Sandy Taylor	22
Tyler McPherson	25
Stacey Abbott	26
Georgina Dunn	26
Caitlin McPherson	26

Anniversaries

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



FINANCE REPORT

At the 2004 Annual Meeting, Finance presented a summary of ECA's 2004 financial results and the 2005 Budget. Afterwards there were some general questions as well as a few questions regarding the auction revenues, their future use, and how they were/are being reported to the Diocese. Recently, these questions have been asked again and the Vestry wants to address questions that have been raised about how these funds have been reported to the Diocese, as well as answer questions about calculation of ECA's Fair Share.

As you probably remember, last September ECA held an auction fundraiser, which netted approximately \$23,000 after expenses. Following input from ECA members, the Vestry appropriated \$2,500 of the auction proceeds to support our youth program; \$5,000 was contributed toward ECA's 2004 Fair Share Obligation; and the remainder (\$18,316) was placed in a restricted fund where it currently remains. This was done so that conscious decisions could be made about how these funds would be used, rather than the funds being used for operational expenses. The Vestry must approve the disbursement of any restricted accounts.

Each year, the treasurer of each parish files a Stewardship and Financial Report with the Diocese. In that report, there are nineteen sections summarizing the financial activity and year-end balances for all accounts. Detailed information about Pledge and Plate offerings, interest from investments, other operating income (including unrestricted and restricted gifts used for operations and contributions from congregation's activities or organizations), and bequests are provided.

For 2004, ECA reported total operating revenues of \$263,342, and total operating expenses of 226,388. Auction proceeds were included in the operating revenues reported for 2004.

In calculating the Diocesan Fair Share, all operating revenues are considered. The following is the Fair Share Formula:

- * 10% of first \$60,000 NDBI
- * 22% above \$60,000 NDBI



NDBI (Net Disposable Budgeted Income) is the net amount from a congregation's operating revenues that is assessed by the above formula after allowed deductions are taken. Allowed deductions include Rent Paid for Church Premises; Payments on Principal for Capital Debt; Interest paid on Capital Debt; and Property Tax on property used for worship purposes.

If you have additional questions about ECA Finances, please contact an ECA Vestry Finance Committee Member or bring your questions to a Vestry meeting (held the fourth Tuesday evening of every month).

The Finance Committee looks forward to continuing to serve you in 2005.

The Vestry Finance Committee





AND NOW SOMETHING ABOUT GEORGE R

Nancy and George Romer came to ECA in 1970 right after their first child, Holly, was born. ECA was just three blocks from their front door. They jumped right in and led the Joint Venture Youth Group, often hosting meetings in their home on Camden Avenue. They came from Trinity Episcopal Church, downtown, where they led Sunday school for a couple of years. The birth of their son, Mark, followed Holly two years later.

George worked in San Jose for 37 years as a registered mechanical engineer, project manager, and business process development manager. Now George is retired and his days are filled with bird watching, bocce', hiking, mountain bike riding, reading, tinkering with photography, catching up on long-ignored

projects around the house, working out at the gym, traveling, woodworking, making beer, and attending PC classes. As grandparents should, Nancy and George also "spend time participating in and following the development of their two grandchildren, Abigail and Ethan, both born in 2004."

Something you might not know about George, he recently received a Notary Public commission from California. For something completely different about George— during Lent he is meditating daily with a book entitled "Cat Nips - Life Lessons for Cat Lovers" which juxtaposes stories of humorous experiences with cats and how they are related to biblical themes and quotations.

George served on the Vestry on two previous occasions, once as Junior Warden during a particularly difficult period in our church life in 1983-86. ECA is blessed to have George as Junior Warden again in 2005. For ECA George envisions "a more vital, more involved congregation which grows in numbers (width) and spiritual relationship (depth) because we are inspired to share the love that Christ bestows on us with the world about us."

This is the first in a series of articles to introduce new 2005 Vestry members.

Jon Mills

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The SHAPE is seeking writers — if you wish to share your writing talents please contact Kim Petruzzelli at Shape@eca-sj.org





WORSHIP

ALMADEN VALLEY COUNSELING SERVICE TOUR

The Almaden Valley Counseling Service is holding its biannual Home Tour on Sunday, April 10th from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. You are invited to join in all the fun which will include visiting four homes, enjoying flowers by Bloomsters, boutique items, refreshments by Charlie's Cheesecakes and Starbucks, and entertainment by local students. Proceeds will benefit this non-profit organization which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and has roots in our church community (see below). Tickets are \$25 in advance (\$30 the day of the event, if still available) and can be purchased at the AVCS office or by sending a check, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the office at: Almaden Valley Counseling Service, 6529 Crown Blvd., Suite D, San Jose, CA 95120. For more information, please call (408) 997- 0200.

In 1980, members of the Joint Venture Churches of Almaden, with funding from the Almaden Valley Women's Club, founded the Almaden Valley (Youth) Counseling Service. The word

Youth was removed in 2000 to reflect the broader population being served. The agency's services include the *Counselor-on-Campus* program – now at twenty local public schools – parenting classes, anger education and conflict resolution workshops, and in-office counseling for all ages. Its newest service, the *Geriatric Advisory Program*, was launched in 2000 to educate and advise adult children and elders on aging issues and to provide individual and family consultation. AVCS opened its doors in the basement of our facility with one part-time director/counselor. Today AVCS is located next to the Almaden Valley Post Office with a staff of over 35 people and a 17-member governing board of directors. Roberta Verderico recently completed her internship at AVCS and is now a licensed Marriage Family Therapist. Numerous members of this church have served on the Board over the years and some were founding members. Maryke Williams, Robin Root, and Gwen Hacker currently serve on the board.

AVCS Board Members

JOINT VENTURE NEWS

We have had two Joint Venture Board meetings this year. At our first meeting we approved the budget and at our second meeting on March 1st, we found a way to reduce this year's budget by a little over \$10,000. It's important for all of us to cooperate in reducing the utility expenses by turning off the lights and heating/cooling systems when they are not needed. This tightening of our JV budget "belts" also means that we will not be contributing to our capital replacement fund this year; however, we will allow consideration of funding if a major need for capital funding is indicated.

Joint Venture has received a total of \$2,401 from Tabard Theatre for their first two plays in our facility. This more than offsets increased utility

expenses incurred due to their building use. Tabard Theatre will complete this year's season with one more play this month. I hope you have all gone to their productions. They are excellent.

Joint Venture recently purchased a digital projector for use in church functions. It is kept under lock and key due to its high value and small size. If you need access to the projector, please contact Stephen Mills or Paul Smith-Telfer.

If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to ask me or any JV Board member. Our job is to keep our Joint Venture facility in good shape in order to support the programs of AVUCC and ECA.

Ed Mueller



TACKY LUNCHEON COMING SOON!

On Tuesday, May 10th, at 11:30 am we will once again present our Tacky Luncheon. It will be followed by a very untacky fashion show presented by the Unicorn Thrift Shop featuring models from both congregations. The price is \$10 per person, and the proceeds will all be donated to West Valley College EOPS program, which assists poorer students at West Valley Community College.

The Unicorn Thrift shop supports Eastfield Ming Quong which provides services for families in need. By participating in the event, you can help two very worthwhile charities and, of course, have a great time showing off your very tackiest look.

So remember, dress in your tacky worst, bring a salad for six, and prepare to have fun and contribute to the community as well. If you have questions or wish to RSVP, call Sandie Mueller at (408) 997-1642 or Mary Leal at (408) 268-0230.

KITCHEN CLEANUP

On March 9th a crew of hard working ladies from ECA and AVUCC got together and completed a clean up in the kitchen from the top down. It needed some tender loving care!! Many thanks to Betty Benson, Betty Consorte, Robyn Dorsey, Amy Griffith, Mary Leal, Carol MacDonald, Mel Stonehocker, and Jackie Whitlock and also to Eric McCormick and David Mastriani who took on the job of cleaning the stove.

We hope all groups using the kitchen will try to keep the clean look.

Carol MacDonald & Jackie Whitlock

PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

Did the killer/rapist in Georgia, Brian Nichols, surrender peacefully because of the spiritual inspiration of the young woman, Ashley Smith? Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." He didn't say blessed are those who love peace, but blessed are those who work for peace. Peacemakers are rare because peacemaking is hard work. No wonder she was so exhausted at the end of the ordeal.

Christ wants his family to be known for our love for each other. Peacemaking is not avoiding conflict. Jesus was never afraid of conflict. On occasion he provoked it for the good of everyone. Sometimes we need to avoid conflict, sometimes we need to create it, and sometimes we need to resolve it. Praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance helps us know what is best in any given situation.

Relationships are always worth restoring. Is there anyone you need to restore a broken relationship with? If you want God's blessing on your life and you want to be known as a child of God, you must learn to be a peacemaker.

From *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren

Mary McPherson

RECTORY UPDATE

The lawn and sprinklers are in and operating, thanks to Allan Jones. Thanks to the Moores and Whitlocks some plants have been donated and are already in the ground. We need some bedding plants to provide spring color. If anyone can purchase some living 'decorations' for the Rectory, please contact George Romer (268-4435, or email georgeromer@sbcglobal.net) so we can coordinate with other donors for our overall planting needs.



SR. WARDEN UPDATE

At February's meeting the Vestry unanimously elected George Romer as the Junior Warden. Liaisons for the various ministries were selected:

- Christian Ed: Debbie Bishop & Ellen Lukanc
- Communication: Kim Petruzzelli
- Fellowship / Inreach: Inge Bond, Kim Petruzzelli, Sandie Mueller
- Finance: Pat Rimroth, Terry Root, & Hans Spanjaart
- Outreach: Kathy Dunham & Mary McPherson
- Spiritual Growth & Evangelism: Debbie Bishop and Mary McPherson
- Strategic Planning: Jack Jackman
- Worship: Sandie Mueller
- Youth: Inge Bond & Ellen Lukanc

If you have questions, suggestions, and/or wish to participate in any of these ministries please contact the appropriate liaison(s). I also hope that if a liaison asks for your support that you would prayerfully consider helping.

In addition to the routine meeting agenda, The Reverend Canon Jan Smith Wood Canon Educator for the Diocese of El Camino Real initiated a discussion about what is good at ECA. Vestry members shared their best experience(s), what they value about ECA, and three wishes for the future. Out of this dialogue we decided to take ~20 minutes at the start of each vestry meeting "to listen to what God is telling us." Our goal is to allow God to direct our future planning for ECA.

Remember to reserve May 20-22 on your calendars for the Annual ECA Camping Trip (all ages included). I hope to see you around the campfire.

*Jon Mills
Senior Warden*

THIS JOINT IS JUMPING!

(Don't Forget to Reserve Your Rooms)

This is a reminder: YOU NEED TO SCHEDULE YOUR ROOMS IN ADVANCE if you want to ensure you have space for your activities. Make sure you include time and rooms for set up/ decorating and clean up, any rehearsals, or preliminary use leading up to your main event.

To schedule an event, complete a "Calendar Request Form" (located in the document holder posted on the wall next to the office door AND on the web at www.eca-sj.org and www.avucc.org) and leave it with the office manager. You may also email your calendar request to office@eca-sj.org or office@avucc.org.

Our JV Churches facility use schedule is posted on the wall by the mail boxes and is updated every Friday. All building use must be scheduled through the church office. Church usage (i.e. Memorial Services) takes precedence over other social events. If necessary, calendar conflicts will be worked out with the pastors and/or councils and Joint Venture board. Use of the building by community groups requires a contract and approval by the office and/or pastors.

So, church leaders, don't you *be* leaving those calendar request forms alone in your mailboxes. USE THEM!



The Church Office



NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Vacation Bible School August 8-12

We have chosen our theme for Vacation Bible School and it is *Holy Land Adventure in the Jerusalem Marketplace*. The committee is forming now and we will meet once a month to plan the transformation of the church. We will create the market place buildings with awnings, spruce up our palm trees, and plan the stations for the "tribes" of Israel to travel to. Our first meeting is April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. during the Sunday School hour. Teens are welcome to help us on the VBS committee and earn service hours for their time. Please contact me at 838-6143 or email me at mac6558@comcast.net

Sunday School

Our Easter egg hunt will take place after we dig up the Alleluia banner during the Sunday School hour on April 27th. This year's hunt is open all children up to and including fifth graders. We'll let the little ones (toddlers, preschool and kindergarteners) get a head start, and then grades 1-5 can clean up!

Junior High and High Schoolers don't feel left out! There will be some goodies for you in the youth center.

Sunday School schedule change

We have a schedule change for the Sunday School calendar. The last day of Sunday School will be June 5th instead of May 22nd. This is the day that all the teachers come to class to hand out the certificates to the children and celebrate the year with cake in fellowship hall.

March 20 Sunday school lesson

March 27 no lesson – dig up Alleluia banner and Easter egg hunt

April 3, 10, 17, 24 Sunday school lessons

May 1, 8, 15, & 22 Sunday school lessons

May 29 Memorial day weekend no Sunday school

June 5 Sunday School celebration in the classrooms at 10:10am

If you have any questions please call me at (480) 838-6143.

Katie McCormick

THANKS FROM PETE MAYO & JV

Dear Senior High Group:

Alex Bishop	Taylor Mills
Brad Bond	Rochelle Ciappa
Dan Gottfeld	Hanna Ward
Ryan Hall	Anne Tysanner
Gregory Lukanc	Robin and Terry Root
Julia Machado	Jon Mills
David Mastriana	Ann Mayers
Eric McCormick	

On behalf of the Joint Venture Board, I want to thank you for your efforts in working around the church in February. The work you performed was greatly appreciated (trimming and clean-up of the hedge along the canal on the west side of

the church, spraying weeds in the tree lot and around the back patio, etc., etc.).

For your efforts, JV has credited the youth checking account with \$250 to be applied toward your upcoming mission trip to Montana. I can't thank you enough for your time and effort and how great the place looks.

Another point I wanted to mention is how lucky you are to have Robin Root as your advisor and the other adults supporting her projects. Her ideas, expertise, wisdom, and love will go a long way to make you better individuals. You may realize this to some extent now, but as you grow older, it will definitely become apparent as you look back on this time in your life.

Pete Mayo



YOUTH GROUP

SHYGS - SPRING

March was a busy month for SHYGS starting with a trip to Oakridge Lanes for Cosmic Bowling. Marshall Robins won the 'style' award, David Mastriana earned high score, with Taylor Mills and Erinn Hoyt close seconds, and we were glad we didn't lose anyone to the conga line that formed in the lane next to us! Thank you to Ann and Terry for chaperoning us and keeping things in line.

We had a fundraising dinner night at Chevy's, a great 'Catacombs' event led by Kyle Dando simulating conditions the early Christians had to endure in their efforts to worship their new-found faith, and a trip to see 'The Passion of the Christ'. The season appropriately leads us through the Easter celebration of new life as members of the body of Christ as we work to mirror that in our senior high group.

Our calendar for the rest of the spring season looks like this:

- April 2-Flea Market-Mandatory for all going on Mission Trip (Saturday)
- April 3- Talk Sheet-Topic Holy Spirit – Make fruit for 'Living Inside Out' theme of the Mission Trip
- April 10-Skills Training-Bring your own hammer that you will take on the trip- 12:30-4:00 at church
- April 10-Mandatory parent's meeting- Forms to sign-12:30 at church
- April 15-17 Happenings-Spiritual retreat for High School in Felton
- April 22 - Seder - At the McCormick's
- April 24-Car Wash- Mandatory for all going on the Mission Trip (see Robin with conflicts)

- April 24-Adults work Jean's wine tasting event 1-5 Connie, Katie, Ellen and Sharon-Donation to Mission Trip
- April 24-No meeting this night

All senior high students are welcomed at SHYGS - If you've never tried us out, it's never too late! We'd love to have you with us.

Robin Root

HUGS FROM SHYGS

SHYGS wants to thank all of you who have been offering support as we prepare for our mission trip in June. This month we want to thank all of you who have agreed to be a prayer partner with one of the teens going on the trip: Suzanne and Pete Mayo, Dennis Moran, Kimberly Axtell, Mary McPherson, Kim and Russ Petruzzelli, Jackie Whitlock, Pat McGarvin, Natalie Mena, Nancy Romer, Jean Cassetta, Pat Fox, and Sandie Mueller. Your prayer support lays a foundation of strength and faith that our teens can build from and lets them know that others are holding them up!

We also want to thank some folks for their recent financial contributions to the mission: Dennis Moran and Ryan McPherson have helped us to fill in another square in our stained glass fundraising cross.

Tim Miller and John Leslie are going to focus on teaching our teens some of the songs that will be sung in the evenings at the WorkCamp this summer, so we thank them for the dedication of their time to our group.

[Continued on next page]

YOUTH GROUP



NEW BEGINNINGS JR. HIGH YOUTH RETREAT

The New Beginnings Junior High Youth Retreat is coming up April 29th – May 1st, 2005. We will leave on Friday after school from the church and return Sunday afternoon. New Beginnings is a unique weekend especially designed to respond to the issues, concerns, and needs of youth in grades six through nine. We'll have a series of songs, skits, tapes, talks (by youth and adults) and small group discussions. These focus around subjects such as Self, Friends, Parents, Siblings, School, God's Love, Prayer, Who is Jesus, and the Church. We'll include plenty of playing, laughing, creating and sharing. Participants will not only learn and grow, but will have the time of their lives. Friday evening we will have dinner at the church before we leave and then it's off to Mt. Hermon Retreat Center. The cost is \$75.00 per person, and the

youth budget will underwrite each youth by \$40.00. Your applications will be mailed to you and your share of \$35.00 is due by April 3rd. Stephen, Ellie, and Faith Mills; Kristen Petruzzelli, and Josh Bemis are all working on the New Beginnings staff this year. New Beginnings works a little differently in that you can attend twice as a participant – that means anyone who went last year and wants to go again is welcome. Put your name on the sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway at church or give me a call (or email me) at (408) 838-6143.

Katie McCormick

HUGS FROM SHYGS

[Continued from previous page]

You all have been wonderful supporting our many fundraising events. It may feel to you that every time you turn around our Senior High group is having another fundraiser, but these kids are dedicated to earning as much of the trip cost as possible themselves, so we support that by assisting them in their efforts. Our last two big events are the Flea Market on April 2, 7:00 am - 1:00 pm and the Car Wash on April 24 during all church services. Please join us for one or both of these events.

So, thanks all for the many ways in which you support our Senior High!

Robin and Terry Root

JR. HIGH CALENDAR

April 2 - Bake sale at Adventure in the Arts. We need baked goods and volunteers to set up and sell 7:45- 8:45 at church

April 8 - 6:30 dinner at church, attend the Last Ballyhoo 8-10

April 22 - time to be announced Seder at the McCormick's



GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

A special thank you to all who stepped forward to serve on our Youth Sunday in February: our acolytes, Kristen Petruzzelli, Fallone Kabeja, and Brooke Mills; our readers, Douglas Lukanc, Marcus Bond, and Jon Beacher; our challis bearer, Jaqueline Rousseau; and our ushers, Greg Lukanc, Brad Bond, and Taylor Mills. Each of you did a great job and we appreciated your presence and service.

Susie Ferguson

Thank you Anna and Guido Spanjaart, Brian and Marc Bond, AJ Nigro, Faith Mills, Kristen and Danielle Petruzzelli for managing our bake at the concert on March 5th.

Katie McCormick





BREAKING NEWS



HOUSE OF BISHOPS' SPRING MEETING CAMP ALLEN, TEXAS MARCH 15, 2005

A COVENANT STATEMENT OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS

We have received the Windsor Report as a helpful contribution to our relationships with Anglican brothers and sisters across the world. We recognize its recommendations as coming from a broadly representative commission inclusive of bishops, clergy, and laity and as an attempt to speak as equals to equals. We experience it as being in the best tradition of autonomy within communion and as helpful in our efforts to live into communion. Likewise, we appreciate receiving the communiqué from the February meeting of the Primates and take seriously the perspectives and convictions stated therein.

It is our heartfelt desire to be responsive and attentive to the conversation we have already begun and to which we are being called and as a body offer the following points.

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral of 1888 and each of its individual points. We reaffirm our earnest desire to serve Christ in communion with the other provinces of the Anglican family. We reaffirm our continuing commitment to remain in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury and to participate fully in the Anglican Consultative Council, the Lambeth Conference, and the Primates' Meeting, and we earnestly reaffirm our desire to participate in the individual relationships, partnerships, and ministries that we share with other Anglicans, which provide substance to our experience of what it is to be in communion.

2. We express our own deep regret for the pain that others have experienced with respect to our

actions at the General Convention of 2003 and we offer our sincerest apology and repentance for having breached our bonds of affection by any failure to consult adequately with our Anglican partners before taking those actions.

3. The Windsor Report has invited the Episcopal Church "to effect a moratorium on the election and consent to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate who is living in a same gender union until some new consensus in the Anglican Communion emerges" (Windsor Report, para. 134). Our polity, as affirmed both in the Windsor Report and the Primates' Communiqué, does not give us the authority to impose on the dioceses of our church moratoria based on matters of suitability beyond the well-articulated criteria of our canons and ordinal. Nevertheless, this extraordinary moment in our common life offers the opportunity for extraordinary action. In order to make the fullest possible response to the larger communion and to re-claim and strengthen our common bonds of affection, this House of Bishops takes the following provisional measure to contribute to a time for healing and for the educational process called for in the Windsor Report. Those of us having jurisdiction pledge! To withhold consent to the consecration of any person elected to the episcopate after the date hereof until the General Convention of 2006, and we encourage the dioceses of our church to delay Episcopal elections accordingly. We believe that Christian community requires us to share the burdens of such forbearance; thus it must pertain to all elections of bishops in the Episcopal Church. We recognize that this will cause hardship in some dioceses, and we commit to making



BREAKING NEWS



ourselves available to those dioceses needing Episcopal ministry.

4. In response to the invitation in the Windsor Report that we effect a moratorium on public rites of blessing for same sex unions, it is important that we clarify that the Episcopal Church has not authorized any such liturgies, nor has General Convention requested the development of such rites. The Primates, in their communiqué “assure homosexual people that they are children of God, loved and valued by him, and deserving of the best we can give of pastoral care and friendship” (Primates’ Communiqué, para. 6). Some in our church hold such “pastoral care” to include the blessing of same sex relationships. Others hold that it does not. Nevertheless, we pledge not to authorize any public rites for the blessing of same sex unions, and we will not bless any such unions, at least until the General Convention of 2006.

5. We pledge ourselves not to cross diocesan boundaries to provide Episcopal ministry in violation of our own canons and we will hold ourselves accordingly accountable. We will also hold bishops and clergy canonically resident in other provinces likewise accountable. We request that our Anglican partners “effect a moratorium on any further interventions” (Windsor Report, para. 155; see also 1988 Lambeth Conference Resolution 72 and 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution III.2) and work with us to find more creative solutions, such as the initiation of companion diocese relationships, to help us meet the legitimate needs of our own people and still maintain our integrity.

6. As a body, we recognize the intentionality and seriousness of the Primates’ invitation to the Episcopal Church to refrain voluntarily from having its delegates participate in the Anglican Consultative Council meetings until the Lambeth Conference of 2008. Although we lack the

authority in our polity to make such a decision, we defer to the Anglican Consultative Council and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church to deliberate seriously on that issue.

The bonds of affection are not ends in themselves but foundations for mission. Therefore, we recommit ourselves to work together throughout the communion to eradicate HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other diseases, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and to address the other efforts mentioned by the Primates’ Communiqué (para. 20). We dedicate ourselves to full and open dialogue in every available venue through invitations for mutual visitation, intentional exploration of the theological perspectives and spiritual gifts that our diverse cultures offer, and collaborative partnerships for the purpose of shared mission in Christ.



*Support the Youth!
Come to Willy's for Dinner*

Armadillo Willy's, that is. The SHYGS April fundraising night will be at Armadillo Willy's barbecue restaurant – come out for some authentic Texas barbecue!

When: Wednesday April 20, 5-9 PM

Where: Armadillo Willy's, Blossom Hill and Santa Teresa

How: Grab a flyer from the envelope on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall, OR ask a member of the SHYGS, OR download one from the church website (<http://www.eca-sj.org>) Take your flyer to the restaurant and when you present it to the cashier, they will donate 20% of whatever you spend (including take-out) to the youth group!

Time: 5:00-9:00pm

Date: April 20

