



The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

DROP EVERYTHING! IT'S ECA'S SPRING FLING!

The vestry is inviting you to a churchwide dinner event in May. Everyone at ECA is invited to a dinner party (or brunch) at a church member's house. You can sign up on the poster in the Fellowship Hall or call any vestry member. If you don't sign up, expect a phone call! There are lots of dates/times to choose from. It's a free meal, and there are no strings attached. No one will be asking you to take on a new ministry, join the vestry, or increase your pledge. We will have a short discussion on, "What in God's name is going on at ECA?" (See below.) If you are new to ECA, we really hope you join us and share with us how you came to be here. Your input will help us discern our gifts so we can take them to the world.

Please sign up, and if you would like to volunteer to host a party for 8-10 people, that would be a wonderful gift, too. Vestry members will run the discussions. Groups will be assigned to be sure we get a good mix at each dinner. We plan to make these gatherings fun fellowship events where we all get to know one another better.

"What in God's name is going on at ECA?"

Jan Wood from the Diocese joined us at our February vestry meeting, and discussed with us a new approach to determining our future. It is called Appreciative Inquiry.

Appreciative Inquiry is a way of thinking, seeing and acting for powerful, purposeful change in organizations. Asking, "What kinds of problems are we having?" turns the spotlight on the problems and can make them bigger. A better question, "What is going well around here?" encourages and highlights the positive things going on at ECA. *It heightens our awareness of our value, strength and potential.* These fellowship dinners will help us know better who we are and what we do well. They will also help us determine where we want to go, which is an important first step in making long-range plans.

The Vestry





A WORD FROM THE EDITOR



I have to admit I am a product of the “me generation” so widely discussed in the last decade. I love my gadgets, I love my toys, and I love my cars. Due to the desire to actually some day own a home, rather than the current state of affairs, which is: owning 1/3 of an acre with zero on it, the “me generation” in me, has for the most part been restrained. Don’t get me wrong, I still feel I need my PDA (personal digital assistant, aka the Palm) and my iPod (whatever did we do before we could carry 28 days of music with us anywhere?), but when car shopping last month, we just had to draw the line at a new car. Sadly enough, the price tag on the fastest Volvo ever built is just too much to justify. So instead, we decided that since we don’t have a car payment to worry about, now is the time to spruce up the cars while they are still new enough to order the parts. So with an overinflated sense of ability, and caution thrown to the wind we embarked on the dubiously fated task of reupholstering my car. Of course, the simple thing to have done in this instance would have been to take it to your local upholstery shop and let them take care of the dirty work. This would be far too easy. Instead I searched high and low and found a company in Florida that does custom replacement upholstery. Lo and behold they said they didn’t have a pattern for a Volvo S70 and could not find anyone that did. Instead they offered me a deal, 10% off if I was willing to live without seats for 5 weeks. In the true spirit of do-it-yourselfers everywhere, we spent one Saturday removing the leather from the entire car. Little did we realize that this involved the removal of half the interior trim, the seats themselves, and hundreds of hog rings (metal clips) which must be cut to be removed. I suddenly understand why upholstery shops charge so much. In the process we both hurt our backs and managed to break a few interior trim pieces which we then had to figure out how to replace. With our handiwork completed (for the moment) we shipped the covers off to the shop in Florida and contemplated what life would be like with only a driver’s seat in the car. The last wonder I had was: “Well, we got them off, now can we get the new ones on and have it look right?” Well, in 5 weeks, we may all find out...

Alex Dykes

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COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
GREETERS	Sharon Mills
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GOOD SAMS	Jenny Hoyt
LAY READERS	Dennis Moran
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THE SHAPE IS USUALLY A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN



ADVENTURES IN THE ARTS CONCERT ON MAY 14

Wake The Dead performs in concert on Saturday, May 14, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert series.

A landmark meeting of traditional Celtic tunes and Grateful Dead classics, The eclectic group includes Maureen Brennan on harp; Cindy Browne on bass; Danny Carnahan on vocals, fiddle, octave mandolin, and guitar; Kevin Carr on uilleann (Irish bellows) pipes, fiddle, and whistles; Sylvia Herold on vocals; Paul Kotapish on mandolin, octave mandolin, guitar, and National steel guitar; and Joe Craven on percussion.

Grateful Dead Records describes Wake the Dead's albums and mesmerizing performances this way: "As an expression of cultural joy, you can't top an Irish wake. And what is a wake but a celebration of appreciation, an expression of love and, most importantly, a good party? Wake The Dead is a romp that flows seamlessly from rock grooves to hot Irish reels, and from haunting airs to achingly beautiful melodies familiar to Grateful Dead fans everywhere."

Tickets are \$15 advance/\$20 door for adults and \$8 advance/\$10 door for students with ID. Childcare will be provided. For more information, please call the church office (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 be sure to join us for this one. Music at Joint Venture Churches needs your support!

FROM STEPHEN

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! What a grand and glorious Holy Week and Easter it was. I am especially thankful for the many blessings showered upon me and upon us this year especially:

- ❖ For Bishop Romero for his warmth and willingness to be here for the early service on Palm Sunday.
- ❖ For our confirmands: Trace Rimroth, Kristen Petruzzelli, Faith Wakefield-Mills, Alex Bishop, Ryan McPherson, Taylor Mills, David Mastriana, and David Hoyt and their families.
- ❖ For John Leslie and the ECA choir for continued and sustained excellence especially the anthems on Maundy Thursday and Easter, for music at the early service on Easter Day and for the many hours of rehearsal which they put in.
- ❖ For Roger, Elizabeth, and David Hoyt for their musical talents especially on Easter Day.
- ❖ For the choir brunch at Dom & Betty Consorte's on Easter
- ❖ For the generosity of the children who offered me their eggs they found at the Easter egg Hunt because I had none.
- ❖ For the 7:30 congregation for hiding the eggs.
- ❖ For Katie McCormick for the Easter Egg Hunt.
- ❖ For the ladies who decorated the church so beautifully for Easter.
- ❖ For the Altar Guild for their tireless preparations and the wonderful palm crosses on Palm Sunday (I have watched the Altar Guild make them on more than one occasion and they are still a mystery to me)

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FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP

In anticipation of the meeting of President Bush and Prime Minister Sharon of Israel on Monday, April 11, the Presiding Bishop has written the following letter to the President. The letter praises recent efforts and statements by the administration including criticizing the continued building of West Bank settlements, and also raises concerns about the effects of the separation barrier.

April 7, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Almost one year ago today I wrote to you about the Episcopal Church's strong support for your advocacy of both a two state solution for Israel and Palestine and your "Road Map" for peace in the troubled Holy Land. We are grateful for the positions you and your administration have taken this year to forward that effort and the difference it is making. While still very fragile, hope among the Palestinians and Israelis is palpable and we know it will take a sustained effort to turn that hope for peace into reality.

I write again now in advance of Prime Minister Sharon's expected visit next week. We continue to be deeply concerned about the growth of settlements, in particular the proposed expansion of Ma'ale Adumin, that seriously undermine any possibility of the contiguous Palestinian state you have outlined. We are grateful for the questions that you and Secretary Rice are raising about the settlement expansion and for your statement this week that "the road map calls for no expansion of the settlements."

While fully recognizing Israel's need for protection against acts of terror, we continue to question the building of the separation barrier: most of it violates Palestinian land and therefore it has a devastating impact on the daily lives of Palestinians and engenders deep resentment and anger that can cause volatile reactions. It also makes it more difficult for Christian pilgrims to visit their holy places and walk the paths followed for centuries. While it is said that the barrier need not be permanent, it is now feared that even were it to be torn down, in many places the settlements would serve the same ends, becoming a "fact on the ground" and thereby preempting discussions that should be part of final status negotiations.

As I wrote last year, the Episcopal Church has a long record of support for a just peace that guarantees Israel's security and Palestinian aspirations for a viable state with Jerusalem as the shared capital of both Israel and Palestine. There can be no just or lasting peace for either Palestinians or Israelis without the engagement of both parties in the peace process, and it appears that in President Abbas you have found the partner for peace that you sought.

I note here that we have been happy to provide grassroots support for your request for Palestinian aid and hope you will call upon us if there are other ways in which we can support these efforts for peace. Please be assured, Mr. President, of my continued prayers for you in these complex and difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church, USA



JV BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- Articles were placed in the Shape & Kalos regarding facilities use, cleanup, and scheduling.
- A digital projector was purchased and, for the time being, Rev. Mills will be custodian.
- No additional dumpster capacity was deemed necessary.
- The Treasurer will continue to be a non-voting member of the Board.
- The Board scrubbed the 2005 budget and removed over \$10,000.
- Bond retirement debt will be completed in January, 2006.
- The Church Administrative Assistant position has been posted on Craig's List; 90 applications have been received and are in process of review.
- Joint Venture Corporation By-Laws have been updated by a committee of ECA and UCC and have been forwarded to the Senior Warden and Moderator for review and approval.
- A draft Joint Venture Property Asset use policy and process has been drafted.

George Romer



PICK IT UP & READ IT (AGAIN)

We are going to be offering a group study of *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. A number of people read the book during Lent in 2004. For those who missed it, or would like to do it again, please join us on Monday evenings, May 2-June 6. The book is designed to be a 40 day spiritual journey. It is broken into 40 short chapters. Begin reading Chapter 1 on Monday, April 25 and read a chapter a day. Discussion groups will meet the following six Mondays, beginning Monday, May 2 continuing through to Monday, June 6 from 7:15-9:15 pm at the church. Even if you can't join in the discussions, pick up the book and read along!

After completion of the book, we plan to form some small groups to continue discussions on some of the topics in the book.

Contact Mary McPherson (408) 268-9559 if you have any questions.

Mary McPherson

CALLING ALL SINGLES

We have space reserved for the evening of Saturday, May 21st for our next exciting singles event. The only problem is I can't quite decide what to do. I am thinking of a barbeque to kick off the barbeque season. We can practice lighting the fire and eating in a standing position holding a drink in one hand and our food in the other. If you can help plan or execute, please give me a call at my new number (408) 362-0905.

Kathy Mastre



FELLOWSHIP

FLEA MARKET FUN(D) RAISER

On Saturday, April 2nd, many of the Senior High Youth Group (the SHYGS) met in the early morning hours to kick off spring and raise funds for their mission trip this summer. By the time that the last treasures had been sold, the SHYGS had raised more than \$1,900!

Many parishioners were happy to do some spring cleaning and donate treasures needing new homes to the SHYGS. Others purchased spaces in the parking lot and sold their own treasures that needed new homes (even a car was sold!). And others donated goodies for the SHYGS' bake sale. One parishioner unknowingly donated a laptop computer bag that contained 7 \$100 bills. The gentleman who planned to purchase the bag, Don Tietens, graciously pointed this out before completing his purchase. Fortunately, the owner of the bag and the hidden cash was located, and he generously donated \$100 to the SHYGS. Thank you!

The SHYGS worked incredibly hard to get ready for their Flea Market, baking treats for the bake sale, sorting donated items, and making and hanging signs in the community. And from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, they greeted and bargained with shoppers, and helped them load their new purchases, all of which resulted in the event being a rousing success.

Thanks very much to all who donated their treasures to SHYGS. And to the following parents and volunteers – we couldn't have done it without you!

Kelli Casale, Anne Tysanner and Linda Cottle: Thank you for organizing and leading the Flea Market Team!

Debbie Bishop, Belinda Byerly-Robins, Kyle Dando, Sharon and Don Hall, Brennan Hall, Ellen Lukanc, Corrin Mastriana, Ann Mayers,

Katie McCormick, Sean McCormick, Stephen Mills, Linda Nollette, Jim Ward: For sorting, selling, organizing and cleaning up.

Special thanks to Sharon and Don Hall for donating the use of their frozen drink machine: The lemonade was fantastic!

Terry and Robin Root: For leading us, feeding us, giving us direction, and helping us keep our sense of humor.

And last but not least, to all of the SHYGS who worked so hard to make this event a success - Brad Bond, Greg Lukanc, Marshall Robins, David Mastriana, Eric McCormick, Ryan Hall, Val Tysanner, Hannah Ward, Amber Cottle, Alex Bishop, Beth Nollette, and Alyce Gallego – you're all terrific and did a fantastic job!

Elizabeth Ward

TACKY LUNCHON

Yesterday is done and tomorrow hasn't come, so "These Are the Good Old Days"

Come celebrate with your old friends and make some new ones while we all enjoy these good old days at The Tacky Luncheon and High Fashion Show.

- o It will be held on Tuesday, May 10 at 11:30AM beginning in Fellowship Hall.
- o The cost will be \$10 and a salad for six.
- o The dress will be decidedly tacky.

Come look your worst for the luncheon, then move upstairs to the sanctuary for the Fashion Show with our lovely and/or handsome models featuring fashions from The Unicorn Thrift Shop. They will show us how to look our "untacky" best for less.

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MUSIC NOTES

TICKETS ON SALE!!! Tickets for "I Do! I Do!" are now on sale Sunday mornings following worship services. All seats are \$10.00, and all tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be available at the performances. This is so that those attending may come leisurely 15-20 minutes ahead of time (as they would for a proper wedding) be seated by the groomsmen, and listen to some beautiful organ music played by Joanne Specht (AVUCC) and "Ave Maria" sung by Betty Consorte (ECA). Please feel free to wear what you would wear to attend a wedding. Gwen Hacker and John Leslie will play a young couple getting married at the beginning of the show. Their attendants will be Jenny Hoyt, Katie McCormick, Byron Henderson, Ken McCormick and Todd Axtell. The musical play features the popular love song "My Cup Runneth Over" and follows the young couple through child birth, child-rearing, job success, the daughter's wedding, growing older and retirement. This will be a great way to celebrate the month of June: weddings, anniversaries and Father's Day.

50th ANNIVERSARY COUPLES WANTED!

Following the Saturday afternoon performance of "I Do! I Do!" (June 18 at 1:30pm) there will be a 50th wedding anniversary party in Fellowship Hall, so if you have been married 50 years or more, be sure to attend and celebrate with us!

ECA CHOIR After a very exciting, and musically-inspiring year, the ECA Adult Choir will be ending this season on May 22, with special music beginning Memorial Day weekend and continuing through the summer. Many thanks to all the soloists and instrumentalists, but especially to the dedicated singers who save every Thursday night and Sunday morning to join together and sing praises to the Lord! Thanks to Andy Kerr and the ECA Folk Choir for providing the ECA family with inspiration through music once every month.

JV RINGERS The Joint Venture Handbell Choir has been preparing some special worship music for Sunday, May 1, as well as a medley from "The Phantom of the Opera," and plans are being made to do an exchange concert with the handbell choir of St. Stephen's in the Fields Episcopal Church.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR The Children's Choir, under the direction of John Leslie, continues to rehearse on Saturday mornings, and they will sing in church again on Sunday, May 15 (Pentecost - "The Birthday of the Church") and again on Sunday, June 5.

TALENT SHOW FRIDAY, JULY 8 Our July Talent Show is open to both ECA and AVUCC members. If you have a talent you would like to share with the community, please give John Leslie a call at the church to let him know. All acts are welcome, and we will have a special portion of the evening called "Stagedoor Canteen," celebrating the music of World War II. Our January Talent Show was a wonderful event, featuring performers of all generations, and it was VERY well-attended. Free-will offerings are applied to offset the expenses of our summer show .

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF Last year we presented a spirited production of "South Pacific," and this summer we hope to do the same with a production of "Fiddler on the Roof," starring Byron Henderson (AVUCC) as Tevye and Fr. Stephen Mills will play the role of the Rabbi. All AVUCC and ECA members are invited to participate in the chorus of this summer's show, singing its great songs: "Sunrise Sunset," "Tradition" and "Sabbath Prayer." This show presents a man who has a GREAT faith in God (as well as great dialogues with God!), and looks at the subject of religious and ethnic prejudice. Look for more information, and cast announcements in the next edition of The Shape.

John Leslie



SEE HOW EASY IT IS WHEN WE COOPERATE

When my children were small one of our favorite lines from "Sesame Street" was "See how easy it is when we cooperate." It was always used to drive home the point that cooperation makes everything run more smoothly and helps resolve conflict. Consequently, whenever our family managed to iron out an issue to everyone's satisfaction, we quoted this line.

A couple of weeks ago there was a flurry of emails among members of the Joint Venture Board, ECA Vestry, UCC Council, Almaden Adventures in Arts and Tabard Theater regarding all of the possible conflicts that could have arisen on April 2 because of several events scheduled for our facility on that date.

As a result of each group carefully considering its actual needs for space and time, and everyone involved behaving like adults, the conflicts appeared to have been resolved and I, for one, forgot all about it until about 3:00PM on the afternoon of April 2. It appeared at that time that everything had so far gone off without a hitch, and it continued to do so through the evening hours.

The keys to this success were communication and cooperation. When conflicts occur within our individual congregations, between the congregations, and between the congregations and outside users, I think something can be learned from our little corner of the world.

When we behave as adults, communicating with each other and being open to each other's points of view, we can utilize this wonderful facility of ours to the maximum without anyone being harmed and with no serious lasting hurt feelings.

Am I being simplistic about this? Maybe so, but sometimes things really are simple and we do our best to complicate them. We can work together for the good of the congregations and the community at large, and we can do so without winners or losers. When we work together this way everyone gains, and I like to believe that Christ is smiling at the sight of this building, dedicated to Him, filled with happy people working for the common good.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this day run so well. I hope that we will all keep this day in mind when we prayerfully make decisions regarding the future uses of this building,

Mary Leal





TACKY LUNCHON

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The money raised from the luncheon will go to West Valley College EOPS Program for less advantaged students which you will learn more about that day. The sale of the clothes and accessories benefits EMQ which is a well respected local family services agency,

There is a sign up sheet in fellowship hall and if you have any questions please call Sandie Mueller at (408) 997-1642 or Mary Leal at (408) 268-0230.

The last two years we have had a wonderful time and raised lots of money for two good causes, please help us do it again!

Mary Leal

PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

Excerpt from *The Purpose Driven Life*

The Bible says, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." Another way to think of it is that you are God's handcrafted work of art. You are not an assembly-line product, mass-produced without thought. You are a custom-designed, one-of-a-kind, original masterpiece.

God deliberately shaped and formed you to serve him in a way that makes your ministry unique. God never wastes anything. He would not give you abilities, interests, talents, gifts, personality, and life experiences unless he intended to use them for his glory. By identifying and understanding these factors, you can discover God's will for your life.

Meaning is far more important than money. Don't settle for just achieving "the good life,"

FROM STEPHEN

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- ❖ For all the acolytes, layreaders, chalice bearers, and ushers who served.
- ❖ For Pastor Paul of AVUCC (who I forgot to introduce to you on Palm Sunday), for his team teaching the confirmation class and his presence on Palm Sunday.
- ❖ For all of you for your presence which made it all worthwhile. Thank you and bless you!!

I commend to your reading the article on the Spring Fling. We need your help. We need you to help chart the future direction of ECA. We believe that the Holy Spirit is most visible in community and that you are the manifestation of that Spirit. In addition to a free dinner and wonderful fellowship, you will be asked to talk about the strengths of ECA and how we can build on those strengths for the future. The Vestry will then take what you have said and pray about it. You will also be asked to pray for the Vestry. Out of what you have said we will formulate a long range plan for ECA. This is both an exciting task, and a scary one. What you say is not just important, it is essential.

Salaam,
Stephen +

because the good life is not good enough. Ultimately it doesn't satisfy. You can have a lot to live on and still have nothing to life for. Aim instead for "the better life" - serving God in a way that expresses your heart. Figure out what you love to do - what God gave you a heart to do - and then do it for his glory.

From *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren



CAN YOU SEE THE FACE OF JESUS?

Would we recognize the face of Jesus if we saw him? Do we realize that he is always present and revealing himself to us in a myriad of ways? We often don't allow ourselves to see and to recognize the movement of the spirit in our ordinary, everyday lives. We've become so secular and busy that we can miss the simple acts of goodness and kindness that comes from grace.

At the SHYGS flea market last month I saw many acts of kindness and helpfulness, but there were two instances where I knew that the spirit was involved. The first came when Nicole and Danielle Evans approached me towards the end of the day. They (and their mom) had rented one of the spaces at the flea market, and they had brought many of their games, videos, Barbie stuff, a bike and other belongings to sell that day. Each girl had \$6.00 in their hand and they explained that they wanted to give 10% of their sales to the Mission Trip. The two girls don't have a sibling or a friend in the group, but they felt compelled to share their profits with the teens. My heart filled when they explained their desire to give, and I knew I was in the presence of something special. I thank them and feel humbled by their willingness to be led as we have been taught.

The second instance of seeing the face of Jesus was when a man came up to the check-out table to purchase a laptop bag. He asked the value of the bag because it wasn't marked with a price, and when the girls hesitated he explained that he thought it had great value. He had found an envelope in one of the inner pockets with \$700 inside and wanted to make sure we knew about it. How many of us would struggle with such a decision? He could have purchased the bag for a couple of dollars and gone home with a good profit and no one would have been the wiser. But the man agreed to let us try and find the owner of the money, and also agreed that if we couldn't find the owner, all he wanted was a phone call to tell him what the outcome was and that we could keep the money for our trip. It was a totally selfless act. It was a picture of Jesus and I was also humbled by that moment. (We found the owner the next day and he was pleased to have solved the mystery of the missing money! He also donated \$100 to our mission trip).

I felt that the day had many 'simple acts of kindness' moments and it reminded me to see that in each of these is the face of Jesus. It's great to get that reminder now and again that he is always here.

Robin Root

SUMMER SOLSTICE REMINDER

Were you one of the lucky bidders for the Ferguson's Summer Solstice Party? If so, mark your calendars for 4-7 pm, Saturday, June 18. For those of you who can't remember all the way back to last September's Hawaiian auction, check our June Website calendar for a link to the names of all the bidders.

June 18th is also one of the dates for the John Leslie, Gwen Hacker musical production of "I Do! I Do!" You won't want to miss the show so be sure to buy tickets for one of the other days' performances.



THE VESTRY DUTCHMAN

Hi, my name is Hans Spanjaart. I'm one of the new arrivals on the ECA vestry. Back in 2000, and shortly after we had moved into Almaden Valley, we were invited by our neighbor Debbie Bishop, who then lived right across the street, to attend the ECA service one sunny Sunday. We, that is my wife Anna and son Guido who was at that time eight years old, were impressed by the friendly and relaxed atmosphere in this church community. The coffee hour after the family service on Sundays is a prime example of this. If you know Debbie, you'll understand we had little choice but to become somewhat-regular visitors to ECA. Next I learned that if you show up three times, Pete Mayo will ever so politely motivate you to support the church maintenance activities. He learned I have a garage full of tools and some engineering skills. Soon afterward I was in charge of maintaining the church elevator. A short while later Pete found out I owned a little spray painter; and Pete provided an opportunity to practice my craft. Just so you know the cupboards in Ellie Mills' kitchen were painted by a famous Dutch painter.

We moved to Silicon Valley in 1996. It was a temporary assignment to the center of the universe (at least for engineers developing silicon chips like me) for only nine months. We found an apartment in Cupertino, and were spoiled by the gorgeous weather. In those days, the company I work for (Philips) was shipping work into the valley from overseas, and soon after we learned there were many more interesting career opportunities in California than back in the Netherlands (a.k.a. Holland). So nine months became a year, then two years, and finally we decided to stick around. It was then that we started to shop for a house, and via a colleague

of mine we learned about Almaden Valley, where houses are less-unaffordable than in Cupertino. Also here we met people who had actually lived in the neighborhood for many moons, in Cupertino it seems everyone was a transient.

I like to ride my mountain bicycle outside city boundaries, and I had this hobby of mine of years past of flying radio controlled model airplanes. I remember that after we unpacked the moving boxes in Almaden, I took out the bicycle and rode up Los Alamitos Creek. To my enormous joy I discovered a small runway in front of what I later learned was the IBM research lab. Today our garage can not fit one single family car, it is however a hangar for a dozen model airplanes. One's got to get his priorities right, right?

My initial contribution towards ECA as a vestry member will be an extension of my professional occupation as a manager of an engineering department; supporting financial reporting, recording minutes, and driving vestry meetings to a timely closure... and I love to view things from the bright side—the light side. Life is tough enough as it is. Your vestry is just embarking on a mission to work on the future of our church, and I'm looking forward to being part of this. I believe in openness of mind towards the many different ways in that people live and exercise their religion. I see our church as a community in which we can and want to depend on each other for support, and where we share sorrow and happiness. From that strength we can build towards the future.

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



YOUTH GROUP

APRIL NEWS FROM SHYGS

We couldn't have been busier this past month! SHYGS thought they were going to have a spring break, but we gave a new definition to what a 'break' is! Read Elizabeth Ward's article about our Flea Market on April 2 that raised \$1700 for our Mission Trip—it was a huge success. On the 10th, SHYGS brought their hammers and were given skills and safety training by Pete Mayo, Ron Howie and Todd Lukanc. We want to make sure that we are a real asset to the work teams we're on when we start work this summer. Terry and I drove Taylor Mills and Alex Bishop to Felton to attend Happenings the weekend of April 15th, and they were in good hands with Greg Lukanc working on the team that weekend. It is so rewarding to attend the closing service at Happenings—you can just feel the camaraderie among the teens that came together for the spiritual weekend.

Alyce Gallego, Val Tysanner and Brad Bond worked with the caterer at Robb Moore's wedding reception (Kristen babysat) on the 16th at Trinity Cathedral, and then we had our Armadillo Willy's dinner night on the 20th—Thanks to all of you who had dinner out that night to benefit the group.

Our final fundraiser for the Mission Trip was held on April 24th. A wonderful team of parents and teens moved 106 cars through the car wash line in the parking lot, starting at 7:30 and washing steadily through 1:00. It was a huge success and we thank everyone who bought a ticket and brought their car through the assembly line that day.

A final evening discussion about the Holy Spirit and the fruits of the spirit closed out our month together on April 25th. The month was a great example for the group of what the fruits can look like in practical application. It's so fun to grow with this bunch of teens!

Here's what May holds for us:

- May 7-We'll be working at Liz and Ed Criner's wedding reception: Setup, Serving, Clean-up
- May 15-Talk Sheet-Topic developed and delivered by Kyle Dando-6:00 dinner, 6:30-8:00 meeting
- May 22-Music with John Leslie and Tim Miller; Volleyball weeding-6:00 dinner, 6:30 meeting
- May 29-Go Karts

Robin Root

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God. (Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.)

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fears, our presence automatically liberates others.

*Nelson Mandela
Inaugural Speech, 1999*



CHRISTIAN ED NOTES

Vacation Bible School August 8-12

We have had an initial meeting about VBS and would like to invite any high school youth to come during the Sunday school hour starting on April 24th to help with decorations and planning.

We will have palm leaves in the fellowship hall with items we need for VBS. If you are able to loan or donate any of these items to us take the palm leaf and let me know. Email me at mac6558@comcast.net or call me at (408) 838-6143

Sunday School

The last day of Sunday School is June 5th. The children will meet in their classrooms for their individual celebrations and the children's choir will be performing in the church services at 9am (AVUCC) and at 11am (ECA) that day.

Sunday School schedule:

April 24,
May 1, 8, 15, & 22 Sunday School as Usual
May 29 - no Sunday School
June 5 last day of Sunday School

Junior High Youth Group

16 of our JHYG's attended the showing of the Last Day of Ballyhoo performed by the Tabard theater April 8th. It was very good. Maybe a little beyond some but it inspired discussions together and at home. The ending scene was the families performing the Seder meal. A perfect lead into our next activity. The Junior High and Senior High kids will be able to attend a Seder meal at my home on April 22nd. Brian Quint

will be leading us through the ritual meal and explaining what the different foods represent as we go along. There will be a full traditional meal afterward along with good conversation and fun.

The New Beginnings junior high retreat is on April 29-May 1. We have 12 youth attending which is absolutely wonderful. I will be staying with the kids as their sponsor but I will need help driving kids to & from the camp. It is about an hour drive at the most. Please contact me if you can help drive. Also, **we need prayer partners for each youth.** There are posters around the church you can sign up there or contact me through email or by phone.

JHYG Schedule

April 22 Seder at the McCormick's 6-8pm
April 29 New Beginnings retreat depart at 4pm from church
May 6th meeting at church 6-8
May 14th bake sale at Adventure in the Arts
May 27th meeting at church 6-8 game night and summer planning
June 10th pool party 6-8 at the McCormick's

FYI - next year's joint youth group ski trip is booked for Jan. 26-29th Thurs-Sun. (San Jose Unified is off on Fri) We're going to stay in Carnelian Bay and ski at Alpine Meadows in Tahoe. Make a note of these dates and keep in mind those eligible to go are the youth who are active in youth group activities or guests who are considering becoming a part of our groups.

Katie McCormick



GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Hugs from SHYGS

Thank you to the AVUCC men's breakfast group for sharing the building with us on April 2nd so that we could hold our Fundraiser Flea Market.

We would not have had such a successful flea market without the gifts of time and talent from the planning committee headed by Elizabeth Ward and her team: Anne Tysanner, Linda Cottle, and Kelli Casale. Special hugs go to all the parents who came out and worked alongside the teens and made it great day of fun and fellowship.

Many thanks to the following people who have recently made donations to our Mission Trip fund: Amy Griffith, Jerry and Susie Ferguson, Dennis Moran, Michael Henderson, Jennifer and Mark Natwick (Daughter and son-in-law of Len and Jackie Whitlock), Bob and Phyllis Green and Bill and Elaine Lavallo.

We appreciate all of our prayer partners and last month we forgot to include Susie Ferguson in the list of those who have volunteered to pray for one of our youth going on the mission trip. Thank you Susie!

Thanks to Don Hall for sharing his margarita machine full of frozen lemonade at our Flea Market! It lured many to our bake sale and helped us bring in \$159.

Ron Howie, Pete Mayo, and Todd Lukanc developed and delivered safety and skills training to the team going on the mission trip. Thank you for your care, patience and sharing of skills!

Many, many thanks go to Ellen Lukanc who has been in charge of all the planning for our mission

trip. She has made many phone calls, sent emails and kept track of all of our requirements, deadlines, and forms for us. Whew, what a job. Thanks Ellen!

Thank you to our Car Wash committee of Don Hall, Jim Ward and Ann Mayers. They got the logistics just right so that the workers were able to move a lot of cars through the line. Thanks too for the input from Eric McCormick, Greg Lukanc and David Mastriana for this event.



YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH





YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH

