



The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

FROM STEPHEN

It is hard to believe that it is mid June already. The time seems to have flown by. We are conducting interviews this week for a new administrative assistant/office manager. We started with over 100 resumes and have narrowed it down to several candidates. We hope to have someone on board by the time you read this article. Actually, things have gone pretty smoothly in the office. Mary Leal, Kim Petruzzelli, Pat McGarvin, Carolyn Crowley, Phyllis Chai and a host of others including our usual Shape volunteers, Judy Blankenheim, Marge Devitt, Amy Griffith, and Jackie Whitlock have filled in beautifully, and I believe that not much has fallen through the cracks. I am grateful to these dedicated volunteers.

I am also grateful to all of you who attended our "Spring Fling" dinners and especially to the hosts who opened their homes and their hearts for this vital work. We have the raw data now and what we will do is to seek to read, mark, analyze, inwardly digest and pray about it. We hope to not hurry the process, but to allow the spirit to move us deeply into understanding and wisdom about what God is calling us to do. Again, thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful responses.

The Rector's Support Committee continues to be a vital link between me and what is going on in the pews. One of the items of feedback I have received is that when I am talking to some people I turn my

head and they have been put off by this. I assure you I mean no disrespect. The truth is that I have a profound hearing loss in my left ear, the result of someone discharging a firearm, only inches from my ear, when I was a teenager. As far as I know this hearing loss is permanent and uncorrectable. So when I turn my head, I am trying to hear what you are saying. I mean no disrespect by it, in fact, it is a mark of respect. I am trying to hear what you are saying. My hearing loss is also much more of a problem when there is a lot of background noise. So please bear with me.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all our graduates: Evelyn Wing and Eric McCormick who graduated from high school; and Kristen Petruzzelli, David Hoyt, Trace Rimroth, Ryan McPherson, Chris Coutinho, Joshua Bemis, Megan Haley, and Faith Mills (I can't believe my baby is going to high school) who graduated from 8th grade and will be attending high school. If I have forgotten anybody, please let me know and I will recognize and acknowledge you in a future article. The youth of our church are not the church's future; they are the church's present.

Salaam,
Stephen +



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR



I now have a new appreciation for those in the upholstery business. Back in May I decided to re-upholster my car, but being too cheap to have it done, I decided to try my hand at D-I-Y upholstery. I must say that this task is not for the faint of heart. Because I realized my limitations, I decided to draw the line at cutting and sewing the leather covers myself. After searching high and low, I was unable to find anyone with the correct pattern to make the covers for a Volvo S70. After an exhaustive search, I was able to find a company in Florida that was willing to make the patterns, and then the covers using my originals as a template. The first challenge was to remove the previous covers, which honestly proved far more difficult than I had assumed. The process involved climbing in and around the car, hand stands in the rear foot well, trying to squeeze your head under the seats, and all other manner of uncomfortable positions. I think the requirement for D-I-Y re-upholstery is that you be part Gumby.

Last week I received a rather large box from Brazil, inside were the new covers, which actually looked incredibly good. Always the adventurous one, and not satisfied with waiting, I opened up shop in my office and spent my lunch hour attempting to put one of the rear seat backs together. For anyone who has wondered how these things are assembled, the seat cover has pockets on the back that usually correspond to seams, these contain metal rods. The metal rods are then attached to metal forms inside the foam cushion with metal rings called hog rings. The process sounds simple enough, and indeed the concept was something I was familiar with, however the application... That was a different matter. The whole process ended up taking about 10 hours total, this was mostly because the factory assumes that you know what you are doing. Of course, not paying attention to the complete details prior to ordering, I wasn't at first prepared to sew elastic clips onto the seat, cut holes for headrests and lumbar knobs, etc.

All in all, things turned out alright. Despite a few scares, and a number of removal-reinstall cycles, we got it all put back together. Then we started on the Envoy. Unfortunately with a busy schedule, we ended up ½ done, one part of the rear seat, and the driver's seat are done, so for the moment we're starting a new SUV fashion trend, patchwork interiors...

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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ALTAR GUILD	Elaine LaVallee, Betty Wood
COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
FOLK CHOIR	Andy Kerr
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
USHERS	Dave Byers
WORSHIP	Susie Ferguson
WEB MASTER	Kim Petruzzelli

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ALL ABOUT SANDIE

Plunging right ahead on the advice that “Nobody cares if you can’t dance well; just get up and dance,” I will tell you about my life and goals at ECA.

Ed and I came to ECA in 1974 after our move to the Almaden Valley. But long before that, when ECA was a fledgling congregation which met in the Prune Shed on Crown Boulevard, I would come over from St. Edwards and teach folk guitar to folk mass aspirants who included John Benz. We have always felt that ECA is a special community, one that we wanted to be a part of. We have three grown children: Mark married to Nina, Carl, and Jenny married to Roberto. We have nine grandchildren who celebrate birthdays on January 1st, Fourth of July, March, May, June, July, August, November, and December. We do a lot of celebrating in our family.

Early on, I began teaching Sunday School and, with the help of Eva Chapman, directed the children’s choir, which gave several cantatas. I have directed Sunday School Christmas pageants and organized more than one parish Seder meal. Inspired by St. Edward’s prayer chain I asked Mike Creighton if we could start such a group here, and the Prayer Vine was born.

In the ‘70’s I returned to SJSU to complete a degree in medical microbiology. During that time I was one of ECA’s youth directors. We made a movie (long since misplaced) of the last week in Jesus’ life. Aside from the one evening when we filmed with no film in the camera, it was a rewarding experience.

I was acolyte director when the Sarmecanic’s children were still children. ECA was at that time part of the Diocese of California. At the end of each year we took the acolytes up to Grace

Cathedral, which included a picnic lunch on the ferry boat ride across the bay to Sausalito and ice cream.

In the ‘80’s I had a chance to study liturgical clowning at Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) and have clowned around ever since (our clown club even got to perform in the real Circus Vargas at Town & Country Village)! During that time, for two consecutive years, I organized a diocesan event for children called The Bishop’s Play Day. In the second year, the now Bishop Sylvestre Romero helped us plan, and that’s how I know how wonderful he is.

I have been on Vestry once before. It was a heady time. I was on the Altar Guild while we were at St. Edwards. I’ve never ushered, but I have been a lay reader, and a Lay Eucharistic Minister (taking communion to parishioners unable to attend services).

Nine years ago Ed and I cared for Bishnu Khadka for six months as he recovered from major surgery. ECA helped with meals, visiting and encouragement, and Bishnu is now studying medicine at the university in Nepal.

For the past three years my walking group has organized and presented the Tacky Luncheon and Fashion Show, which has raised funds and supported various good causes.

I am currently serving as chair of the Worship Committee. I see four goals of the Committee:

1. Coordinate and plan services for each liturgical season.
2. Create an atmosphere where traditions are built and new worship experiences are possible.

[Continued on next page]





FELLOWSHIP

ALL ABOUT SANDIE

[Continued from previous page]

3. Attend to worship issues as they arise.
4. Provide a strong worship structure that allows greater freedom as the Holy Spirit moves.

My personal goal as chair is to be a praying presence in the midst of God's work here at ECA.

As Rabbi Hillel once said, "I get up, I walk, I fall down. Meanwhile I keep dancing."

This is the fourth article in a series to introduce new 2005 Vestry members

SMUM

Last summer I cleaned out a bunch of old clothes that weren't being worn or didn't fit the kids anymore. Many of them were like new. For some reason, I just didn't feel like taking it down to the big yellow truck. Wanting these clothes out of the house, I looked up Santa Maria in the phone book. When I pulled in the parking lot, the place was teeming with people of all ages. Some were rummaging through piles of clothes like the one I ended up leaving. As I left I thought how nice it was that the clothes were going to be used immediately by real people. Given freely, and received for free. I'd recommend paying them a visit next time you clean your closet. You can also leave your gently used items in the SMUM bins near the Choir Room at church.

Santa Maria Urban Ministry
778 South Almaden
San Jose, CA 95110
www.smum.org
(408) 292-3314

Mary McPherson



CHRISTMAS PARTY

(YES, YOU READ THAT RIGHT)

Merry Christmas! Yes, I know that it's still half a year away but we've already set the date for Saturday, December 10. There's no such thing as a *traditional* Christmas Party at ECA, because a different group of volunteers plans it each year. The party becomes whatever the group chooses. In past years it's been dressy, casual, fancy, simple, early, late, catered, potlucked, at private homes, at the church, for all ages, and for adults only.

The best parties have been the ones with many people helping so that no single person becomes overwhelmed with details. If you would like to help with this year's party, please sign up on the planning sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

*Kim Petruzzelli
Fellowship Liaison*



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

//Crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." 1 Peter 2:2
God's word is the spiritual nourishment you must have to fulfill your purpose. There are more bibles in print today than ever before, but a bible on the shelf is worthless. Millions of believers are plagued with spiritual anorexia, starving to death from spiritual malnutrition. To be a healthy disciple of Jesus, feeding on God's word must be your first priority. Jesus called it "abiding." He said, "If you abide in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine." John 8:31

From The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren



JV BOARD UPDATE

- The board re-affirmed that a bigger dumpster is not needed but re-iterated the need to recycle more conscientiously
- Discussed Almaden Adventures in the Arts and since no JV budget supports it, the matter is referred to the UCC Council and the ECA Vestry to decide on continuation.
- Considerable discussion occurred regarding the UCC Council's decision to deny the Tabard Theater Group contract renewal. A letter, which was sent to UCC Council by the ECA Vestry asking UCC Council to reconsider, was also discussed.
- Means of making our sign more visible to passersby were proposed and will be evaluated.
- A Rose Garden report was received from Betty Benson. Watering system is working now but long term creation of plant borders is requested to upgrade the garden.
- UCC Luau will be September 24 @ 5:00 pm. All are invited.

George Romer

SERVANT AUCTION WINNERS CASH IN!

To all of you who generously supported our Servant Auction last fall, we want to remind you that the items you won expire on August 15th. Your servants are out of school now, but they may be taking off for vacations, so make sure you give them plenty of notice when calling to set up times for them. If you have forgotten who your servant contact is, please email or call Robin Root who has the list of who won what. Thank you again for your support of SHYGS fundraising efforts!

Robin Root
robinroot@yahoo.com
(408) 268-1203



IT'S BBQ TIME!

Our Folk Service for July has moved to the 3rd Sunday (July 17) so we will also move the July barbecue to that date. June's burgers and doggies were brought to you by Warren Willard, Terry Root, Jon Mills and Bryan Bond. Leslie Rousseau and Kathy Mastre, our coffee hosts of the day, also provided the fixings and desserts.

July brings a whole new bunch of uniquely qualified men who want nothing more than to cook that doggie the way you want it! You can look forward to the talents of Steve Wing, Pat Rimroth, Sam Sarmecanic and Ron Jennings.

We're still looking for a couple more celebrity chefs for the August barbecue which will also be held the 3rd Sunday of the month.

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.

Kim Petruzzelli



FELLOWSHIP

LADIES LUNCHEON

Thursday, July 21 - The Slanted Door Restaurant in the Ferry Building, San Francisco - meet at 9 am to carpool. There are shops to browse in the building.

Sign up on the board in the Fellowship Hall.

eSCRIP ISN'T JUST SAFEWAY ANYMORE

eScrip contributions have been very low this year. Lots of folks (including me) need to re-visit the eScrip website, update their credit/debit card information and re-enter their contributions for ECA once again. I believe this needs to be done periodically due to all the changes in cards, banks, etc that people do every day. If your information is out of date the eScrip contributions stay with the merchant instead of going into ECA's account.

If you're supporting more than one organization, your contribution can be divided up by percentages as well.

There are hundreds of merchants participating in the eScrip program, and every time you shop at one of them ECA could be receiving a percentage of your purchase. A few of the merchants are: Safeway, Lunardi's, American Airlines, Macy's, Big 5, PW Markets, etc. Please grab the eScrip insert in this month's Shape. It only takes a few minutes to register your cards online so please do it today.

Pat Rimroth



FROM THE TREASURER

Periodically people ask if they can donate stock in lieu of Pledge. Certainly, and it is very easy. Several parishioners are already doing so. Your broker electronically transfers the stock to ECA's broker and the shares are immediately sold by ECA's broker.

Here are the steps to take:

- Decide which stock you would like to donate.
- Contact your broker and give him/her the following information.
 - ECA's broker at Merrill Lynch: Celeste Ventura
 - Phone: (800) 471-0039
 - email: cventura@pclient.ml.com
 - ECA account number for stock transfer: 252-04278

Also, please send me an email at maryke@sbcglobal.net or call me at (408) 997-1761 so that I can alert Celeste that the transfer is going to occur and so that she can sell it as soon as it arrives.

Several other families have discovered that it saves them the hassle of remembering to write the check and put it in an envelope every week. Also you save on the sale of the stock in that you don't pay taxes on any gain on the stock because it is a donation to the church. There are some costs involved in the transaction and they will be deducted from your donation. Unfortunately the church can no longer afford to absorb these costs.

Maryke Williams

MUSIC NOTES



"I Do! I Do!"

Thanks to all of you who supported this musical fund-raiser: thank you audience members, musicians, lenders of personal property (props, furniture, costumes, etc.). There are so many people to acknowledge, but let me begin with the lovely female star, Gwen Hacker. Few actress-singers are considered "triple threats" (they excel at singing, dancing AND acting), but I would say that Gwen goes to a FOURTH level, as she is so dedicated and organized, that it made all the planning of the show much easier. Thanks also to Melanie Click (AVUCC) for agreeing to come in the week before the show to serve as Stage Manager, and to Byron Henderson (AVUCC), who helped (with Melanie and Jenny Hoyt) to organize, solve problems, work on sets and do many other tasks Gwen and I couldn't do during the performance of the show. Also great thanks to Roger Hoyt (ECA), who worked and practiced amazingly hard to learn the enormous amount of musical material for the show. He was always very gracious at rehearsals, and he took on the additional task of cuing and keeping the band together. Thanks Roger...you're one in a million!

Summer Musical – 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 Tevey and Fr. Stephen Mills (ECA) will play the role of the Rabbi. Other cast members to date include from ECA: Taylor Wing as Motel the tailor, Julia Machado as Chava, Mary Leal as Grandma Tzeitel, Sandi Mueller as the Fiddler!...and from AVUCC: Marilyn Graham as Golde, Sandy Baldwin as Yente, Betsy Dingman as Hodel, Karen Click and Claire Henderson as Sprintze and Bielke, with Bart Smith as Lazar Wolf and Steve Coutinho as Reb Mordcha.

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, as well as at love and marriage.

We had our first cast meeting on Thursday, June 30, and would welcome more participants. AVUCC and ECA members of ALL AGES are encouraged to join in the chorus of this summer's show, singing its great songs: "Sunrise Sunset," "Tradition" and "Sabbath Prayer" and many men are needed to join us to raise a glass and drink to the health and prosperity of the marriage of Tevey's eldest daughter to Lazar Wolf. It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it...how about you??? Please sign up on the Music Bulletin Board outside the Music-Christian Education Office. L'chaim!

Talent Show – Friday, July 8

Our July Talent Show is open to both ECA and AVUCC members. It will be held on Friday, July 8 at 7:00pm in the fellowship hall. Please come and support your Joint Venture friends as they share their talents with the JV community. A special portion of the evening will be 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 the expenses of our summer musical "Fiddler on the Roof."

Summer Singing Group

Due to conflicts of interest and scheduling (people who want to both sing with us and attend the Graystone Park concerts), we will have our Summer Singing meetings on Tuesday nights. The first meeting will be at Susie and Jerry Ferguson's house on Tuesday, July 12 at 7:00pm. We will explore more songs from the Renew Hymnal, and possibly some from the Chalice hymnal, as well as other contemporary Praise and Worship songs. All ECA adults are invited and welcome.



SHYGS UPDATES

As you read this article, SHYGS (14 teens and 3 adults) are finishing up our mission trip to Polson, Montana. Our return will be on Sunday, July 3rd and it will culminate in a dinner at church at 6:00. If you are interested in helping with this dinner, or being there to welcome the group home, contact Amy Griffith. We had a wonderful benediction on June 19th where each teen's prayer partner presented a cross made by Dennis Moran and a mission trip t-shirt. Thank you Dennis and all prayer partners for your support. Our prayer partners were Suzanne Mayo, Russ and Kim Petruzzelli, Ann Mayers, Mary McPherson, Jean Cassetta, Kimberly Axtell, Susie Ferguson, Dennis Moran, Jackie Whitlock, Sandie Mueller, Pat McGarvin, Natalie Mena, Nancy Romer, Pat Fox, and Ellen and Todd Lukanc.

Those who are attending are: Valerie Tysanner, Hannah Ward, Amber Cottle, Beth Nollette, Alyce Gallego, Alex Bishop, Taylor Mills, Eric McCormick, Ryan Hall, Marshall Robins, David Mastriana, Greg Lukanc, Matt Rimroth, Brad Bond, Katie McCormick, Terry Root and Robin Root. Many of you have touched our group this year through supporting words, gifts, donations, participation and love. The teens have truly learned what the phrase 'church family' means this past year as you have helped them meet their goal to help others. So, thank you!

We have donations that were not acknowledged before: Thank you Frank May and Jan and Al Day for your cash donations to our fund and to Ron Howie for donating 2 sets of protective eye wear and 4-way screwdrivers for each participant. In addition, Ken McCormick's company picked up the tab for shipping 8 boxes of tools and supplies to Montana so they would be ready for us when we arrived. These are all greatly appreciated by the team, so big hugs to you all.

Big News: Greg Lukanc got his driver's license, so everyone, watch out! David Mastriana got his learner's permit, so DITTO! Alex Bishop turned 15 and Evelyn turned 18, so hoo-hoo! Congratulations to Eric McCormick and Evelyn Wing for graduating from high school. What a great feeling that is! And, Jean Cassetta had her baby Rosario. So it was a big month for SHYGs in June.

Robin Root





COMING UP AT SHYGS

It's summertime and that means it's time to hang out. Here's the schedule for July and August:

**Wed: July 13, 20, 27 & Aug 10, 17, 24, 31
-Volleyball Nights**

Time: 6:30-9:30 Activity: Share a meal, play some volleyball and hang out!

**Wed-Fri: Aug 3-5 Beach Campout to
Manresa State Park**

We'll leave church around noon, be back on Friday evening. Activities will be bonfires on the beach, volleyball, swimming, games, and just being beach bums! Cooking will be shared-Greg and David are leading the cook's team. This is our welcome to the 8th graders event, so if you are an 8th grader, get this on your family calendar quick. Parents, I'm going to need some drivers, so let me know if you can drive and haul kids and/or gear!

**Sat: Aug 20 Volleyball Challenge
Teens v. Parents**

Time 6:00-10:00 Potluck B-B-Q

Sun: Aug 28 Volleyball at church

Time 6:30-9:30

Sun: Sept 4 Meeting

Our first meeting night falls on Labor Day Weekend, so stay tuned...we may change or cancel this date.

Fri: Sept 9 Planning Meeting

Planning meeting for the year. Finalize stuff we talked about on the beach trip and add new ideas. Time to be announced, but get it on your calendars.

Happy Summer Everyone! Relax, Have Fun, and Enjoy your Family and Friends

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you Sunday School teachers Leslie Rousseau, Mary Leal, Trish Reilly, Debbie Bishop, Sharon Hall, Tami Neiders, Pat McGarvin, Tom Fahlen, Mary McPherson, Rosemary Halas, Katheen Quint, Bonnie McPherson, Londa Larsen, Sandy Baldwin, Ellie Mills, Kim Petruzzelli, Alex Dykes, Dick & Jean Shipe, Sandie Mueller, Byron Henderson, Jon & Sharon Mills, Ron Howie and Sam Sarmecanic for your dedication and love of our children's spiritual growth.

Katie McCormick

JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Sixteen junior high youth had a fun time at the pool party celebrating our incoming fifth graders and saying goodbye to our eighth graders. We made some plans for next year as well as set some dates for summer activities. We will have 3 outdoor movie nights on July 15, 29 and August 5; and two beach trips on July 9th and August 15.

Next year's meetings will be on Sunday from 6-8 as many more kids were able to make this time rather than Friday. However, there will be some Friday meetings toward the end of the year.

Katie McCormick



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ALL ABOUT VBS

Vacation Bible school is coming up on August 8-12. We will begin at 9am and the children will finish at 12 noon. Our theme this year is the Jerusalem Market Place. There will be “shops” that the children will visit during the morning which include the carpentry shop, pottery shop, weaving shop, herbs and spices shop, bakery, musical instruments shop, jewelry-making shop, basket-making shop, candy shop and barnyard. Two different shops will be open each day. We will need adults to run the “shops” during the week as well as the synagogue school and playground. I have four High School youth and several Junior High youth who have volunteered to help with the tribes but I need two more teens to head up tribes and several adults to fill in with the shops. I also need anyone interested in being on the drama team. If you’re a tribe leader or helper you can also participate on the drama team. There is a sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway for helping to run the shops and for helping with the creative process beforehand.

The cost this year will be **\$20 per child** and we are **closing the sign ups at 30 children**.

The sign-ups are a first come first serve basis so please reserve your space by signing up on the bulletin board in the hall way at church. I will need many items either loaned or donated to keep the cost at \$20. I have made a list of these items which you can see below. There will be palm leaves in the fellowship hall with these items listed on them. If you are able to donate or loan us any of these items, please fill out the palm leaf and put it in my mailbox at church. When we get closer to VBS I will collect the items and put them in the back classroom. This year’s VBS will be a lot of fun.

Katie McCormick

VBS needs list

- 2 menorahs
- Matzo bread
- Cut out tefillin box patterns
- 30 brown shoe laces
- Rabbi costume
- 2 burlap or canvas sacks
- 6 terra-cotta pots
- 5 volleyballs
- 12 Frisbees
- 10 jump ropes
- 12-5 foot bamboo poles
- Sidewalk chalk
- Make a batch of Haroseth – see me for the recipe
- 6 laundry baskets
- Write calligraphy on the torah scrolls
- Hammers
- Chisel
- Saw
- 50 pieces of lathe 6 inches long, with a hole drilled in one end
- Leather lacing
- 2 or 3 potters wheels
- Clothes pins
- Mortar and pestle stones
- Bath towels
- Barn yard animals – goats, sheep, llama, kittens, puppies, cow ect.!
- Make six small brushes out of new straw broom for herb and spice shop
- Large block of salt – available at farm supply store (salt lick)
- Rope
- Drying rack to hang spices from
- 5 large tents for the tribe’s “home base”



ECA CAMPING TRIP 2005

This year's ECA camping outing was a great success. It was more tranquil than previous years, as the boy scouts had a camping event in the same weekend and illness unfortunately kept some people at home.

On Friday the first families arrived, and we all were able to find ample great spots to pitch the tents. From experience I can recommend to drive down on Friday, so that you have a full Saturday to enjoy. The prize for latest Friday arrival this year goes to Jon and Taylor Mills, who were pitching their tent at midnight, so technically speaking, they arrived more on Saturday morning. The prize for bravery this year goes to Debbie Bishop, Alex and friend, who survived a night in the wilderness of Big Sur. Debbie put on a bright smile the next day while breaking down the tent and moving into the hotel next door to the camp ground, and before she found out that the hotel didn't have warm water (either).

Saturday morning before 8 am our first visitors-for-the-day arrived while most of the camping folks were still having sweet dreams. Shortly after, preparations for the Men's Breakfast started. Many thanks to my kitchen crew Pete, Pat, Jon, Russ and Jerry. The food was excellent, no surprise really as the pictures clearly show they had help from above (see photos on page 13). Other angels from below were helping out cleaning up after the men, pretty much a regular day for those angels, I guess.

After breakfast, Stephen led a short and sweet church service in the open-air chapel located on the campgrounds. That chapel "building," God's own creation, is more beautiful than even our own wonderful church building in Almaden.

After the service there was a unanimous decision that this year's hike would be to the local beach in Andrew Molero State Park. In typical ECA

fashion, and despite the fact that we weren't a really large group, it took us only 2 hours to start the 5 minute drive to the park entrance. We enjoyed a wonderful hike through the marshland, wading through the river, smelling and seeing the many flowering plants.

The prize for the cutest hiker goes to Joshua. Arriving at the beach we found ourselves in a very strong wind, our legs being sandblasted. We took the path up the cliff and absorbed a fantastic view of our Californian coastline.

That afternoon we spent hanging around at the campsite. The medium sized kids cooled off in the river, tubing and swimming, which according to Guido is the best part of the camping outing. All kids, young and "wise," played volleyball or were introduced to bocce ball.

We shared whatever anyone brought for dinner, while wine tasting and trying the many homemade creations. As soon as evening fell the campfire brought light, and heat for the s'mores. I noticed that Suzanne likes her s'mores very, very well done.

A number of people returned home Saturday late, others stayed until late on Sunday.

A few miles up highway 1 there is a little peninsula with a picture perfect lighthouse on top. There's a lighthouse tour at 10am every Sunday. I missed it again this year, so I'll have a try next year. I hope to see you then!

Hans Spanjaart





LETTER TO AVUCC

Following a successful 2004-2005 season, ECA's Vestry voted unanimously in February to renew Tabard's contract for the next season. The UCC Council has subsequently voted not to renew the contract. In order to understand their decision and how it affects our outreach programs, Father Stephen has sent the following letter to the UCC Council:

To the Pastor and Council of the Almaden Valley United Church of Christ from the Rector and Vestry of the Episcopal Church of Almaden:

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. We have enjoyed the partnership in ministry we have had with you for over thirty years. We treasure the close association we have had and want you to know how much we appreciate you. We want you to know that we liken our relationship to a marriage and we are pleased with the depth and breadth of our relationship. We also believe, that like a marriage when a major decision is to be made and one party says yes and the other no, the decision must be no, because to go forward both parties must agree in the affirmative. We have a deep respect for the recent decision by the AVUCC Council to not renew the contract of the Tabard Theatre Company for another year, but to allow them to hold one performance in the fall to give them time to secure other accommodations. We do, however, have several concerns about this decision.

The Episcopal Church of Almaden believes that the church exists to serve those outside itself. We have not always lived out this value. There is a constant tendency to want to turn inward and to be self-serving. We are currently exploring new ways that we can reach out into the community and to bring those outside our members into this building. While we realize that bringing people into the building and having them join one of the churches are two entirely different activities, we also realize that the seeds

of evangelism sometimes take years to germinate and that God is a prodigal sower of seed. We were so pleased that we were able to be partners in reaching out into the community through a series of mass mailings and special events in 2003 and we look forward to continued cooperation in this respect. We believe that Tabard was one of the ways we could reach out into the community and draw people to our facility in a way that they would become familiar with our presence. We also believe that the quality of entertainment presented by Tabard was first rate and conveyed family oriented values both churches strive to encourage. We also believe that in this time of shrinking educational budgets that the churches in particular have a strong role to play in preserving and presenting the arts to people. Our own Almaden Adventures in the Arts is a prime example of this belief, and we believe that Tabard theatre is another.

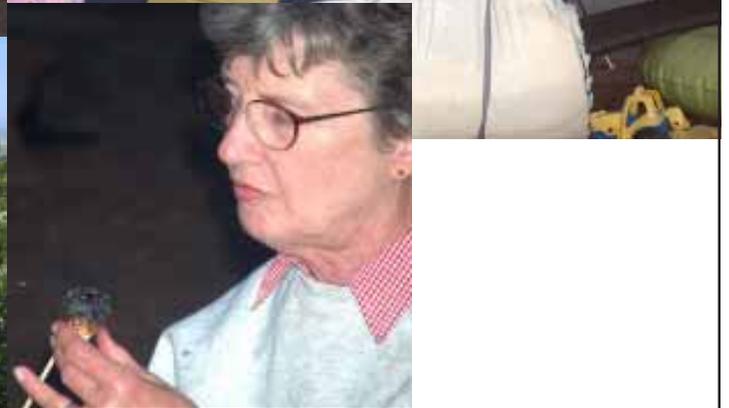
In this light we would ask you to reconsider your decision and allow Tabard one more year. Short of that is there any room for negotiation? Is there a middle ground we can reach where each congregation will not be entirely pleased, but not entirely unhappy either? Finally, since we do not understand the reasons behind the decision, we are concerned that present or future outreach programs may also be imperiled. It is important to us to understand this decision so we can understand the community outreach that we will be able to pursue. We respectfully ask that you please communicate this rationale to us.

Finally, you may rest assured that whatever decision you make will be honored and respected by us. We will do nothing to try to undermine or countermand that decision.

Yours in Christ,

The Rector and Vestry of the Episcopal Church in Almaden

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GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Great thanks go to Roger Hoyt, for joining the band and leading them for "I Do! I Do!"

Also thanks to Eric McCormick who spent countless hours finishing the bed we saw in the show "I Do, I Do!"

Great thanks are due Doug Dunham, who generously donated his old laptop computer to be used in the JV Music Office. This will make the transcription and arranging of sheet music much easier. It will also help us update the various music "member" databases, and help us get started to keep the Music Office neat and uncluttered.





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