



The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

FROM STEPHEN

Apologia #1 – Remember last month when I named all the graduates and told you that if I forgot anybody I was sorry, I knew I had forgotten someone, but I did not know who it was. Now I know. It was Guido Spanjaart. Guido graduated from 8th grade in June and will be attending Leland High School this month. Congratulations Guido and my humblest apologies.

Apologia #2 – In my July 3rd sermon, I quoted extensively from a letter written by John Danforth. John Danforth is an Episcopal priest. John Danforth is also a conservative Republican and a former United States Senator from Missouri and former United States Ambassador to the United Nations. The purpose of my quoting the Reverend Danforth was to show that there was a different model of being a Christian in today's political arena. I was aware at the time that the Reverend Danforth's remarks were somewhat controversial, and I wanted to promote discussion, and thought, not to endorse a position. I do not, nor have I ever claimed to have the corner on objective truth, and if anyone wants equal time, I would be happy to give it to them within certain limits. Anyway, it was pointed out to me that, in the quotation from the Reverend Danforth, he chided the Republican Party for being so closely aligned with the religious right. I believe that those remarks were gratuitous and superfluous and if I had it to do all over again, I would have edited those sentences out. I had no intention of being critical of the Republican Party, my sole purpose was to show

that there was more than one way to be a Christian in the political arena. So, I apologize for my lack of sensitivity and editing.

On a lighter note, it has been a great joy for me to participate in the rehearsals for Fiddler on the Roof. There is a large spirited cast and John Leslie is a joy to perform for. He has never once said to me "You missed that note by so far that you weren't even in the same county with it!" Instead, he simply says "This is the note." There will be performances on August 19th and 20th. Please come see one of the performances if you can. I can guarantee, it will be worth the price of admission.

I would also like to thank Robin and Terry Root and Katie McCormick for taking the youth on the Mission Trip to Montana. These three were willing to give up 8 full days of their time to minister to our youth. Not only that but they brought all of the youth back alive. When you see them, please thank them for giving out high school students a lesson in life they will never forget.

Yours in Christ,
Stephen



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR



Life would be so much simpler if we were birds. Every day in my office I sit at my desk and stare out my window at the birds romping on the lawn. As I recant the happenings of the last month (the offer on the lot in emerald Hills that fell out of escrow after 5 days, the house in Lodi isn't moving anywhere fast, and the realization that we will soon be house-poor) I thought to myself it would be so much simpler if I had been a little sparrow like the one eating a bug in the flowerbed. I wouldn't have to worry about finding a cheap mortgage, finding a house that meets all our wants, (good schools, quiet location, large yard) worrying about how we're going to eat when we'll have to pay property taxes that could easily be \$9,000 a year, or what that funny little noise under the hood of my car is. Little birds here in Burlingame lead a good life, temperate weather, abundant food, and of course, *free housing*, which is an incredible perk in a zip code that's this expensive. Of course you have to deal with the limited intelligence that's part of being a bird brain. A flock of six birds landed on my window and pecked their little hearts out trying to get through double pained glass, only to end up being soaked when the sprinklers came on. And, of course, the pest people were out last week spraying for bugs, so if I was that bird I'd re-evaluate my dining choices... Ah, to be a bird and free of those worries too...

SUMMER BBQ!

Our Folk Service for August has moved to the 3rd Sunday (August 21) so we will also move the barbecue to that date. Our uniquely qualified cooks will include Ken Pitroff and Roger Hoyt. We're still looking for two more celebrity chefs for the 21st. Please call Kim at 268-1956 if you can help.

July's burgers and doggies were brought to you by Warren Willard, Steve Wing, Pat Rimroth, Sam Sarmecanic and Ron Howie. Susie and Jerry Ferguson, our coffee hosts of the day, also provided the fixings.

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

Kim Prtruzzelli

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

RECTOR

The Reverend Stephen Mills
408-802-5347
rector@eca-sj.org

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

ACOLYTES	Evelyn Wing
ALTAR GUILD	Elaine LaVallee, Betty Wood
COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
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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JV BOARD UPDATES

- There has been significant discussion and some sporadic activity regarding the Joint Venture sign in front of the church in recent months. The sense is that the sign is hard to read, dark, inflexible to changing events, outdated and overly emphasizes the Joint Venture feature of our churches all to the detriment of attracting new members. The Muellers repainted the lettering, replaced/corrected the service times, and trimmed the trees on the sign last month. Thank you. The Sign Committee met to define requirements for a new and improved sign for our churches for the longer term.
- The **sign requirements** decided by the Sign Committee are:
 - Sturdy and ages well
 - Very visible and readable by a person traveling 45 MPH on Camden Avenue. Two candidate locations are being considered, both central to the property on either side of the circular drive
- Be lighted at night
- Make ECA & UCC identities (i.e., "brands") prominent on the sign and of equal appearance
- Have a special space/line for Sunday School and/or special events notices
- Display service times and optionally phone numbers and the physical street number
- In the **short term**, the committee decided more tree trimming would be helpful to enhance the effectiveness of the existing sign.
- **Long term**, the committee decided to target September 18 for installation of a new sign to meet the above requirements. The Sign Committee recognizes this as an aggressive goal but decided it best to move ahead driven

PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

On the path to spiritual maturity, even temptation becomes a stepping-stone rather than a stumbling block when you realize that it is just as much an occasion to do the right thing, as it is to do the wrong thing. Temptations keep us dependent upon God. Just as the roots grow stronger when wind blows against a tree, so every time we stand up to a temptation, we grow in the character of Christ.

Remember those fruits of the spirit? Love, Joy, Peace, Patience. God develops the fruit of the Spirit in your life by allowing you to experience circumstances in which you're tempted to express the exact opposite quality. For instance, God teaches us *love* by putting some unlovely people around us. It takes no character to love people

who are lovely and loving to us. God teaches us real *joy* in the midst of sorrow, when we turn to him. Happiness depends on external circumstances, but joy is based on our relationship to God. God develops *peace* within us not by making things go the way we planned, but by allowing times of chaos and confusion. Anyone can be peaceful watching a beautiful sunset or relaxing on vacation. We learn real peace by choosing to trust God in circumstances in which we are tempted to worry or be afraid. Likewise, *patience* is developed in circumstances in which we're forced to wait and are tempted to be angry or have a short fuse. You can't claim to be good if you've never been tempted to be bad.

From "*The Purpose Driven Life*"



FELLOWSHIP

SUMMER SINGING

Summer Singers meet on Tuesday nights. We thank Susie & Jerry Ferguson, Sandie and Ed Mueller, and Betty & Dom Consorte for hosting our July meetings at their homes. We will continue meeting in August on Tuesdays to 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. We will be sharing some of our songs with you in worship on Sunday, August 7.

John Leslie

TALENT NIGHT

Thanks to all who participated, performed and attended the semi-annual JV Talent Night, which was held in Fellowship Hall on Friday, July 8. Melinda Jennings sang two songs from her July recital; Fr. Stephen shared one of his favorite short stories; Dennis Moran entertained us all with several songs, for which he accompanied himself on guitar....great job, Dennis! We also had special talent offerings from AVUCC members Shannon Haley, the Bemis family and Leilani Farnquist (and friends). Mary Leal and Betty Consorte, with Robyn Dorsey (AVUCC) led some songs from the World War II era, including a sing-along of the U. S. Armed Forces anthems. Phyllis Chai kept the refreshments flowing and the kitchen immaculate! (Thanks, Phyllis.) A free-will offering was received and will help defray expenses of "Fiddler on the Roof."

John Leslie

HUGS FROM SHYGS

We had an awesome welcome home dinner for the group that went on the Mission Trip. Many people were involved, so if we miss anyone here we apologize. Thank you so much to:

Planner and Organizer Extraordinaire: Amy Griffith

Cooks: Amy Griffith, Mary Leal, Mary and Dennis Moran, Jackie Whitlock, Debbie Bishop. Suzanne Mayo, Liz Criner.

Helpers on Sunday night: Susanne and Arnold Moore, Liz and Ed Criner, Mary and Dennis Moran, Robb and Gayle Moore, Jackie Whitlock and Jennifer Natwick, Anna Spanjaart, Ken McCormick, Evelyn Wing, Suzanne Mayo, and Kim Petruzzelli

Thank you to Bailey Bishop, Kristen Petruzzelli, and Guido Spanjaart, our youth groupers who helped out.

Table Decorations (they were wonderful!): Suzanne Moore

And to all the folks who do what ECA does best and jumped in to clean up and help where needed, THANK YOU! It was a wonderful way to end our trip.



JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

We had our first two outdoor movies of the summer July 16 & 29. The screen was set up in the center of the volleyball court so the movie could be viewed from either side! The JHYG's snack bar provided frozen lemonade, soda, water, popcorn and candy. Our next movie night will be on Friday, August 5. The movie starts at 8:30 pm. Bring your chairs and beach blankets. See you there.

We have a beach trip planned for Monday, August 15. If you are able to drive, please contact Katie at 838-6143.

The Junior High Youth Group kick-off meeting is on Sept. 11 in the youth center. We will start with a game at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 and our topic for discussion from 7-8.

Katie McCormick

SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

July 13, 20, 27, Aug 10, 17, 24 & 31
Volleyball Nights 6:30-9:30 Bring snack and drink to share

Aug 3-5
Beach Trip - Manresa State Park - Leave the church at 1:00

Aug 20
Volleyball Challenge - Parents v Teens-Potluck BBQ

Aug 28
Plant Garden & Play volleyball

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is coming soon. As of the July 15 there were 6 spaces open. Most of our supplies have been gathered and everyone is excited about our Jerusalem Marketplace. Training for the Tribe leaders was held on Sunday, July 24th. The Tribe leaders were given their leader guides and learned the songs and dance movement for the Gathering activities.

Sunday School begins on Sept. 18th this year. There are 30 days of Sunday School lessons this year and our goal is to have three teachers for every grade which means you would teach 10 classes during the year. There will be a teacher meeting on Sunday, August 28th at 7 pm in the youth center. We will continue to use the Hands-On Bible curriculum and your supplies will be available at that meeting. Please contact me if you would like to participate in this important ministry.

Katie McCormick
(408) 838-6143



SHYGS Rafting in Montana - Mission Trip 2005



EVENTS

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 Tevye. 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.

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, Susana Machado as Sprintze, Mary Leal as Grandma Tzeitel, Doug Dunham as Avram, the Bookseller, Sandie Mueller as the Fiddler! - and from AVUCC: Marilyn Graham as Golde, Sandy Baldwin as Yente, Betsy Dingman as Hodel, John Hawes as the Beggar, Kendrick Hough as Mendel the Rabbi's son, and Claire Henderson as Bielke, with Bart Smith as Lazar Wolf and Steve Coutinho as Reb Mordcha, the innkeeper-purveyor of libations. Many other members of ECA and AVUCC will participate as the "villagers" of Anatevka. Guest performers will be Andrew Hall (Stewpot from last summer's "South Pacific") as Perchik and Vanessa Briggs (from Tabard's "The Taffetas") as Tzeitel, with Cindy and Lin Eschenfelder joining the cast of delightful, dutiful daughters.

David and Roger Hoyt and Ann Myers of ECA will play in the band, along with John's cousin Tom Eschenfelder; and from AVUCC: Debbie Bemis, Rae Harris, Terry Shoup and Bob Thomas.

As usual, we will be blessed with the ticket services of Marion Grunge, lighting by Kimberly Axtell, graphics and printing by Todd Axtell, and sound reinforcement by Doug Dunham. The cast will sing the "Sabbath Prayer" from the show during worship services on Sunday, August 14.

JV Director of Music John Leslie is in charge of this "Music at Joint Venture Churches" presentation, with ECA member P. J. Gallego assisting with choreography. This is truly a "joint venture" production, as you can tell by the numerous members of each parish involved in so many ways!

Now we just need YOU!!! WE NEED audience members....buy those tickets before they are all gone! (See below for performance dates and times.)

WE NEED a few good (er...I mean BAD) men, just to dress as Russian soldiers, police or a priest and walk across the playing area to scowl and look down at the Jewish peasants of this community. If you are an adult male, and can "COP AN ATTITUDE" please contact either John Leslie or any member of the production team and let us know of your interest. Thanks!

We will be doing three performances this year, based on popular demand, so buy your tickets as soon as possible to be assured of getting seats for your desired performance date. Performances will be Friday, August 19 at 7:30pm and Saturday, August 20 at both 1:30pm and 7:30pm. All tickets will be \$15.00 L'chaim!

