



# The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

## FROM STEPHEN

I first noticed it a couple of weeks ago. One morning I woke up and as I was going out to get the newspaper, things felt different—not very different but subtly different. The air had a crispness that was not there before. Perhaps fall is not as dramatic in the Santa Clara Valley with its mild climate, as it is in Massachusetts with the leaves turning all shades of riotous colors, but if you pay attention, you will notice it. Fall signals various things in various places. In agricultural areas, it is the beginning of the end of the harvest and a slowing of the pace of life. In most places, it means the beginning of the new school year with all the excitement and fear a new beginning and a new situation brings. In the church too it has various meanings. It means awakening from the lethargy of summer and a gearing up of the fall program. For those in the know, it also means the beginning of the annual Stewardship Campaign. Did your eyes just glaze over? I will try to be gentle.

I believe that we do a very good job at some things. When there is a perceived need, we can rise to the occasion. This is especially true when there is one person, at least, who is willing to champion it. This year Kimberly Axtell was willing to champion the Santa Maria Urban Ministry back to school drive and the results were spectacular. Of the 888 backpacks given out by Santa Maria, 150 or 1/6<sup>th</sup> of them came from ECA. In addition, thanks to your generosity, we sent \$370 additional dollars and a plethora of school supplies to this ministry. Just think of the pride our children must have felt as they walked to the first day of school wearing their new backpacks filled with school supplies.

We can be very generous when we see a need. But what about when the need is not so immediate, do we make a habit or a practice of generosity? And yet isn't generosity one of the core values of the Christian life? What if the book God uses to judge us at the pearly gates is not the Bible but our check register? Would there be enough evidence in that book to convict us of being a Christian?

According to recent statistics:

The lowest 20% of Americans have family incomes ranging from \$0 to \$19,970.

The next 20% have household incomes ranging from \$19,970 to \$32,985.

The middle 20% have household incomes from \$32,985 to \$48,985.

The fourth 20% have household incomes from \$48,985 to \$72,260

The next 15% have household incomes from \$72,260 to \$123,000.

The top 5% have household incomes over \$123,000.

As you can see the median income in the 95120 zip code is in the top 5% of all households in one of the wealthiest countries on the face of the earth.

What I would ask you to do is to consider carefully how you can lead generous lives not after expenses but before expenses. I will try to do the same.

Salaam  
Stephen +



## A WORD FROM

**T**his past month I had a most interesting experience. I had an

auto accident in a foreign country. Why is this interesting you ask? It probably isn't, however, seeking the silver lining; it was a grand new adventure in a foreign land, so therefore exciting in a very odd sort of way. Rob and I decided to take a much need vacation

and visit a good friend of ours who lives near Salisbury. There were two reasons for this: at the time we booked the flight, the exchange rate was advantageous (it isn't anymore) and, by being in a country that does not have a CMDA cellular network, Coit would be unable to find me (or such was the plan).

The omens that there would be some trouble on our trip were obvious. First off, we had the botched hotel reservations, then the three hour late flight from SFO to Heathrow. Upon arriving in London, we discovered that Thrifty had run out of rental cars. Fortunately for us, National Rent-A-Car honored the reserved price that Thrifty had quoted. Here our adventure was to begin, for we have been to the UK several times, but up until now, we had never *driven* in the UK. Since I find the oddest delight in the mundane and ordinary, I was thrilled with each new road sign we saw (some are quite humorous to Americans, like the sign warning of elderly people crossing that has two shadow figures of what seem to be Mr. & Mrs. Hunchback of Notredame complete with osteoporosis and canes). Fortunately the trip was uneventful until we got to Scotland, where we managed to get a Fiat shoved up our rear. Here's how it happened: We had stopped to make a right turn (across oncoming traffic), just minding our own business, the Fiat behind us stopped, and speeding around the bend came a Ford that by all appearances didn't make an effort to stop. Needless to say that the Fiat did not look so hot when the dust cleared. But I digress: the Police and ambulance came out in very short order, took our statements, checked everyone over, arranged for the towing of the Ford and the Fiat, and in general spent a great deal of time making sure that every "T" was crossed and "I" was dotted. I must also add that they were very pleasant and personable, not at all like most American police officers who are short staffed and always rushed about (my friends excepted of course). The only casualties in the accident were my laptop, which suffered a cracked screen and will never breathe again, and the bagpipes we picked up in Edinburgh, which similarly will never breathe again. It's a pity, I had been so looking forward to driving our neighbors insane. So here I am, working on the Shape with a sore neck and back, seeking the silver lining. The final word must be, that it was indeed a grand new adventure.

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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[www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org)

#### RECTORY

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408-997-1502

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

#### RECTOR

**The Reverend Stephen Mills**

408-802-5347

[rector@eca-sj.org](mailto:rector@eca-sj.org)

#### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

ACOLYTES	<b>Evelyn Wing</b>
ALTAR GUILD	<b>Elaine LaVallee, Betty Wood</b>
COFFEE HOUR	<b>Pete Mayo</b>
FOLK CHOIR	<b>Andy Kerr</b>
GREETERS	<b>Sharon Mills</b>
GOD SQUAD	<b>Jenny Hoyt</b>
GOOD SAMS	<b>Jenny Hoyt</b>
LAY READERS	<b>Dennis Moran</b>
MONTGOMERY MEALS	<b>Amy Griffith</b>
NURSERY	<b>Lorry Long</b>
PRAYER VINE	<b>Dorothy Willard</b>
USHERS	<b>Dave Byers</b>
WORSHIP	<b>Susie Ferguson</b>
WEB MASTER	<b>Kim Petruzzelli</b>

#### ECA STAFF

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MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORGANIST	<b>John Leslie</b>
TREASURER	<b>Maryke Williams</b>
YOUTH DIRECTOR	<b>Katie McCormick</b>
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# FELLOWSHIP

## HARVEST POTLUCK & GAMES NIGHT SINGLES EVENT

**Informal get together**—time to kick back, meet new and visit with old friends, eat, play games, and relax before the holidays.

**Date** — Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

**Time** — 6:00 PM

**Where** — ECA / AVUCC  
6581 Camden AVE.  
San Jose, CA 95120

Bring a main dish, appetizer, dessert, or beverages (wine is okay) and your favorite game to share, plus ½ hour set-up or tidy-up of the kitchen and Fellowship Hall areas. RSVP to Kathy Mastre with what you plan to bring at (408) 362-0905 or [kamastre@yahoo.com](mailto:kamastre@yahoo.com)

Updates since the last meeting:

**New Years Eve Party** - The **"Formerly Ed's Party at the Villages"** group will be hosting a New Year's Eve Dinner / Dance at our church. More information will be available soon.

**Name for the group** - What do you think about **Saint Almaden Singles** as the name of our group?

**Newsletter / Expanded Events** - We are thinking of joining forces with another group of singles. This will allow us to expand the number of activities. We are planning on sending out an, as needed, e-mail newsletter.

**Sponsoring an event** - Have you ever wanted to invite others to join you in any of your activities such as movies, hiking, biking, bowling, dining, dancing, games, concerts, etc.? If so, consider "sponsoring" an event.

**What would I have to do?** - Just send an email to our party-planning person. Do not get too excited—it does not mean a lot of work or money. It could be as simple as *I would love to go to (name the activity) who wants to come along? We would meet at (give date, time and place). Just RSVP me at (your e-mail address) so I can make any necessary reservations / arrangements.*

Kathy Mastre

## ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

**T**hey're here! The 2006 Entertainment books have arrived and are on sale for \$25.00!

Please contact Phyllis Chai or Robin Root if you would like to purchase a book. The profit of \$4.00 from each book will be collected and sent to Habitat for Humanity earmarked for building in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Books will be for sale throughout the fall, with sales ending the first weekend in December at Alternative Christmas.

## MOWERS

THANK YOU! Once again this year many have helped by filling in with lawn mowing this summer. Thank yous go to Tom Gerber, Al Neiders, Russ Petruzzelli, Dick Shipe, Dennis and Mary Moran, and Mike Reilly (twice)! And always to Pete Mayo, who all year long keeps the gas can filled (and fixed the broken mower without leaving us a clue of whom to thank). We are all blessed with wonderful churches!

Pat McGarvin

# FELLOWSHIP

## THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday morning Bible study started Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, and you are still welcome to join us! We are studying the book of Matthew chronologically, and are taking from now until May to do it. We meet from 10:00 am to 11:30 am in the Choir room. Reading assignments will be in the church bulletin, and the schedule and homework assignments (recommended but optional) will be posted on ECA's website. (Go to [www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org). Click on Special Events and click on Bible Study Handouts).

### Purpose of this study:

- Learn some things you didn't already know about the gospel
- Get proficient at looking up cross-references and using a concordance
- Use the opportunity to pray with others about concerns

### Most importantly:

- Hear God speak to each of us through his word

### God speaks to us through

- Other people
- His Holy Spirit
- The Bible

Our objective is not only to study the Bible as scholars, but to study it and then try to see how it applies to our lives in the present. His word is "living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword..." (Hebrews 4:12). It speaks to us where we are. That's why we can read it over and over again, and get something different out of it each time.

Many people attending the class will know a lot more than I do, and some will know less. Hopefully we can all end up knowing more than we do now. I encourage everyone to do research; look up cross-references, read commentaries, look up unknown words in the

dictionary, etc. But most importantly, I hope you will take the time to reflect on the scripture and its meaning and relationship to your life.

Mary McPherson

## JOINT VENTURE

- Approved a Joint Venture proposed budget of \$209,000.
- Approved up to \$520 for materials for enhancing & renewing two existing church sign locations.
- The Sign Committee painted the wooden sign in front of the church a white background and dark lettering for the two churches.
- Adding a street light from the power pole next to the driveway was deemed unnecessary since a street light exists next to the power pole.
- The small Sunday school room was painted and the youth center was touched up. The kitchen screen door was re-screened.
- Bids for repairing and double slurry sealing the parking lot were reviewed and it was decided to accept Coastal Paving's bid and scheduled the repairs on Sept 15 and the seal coating on Sept 20 for \$7263.
- A dead tree was removed and another was trimmed.
- The elevator was repaired and it was noted that a weekly test should be performed and log sheet needed to be kept.
- We will be getting bids for recycling facilities & pick-up.

George Romer  
Junior Warden

# EVENTS SCHEDULE

## ECA's October 2005 Events

10/2	ECA Holy Communion	7:30 am	10/23	ECA Holy Communion	7:30 am
10/2	Sunday School	10:10 am	10/23	Sunday School	10:10 am
10/2	ECA Holy Communion	11:00 am	10/23	ECA Holy Communion	11:00 am
10/2	SHYGS	6:00 pm	10/23	Junior High Youth Group	6:00 pm
10/3	Duplicate Bridge	7:00 pm	10/25	Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
10/3	Making Peace with Money	7:30 pm	10/26	Mah Jong	12:30 pm
10/4	JV Board Meeting	7:30 pm	10/26	Bell Choir	4:45 pm
10/5	Mah Jong	12:30 pm	10/27	Men's Breakfast	8:00 am
10/5	Bell Choir	4:45 pm	10/27	ECA Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
10/6	Men's Breakfast	8:00 am	10/27	Gospel of Matthew Bible Study	10:00 am
10/6	ECA Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm	10/28	Montgomery Meals	3:00 pm
10/6	Gospel of Matthew Bible Study	10:00 am	10/30	ECA Holy Communion	7:30 am
10/7	Bridge Group	7:30 pm	10/30	Sunday School	10:10 am
10/8	Blessing of the Animals	10:00 am	10/30	ECA Holy Communion	11:00 am
10/9	FOLK SUNDAY	12:00 am			
10/9	ECA Holy Communion	7:30 am			
10/9	Sunday School	10:10 am			
10/9	ECA Holy Communion	11:00 am			
10/9	JHYG to SF for Holes	1:00 pm			
10/10	Balancing Life's Ledger	7:30 pm			
10/12	Mah Jong	12:30 pm			
10/12	Bell Choir	4:45 pm			
10/13	Men's Breakfast	8:00 am			
10/13	ECA Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm			
10/13	Gospel of Matthew Bible Study	10:00 am			
10/14	Montgomery Meals	3:00 pm			
10/15	SHAPE Deadline	12:00 am			
10/16	YOUTH SUNDAY	12:00 am			
10/16	ECA Holy Communion	7:30 am			
10/16	Sunday School	10:10 am			
10/16	ECA Holy Communion	11:00 am			
10/16	SHYGS	6:00 pm			
10/19	Mah Jong	12:30 pm			
10/19	JV Staff Meeting	11:00 am			
10/19	Bell Choir	4:45 pm			
10/20	JV Book Club	7:30 pm			
10/20	Men's Breakfast	8:00 am			
10/20	Ladies' Luncheon - Bahama Billy's	9:30 am			
10/20	ECA Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm			
10/20	Gospel of Matthew Bible Study	10:00 am			
10/21	SHYGS Fun Filed Trip SIN, DEATH AND HALLOWEEN	7:00 pm			
10/23	HEALING SUNDAY	12:00 am			

## October Birthdays

Daniel Beacher	3
Linda Nollette	8
Ron Howie	10
Bonnie McPherson	13
Susana Machado	14
Carol MacDonald	15
Marshall Robins	15
Judy Blankenheim	16
Jennifer Taylor	17
Bill Hird	18
Roger Wilson	18
Jan English Lueck	28
Josephine Tshibola	28
Earl Griffith	29

## October Anniversaries

Gary and Jean Cassetta	4
Dominic and Betty Consorte	30

## Save the dates:

Nov. 5 – Annual Meeting  
Dec. 10 – Christmas Party

# FELLOWSHIP

## LETTER FROM BISHOP SHALITA

As many of you know, ECA has had a long friendship with the retired Bishop Shalita and his wife Joy of Kisoro, Uganda. They first visited here as ambassadors of African Team Ministries about 10 years ago, staying with the Redmans over the years and visiting with the congregation. Our friendship grew and we extended that friendship to include a joint project to build a women's building in the Diocese of Muhabura.

Below is a copy of an email I recently received from the Bishop. In this letter he refers to monies never sent to him to finish work on the women's building. The money is being held in a fund at ECA and we will send it when the Diocese of Muhabura is stable. I had offered it to Bishop Shalita last year but he wanted to make sure it went through diocesan channels so he asked me to hold off. Since he was retired he didn't feel right overseeing the distribution of those funds. Their diocese has been without a Bishop, as you will read, but it sounds like they are nearing resolution of the conflicts they've had.

Hopefully, African Team will include a stay in Almaden for the Shalita's next visit to the state. Let me know if you are interested in opening your home to them if Almaden is included in their itinerary. Robin

*Dear Robin and Terry,*

*Warm Christian greetings from Joy and I. I hope you and the family members are well.*

*Since most the Diocesan Projects came to a standstill because of lack of leadership of a diocesan bishop, African Team Ministries asked me to maintain the orphan programme they had in partnership with the diocese. Now I have 100 children supported by ATM and 50 children supported by an Episcopal Church in the Diocese*

*of Indiana. 150 children keep me busy with three members of staff.*

*The Diocese is still without a Diocesan Bishop. In April, Archbishop appointed me to chair a team of eight people to reconcile the Christians and make sure the Diocese is calm. We have done the work by meeting all levels of leadership who include the clergy, the church teachers and churchwardens. All have expressed the need for a Diocesan Bishop. Since the diocese is calm, I hope a bishop will be put in place to guide and lead Christ's church.*

*African Team Ministries has invited us to visit your country from September 28 through December 10. We hope and pray that we come to your part of the country.*

*After bishop's consecration and after seeing that all things are in order, I will let you know when to release the \$ 700.00 for the women's hall.*

*God bless you. Yours sincerely, The Rt. Rev. E. M. Shalita*



# YOUTH

## SHYGS YEAR 3

## SHYGS FALL CALENDAR



**W**ow, have we got a fabulous year ahead of us as a senior high group! We've met and had our planning meeting to determine how we wanted to spend our year together. We had 20 of our 24 teens attend and brainstorm some great ideas for study, fun, worship and outreach. They shared both a meal and prayer requests and had a lot of laughs in-between.

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> we hosted the first annual Parent-Teen Volleyball Challenge and Potluck at church. We had over 65 parents, teens and siblings come together for food and fun. Thanks to all of you for making this a priority and bringing your families. It was great fun to see all ages and abilities out on the volleyball court laughing and playing together.

Parents: Talk to your teens about attending *Happening!* in Pacific Grove the weekend of Nov 4-6. We will take them there and bring them back. I'll be asking for applications the first week of October-these were mailed out to you early in September. The *Happening!* weekend is a time for your teen to fellowship with other teens in a group led by their peers with adult supervision, and to explore their faith. If you've got any questions about this event, please call me. If your teen has questions they can call me or contact Taylor Mills, Alex Bishop or Greg Lukanc who all have attended and/or served on teams.

See the Fall Schedule for our next activities. Terry and I will be attending a 3 day youth worker convention in Sacramento Sept 29-Oct 2. We are excited about spending the time with other workers, sharing ideas, attending seminars, listening to great Christian music, and having shared experiences. We hope to bring back lots of ideas and get renewed and revved up to take on this cool group of teens for 2005-06. If you've got any questions about SHYGS or our activities feel free to contact me. (408) 268-1203 or robinroot@yahoo.com.

*Robin Root*

**SHYGS meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays from 6-8:30 at church unless otherwise indicated. Our group had a great planning meeting in September and voted on a number of topics they wanted to discuss. As we build out our schedule I'll be adding topics to these meeting nights and will both send out by email and post at church.**

Sunday, Oct 2, 6-8:30 Meeting –Topic or Event TBD

Sunday, Oct 16, 6-8:30 Meeting –Topic TBD, Plan Servant Auction

Friday, Oct 21 – Field Trip - Sin, Death and Halloween (St. Judes, Cupertino)

Weekend, Nov 4-6 – Happenings! in Pacific Grove. Robin and Terry will take you! Applications have been mailed. If you still need one, contact me. We'll be back in time to go to Grace Cathedral.

Sunday, Nov 6, 3:30-9:00 – Trip to Grace Cathedral in SF - Modern Service to the Music of U2 - Dinner and cable cars

Friday, Nov 18 – Field Trip - Hunger, what's that? (Trinity Cathedral)

Sunday, Nov 20 – Shop for Thanksgiving food for our adopted families right after church. Regular meeting 6-8:30 – Topic TBD

Sunday, Nov 27 – Servant Auction during Coffee Hour



# YOUTH

## JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

We had 17 kids attend our first meeting on Sept. 11, from 6-8 pm at the church. We played squash ball travel. The kids had to journey across the fellowship hall without touching the floor while walking on tennis balls. They were aided by one crutch and everyone else was to help the traveler by placing the balls in front of their feet. There were a few who made it following the rules and many who made it across by various other ways! We ate pizza, salad, grapes, and Rice Krispies treats for dinner, but forgot to hand out the otter pops for everyone who made it across the tennis balls!

We discussed the unusual journeys of Moses and Jonah after reading the Bible passages and decided that listening to God and not running from Him was the way to go. God wants us to be successful so He will continue to present us with opportunities to show that we learned to handle each situation the way he wants us to. In other words, we need to listen to God and learn the best way to conduct ourselves. It was also an obvious illustration as far as the tennis balls went that we need to help each other on our journeys.

We then went over our JHYG's schedule for the year. We have some fun activities already planned and some to be announced. The entire schedule is posted on the web site but here is the October and November schedule:

The meeting schedule is 6-6:30 –game time, 6:30-7:00 – dinner, 7:00-7:50 discussion or activity, 7:50-8:00 short prayer.

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – trip to San Francisco to Orpheum Theatre to see stage adaptation of *Holes*. Leave church

at 1pm, show at 2:30, dinner in SF and home by 8 pm

Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> – meeting at church 6-8

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – meeting at church 6-8

Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> – leave church at 5pm for Laser Quest in Mountain View back by 8:45 pm

The following are dates we need parents to sign up to bring dinner for the kids. When you sign up to bring dinner we need you to stay and help Jon and me with the rest of the meeting.

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> (lunch), Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, Feb.12<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, & May 28<sup>th</sup>

We have a great group of kids. Thanks everyone for coming and we'll see you on the 9<sup>th</sup>

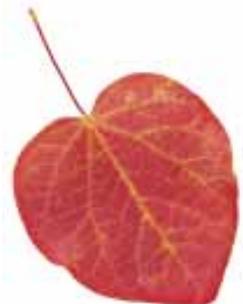
*Katie McCormick and Jon Mills*

## JR. HIGH / CHAIR CLOSET

Our Junior High will continue to meet in the chair closet. When there are events that use the chairs, clean up crews need to put the chairs behind the bulletin boards instead of in the closet in preparation for Sunday School. Our kids need a "home" when they come for class!

Thank you for your cooperation.

*Katie McCormick*



# YOUTH & CHRISTIAN ED

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sept. 18 - Nov. 20 - Regular schedule  
Nov. 27 – no Sunday School (Advent wreath making in fellowship hall)  
Dec. 4 - Regular schedule  
Dec. 11 – no Sunday School (Instant Christmas Pageant)  
Dec. 18 - Regular schedule  
Dec. 25 – no Sunday School (Christmas)  
Jan. 1 – no Sunday School  
Jan. 8 - Jan. 22 - Regular schedule  
Jan. 29 – no Sunday School for Junior High (ski trip)  
Feb. 5 - Feb. 19 - Regular schedule  
Feb. 26 – pass around the alleluia banner to classrooms  
Mar. 5 – no Sunday School (Coming of Age ceremony / bury the Alleluia Banner away from the grove)  
Mar. 12 - Apr. 2 - Regular schedule  
Apr. 9 – no Sunday School (Palm Sunday - Stations of the Cross)  
Apr. 16 – no Sunday School (Dig up the Alleluia Banner and have Easter egg hunt)  
Apr. 23 - Apr. 30 - Regular schedule  
May 1 – no Sunday school for Junior High (New Beginnings)  
May 7 - May 14 - Regular schedule  
May 21 – last day of Sunday School (Celebration in classrooms)

**29 Sessions (27 for the Junior High)**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first day of Sunday School was Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Our teachers this fall are:

### 3 & 4 year-olds

1. Trish Reilly
2. Ryan McPherson and Taylor Mills
3. ?

### Kindergarten

1. Kerry Sisler
2. Leslie Rousseau
3. Kelly Yamanishi

### 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

1. Sharon Hall
2. Tami Nieders
3. Tom Fahlen

### 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade

1. Bonnie McPhers
2. Sandy Baldwin
3. Kathleen Quint

### 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade

1. Sandy Mueller
2. Byron Henderson
3. ?

### 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade

1. Sharon Mills
2. Ron Howie
3. Sam Sarmecanic

As you can see we still need two more teachers.  
If you are willing to contribute to this ministry  
please contact Katie McCormick.





## **ECA CHOIR**

The ECA Chancel Choir has resumed rehearsals on Thursday nights from 7:30-9:00pm. More singers are always welcome. We were very happy to have Betty Consorte and Kathleen Eagan join us last year, and hope for more to join us this season. Please consider joining us...it's great fun singing with such a dedicated group!

## **JV HANDBELL CHOIR**

The JV Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals as soon as we can get a consensus among the players for a good day and time to rehearse. The Handbell Choir, like the AVUCC Choirs, has lost Patty Johnson due to her recent move, but Susie Ferguson has volunteered to step in and play with us. More players and substitutes are needed. Please contact John Leslie or Maryke Williams (or any other Bell Choir member) for more information.

## **JV CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

The JV Children's Choir will resume rehearsals next month, in order to prepare music for the Sunday School Christmas Pageant and the family Christmas Eve service.

## **PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS – Piano or Voice**

John Leslie continues to offer private instruction in piano and/or voice, including music-reading skills and some theory. If you are interested in lessons for yourself, or for your child, please contact John with any questions.

## **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF**

Thanks to all who participated in this summer's musical "Fiddler on the Roof"; 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 supremely talented, yet humble star, Byron Henderson, who was wonderful in the role of Tevye. Byron went beyond the call of duty learning such a huge

part: helping so much with set design and construction, as well as enlisting the aid of his lovely wife Marian, who helped with creating props, sets and paint detailing. Claire was also a delight in the role of Bielke, along with Susana Machado as Sprintze. This brings me to another family who took part in the show: joining Susana on stage were her sister Julia as the lovely Chava, who danced so beautifully in the Chava Sequence, dad Joe as the official and assertive Russian constable, and mom Gwen as Fruma Sarah, scaring us all in the nightmare scene.

Fr. Stephen played the role of the Rabbi. Other cast members from ECA included: Brad Bond as Fyedke, Doug Dunham as Avram, the Bookseller, Mary Leal as Grandma Tzeitel, Sandie Mueller as the Fiddler, Taylor Wing as Motel the tailor, with Marc Bond, Faith Mills and Danielle & Kristen Petruzzelli as villagers!

Also in the cast, and equally as excellent: Marilyn Graham as Golde, Sandy Baldwin as Yente, Betsy Dingman as Hodel, Steve Coutinho as Reb Mordcha, the innkeeper, John Hawes as the Beggar, Kendrick Hough as Mendel the Rabbi's son, Bart Smith as Lazar Wolf. Others from AVUCC included Kristie Bemis, Chris Coutinho, Carolyn Dingman, Robyn Dorsey, Leilani Farnquist, Judy Martin, Betsy Shoup, Karen Smith and Peggy Wright.

Guest performers were Vanessa Briggs as Tzeitel, Andrew Hall as Perchik and Cindy and Lin Eschenfelder joined the cast of delightful, dutiful daughters. Jonathan Murphy made an appearance as Chava's suitor Fyedke for the matinee performance.

David and Roger Hoyt and Ann Mayers of ECA played in the band, along with John's cousin Tom Eschenfelder; and from AVUCC: Debbie Bemis, Rae Harris, Terry Shoup and Bob Thomas, and guest violist Carolyn Donnell.



As usual, we were blessed with the ticket services of Marion Grunge, lighting by Kimberly Axtell, graphics and printing by Todd Axtell, and sound reinforcement by Doug Dunham, and run by Guido Spanjaart

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

*L'chaim!*  
*John Leslie*

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## ALMADEN ADVENTURES IN THE ARTS

The Almaden Adventures in the Arts Concert Committee is meeting this month to finalize the 2005-2006 concert schedule and will send out a mailing soon. You will receive information about dates, events, and how to get the most money for your dollars by subscribing to the entire season. The Music at Joint Venture Churches Summer Musical will be included as part of the Concert Season, so your subscription will include one ticket to next summer's musical in addition to all the other great musical offerings!

We are very grateful to all those who have made suggestions for performing artists and groups. If anyone else has a suggestion, we will gladly receive them; and if our season is already set for 2005-2006, we will certainly keep those suggestions for future years.

Our fall "kick-off" concert (Saturday, November 19) will be a fund-raiser, to help rectify our 2004-2005 Adventures in the Arts budget deficit. John Leslie has agreed to perform his "one-man"

performance of "Matthias: the 13<sup>th</sup> Apostle," accompanied by Roger Hoyt, Terry Shoup, Tom Eschenfelder, and a vocal quartet: Susan Gaydon, Gwen Hacker, John Hawes and Dennis Elliott. John takes on the character of Matthias, a follower of Jesus, who was selected to join the 11 remaining apostles after Judas betrayed Jesus and took his own life (see Acts 1:15-26). The musical selections are "light" contemporary Christian tunes, including "People Need the Lord," "Honor the Lord," and "When His Kingdom Comes," originally recorded by Steve Green. Matthias tells of how he came to be a follower of Jesus, and that he "was there" as a witness to the Baptism of Jesus, the Sermon on the Mount, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, the Crucifixion and Resurrection, Pentecost and Jesus' Ascension. John has performed this concert several times in Massachusetts and in Maine, and is pleased to present the West Coast premiere here at Joint Venture Churches.

John, ever the humble servant, has agreed to also encourage those who may not sign up for the entire season; to be sure to come to the November 19 Matthias concert to help him celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday following the performance!!! (If anyone would like to help with decorating the Parish Hall and/or providing refreshments for the performers and attendees, please contact someone on the Almaden Adventures in the Arts Committee.)

More information will appear in next month's newsletter.

*Todd Axtell*

# THANKS!

Thank you to Jim Ward and Kim Petruzzelli for driving 10 SHYGS to their first ETC field trip on Sept 8<sup>th</sup>. We appreciated your chauffeuring skills!

Kyle Dando and Ann Mayers were indispensable at our SHYGS family potluck on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>! Ann provided the balloons and oversaw the entire cleanup, and Kyle was our master of volleyball organization. Thank you both!

Thank you Phyllis Chai for offering to help sell 2006 Entertainment Books this year—what a help that is!

Although our SHYGS booth was cancelled at the last minute because of a permit mix-up, thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with our booth at the Almaden Art and Wine Festival. To Corrin Degnan who volunteered to donate our fee; to the Hall family who planned to donate their time and their frozen margarita machine so that we could offer frozen lemonade and not have to worry about what we would sell; to Mary McPherson who headed up the operation and made sure that everyone knew where to go and what time they needed to be there; to Bryan Bond and Anna Spanjaart who made our signs; and finally to the many teens and parents who signed up to bring supplies and work shifts. Thank you all for your dedication to SHYGS!



## MEXICAN FIESTA

2005 Annual Meeting  
November 5th at 6pm  
el Hombre en La Cocina  
(AKA head Chef)  
Señor McCormick

Mark your calendar!

