

# The Shape

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

## FROM STEPHEN

February promises to be a busy month. The worship committee has made some changes in our worship schedule that you should be made aware of.

We have moved Youth Sunday from the third Sunday of the month to the fourth Sunday of the month. This is to allow John Leslie to work with Tim Miller on developing some more contemporary music for Youth Sunday. Tim is unavailable on the third Sunday so we will have Youth Sunday on the fourth Sunday. This will necessitate moving our Healing Service to the third Sunday of the month, except in April when Easter is on the third Sunday of the month and so healing will be on the fifth Sunday of April. If this is too confusing just remember the new general rule Healing = third Sunday, Youth = fourth Sunday.

We have also decided, on a trial basis, to wipe out the prayer list at the end of every month and start over on the first Sunday of the month. This is a difficult issue. On the one hand, it is vitally important that we pray for everyone who needs prayers. That is what we do, we pray. On the other hand, our prayer list seems to be growing overly large on a regular basis. So, we will try this and see how it works. Please remember, we want to pray for everyone who needs prayers.

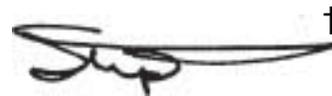
We have also discovered that the US Postal Service is no better nor more reliable in delivering our "worship reminder" postcards than it is delivering the Shape (even when we send it first-class). So, if you have an e-mail address on file with the church, we will send the worship reminders via e-mail. If not we will continue to use the postcards. We also will be sending out the Matrix as a separate mailing and not as part of the

Shape. If you lose or misplace yours, you can find it online at [www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org).

Shifting gears, Bishop Romero will be visiting us on March 26<sup>th</sup>. To prepare for his visit we will be having a Confirmation Class for those youth in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or above. The class will be a joint class with AVUCC and will be taught by Kevin Smith, the AVUCC pastor, John Leslie and me. We will meet for six Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. beginning on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, it is hard to believe but Lent is almost upon us. We prepare for Lent with our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The details will be in the Sunday bulletins and posted on the church website. On Ash Wednesday (March 1<sup>st</sup>) we will have two services, one at 7:30 am and the other at 7:30 pm. Both will use the Ash Wednesday Liturgy with the imposition of ashes and communion. As has been our custom for the last several years, we will be using Rite I throughout Lent.

May you have an enlightening Epiphany and a Holy Lent!



Salaam,  
Stephen +

## FROM THE EDITOR

Moving is such a trying endeavor, let alone moving as a couple. It brings out the best and the worst, it stresses everyone involved, and the only “clearing-out” happening during the process is financial. Since we have been doing the insane for the last three years (paying two mortgages and renting a place to actually live in), we finally decided something had to give and it was time to sell up and buy something cheap to actually live in. This would have all been fine and dandy had things sold last year. Now that we are firmly in 2006 and only one property in escrow, we decided it was time to leave the studio in-law unit for something a bit more spacious: 940sf in Sunnyvale.

The trouble with moving of course is that you actually have to **move** everything you own. This isn't so hard in college when it's maybe a TV, a book or two, some toiletries and the iron that was never used as an iron (you'd be surprised what you can cook with an iron set to “cotton” and some tinfoil).

Once you've been settled for a while, with a stable job, and start acquiring furniture that's actually worth something it's a different matter: You suddenly find all the things that went missing while you were living there, which means of course that you now have two since you already bought a replacement. The ugly side of your housekeeping becomes apparent (I guess you're supposed to clean under the fridge now and then). Inevitably you wind up replacing furniture at this point because “we might as well do it when we're moving.” Then, there is always a collection of nick-knacks that people have given you, which you secretly abhor but you keep just in case the person ever comes over and asks about it. Then of course there are all the things from your childhood you've saved “for when we have kids.” Add to all this all the odd things you keep for no particular reason and you have ample ammunition for the inevitable: “why are we keeping **that**” and “can't we **please** get rid of this” and “oh, *joy* <fake smile> you **found** that... and here I thought it was lost for *good*.” Personally, I was willing to fight to the death to keep the bedraggled stuffed dog that my mother had made me when I was 4 and went with me everywhere. It was sans two legs, half blind, and looked like the something had dug it up from the yard, but it was MINE!!

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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

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)

#### MINISTRIES

ACOLYTES	Valerie Tysanner
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
HANDBELL CHOIR	Maryke Williams
KIDS' BREAKOUT	Leslie Rousseau
LAY READERS	Dennis Moran
MONTGOMERY MEALS	Amy Griffith
NURSERY	Lorry Long
PRAYER VINE	Dorothy Willard
USHERS	Dave Byers
SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Robin & Terry Root
JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP	Katie McCormick
WORSHIP	Sandie Mueller
WEBMASTER	Kim Petruzzelli
YOUTH SUNDAY	Jim McPherson, Bryan Bond

#### ECA STAFF

CHRISTIAN ED. DIRECTOR	Katie McCormick
MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORGANIST	John Leslie
TREASURER	Maryke Williams
YOUTH DIRECTOR	Katie McCormick
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Desi Brown

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# The Shape

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## Senior Warden's Article

The joys of journalism....I have to write this one week prior to our Vestry Retreat when I'm excited about getting to know the 2006 Vestry better and begin a very special relationship with them serving Christ and you in our parish. You will be reading this, *today*, two weeks after that event happened so whatever I share about the impending retreat could seem a little out of sync, or at its best "just old news." Relevancy and timing is always a challenge in journalism.

On the other hand, scripture is always relevant and always in perfect timing. Oh, we may not be open to see it and accept it; we may even avoid it. But the inspired word of God written so long ago still has great meaning to each of us every day and in every way.

Take for example John 15:1-17, the story of Jesus as the real vine. Verse 5 is probably very familiar to you, "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me." This passage probably comes up in my Bible study and meditation at least every other year and each time I consider it in light of my current circumstance. This year is no different.

I can't help but wonder if I continue to "abide" in Christ, grow my personal relationship with Him *this year*, how much more fruit will my branch produce for Christ and what will that fruit be like. If our Vestry as a whole stays firmly connected to the vine this year, how much more fruit will they produce in the life of our church. If each one of you grows your own relationship stronger in the vine, how much more fruit will you produce for ECA and the community and world around us. It may not be all fun and easy. There may be lots of pruning and training along with the nurturing. But the harvest could be our best ever.

I would like to encourage you to be a part of an abundant harvest in 2006. First, get yourself more rooted in scripture. Join a Bible study or start one with a few friends. If you are in a study encourage someone new to join. Scripture is an important

part to growing a deeper connection to the vine. Bring a little more of the vine into your various ministries and activities at ECA. Try starting those activities with a meditation on a selected scripture. Personally, start today by reading John 15 and reflecting on your own connection with the vine and the fruit you might produce in the coming year. Let us each do our part to make the Lord's harvest of 2006 the best ever at ECA.

Susie

Ferguson, Senior Warden

## Coming Soon to a Joint Venture Church near you – Confirmation Class

Calling all 8<sup>th</sup> graders and above. Would you like to have fun? Would you like to hang out with youth your own age? Would you like to learn more about the church. Well two out of three ain't bad. Yes, I know I shouldn't ought to use "ain't" in a sentence. While we are still working out the details, the plan is to have a Confirmation Class for 8<sup>th</sup> graders starting in February and March. This will be a Joint Venture Class but we will teach you the truth about both the Episcopal Church and the United Church of Christ. This is the place to come and ask your questions. (Answers cost extra.) No question is dumb (except the ones we can't answer). We plan to learn about our faith and music, play games and eat cookies. Our class will be on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm starting February 16<sup>th</sup>. At the conclusion of the class we will invite you to be confirmed on March 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be contacting you in the near future so please get ready for excitement!

## **BLUEGRASS BAND SIDESADDLE & COMPANY TO PERFORM HERE ON FEB. 25**

Well-known local bluegrass band Sidesaddle and Company will perform in concert on Saturday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m. here at Joint Venture Churches of Almaden.

Based in San Jose, Sidesaddle & Co. has been captivating audiences with their unique acoustic sound since 1979. The five members of the band come from an interesting variety of musical backgrounds, which come alive in their repertoire of primarily traditional Bluegrass music, seasoned with vintage Country, Irish, Cajun and Cowboy Western. They also mix in some Gospel, Folk, Novelty and Comedy.

Billboard Magazine has called their music "superbly melodic." Critics have hailed their performances as "sophisticated and highly entertaining" and their harmonies "impeccable." The band's current lineup is Jerry Ashford, guitar, vocals; Lee Anne Welch, fiddle, vocals; Lisa Burns, bass, vocals; Rob Horgan, banjo, vocals; Kim Elking (a.k.a. KPIG Radio D.J. Robbin' Banks), mandolin, vocals; and Glenn Dauphin, guitar, vocals.

Advance tickets are \$15 general, \$8 students and \$5 children (\$20, \$10 and \$5 respectively at the door). Childcare will be provided. Tickets are limited and reservations are recommended. For more information, please call the church office at 408-268-0243.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

"A Taste of New Orleans" is coming your way on Saturday, April 1, 2006, 6 - 9 PM, Fellowship Hall. This dinner is a UCC fundraiser to benefit the greater New Orleans area.

## **GIFTS OF GRATITUDE**

**Arnold Moore:** Thank you for organizing and sustaining the bocce ball game after the Men's Breakfast on Thursday mornings at 9:10 AM. (Breakfast at Denny's at 8 AM. All men welcome.)

**John McPherson and Jackie and Len Whitlock:** Thank you for procuring and installing a lighted creche scene for our church this past Christmas.

**Katie, Kristen, Kim, and Sandie:** Thank you for all your work on our fabulous Christmas pageant in 2005. (No, you haven't been forgotten even if it's February.)

**John Leslie:** Thank you for organizing our Epiphany Talent Show. Thank you for all your encouragement of talent in our midst.

**George Romer:** Thank you for fixing the Rectory gate and fence that blew down.

**Pete Mayo and Earl Griffith:** Thank you for cutting up the tree that blew down in the tree lot.

**Betty and Dom Consorte:** Thank you for being such a wonderful host and hostess to the choir on Christmas Eve.

**Performers on Saturday Night:** Thank you to all of you who shared your special gifts with us at the annual Epiphany Talent Show. You provided a wonderful evening of fun and joy.

## **Third Thursday Ladies Dinner Group**

Sign up now to go to dinner at Santana Row's Left Bank Restaurant. Dinner is Feb 9th but reservations need to be made early. We will be carpooling from the church at 5:30 to have dinner at 6:00 pm. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall or call Amy at 268-0920.

## MUSIC NOTES

**NEW FAMILY CHOIR FORMING** - The Worship Committee has decided to move Youth Sunday to the fourth Sunday of every month, and we will be focusing on using many more contemporary songs and musical settings, such as music from the Renew! Hymnal and from Cursillo. All singers are welcome to suggest songs they enjoy and find meaningful. We will meet on Thursday nights at 5:30 for pizza and fellowship, and then will rehearse until around 7:00pm. All youth and parents (grandparents, aunts, uncles and guardians, too!) are invited and encouraged to be a part of this new group. Please call the church office and leave a message for John Leslie if you plan to attend, so enough pizza and soda can be provided.

**TALENT NIGHT** - Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Epiphany Talent Night on Saturday January 7 was a huge success. We were blessed by many and varied offerings of music, dance, comedy and “magic.” Thanks to all who performed, to all who baked and helped with refreshments, set-up and clean-up, and to our faithful audience. We couldn’t have done it without you! We received a free-will offering of more than \$50.00, which will go into our summer Musical Fund.

**SUMMER MUSICAL** - At our Epiphany Night of Gifts John announced that the summer musical will be “Anything Goes” with music by the legendary American composer Cole Porter. The musical will be performed July 7, 8, 14 and 15. The action of the play takes place on a luxury liner on a trip from New York to England, and features such “swelligant” songs as “Blow, Gabriel, Blow,” “Delovely,” “Friendship,” “You’re the Top” and many more. We will soon be looking for performers, as well as props, costume, set, sound and lighting crews.

**JV CHILDREN’S CHOIR** - The JV Children’s Choir has resumed rehearsals on Saturdays from 10:00-10:45am. All children are welcome to join us at that time, and for as long as we can continue without too much conflict with the kids’ team sports practices and games.



John & Betty “Granada”



Mary “What I did for Love”



Gwen & Byron “Anything Goes”

**FEB. 4 - ORGAN RECITAL BY DEAN  
COOK ON  
"A MUSICAL NIGHT AT THE MOVIES"**

Dean Cook, renowned theatre organist, will be featured in a recital on Saturday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m. at here Joint Venture Churches of Almaden. The program is billed as Musical Night at the Movies and will feature faithful recreations of scores by John Williams, Jerry Goldsmith, Elmer Bernstein, et. al. in a fusion of organ and synthesizer.

The second of this season's Soup, Salad & Sound organ recitals, the concert will be preceded by a potluck dinner featuring soup, bread and, new for this year, salad. Both the potluck soup offerings and the organ recital promise to be as tasty as ever.

Soup is served in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. and the recital, on our state-of-the-art digital Phoenix organ, begins at 7:30 p.m. If you have kindly brought soup to share in past years, please consider doing so again this year. Or, consider bringing a salad or bread. Contact John Leslie via email or phone to let us know what you're bringing.

Mr. Cook, a Bay Area native, heard his first Theatre Organ at the age of three at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo. At age 14, he acquired his first organ, a Conn spinet. At age 15, he began studies privately with jazz organist Chet Smith. After studying music theory in school, Dean began playing at most of the restaurants and theaters that featured organs, becoming something of a Bay Area fixture.

Between 1985 and 1996 Dean performed at venues such as Pizza & Pipes in Redwood City, Serramonte and Santa Clara; the Grand Lake Theater in Oakland; the Avenue Theater in San Francisco; and St. James Episcopal Church, Oakland. He has also performed at the Bella Roma Pizza in Martinez. In 1996, Dean relocated to Chicago where he became the featured organist at the famous Music Box Theater, and also appeared at Beggar's Pizza in Lansing, Illinois.

Dean relocated back to San Jose in 2001 and can now be heard at Angelinos where he plays Thursday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Dean has played for Sierra Chapter in the past. He has also played for NorCalTOS, most recently at the Berkeley Community Theater.

Advance and will call tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children. At the door, it's \$15 for adults, \$8 students and \$5 for children. Please call the church office at 268-0243 to reserve tickets in advance. Childcare is available.

Plus, it's not too late to subscribe to the balance of the Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert season. Music at Joint Venture Churches needs your support to continue to present the concert series. We have fashioned attractive season ticket packages to help entice your support. If you buy the rest of the season, you'll get one show free. Plus, as an added bonus, season ticket holders will be able to purchase reduced price tickets to next summer's musical production.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study**

Did you ever wonder why Jesus spoke in parables even though many people never understood his message? Did you ever read a parable and wonder if you understood its message? In bible study, we are just embarking on the parable-telling part of Jesus ministry. We are a group of 8-10 who get together to study the book of Matthew and pray for each other. You are welcome to join us. Thursday mornings 10-11:30 in the choir room. February 2nd we will be reading and discussing Matthew 14-15, and February 9th we will read Matthew 18:1-20. All are welcome and encouraged to come!

Mary McPherson

# YOUTH

## SHYGS

SHYGS had a great time at their annual movie marathon on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>! Twelve straight hours of food and movies-that's hard to top! I want to thank Terry Root and Ann Mayers who rode out the entire shift while Robin went home to sleep off a bad cold. They are ever faithful ministers to our teens.

Our meeting last month started off with the group picking words and phrases cut from magazines to prompt thoughts about what we would like to do differently this year, or what we would like to see happen differently-either for ourselves, our families or the world condition. Your teens are incredibly insightful as to where they see themselves and what they dream for.

This activity led us to start thinking about our dialogue and relationship with God. I mean, how can we meet our goals by ourselves? We talked about one of our original rock stars, David, who wrote incredible lyrics to the songs of the day, and then read Psalm 116 to hear David tell us about what it's like to turn things over to God, to ask for and to receive his assistance and ear. We also practiced the fine art of being quiet so that we could hear God's answers to our prayers. We find that it can be tough to shut out the chatter in our heads and just be quiet for 10 minutes, but that it might be a good thing to learn to do. God sometimes resides in that silence, so we want to get comfortable there. Using black and white photos to stimulate our questions for God, we came back to the group and shared what we thought God might be saying to us right now. I feel so privileged to be the recipient of your teen's sharing. Our prayer time centered on the offering of our goals and our request to be listened to and to learn to listen as we build our relationship with God.

Thanks David Hoyt for the awesome homemade chocolate chip cookies and to Terry for another fabulous dinner! See our calendar for our next events.

## What's Next For SHYGS?

Sat and Sun, Feb 4 and 5-Help Greg Lukanc with Eagle Scout project-At church-Times will be announced

Sunday, Feb. 12-SHYGS' major outreach project. We will participate with **Habitat for Humanity** working to convert an old Victorian downtown into 4 low-income condos. Be at church at 8:15 a.m., bring a sack lunch (beverages provided). We'll be back by 5:00. We need to have strong attendance at this event, so please make sure this is on your calendar. The waiver that was mailed to you **needs** to be signed by the parent and returned to me by Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. You can put it in my box at church or mail it to me.

Sunday, Feb. 19-Regular meeting 6-8:30

Tuesday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>-Shrove Pancake Dinner-Joint Youth Groups- Katie has a sign up sheet at church-SHYGS need sign up for a shift-Organized and run by Katie McCormick

March 5-Regular meeting 6-8:30

Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>-Tweak Hunt planned and led by Kyle Dando

Fri-Sun-March 31-April 2-Happening! Details as we get closer. Let me know if you're interested.

Sunday, April 2-Regular meeting 6-8:30

Friday, April 7-Seder-Joint Youth Event-Watch for details from Katie McCormick

Saturday, April 8-Catacombs, planned and led by Kyle Dando-Details later-At Church

# EVENTS SCHEDULE

2/1	Mah Jong	12:30pm
2/1	JV Bell Choir	4:45 pm
2/2	Men's Breakfast	8:00 am
2/2	Bible Study: Matthew	10:00 am
2/2	Family Choir Rehearsal	5:30 pm
2/2	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
2/3	Montgomery Meals	3:00 pm
2/3	Bridge Group	7:00 pm
2/4&5	Greg Lukanc' Eagle Project	
2/4	Memorial Service	11:00 am
2/4	AV Adv. Arts Organ Recital Featuring Dean Cook	6:30 pm
2/4&5	Greg Lukanc' Eagle Project	
2/5	Holy Communion	7:30 am
2/5	Sunday School	10:00 am
2/5	Holy Communion	11:00 am
2/5	SHYGS Dinner	6:00 pm
2/6	JV Duplicate Bridge	7:00 pm
2/8	Mah Jong	12:30 pm
2/8	JV Bell Choir	4:45 pm
2/8	Vestry Meeting	7:00 pm
2/9	Men's Breakfast	8:00 am
2/9	Bible Study: Matthew	10:00 am
2/9	Family Choir Rehearsal	5:30 pm
2/9	Ladies Dinner at <i>Left Bank</i>	6:00 pm
2/9	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
2/12	Folk Sunday	
2/12	Holy Communion	7:30 am
2/12	SHYG Habitat for Humanity Work Day	8:15 am
2/12	Sunday School	10:00 am
2/12	Holy Communion	11:00 am
2/12	JHYG Meeting	6:00 pm
2/14	Valentine's Day	
2/15	Shape Deadline	
2/15	Mah Jong	12:30 pm
2/15	JV Bell Choir	4:45 pm
2/16	Men's Breakfast	8:00 am
2/16	Bible Study: Matthew	10:00 am
2/16	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm
2/16	JV Book Club	7:30 pm
2/16	Family Choir Rehearsal	5:30 pm
2/16	Adult Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
2/17	Montgomery Meals	3:00 pm
2/19	SHYG Meeting	6:00 pm
2/19	Healing Sunday (note new week)	
2/19	Holy Communion	7:30 am

2/19	Sunday School	10:00 am
2/19	Holy Communion	11:00 am
2/20	Presidents' Day	
2/21	JV Board Meeting	7:30 pm
2/22	Mah Jong	12:30 pm
2/23	Men's Breakfast	8:00 am
2/23	Family Choir Rehearsal	5:30 pm
2/23	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm
2/25	Almaden Adventures in the Arts Sidesaddle & Co.	7:30 pm
2/25	JHYG Bake Sale During Intermission	
2/26	Youth Sunday (note new week)	
2/26	Holy Communion	7:30 am
2/26	Sunday School	10:00 am
2/26	Holy Communion	11:00 am
2/28	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	

## February Anniversaries

Edie & Gary Keck	1
Donna & Tim Miller	?
Jon & Sharon Mills	?
Jackie & Len Whitlock	3

## February Birthdays

Alyce Gallego	2
Bailey Bishop	5
Dan Degnan	5
Pete Mayo	6
Ellen Lukanc	7
John McPherson	7
Ryan McPherson	7
Virginia Jones	14
Andy Kerr	15
Jeff Nollette	16
Monique Rousseau	16
Mary McPherson	18
Zachary Nollette	21
Taylor Mills	23
Mel Stonehocker	24
Elizabeth Hoyt	25
Terry Root	26
Kimberly Axtell	27
Brooke Mills	27