

The Shape

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

FROM STEPHEN

In a recent survey of employers, the researcher asked them what they were looking for in an employee. They got back all the answers you would expect: dependable, reliable, honest, hard working, creative. But there was one quality employers definitely were not looking for which was a surprise – that quality was passion. Employers did not particularly want employees with passion. Yet isn't that what drives most of us. Don't we have to believe in what we are doing in order to do the job? We have to have some sense that what we are doing is important and that it makes a difference in people's lives. The last week of Jesus life on earth – the week of his death and resurrection is called Holy Week or Passion Week. There we see in tangible form the great love God has for us. You are invited to witness these events in a series of vignettes.

On Palm Sunday (April 9), assisted by the Folk Choir, we will begin with all the excitement and joy of Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will wave our palm branches and hail him as our Messiah. But we will watch our hopes turn to despair as the religious authorities convince the Romans to arrest and crucify Him.

On Maundy Thursday (April 13th) at 7:30 p.m. we will eat with Jesus and his disciples at His Last Supper and experience the agony He undergoes in the Garden of Gethsemane and pour out our grief through

the service of Tenebrae. This is a joint service with AVUCC and will feature a joint choir presentation.

On Good Friday (April 14th) we will witness Jesus death on the cross at noon with the Good Friday Liturgy and experience the full force of the tragedy as we walk the Via Dolorosa (the way of the cross) through the Stations of the Cross at 1:00 p.m. in the tree lot.

On Easter Sunday (April 16th and for the seven Sundays after Easter) we will, at last, experience the joy of the resurrection as we journey to the tomb with the women and find it empty. We will then contemplate what this might mean in our lives through the celebration of Easter. Our Easter celebration begins at Quicksilver Park at 6:15 a.m. as we witness the first light of Easter (sunrise is at 6:33 a.m.) This celebration will feature the combined folk choirs of both churches. We will continue our Easter celebration with services both 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. There will be music at both services and the ECA adult choir will sing at both services.

Thank you and bless you!



Salaam,
Stephen +

From the Editor



As you have probably noticed by now, The AShape has changed shape! We've gone from tabloid to legal paper for a few reasons. Smaller paper is of course cheaper, it's also lighter to mail, faster to print, and better for the environment using about 37% less paper than the prior format. I would love to hear from everyone about the new size, if you like it, drop me an e-mail, and if you don't like it... e-mail Stephen. Just kidding, always feel free to e-mail me any comments or suggestion at any time, only thru input can we improve. My e-mail address is: alex@dykesfamily.net

On a totally different subject, I am splitting my time actually working on the shape and going thru pictures that we took of our godson this past weekend. Human growth and development is a miracle that is all around us, but I have to say I did not spend much time contemplating until this past year as we have been a part of his life. Every stage is amazing to me. For instance: what makes a child all of a sudden decide to walk? What so drives our development that we pick ourselves up off the floor? It is something that every child does, but what is the drive? Children do it all on their own, studies have ruled out emulation and training as reason. The only thing left is design. We were *made* to walk. There comes a time when children abandon the efficient locomotion that is crawling, and start balancing precariously on two legs, unsteady, unsure of themselves, and then they walk. One cannot argue that walking is more efficient. While that is plainly obvious that it's more efficient for adults to walk, when you are 12 months old, it's much faster to crawl. The logical, efficient thing to do would be to crawl to your destination, then stand. It requires less effort, less balance, and less danger. Truly there is a miracle here somewhere.

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SUNDAY SERVICES
7:30 AM and 11:00 AM

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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

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The Shape

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Parish Life

FROM THE SR WARDEN

Romans 12:12 “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

It's easy to be joyful in the big hopes we have for our lives, our goals, our dreams, our travel plans, to mention a few. But how about in our routine lives with all their challenges day in and day out...facing another cancer treatment, dealing with our job and our companies with shifting economies, struggling with broken relationships, making ends meet, stressed by the hectic pace around us, overwhelmed by family commitments and needs. The list is endless. Here's where Paul's words truly challenge us.

He's encouraging us to be patient within our trials, tribulations, frustrations, and worry. Living through many of them isn't easy. But Paul wants us to find the little glimpses of hope that exist and be joyful in those. And all of this will be easier if we stay faithful in prayer. When our circumstances can anger us and move us away from God, Paul directs us to move closer. The end result is often a new joy and a peace that passes all understanding.

Just a few weeks longer for Lent and we will be celebrating once again Easter, which is our greatest hope – the resurrection of Christ making our forgiveness and reconciliation with God possible once and for all, and giving us eternal life. Our services as well as our lives can reflect great joy through music, song, praise, and alleluias!

Susie Ferguson
Senior Warden

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Dennis Moran	3
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Parish Life

USHERING

As many of you know, this is the time of the year that church ushers are recognized nationwide for their service. Being an usher requires being attentive to the needs of everyone before, during and after the service. Quite often, we are one of the first people that a new guest to ECA will encounter. One of our most important functions is to help facilitate the even flow of parishioners to the communion rail. That, in and of itself, can often resemble an exercise in crowd control. But, your highly trained staff of ushers is able to pull it off without a hitch, week after week.

Recently, there has been a few changes in the ushers because of family commitments and personal schedules, and I would like to say welcome to our newest members, John Mills and Genevive Doyle. They join a dedicated group, to include:

Warren Willard, Fabrice Akue, Monte Bishop, Doug Wood, Steve Wing, Jerry Long, Terry Root, Cindy Francis, Roger Hoyt, Dwight Dorsey, Kim Petruzzelli, and David Hoyt.

I would also like to recognize the following people who have been willing to substitute whenever the need arises, and step up to the plate:

Danielle Petruzzelli, Gayle Byers, Dominic Consorte, and Jerry Ferguson.

I want to thank Todd Lukanc for his service, and hope that he will be able to re-join us in the future. Thanks for your help, Todd.

You may have noticed that on Youth Sunday, we have our young people that take over the ushering duties. Susie Ferguson used to assume that

duty of “recruiting” young people for that task, similar to the strong arm (ed) tactics she has used on each and every one of us over the years to get involved in one thing or another. Jim McPhearson has taken over Susie’s role in recruiting our youth to be ushers. The kids do a good job, and a lot of credit goes to each of you for being patient and letting the youth do their best. If you could, after the next youth service, thank those who are actively involved in the readings, ushering or acolyting during the service. Positive feedback is always a good thing.

If anyone would like to serve as an usher, please contact me at coffee hour following the service.

(I was only kidding about the nationwide recognition for ushers.)

David Byers
Head Usher



Parish Life

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Jesus said, "If you have faith and do not doubt... you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Matt. 21:21-22

I don't think Jesus meant us to take this literally. Many times people have prayed passionately for something and didn't receive it. What does Jesus promise us through prayer?

I really liked what William Barclay says about the promises of prayer.

1. Prayer is power. It is not asking God to do something, it is asking him to make us able to do it ourselves.
2. Prayer is the ability to accept, and in accepting, to transform. It is not meant to bring deliverance from a situation. It is meant to bring the ability to accept it and transform it.



He gives 2 examples. One was Paul, who prayed that he might be delivered from the thorn in his flesh. He never was delivered from that situation, but he was made able to accept it, and ultimately transformed it into something to boast about. (2Cor 12:1-10) The other example Barclay used is Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed that the cup might pass from him, and that he would be delivered from the agonizing situation he found himself in. His request could not be granted, but in that prayer he found the ability accept the situation; and in accepting it, the situation was transformed. The agony of the Cross led straight to the glory of the Resurrection. Instead of deliverance, prayer brings conquest of a situation.

3. Prayer brings the ability to bear. Prayer does not remove a tragedy, it doesn't help us escape from the situation, but it makes us able to bear the unbearable, to face the unface-able, to pass the breaking point and not to break.

(Excerpts taken from The Daily Study Bible Series, The Gospel of Matthew by William Barclay.)

If you would like to explore more of what is written in the Book of Matthew, please join us each Thursday morning 10-11:30 in the choir room. Bring your Bible!

Mary McPherson

Music Notes

Holy Week

Get ready for the “Greatest Story Ever Told”! I’m sure most of you reading this article will be planning to attend the exciting worship services on Palm Sunday, April 9 and Easter, April 16. However, if you ignore the rest of Holy Week, known as the “Passion of Our Lord,” you won’t feel the full meaning of the Resurrection in your Spirit. Please make it part of your Lenten discipline to attend the JV Maundy Thursday service, April 13 at 7:30pm. You will hear and be moved by the beautiful music of the Joint Venture Choir, with solos by Betty Consorte (ECA) and Hi-Dong Chai (AVUCC). You will also hear about, and experience the Last Supper, as well as the Tenebrae Service of Shadows, remembering Jesus’ Crucifixion. You might also consider attending one of the ECA Good Friday services (see elsewhere in this newsletter for times and places). Do something special and spiritual for your “self,” for your Spirit, for your soul...re-connect with God as you remember the Passion of Our Lord.

Youth & Family Choir

Thanks to Tim Miller, David Hoyt and John Leslie, and our enthusiastic singers for making Youth Sunday music so special and “electrifying.” We will meet again on Thursday, April 20 at 5:30pm for supper and rehearsal, expecting to be finished by 7:00pm. All youth are invited and encouraged to join us, as well as parents and any others who enjoy more popular praise music. Due to this rehearsal falling during April school vacation (the week following Easter), we will have a sign-up early in the month to find out how many people will be able to join us.

Summer Musical

The Joint Venture Summer Musical will be “Anything Goes” with music by the legendary American composer Cole Porter. The musical will be performed in Fellowship Hall July 7, 8, 14 and 15.

The action of the play takes place on a luxury liner departing New York and bound for England, and features such “swelegant” songs as “Blow, Gabriel, Blow,” “Delovely,” “Friendship,” “You’re the Top,” “I Get a Kick out of You” and many more. The show, like all good musicals of the 1930s and 1940s, ends with a wedding! After Easter, we will have a sign-up for any adults interested in being in the show, as well as those willing to help in any production capacity (lights, sets, costumes, ushering, etc.). We will also be providing basic tap dance classes for anyone who would like to dust off their old tap shoes to be a part of the tap dance team for the show.

JV Children’s Choir

The JV Children’s Choir continues to rehearse 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.

JV Bell Choir

The JV Bell Choir continues to rehearse Wednesdays from 4:45-6:00pm

Alas! And did my Savioir bleed? And did my Savioir die?

Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,

And the burden of my heart rolled away;

It was there by faith I received my sight.

And now I am happy all the day!

- - Isaac Watts

To God be the Glory!

John Leslie

Director of Music

Finance

STEWARDSHIP

This is the second installment in a series of Stewardship “thought trips”. The following is a hypothetical result, intentionally extreme to demonstrate the point that we need to work together in faith toward a better future from where we are. The following hypothetical situation is not pretty. This is just a hypothetical scenario.

Time

A key element of the church’s life is the time we give to each other. Suppose 25% of us just stopped giving of ourselves. What would happen? It could mean those who are currently helping would probably move toward burn-out and begin to feel taken advantage of. What would happen if 50% of us just stopped doing what we do? ECA is not a spectator church. How many would leave ECA for greener pastures?

Talent

Those whose talent we depend on would certainly be in high demand. While it might feel good for a while, those people would probably start avoiding service for fear of being asked to do another job. It would begin to feel like a job! Where is the joy in that?!

Community Service

The scenario being painted above would hardly be a shining example of “service to Christ’s work” in our community. It would hardly be an attractive place for newcomers.

Ministry Support

Support for ministry leaders would wane by at least that 25% to 50% and likely services would suffer drastically as ministry leaders try to make up the slack and gradually fall to burn-out and fatigue.

Pledging

If pledge and plate income were to fall 25% to 50% things at ECA would be drastically different. Consider that our Joint Venture commitment (building, utilities, maintenance, administration, music, youth education) is 38%, the Rector and Rectory is 31%, the Diocesan Fair Share (including arrears) is 26%, and our Ministries is a paltry 2%, Miscellaneous & Other expenses are 3% of our budget, respectively. Drastic cuts and ministry stoppage would occur. Possibilities are that our Rector would be forced to find 25% to 50% of his income from another parish while the Senior Warden would be conducting Morning Prayer Services up to half of Sundays. We would likely have no ministries.

We would likely have no outreach program, and youth and adult education would be drastically reduced and unpaid. The Diocese would likely start us on a program of reducing our status from Parish to Mission.

Conclusion

But, it doesn’t have to move in that direction. So, please don’t be simply satisfied. Dare to dream and make that dream move beyond our current status to higher and more complete service to this community and the world in this place we call The Episcopal Church in Almaden.

It starts with an act of faith and God is waiting for us to act. I have faith that the doomsday scenario I painted above will never happen. However, the more complacent we are the closer that day looms. Consider increasing your pledge today or begin a pledge, if you haven’t already. Please fill out a pledge card (available in a rack in the Narthex near the elevator).

George Romer
Vestry Stewardship Chair

Events

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Open your sleepy eyes with your church family and for God on Easter Sunday! Please join us for Easter Sunrise service in Quicksilver Park (driving directions forthcoming) at 6:15 am Easter Sunday, April 16th. There will be singing, prayer, scripture and lots of good fellowship as we greet the Son/Sun on Easter Morn! All are invited!



LADIES LUNCH / DINNER

Tuesday, April 4th
Dinner at Ednaray Chinese Restaurant
406 N Santa Cruz Ave. Los Gatos

Reservations at 6:00 PM
Carpool leaves ECA at 5:30

For more information,
call Amy Griffith at (408) 268-0920

FLORAL EXCLUSIVES

Many of you are familiar with Betty Consorte's flower business "Floral Exclusives". Some may have heard Betty has retired, and we just wanted to let you know that is "partially" true! Over the past year, she has transferred the business to me, so Floral Exclusives is still very much in operation, with Betty now working with me to continue her Floral Exclusives "tradition."

We mainly do larger events such as weddings and formal dinners, but do please check with me should you have individual needs. If available, I would be delighted to help you with such things as altar or individual flower arrangements. Please phone me at (408) 997-1826. If you know anyone needing a wedding or special event florist, please let them know about us.

Jenny Hoyt

PICTURE BOARD

Sandie Mueller and Mel Stonehocker will be taking photos for the renewal of our parish picture board after early and late services. Please approach them to have your (family) picture taken.



Events

SUMMER BBQ

The ushers are going to revive our summer BBQ event. We are waiting with baited breath for the weather to improve, and it looks like we may have to wait until April or May for this to take place. The sooner the better, so we will keep you informed through the Shape, and the Sunday Bulletin. In the past, the BBQ's have taken place after the Folk Sunday service. This gives Andy and his crew the opportunity to get you in the mood, and we compliment that experience.

We intend to continue to serve hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, the occasional turkey dogs, and all the fixings that go along with them. Soft drinks, bottled water, and chips will be offered as well. The price for this gastronomic experience will continue to be whatever the market will bear, in other words, let your conscience be your guide. (As long as your guiding conscience doesn't cause the ushers to support this event on our own).

Just in case — if you are not an usher, and you have a real hankering to flip burgers or turn hot dogs on the barbie, just let us know, and we will move out of your way. We are always looking for someone to blame our lack of cooking skills on.

Thanks for your support, and we are looking forward to a fun and delicious summer.

David Byers & Warren Willard

DE COLORES

The Santa Clara Servant Community Spring Cursillo weekend is coming soon. If you have identified candidates to share in the Cursillo experience, please get your applications in now. The fall weekend had to be postponed because we did not have enough candidates.

Cursillo is a weekend retreat that many have returned from with renewed Christian Vitality. You will experience a series of talks and discussions within small groups. You'll have time to reflect on your Christian faith and dine on some fantastic meals.

The dates for the upcoming weekend are Thursday May 4th starting in the late afternoon thru Sunday May 7th. Have children? Animals or other interests that you cant leave? No worries, your sponsor will take care of everything while you are enjoying this fantastic fun and spiritual weekend. If you want additional information on Cursillo, ask your clergy, or visit <http://www.sccursillo.org>, or e-mail weekend@sccursillo.org.

There may be a few openings for Candidates still available. Send in your candidates application now.

There open positions on the Santa Clara Servant Community Board. If you have financial skills, there is an opening for Treasurer. Also SCSC is looking for active Cursillo Reps for all congregations... Do you know that person from yours?

*Roy Morse
Chair of SCSC Board*

Events

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

April 1, 2006

**8:30 AM meeting/8 AM Men's Breakfast
Fellowship Hall**

Please join AVUCC and ECA members at the April 1st (no fooling!) Men's Breakfast to hear Jennifer Enault (Ed Grossmith's daughter and Corporate Disaster Program Manager) discuss how you and your family can get prepared in case of disaster. Jennifer's talk follows-up on our earlier discussion with Dr. Stevens of San Jose Prepared! who has encouraged our churches to become community leaders in emergency response. Join us for this most important session and help the Joint Venture churches be emergency preparedness leaders in our beloved Almaden Valley.

Jennifer Enault grew up in the Almaden Valley. She graduated from Leland High School in 1988. Jennifer graduated from California Polytechnic State University in Pomona in 1993 with a B.S. in Communications Arts.

Jennifer has worked at Comerica Bank since 1989 beginning as a college student with summer vacations as a teller and is presently a Vice President. She interned in the Marketing Department and has subsequently worked in many of the areas within the bank. As First Project Manager, starting in 1998, she managed the Y2K project. Since then, she has worked on many different projects including bank mergers, system conversions, software training, and new product implementations.

In 2003, Jennifer joined the Corporate Continuity and Recovery Management Team as Manager of the Western Division. This team manages the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Program for the entire corporation. Jennifer is responsible for all employees, building, and corporate assets within California, Washington, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, and offices on the East Coast. Jennifer has been blissfully married to Barry Enault for nine years. They have two children, Trevor, who just turned four, and Trista, who is gloriously two.



Community

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Byron Henderson and Sandie Mueller: Thank you for the wonderful sharing of “Jonah, The Reluctant Prophet.” Byron, your creative writing brings us all great joy. Sandie, your faithful work with your students is an inspiration.

Jessica Fahlen, Christian Da, Joshua Click, Alexandra May, Brian Gaydon, Hannah Sunsin: Thank you for your wonderful performance of Jonah in our sanctuary.

Ellen Lukanc, Anna Spanjaart, and Debbie Bishop: Thank you for coming early to help supervise the Pancake Supper.

The SHYGs and JHYGs: Thank you for helping us celebrate Shrove Tuesday with your usual great pancakes, etc. Thank you for the fun and spirit you put into the evening.

Katie McCormick and Robin Root: Thank you for your leadership and encouragement for our youth.

Kim Petruzzelli: Thank you for your whole-hearted leadership.

Jim McPherson: Thank you for your undying enthusiasm of every task you undertake.

Bonnie McPherson: Thank you for your wonderful homemade nourishment, (Chicken Soup) for the vestry’s soul.

Fr. Stephen: his inspired messages and quiet, meditative prayer-reading during our Lenten worship services.

Kimberly Axtell: her cantoring during our Lenten worship services.

Adventures in the Arts

PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR & CASTELLERO MIDDLE SCHOOL STAGE BAND

Saturday, April 29, 2006 3:00 PM

The best local school musicians will perform in a special afternoon concert. The award-winning Castellero Stage/Jazz Band will perform first, with the Pioneer Chamber Choir taking the stage after intermission.

Castellero Middle School is a National Blue Ribbon School and California Distinguished School, and is part of the San Jose Unified School District's K-12 Academic/Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Program. Director Mr. Joseph DeMar tells us that the **Castellero Jazz Band** is a finalist in radio station 98.5 KFOX's "School of Rock" online contest. Good luck!

Pioneer High School Chamber Choir performs at the school's Winter and Spring Concerts, participates in local and state wide festivals, and travels to Los Angeles every other year to participate in a Music Festival in the Disneyland area. The Chamber Choir, directed by Mr. Jeremy Harris, has been designed for advanced music students interested in both theory and vocal music performance. The Chamber Choir will offer a varied program of jazz, spirituals, and traditional choir numbers. After their performance for us, many of them will be rushing out for a quick dinner before returning to their school for this spring's Musical Comedy.

This promises to be a highlight of our Almaden Adventures in the Arts concert season! Please invite all your neighbors and friends to hear these fabulous and talented young people!

Remember: the concert will be at 3:00pm on Saturday, April 29. Tickets reserved in advance are

\$15 (general), \$8 (students 7th grade and higher), \$5 (children 6th grade and lower). You may make reservations by calling the church office (408-268-0243) and leaving a message for John Leslie with the number of tickets requested. Child care will be provided.

Adventures in the Arts Committee



Pioneer HS conductor, Jeremy Harris