

The Shape

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

FROM STEPHEN

IT'S A GIRL! I understand that was the most popular button at the just concluded General Convention of the Episcopal Church. It, of course, announced the election of Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori as presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. Her election came as quite a surprise. She was not considered one of the front runners when the balloting began, but she had the most votes, in a pretty evenly divided field of candidates, on the first ballot and by the fifth ballot she had received a majority of the votes in the House of Bishops. She is a very intelligent person with an undergraduate degree in biology from Stanford University and a Masters and PhD from Oregon State University. She is also a graduate of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and to the best of my knowledge, is the first alumna of that fine and august institution to be elected presiding bishop. She has a reputation for being a unifier and a consensus builder, certainly skills the Episcopal Church needs at this time. The Reverend Britt Olson, the Canon for Evangelism and Church Development, served with her in Nevada and speaks highly of her. She faces a number of very difficult challenges. Several diocese in the Episcopal Church have already petitioned for alternative Episcopal oversight because of her election. And while I believe that the Episcopal Church made a good faith attempt to comply with the Windsor Report, there are some voices within the Anglican Communion which are already saying the Episcopal Church did not go far enough. In other news, the

Archbishop of Canterbury made, what I believe, to be ill timed comments, about a procedure whereby there would be member churches with full membership in the Anglican Communion and member churches as associate members. The General Synod of the Church of England also, approved in principle, the concept of women bishops in the Church of England. This does not mean there will be women bishops. The formal approval process is just beginning, but it is a start.

So where does all this leave us. I hope it leaves us in a place where we can all talk together. One of the strengths of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church has always been that it tolerated, if not welcomed, a diversity of opinion and belief. We need people on both sides of these issues to remain in the church and to have their voices heard. We need to have our views challenged by those who disagree with us and we need to listen to all. The Holy Spirit acts in community. May she be alive uniting and enlightening us. Please keep our new Presiding Bishop in your prayers.

On the diocesan front, the Diocesan Evaluation and Structure Committee continues to refine its work on the structure and funding for the diocese. The latest incarnation of their report was presented to the deanery on June 27. There are going to be further refinements and another round of meetings. The next

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From the Editor



There seems to be a great deal of confusion on the subject of how the Anglican Communion operates. This is as confusing to some Anglicans as the Christian faith is to non-Christians. We are many churches, and yet are one. We have one focal point, yet no head. We have different prayer books, yet believe the same thing. This all connects back to the See of Canterbury. This probably something you have referred to before, and thought "There's no sea of Canterbury, I know where Canterbury is and there's no sea there!"

"See" or "Sedes" is a seat, more specifically the official seat or throne or "cathedra" of a bishop. And it is usually found in the cathedral of the bishop's diocese, hence the word "cathedral." So, the "See of El Camino Real" can be found on North Second Street & St. John in San Jose. The See of Canterbury however is more than just a physical location (Lambeth Palace); it is the symbol of Anglican unity created by Parliament hundreds of years ago. When we refer to the Anglican Church as a whole, we are referring to the 70 million people, in 38 provinces, in more than 160 countries that are "in communion with the See of Canterbury." Just like the Roman Catholic Church would have no direction or unity without their Archbishop, so too would the Anglican Church have a lack of focus and unity without the See. The Lambeth Conference of 1930 defined the Anglican Communion as: "part of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Its center of unity is the See of Canterbury. To be Anglican it is necessary to be in Communion with that See." So it's not enough that a church look like an Anglican Church, or use our Book of Common Prayer, but in order to be an "Anglican Church" you must be in communion with the See. Make sense? Or does something smell fishy? You may recall the New Anglican Mission in America? They are not in communion with the See of Canterbury.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN
6581 Camden Avenue, San José, CA 95120
Tel 408-268-0243 • Fax 408-268-4207
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

MINISTRIES

ACOLYTES	Valerie Tysanner
ALTAR GUILD	Elaine LaVallee, Betty Wood
COFFEE HOUR	Pete Mayo
FOLK CHOIR	Andy Kerr
GREETERS	Sharon Mills
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GOOD SAMS	Jenny Hoyt
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Desi Brown

CONTACTING

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EDITOR	Alex Dykes
TELEPHONE NUMBER	408 268-0243
EMAIL ADDRESS	shape@eca-sj.org

The Shape

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FROM THE \$R. WARDEN

“Anything Goes” and “everything went” - time...energy...sleep... That’s how I am feeling as I sit at my computer to put together this month’s article for all of you. Yes, I may feel exhausted on one hand, but on the other I feel very uplifted and exhilarated by the wonderful community that was strengthened through last month’s show. “Building community” has always been my passion in ministry. This time, however, I didn’t have to get the group together; I could just be one of the group. (Thank you, John.)

So many wonderful members of the UCC congregation that I have passed coming and going throughout our building for years, I now think of as friends. And isn’t that what always happens when a group of individuals work together building something from a mere idea or inspiration. As individuals they lose sight of each other’s differences and focus on a shared goal. They work with love and compassion towards one another, helping to bring each other along the path to the desired goal. They encourage, praise and uplift one another so everyone shines. In just 2 months time, a group of diverse individuals took small threads and wove them together into a fine tapestry. This particular tapestry was crazy and colorful. The show itself may be over and stored in our memory banks, but the warmth, comradery, and fellowship can live on and serve us well as we continue to work together in our churches and our world.

Beginning right in our families and churches to remote places across the earth, our world polarizes itself by its differences. Egos, beliefs, power, being right, and winning too often drive wedges into our

communities. As believers in Christ we are called to a higher standard, to a maturity where we can show grace to one another, no matter how different we think, feel, or live out our lives. We can begin by practicing this grace within our church community and extend it out to our neighbors, workplaces, and on into the world. The Lord can multiply each small step and act and make a miracle. He just needs each of our small steps. (And as Lord Evelyn from “Anything Goes” would say, “Step in it!”)

Susie Ferguson

RECTOR

[Continued from page 1]

one in this area will be the Tri-deanery Meeting on Tuesday, August 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Andrews, Saratoga. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend. I have some background materials that I would be happy to share with you.

I have also been appointed to be on the Bishop Search Committee for the diocese. We are currently refining the Diocesan Profile and I am sure you will be hearing more in the days and weeks to come.

Finally, I will be gone from July 31st to August 10th, and will be on retreat with the Bishop Search Committee on August 11th and 12th. My family and I are going to Hawaii for a much needed vacation. I hope to return much rested.



*Salaam,
Stephen +*

Youth

SHYGS SUMMER STUFF

SHYGS are here, SHYGS are there, SHYGS are everywhere. Sometimes we see them, sometimes we don't. They are on the go this summer and while SHYGS meet every Thursday night to play volleyball at 7:00, we never know who will turn up. It's a great, lazy time before school and activities crank up again. Thanks to Russ Petruzzelli, Don Hall, Jon Mills, Ann Tysanner, and Al Neider who have joined us on these nights, as well as Roger (the ball boy) Hoyt and Jenny (the cheering squad) Hoyt. We've seen some of our freshmen out there- Doug Lukanc and Isaac Tysanner have fearlessly hit the courts as new SHYGS. If you haven't joined us yet, come on out! We've still got some new SHYGS t-shirts to give out.

On July 8, ten of us hopped the train (not a freight train, but CalTrain) with our bikes at San Jose-Diridon Station and traveled to SF where we disembarked and rode past Pac Bell park all the way to Pier 41. That stretch was only 3.5 miles but it was *interesting!* There happened to be a punk rock concert along the pier that day as well as summer/weekend tourists, so we were dodging LOTS of people! We then took the Blue and Gold ferry to Angel Island stopping briefly to pick up people at Alcatraz and Tiburon-it was beautiful weather and a good trip out. And then we began our bike ride. The one Terry said was only 7 miles around the island and pretty FLAT. Hmmm. Our SHYGS are a pretty polite group in that they waited for me to get up to the top of the hills, only telling me a few times to USE YOUR GEARS! It was a fun ride with gorgeous views of the bridge, the bay, the SF skyline and boats, and we reversed the route to get

back to San Jose around 6:15. Thanks to Anne Tysanner who came along with us and was very encouraging to the lagger (me)!

Our upper-classmen, Brad Bond, Alexx Bishop, Beth Nollette, Taylor Mills, Ryan Hall, and Val Tysanner, met on July 12 for lunch and an afternoon leadership retreat. We want to thank Sharon Mills for hosting us and to Bob Farnquist who brought his valuable Executive Leadership training skills to share with us. With only 8 upper-classmen and 20 freshmen and sophomores, we'll be counting more and more on the older SHYGS to lead our break-out discussions and help in the planning of events.

August brings our 2nd annual beach camping trip to Half Moon Bay State Beach. We'll be going over on the 15th and will return on the 18th. We're looking forward to having a great, relaxing time just hanging out and getting to know each other better. Freshmen, this is a great time to jump in and see how fun it is to be a SHYG! Permission slips were due back to Robin by July 31st, but if you've found you can go, give a call and we'll find a way to get you in a car.

Our end of the summer family BBQ will be held at church on August 27th at 5:30. SHYGS (the teens) will meet at 3:00 to plan our 2006-07 year and the families will join us for dinner afterwards.

So that's it for the summer! Hope it's great for you too.

Robin Root

Youth



Fellowship

STEWARDSHIP

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself, adds no quality to the coffee in most cases, just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... and then began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the coffee, and the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of Life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups.....enjoy your coffee (thanks to Dave Byers for sharing this story).

What are the messages which can be extracted from this story?

- Obviously, check out the focus of your efforts, are you focused on the "cups" or on the "coffee"? i.e., cups don't matter much as long as they hold coffee!
- Sometimes we are so busy with our "cups", we miss the real mission in life. What can you do at ECA to re-focus?
- It is important to share the "coffee"! What flavor is your coffee? What does it 'look' and 'taste' like?

Speaking of sharing your coffee, the Stewardship Ministry needs your help with the fall campaign. We will need people to call people. If you like to talk on the phone or go over to someone's house and chat, we can use you. We will have fun preparing for the fall also. Please call George @ (408) 268-4435 to say "I will".

George Romer
(408) 268-4435

AUGUST BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, August 2, 16, & 30 at Sandie and Ed Mueller's house. We meet at 6:30 PM for a potluck supper with those who wish to join in for dinner. At 7:30 PM we begin our Bible Study. Many others join us at that time. Perhaps you might like to try it this month.

No previous study or knowledge required. Just come and enjoy the fellowship and conversation and open your heart and mind to hearing the Lord speak.

Music Notes

Summer Musical Thank Yous

Thanks to all our wonderful ECA cast members: Brad & Marc Bond, Dave Byers, Susie Ferguson, Gwen Hacker, Meghan Hall, Mary Leal, Susana Machado, Caitlin & Jim McPherson, Sharon Mills, Stephen Mills, Arnold Moore, Anna Pfeffer, Anna & Hans Spanjaart, Taylor Wing; and thanks to our ECA technical support: Kimberly & Todd Axtell (lights, graphics & House Management), Betty Consorte (sewing, alterations), Doug Dunham (sound & cast member), Marion Grunge (tickets), Don & Sharon Hall (furnishings), Tim Miller (guitar). Thanks to our JV administrative assistant, Desi Brown for joining our cast, helping with the girls' make-up and hair design, and all sorts of professional assistance! Grateful thanks from John and all the dancers (!) to Dennis Elliott (AVUCC) who donated the dance floor rental. Praise and much thanks to both Melanie Click for her

invaluable assistance with all aspects of the show and to P. J. Gallego for his creative choreography for the show, and his other assistance at rehearsals. As you can see, many people were involved in this production (my apologies to anyone I've missed). You're all the Top!

Sumer Handbell Training

Several ECA members have expressed interest in Handbell training and ringing. We will try Wednesday afternoons from 4:00-5:00pm in August. Please let John Leslie know if you would like to join us.

I'm gonna sing, sing, sing!
I'm gonna shout, shout, shout!
I'm gonna sing!
I'm gonna shout!
Praise the Lord!



Christian Education

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our archaeological “Big Dig” was great fun for all. The program was called the Adventure of the Treasure Seekers developed by Cokesbury. Each day the children started out with music in our 16’ pyramid (built by Desi and her sister, Jennifer Villalobos) and a chat with Dr. Zig (Faith Mills) and Professor Who (an owl puppetted by Desi Brown). The kids saw a video and then a drama arranged by John Leslie about the Promise Point of the day. When I asked Stephen and Kevin to manage the Promise Point discussion section Stephen said he wanted to be like Indiana Jones. Well, that just opened the door for my imagination and I built the stone that Mr. Jones runs from in the first movie. Some of you may have noticed the papier mâché building going on a few weeks ago. Anyway, between Sean, Desi, Kristin and I, we sounded the rumbling of falling rock with the organ, cued the Indiana Jones theme and pushed the big rock down the stairs (it was tethered) just as Stephen stepped into the hallway to the classroom. We got him good! And we got Kevin the next day! I think the adults should get to have some fun too!

After the Promise Point the children rotated through recreation, crafts and mission work. At the end of the day we had snack in our cabanas and then we all gathered once again in the pyramid for more music, Dr. Zig and Professor Who and the ending video.

Every participant was given an explorer hat, treasure chest with the Promise Point tokens and the crafts they made during the week. Some of the children left their love banners and they will be on the bulletin board in the hallway for pick up.

This was a successful program and I have many to thank for volunteering their time or donating supplies to the kids. Our adults were Desi Brown, Stephen Mills, Kevin Smith, Kerry Sisler, Melanie Click, Elaine LaValle, Sharon Mills, Mary Leal, Susan Gaydon, Evelyn Wing, Janie Sanders, Mary Moran, Phylis Chai, Robin Dorsey, Alex Dykes and John Leslie and his drama team. The drama team included Gwen Hacker, Mary Leal, Robin Dorsey, Bryron Henderson, Chris Coutinho, Josh Bemis, Desi Brown, and Katie McCormick

The teens were amazing as usual as not only did most voluteer ahead of time but several just showed up and said, “What can I do!” They were Sean McCormick, Taylor Mills, Brooke Mills, Kealy , Chris Coutinho, Guido Spanjaart, Faith Mills, Kristin Petruzzelli, Danielle Petruzzelli, Brian Gaydon, Kele Lavery and Desi’s Niece, Nicole Blair.

Thank you everyone for your support of Vacation Bible School. Save these dates for next year’s VBS - it’s scheduled for July 30 to August 3. Our Theme is yet to be determined but I know this, it’s going to be fun!

*God Bless,
Katie McCormick*



Fellowship

SUMMER BBQ

Come to church and check out the list of up-coming events for the next Sunday BBQ.

*David Byers
Warren Willard*

HELP NEEDED IN THE ROSE GARDEN

We need volunteers to help with various tasks in the rose garden. The type of things we need help on are watering, pruning, fertilizing, and weeding. Any assistance on any of these tasks would be a big help. Don't worry about not being sure of how to do something, we'll be glad to show you what's needed! I'd like to get enough volunteers so no one person has to spend any more than an hour or so a month. If you are willing to help, please call me, John McPherson, at 408-268-9559 or send me an email at jmcpfers@us.ibm.com. We'll arrange a short meeting at the rose garden in a few weeks to get organized. Thank you.



HAVE FUN, RAISE MONEY... *Make a Difference*

Chevys FRESH MEX

Please Join Chevys At Our Fundraising Event For

David Hoyt's Eagle Project
BSA Troop 200

Invite all of your friends and family to dine with us and Chevys will donate 25% of the proceeds to our fundraising partner!

DATE: August 9th, 2006 TIME: 5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

**ADDRESS: 5305 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, Ca., 95118**

It's just our way of giving back to the community!

Fellowship

BENEFICIO COFFEE

My "wish list" is not lengthy...Simple is my idea of a good time...One thing that can really "make my day", put a huge smile on my face, is when someone calls to order Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee... It's such a good feeling, knowing that that purchase will make life just a little bit easier for the farmers and their families in Costa Rica... "Beneficio" is still just \$6.75 for a 12 oz. bag. Please contact Phyllis Chai (408) 226-7150 with your request.



E-SHAPE

e-Shape? Since virtually everybody has an email address these days, we were wondering if you'd like to receive the Shape in your email inbox instead of through 'snail mail'. Those without email access will certainly still be able to get a printed Shape. Anyway, please give us your feedback either personally or to shape@eca-org

*Steve Wing
Vestry Shape liason*

BON VOYAGE

By George you did it! Or should I say "by John?"

You promised a cast of thousands
And you really did come close.
You promised sold out houses
And you truly didn't boast.

You were sure that we could do it
And though at times we had a doubt
Somehow you got us through it
And just look how it turned out.

Byron and Gwen really dazzled
And Rex nearly stole the show
Who knew Cliff was part British
Or how far the dancers could go.

The whole cast was impressive
The cheerleaders really shone
The orchestra never missed a beat
But now the show is done.

Now it's back to normal life
No rehearsals or costumes or props
And all I can say about you John
Is that you really are The Top.

Mary Leal

Fellowship

TREE HUGGERS

Have you ever wanted to hug a tree? Lots of people don't mind it, as they find it somewhat therapeutic. Others hug trees when the water gets a little too high.

We have a lot between our church and the one next door, which is full of nice trees. Actually, our trees, and I mean OUR TREES, are nicer than what you find in some neighborhoods in Almaden Valley. The next time you go near these trees, try hugging one. As you hug the tree, listen carefully to what it has to tell you. You will hear the plaintive moaning with a simple word: Water. The trees are thirsty and no one person is available to water them all. We want them to live.

According to our local tree expert, Pete Mayo, these trees somehow get most of their moisture during the nice months of the year. Those months that we have rain. But during the summer months, they suffer somewhat. Some more than others. This is why we are asking former tree-huggers, current tree fanciers and those who were just embarrassed to ask, but always wanted to participate, to help us water these beauties.

The only system available, again according to Mr. Mayo, comes from several lengths of garden hose found throughout the JVC property, and four hose bibs amongst the trees. If there are enough volunteers, each person would get the responsibility of caring

for, and hugging if you want to, a group of trees in the, shall we say, the JVC Forest.

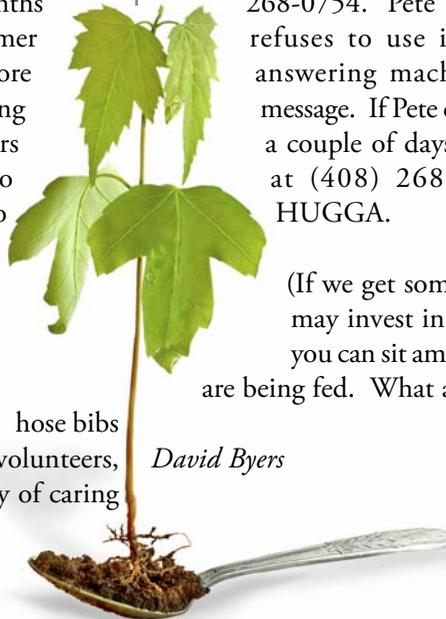
Pete figures that a thirty minute dose of water should do it, per tree. Imagine if you have just four trees under your care. You could come to the peace and quiet of our forest, and make those trees happy. You could bring along a good book, or read the Good Book, or just put the old brain in neutral. No phones, no television, no nothing. Just you and the trees. You can even name the trees if you want, and talk to them as you are doing your thing.

Pete also figures that once a week, per person, four trees, and that would do it: two-hours out of your hectic week.

If you are interested, please call Pete Mayo at (408) 268-0754. Pete has a computer but he refuses to use it. Pete does have an answering machine, so please leave a message. If Pete doesn't call you back after a couple of days, then call David Byers at (408) 268-0448. BE A TREE HUGGA.

(If we get some volunteers, Pete and I may invest in a HUGGA CHAIR, so you can sit amongst the trees while they are being fed. What a concept!)

David Byers



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

August Anniversaries

Jerry & Lorry Long	19
Jack & Winnie Jackman	20

August Birthdays

Kristen Petruzzelli	6
Kele Lavery	7
Bethany Nollette	11
Sarah Dunn	13
P.J. Gallego	13
Jessica Skowronski	14
Roget Hoyt	16
David Byers	17
David Hoyt	19
Robb Moore	22
Eric McCormick	23
Allan Jones	24
Jim Wooldridge	25
Erinn Hoyt	29
Frances Sandrock	30

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Katie McCormick and Desi Brown: Thank you for all your creative efforts and energy, which led to a very successful Vacation Bible School.

To the volunteer teens for Vacation Bible School: Thank you for your wonderful leadership and assistance. You are inspirations to our younger children.

John Leslie: Thank you for another wonderful “Summer Musical.” Your inspiring direction, creativity, and encouragement certainly brings out new and wonderful talents in so many with our congregations.

To the cast and crew of “Anything Goes:” Thank you for all the time and effort you put into such a wonderful performance of the Cole Porter show. It was a most enjoyable evening of entertainment.

To the families of the cast & crew: Thank you for all your support of our endeavors with the summer musical. Now we are back to being all yours.

To Ron Howie: Thank you for your last month’s article in the Shape and passion for growing our church and its facility.