

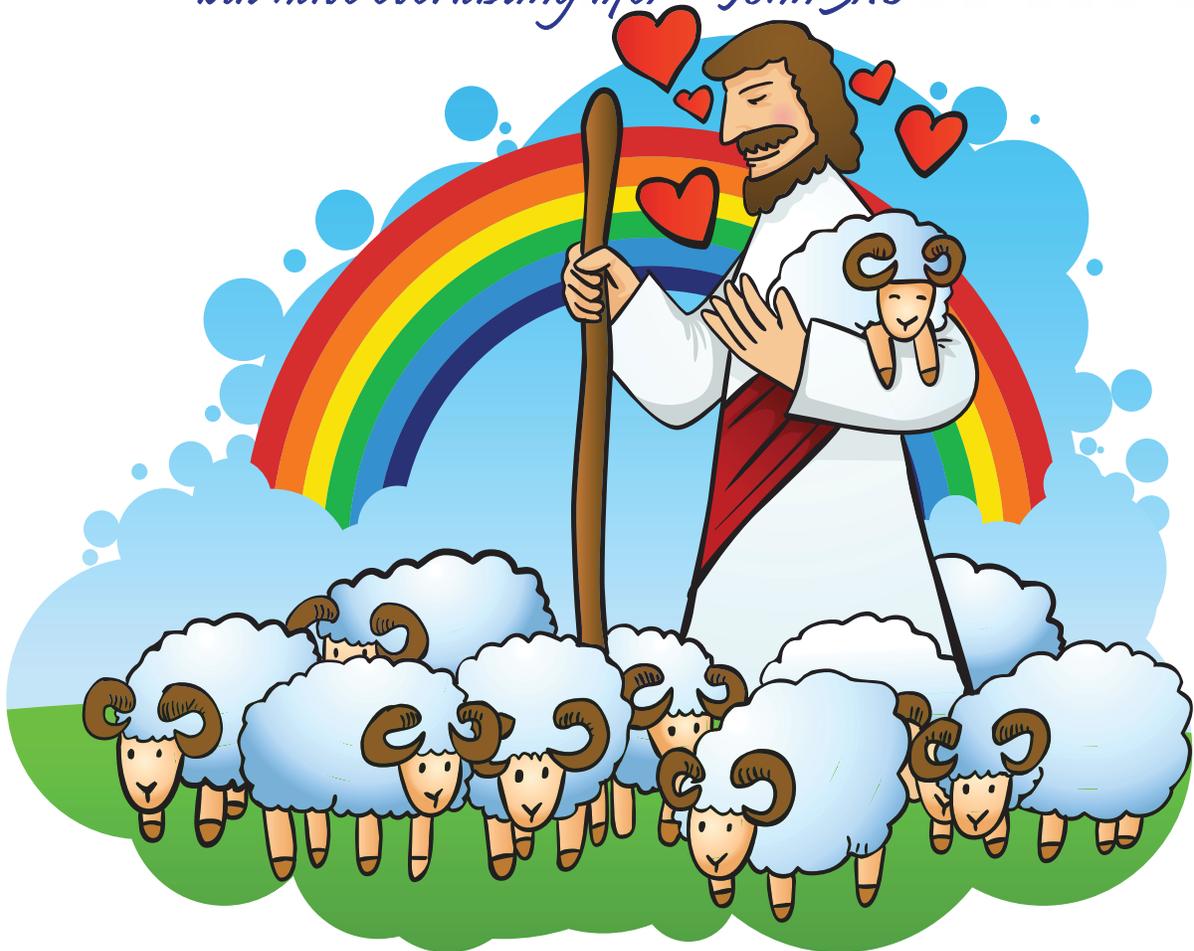
The Shape

July 2008

The Episcopal Church in Almaden

6581 Camden Avenue, San José, California 95120 408•268•0243 www.eca-sj.org

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life. - John 3:16*



Opportunities at ECA

Worship

July 6 – 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
July 13 – 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
July 20 – 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
July 27 – 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Fellowship

Men's Breakfast Thursday Mornings 8:00 AM at Denny's

Women's Ministry Event – Chick Flicks: Thurs, July 10 at 6pm

Family Fellowship – BBQ, Movie under the Stars, & Camping
Find us the Tree Lot on Friday, July 18

The Sound of Music - July 25, 26, 27 and Aug. 1 & 2 at 7pm

Outreach

Montgomery Meals – Friday July 11, 25

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 am and 11:00 am
(10:30 am Summer Schedule)

RECTOR

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

MINISTRIES

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACOLYTES | Taylor Mills & Marc Bond |
| ALTAR GUILD | Margaret Halliwell, Anna Spanjaart |
| COFFEE HOUR | Pete Mayo |
| FOLK CHOIR | Andy Kerr |
| GREETERS | Sharon Mills |
| GOD SQUAD | Stephen Mills |
| GOOD SAMs | Kelli Casale / Brenda McHenry |
| HAND BELL CHOIR | Maryke Williams |
| KIDS' BREAKOUT | Leslie Rousseau |
| LAY READERS | Jenny Hoyt |
| MONTGOMERY MEALS | Amy Griffith |
| NURSERY | Dot Allfrey |
| PRAYER VINE | Dorothy Willard |
| USHERS | Dave Byers |
| SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP | Jon Mills |
| STEWARDSHIP | HANK DeVoss, George Romer |
| JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP | Bonnie McPherson |
| WORSHIP | Andy Kerr |
| WEBMASTER | Kim Petruzzelli |
| YOUTH SUNDAY | Jim McPherson, Bryan Bond |

ECA STAFF

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| CHRISTIAN ED. DIRECTOR | |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR, ORGANIST | John Leslie |
| TREASURER | Maryke Williams |
| YOUTH DIRECTOR | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Dennis Elliott |

CONTACTING

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
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The Shape

THE SHAPE IS USUALLY A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

From Stephen

What is happening at AVUCC is a question I get asked frequently these days. It is hard to know where to begin. If you asked fifty members of AVUCC what was going on, you would probably get more than fifty answers. The official response from Melanie Click, the Moderator (Senior Warden) of AVUCC is as follows:

Dear brothers and sisters at ECA,

As you may have heard, AVUCC is undergoing a period of reflection. Pastor Kevin has taken a leave of absence, and both he and AVUCC will experience a time of discernment this summer. Our temporary pastor is Rev. Dr. Ann Muir. She has already begun leading worship and will be our part-time pastor beginning July 1. Pastor Kevin is scheduled to return on September 2.

We would appreciate your prayers and support during this time as we ask ourselves some difficult questions and seek answers to them. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any member of AVUCC Council. I will be away until June 25, but I look forward to speaking with any of you who wish upon my return.

In Christian love,

So that is one response. Another might be that several months ago AVUCC began a period of study with respect to Open and Affirming (ONA). ONA is a product of the national UCC to clearly state that a particular church will not discriminate against anyone based on: "race, gender, age, sexual orientation, faith, nationality, ethnicity, marital sta-

tus, or physical disability." Obviously the emotionally charged category is sexual orientation. AVUCC has had several meetings to reflect on what it means to be an ONA church and to hear the experiences of some in doing so. I have not attended these meetings, but my understanding is that several of them have been extremely emotionally charged. The culmination of this emotional build-up was a letter dated June 2, 2008 and signed by about 30 members of AVUCC. In that letter those members asked that the ONA process be abandoned because it was threatening to split the church. The letter also expressed a great deal of displeasure with Kevin's leadership because of his support for ONA. By now all this should start sounding very familiar to Episcopalians because obvious parallels can be found within the Episcopal Church and within the Anglican Communion today.

This conflict, like all church conflicts, has many facets, many layers or levels and can be viewed from many perspectives. The emotional driver for all of this is, of course, human sexuality. So much has been said about this topic, especially recently, that I am not even going to go there. Suffice it to say that this is where the emotional energy is gathered.

Another perspective is power. What if a majority of the congregation want to move in a certain direction and a minority do not? Do they move forward and hope the others catch up? Do they wait and try to form a consensus before moving forward? By not moving forward, does the majority give the minority, in essence, a veto power? Does this then paralyze the congregation? What does this group want? Is this a repeat of Tabard? Is this a repeat of the labyrinth?

Another vantage point is identity? Who are we as

[Continued on page 6]

From the Editor - Thoughts on Unity



Who is right? Who is wrong? This is a contest that seems to play out all too often in the Christian community.

What happened to unity? What happened to love? If Jesus came back today, what would he think of the churches that preach that they are the only ones that are right?

This grand question has been lingering in my mind for years, and it is such an interesting academic discussion for me. I say “academic” not that I disrespect the validity of the question, but because it is not one that we are likely to have answered definitively in this lifetime; and that makes it all the more important *and* all the more vague. Have I confused you yet?

What I am speaking about are the churches in this world that tell people: you need to think the way we do, or you won't be saved. Not to single anyone out, but it seems that evangelical churches are most apt to have the opinion that they are right and everyone else is, at the least, misdirected in some way. Whether it is a question of creationism vs intelligent design vs Darwinism or some other “ism” in between, it is so like man to cling to our belief, and at the same time tell anyone who disagrees that they are wrong. Why? Why is the nature of “belief” such that our souls must defend our view so vociferously? Is it not possible that perhaps the Roman Catholics, the Baptists and we Anglicans are *ALL* right? I think that the majority of ECA of course would agree with this, and I think that respect of different views is truly a facet that lacks in the world-wide church today.

The root of my thoughts can be boiled down to one point: is it not possible for God to speak to us all a little bit differently? I would venture to say that no two souls on this planet of ours are the same, and that would mean that no two souls would travel the same path to salvation. Who then am I to tell a Baptist that is honestly seeking salvation that he is wrong and should be doing it my way?

As ECA and AVUCC have grown over the past 40+ years, I think the single best thing to come from our most unusual of relationships is a mutual respect for one another's beliefs, this is something to cherish, something to protect, and something to mirror in our own lives.

Alex Dykes

Senior Warden

Most of us are so excited when summer comes around. We look forward to vacations and time off. Kids are out of school so often our schedules are much more relaxed. The warmer weather calls us to the beaches and the surf. Many of us plan special trips far and wide. With Sunday School on hiatus like regular school, we often take a break from our Bible studies and our small groups. We may even take a break from church. Yes, sometimes, in the summer, we put God on our “back burner.”

What if God put you on the back burner for the summer? What if He leaves this message on your recorder? “I am taking off for 2 months for some much needed rest and relaxation. You’ll have to manage on your own for a while. Leave me a message if you like. Will return all calls in September when I get back.”

Your relationships with family, kids, teens, and friends continue to offer challenges even in July and August. You may still want answers and guidance. Your health issues don’t take a break, they’re still right with you. Maybe even a new one pops up. Travel may be exciting, but you still have to deal with the crowds, the traffic, and the security.

Isn’t it nice to know, God doesn’t really want to take a break from you. He wants to go with you. Don’t leave Him behind. And come meet Him in our sanctuary every Sunday that you are in town this summer. Yes, summer is still a good time to stay in relationship with Him and your church community.

Susie Ferguson
Senior Warden

Outreach

As outreach person on the Vestry, I wrote an article for the May Shape on Montgomery Meals, explaining what a group of dedicated people we have working to serve the needy. Recently, however, Pete Mayo has not been able to obtain as many supplies as in the past from various organizations that used to provide us with food. Suzanne Mayo and Amy Griffith have had to buy those supplies instead. At our vestry meeting on May 13, we agreed to give \$500.00 from our outreach budget to Montgomery Meals. We now have very little left in our outreach budget. We would therefore like to encourage anyone who wishes to support Montgomery Meals to make a donation specifically to that ministry.

When we have our next Turkey Drive in the fall, we hope more money will come in to provide continued support.

Sam Sarmecanic



Rector

[Continued from page 3]

a congregation? What makes us unique? What strengths do we have to capitalize on? Where is God calling us to go? Who is God calling us to be? Can we survive in our present configuration? What do we need to do to attract new members? How do we incorporate them into our midst? What are our primary values?

Another perspective is that of spirituality? What is it that unites us? What can we disagree on and still worship together? Where is God in our midst? Where is God trying to heal and reconcile our conflict? How can we put God first in our lives and in our church? Where is the fear? Is it real?

As you can see these are complex and difficult questions that AVUCC will be asking and wrestling with in the next few months. As a member of ECA how can you help? First, pray. Pray for reconciliation and healing. Secondly, stay out of the internal politics of AVUCC. They have enough to wrestle with without our interference. Third, be a Godly and healing presence to those who are hurt or are hurting. Listen, listen to God's call to you and ask those same tough questions of yourself and your life. Who knows the life you lose may be the life you save.

*Salaam,
Stephen +*



JHYGS Doings

On May 30th, the JHYGS got together for our end of the season party, which is our opportunity to say goodbye to our graduating 8th graders, as they will be moving up to SHYGS during the summer. We had a party at the church with lots of yummy food, music and games, though unfortunately not Karaoke, as the rented machine was broken, (which led to unhappy people at the rental place the next day!) We had a good size group there of 13 kids and 3 brave adults, and it certainly appeared that everyone was having fun, especially during Pictionary (ask Josh Click about scrambled eggs...)! The group is planning some fun fellowship activities for the summer such as: bowling, game nights, miniature golf, just to name a few-so if you haven't joined us, and you are entering 6th grade or in Middle School/Jr High, come on out and give us a try! If you haven't received a e-mail from me, then I probably have a outdated address, and I'm bummed that we missed you! Please update me! (mamasaur@comcast.net) Have a great summer and play safe!

*Bonnie McPherson
JHYGS Coordinator
mamasaur@comcast.net*

Gifts of Gratitude

Pete Mayo: For coming back from Utah

John Leslie: Congratulations on your great performances of Rhapsody in Blue. You have been helping the community with an outstanding school music program

Bob Green: Thank you for fixing the elevator

John Leslie & the Bell Choir: Thank you for your fabulous concert

Sunday School Teachers!

Ron Howie: For fixing the water line at the Rectory

Those who contributed to the Bishop's Luncheon

Mary McPherson: For Bible Study on Thursday mornings

July Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| George & Nancy Romer | 2 |
| Jim & Elizabeth Ward | 5 |
| Arnold & Suzanne Moore | 17 |
| Bill & Toni Hird | 24 |
| Mike & Trish Reilly | 25 |

July Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Melinda Jennings | 2 |
| Jessica Fahlen | 4 |
| Chris Joslin | 8 |
| Harold Lee | 9 |
| Roberta Verderico | 10 |
| Robin Williams | 10 |
| Guido Spanjaart | 11 |
| Dom Consorte | 12 |
| Suzanne Mayo | 12 |
| Sandy Sandrock | 18 |
| Annie Estrade | 18 |
| Kabeja Fallone | 20 |
| Matt Gunderson | 20 |
| Kathryn Hussain | 22 |
| Ed Mueller | 23 |
| Arnold Moore | 25 |
| Taylor Wing | 30 |



Fellowship Packed Summer!!!

We have several fellowship events planned for the summer months. One event we are tying in with our worship service on Sunday. Our first scheduled Son and Sun Day was June 22. Our goals with "Son and Sun Day" are to encourage Sunday attendance as well as alternative ways to get to church which may conserve gas and promote health and exercise. Another goal is to encourage fellowship across the ages of our church family with activities that are low or no cost and fun. We further hope to encourage our members to invite new people to our church for these days. The day will cover all four of our major focuses worship, study, fellowship and outreach. It is hoped to hold one Son and Sun Day each month throughout the summer.

Another fellowship event that is already booked on our church calendar is a BBQ, Movie Night and Camp-out Combination. The dates for these evenings are Friday, July 18 and August 8. Since our youth programs are JV and camping is one of their favorite activities, we plan to make these JV events. The BBQ will be great for all, young and old (mature). We will provide two movie selections, one for inside and one outside. Camping for the bold will follow in the tree lot.

We are organizing "Music in the Park" nights for the last three Thursdays in July. These are also free events. We are working on subtle ways to introduce ECA to others through this concert evening. "Make some new friends. Invite them to church."

We also have a women's event planned for July 10, Chick Flicks. This will be a combination of fellowship and spiritual conversation around a movie. Depending on the response to this first one, we hope to plan others. We also want to encourage the women of our church to invite some new friends to this event and introduce them to ECA!

We are also working on "Dining out in Campbell." This will be an adult evening, dinner out, for this summer at the restaurant in Campbell where we will be cooking our turkeys for Montgomery Meals next Thanksgiving. We want to support this restaurant as a way to thank them for allowing us to continue our relationship with them.

If you would like to help us on any of these events we would certainly welcome your involvement. Many of the tasks are quite easy and simple and lots of hands make for much more fun for all. Just leave a message in our mailboxes at church or email us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Susie Ferguson & Tim Miller

Chick Flick Night!

The women of ECA and their friends are invited to join in the fellowship, fun and faith of an evening together enjoying the movie Enchanted April. Dinner, fellowship and laughter will be provided. Please come prepared to have a grand time as we travel to Italy by way of the movie and food. Sign up in the fellowship hall so that the cooks can prepare the meal and have it ready for you.

Date: Thursday, July 10th
Where: JV Fellowship hall
Time: 6 PM
Cost: \$5.00

Please pay either Susie Ferguson, Susanne Moore or Nancy Romer. Please call Nancy if you have any questions. (408) 268-4435

New in Your Church Library

There are three new titles in your church library. For those of you who still compile a summer reading lists, here are a couple of recommendations:

Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed by Philip Hallie

How should our faith inform our daily activities? For the residents of the French village, Le Chambon, this was a life or death issue. After Hitler's rise to power and the beginning of the persecution of the Jews and Gypsies, Le Chambon found itself receiving a number of refugees. When ordered to hand these refugees over to the French government for deportation and sure death, Pastor Trocmé replied, "We do not know what a Jew is. We know only men."

The village went on to shelter and save the lives of thousands. Pastor Trocmé's stand on non-violence imbued the ethics of this village. Their actions were not hidden; the local government knew that they were sheltering Jews. But the French government was slow to take action against this united village. The village of Le Chambon understood that faith was not a private affair – their actions changed the lives of many.

The Call to Conversion by Jim Wallis

Can faith and politics ever have a place together at the dinner table? For Jim Wallis, faith is always personal, but never private. In this stinging rebuke of American culture, Wallis calls us to conversion. This conversion

is not just a personal decision for Jesus, but a call to live a life informed by the Gospel.

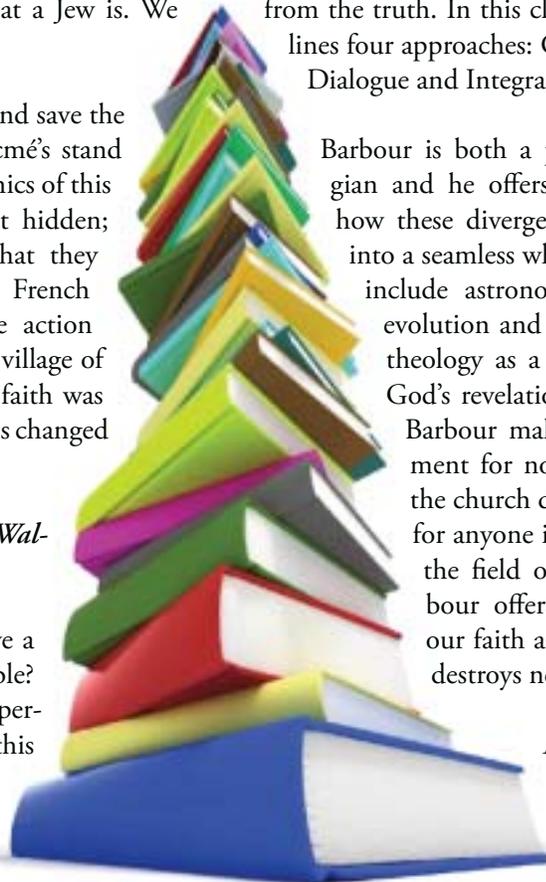
For anyone who is looking for a framework for social action, Jim Wallis provides a necessary spark. From the Iraq war to our security in our wealth, Wallis calls us to examine our lives and then take action to help others.

When Science meets Religion by Ian G. Barbour

In the discussion about Intelligent Design, Evolution and the place of God in our lives, many assume that Science and Religion sit on opposite sides of the debate. For Ian Barbour, nothing is further from the truth. In this classic text, Barbour outlines four approaches: Conflict, Independence, Dialogue and Integration.

Barbour is both a physicist and a theologian and he offers an insightful view of how these divergent fields are integrated into a seamless whole. The topics covered include astronomy, quantum physics, evolution and genetics. Using process theology as a basis of understanding God's revelation of self to the world, Barbour makes an intelligent argument for not leaving our brains at the church door. This is a must read for anyone interested or working in the field of science, because Barbour offers a way of integrating our faith and reason in a way that destroys neither.

Kimberly Axtell



Reflections

My father was a high school teacher, so our family had 3 months off for vacation over the summer. And one summer, in 1977, we took a trip across the United States. What a grand adventure it was. The five of us, Mom and Dad, myself, my brother and sister, and grandma, too, were packed into a Ford 8 passenger van. We each packed 1 small suitcase which was piled carefully in the back of the van - the camp kitchen was strapped to the back bumper. The assorted tents, sleeping bags and chairs were tied down to the top rack of the van. And so we took off.

Each day, we had about 200 miles to cover. I don't know why my parents choose that goal. I just remember sitting up front, asking the inevitable question, "Are we there yet?" To which my father would patiently help me calculate the miles per hour to figure out how much longer we were traveling that day. Maybe the 200 mile limit was the limit of their patience. Perhaps it was all they thought we could take - young children, grandmother, and all. Maybe the plan was a larger one.

There was a goal; we were going to the East Coast to take in the recent festivities celebrating the 200 year anniversary of our country. The Freedom walk was still in place, we saw Jamestown, Plymouth Rock and Williamsburg. But I remember other things as well - picking cherries in Utah, the grandeur of Glacier National Park, photographing moose and other wildlife, touring the Kellogg's factory in Michigan, Niagara Falls, stopping off to tour a coal mine in Kentucky, seeing the Corn Palace and Wall Drug.

I think the 200 mile per day goal was part of a larger plan. My parents couldn't know what adventures might be on the trail ahead. But they left time and space for them to happen. And looking back,

through the rear-view mirror of time, I can see the hand of the Divine guiding our travels.

And isn't that often the case, that we see the Divine only in retrospect? We don't know what lies in front of us, that much is always a mystery. We can only leave time and space for wonder and excitement and God's grace to happen. If my Mom and Dad were to have traveled at a fast pace, we would have arrived on the East Coast in a few days. But we would have missed so much along the way. The grace of God often comes unexpectedly, gently pulling at our hand to guide us. But we only know that when we look back.

Trust that you are loved by God. Trust that the Lord is with you when you walk in faith. Take time to enjoy the company of friends and mentors who travel this spiritual road with us. Look for the presence of the Holy enveloping your life through them. And like that summer of adventure my family traveled so many years ago, our church family can look back and know that truly the Lord is present in this place.

Kimberly Axtell

Got Coffee??

Iced coffee on a hot summer night could just "hit the spot"! And purchasing Beneficio More Than Fair Trade Coffee would also be helping to support the small farmers and their families in Costa Rica. Please contact Phyllis Chai (226-7150) to place an order. Each 12 oz. bag still sells for \$7.75. Our Joint Venture congregations serve "Beneficio" at their coffee hours.

The Magnetic Church

I attended the Magnetic Church Conference with the representation from ECA, as well as people from churches from within our diocese and outside. Although Andrew Weeks gives this seminar to many different denominations, he happens to be Episcopalian and a very entertaining man. Here are a few things I learned.

The world is changing. Church membership is declining, and although many people say they believe in God, there is a disconnect between having “faith” and belonging to a church. Particularly for young people, many believe, but wonder where on earth to find God. Evangelism is not pushing our beliefs on other people, it is providing them with something they’re looking for.

We need to look at ourselves through the eyes of a stranger.

Are our signs visible? Do they have contact information? Do we have a web page? Do people know what door to come in? In our literature, do we use any abbreviations or mystery acronyms or codes? During the seminar, we spent time reviewing each others’ written documentation, and our church is doing many things right. Our web page is a wonderful evangelism tool (thanks to Kim Petruzzelli). Our newsletter and bulletins were the best ones there (thanks to Alex Dykes and many others).

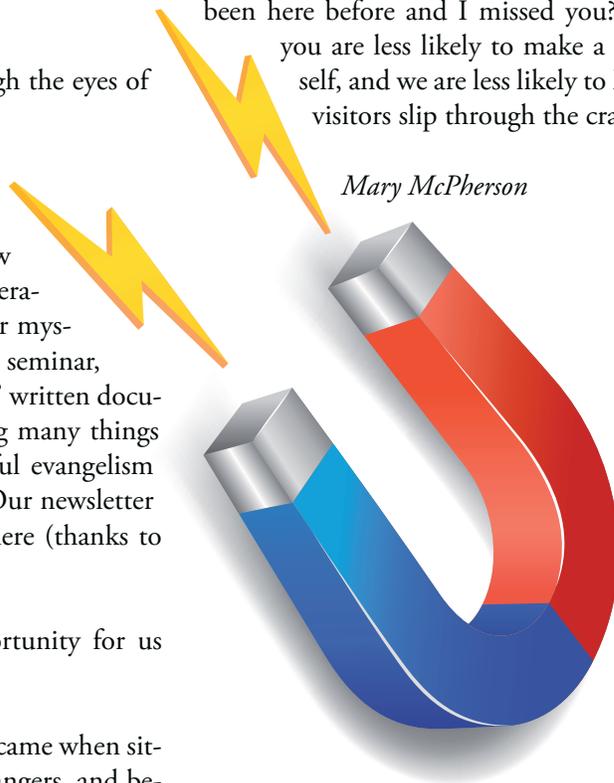
Welcoming newcomers is an opportunity for us all.

The most powerful moment for me came when sitting down to lunch at a table of strangers, and being told by one person, that she had come to our

church once, and had been totally ignored. I was baffled and mortified because she brought this up in front of people who don’t know our church and it was, for many of them, their first impression.

I have since come to find out that she has been holding this grudge against ECA for the past 15 years, and brings it up at every opportunity. But that doesn’t mean I didn’t take it to heart. As members of ECA we all have a responsibility to greet and welcome visitors to our church. We can’t delegate it to a committee. Next time you see someone unfamiliar you can use our greeter practice script. Say hi, tell them your name and say, “Forgive me for not remembering if we’ve met before, you are...?” Then you can say, “I’m not always here, have you been here before and I missed you?” That way, you are less likely to make a fool of yourself, and we are less likely to let any of our visitors slip through the cracks.

Mary McPherson



SHYGS

This summer we're taking SHYGS from the Pool to the Shore to the Court to the Coaster. On Sunday evening May 18th the SHYGs held their end of the year Pool Party at The Swim and Racket Club. It was a pleasant evening with a warm sunset as 20 some SHYGs gathered. Most of the youth spent most of their time in the water while most adults fellowshiped under the canopy. The diving board was particularly popular—I even joined in with my renowned back-flip flop. The potluck and grilled burgers/dogs provided ample food while a margarita machine supplied cool (virgin) beverages. Thanks to Sharon and Don Hall for the beverages and enabling the SHYGs to have to access to the pool area.

The next planned activity for the SHYGs is our Beach Camping Trip to Half Moon Bay. We will be camping Sunday June 29 through Tuesday July 1. All incoming high school freshman are welcomed to attend the trip. After returning from the beach weekly volleyball games will start the second week in July. Tentatively Thursday evening's are being scheduled for volleyball. Sometime near the end of summer/ the start of fall SHYGs will spend a day at the Great America Amusement Park.

Any questions or suggestions about SYHG please contact me.

Jon Mills
(408) 316-0182
jmills@relypsa.com

Thanks!!!

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard giving of their time to make Bishop Mary's luncheon such a success. I shouldn't be amazed as that is what ECA does. When something needs to be done, we have lots of people who jump in and help! My special thanks go to: Betty Consorte, Alex Dykes, Rob McClaine, Kathy Dunham, Colleen and Hank DeVoss, Susie and Jerry Ferguson, Pat fox, Pauline Gilligan, Amy Griffith, Margaret Halliwell, Kathryn Hussain, Francie Kerr, Mary Leal, Pete Mayo, Rob McClaine, Mary McPherson, Pat McGarvin, Ellie Mills, Susanne and Arnold Moore, Robb Moore, Linda Sarmecanic, Anna Spanjaart, Craig Stephen, John Schaeffer, Joyce and Steve Wing. Now I hope I haven't missed mentioning anyone when my back was turned.

All of these people helped in either cooking and setting up on Saturday, doing the beautiful centerpieces, serving on Sunday, providing all of the delicious desserts, doing all of the clean-up and putting the tables and chairs back in their proper places. Even the simplest of events take a lot of people working together to make it a success. Also, it is a lot of fun in getting to know others during the working process. So perhaps when there is another event that needs our help, we will be happy to sign wherever we are needed.

Suzanne Mayo



Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care Ministry under the vestry leadership of Pat Fox is taking some new and exciting directions. Let Pat tell you about her exciting plans.

First, in coordination with UCC, I am working on a Joint Venture Pastoral Care mail system for reconnecting with those we miss seeing at church. This system develops a way to communicate with those we miss seeing or those we know need prayer. "Pew Cards" are in production to be designed, printed, and laminated for use beginning in the fall. They will offer us reminders and encouragement to reach out to those we miss seeing through postcards. These postcards will be available in the narthex any time. There will be a special "mailbox" to drop your cards into, then our church will see they get the proper postage and mailed.

Another current project learned at The Magnetic Church Conference, adopted by our pastoral care group, is the creation of small colorful Welcome Bag that will be handed to visitors to ECA. These bags will contain a special colorful brochure that tells about our church; from worship and activities to the outreach we provide in the community. Also included will be a note of welcome as well as a request for further information about ECA and our programs, such as Adult Christian Education, Children's programs, etc. These cards, with request for information, can be placed into the collection plate or handed to the usher or clergy. The Welcome Bag will also include a business card with the service times listed and Stephen's contact information, a map of the building, a small gift such as a magnet with a saying or a book mark with an uplifting message, something to remember us by.

Those of us, who attended the Magnetic Church Conference offered by our Diocese, have a number

of ideas to help us be more welcoming and inviting to new people trying out our church. In the coming months we will be getting information to all of you so that we can develop our skills at receiving, directing and introducing newcomers to others. Honing our hospitality skills will help us as we welcome new members and help them get integrated into the life of the Episcopal Church in Almaden. I invite any of you who would like to work on this ministry of hospitality and pastoral care with us, to give me a call or leave me a message in my mail box at church. Let us make a difference together.

Pat Fox

From Margaret

Dear friends,

I want to thank all of you who helped me during the time I was experiencing problems resulting from two serious asthma attacks and pneumonia.

I am very grateful for the visits, food, grocery shopping, rides to Kaiser and the beautiful flowers and cards.

I will not name the individuals - you know you are - please accept my most sincere thanks.

Love & blessings,
Margaret Halliwell

Living in Two Worlds

Lately I have seen a number of cars with stickers in the rear window with the acronym **LNOW** and a cross in the middle. I wasn't sure exactly what it meant until I saw one that spelled out "Not of This World." The cross apparently represents the letter "t" in the abbreviation.

Some time ago on a TV panel discussion show about "Religion and Politics" one of the panelists, an avowed atheist, made the assumption and the accusation that Christians don't care enough about this world because we are so caught up in the idea of the next life in which we believe.

Then Bishop Mary in her homily spoke of ministry, and how ministry involves oneself, God, and at least one other human being.

All of these things percolated in my mind, and I wondered if there were any truth to the fact that Christians as a group, and I personally, do focus so much on God's kingdom that we give short shrift to the world in which we live, and the other humans with whom we interact.

There are issues within our own congregation and our church as a whole, and within our sister church, which pertain to this world and our place in it. We are being called upon to focus on how we can effect change for the better and foster better relationships with our fellow humans as well as with God. I believe that part of what Jesus' humanity teaches us is how important humanity, ours and that of others, really is in fostering our relationship with him.

I am not expressing an opinion here on any of these issues, local, national and worldwide, which face the human race today, but I believe that I need to have an opinion, and to do what I can to further those causes which seem important to me. I need to pray for discernment, for the grace to reach a

moral decision, and to remember to "practice what I preach." I remember my grandmother quoting to me "What you do speaks so loudly I cannot here what you are saying." I pray for all of us to remain focused on both of our worlds, this one and the next.

Mary Leal

Montgomery Meals

We are pleased to announce that the Skillet of Campbell restaurant has graciously agreed to our using their pizza ovens to prepare our turkeys on Thanksgiving Day. We would be at something of a loss without their generosity on the most critical day of our year long program. We are presently looking into a social dinner gathering, perhaps on August 28 when most of us are in town and looking to Labor Day weekend. More on this excursion later. Meanwhile, there is something we can do anytime. Our benefactor is:

Skillet of Campbell
1461 West Campbell Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 871-7171

They are located at the corner of Campbell Ave. and San Tomas Aquino Rd. two doors down from D&J Hobby (for you hobbyists).

We should all patronize them from time to time and be aware of their contribution toward our outreach program. It would probably be a good idea to let them know that we are from ECA when we do dine there!

Amy Griffith

SHYGS Beach Trip Photos



