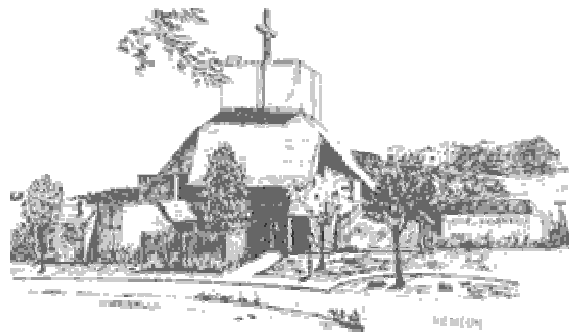


ANNUAL REPORT 2006



The Episcopal Church in Almaden

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

Serving Christ through our Community

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

Our Vision . . .

ECA proclaims God's love for the world through evangelism, worship, forgiveness & reconciliation, inclusiveness, spiritual formation, outreach and hospitality.

Our Mission . . .

ECA, through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, strives to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved and valued. Ultimately, each member becomes confident, compelled and equipped to lovingly support and serve one another as well as the community at large.



The Rev. Stephen Mills
Rector

Staff

Desiré Brown	Administrative Assistant
Katie McCormick	Youth Director & Christian Education Director
John Leslie	Music Director
Maryke Williams	Treasurer
Desi & Mike Brown	Senior High Youth Leaders (Interim)
Katie McCormick	Junior High Youth Leader (Volunteer)

2006 VESTRY
(elected)

Susie Ferguson, Senior Warden (completing a 1 yr term)

Ron Howie, Junior Warden

Susanne Moore (completing a 1 yr term)

Kim Petruzzelli (final year)

Mary McPherson (final year)

George Romer

Inge Bond

Sandie Mueller

Hans Spanjaart

Tim Miller

Jim McPherson

Steve Wing

2006 DIOCESE CONVENTION DELEGATES
(elected)

Kimberly Axtell

Todd Axtell

Ed Mueller

Sandie Mueller

2006 JOINT VENTURE CHURCHES REPRESENTATIVES
(elected)

ECA Members

Dwight Dorsey

Mary Leal (also Treasurer)

Carol MacDonald (completing term)

John McPherson (completing term)

Ron Howie (Vestry liaison)

Jackie Whitlock (completing term)

PARISH MINISTRIES

Children & Youth Ministry Programs

Director (Staff).....	Katie McCormick
Vestry Liaison.....	Jim McPherson
Vestry Liaison.....	Inge Bond
Vestry Liaison.....	Kim Petruzzelli
Clergy.....	Stephen Mills
Clergy.....	Kevin Smith
Junior High.....	Katie McCormick
Senior High.....	Desi & Mike Brown

Communication

Vestry Liaison.....	Steve Wing
Email List.....	Desiré Brown (Staff)
Master Calendar.....	Desiré Brown (Staff)
Newsletter (Shape).....	Alex Dykes
Website.....	Kim Petruzzelli

Finance

Treasurer (Staff).....	Maryke Williams
Vestry Liaison.....	Hans Spanjaart
Vestry Liaison.....	Steve Wing
Vestry Liaison.....	Ron Howie

Fellowship / Inreach

Vestry Liaison.....	Susanne Moore
Vestry Liaison.....	Jim McPherson
God Squad.....	Jenny Hoyt
Good Sams.....	Jenny Hoyt
Ladies' Luncheons.....	Amy Griffith
Prayer Vine.....	Dorothy Willard
Summer BBQs.....	Warren Willard & Dave Byers
Men's Breakfasts.....	Arnold Moore

Music

Director (Staff).....	John Leslie
Folk Choir.....	Andy Kerr
Adult Choir.....	John Leslie
Handbell Choir.....	Maryke Williams
Children's Choir.....	John Leslie
Youth Band.....	John Leslie

PARISH MINISTRIES

continued

Outreach

Vestry LiaisonInge Bond
Vestry LiaisonSusie Ferguson
Alternative ChristmasMel Stonehocker
Montgomery MealsAmy Griffith
Turkey DriveSteve Wing
Santa Maria Urban MissionRoger Hoyt
Cursillo.....Open

Rectory

Vestry LiaisonRon Howie

Stewardship

Vestry LiaisonGeorge Romer

Spiritual Growth and Evangelism

Vestry LiaisonMary McPherson
Vestry LiaisonKim Petruzzelli
Vestry LiaisonTim Miller

Worship

Vestry LiaisonSandie Mueller
Vestry LiaisonTim Miller
AcolytesValerie Tysanner (head)
AcolytesMarc Bond (assistant)
Altar GuildElaine LaVallee & Betty Wood
Coffee Hosts.....Pete Mayo
GreetersSharon Mills
Kids' BreakoutLeslie Rousseau
Lay ReadersDennis Moran
Nursery.....Lorry Long
UshersDave Byers
Youth Sunday.....Bryan Bond & Jim McPherson
SeminarianKimberly Axtell
Matrix.....Sharon Mills

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

2006 continues to be a year of transition. Some members of the congregation have left and others have joined. What we have been striving to do in this year is to grow spiritually while at the same time maintaining our fellowship and the family feel of ECA. Our attendance is down but our stewardship is up. This bespeaks a smaller, more committed group of people at ECA. More importantly, beginning with the Vestry retreat led by Susie Ferguson, I had a sense of a new spirit at ECA, a spirit of togetherness and hope. The highlights of 2006 include:

Bible Studies and Small Groups: We have established two Bible studies that meet on a regular basis. The Thursday morning Bible study is facilitated by Mary McPherson and meets Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m... The focus of this study is to take a book of the Bible and to study it from beginning to conclusion. The Rector's Bible study meets on Wednesday evenings on the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the month throughout the year. We begin with a potluck dinner at the home of Ed and Sandie Mueller at 6:30 with the Bible study beginning at 7:30 and ending by 9:00 p.m... This Bible study focuses on the lectionary lessons for the coming Sunday. Both Bible studies have been well received and both are well attended.

In addition to our fourth day groups from Cursillo, we have also established a small group that meets regularly to study, pray and work together. This group was an outgrowth of our Lenten Study Series on the *Purpose Driven Life* a few years ago. We hope to establish more of these in the future. We also are actively working to build up our adult education offerings to involve more people in study.

Stewardship: George Romer has done an outstanding job this year in promoting Stewardship. George, Hans and I attended a workshop on stewardship sponsored by the diocese and presented by Terry Parsons, the stewardship officer for the national church. Since that time George has carried the ball throughout the year with newsletter articles and reminders that stewardship is a spiritual discipline. These stewardship vignettes culminated in our Harvest Festival where The Reverend Canon Britt Olson spoke about stewardship in our lives. We are far from finished but George has not only begun the dialog but has taken us a long way indeed.

Christian Education and Youth: Our Christian Education and Youth programs continue to grow and thrive. On our Sunday School Kickoff Sunday we had 13 children in one class alone. We are blessed with the leadership of Katie McCormick and a willing and talented group of teachers. Due to the efforts of Debbie Bishop we have begun a High School Sunday School Program. Attendance has been good and the students have been mostly awake.

With respect to the youth groups, Robin and Terry Root decided in August that the demands of Robin's job were just too great to continue on as Senior High Youth leaders. We were able to say thank you and good bye to them at a barbeque and to recognize their wonderful accomplishments. Thankfully, we were tremendously blessed when Mike and Desi Brown agreed to assume leadership of the Senior High Group on an interim basis. Mike and Desi were able to step in without missing a beat. They were also instrumental in working with John Leslie to start a youth band which debuted in October. This is a really exciting development.

Staff Relations: Cordial relations between the two pastors continue to be the order of the day in spite of the fact that Kevin Smith, the UCC pastor is a Boston Red Sox fan and I am an Oakland A's fan. We have been able to find common ground in our dislike of the New York Yankees. Our staff is growing more cohesive and is getting better at coordinating events. John Leslie, for example, developed music and liturgy for a Day of Remembrance on September 11. A field trip to Ikea netted the children's furniture in the narthex that projects a more child friendly atmosphere.

Diocesan Developments: The Diocesan Convention in October made some significant changes in the "fair share formula" for calculating the amount of money we will have to send the diocese. The new formula is 10% of the first \$178,000 and 20% of anything over \$178,000. Based on the figures for 2006 this would reduce our fair share from \$44,000 to about \$25,000. This new formula will take effect in 2007. Another change was to allocate delegates to convention based on average Sunday attendance rather than parish rolls. This increases our representation from 4 to 5 delegates. There is an additional proviso that a delegation will not be allowed to vote unless it is current with its assessment or in an approved repayment plan. Just to reassure, ECA is in an approved current repayment plan.

Other financial developments: As of December 2006, the Joint Venture bonds should be paid off. This will result in a net decrease of expenses in the neighborhood of \$24,000 per year and will give us capital for future planning and repaying our Diocesan debt.

The future: I believe that we have gone just about as far as we can with our existing facilities. Our Youth Programs and Youth Band, John Leslie's musicals, Sunday school classes, adult education classes, as well as a possible preschool would be best served in new or expanded facilities. The time to begin is now.

**Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Mills, Rector**

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

You may have noticed that people (young and old alike) and situations often live up to our expectations of what they will be. We are able to find exactly what we look for in them. We always have choices to look for - positive or negative, manageable or difficult, inspirational or discouraging, energizing or tiring. Our outlook colors what we find and how we work and grow in our lives.

As I stepped into the Vestry last January I was expecting a good year to serve with positive people. I anticipated the vestry would be a group of diverse individuals who cared deeply for one another and the church of which we are part. I expected to find individuals who wanted to grow spiritually in order to know Christ's call on their lives more clearly. I believed I would find a group that could build a special relationship to work, play, study, and pray together well. I

expected the Holy Spirit's presence each and every time we gathered whether for work or pleasure. *And so it happened!*

We were blessed by the opportunity to begin our year of service with a retreat in the Santa Cruz Mountains. This weekend gave your vestry the chance to establish a working relationship guided and supported by the Holy Spirit. As Christ was present with us on the weekend in our planning, we maintain a reminder of His presence with us at each vestry meeting by burning a candle in our midst.

Your vestry serves as the Board of Directors each year for the Episcopal Church in Almaden. Some in the past have viewed this position solely as a "corporate business model." This year, however, with a tone of "doing the Lord's work" your vestry has begun each meeting with a time of meditation, prayer, and discussion around a particular scripture chosen for that meeting. This has provided opportunities for us to know each other better spiritually, for the Lord to speak to us and give us direction through His Word, and open us all more fully to the Holy Spirit.

Vestries always hunger for more time to discuss, work through, and discern the best courses of action to live out our mission to serve Christ at and through ECA. This year we were able to spend most of our designated meeting time in such discussions because we requested committee and ministry reports to be submitted in writing to be included with our minutes. This plan helped us maintain reasonable meetings in length and be sensitive to the long days that many of our members put in before they ever get to our vestry meeting.

In March each vestry member, as well as Stephen, was encouraged to write ministry and personal goals for this year of service at ECA. We openly shared with one another our successes and disappointments in what we did or did not achieve in light of our chosen ministries at our October meeting. Shared evaluation between vestry members and our rector is important for maintaining healthy growth within our parish. Hopefully this can continue each year.

This year's vestry requested to meet together socially every few months, which we have tried to do. We shared the belief that the better we knew one another, the better we could serve together, support one another, understand and grow with one another, and thereby better meet the needs of our church.

I have viewed my role this year to be one of an encourager and cheerleader to the other vestry members, offering them support and help as needed to fulfill their ministries. I have tried to provide a framework of organization to keep all of us on track, moving forward, growing, and being sensitive to everyone's time commitment. I have also tried to encourage a greater openness to the Holy Spirit for direction in all of our actions and decisions.

It has been a very special year for me. I have so many wonderful memories working with this year's vestry. Each and every vestry member has been a source of inspiration and support to me in their own unique way. I cannot thank them enough for all their hard work, commitment and involvement, attention to details, and openness to the Lord's direction. They truly are a wonderful, caring, sensitive, loving, and talented group of individuals willing to serve you. ECA is very lucky and blessed to have had each of them serving this past year.

I also want to acknowledge and thank each and every member of our ECA family. You are a remarkable “body of Christ.” You give generously and tirelessly to each other and the community around us. You are wonderful witnesses to the power of Christ’s love in our ECA family and in the world. I would be remiss if I did not thank you for all your love, support and encouragement that you directed my way this past year. I praise and thank God for all your blessings. May we continue to serve God’s people joyfully together.

**In Christ’s service,
Susie Ferguson, Senior Warden**

Diocesan Delegate Report From Convention October 21, 2006

The new COLLABORATIVE STRUCTURE MODEL has been adopted by convention.

Overview: The overriding objective of this organizational structure model is to retain governance, spending, and program management within the Diocesan bodies, while also encouraging local initiative to develop new programs, and to collaborate in efforts to build up ministry and mission. This model provides clear lines of authority and accountability, and provides changes to some structures that have previously hampered good communications and have made working relationships difficult among Diocesan bodies.

- Council and Corporation are merged into a single Board of Trustees with underlying committees drawing members from across the diocese for matters such as finance, property, stewardship, programs, budget, and risk management. Implements policies, programs and budget approved and adopted by Convention.
- Bishop – leader, chief sacramental officer and pastor of diocese with all canonical responsibilities Bishop with staff is in charge of Commission on Ministry. Department of Missions covering all missions and struggling parishes reports to bishop with help of canon. Education is under bishop with hope that the education staff position will be filled.
- Standing Committee – Council of advice to the bishop, participates in ecclesiastical discipline and personnel, approves ordinations and candidacies, and advises on ministerial matters. Fulfills other canonical responsibilities.
- Deaneries and other local groups may apply to Board of Trustees for funding for particular programs, projects. Diocesan staff and committees will be prepared to carry out funded programs when no local initiatives are forthcoming.
- Deaneries would be three in number: Santa Clara, Central Coast and San Luis Obispo. Smaller grouping are possible on an ad hoc basis.
- Clericus consists of clergy meeting in regional groups, with appointed leaders facilitating close ties with bishop.
- Convention Secretary responsible only for Convention; other groups elect their own secretaries.
- Funds are managed by the Diocesan office, and budget is as decided by Convention, and managed by the Board of Trustees.
- Elections and Appointments

- Standing Committee – four clergy and four lay members elected by Convention to rotating four-year terms. Nominations come from the Convention Nominating Committee.
- Board of Trustees – Each deanery chooses two nominees. The Nominating Committee chooses 6 other nominees. All 12 go to Convention for election. Coordination is handled by the Nominating Committee to provide at least one lay and one clergy from each deanery, and with expertise in matters handled by the Board. The Board appoints committees except for Finance, which is appointed by bishop with concurrence of Board. Members stand down for one year after three year terms are completed. Bishop and treasurer are ex officio voting members.
- Commission on Ministry – 16 members, half elected at Convention equally from lay and clerical order. Half appointed by bishop.

Department of Mission – 10 members, two elected by each deanery and four appointed by the Bishop.

A new FUNDING STRUCTURE has been adopted by Diocesan Convention October 2006: Each parish and mission in the Diocese shall be based on Net Budgeted Disposable Income (NBDI) as reported monthly (by the tenth of the following month) by each parish or mission to the Diocese for the then-current year. Within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter the Diocesan financial office shall give each parish and mission an accounting of fair share owed and submitted for that quarter. Either the parish (or mission) or the Diocese shall pay the other the amount owed, if any, within 30 days of such notice. A congregation shall have the option of maintaining a credit with the Diocese for any amounts owed by the Diocese to the parish or mission. The percent of NBDI payable shall be:

10% of first \$178,000, 20% of everything over \$178,000.

**Ed & Sandie Mueller
Diocesan Delegates**

2006 FINANCIAL REVIEW

ECA is a wonderful community where we give whole heartedly in time, talent and treasure. Our love and care for others is our most valuable asset, yet only partially shows in this financial statement but rather in all other reports.

Financially speaking, 2006 was another challenging year for our community to live within its means. The Diocesan Fair Share (DFS) remains a heavy weight on our financial situation.

Income from pledging was up almost 6% from 2004. Bless you all for making this possible, and even more remarkable in view of the decreased number of pledging units. Plate offerings remained below budget at \$6,000.

Scrip income from Albertsons was slightly below expectations while eScrip was above, thus averaging each other out at \$1,600. Please continue to make sure you update you scrip accounts. It helps our church, while costing you nothing.

We again worked this year with the Diocese to define a payment plan for the Diocesan Fair Share. At the start of the year, our DFS outstanding debt from 2004 and 2005 was \$23,995. The DFS over 2005 was set at \$44,600 for a total DFS of \$68,595. We executed a payment scheme as planned of \$26,400, and allocated an additional \$2,000 from the Cash Reserve Fund towards DFS as a token of support towards our Diocese in its drive to define a new fair share formula. This leaves us at years end with a DFS debt of \$40,195. The Diocese did not conclude on new terms for the DFS until its October meeting. Effects will be seen starting 2007.

Cash reserves have hit a low mark throughout the year and the Vestry allowed our Treasurer to use the Cash Reserve Fund when needed to pay the bills.

Endowment Fund Update:

As of 10/9/06, the Comerica accounts are as follows:

Account # BG5-005029	\$138,064.56
Account # ORZ-003050	\$115,245.58
Total:	\$253,310.14

Since starting with Comerica on 10/25/2005, the Fund is up \$19,719.14 (8.4%, annualized) and up 1.8% relative to the May 10, 2006 high. A proposal was made to consolidate all memorial funds into the Endowment Fund for central management and visibility. Detail processes regarding tracking designated versus non-designated amounts need to be worked out. AVUCC has a similar endowment gift development program in process. No progress was made concerning the proposal to consolidate memorial funds with the Endowment Funds since, until recently, a Vestry-imposed lower limit of \$250,000 funds access was not achieved.

2006 - 2007 Financial Statement

The Episcopal Church in Almaden Revenue and Expense Report 2006 YTD Actual, 2006 Budget, 2007 Budget

	Financial Summary 2006		Outlook 2007
	YTD Actual *	Budget	Budget
Contributions			
Plate Offerings	\$4,359	\$10,000	\$6,000
Pledge Offerings	\$157,259	\$214,960	\$225,000
e-Scrip	\$777	\$700	\$1,000
Albertson's	\$480	\$800	\$700
Other contributions(Easter,etc)	\$605	\$3,000	\$1,000
Total contributions	\$163,480	\$229,460	\$233,700
Expenses			
Personnel (Rector, Treasurer)	\$48,855	\$65,377	\$69,000
Rectory mortgage and improvement	\$8,136	\$12,829	\$13,500
Rector discretionary/Hospitality	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,200
Joint Venture **	\$75,425	\$100,566	\$80,000
Diocesan Fair Share 2004	\$1,800	\$10,459	\$8,059
Diocesan Fair Share 2005	\$0	\$13,536	\$13,536
Diocesan Fair Share 2006	\$20,000	\$44,600	\$18,600
Diocesan Fair Share 2007			\$29,000
Insurance and Workers Comp	\$4,059	\$6,225	\$6,500
Supply Priest	\$250	\$500	\$500
Ministries	\$4,761	\$6,505	\$7,300
Anniversary celebrations			\$2,000
Miscellaneous	\$215	\$125	\$150
Santa Maria Urban Mission	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,200
Total expenses	\$165,301	\$263,122	\$250,545
Net total	-\$1,821	-\$33,662	-\$16,845
Carry forward DFS debt		\$40,195	\$69,195

* - As of September 30, 2006

** - \$24,500/yr reduction in '07 due to bond termination

2007 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

This year we will finally see significant relief in our financial situation. Your Vestry has decided to prioritize on a reduction of our Diocesan Fair Share debt.

Projected income for 2007 is \$233,700, assuming a modest increase in pledges and plate offerings compared to 2006. Expenses, including all the DFS obligations, will be \$250,545. This will result in a +/- \$16,845 shortfall, which can be minimized by above-and-beyond pledge increases.

As per the Diocesan October meeting, the DFS rule has changed resulting in a substantial expected reduction of our contribution from \$44,600 in 2006 to \$29,000 in 2007. With the carry-over DFS debt from 2006 of \$40,195, our total DFS obligations for 2006 are \$69,195.

For many years, ECA has paid towards termination of bonds through Joint Venture Capital Fund at an annual rate of \$24,500. As per end 2006, these bonds are terminated and no further financial obligations remain.

A general increase of 5%, as compensation for inflation, has been allocated to line items related to personnel cost, insurance, etc. Stewardship ministry received a \$500 increase, and a \$2,000 budget is available for our 40 year anniversary celebration next year.

ECA will be making payments towards the DFS at \$4,360/month or \$52,320/yr, leaving a debt at year's end of \$16,875. In the event pledges received allow, we will try to further reduce this debt. Unless unforeseen major costs are incurred, ECA will have completely paid its outstanding DFS debt in 2008.

Our cash reserves are \$6,861, with a separate reserve from the 2004 auction proceeds at \$17,816. The purpose of these remains to ensure that ECA has adequate cash reserves to pay its expenses in the event of a shortfall. We plan to keep the cash reserve funds at the current levels.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you in 2006. We're looking forward to serving you in 2007.

2007 ECA Cash Flow Statement	
Total contributions	\$233,700
Expenses (excl. DFS)	\$181,350
DFS payments	\$ 52,320
Est. Cash Flow Deficit	nil
Carry Forward DFS debt	\$ 16,875

**Hans Spanjaart
Steve Wing
George Romer
Vestry**

**Maryke Williams
Treasurer**

MINISTRY REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP

Pledging

2006 total Pledged was \$214,960 and the number of pledging units was 79, down from 2005 total of 83 but total \$ was up from the 2005 number of \$203,500.

Education & Program

Eight Stewardship Articles were written for the Shape as of October 9, 2006. Feedback was all positive. Three ECA persons attended the Diocese of El Camino Stewardship Workshop in May 2006. Stewardship theme was created – The Season of Giving of Time, Talent, and Treasure and aimed to increase involvement of the congregation in Stewardship. A multi-media Stewardship program plan for communication, marketing, and execution was created culminating in a Harvest Festival Dinner & Program on October 14 featuring live music and a guest speaker, The Rev. Canon Britt Olson. George gave a Stewardship talk at the 7:30 am and 11:00 am services October 8th on the subject “Seize the Moment in God’s Time”. It was well-received.

George Romer
Vestry

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We began our year using *Hands-On* curriculum for pre-kindergarten through 4th grade. Our 5th and 6th grades used lessons from *How to Use the Bible*, and the 7th and 8th grades used the *Creative Bible Lessons in Psalms*.

Some of this year’s activities that took place during the Sunday school hour included the Receiving of Scripture ceremony for our 5th graders and the Easter egg hunt for all our children. At the beginning of Lent, the children buried the Alleluia banner at the end of the Sunday school hour in the patio area. On Easter morning, the children dug up the Alleluia banner rather quickly, as usual, because they know the egg hunt comes next. This was a good place to start the egg hunt as the little ones were able to go first. Since it was raining Easter morning this year, the egg hunt was on the gravel parking lot instead of in the grove. The end of the year Sunday school hour celebration was in the individual classrooms. During this hour the teachers handed out recognition certificates to the children and had a little party. The teachers were recognized in both services.

Desi Brown and I worked on Vacation Bible School together. We prepared for 40 children but only registered 18. We had to move the date up and I believe it was too close to the end of school. We also needed to advertise more at St. Stephens. We have decided to chose a week during the summer and have VBS during that week from now on. That way, families who want their children to participate can plan accordingly. Our VBS archaeological "Big Dig" was great

fun for all. The program was called the Adventure of the Treasure Seekers, and was 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 puppeteer by Desi Brown). The kids saw a video and then a drama arranged by John Leslie about the Promise Point of the day. 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 together once again in the pyramid for more music, Dr. Zig, Professor Who and ending video. Every participant was given an explorer hat, treasure chest with the Promise Point tokens and the crafts they made during the week. This was a successful program with many volunteers who donated their time and supplies to the kids. The teen volunteers were amazing as usual. Most volunteered ahead of time; however, several youth just showed up and said, "What can I do!" Next summer VBS will be July 30 through August 3.

This fall there were no pre-school age children signed up for Sunday school so we moved the 3rd and 4th graders into a classroom instead of using the conference table. Debbie Bishop spearheaded a High School discussion group during the Sunday school hour which has been facilitated by the clergy and several adult volunteers. They meet in Pastor Kevin's office or at the conference table in the youth center. In September we introduced Seasons of the Spirit curriculum in the 3rd and 4th grade. It requires more preparation by the teachers, but we wanted to try a curriculum that followed the lessons that both churches use during the services. The Christian Ed committee will evaluate this curriculum at the end of the school year. Our 5th and 6th grades switched back to using the *Hands On* curriculum, and the 7th and 8th grades began using the *Creative Bible Lessons from the Old Testament* curriculum.

Our overall attendance for children and youth has been around 50 every Sunday.

Katie McCormick
Christian Education & Youth Director

FELLOWSHIP / INREACH

Fellowship is an inreach ministry that focuses on our parishioners. We look for ways in which we can care for, strengthen, and uplift all of our members through social activities and other events. Our goal is to provide a variety of functions which support and celebrate the diversity of our membership; and afford opportunities for young and old, individuals and families, and new and long time members to rejoice in each others company. Though our strength as a church community we are better able to support one another, and to serve others.

One of the many outcomes of the 2005 Spring Fling Dinners was a call to renew and increase our fellowship dinners. Accepting that call, we have endeavored this year to build on past successes and to integrate fellowship events with Stewardship, outreach, and other ECA activities.

Our fellowship events in 2006 included:

Ladies' Lunch/Dinner – An Episcopal Church Women's event was the monthly luncheon/dinner. During the last year, dinner gatherings were added to enable more members to participate. This ministry was graciously organized and maintained by Amy Griffith.

Men's Breakfast & Bocce – A committed group of men at ECA meet every Thursday at 8:00 am for breakfast and camaraderie at Denny's, followed by bocce. All ECA men are welcome.

Summer Barbeques – Barbeques are held throughout the summer months following the late service under the guidance of Warren Willard and Dave Byers.

Tai Chi – A program, facilitated by Joan Wagner, for members to participate in the healthful benefits of Tai Chi.

Dinners in the Hat – An opportunity for adults and families to gather in small dinner groups throughout the year. This successful activity was coordinated by Sandie Mueller, and is continuing next year under the guidance of Pete & Suzanne Mayo.

Special events included the **Ministry Appreciation Dinner, Men's Steak & Stein, Harvest Festival** (in collaboration with Stewardship), **Annual Meeting**, and **Christmas Party**.

Ongoing Inreach activities at ECA include:

Good Sams – This group in our church cares for the physical, financial and/or mental health needs of our church family. The need may be as simple as a phone call, flowers or a check. It is sometimes ongoing, like rides to church, the doctor, or the grocery store. Good Sams volunteers often prepare and deliver home cooked meals to those who are ill, injured, just home from the hospital or in need of a meal for a variety of reasons. Jenny Hoyt manages this vital ministry.

Prayer Vine – Dorothy Willard leads an intercessory prayer group to pray for the needs of our church members and those of our community. The prayer group contacts each other through a telephone chain.

God Squad – This important ministry, led by Jenny Hoyt, welcomes and integrates newcomers into the church. The God Squad meets monthly and plans the Welcoming Sunday service.

Communication – Our church newsletter, called The Shape, is published monthly by Alex Dykes, keeping us informed of the goings on. Kim Petruzzelli is ECA's webmaster. The ECA website is a critical way to keep members connected and to tell the world about our church. Desi Brown, our church secretary, maintains the master events calendar and the elist which is used for emailing church announcements.

Greeters – Before the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, new and returning people are welcomed at the door by greeters organized by Sharon Mills.

Coffee Hour - After both services refreshments are served and people find this a good time to connect with one another. Pete Mayo recruits and schedules those willing to serve as hosts.

Susanne Moore
Jim McPherson
Vestry

MUSIC

The church liturgical calendar, of course, began with music for Advent 2005, with the JV Children's "Instant" Christmas Pageant, and an especially nice, beautifully unified service of liturgy and carols on Christmas Eve. Thanks again to Betty Consorte for hosting a mini-Christmas Eve choir reception at her home. Music at Joint Venture Churches sponsored its third annual Epiphany "Night of Gifts" (Talent Night) with many ECA members - young and young at heart participating.

Thanks to Andy and Francie Kerr and all the ECA Folk Band and Singers for all their beautiful monthly Folk Services. Together, they provide wonderful, life-giving inspiration with their music. May God continue to bless them and their Ministry of Music.

Youth Sundays took place on the third Sunday of every month, and we tried to include as many youth in the music as were willing: thanks to David Hoyt. Other instrumentalists who were "instrumental" include Ann Mayers (bassoon), Tim Miller and Roger Hoyt, who accompanied the choir, the Bell Choir and many other performances.

The Joint Venture Handbell Choir is made up of members from both ECA and AVUCC. This year there were more ECA ringers than from AVUCC. We have a new ringer: Nancy Romer...Welcome, Nancy! The Bell Choir rehearses dutifully and joyously each week to prepare special musical offerings, presenting one or more selections during worship about every six weeks.

We heard special musical selections for Communion, and some very special solos during Healing services by Mary Leal and Susie Ferguson.

Lent and Easter were very moving seasons, and Pentecost brought us to the end of the "regular season." Special solos were offered by Betty Consorte and Andy Kerr.

The choirs took a well-deserved break during the summer, although we had a lot of ECA members rehearsing and performing during the hot summer weeks of July for the summer musical "Anything Goes."

Summer was over, and the choirs were back in action, although we deeply miss Kimberly Axtell, who is now serving her seminarian internship at Trinity Episcopal Church downtown. Jack & Winnie Jackman are also sorely missed as they deal with personal health issues.

We have had a great start with the new Youth Band, thanks to the leadership of Desi and Mike Brown, who have encouraged the Junior and Senior High School instrumentalists and singers to join us.

We look forward to more great music and worship in the last few weeks of the liturgical calendar, as we approach the Festival of Christ the King.

**To God be all the Glory for His greatest gift!
In His Love,
John Leslie, Director of Music**

OUTREACH - *ECA Touches the World Around Us*

The **Montgomery Meals** program serves 150-200 meals to the homeless of San Jose every other Friday. Amy Griffith coordinates the meals, Suzanne Mayo is in charge of buying food, Craig Stephan usually is the head cook, and Pete Mayo is in charge of delivery to the mission, as well as obtaining donations from the **Second Harvest Food Bank** to supplement the meals. The great group that makes this happen always welcomes new volunteers warmly. Many outside of ECA learn about ECA by coming to help cook or serve.

The annual **Turkey Drive**, led by Steve Wing, continued cooking through Thanksgiving 2005 at the Almaden Pizza Company. They have generously allowed us to use their oven on Thanksgiving day for a number of years. T-Day 2006 will be a bit different because the Almaden Pizza Company has recently closed. However, that ever-intrepid MM stalwart, Craig Stephan, scoured the valley for another place to cook 75 turkeys and scored! Turns out that there is a Stuff Pizza in Campbell that has the same kind of oven and a willing manager (he used to manage the Almaden Stuff so he's familiar with our Thanksgiving operation). On the day after Thanksgiving, the turkeys are deboned, cubed and packaged by fun-loving, tireless volunteers and subsequently frozen to be used for MM provided meals throughout the year.

Santa Maria Urban Mission provides emergency support to assist individuals with the basic necessities of life. All the programs are offered free of charge. Many donations of charitable items are made weekly by ECA members and are dutifully transported down to the mission on Mondays by Pete Mayo. In July and August, parishioners from both ECA and UCC contributed to the school supplies drive for children served by the Santa Maria Urban Mission. More than thirty-five backpacks were donated, along with reams of paper, boxes of pens and pencils, and new clothing. As the weather got cooler, a blanket drive provided focus for donations of blankets, quilts, jackets and other goods to help keep the **SMUM** clients warm through the winter. At Christmas, many people bought presents for children of the mission and **InnVision** on the Angel tree at Alternative Christmas. ECA's own Roger Hoyt is now on the board of directors and will undoubtedly be a huge blessing to them.

ECA has many parishioners who are active within the **Cursillo** community. We do, however, still need a Parish Rep to keep us better informed as to all that is happening within that community and organization.

Almaden Adventures in the Arts reaches the community through its concerts and Soup & Sound events. Highlights this year included organists Dean Cook, Mary Norton, country band Sidesaddle and the folksy Banana Slug String Band, as well as many other performers. Other artistic outreach events included John Leslie's production of "**Anything Goes**" in July, utilizing many talents of both JV churches and the local community. In addition, we had the third annual **Epiphany Talent Show** this year, generously organized by John Leslie. This event brought out many of the talented members of ECA and UCC, young and old alike.

The money raised from the **Tacky Supper and Fashion Show** led by Sandie Mueller went to **the Diocese of Muhabura** for their general assistance. The sale of the clothes and accessories benefited **EMQ**, a respected local family services agency.

The community was particularly generous at Christmas. The junior and senior high youth groups each adopted a family from the **EOPS** program for low-income student-parents at West Valley College, for whom they bought groceries and Christmas gifts. The junior high youth raised money for this outreach by selling baked goods at the various musical performances held at church, offering gift-wrapping and babysitting services and by conducting a pie sale. The senior high youth held a servant auction to raise money for their adopted family – services offered included yard clean-up, Christmas-light hanging, babysitting, party servers, and many others. The congregation generously supported the youth in the efforts to help brighten their adopted families' holidays.

At our **Alternative Christmas** event people bought jewelry from the **African Team Ministries** supporting orphan schools of East Africa. Animals were purchased to improve lives all over the world by providing income and future food sources through the **Heifer Project**. **Habitat** gifts were collected to provide nails, windows, sinks, etc., and **Beneficio Coffee** was a great stocking stuffer idea, benefiting farmers in Costa Rica as well as other outreach programs for non-profit organizations that they contribute to.

As this report goes to press, the date draws near for a new outreach venture, a luncheon featuring historical vignettes from Santa Clara County in authentic dress that will benefit the orphans in **Uganda**. Amy Griffith and Robb Moore are the brains, brawn and heart behind this fascinating event.

Keeping us connected to the world at large, we continue to pray weekly for the **Diocese of Muhabura** and our Sister Parish, **St. Mary's and All Souls** in Scotland.

Thanks to everyone who champions new activities and keep these ministries going. ECA is making a difference in the world!

**Inge Bond
Susie Ferguson
Vestry**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Vestry

This year the vestry decided to revisit a long held tradition of starting our year of service by going on a weekend retreat. It is easy for a vestry to believe they should manage themselves as the board of a high tech company would. With the retreat, the year was begun on a more spiritual note. We built cohesion, and set a foundation for the year by obtaining a common vision. We crafted vision and mission statements, which gave us a basis with which to structure our ministries. The feedback was unanimous that the retreat is a tradition that should be continued. Thus reservations are already made, and money is budgeted for the 2007 vestry to go on retreat in January next year.

In keeping with the theme that we are not just another board, we lit a candle each month as we met to remind us of the Holy Spirit's presence with us. We began our meetings with a meditation lead by various volunteers on vestry. It was a time for reflection, and reminded us of God's presence with us. It helped us pay more attention to God in our midst, and surprisingly, instead of lengthening, seemed to shorten our meetings.

Spiritual Growth Offerings

Growing spiritually is journey that involves increasing our knowledge and understanding of God. Besides our communal Sunday worship time, with the lessons and sermons, we had several programs within the church and within the diocese to encourage spiritual growth.

Stephen began a Bible study of the lectionary on alternating Wednesday nights at the home of Ed and Sandie Mueller. We had a Lenten adult education class taught by Kimberly Axtell, our resident seminary student, which included discussions on church traditions, and a sharing of experiences of God's presence with the aim of deepening our faith. On Thursday mornings, Bible study finished up studying of the Book of Matthew in May, and started the Book of Romans in September. A main focus of the study is to learn to apply scripture to our daily lives.

Several parishioners participated in workshops offered by the diocese. The Rev. Cannon Brit Olson led a well attended Evangelism workshop on June 10th at St. Jude's. She pointed out how the early church leaders spread the gospel by simply sharing and listening to each other's stories, and how we can do the same today.

**Mary McPherson
Kim Petruzzelli
Tim Miller
Vestry**

WORSHIP

John Leslie has led us through a year with exceptional and quite varied music. The choirs have sung with joy and dedication. There is a children's choir and adult choir, children's and adult bell choirs. Soloists have sung, and instrumentalists all have been part of our worship service.

We've had our second annual celebration of St. Francis with the Blessing of the Animals. The return of Easter Sunday sunrise service was wet and well attended. The fifth and sixth graders performed "Jonah and the Whale" for the congregation, (the script having been written especially by Byron Henderson and directed by Sandie Mueller.) John Leslie gathered both churches for the richly moving Maundy Thursday service.

Lorry Long manages the church baby sitting. We have been fortunate to have fine baby sitters. Under the direction of Jim McPherson and Bryan Bond the young people are leading a Youth Service each month. The acolytes, led by Valerie Tysanner and assisted by Marc Bond, have recruited and trained seven new members and there are new robes for them. The altar guild, under the leadership of Betty Wood and Elaine LaVallee, coordinates the set-up for Eucharist and does the holy washing with great care. The ushers, under the direction of Dave Byers, are friendly and helpful.

Greeters, organized by Sharon Mills, welcome worshipers in the narthex. The coffee hosts, organized by Pete Mayo, get the coffee and tea water perking in Fellowship Hall. Our lay readers, with Dennis Moran in charge, read well. A lively bunch, the Folk Mass group, inspired by Andy Kerr, sings and plays with great spirit and energy. Our seminarian, Kimberly Axtell, is taking a course in Greek from CDSP and has begun her field study at Trinity Cathedral. Sharon Mills organizes the Matrix service chart for us four times a year. Everyone who has anything to do with worship is included in this chart and knows what dates they serve. And each year now John Leslie has organized a Talent Show that comes in January to celebrate our gifts from God at the beginning of Epiphany.

**Sandie Mueller
Tim Miller
Vestry**

YOUTH – Junior High Youth Group

Jon Mills continued to be my partner in running this group and was a great support and leader. The Junior High youth group met on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 6pm to 8pm and had a regular attendance of 12-16 members. The schedule during the meetings was: 6 for an activity/game, 6:30 dinner, 7-7:50 discussion/activity and 7:50-8:00 closed prayer. The dinners were provided by the families. The parents who brought and served the dinner were encouraged to stay and help with the meetings.

Our activities this year have included the annual ski trip this time to Alpine Meadows staying in Carnelian Bay in four cabins (all within walking distance of each other), ice skating at the

outdoor downtown ice rink, Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, miniature golf, New Beginnings and the end of the year swim party. Our meetings here at the church included discussions mostly centering on comparing Christianity with other religions. Many discussions were lead by Kimberly Axtell who was wonderful at communicating and challenging our Junior High kids.

Our most recent activities have included ice block skating in the fellowship hall, Great America's Joyfest, and helping create and work the "Garden Gone Wrong" (a haunted garden) with the St. Stephens in the Fields youth group.

Katie McCormick
Christian Education & Youth Director

YOUTH – Senior High Youth Group

SHYG meetings took place on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

Robin and Terry Root kicked off the year with the SHYG's 3rd annual movie marathon. Other activities included the joint ski trip to Tahoe, helping Greg Lukanc with his Eagle project, Habitat for Humanity in downtown San Jose, Shrove Tuesday's pancake supper, the Tweak (wombat) hunt, Happenings retreat, Seder dinner, Catacombs, Heifer Global Village Experience, Malibu Grand Prix, summer volleyball, bike trip to Angel Island, and camping at Half Moon Bay. Anne Mayers and Kyle Dando continued to be of great help during the 2005-2006 year.

The SHYGs program underwent a change in leadership in September when Robin and Terry turned over the reins to Mike and Desi Brown. Mike and Desi were hired part-time to serve as interim SHYG leaders while the Children and Youth Ministries Committee searches for permanent SHYG leaders. Mike and Desi have blended into the group successfully and continue to develop their program.

This fall's kick off event was the ropes course at Camp Oakhurst. Nine youths attended and successfully completed the high ropes course and also survived the giant swing. Mike and Desi conducted team building activities and discussed plans for the 2006-2007 year. In addition to regular meetings, the SHYG's went to Great America for Joyfest, took part in youth Sunday services and participated in the Halloween Garden Gone Wrong with St. Stephens youth group.

Katie McCormick
Christian Education & Youth Director