

The Episcopal Church in Almaden

Parish Profile 2023



We are a welcoming, spirit-led, strong, fellowship-oriented congregation seeking our spiritual leader – a priest who is forward thinking, able to share a leadership role with lay leaders, willing to work collaboratively toward a new vision for our church and how we minister in the larger community, while supporting the pastoral needs of the congregation.

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San Jose, CA 95120
(408) 268-0243

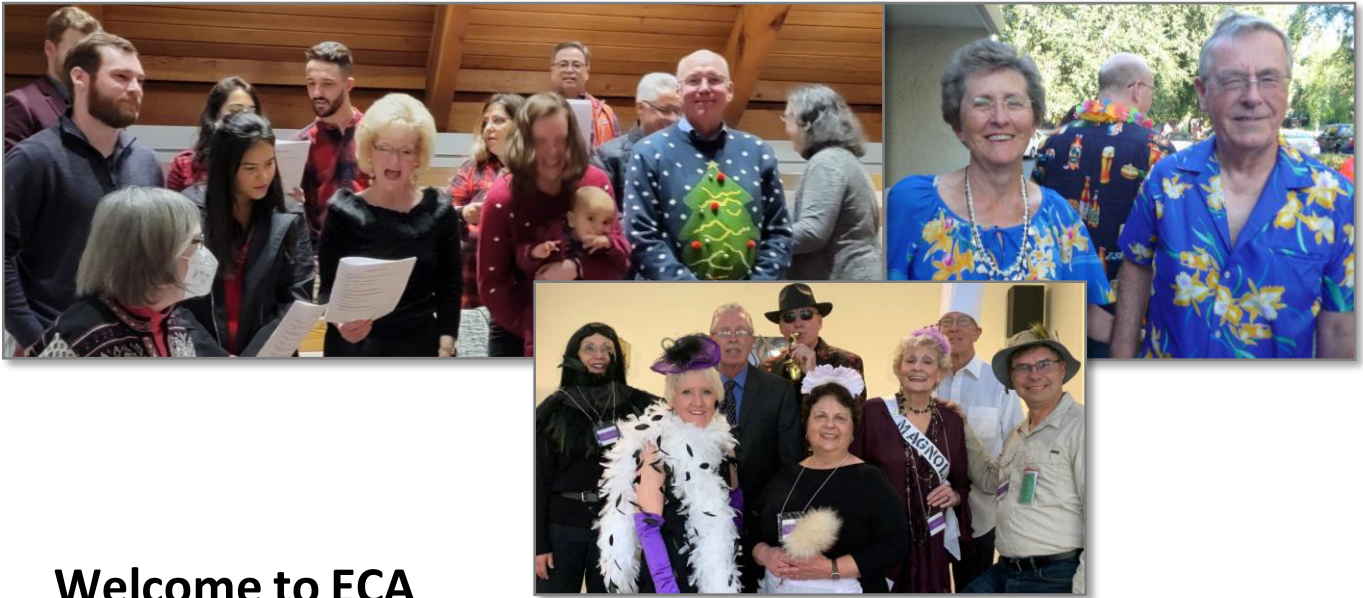
<https://www.churchinalmaden.org>

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The Episcopal Church in Almaden



Welcome to ECA

Welcome to the parish profile of the Episcopal Church in Almaden, (ECA). These pages were thoughtfully written by our search committee and are intended to describe who we are, so that those who are searching for a parish home will be able to discern a call.

We are a people who love God, love one another, and continually seek to build healthy community with each other and our neighbors. We are looking for a Rector who will work with us to discern our next steps and then walk the journey with us, as we carry out our mission at home and in the world.

We welcome anyone who would like to know more about us. Our church is located in San Jose, California, in the southern part of Santa Clara Valley known as Almaden Valley.

We welcome your application and look forward to the success of this mutual discernment process. If you have any questions about this search, please contact The Reverend Canon Martha Korienek of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, email: canonmartha@realepiscopal.org

*Please know that you are in our prayers.
Yours in Christ,*

*Sharon Hall, Chairperson Transition Team
Ellen Lukanc, Senior Warden*

*Transition Team Members:
Bill LaVallee, Bryan Bond, Joan Wagner, Kelli Casale,
Kimberly Axtell, Steve Wing, Todd Lukanc*

Who is The Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA)?

Mission Statement:

We are spiritually grounded in Jesus and take risks by trusting the Holy Spirit's guidance. Our passion is reaching out with God's love for all – understanding all are God's children – through service and relationship with our neighbors, and fellowship with one another.

Our mission is to live out God's love and compassion through partnered services fulfilling needs in our community, while building our relationships with each other and our neighbors.

ECA Core Values

- **Spiritually Grounded:** *We follow Jesus. We are continuously seeking and discerning how to express God's compassion for humankind, and how to be part of God's plan for justice and mercy for the world.*
- **Willing to Risk:** *We challenge ourselves to trust that the Holy Spirit is leading us to do more than we may have believed possible.*
- **Inclusive:** *We know that all people are children of God. We know that everyone has a full and equal claim to the love, acceptance and pastoral care of God and the Church.*
- **Serving:** *We live out God's love for the world by actively addressing both the practical and spiritual needs of our congregation, community, and the larger world.*
- **Valuing Fellowship:** *We find fulfillment through the involvement in both spiritual and social gatherings with other members of our church and the larger community.*

We are strong in faith, community, and fellowship. We care for each other, our neighbors, and our world. We are open to new ideas and are making progress in building the Church of the Future with our existing and new partners. Our goals and ministries are evolving as are the means to carry them out, and are in a process of transformation that we believe is faith-based and spirit-led.

Joint Venture Churches of Almaden Valley, Inc.

An Ecumenical Community
Our Partnership for 55 Years

We are unique

In 1969, ECA and the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, United Church of Christ (CCAVUCC) formed a non-profit corporation, called Joint Venture Churches (JV). JV owns the church building and land and is responsible for the maintenance of the building and grounds. The two churches, through Joint Venture, also share the part-time administrative assistant and, at times, have shared a Christian Education director, music director and organist. *Read more about the JV Churches on page 12.*

Our Diocese

ECA is part of the Diocese of El Camino Real, which is approximately 250 miles long, stretching from Palo Alto to Arroyo Grande (south of San Luis Obispo). The diocese is under The Right Rev. Lucinda Beth Ashby. She is the fourth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, and the second woman bishop to succeed a woman bishop in the history of the Anglican Communion.

Our Diocese is as vibrant and diverse as the region it serves. From Silicon Valley to San Luis Obispo County, the diocese spans 42 congregations across five counties: Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo.

Our congregations are welcoming, inclusive, with multi-racial communities that celebrate individuals for their unique gifts. We worship in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Mandarin and other languages, reflecting the cultures of our region. Bishop Lucinda Ashby is the spiritual and legal head of the diocese, visiting all congregations in the diocese on a rotating cycle.

ECA has been active in the Diocese throughout its history. Most recently, The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney represented ECA on the Standing Committee, in addition to the 4 Diocesan Convention delegates representing the parish each year.

The link to the Diocesan website is: <https://www.realepiscopal.org>.

Our Story - Parish History and Community

ECA Founded	Church Building Est.	JV Inc. Early ECA Dev	ECA Parish Status	Spiritual and Community Outreach Programs Developed Music and Christian Education Programs								Church of the Future Planning & Development	COVID & Demographic Challenges
1965	1969	1973	1979	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2018	2020

ECA Historical Timeline

In the Beginning:

In 1965, the city of San Jose was beginning to develop Almaden Valley, and the Diocese decided to establish a new congregation there. ECA became a mission on All Saint’s Day, 1967, with the Rev. John Buenz as its founding priest. For the first two years, ECA’s congregation met in homes, a rented local church, and in the J.B. Peeler Ranch prune shed. The prune shed was shared with the Congregational Church in Almaden, United Church of Christ (CCAVUCC) which was formed in 1965.

A founding member remembers: “During Father John’s last service it was raining so hard that buckets were used to collect water dripping through the prune yard roof.”

Joint Venture:

ECA and CCAVUCC developed a close relationship. John was able to persuade CCAVUCC’s pastor, both congregations, and the Diocese to approve a Joint Venture cooperation between the two congregations to share one facility. CCAVUCC already owned the property, and ECA contributed \$20,000 from a seed money donation. The church was built and both congregations moved into the building in 1969. The JV was incorporated in 1972 and paid off the construction loan in 1983.

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Early ECA Development:

Under John, ECA grew from 35 to 95 pledging families in five years, and the Joint Venture was working well. In 1973, the Rev. Michael Creighton became ECA's second priest, and the church continued to grow, reaching 124 pledging families. Almaden Valley Youth Counseling Services was founded at Joint Venture Churches to provide counseling for teenagers and their families. The church had become a primary place for new families to meet people. The first of four Vietnamese refugee families were sponsored in 1978. ECA attained parish status in 1979.

*"There was a lot of fellowship with different groups.
Deep friendships were made."*

Spiritual and Outreach Development Years:

Between 1981 and 1986, ECA had several interim and short-term rectors. There was significant progress continuing through the pastoral changes. In 1983-84, ECA was able to buy the rectory property, funded Santa Maria Urban Mission (an outreach ministry in downtown San Jose) and established Montgomery Meals to serve food to the homeless. The Rev. Nolan Redman became ECA's rector in 1986. He and his wife Ann opened their home, the rectory, for Bible studies, vestry meetings, and other fellowship events. Both were "special, caring people for whom no one was a stranger." When Nolan retired in 2002, he was ECA's longest-serving rector.

Montgomery Meals:

Spiritual growth of the church was enhanced through the Montgomery Meals outreach. Meals were cooked at church, delivered twice a month to the homeless shelter on Montgomery Street, and served by a large contingent of ECA volunteers. Almost 100,000 meals were served over 35 years. Serving locations changed, but the mission remained the same until it was ended in 2019 due to time demands and health of our volunteers.

The meals were based on turkey bought before Thanksgiving, cooked at a pizza parlor with a very large, rotating oven, deboned at church the day after and frozen for use over the following year. The turkey meat (300-400 lbs. each year) was prepared and used in small amounts as the base of warm meals along with vegetables, salad, and dessert serving 150-250 people at a time.



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"One year when we were cooking 60 turkeys at the pizza place, the oven broke down. We called church members, who called neighbors and people came to church to take the partially cooked turkeys home to finish cooking them. Amazingly, a few hours later, the fully cooked turkeys all came back."

Santa Maria Urban Ministry:

Nolan was a leader and strong supporter of Santa Maria Urban Mission (SMUM), later renamed "Ministry". SMUM's mission remains to feed the body, mind, and spirit of needy, under-served individuals in our downtown San Jose community by providing food, clothing, and children's school supplies. Educational programs for all ages are available at SMUM, along with leadership development opportunities through volunteer service. ECA financed the construction of the original building and now regularly collects items to donate and continues to provide monthly financial support.



As the Rev. Stephen Mills replaced Nolan in 2002 and the Rev. Kate Flexer replaced Stephen in 2011, new activities continued to generate. An excellent new organ was acquired as a special endowment, and other musical offerings included a bell choir, folk and casual choirs. ECA supported students from South Sudan in a Kenyan refugee camp (now called South Sudan Youth Opportunity-SSYO). Youth ski trips, picnics and camping events were held, bringing in children and parents from the neighborhood. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney became our rector in 2015, replacing Kate. Shelley led ECA for the past 7 years, retiring in December 2022.

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Women's Warming Center/Village House:

As homelessness and violence against women became bigger problems for San Jose, ECA looked for ways “to extend tolerance, love and support for more people” in difficult circumstances. Beginning in 2016, ECA provided a warming center for 15 high risk homeless women during winter days. We made new friends with volunteers from other congregations who helped us staff the Center. Staff helped with resume writing, companionship and encouragement. Some women began attending church services and one joined ECA. Many women became healthier, and a few were able to reconcile with their respective families in meaningful ways.



Engagement in Warming Center

Recent Times:

For two years we provided a home for the Korean Methodist Church of Almaden, and ECA joined the Abrahamic Alliance, an interfaith ministry with Muslims and Jews. We have been very open to learning about and participating with other religions and local churches. For several years, one of our members (a former chef) provided monthly cooking classes which were well attended by members and friends. We celebrated ECA's 50th anniversary in 2017 with music, meals, plays, and worship with many of our earlier priests and over 200 members attending.

Current Challenges and Opportunities:

We have always promoted community interaction and outreach but with an aging congregation, young families unable to stay in the area due to the high cost of living, and the isolating impact of COVID, we were challenged to think differently.



Sunday Service during COVID

We began to adapt and focus on what was important: the people. We focused on pastoral care, calling everyone during COVID to make sure they were alright, and continued to provide meals, rides, and other support. We improved our communication to both members and non-members by streaming our services over the internet, rebuilding our website, adding a blog for children and teens, and having a larger presence on social media to encourage new members.

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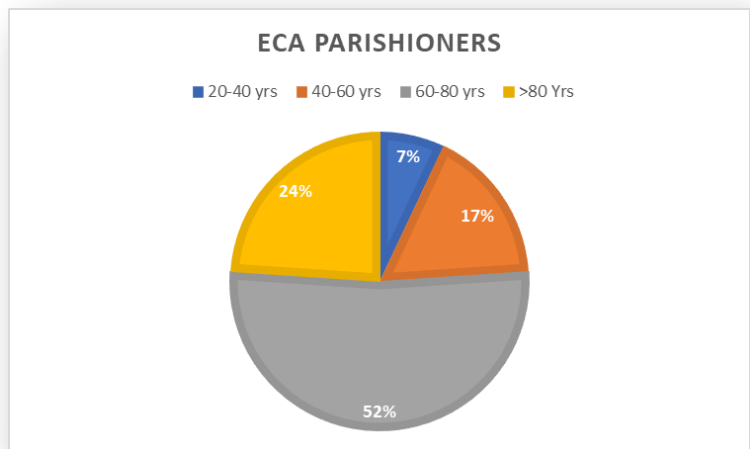
We focused on helping Santa Maria Urban Ministries more by providing monthly donation drives for needed items. Our prayer vine has grown and is affectionally known as the Prayer Warriors. We felt it was important to take care of the *Church of the Now*, but also look towards the future for growth and providing community services that support our values and mission.

Looking at the larger picture of what we could possibly do, we began our efforts to plan for the *Church of the Future* and started seeing many opportunities with this Spirit-led endeavor. We developed a vision, a plan, organized ourselves, and worked with others to imagine all the opportunities. We discovered potential, like-minded non-profit organizations that we could partner with to provide the needed services within our community using our property and facilities. The Church of the Future is described in more detail on page 19. We continue to learn more and are receiving help at each stage to make opportunities into realities.

Our Parishioners

Currently, ECA has 148 active participants. The average weekly in-person attendance is 42, average online worship attendance is 25, and the average attendance of online regular religious education or spiritual formation programs is 20.

Seventy-one parishioners were recently asked questions to elicit a sense of the identity of the parish, as well as values, theology, and hopes for the future.



Overwhelmingly, parishioners mentioned that friends or family brought them to ECA, mostly due to relocation to the area. Others mentioned a clergy leader, the online services and website. Few mentioned the Episcopal Church connection. Repeatedly, regardless of age group, people have stayed at ECA due to a strong sense of belonging. The parish became the focus of community life and gathering in fellowship and outreach. ECA was where people found family.

"At ECA, I have the opportunity to be myself, to grow, and to be a friend."

People describe special moments in the life of the parish as community activities and events, especially among those in the 60-80 age group. Memorable life events such as baptisms, confirmations, and weddings reflected the close community that supported the families and provide fun fellowship. Several parishioners mentioned the pastoral care they received in times of crises



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and loss. This was connected with a sense of love for each other that holds people as members of the parish community.



Confirmation and Baptism

Parishioners feel the presence of God at memorial services and in the gathered congregation. Sermons and music are also highly valued with feeling the presence of God. Older members, in particular, note the ways in which political or theological differences are discussed respectfully, specifically LGBTQ+ issues and recent political events.

"In this church, the people bring God in with them and you can feel God sitting next to you when you are in the church and when you leave."

"My latest step in my Faith journey, I was looking for a liturgical church that sang hymns. I wanted acceptance, diversity, and extending grace. I liked the inclusiveness of women in leadership. I felt at home very quickly. Since my grandmother was Episcopalian, I felt a sense of homecoming with the atmosphere and scripture."

Members feel that the most important features of the community are: caring for each other and inclusivity; a sense of belonging; being forward thinking. The identity of the parish is that of a place for people to belong.

In partnership with our priest, parishioners desire to expand outreach, community-centeredness, and the sense of family. There is understandable tension between the concern about the survival of the parish and the desire for growth that is both physical and spiritual in nature. Many value the Joint Venture partnership, the focus on the Church of the Future, and the concept of ECA as a service hub, thus enabling ECA to be more meaningful and relevant to the larger community.



ECA at Village House Dinner

Our Ministries

Worship

ECA is a Eucharist-centered congregation with active lay participation from the Altar Guild, lay readers, ushers, and the choir. Because we worship “in the round,” the congregation is an integral and intimate part of the service. It is this intimacy, combined with faithful weekly feeding on Word and Eucharist, that allows us to put into practice patterning our lives on Jesus’ life. We rotate our liturgical prayers seasonally to allow the different prayers to nudge our hearts and minds into a deeper understanding of our role in building up the Kingdom.



ECA's 50th Anniversary Celebration

"At times, from my vantage in the choir loft, it is possible to see a company of angels hovering over the congregation."

Our worship style is traditional yet joyful. We open our hearts and listen to hear God's word through scripture and the sermon. We strive to understand God's presence in our daily lives and the world around us. We have also expanded our circle of belonging by gathering together with our sister church, CCAVUCC, for joint worship services occasionally during the year, although COVID has curtailed this of late.

Wednesday Meditation Group meets online every Wednesday, the focus is to spend 20 minutes in the Creator's presence. Meditation can be done alone or in a group, and we find unity by being quiet together. All faiths and those with no faith tradition are invited and welcomed.

Music

Music has always been a central component of ECA's worship. Many parishioners have participated in our choirs and we have been fortunate to have truly gifted musical leaders leading them. No matter what style of music we sing, our goal is always to lift our hearts in worship and make a joyful noise in praise and thanksgiving to the Divine.



ECA and CCAVUCC Combined Choir

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- **Adult Choir** enhances our worship services with a broad range of anthems from classical, contemporary, spirituals, gospel, and others. We seek to musically highlight and reinforce the gospel and lessons of the day.



Handbell Choir

- **Handbell Choir** is a joint venture between ECA and our sister church CCAVUCC. We are a joyful community of ringers who range from novices to seasoned performers of 20+ years, with a diverse range of professional and musical backgrounds. We play two church services every 6 weeks.

- **Folk Choir** is a group of people who enjoy playing a variety of instruments and/or singing to lead the congregation in worship. Joyous folk, bluegrass, gospel, and contemporary acoustic music styles are included. All levels of instrumental capability and singing experience are welcome.



Folk Choir

- **Casual Choir** is an opportunity to sing a new song! We focus on contemporary music that reflects our ever-changing walk with the Divine, embracing many musical styles including gospel, and call and response. We also give special emphasis to women composers and hymn-birthers which reflects a different relationship to the Holy.
- **Past performances** include Broadway plays put on by parishioners, the Almaden Adventure in the Arts program which featured many and varied musical performers, Tabard Theater productions and more.

Stewardship

Stewardship, the giving of time, talent, and treasure, is alive and well in this congregation. It provides us with the opportunity to give back to God what we have been given. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7) The Vestry and the Stewardship committee continuously look for new ways to define stewardship at ECA to encourage and foster programs that allow our church family to grow and prosper. The Vestry and other leaders in the congregation are currently working to expand our stewardship to include more of the neighboring community. The current number of active pledges is 36 families.

Outreach Programs

Our congregation has always had a strong commitment to outreach, both in the local and international communities. Our tradition of hospitality longs to be of service to others, living out the challenge of Matthew 25: 31-46. We have joined with other organizations locally, to

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serve food, knit blankets, provide financial support for education for refugee children in Kenya, and provide a warming center for medically fragile homeless women, and more. The outreach programs have had many benefits, including the deepening of relationships among the parishioners and those they serve.

Our relationship with Industrial Areas Fellowship (IAF), now ended, has trained us to envision a future that involves partnering with other like-minded groups to tackle larger cultural systemic problems. We are moving from merely serving the community to building relationships with our neighbors and with other organizations. Together we have worked to successfully address local and international needs.

- **Santa Maria Urban Ministry:** In 1983 concerned parishioners and our priest worked with other local Episcopal churches to start the Santa Maria Urban Ministry (SMUM), which provides many essential services to the inner-city residents of San Jose. SMUM is now part of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, and ECA continues to contribute to its financial support and have on a regular basis provided needed supplies.
- **South Sudan Youth Opportunity (SSYO):** Members of ECA and our neighboring Episcopal church, St. Stephen-in- the-Field, provide financial support to assist with the costs of school tuition, uniforms, and school supplies for over 20 students through high school.



Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care is a vibrant and collaborative effort between our rector and the church community. Jesus' command to Peter to "feed my sheep" finds wonderful expression in our care for one another. As a result, a supportive, loving environment is provided for the congregation's physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. There are several ministries under this category.

- **Good Sam's:** This important group of lay members provides for the total wellbeing of the ECA church family. The group is ready and willing to provide support for whatever need arises. Typical examples are rides to church, medical appointments, or the grocery store; delivery of home cooked meals; or a simple phone call, card, or hug.
- **Lay Eucharistic Ministry:** ECA is blessed to have a group of trained and licensed lay ministers to assist the rector in taking communion to those who are ill or homebound.
- **Prayer Vine:** This is an enthusiastic and committed group of deeply spiritual volunteers who provide support with their prayers for those in need.
- **Greeters:** The greeters are our welcoming face at ECA on Sundays—welcoming newcomers and old-timers with a handshake, smile, and cheery hello.

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- **Coffee Hour Hosts:** This group of bakers and shakers provides the coffee and baked goods eagerly received during our fellowship time after church services. They make the difference in creating a welcoming time together for everyone.



Coffee Hour after Service

Christian Education

Christian Education for all ages has been a priority for ECA. We have had weekly adult Bible study fellowship groups, led by one of our parishioners or our priest. Classes on strengthening our spiritual walk are offered during Lent, and throughout the year by the rector.

Several times per year, a one-week Kids Camp is held for local community families. Science, arts and crafts, music and bible stories are led by volunteers from the parish.



Kid's Camp



ECA Christmas Party

Fellowship: Strengthening Bonds of Friendship

Fellowship at ECA is alive, abundant, and full of laughter. It brings to mind that old hymn: Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. We enjoy socializing, getting to know one another better, and strengthening the bonds of friendship through our parish activities. We have a full calendar of events throughout the year.

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Weekly events include a weekly Bible study, Thursday morning men's breakfast and bocce ball, and women's lunch. Other activities include the Joint Venture book group, themed dinners such as the Christmas dinner, organized hikes, 2 different dinner groups, etc. and quarterly fun events to share the Church of the Future updates.



ECA Christmas Party

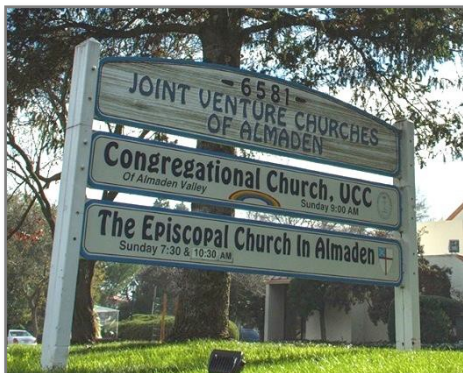


ECA LODSTEREST

Joint Venture Churches

The Joint Venture Board, which meets monthly, consists of both clergy and lay-members from each congregation. It is a continual exercise in deep listening, demonstrating how the Holy Spirit moves in different ways in two diverse congregations. No one denomination can hold the whole truth of God. The Joint Venture helps us to come closer to that Truth. To that end, the cost of maintaining the buildings, grounds and common personnel is shared equally between the two congregations. Both ministers take a leadership role in Joint Venture and provide spiritual guidance to the JV Board. The on-going relationship between the two ministers is vitally important to the life of both congregations. Each congregation, ECA and CCAVUCC, is committed to the continued success of its partner church.

"We are grateful and proud that ECA as a parish has continued to thrive in an ecumenical spirit with our totally different denomination CCAVUCC partners in Joint Venture for over 50 years."



There have been many joint projects and activities undertaken for the benefit of both congregations and the community as a whole, including Sunday school, youth programs, outreach projects, capital improvement, maintenance workdays and joint services. These are a testament to our commitment. The deep friendships that flow between our congregations are God's blessing on our ongoing endeavor.

What began as a bold experiment has become so much more. We are an ecumenical community that loves,

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supports, and prays for one another. Over the past 55 years, Joint Venture has functioned well, enabling each church to do more together than we could separately. As with any visionary arrangement, patience, and flexibility from all those involved are necessary. We invite you to meet our partner church, The Congregational Church in Almaden, United Church of Christ at <https://CCAVUCC.org>

COVID-19 Brings ECA Online

As is true of most areas of our lives, COVID-19 affected ECA greatly. It was a challenge for a congregation so used to gathering in person to re-envision ourselves in different ways. But ECA clergy and lay leadership made things happen so that we could technically stay together. We put online services in place, adapted our musical program to be creative, set up phone trees to check on parishioners, and redesigned our website. Who knew that the Holy Spirit would call forth so many congregants that are technically adept!



Once we realized this situation was not going away soon, we were determined to get back to our vision and to work on plans so that when the time came, we could gradually come back to our church building in safe ways.

We chose to livestream so there could be some interaction over the comment section on our Facebook page during the service. We often receive prayer requests there and added those prayer requests in real time. We continue to reach many people online at ECA.

A YouTube channel was added to show the livestream allowing for even more flexibility and outreach. Links are as follows:

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7yaxkc88_mgupJ0U-eh12g

Facebook (requires an active Facebook account):

https://www.facebook.com/ecasj/live_videos/?ref=page_internal

A robust and highly accessible updated ECA website was launched recently. It is a vital tool for our Church of the Future as we move forward. Access the website at

<https://www.churchinalmaden.org>

We have established a new blog available on our website called "Susie's Book Nook" where our past Christian Education Director provides reviews of books on Creation Care and Social Justice for children, youth, and teens. Find it at [Susie's Book Nook](#)

Our Church Facilities (Building, Grounds & Rectory)

Sanctuary

The physical structure of the sanctuary at ECA reflects the spiritual nature of our worship. We worship in a “church-in-the round,” where every face is recognized and embraced, where every face is unveiled before Christ and our fellow worshippers. When a sister or brother is sorrowful, we *weep with those who are weeping* (Romans 12:15b). If a sister or brother is joyful, we *rejoice with those who are rejoicing* (Romans 12:15a).



Building & Grounds

In addition to the sanctuary, the church facilities include a large fellowship hall and full kitchen. The nursery, Sunday school classroom, Youth Center, and our former fellowship hall, now called “The Learning Center”, were extensively renovated in 2012. These facilities are used throughout the year for youth gatherings, meetings, fellowship events, and Christian education. In service to our larger community: The Boy Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous, Assistance League, Almaden Valley Counseling Services, and others use our facility.



The office space, which was renovated in 2013, includes private offices for the ECA rector and CCAVUCC pastor, reception, office space for the administrative assistant and a shared work room for the Music Director and Christian Education Director.



The grounds include a memorial tree lot, rose garden, meditation area, sand volleyball court, and gazebo. The grounds also offer acreage for future dreams and visions.

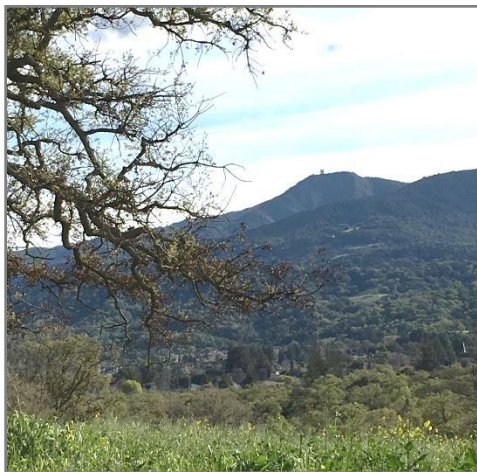
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Rectory

ECA is blessed to own a rectory that is located less than 1½ miles from the church. The 4-bedroom, 2 bath home was renovated in 2011. It is located within walking distance of nationally recognized elementary, middle, and high schools and is 20 minutes from downtown San Jose. The Almaden Valley community offers numerous family-oriented activities including athletic fields, swim clubs, playgrounds and parks, hiking and biking trails, and a wonderful community center/senior center/public library complex.



Demographics



Mount Hamilton hosting the Lick Observatory.

Part of Silicon Valley: Almaden Valley is part of the City of San Jose, the metropolitan area that encompasses 178 square miles at the southern end of the San Francisco Bay in the Santa Clara Valley. Until the 1960's, San Jose was primarily agricultural, known then as the "Valley of Hearts Delight". Now considered the "Heart of Silicon Valley", many

History and Surroundings: ECA is located in Almaden Valley, a bucolic setting ten miles south of downtown San Jose. The area got its name from the nearby New Almaden Quicksilver Mine which produced the cinnabar ore of mercury ("quicksilver") that was necessary to extract gold during the 1849 Gold Rush. The mine was named for a mercury mine in Almaden, Spain and the 4100-acre site is now a Santa Clara County Park. The lush, dramatic Santa Cruz Mountain range includes Loma Prieta. These provide the backdrop for residents of Almaden Valley and contribute to a temperate Mediterranean climate. The Diablo Mountain range to the east boasts the highest elevation in the area, with



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technology companies were established here including Apple, Google, Facebook, Cisco Systems, IBM, eBay, and many more. Government employers include the County of Santa Clara, City of San Jose, San Jose State University and San Jose Unified School District. The estimated population in the 39.8 square mile 95120 zip code is 38,806 individuals living in 13,088 households. More information on San Jose can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Jose,_California and <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/san-jose-ca/>

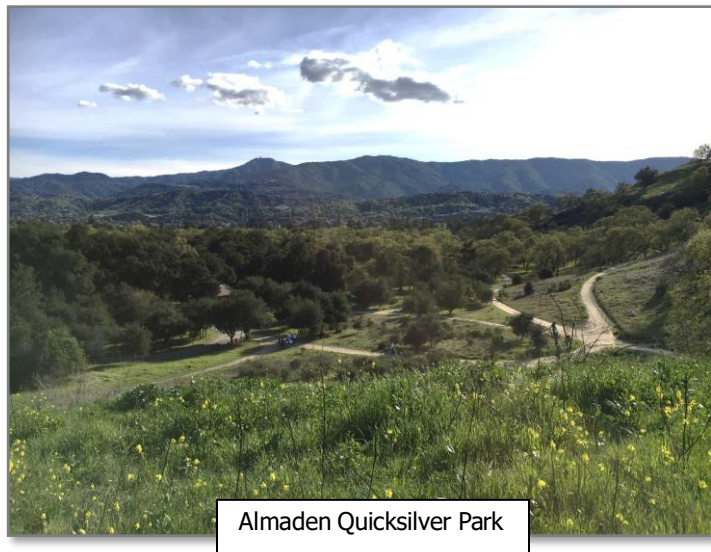
Sports: San Jose is home to the San Jose Sharks, a National Hockey League team, the San Jose Earthquakes, a Major League Soccer team, the San Jose Giants minor league baseball team, and in nearby Santa Clara, the San Francisco 49ers National Football League team.

Cultural Activities: San Jose residents enjoy the cultural benefits of living in a large city with its Children's Discovery Museum, Tech Museum, SAP Arena, Symphony Silicon Valley, Opera San Jose, as well as numerous smaller professional groups and community organizations.

Our ECA Neighborhood Walk: To refresh our perspective of our neighborhood, some parishioners had a recent walkabout covering about 1 mile around the church. They found a growing bedroom community with many single-family homes and some multifamily facilities.

There are:

- Two mid-sized shopping areas
- Two smaller strip malls
- Five schools
- One library
- Community center
- Eight churches
- Four parks
- Long, paved creek side trail
- Two gyms
- Three large soccer size play areas
- Health complex with doctor, dentist, therapy, and clinic office
- Thrift store
- Four daycare centers
- Two senior care facilities



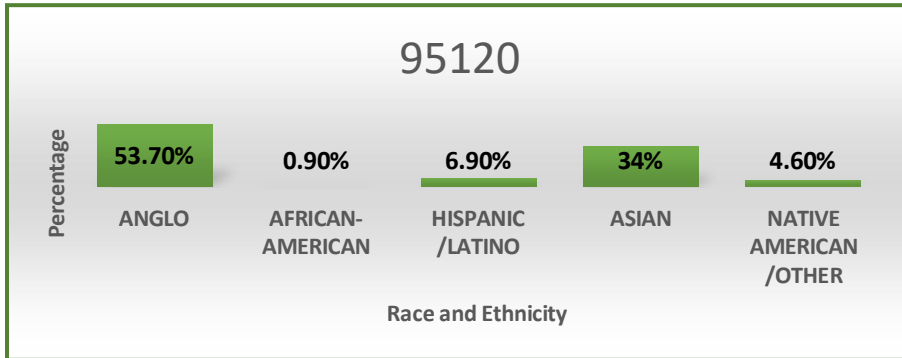
Almaden Quicksilver Park

The area is clean and very safe. Our walkers passed over 60 other walkers with exchanges of pleasantries, 38 cyclists passed at various speeds. Ages ranged from toddlers to elderly with an average age of approximately 50. Most houses seemed to have 2 cars while some boats, RVs, and trailers were also observed. The surrounding hills and trees give a very peaceful, quiet atmosphere, very inviting for walks, picnics, or sports activities to occupy free time. Almaden Valley is known in the South Bay Area as an excellent location to raise a family with leading public schools. One main concern that is impacting our younger families is the high cost of housing and rent in the area. This has caused families to move out of the Bay Area seeking lower housing costs.

The Episcopal Church in Almaden

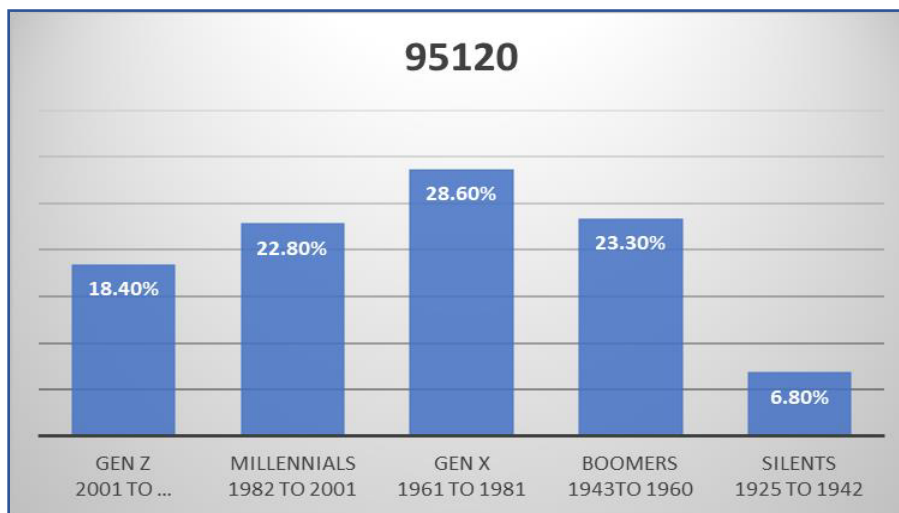
Summary Demographics:

- Median age is 42.6 years, above the state average.
- Median household income is significantly above the state average.
- Percentage of the adult population with a bachelor's degree or higher (72%) is above the state average.
- Within a three-mile radius of ECA, there are an estimated 119,618 individuals living in 40,821 households.



Among the population living in the area surrounding ECA:

- The average family income is \$239,711.
- Households are well above the state average in charitable contributions.
- More than three-quarters (78%) of households with children are married couples.
- Nearly half (49%) of working adults are in managerial/executive or professional positions.
- There are a declining number of individuals per household as children mature and move from the family home.



According to www.BestPlaces.net and www.WorldPopulationreview.com, approximately 45% of residents in San Jose have a religious affiliation. Less than 1% are currently affiliated as Episcopalian. This leaves a large percentage of residents

potentially seeking a relationship with God and/or opportunities for greater community involvement.

https://www.bestplaces.net/religion/city/california/san_jose
<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/san-jose-ca-population>

The Church of the Future – A Transformation

The Vision

Prior to 2018 both churches, ECA and CCAVUCC, were meeting separately to discuss our respective futures and sustainability. Concerns included fewer or no young families coming to church, both churches' congregations aging, and the area being very diverse with many cultures and variations of religions.

ECA began formalizing a vision to move forward and began to share this vision with CCAVUCC.

The Holy Spirit inspired us to begin “Working Together as One”, to build a Church of the Future, focusing on possibilities for serving our communities and building our relationships with each other, our neighbors and God through partnerships with non-profit organizations. The Joint Venture Churches of Almaden (JV) envisions using our 3.2-acre campus to house a community service hub. The goals of this project are to:

Church of the Future Goals



- **Create a multi-purpose community hub** in fulfillment of the Churches' mission to serve residents and build a spirit-led community
- **Meet evolving congregational needs** by adapting the new facility, particularly the existing worship space, to be flexible and sharable
- **Establish partners** to provide the services and management of the site; enable non-profit organizations (NPOs) to expand their services in the community
- **Maintain land ownership and strengthen financial sustainability** to ensure healthy long-term operations for both Churches

The Episcopal Church in Almaden

- **Consider environmental preservation and sustainability** of existing healthy trees

We interviewed community leaders and researched what other churches were doing. The results helped us focus on dementia day care for adults, incorporate a preschool, counseling center, activities for youth and families, and those with food insecurities. These offerings would be entirely run by the NPOs on our campus which would include both dedicated and shared space. We hope to have potentially two to four “anchor” NPO partners who would be permanently located on the campus, thus providing an income stream for the JV Churches.

The JV Churches would provide spiritual foundation, and the program offerings would continue to be church services, Christian education, fellowship, and outreach activities. Our vision is to continue to meet the needs of our neighbors in loving and caring ways while offering positive outlets and activities for youth and families.

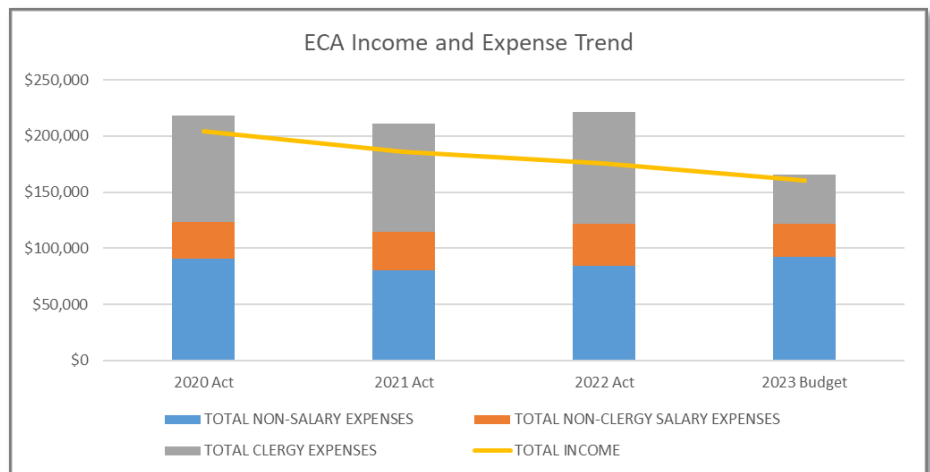
Where We Are Now

With God’s abundant blessings, ECA applied and was awarded a \$50,000 grant from Trinity Church Wall Street to complete a market assessment, financial feasibility study, and architectural test fits which were completed in March 2023. In addition, we applied and were granted a \$15,000 grant from the Diocese of El Camino Real to hire legal expertise which specializes in NPO land use real estate and development, to update our current JV by-laws. We plan to apply for a second grant for \$150,000 to \$200,000 in 2023 from Trinity Church Wall Street to pay for pre-development work. This would include deeper and more specific financial analysis, site planning, architectural plans, engineering, etc. It is anticipated that the new Rector would provide support and guidance throughout this process.

Finance

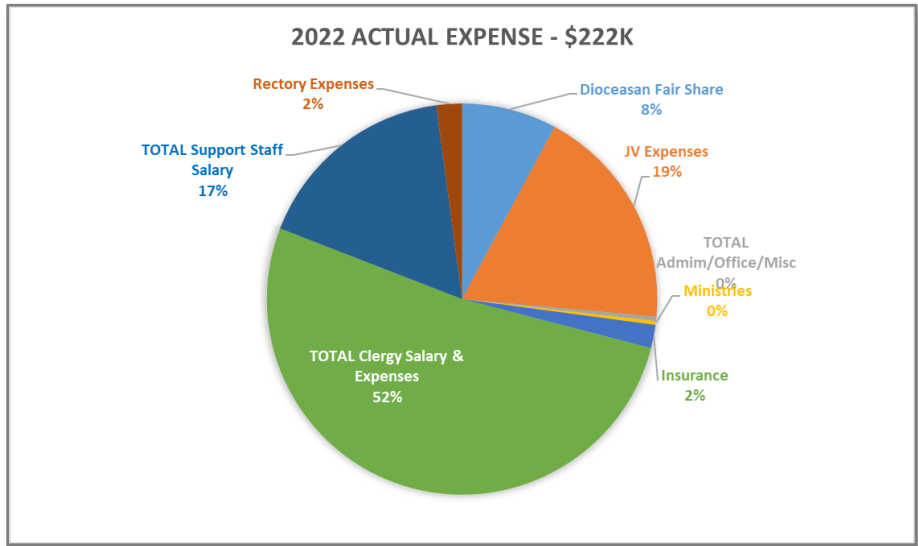
The graph shows ECA actual finances for the last 3 years and the projected 2023 budget.

We have been fortunate to have special donations and a reserve fund, which have been able to cover years where expenses outpace income.



Our 2023 Budget is lower than the 2022 Actual as Total Clergy Expenses and Total Non-Clergy Salary Expenses accounts for just 6 months of rector and organist salary, insurance, and taxes.

Please refer to the 2022 Actual Expense pie chart for the percentage breakdown of expenses.



The Future is Calling!

ECA is in a time of great opportunity, forging a new path in determining how we serve the greater community while maintaining our spiritual foundation. It is a vision worthy of the call of Christ. We look forward to partnering with our clergy leader to meet these novel challenges and embrace the future that lies before us. We hope that you will join us as we forge a new path to determine how to become the Church of the Future!



To submit materials, please contact Reverend Canon Martha Korienek of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, email: canonmartha@realepiscopal.org