

## **A Testimony Letter from Robin Racoff**

I wanted to share with you how much I appreciate our church and how we truly try to walk in the footsteps of Jesus by helping those in need. I belong to the Reach Committee. Reach is focused on both in-reach and out-reach to our ECA family and our community, and we truly do provide real support to those who need it. Financial priorities are focused on helping others and not on trying to get things like a bigger/newer facility, etc. Matthew 5:16 says, "In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." ECA embodies this verse.

I will begin by sharing my story of the church I grew up in. This church installed a million dollar pipe organ at a time when a million dollars meant something. In the same year, the rector refused to provide last rites for my mother as she lay dying from cancer. I was 18 with no real support. I had pledged my time by teaching Sunday School and helping with the youth group, but not money. Fortunately, the church secretary went and picked up our retired priest and brought him in time to the hospital. Because of this, she never returned to the church or her job. I think they needed to take the cross down and hang a money sign! I am so thankful ECA is nothing like this. I know Father Paul and our ECA family would go to anyone in need, regardless of finances or circumstances. Ironically, I was encouraged to start a caretakers support group at ECA. This is near and dear to my heart for several reasons, but particularly because I needed support when my mother was dying, and I did not have it. I want to help others feel supported while caring for their loved ones and receive the resources they need. This group meets on the second Tuesday of each Month at 7:30pm. If you are involved with the care of someone with a terminal or chronic illness, you are invited to join a support group offering support, connection, resources, and coping strategies. Together, we make a big difference!

I support ECA and I hope you will too, as our church family really does care about the congregation and will go the extra mile to help when needed; both with prayer and financial support. I know if I need emotional and/or prayer support Father Paul will come.

I encourage you to support our church and the ministries within ECA. There is nothing like it!

Sincerely,

Robin Racoff