

The SHAPE

From Canon Linda

Thank You

Four Sundays into our time together at ECA, I'm amazed at how much at home I feel! Your warm welcome, easy acceptance of my various liturgical adventures and sharing of your stories have helped me find my place with you, and I'm grateful for your kindness—as well as all the name tags that are helping me get to know you!

I'm enjoying getting to meet you, learning about your ministries and seeing the results of ECA's strong leadership teams in action. I appreciate the time that several folks have shared with me, and I look forward to the opportunity to visit with more members of the community in your homes or in the office. I especially want to hear from you if you have a concern or question that you'd like to discuss or if I can assist with a pastoral care need. Tuesdays and Fridays are my usual days in the office; other arrangements are also possible. You can reach me at canonlinda@gmail.com or by phone at 408-772-4369.

I know that the Holy Spirit is at work during this transitional time. The movement of the Spirit is evident in all that's happening, and I am blessed and honored by the opportunity to share in this journey with you.

Linda +

From the Senior Warden

Eventful Month

As I sit down to write an article this month, my thoughts are darting around like a hummingbird. Being a left-brainer, I guess I will move chronologically through this eventful month. We gave Kate a very nice sendoff. The Search committee was formed, and they called together the congregation for wonderful dialog to get them started on updating our parish profile.

Personally speaking, finding out that my lungs were full of blood clots interrupted things a bit. While in the hospital, one of God's little miracles put me in the same room as a woman by the name of Janet Mize. It so happened that she is a fellow Episcopalian, and though we had never met, we had many friends in common, including Nancy Romer and our field ed student Karen Cuffie. In fact, Janet was on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry with Kate. When she found out Kate was accepting the call to NY, she began praying for the Senior Warden at ECA! Imagine the delightful surprise when we discovered all this. I will say it was the most enjoyable hospital stay I've ever had. We prayed for each other and laughed a lot. In fact one evening I called Karen and put the phone on speaker. Karen asked if they had given us happy pills because of all the laughter. When they wheeled Janet out to go to rehab, I told her she was my BFF. And I know in fact, we will be friends forever. What a blessing! I would like to thank everyone for their concern and prayers for me. I felt the love!

It was not the way I expected to meet Linda after conversing with her via email while she was in Europe, but it was a blessing for me (and Janet) to

Mary's article continued on page 2

From the Senior Warden,
cont. from pg. 1

have her come to the hospital. She has adapted quickly to ECA, and contributed so very much already, not only with the Sunday services and awesome sermons, but attending vestry, finance, liturgy, core team meetings and sharing insights in each. All this in addition to pastorally caring for us. We are so blessed to have her!

The Diocesan convention took place last week, and because I have so much respect for Bishop Mary's leadership, I try very hard to understand and internalize all that she has to say. This year our theme and the strategic plan of the diocese is, "Be the Church". Bishop Mary feels very strongly that we need to model Jesus in going beyond our church doors, engaging with the community, and building relationships. She acknowledges that relationships with people different from ourselves is the hardest work of all – cross cultural, social and generational, but by doing so we build up holy currencies, which when balanced are the key to being a healthy abundant church. There are currently 15 congregations

involved in community organizing, and I am proud to say ECA is one of them. Please read her address to the convention at

http://www.edecr.org/news_files/fc21f56c9f2bf1f.2014%20Convention%20Address%20FINAL.pdf.

Bishop Mary also got personal addressing the diocesan concern for her in the sudden and tragic loss of her husband Michael this year. She said, "When you make deposits regularly in your faith journey, the resources will be there when you need them." It made me ponder, "Am I regularly making deposits should I need them at a moments notice?" To me, that is more important than any insurance policy.

Mary McPherson
Senior Warden



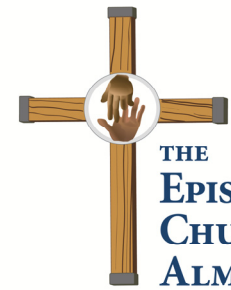
Worship at ECA

Sunday

7:30 AM Eucharist
10:30 AM Choral Eucharist
(Childcare available)
10:00 AM Sunday School

Thursday

7:30 AM Eucharist



Rector

Staff

Susie Ferguson
Christian Education

Open
Music Director & Organist

Bill LaVallee
Treasurer

Margot Janiak
Administrative Assistant

Assisting in our Ministry

Mary McPherson
Senior Warden

Bryan Bond
Junior Warden

William Bond
Acolyte Master

Joan Wagner and Sharon Mills
Altar Guild

Kathy Mastre
Coffee Hosts

Sharon Mills
Greeters

Jenny Hoyt
Lay Readers

Ann Avoux
Prayer Vine

Dave Byers
Ushers

Inge Bond
Youth Group

Andy Kerr
Folk Music Director

Mike Schmidt
Shape Editor

Mary McPherson
Bible Study

Kathleen Eagan
Senior Ministry

Christian Education

It's a Family Affair

December is always a very exciting month for kids with Christmas as its major highlight. In Sunday School we begin our Advent Season with the story of our Savior's coming as found in Micah 5:2-5. This year we follow that lesson up with the stories from Luke 1:26-49 of Gabriel visiting Mary and then Mary visiting Elizabeth. By the time of our Christmas pageant our Sunday School children are ready for the continuation of the story and Christmas.

This year we are continuing a tradition we started last year with "It's a Family Affair Christmas Pageant." We provide a fun afternoon for families and children of all ages to come and build the Christmas pageant with us. This event will be on Saturday, December 20, from 3 PM until 7 PM. During the afternoon the children, teens and their parents will do special Christmas crafts, choose their parts in the pageant, get fitted for costumes, practice a bit, decorate Christmas cookies, sing Christmas carols, and more. Some of the adults will even do a little slicing and dicing to prepare our dinner which concludes our time together. Last year some of the parents joined in as parts of our pageant making it truly an intergenerational celebration.

Everyone comes back on Sunday morning to share the pageant with our congregation and enjoy those Christmas cookies the children decorated at our fellowship

time following the service. We have invited 28 new families from our neighborhood to join us in this celebration time. It will be very exciting if some of them take us up on our invitation and join our festivities.

We do not hold Sunday School on December 21 (which is pageant Sunday) and December 28. We will resume our classes on January 4 with our first lesson, the story of the three Kings and the start of Epiphany (technically January 6). Then we will be off and running, with some exciting new things on our horizon. Stay tuned.

*In your faithful service,
Susie Ferguson*

Christmas Party

Come one, come all! The ECA Christmas Party is rapidly approaching! Grab your friends and family and join us at 5PM on December 6 for an elegant evening. Chef Alain Guichard will be delighting our taste-buds with a menu that covers all the bases. Do you prefer fish? Are you a vegetarian? Fear not, there will be a selection for you! Be sure to sign up in the fellowship hall soon to reserve your spot.



JV members:

JV President:

Jon Mills

JV Members:

*Ann Mayers, Ellen Lukanc,
John McPherson, Dennis Moran*

Vestry Liaisons:

IAF Core Team:

Bryan Bond

Finance:

Alex Dykes and Elizabeth Guichard

Communication:

Alex Alvarado

Stewardship:

Andy Kerr

Outreach:

Sharon Hall

Community Outreach:

Beth Proudfoot

Pastoral Care:

Kathleen Eagan

Children & Youth:

Leslie Rousseau and Will Bond

Fellowship:

Kelli Casale

Search Committee Update

Thanks for your support

As Chairperson of the Search Committee, I want to thank you for sharing your ideas and thoughts at the Congregational Meeting on November 2. The members of the Search Committee felt your support and are using the data collected to prayerfully discern the direction for ECA. We appreciate working with members of the Vestry and the CORE (IAF) team as we develop the direction for ministries that come from listening to the heart of our congregation, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Our team is pleased to work with Joanna Shreve, the Diocesan Consultant, as she offers guidance through the search process, including updating our Parish Profile. She is a wonderful gift from our Diocese.

I include the timeline and the names of the Search Committee and ask for your prayers for the work you have commissioned us to do. We know that we represent each of you as we meet regularly to do the task of finding the right candidates to present to the Vestry.

Please contact me if you have questions, ideas or comments. You can call me at 408-914-8775 or email me at marianneschmidt8025@gmail.com.

Members:

Hank Winkenwerder
Jan Henderson
Steve Wing
Will Bond
Marianne Schmidt
Francie Kerr
Wendy Martin
Jim McPherson
Alain Guichard

Time Line:

Oct. 28, 2014 *Search Committee held first meeting.*

Nov. 2, 2014 *Congregation gives input to Search Process.*

Nov/Dec *Search Committee updates Parish Profile and Preliminary Questions.*

Nov/Dec *Vestry updates Church Deployment Office (CDO) Profile.*

Jan. 13, 2015 *Parish Profile is presented to Vestry for approval.*

The following dates are flexible according to needs.

Jan. 14, 2015 *If approved, Parish Profile and CDO Profile are submitted to Diocese for publication.*

March to May *Search Committee screens applications, including phone interviews, site visits, and full interviews.*

May or June *Top three to five candidates are submitted to Vestry.*

Marianne Schmidt
Search Committee Chairperson

Youth Group News

December Activities

The pie sale was a great success! (about fifty pies purchased by printing date) We will use the proceeds to purchase Christmas gifts for a student family in need from Mission College. We plan shop for and wrap the gifts on December 14.

On December 29, we will have our annual end-of-the-year movie and games night, from 6 - 11PM.

Also in December we will choose the date and duration for our homelessness project. This will be in downtown San Jose, operated through CityTeam Ministries.

If individual youth want to be put on a **resource list**, to help members of either congregation with yard work, ladder climbing, light hanging, and the like, please have the youth email Inge (inge@dblosvn.com). And, if you are a non-youth (yeah, us, too) who would like to hire a youth, please contact Inge.

We are all thankful for the parishes' ongoing and generous support of the youth and their ministries!

Inge and Debbie

A Prayer

Unite Our Hearts With You

Dear God,

Ignite our desire and our passion to serve you. Help us to do your will for our life, to be faithful and strong in our determination to answer your call. To realize our limitations, to know you will never leave us. May we not feel discouraged when we are not 100% successful. We pray always to do our best for you. We love you, thank you for your grace and mercy. Soften our hearts so that we always put you first above all else. May we be quick to think of others and their needs.

Dear God, grant us strength as we go forward in this week, as

well as the coming years. We pray never to reject your commandments. Help us to serve others, not only to say that we care. For your mercy, for your forgiveness of our sins, and all blessings we thank you and give you our praise. We love you.

Our prayers are for our churches, for growth and commitment to your purpose. For needs of our family and friends we ask your help. For our health and our well-being we ask that your will be done. For the starving and the homeless people of the world we offer special prayers for their condition to improve. We know you are in control of all things oh God.

Each day as we slowly climb upward on our Christian way to our life with you, help us to grasp and be filled with your righteous-

ness and love. Dear God, please give us eyes that see and ears that hear that others' hearts are not filled with unbelief when we are present, only filled with the splendor of your mercy and your love. We want your perfect will to fill our soul. Let your wisdom and your love surround us, that we might share your gift with others. We pray our hearts are united with you, filled with humility and humbleness, not overabundant with boasting and pride. We say, "Take me, mold me, make me what you would have me be." Guide us that our feet do not stumble, that we stand strong to support our Savior, his truth and his love.

Please hear our prayer, we ask in Jesus' holy name, Amen.

*Written by Martha Lou Reynolds
Submitted by Mary McPherson*

Gifts of Gratitude

For the wonderful participation in the congregational meeting on Nov. 2, and for the delicious food organized by Kelli Casale and her Fellowship team.

Thanks to Marianne Schmidt and every member of the Search Committee for the gift of their time and energy and experience to help us find a new rector for ECA

Thanks to Kimberly and Todd Axtell, Alain Guichard, Ann Mayers and Mary McPherson for representing ECA at the Diocesan Convention

Thanks to Joanna Shreve for her work and guidance for the Search Committee

Thanks to Linda Taylor for her generous large donation to challenge the congregation to do something good with their \$10

Thanks for all those who donated blood at the blood drive, and our volunteers, Debbie Estill, Bonnie McPherson, and Sharon Mills.

Thanks for Steve Wing and his dedication to a successful Turkey Drive as well as all the volunteers who helped cook and prepare the turkey meat

Thanks to John McPherson, John Beacher, Dave Byers, Todd Lukanc, Jon Mills, and Mike Schmidt for mowing the church lawn and tree yard this past year.

Thanks to Karen Cuffie for her presence with us as part of her field education for Seminary

Thanks for everyone who turned in a pledge to help us accomplish our mission in the world.

ECA Activities

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:30pm Bible Study	2 10am JV Staff Meeting	3 11:30am Women's Lunch 4:30pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	4 8am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 3pm Montgomery Meals	6 5pm Christmas Party
7 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Eucharist 5pm Youth Group meetings 7pm JV Blue Christmas Service	8 7:30pm Bible Study	9 7pm Vestry Meeting	10 11:30am Women's Lunch 4:30pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	11 8am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13 10am Knit Wit Meeting
14 10am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Eucharist with Bishop Mary 5pm Youth Group meetings	15 7:30pm Bible Study	16 7pm JV Board Meeting	17 11:30am Women's Lunch 4:30pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	18 8am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19 3pm Montgomery Meals	20 3pm <i>It's A Family Affair</i> Christmas Pageant Prep
7:30am Holy Eucharist with Rev. John Buenz 10am JV Pageant/Service with Pastor Michelle	22	23	<u>Christmas Eve</u> 5pm Christmas Eve Family Service 10:30pm Candle Light Christmas Service	24 <u>Christmas</u> Office Closed No Christmas Day service	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed
28 7:30am Holy Eucharist with Rev. John Buenz 10:30am Holy Eucharist with Rev. John Buenz	29	30	31 11:30am Women's Lunch 4:30pm Hand Bell Rehearsal			

Coming in January:

- January 4 – 7:30 and 10:30 services, Rev. Jerry Drino presiding
- January 11 – 7:30 and 10:30 services, Rev. Canon Linda Taylor presiding
- January 11 – ECA Annual Meeting
- January 17 – Vestry Retreat



Worship Schedule

December 7 — 2 Advent

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

December 14 — 3 Advent

No 7:30 a.m. service
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
with Bishop Mary

December 21 — 4 Advent

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Pageant

December 24 — Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

December 28— 1 Christmas

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Celebrant Schedule:

Dec. 7	Canon Linda Taylor
Dec. 14	Bishop Mary
Dec. 21	Rev. John Buenz
Dec. 23	Rev. John Buenz
Dec. 28	Rev. John Buenz
Jan. 4	Rev. Jerry Drino
Jan. 11	Canon Linda Taylor

Young Adult Group

What is a YAG?

YAGs are young adults who have chosen to come together for fun, service, spiritual growth and to be in community. This group is new to our ECA community, but the people are old friends. It is the alumni of our youth group and their friends. It is our college grads and soon to be college grads. It is our new friends to ECA who are looking for companionship in a group that is experiencing job hunts, roommate drama, dating, marriage and even...gasp, children. It's a chance to continue relationships that started in our youth here at ECA, with friends with whom we may have lost touch in the craziness of moving away to school, getting jobs... It's an opportunity to talk with others who have questions, who haven't got it all figured out (no one does, some of us just fake it better), and to laugh and learn with others

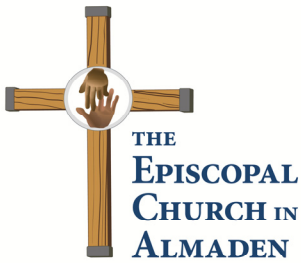
who are traveling similar paths. If this sounds like you, or someone you love, you might just be a YAG!

We recently had our first meeting, and we're having a service opportunity on Dec 19, when we will be serving the hungry through the Montgomery Meals ministry. Come join us and see if you are YAG material, help us and join our loving and accepting community!

Need more info? Talk to Bonnie McPherson-the honorary YAG, nominally in charge of scheduling and question-answering, at 408-656-2426, or email me at mamasaur@comcast.net.

Bonnie McPherson





6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120



Christmas Services:

December 21

10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

December 24

Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jonathon Beacher	12/01
Marion Grunge	12/02
Martha Lou Reynolds	12/02
Patricia Kabeja	12/04
Betty Consorte	12/05
Shelley Moore	12/05
Lola Fahlen	12/06
Donna Miller	12/07
Susie Ferguson	12/13
Colleen DeVoss	12/16
Susanne Moore	12/16
Kathleen Eagan	12/19
Gary Keck	12/19
Francie Kerr	12/19
Jason Skowronski	12/19
Dana Renfand	12/23
Mike Schmidt	12/26
Celeste Cihon	12/28

The
SHAPE

Volume 43, Number 12
December 2014

Deadline for the January 2015 issue:
Monday, December 15, 2014

Published 10 times a year by the
Episcopal Church in Almaden
San Jose, CA

Also available online at:
www.eca-sj.org



Church 408.268.0245