

March 2017

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

Although the season of Epiphany was long this year, it seems to have sped by! Perhaps that's because we were busily engaged in a ministry of presence and relationship building in our warming center. In the first six weeks of the year, we were so enriched by the emotional openness, honesty, and vulnerability of our guests. We were almost overwhelmed by their gratitude. Some of them participated in our Sunday worship and our Wednesday centering prayer. Some shared their story of finding Jesus and affirmed their faith that God is watching over them. We observed gratefully, over the weeks, as they relaxed and blossomed in this new home. Our own faith was expanded by these gifts.

We learned that mission and outreach have more to do with companionship – with walking alongside one another – than about one group giving to another group. Because relationship is always a two-way street. Wherever we go – into the neighborhood or bringing the neighborhood in to us – God is already there. We simply join with the work God is already doing. And God blesses that work.

And so, we find ourselves at Lent. With hearts full of love and gratitude for the good work we were given the privilege of doing. Even as we start a conversation about how the warming center affected us and what we might look to next, it is time to also attend to our interior lives. Lent offers us the chance to slow down, look to God, and listen for the Spirit's guidance. Lent is a time to prepare ourselves to receive the great gift of resurrection and new life in Easter.

One way to begin this is to come to our Lenten Quiet Day – Saturday, March 4, 9am-3pm. Please see Marianne Schmidt's article in this Shape to learn more about it. This is open to men and women and promises to be a wonderfully enriching day spiritually.

Attending one of the Ash Wednesday services (March 1) is a good way to begin to observe a holy Lent. This year, along with the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, we will offer "Ashes and Coffee to Go" to our neighbors. This allows us to give a moment of spiritual connection and ancient tradition to those outside our walls who long to reach for the eternal. We will also have our traditional services at noon and 7pm.

Throughout Lent, we will offer many services and classes to help you connect with God on a deeper level as well. Every Wednesday – right before Centering Prayer – we will have a brief service of Stations of the Cross. These stations were lovingly hand-colored by our warming center guests. They took great pride and joy in creating these for us. They will be hanging in the Fellowship Hall throughout Lent.

Our Lenten class this year will be "The Vanishing Language of Sin and Salvation." This class is meant to empower us as we accept God's forgiveness and transforming love. It will give us the opportunity to look deeply into ourselves, and see how God sees us. (Wednesdays 7-8:30pm.)

However you choose to observe Lent – adding a class or service – giving something up as an act of spiritual discipline – reading the Bible or contemplating God's great love for you and all creation, I pray God's blessings on you.

Shelley+

Senior Warden

Experiencing God's Abundance

As Senior Warden, friends have said to me, "You now have the power to veto anything!" and "Have you found the bed at church reserved for the senior warden?" Somewhere between total veto power and spending the year in the church building, I hope to find a path to be Senior Warden this year.

I am both humbled and excited to be supporting Shelley, the Vestry and our congregation as we continue to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Vestry retreat, under the leadership of Bishop Mary, provided a time for us to reflect on where we were last year and where we want to go this year.

Last year there were many steps of faith we took as we followed the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Kids Camps, the Pumpkin Patch, and the Warming Center showed us God's abundance as we took those timid steps of faith. This year we will continue to listen to the Holy Spirit and to each other to discover new ways we can test God's abundance. I am glad to be part of the team seeking new ways to share God's abundance with our neighbors and with each other.

Marianne Schmidt

Book Group

The JV Book Group will get together on Wednesday, March 15 (3rd Wednesday of the month), at 5:30 PM, at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. March's book is *Midnight in Broad Daylight*, by Pamela Rotner. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith (408 268-0920 or [smail amy-g@pacbell.net](mailto:amy-g@pacbell.net)).

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will meet on Wednesday, March 29 (last Wednesday of the month), at 2 PM, in the church fellowship hall. Not an experienced player? All levels are welcome. Come and bring a friend. Contact Amy Griffith (268-0920) if you have questions or need more information.

Weekly Worship at ECA

Sunday

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

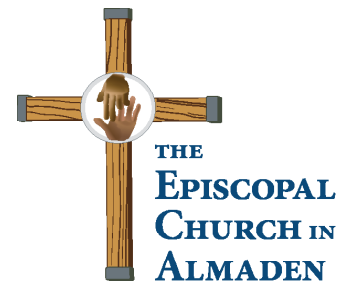
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Choral

Wednesday

3 p.m. Stations of the Cross
3:30 p.m. Centering Prayer

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer



Rector

The Reverend Shelley Denney
email: shelley@eca-sj.org
408-268-0245

Staff

Susie Ferguson

Children and Youth Ministries Director

Barry Ford

Music Director

Lynda Ford

Assistant Music Director

Ruthanne Adams Martinez

*Administrative Assistant
Treasurer*

Holly McCullough

Building Bridges Coordinator

Andrea Mackenzie

Field Education Intern

Assisting in our Ministry

Marianne Schmidt

Senior Warden

Don Hall

Junior Warden

Joan Wagner

Altar Guild

Ann Avoux

Prayer Vine

Debbie Estill

Ushers

Mike Schmidt

Shape Editor

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Kathleen Eagan

Senior Ministry

Taylor Wing

Webmaster

From One Kids' Camp to the Next

It's the deadline for this month's Shape and our February Camp hasn't actually happened, though it will have by the time you are reading this. Our "Let's ROC" following the camp hasn't been totally planned at this writing since I haven't seen the kids yet. So, there is a little "time warp." I can report we have 25 children enrolled for the week, 7 girls and 18 boys!! We have had 5 families involved with our curriculum development for Indonesia, Israel/Palestine, South Korea and Panama and their cultures. Our week's plan includes lots of great art, music, cooking and stories to illustrate our highlighted countries and cultures. All of which you may have seen if you joined us on February 25 for our International Potluck Feast.

One thing I am most happy to report is that we have added an exciting new member to our ECA staff, Holly McCullough. Holly has been hired to implement our Building Bridges through Diversity Program here at ECA. This program will include our "Let's ROC" Saturday community service and fellowship, as well as a new program for young mothers and preschoolers. Holly and our new programs are being funded by a grant that we have received from the Diocese. Holly brings a wonderful

new enthusiasm and energy to our Children and Youth Ministry at ECA. I am looking forward to all the new and innovative ideas she has to offer us and our neighborhood. Check out her "bio" in this issue and do welcome her as you have opportunity to meet her. If you missed meeting her at our February Let's ROC, join us March 25th for our next one.

It's also not too early to tell me if you can help at our next camp, April 10 through 14. This will be Holy Week. Our camp theme will be Enrichment through the Arts. I am seeking "artists" from the community who may be willing to give us a few hours of their time to work with our children. We can explore music, ceramics, painting, crafting, culinary arts, drama and more. We will explore the areas we can find artists to help us. Of course, I always need volunteer adults to assist in a variety of ways. Don't hesitate to give me a call or email with days and times and activities in which you like to help. I would love to hear from lots of you.

*In your faithful service,
Susie Ferguson
Children and Youth
Ministries Director*

Looking Ahead

JV Work Day • April 1 (really)
Palm Sunday • April 9
Spring Kid's Camp • April 10-14
Tenebrae • April 12
Maundy Thursday • April 13
Good Friday • April 14
Great Vigil of Easter • April 15
Easter • April 16
Spring Tea • June 4

JV members:

*John McPherson (president), Bill Lavalley
and Don Hall*

Vestry Liaisons:

Senior Warden
Marianne Schmidt

Junior Warden
Don Hall

Adult Education:
Dan Hudkins

Communication:
Joyce Wing and Inge Bond

Family/Youth/Young Adult Ministries:
Jerry Ferguson

Hospitality and Fellowship:
*Jerry Ferguson, Bonnie McPherson,
and Inge Bond*

Finance:
Todd Lukanc

Joint Venture:
Don Hall

Outreach and Connection Team:
Bonnie McPherson

Pastoral Care and Senior Ministry:
Marianne Schmidt

Stewardship:
Marianne Schmidt

Worship:
Dan Hudkins

Lenten Offerings at ECA

Ash Wednesday is March 1st. The JV Churches will offer “ASHES AND COFFEE TO GO” from 6:45-8:30AM in our parking lot. Stop by on your way to work to receive your ashes and a free cup of coffee or tea to go – with a smile! Invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

ECA will have services of Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes at noon and 7pm that day. These will be the traditional services of the Church, and we will have music at the 7pm service.

Stations of the Cross will be at 3pm every Wednesday during Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday, immediately preceding Center Prayer. Our warming center guests beautifully colored these stunning stations, which will hang in the Fellowship Hall during Lent. Stations of the Cross will occur in the Hall, then you may choose to go up to the sanctuary for our weekly Centering Prayer time at 3:30pm. This is 20 minutes of silent contemplation, when we open ourselves to God. This is a meditation based practice from the very earliest times of Christianity. It is simple (but not necessarily easy) and aims to tune us to God, enhancing our experience of God and our other prayer practices.

Our Lenten class will be offered from 7-8:30pm each Wednesday during Lent, from March 8 through April 5 in the Learning Center. The topic will be “The Vanishing Language of Sin and Salvation.” Those who wish may purchase Barbara Brown Taylor’s book “Speaking of Sin.” This is a powerful topic that is not talked about in the Church much anymore. But if we are to be liberated from our sin, we must be able to speak the word.

Perhaps, instead of “giving something up” this year, you might think of “adding something in.” If you do, these offerings give you lots of choices!

Shelley Denney



Ruthanne Adams Martinez played the harp at the Valentine’s Day luncheon, which served as a farewell occasion for the ladies who came to the Warming Center.

Meet Holly!



Hello! I’m Holly McCullough and I am excited to be joining ECA as the Building Bridges Program Coordinator. I will be working with Shelley and Susie on Let’s ROC (Reaching Out in Community) one Saturday a month and creating a Wednesday morning group for neighborhood parents and their preschool children.

This position feels like the perfect combination of things I’m passionate about. I love building and working in community and I love the Episcopal Church. ECA has already done excellent work inviting and welcoming families in Almaden Valley with camps and CPR. I look forward to continuing this work and reaching out to preschoolers and their families.

I also look forward to meeting all of you. I am in the office every Wednesday and hope to worship with you soon. My email is holly@eca-sj.org

ECA Activities

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			6:45am Ashes and Coffee to Go 12pm Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes	7:30am Healing Service and Holy Eucharist 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3pm Montgomery Meals	9am to 3pm Quiet Day
Coffee Hour Sunday 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist			3pm Stations of the Cross 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Lenten Class	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:30pm Connection Team		7:15pm Vestry Meeting	3pm Stations of the Cross 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 5:30pm Book Club Meeting 7pm Lenten Class	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2pm Montgomery Meals	
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist		7:30pm JV Board Meeting	3pm Stations of the Cross 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Lenten Class	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		4:30pm Let's ROC
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	6pm Cooking Class		2pm Bridge Group 3pm Stations of the Cross 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Lenten Class	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		

Reflections on the Warming Center

As I sat in the center for the last time, listening to the ladies, talking to the other volunteers and soaking up the atmosphere, it led me to reflect on what this experience has meant to these ladies and to our congregation, and in an unexpected way to the larger church community.

First and foremost to the ladies, these women came in battered physically and emotionally, struggling with so many demons, and desperately in need of a place to heal and people to give them unconditional love and support. As I sit listening to the laughter, see the smiles, hear the conversations and feel the calmness and acceptance they have for each other and themselves, I see a remarkable change in just these six short weeks. The healing is not finished and they have a long way to go, but with love and care from our church and the larger church community, they are well on their way, and have the confidence to know they can be and will be successful with some hard work on their part.

Secondly, for our community, the land of the Jesus followers, we are like the little train that could. We see a mountain and we are such a small

train, but we think we can, we think we can, we think we can, and with God's help and his Holy Spirit guiding us, we suddenly realize we know we can, and we are gaining speed as we climb this mountain and are at the summit, and are already looking at the other side and seeing what comes next. The limitations that we place on ourselves are blinding us to what can be accomplished with God's spirit, we need to accept that God will not present an opportunity that he doesn't think we can be successful at, though it may not be possible with just our church community, but as we learned with the warming center, God is not limited by the walls of the church, his followers are many and can be found in a broad spectrum of faith communities. We are at our best when we work together, and we can accomplish God's plan when we accept that we are not alone and need the strength of the larger community.

Finally the larger church community, such a wonderful, diverse and spirit filled group they are! This group who heard about the warming center, heeded the call for help and were such a blessing to both the ladies and to our congregation. They came from far and wide, from the LDS church, the Catholic Church, the Methodist church, and those are just the ones I know for sure. We learned that we have so much more in common than we have differ-

ences. We found that working with other communities makes us stronger and can be so much fun. We laughed often and have so many new friends. The spirit of God was so present as we embraced our common goals and allowed ourselves to see beyond our preconceived ideas. I pray that we will keep that spirit and that glow close as we remain open to what comes next.

So what comes next? That is a question that has been asked by Shelley and the Vestry with those little blue cards, and will be asked of many of you as we individually approach and ask you to reflect on the warming center and the pumpkin patch experiences, and to ask you--what comes next? What is God calling us to do as a community and what is he calling you to do individually?

As I sat in the warming center reflecting--feeling the life, love and spirit of God--I was driven to join the connection team to work with the larger faith community and see what the next mountain might be, and realizing that we might need a larger train to hook up with to reach the next summit. I also joined the Vestry to help build up and support our community, so we will be ready for our next journey together.

Village House continues and will continue needing our help! On a personal level the ladies need to know they *(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page) are still loved and supported by us. Even though they have left the building, they still reside in our hearts. But on a more practical level, we still have work to do with the warming and night time centers at other churches. They need help to cover their shifts, especially the smaller congregations. Please go to Village House and support this truly special program and show that with God's help anything is possible!

Thank you Jesus followers! Thank you for taking the leap with me and I just hope that you felt the blessing that I experienced every time I walked into the center. Praise be to God!

Bonnie McPherson

Outreach

Community Development vs. Activism

I was fortunate enough recently, to be able to attend one of our regional IAF meetings as a member of our Connection team. I wanted to share with you a few things I learned at the meeting. The speaker for the meeting gave us a quick run down of the differences between activism and community organizing.

She explained that activism is all about raising awareness around an issue. It usually involves some kind of immediate action like calling your representative or marching in a rally. Activism feels good in the moment, but when the action is over, it can leave you feeling empty. Community organizing on the other hand, is about working for long-term change in our local community. It is about actually getting to know other people in a real way for long-term relationships. We organize around an issue we care about in our local community and work together with our local government to create real change. Examples would be affordable housing, education or addiction issues. When a large enough group of people is able to come together and work with local government officials, we can influence the future of our community. This kind of organizing is about looking to the future and working toward what we would like to see happen. We want to plant trees so that others may enjoy the shade. It's about having a voice for real change right here where we live. I encourage you to think about issues you are concerned about in your own back yard and share those thoughts with others at ECA. Create a conversation around dreams and change together.

Andrea Mackenzie

QUIET DAY SCHEDULE

Here's what the schedule will look like for the Quiet Day on Saturday, March 4. You may come for the full day or any part of the day. It is an opportunity to nurture your spiritual life by taking time to listen to God's spirit. The theme for this day comes from Isaiah 30: "In repentance and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust shall be your strength."

- 9am Morning Prayer in Sanctuary
- 9:30 Continental breakfast, explanation, and Lectio divina in Fellowship Hall
- 10:15 Open period
- 11 Free choice, or centering prayer, led by Marianne Schmidt, in Sanctuary
- 12pm Lunch will be provided: silent lunch in Fellowship Hall; speaking lunch on patio
- 12:45 Open period
- 1:30 Free choicer, or spiritual reading by Shelley
- 2:15 15-minute wrap-up in Fellowship Hall

Free choice options include guided journaling, craft table, meditative music, labyrinth, prayer, and spiritual books. You may bring your watercolors to use at the craft table.

Warming Center: God's Love Abounds

The ECA Warming Center's last day was February 15th, and our guests are now going to the Warming Center at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church and Almaden Hills Methodist Church, and the night shelter at St Martin of Tours. On Valentine's Day, we had a festive farewell lunch with volunteers and our special guests. They appreciated all of the decorations, great food and desserts and especially the moving harp music provided by Ruthanne Adams Martinez.

There were so many touching moments, good conversations, and wonderful relationships established at the warming center. It is difficult to say goodbye for now but hopefully, we will also volunteer at the other churches to keep our relationships growing with our guests and our friends at other churches until all have found permanent homes. One of our guests already has a new, semi-permanent housing situation and still came back for the farewell luncheon! It has been a wonderful experience for everyone involved. Many said they would one day like to come back but as volunteers to help others and keep the spirit growing!

Here are some touching words our guests shared with us at our farewell lunch:

"There are no words that would be able to express how I feel; gratitude seems so minute or how you've made me feel. Love is all I can think of, except 'Godly' loved. Thank you so much for everything you've done for us girls. I will remember you eternally. Thank you for teaching me what God meant when he said 'Love one another'. You are all amazing!"

"To all of you wonderful volunteers. You have made all our time here so special!"

"Thank you so much for everything you do to make our days bright and cheery!"

"You all have warmed my heart so much! I love all of U."

"Thank you so much for being with us throughout our stop at the warming center. You are all very special!"

"Thank you for your warm hearts and for giving us hope!"

"Words cannot express our Love!"

Faith in Action

Be proud ECA, you did a great job! Thank you to all the coordinators, volunteers, supervisors, lunch bunch, and those that helped with do-

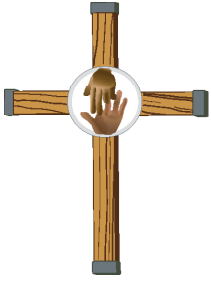
nations, and opening and closing the church! We had over 16 churches involved! We are fortunate to work with an organization such as Village House and to meet new friends from all of the other churches who provided volunteers, drivers, night shelters and food.

San Jose City Council Member Johnny Khamis highlighted "Faith in Action" by acknowledging the great work being accomplished by the churches in District 10. The Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA) under the leadership of The Rev. Shelley Denney was recognized as being instrumental in establishing the Clergy Association and in supporting the Village House Warming Center. Community service awards were presented at the State of the City forum on February 11th to ECA, Almaden Hills Methodist Church, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Venture Church, Westgate Church and the Church of Latter Day Saints as tokens of recognition for the great community services provided. Congratulations ECA and thank you Shelley for your leadership!

Joyce Wing



Leslie Rousseau in conversation with one of the ladies at the Warming Center. They appreciated good listeners, as they often feel like they have no voice.



Worship Schedule

March 1 – Ash Wednesday

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and
Imposition of Ashes
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and
Imposition of Ashes

March 2

7:30 a.m. Healing Service and
Holy Eucharist

March 5 – First Sunday in Lent

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

March 12 – Second Sunday in Lent

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

March 19 – Third Sunday in Lent

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

March 25

5:00 p.m. Let's ROC

March 26 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ...

•to Melinda Jennings for her art ideas and research for our February camp

•to Hanny & Widodo Krisman, Cyntia Apps, Zhoor Bishara, Maysa Rohana, and Myung-jin Kang & Jaegeun Lee for their help with our culture curriculum for Travel the Globe Through Our Neighborhood

•to Judi Dimicelli, Melinda Jennings, Pat McGarvin's grandson, Josh, Holly McCullough, Susanne Moore, Marianne Schmidt, Joan Wagner and Maryke Williams for their help with our camp

•to John McPherson for sharing the Tower of Babel presentation to people from CCAV and ECA

•to Ruthanne Adams Martinez for playing the harp for warming center guests at the Valentine Party

•to all retiring vestry members-- Leslie Rousseau (Senior Warden), Bryan Bond (Junior Warden), Will Bond, Mike Schmidt, and Elizabeth Guichard

•to Nancy Romer for securing all the food for the Vestry Retreat

•to John and Michelle Yeider for the contributions they make to our church, including the coffee host rotation

•to Susie Ferguson for allowing the Learning Center to be used for the Warming Center

•to Bonnie McPherson, Marianne Schmidt, Mary McPherson, Leslie Rousseau, Pat McGarvin, Sandie Mueller, Judi Dimicelli, and Ellen Lukanc for the leadership they provided to make the Daytime Warming Center a reality. And to all the volunteers--too many to thank by name--who gave their time and unconditional love to the ladies we ministered to for six weeks

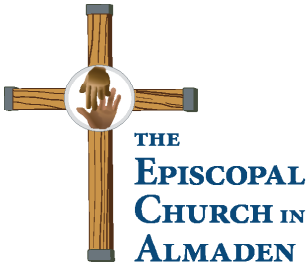
•to Marianne Schmidt for planning and leading the Friday night portion of the Vestry Retreat



Susie Ferguson, Ann Avoux, and Mary McPherson, volunteering at the Warming Center.



Sandie Mueller and Maryke Williams serving the meal for Valentine's Day.



6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Anna Spanjaart	3/1
Beth Proudfoot	3/2
Jack Jackman	3/3
Wendy Martin	3/3
Linda Sarmecanic	3/3
Judy Graun	3/4
Julia Machado	3/6
Jackie Whitlock	3/6
Marianne Schmidt	3/10
Gloria Ashdown	3/24
Edie Keck	3/26

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