

May 2017

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia! So goes the Easter acclamation, which we say every day of Eastertide...50 days long. We had a glorious celebration of Easter at ECA, and, along with the rest of the church, will be celebrating Easter all through May, until June 4. This is good, because seven weeks is not too long for us to celebrate and contemplate God's powerful love for us, desire for union with us, and breaking of evil and death that the resurrection of Jesus proves.

During this time, our gospels will show us the faith of Thomas, the burning hearts of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus as our Good Shepherd, and some of Jesus' final words to his disciples at the Last Supper. In other words, we will see more deeply who Jesus is for us, and the effect he has on his followers. How fitting these gospels are as we move ahead at ECA with our work of discernment and clarification of who we are called to be in this new time!

Bishop Mary has asked our diocese to become a Learning Community – the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry says. This is showing itself at ECA in new expressions of our continuing commitment to serving others in the name of Christ. We are learning so much about ourselves, and about those to whom we are reaching out. We are finding new partners and learning new ways of working together and of being Church.

The evidence of this includes: our expanding program into the neighborhood (the growing monthly Let's ROC and the nascent Mothers' Program with the hiring of Holly McCullough), our continuation of four Kids' Camps per year during school breaks (with

the creative miracles of Susie Ferguson and so many ECA helpers), our second interfaith service event with AAi (combining with two local mosques to feed homeless people), our continuing involvement with Village House and the ladies we came to serve and love in our daytime warming shelter, expanding work with the Industrial Areas Foundation, to which we belong, as they bring together a broad based community organizing group, and the continuation of a new interfaith clergy association, spreading out from Almaden, to name some.

These are all signs of the life-giving Spirit of the resurrected Christ, working in our midst, in and through us. Resurrected life doesn't look the same as we are used to. Many of his disciples to whom Jesus appeared after the resurrection didn't recognize him! But as Jesus Followers, we are called to look for signs of resurrection – new life – all around us...looking different from how things used to be. For example, Sunday morning used to be Sunday school time for children. In Almaden, it is now time for team sports. But ECA reaches out to, and serves, over 60 families in our immediate neighborhood on a continuing basis...just not on Sunday mornings. This is more families of children than ECA ever had in Sunday morning Sunday school. Resurrected life looks different!

So keep your eyes open and look for signs of resurrected life around you as we repeat: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter blessings,

Shelley+

Senior Warden

Unconditional Love

My mother recently died at the age of 97. We lost our adult son nine years ago, so I know the grief of losing a child, but I was taken by surprise at the very different grief of losing my mother. It was a long good-bye as my mother slipped into dementia over the last eight years and did not recognize anyone for the last year of her life. Why was I so shaken because my mother was not on earth anymore?

I shared this with Ellen Lukanc, who hugged me and said, “No, Marianne. We all only have one mother, and it is a very special relationship. No matter how old we are or how old our mother is, we will miss our mother when she is gone.”

I knew my mother loved me unconditionally, and that I did not have to work to know that she loved me. She was always glad to see me and would stop what she was doing to be with me. I felt her support and encouragement all my life and especially as I navigated being a mother of our four children. I remember her saying, “You and Mike are so patient with your children,” and I treasured her encouragement.

My mother showed me how God loves me. God loves me unconditionally and delights in my being in His presence. He is always available to spend time with me and gives me encour-

agement and guidance. I don't have to work to gain His love or be “good enough” for Him to love me. Like my mother loved me because I was her child, God loves me because I am His child. I am grateful for my mother.

Marianne Schmidt
Senior Warden

Save the Dates!

**ECA's 50th Anniversary
Celebration**

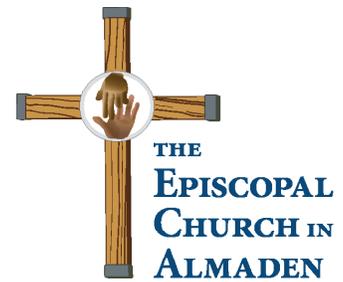
November 10, 11, 12

**Weekly Worship at
ECA**

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

Wednesday
3:30 p.m. Centering Prayer

Thursday
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer



Rector

The Reverend Shelley Denney
email: shelly@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

Spring Kids' Camp

April sure was a busy time for everyone connected to the Children and Youth Ministries at ECA. This year's spring school break was during Holy Week, so not only was our sanctuary busy all week, but so was every other possible corner of our church. In consideration of all that would be happening in the sanctuary we held our Camp Worship Time in our Learning Center in those great "Little Blue Chairs" many of you helped us purchase a few years back.

Our camp, Enrichment through the Arts, engaged 32 children over the 5 days, with 11 of those children attending all 5 days. We welcomed 8 new families into that mix. Every day's enrollment was full which meant we had to disappoint quite a few children and parents with "no room at the inn" on days they would have liked. Our camps require at least 4 volunteers every morning and at least three every afternoon to accommodate twenty children each day and our curriculum demands.

This most recent camp highlighted a different art form each day. We included at least 3 experiences in that art as well as wonderful literature, children's stories that complemented the art. By the end of the week everyone, including the kids, especially those with us every day, were pret-

ty tired. Monday was weaving day which went on all week. No matter what day a camper started they wanted to do the weaving on a paper plate loom to make a cute bowl or basket from yarn. We also included learning about families living in Guatemala. On Tuesday, we did photography. Cyntia Apps, a photographer in our neighborhood and parent of 2 of our campers, gave 3 wonderful lessons to our campers. Divided into 3 age groups she was able to challenge our oldest campers and delight our youngest. Yes, the children had cameras they could use which with Polaroid film gave them a look at their success within minutes. We also included learning about "Antsy Ansel," a hyperactive boy who became an amazing photographer. I bet you know a lot about Ansel Adam's work.

On Wednesday, we featured painting. Our guest artist, Susy Koga, introduced the children to Impressionism and Pointillism with Monet and Seurat. They painted with Q-tips to produce Pointillism effects and brushes for the small strokes of Impressionism. Every child was given a canvas on which to produce their final creation for the day. Some did self-portraits while others did nature scenes. Some of these creations are already hanging in homes, according to reports from parents

Thursday was our clay day. After a very messy morning with two different types of clay the children had a wonderful presentation from our guest artist

for the day.

Our very own Ruthanne shared one of her many talents, "throwing clay." She brought her potter's wheel and demonstrated making a vase. The kids loved it and wished they could have got their hands messy again. They also enjoyed her many examples she brought to share.

(continued on page 4)

JV members:

*Jim McPherson (president), Bill Lavallee
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

(continued from page 3)

Friday finally arrived for Culinary Arts. In the morning the children all prepared their own recipe of a vegetarian marinara sauce and garlic bread to take home for their families' dinner. A very challenging endeavor but with our fabulous volunteers it all worked. Of course, that was only part of all that was competed that day which included chef's hats, more paint with vegetable stamps, and thank you notes to all our guests.

We barely close the doors from one camp when requests come in for the dates of our next one. Our next camp, Kaleidoscope of Colors, will be June 12 through 16. God's Paintbrush by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso will be one of our resources for that camp. Our June camp is only half day with extended care offered in the afternoon. Our mornings are very structured with Bible, art, science, and more. In the afternoons, our time is more relaxed with a variety of choices for the children. If you would like to help with this camp please let me know your desires and availability soon so I can make the necessary plans.

*In Your Faithful Service,
Susie Ferguson
Children and Youth
Ministries Director*

Wednesday Class/ Discussion Group Continues

The Wednesday night group continues, having begun again on April 26. We will meet on May 3, 10, 31, and June 7 (accommodating Shelley's vacation schedule) from 7-8:30pm in the Learning Center. By popular demand, we will be studying and talking about atonement theory.

This may sound esoteric and cerebral, but there is great interest in how we look at the reconciling of humanity to God through Jesus' death on the cross, and people have very strong feelings about it. It will be interesting to discuss how it has been seen in the Church through the ages, and have folks weigh in on their own ideas. There has already been lively online discussion of this topic! Join us! As one member put it, "Come for the cookies, stay for the community!"

Spring Tea

Silent Auction and Raffle

*Wednesday, May 3, 2017
12:30-3:30 p.m.*

*Fellowship Hall, Episcopal Church in Almaden
6581 Camden Avenue, San Jose 95120*

*Donation: \$20 Table for 8: \$130
Proceeds Benefit Almaden Counseling Center
and Joint Venture Churches*

*Entertainment by
Harpist Ruthanne Adams Martinez*

RSVP: office@jointventurechurches.org

or (408) 268-0243 by April 30

checks payable to Episcopal Church in Almaden

ECA Activities

May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		12:30-3:30pm Spring Tea 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Study/Discussion Group	7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist and Folk Choir Sunday	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	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Coffee Hour Sunday 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist and Folk Choir Sunday	7:15pm Vestry Meeting	3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Study/Discussion Group	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		9:30am-3pm Diocesan Discovery Day 10am Knitwits Meeting 5pm Let's ROC
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:30-2pm Connection Team Meeting	7:30pm JV Board Meeting	3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 5:30pm JV Book Group	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2pm Montgomery Meals	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	6pm Cooking Class	3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		
28	29	30	31			
7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist		2pm Bridge Group 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Study/Discussion Group				

Photographs - Let's Tell Our Story!

As the saying goes “A picture is worth a thousand words”. One of the many items we need as we start updating our website and social media sights are pictures of all the wonderful activities ECA is involved in so we can better tell our story to others. We do so much but our neighbors or those interested in joining a church community can't always tell, so we need to show them and get connected! As Elrond Lawrence the Communications Specialist with the Diocese has advised:

“Good publicity is crucial. We live in a media-driven world that competes for people's attention. Social media and your website helps you connect with the communities you serve. People can share photos and stories of events, services, celebrations and more, and the cost is minimal. Pictures of people are important, visitors want to see a window to your congregation...not pictures of stained-glass or buildings.”

We need to get organized! We need to be diligent about taking pictures in the right way (see guidelines below) and how best to store for easy access. Currently, if you could send your 2017 photographs

to me via email at jhwing@outlook.com that would be great. If there are too many let me know and we will figure out a way to transfer them. I will be working with Bryan Bond and vestry regarding how we best want to organize the pictures in a secure manner on Office 365 or maybe another option.

We need Photographers! We need both designated photographers and freelancers to share their photographs with us. We don't care if you use a smartphone or camera, either is great.

Guidelines for Photographers from Elrond:

- Need pictures of people
- Get as close to the subject as possible
- Take LOTS of pictures; pixels are cheap
- Using a smartphone, don't zoom ... ever
- Exhale when shooting, to reduce motion blur
- Choose the biggest image size
- Think ahead; know the event and when things will be happening
- Shoot “wild art” people in action, events and selfies; be artistic, but include people

Photographs wanted; please send photographs of:

- February and April camps
- Men's Breakfast

- Book Club
- Easter Week
- Future events
- Abrahamic Alliance event on April 30th (we need a designated photographer who does nothing but take photographs)
- Other events or activities I missed or you would like to share

I am not a photographer or expert in this area. If any of you are, or know someone, please let me know. If you would like to form a group to discuss this area or assist in planning our website and social media sites, please let me know as well.

*Joyce Wing,
Vestry Communications Liaison*

Call for Memories

ECA will celebrate its 50'th anniversary in November. There will be announcements later for the events to take place over the 3 day weekend of November 10 – 12. I am collecting your memories of special meaning for you. I would like you remember the last 10 years, especially, but do not limit yourself if there is an especially meaningful memory any time in the life of ECA.

You can send me your memories at my email address, fmuller.sj@gmail.com.

Ed Mueller

Book Group

The JV Book Group will get together on Wednesday, May 17 (3rd Wednesday of the month), at 5:30 PM, at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. May's book is *The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith (408 268-0920 or email amy-g@pacbell.net). Please note that there will be no book group meeting in June.

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will meet on Wednesday, May 30 (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.

Field Education Intern

Making Deeper Connections

What is a congregation? I believe it is more than staff and programs. I believe that a congregation lives and grows during its interactions between one person and another. I also believe all of us want to be known for who we are. There is a large part of who we are that is expressed

by the things we feel passionately about. Many of us at ECA love Jesus passionately. As human beings we can hold many things in our hearts. Our lives are made up of hundreds of connections to other people. I want to know more about your passions and what drives you in your life.

As a member of the Connection team, I will be meeting one on one with several people over time and focusing on this question of what are your passions. Our passions say a lot about who we are as human beings. It takes time and focus to really get to know another person and develop a relationship with them. For me, the relationships in my life are a part of my passion. I am a very relational person. The highlight of my week is always the one on one interactions I have with people in different parts of my life. It might be with my wife, or a parishioner, or someone at the hospital. Connecting with each other as human beings is what this life is all about for me. These moments with other people always change me a little. I find myself taking the time to consider life from someone else's point of view. It helps me grow. I encourage you to think about taking a real interest in someone else this month, to take the time to ask someone about themselves and their passions. You will probably be surprised at what you learn. I always find myself feeling closer to others

the more I know about what makes them who they are. And I usually learn more about what makes me who I am.

Andrea Mackenzie



Episcopalians know not only how to worship, but how to eat as well, as evidenced by these goodies served after the second service on Easter Sunday.

Looking Ahead

Kids' Camp • June 12-16
Let's ROC • June 17
Quiet Day • June 24
ECA's 50th Anniversary
Celebration •
November 10, 11, 12

Reach Out in Community Together

Jesus gathered his friends around the table. He thanked God, gave them bread to share, and told them it was his own body. He took the cup, again thanked God, and told his followers that it was a sign of the new covenant. A new way of God being with God's people was breaking into the world.

On a Saturday night in March, a group of Jesus's followers gathered around the tables in the ECA fellowship hall. They were there for "Let's ROC." There was bread. There was wine. Rev. Shelley led us in saying thank you to God. She reminded us of the "Big Story," of God's redeeming work in the world and the new covenant that we share in when we share Christ's body and blood.



We set about being Christ's body in the world. We did the reconciling work of being with people who know us, and help us feel whole, and we made

space for neighbors we know less well. Together, we did as God ask us and cared for the least of those among us by making granola bars for the homeless clients at Santa Maria Urban Ministry.

Led by Holly McCullough, we learned about the neighborhood Santa Maria Urban Ministry serves and made an altar cloth we hope to use again.

At the May Let's ROC we'll be diving deeper into the Washington neighborhood as we learn more about the transformation that happens in the lives of folks involved at Santa Maria Urban Ministry. We'll also be doing more of what we've heard you like about Let's ROC, making more time to sit at the table with our friends.

So mark your calendar and plan on being at the next Let's ROC, May 13, 4:30-6:30. Come be a part of the "Big Story."

Holly McCullough

Diocesan Discovery Day

The Diocese of El Camino Real's Commission on Ministry invites all of us to their Discovery Day on Saturday, May 13 at St. Paul's, Salinas. I will be going, and will be happy to have people car pool with me. This annual

one-day workshop, from 10am to 3pm, helps individuals explore and respond to their individual call to ministry. This is for lay ministry – not just ordained – as we ALL are called to ministry through our Baptisms.

Discovery Day offers the opportunity for those already engaged in active ministry to renew their call to that ministry, or to explore new ways to respond to God's call. We will hear information about licensed lay ministries (lay preacher, Lay Eucharistic Minister/Visitor, missionary, catechist, etc.) and more, including spiritual direction. Previous participants in Discovery Day have described a process of discernment that has been rejuvenating, validating, and transformative. I hope you will consider joining me on the 13th.

Shelley +

Easter Bucks

Thank you to all who contributed to our Easter Bucks' Outreach Opportunities. The Easter Bucks reaped \$70 for Sarah and Rachel, our So. Sudanese students, \$50 for SMUM's ABC Preschool, and \$80 for Operation Starfish. Besides these totals an additional check for \$25 was received for Operation Starfish. Another generous check for \$500 was received for SMUM and still another for \$2000 was received for our South Sudanese outreach. God's blessings to all of our generous givers.



Worship Schedule

May 4

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

May 7 – Fourth Sunday in Easter

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

May 13 – Let's ROC

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist

May 14 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

May 21 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

May 28 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

Budget Update

As of March 31, 2017:

Receipts

Budgeted \$62,569
Actual 71,147

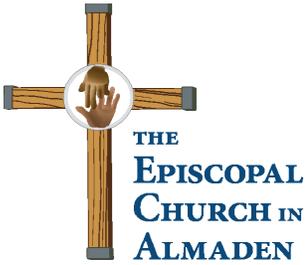
Expenses

Budgeted \$61,834
Actual 62,042

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ...

- to Gayle Byers, Judi Dimicelli, Melinda Jennings, Holly McCullough, Pat McGarvin & her grandson, Josh, Mary McPherson, Susanne Moore, Sandra Mueller, Rachael Parakh, Leslie Rousseau, Anna Spanjaart, Anne Tysanner, Joan Wagner, and Maryke Williams, for their time and energy helping with our April Camp, Enrichment through the Arts
- to Ruthanne for her help with music at worship time during our camp week
- to Mary McPherson and Maryke Williams for all their help with cleanup after camp and washing all 22 of our “paint shirts”
- to Judi Dimicelli for preparing all our Easter eggs with Easter bucks and candy for our Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday
- to Bryan Bond for his technical support of the building bridges program by working with Holly to get her email working and making it possible to use slides at the March Let's ROC
- to Tom Ruffo for making food for friends and neighbors at Let's ROC
- To Judi Dimicelli for assisting with the setup and cleanup and messy granola bar making at Let's ROC
- to Jerry Ferguson for washing lots of dishes at Let's ROC, among many other things, and making sure that the Joint Ventures building is secure
- to the Altar Guild for all its work to make Holy Week and Easter services smooth and beautiful
- to our youth, who continue to serve
- to Andrea Mackenzie for her preaching
- to Susie Ferguson for another outstanding Kids' Camp. Also, for the wonderful Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bucks ... once again!
- to the vestry for its hard work on values
- to Susanne Moore and Betty Consorte for coordinating decorating the church for Palm Sunday and Easter, and for all others who helped
- to Mike Schmidt for his faithful and wonderful editing of The Shape
- to Elizabeth Guichard for serving as clerk and helping vestry meetings to stay on task and on time



6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Ferguson	5/9
Leslie Rousseau	5/9
Terry Stonehocker	5/11
Michaela Fahlen	5/12
Pat Fox	5/14
Mason Miller	5/16
Warren Willard	5/20
Tom Fahlen	5/23
Ann Mayers	5/24
Bill LaVallee	5/25
Margaret Allvey	5/26
John Schaefer	5/30

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