

October 2017

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

It's October, and ECA is a busy place! A new roof is going over the sanctuary, many people are working to make a memorable 50th Anniversary celebration for ECA, the choir is back, we will be blessing animals in a St. Francis celebration at Let's ROC on the 7th at the end of a week of happy campers at "Exploring God's Zoo", a number of parishioners are going on group Labyrinth Walks – a lovely, walking prayer experience, and I am enjoying my home visits reconnecting with all our parishioners. There are so many things to be grateful for!

Your Stewardship Committee also finds many reasons to give thanks when we meet each month. We are excited to have four parishioners present their own stories of finding gratitude and joy in giving at each service in October. We are also delighted to present Consecration Sunday on October 29th. This is our in-gathering of pledges for 2018, and our guest preacher will be The Rev. Canon Linda Taylor – our dear friend, and inspiring long term supply priest during the last rector search. Everyone attending will be given their pledge card that morning, and be asked to fill it out during the service. You will be receiving an invitation to Consecration Sunday, and we would really appreciate your positive rsvp for the service and the celebration luncheon afterwards. We would like to have all parishioners attend on that day.

God has given us so much, and entrusted so much to our care. None of us could possibly earn what God has already given as a free gift: our life as beloved children made in God's own image and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ. The only appropriate response

to God is gratitude! Stewardship begins with gratitude and then moves to care of people, because care of people is central to God's dream for the world...what we call God's kingdom. Care of people is what Jesus engaged in every day of his life and ministry on earth. Care of people comes from the heart of God, and it is what the Church engages in: physical, emotional, and spiritual care. Our time, talent, and treasure is the store from which we give to the care of people out of gratitude to God. How blessed we are to have this opportunity!

In my home visits with parishioners so far, members overwhelmingly mention our community – our faith family – as the thing they value most at ECA. We are people who love and support one another and who are there for one another in time of need – and celebration. I invite all of you to continue to explore our various offerings for social and spiritual growth, for cultivating our relationships with God, one another, and the world.

Blessings,

Shelley+

Water to Wine

One of the most amusing scenes in the Bible for me is in the story of Jesus turning the water into wine. The servants were told to follow Jesus' instructions, so they filled the large containers with water. Then they were told to take a sample of the "water" to the master of the banquet. I can see them casting glances with each other, whispering, "He told us to do what? Why does the master want to taste the "water" from these containers?" The servants knew the master of the banquet was out of wine and knew he was not going to be happy with them giving him "water" to serve.

Yet when they did what Jesus told them to do, the servants must have been totally astonished at the Masters' declaration that this was excellent wine! "What! We pulled water out of the container. How can the Master call it excellent wine?"

All of us have felt a nudging or prompting of the Holy Spirit to do something out of the ordinary, to step out of our comfort level like signing up for the Warming Center last January, by serving a dinner with our Muslim and Jewish friends, or by talking about our faith with a neighbor. When we follow the promptings, we may be like the servants who thought they were bringing water to the Master of the Banquet, and

it turned out to be excellent wine. God has a way of turning our ordinary actions of giving of ourselves into life-changing experiences for us. Those of us who met our Warming Center guests will never be the same. They gave us far more than we gave them.

The act of following the Holy Spirit, despite our fear or discomfort, is the essence of stewardship, as we share with others what we might think of as "water," God turns it into wine.

Marianne Schmidt
Senior Warden

Book Group

The JV Book Group will meet on Wednesday, October 18th (3rd Wednesday of the month), at 5:30 PM, at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith (408 268-0920 or email amy-g@pacbell.net).

Weekly Worship at ECA

Sunday

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

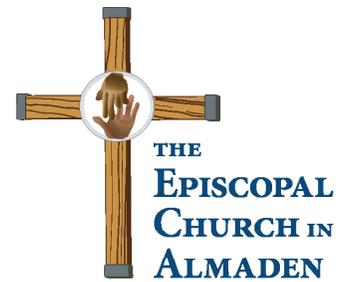
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Choral

Wednesday

3:30 p.m. Centering Prayer

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer



Rector

The Reverend Shelley Denney
email: 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

Camp & Safe Church

Our October Camp starts now. Yes, for the first week of October we will be learning about St. Francis and how he loved all of God's creatures. We will learn about our favorite animals wild or domesticated. We will have some special animals visit us during our afternoons. We will keep ourselves busy all week cooking for both ourselves (humans) and animals making treats we can share with you for your pets. We will be getting our hands messy with fun art projects we hope to share with you on October 7th when you join us for Let's ROC. This month Let's ROC will be our Blessing of the Animals. I hope many of you will come share this event with us. Come with or without a favorite pet. All are welcome.

Another important program I would like you to know about is our Diocese and ECA's commitment to Safe Church Policies. These are the policies we have in place to be sure that children and youth in our care are in a safe environment with proper and healthy attention from those working with them. Many of our volunteers, especially those who were Sunday School or Youth Leaders have taken the "Safe Church Seminar" when it was offered at our church or here in our Deanery. We can now offer this course online. If you are going to be working with

children or youth in the coming year I would encourage you to contact me and learn how you can take these online modules to help us comply with our commitment for Safe Church. Four modules are required and each only takes about 30 minutes.

This Safe Church program also offer modules for those working with adults. If you are planning to work in our Warming Center you may want to check in with me so I can get you set up to take the three modules on adult care. Currently I am the administrator of ECA's online Safe Church Program.

*In Your Faithful Service,
Susie Ferguson*

SAVE THE DATES

*ECA's 50th Anniversary
Celebration Events!*

November 10, 11, 12

*Please try and come to at least one of the
events for a good time and fellowship!*

*Invitations went out in early September and
will need to be returned by October 10*

*Please invite your adult children;
we probably don't have their addresses, in
many cases, so include them in your RSVP.*

See you there!

Home Visits

Shelley wants to visit with all our parishioners in their homes by the end of October. She wants to reconnect and get to know everyone more deeply. These will be scheduled, 30-minute visits and she will ask three questions: What is life-giving for you at ECA right now? What do you value about ECA? What could ECA do to help you deepen your relationship with God? (A heads-up so you have time to consider your answers.) She is also glad to hear any other joys or concerns you have. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, please choose a convenient time for this visit.

JV members:

*Jim McPherson (president), Bill Lavallee
and Don Hall*

Vestry Liaisons:

Senior Warden
Marianne Schmidt

Junior Warden
Don Hall

**Adult Education:
Worship:**
The Reverend Shelley Denney

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:
Stewardship:**
Marianne Schmidt

ECA Activities October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	2 9am Kids Camp 9:30am Yoga 6:30pm Cooking Class	3 9am Kids Camp	4 9am Kids Camp 12pm Ladies Lunch Bunch 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	5 7:30am Healing Serv. and Holy Eucharist 8am Men's Breakfast 9am Kids Camp 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 9am Kids Camp	7 4:30pm Let's ROC/ Blessing of the Animals
8 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	9 9:30am Yoga	10 7:15 Vestry Meeting	11 12pm Ladies Lunch Bunch 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	12 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 4:30pm Stewardship Leadership Gathering	16 9:30am Yoga	17 7:30 JV Board Meeting	18 12pm Ladies Lunch Bunch 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 5:30pm Book Club	19 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 2pm Montgomery Meals	21 8am JV Work Day
22 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	23 9:30am Yoga	24	25 12pm Ladies Lunch Bunch 2pm Bridge Group 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal	26 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 7:30am Holy Eucharist (Linda Taylor) 10:45am Holy Eucharist (Linda Taylor) 12pm Pledge In-Gathering Potluck	30 9:30am Yoga 6:30pm Cooking Class	31				

50th Anniversary

“We love because he first loved us.” I John 4:19

ECA's 50th Anniversary is coming! You should be getting your invitations if you haven't already. We want to thank Kimberly and Todd Axtell (Copy Factory) for providing the design and generously donating all of the material. They are beautiful!

Please send your RSVP card in as soon as possible, with number and names of attendees, entrees selected and your payments. The deadline for turning in the RSVP card is October 10th, but please don't wait, as many are interested in coming. We need the information to finalize our planning and the funds to pay vendors and reimburse those purchasing items for the events. We hope you can come and enjoy the fellowship with current and past friends!

Photographer: We have hired Cyntia Apps, one of the mothers of our children that attends our camps, she is a professional photographer. She will be taking pictures on Friday and Saturday. We ask that you refrain from taking pictures those nights so that you don't accidentally interfere with her work. All of her photos will be placed on an online photo gallery for you to view

and order prints from. If you have any questions please ask Joyce Wing. Also, Ed Mueller and Mike Schmidt have kindly volunteered to be our photographers on Sunday. We want to make sure we document this special occasion!

Song: We have also asked John Leslie who will be coming to the Anniversary events to help us with a special song for Saturday night. We are very excited about creating something special and fun for this event!

Memories: Ed Mueller is the primary coordinator for the ECA 50th Memory book. Please be sure to fill out a form from the bulletin or the form in your invitation so we have lots of memories to share. Please give them to Ed or Sandra Mueller.

Volunteers: We will need volunteers to help setup tables, decorate, clean up and be wine/beer servers. We will not have to take down tables until Sunday, we have arranged this with the other churches. We will need help Friday morning and after the event, Saturday morning and after the event, and Sunday before and after the event. We need wonderful, friendly personalities (maybe your grown children) to help service wine and beer – if you do sign-up as a server, please note you will not be able to drink any alcohol. A poster board will be setup in Fellowship Hall so that you can sign up. The more the merrier!

Rentals: To make clean up on Saturday a bit easier we will be renting dishes and glassware, so that we only have to rinse and pack up for the rental company to pick up and clean.

Thank you: The 50th Anniversary planning committee has been hard at work to plan these events for all of us and past friends to attend. We have some of our best decorators, chefs, and creative-minds working on this so we all have something to look forward to at these events! I'd like to thank Amy Griffith, Betty Consorte, Susanne Arnold, Ellen Lukanc, Nancy Romer, Ed and Sandra Mueller, Maryke Williams, Francie Kerr, Alain Guichard and Susie Ferguson for their energy and excitement to make all these events happen. If you have any questions or ideas please feel free to talk to one of the committee members.

*Joyce Wing,
50th Anniversary
Coordinator*

Looking Ahead

- ECA 50th Anniversary •
November 10-12
- Thanksgiving Feast •
November 18
- Christmas Party •
December 9
- Christmas Pageant •
December 16

September Vestry Highlights

Inge Bond led our Lectio Divina on Philippians 3, where we were inspired by the words of Paul: “forgetting what lies behind, we strain forward to what lies ahead...” We reflected on this as we considered actions to support the third goal in our Strategic Plan: How we can “Cultivate Our Relationship with our Neighbors and Community” over the next five years.

Andrea Mackenzie shared her call to be a deacon, and the path she took to do her Field Work at ECA. She asked us, the Vestry of her Field Education Parish, for endorsement of her application to Bishop Mary to become a candidate, which is one step before ordination as a deacon. The Vestry gave her unanimous approval.

The vestry approved the proposal to purchase 120 new folding chairs for the fellowship hall and as a gift to Joint Venture. The chairs will be purchased with the funds from the Spring Tea, the memorial funds and a donation from a family in our parish.

Joyce Wing gave a report of the work going into making the 50th Anniversary Celebration a grand affair. The Vestry voted to provide the committee an additional \$1500 toward the expenses of the celebration.

Jerry Ferguson shared that the finance committee is working to revise the organization of the financial report and to develop guidelines for the expenditure of the memorial funds and other restricted funds. The committee will give their full report in November.

We closed by reflecting on how we worked together to honor Christ, served our congregation, and were a blessing to each other.

The next Vestry meeting is October 10, 7:15 pm in the Learning Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

*Marianne Schmidt,
Senior Warden*

Worship

Liturgical Service

The congregation of ECA comes together every week to celebrate the Eucharist together as the Body of Christ. For me, this is the highlight of my entire week. Every single one of us has something to contribute to the celebration. Our very act of coming together in this way is symbolic and meaningful. Active participation in the service is a way of giving back to God and to one another. We say that the members of the altar party “serve” at the altar because that is what they do by helping distribute communion, and because they

are performing an act of service both for God and for one another. These acts of service, either as an acolyte, or a chalice bearer, contribute to the over all experience of worship of everyone else in the congregation. Serving at the altar is a way of experiencing liturgy on another level that can contribute deeply to your own experience while serving others. It does not require any particular “calling” or special talents; what it actually requires is humility and willingness. The benefits can include a deepening of your personal piety and a deeper level of appreciation for this ancient celebration.

So many of you at ECA have been involved in so many ways over the years, but maybe serving at the altar is something you have always wondered about, but never spoken about. If you are interested in learning more about participating more actively in the service on Sunday, either as an acolyte or a LEM, please contact Andrea Mackenzie. All ages are welcome. There are no special requirements, just a little training. If you are looking for a way to step up your spiritual journey or deepen your experience of Jesus, consider serving at the altar. It will give you a different perspective on what it means to serve Christ and one another.

Andrea Mackenzie



Worship Schedule

October 1 – *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

October 5

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

October 7 – *Let's ROC*

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist

October 8 – *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

October 15 – *Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

October 22 – *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

October 29 – *Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ...

•to Marianne Schmidt for the guidance and leadership she provided as Senior Warden during Shelley's medical leave

•also to Andrea Mackenzie for all her extra work, and support of the Senior Warden and the congregation during Shelley's absence

•to Meghan Hall for her many years of service as Acolyte, and best wishes as she heads off to college

•to Jerry Ferguson, Todd Lukanc, and Maryke Williams for their faithful and tireless work on ECA finances

•to Gayle Byers, Betty Consorte, Judi Dimicelli, Melinda Jennings, Holly McCullough, Pat McGarvin, Susanne Moore, Nancy Romer, Marianne Schmidt, Joan Wagner and our music team of Barry and Lynda Ford for volunteering to help with our October camp.

•to Judi Dimicelli, Kelli Casale, and Leslie Rousseau for covering our nursery needs in September.

•to Joyce and Steve Wing for dinner prep, Judi Dimicelli for set up and clean up, and Andy Kerr for music at our September Let's ROC.

Bridge Group

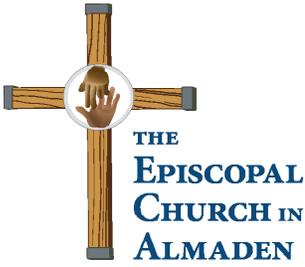
The Bridge Group will meet on Wednesday, September 27 (last Wednesday of the month), at 2 PM, in the church fellowship hall. Contact Amy Griffith (268-0920) if you have questions or need more information.

Let's ROC

There were so many "Holy Spirit Moments" this past month at "Let's ROC" including new friends holding babies, adopted-for-the-night-grandmas helping with baking projects, and little ones around the communion table. I got to see ECA living out her tag line of, "God stops here for love and laughter."

"Let's ROC" happens one Saturday a month from 4:30-6:30. Mark your calendar now and be sure to join us for a blessing of the animals on October 7th, a Thanksgiving Feast on November 18th, and a Christmas Pageant on December 16th.





6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Mark Ciccarello	October	02
Daniel Beacher		03
Jim Edwards		04
Bobbi Finley		06
Linda Nollette		08
Ron Howie		10
Bonnie McPherson		13
Susana Machado		14
Carol MacDonald		15
Judy Blankenheim		16
Earl Griffith		29

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