

November 2017

# The SHAPE

*From the Rector*

## Dear Friends

The Episcopal Church in Almaden is 50 years old! On November 10th through 12th, ECA will celebrate our 50th anniversary, with an informal gathering, a more formal party, dinner, and fun presentation, and a single Holy Eucharist on Sunday. (No 7:30am service on 11/12.) Many old friends, former parishioners, and priests who have served this congregation will join in to help us commemorate half a century of service, love, and laughter under the guidance of God's Spirit.

In the many home visits I have made in the last two months, a recurring – nearly universal – theme was how much parishioners value the people in this parish...they are like family...warm, accepting, and there for you in time of need. Our people value the opportunity to participate in service to the community and reaching out to our neighbors. They appreciate seeing others' faces during worship, and learning and searching for God together. This month we will shine a light on our past 50 years together, and we want to look ahead to the next 50 years.

Where will God's Spirit lead us? ECA's vestry has been working on a strategic plan to move us into the next 5 years. We have been working on clarifying our values and our mission. We will present this as a working plan at ECA's 2018 Annual Meeting on 1/28/18. But our parishioners have also been dreaming about what we can do and how we can extend the work we are already doing.

A Labyrinth Committee has been exploring the possibility of a permanent, in-ground labyrinth on our grounds. A number of folks have taken field trips to a labyrinth to experience this walking meditation and

prayer together. They felt inspired and uplifted. We are working with our brothers and sisters in CCAV on moving this forward.

This year, we hired Holly McCullough to lead our Let's ROC (Reaching Out in Community) program of monthly Saturday worship/dinners, inviting our neighbors from the surrounding community. We have learned much and are refining and honing this program, hoping to expand it and build a stable, intergenerational, family service that serves our neighborhood as well as our parishioners. Susie Ferguson's Kids' Camps continue to serve the youth of our neighborhood during school breaks. It is notable that 70 of our members help in some way for Let's ROC and Kids' Camps each year! There is missional energy in our congregation.

Our Connection Team, the community organizing group at ECA, is working with a number of other churches and synagogues to bring together a broad-based organization. This group can form and deepen relationships to find common ground, and partner to bring about needed changes to serve the good of the community. We're also forming relationships with our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters through the Abrahamic Alliance. ECA is part of the Village House cooperative, sheltering homeless women, and our Warming Center will open again next January.

New groups have begun to form to explore and learn together spiritually. We have a Centering Prayer group that meets each Wednesday afternoon and a Wednesday night study and discussion group. We also have Thursday Morning Prayer and the Thursday Lectionary Bible Study. We hope to offer a number of other small group opportunities to broaden and deepen our relationships with God and one another.

*(continued on page 2)*

Senior Warden

## Labyrinth as a Tribute

The labyrinth committee created a proposal for having a labyrinth as a tribute to the 50th anniversaries of ECA, CCAV and Joint Venture. The proposal was approved by the governing boards of ECA, CCAV and Joint Venture.

To commemorate the 50 years of successful partnership of ECA and CCAV through Joint Venture, we would like to install a labyrinth as a tribute to fifty years of following God's lead in worship, in loving each other and in reaching out to our community. It would remind us of God's faithfulness in the past and be a symbol of God's promise to lead us into the future.

A labyrinth offers a path to walk as we open our minds and hearts to listen to the Holy Spirit. This labyrinth would be a gift to our community as we offer the opportunity to meditate to people of all faiths. The labyrinth is an ancient form of seeking God's presence that will remind us that God was faithful, is faithful and will always be faithful.

If you would like to be a part of building a labyrinth as a tribute to our 50-year anniversary and as a beacon into the future, you can make a contribution to the Labyrinth Fund. Make your check out to ECA, with

JV Labyrinth on the byline, so your contribution can be on your yearly giving records.

*Marianne Schmidt*  
Senior Warden

### Rector's Article (con't from page 1)

ECA has been blessed beyond measure – and continues to be blessed. We give thanks for all the dedication and faithfulness of those who have built this community up to where it is today. And we listen and watch for the movement of the Holy Spirit among us, as we at ECA follow Jesus into the next 50 years.

Faithfully,

*Shelley+*

## Weekly Worship at ECA

*Sunday*

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

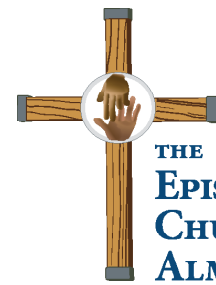
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Choral

*Wednesday*

3:30 p.m. Centering Prayer

*Thursday*

9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer



**THE  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH IN  
ALMADEN**

### 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*

## October Camp Highlights

Our October Camp is behind and a great success. We had 10 campers. Surprised by the number? Actually, very special. We were able to do art and cooking projects that we are not able to do when our numbers are twice that. Every day we were able to cook. We were able to use our special cooking boxes, learn what different cooking tools were best used for, and cook in very small groups (sometimes only 2) so everyone had a great deal of hands on experience. Every group learned to wash and dry all their own cooking tools and dishes and put their cooking box back as it was when they started.

We cooked from scratch Mac N Cheese and Pumpkin Bread, which were served at our dinner at Let's ROC and the Blessing of the Animals. We cooked dog and cat treats to share with all who have dogs or cats. And we cooked Apple Turnovers which we consumed just for ourselves with vanilla ice cream. Campers' parents were delighted with all they tried and want the recipes. They also were impressed to learn that their camper knows how to wash and dry dishes after cooking. I think maybe the campers don't want to share that they've learned that skill.

Besides cooking, every day in chapel time we learned about

St. Francis and Noah both who had quite a lot to do with animals. During Let's ROC the campers shared what they learned through song, accompanied by Barry, and skits in costumes organized by Sandra Mueller. If you were in attendance you know how cute they all were. Seven of our campers and their families were able to attend this program. How exciting that we had 49 in attendance for our Let's ROC, which included 15 children.

Another highlight of our week were all the animals that visited. We had Liz and Gary Marshall bring Levi, the eighth dog they have trained to be a seeing eye dog. Lola Fahlen brought two dwarf chickens. Susan Pi from Town Cats in Morgan Hill brought a friend, Patty, with her therapy cat, Mokey, and also taught us much about "speaking cat" and cat rescue efforts. Finally, we had Penny and Josh McLoughlin, Pat McGarvin's daughter and grandson, bring us Latte, a mother goat, and one of her offspring, plus a lamb and 2 rabbits. A big highlight was milking Latte. What a great experience for all the kids.

Parents of children who attend camp tell us they are pleased to have their children in wholesome, Christian based, fun and enriching environments that our church is offering the neighborhood. I am thankful to have many from our congregation willing to help with these offerings. They would not be

possible without all our volunteers. To you I give praise and thanks to God.

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

## Book Group

The JV Book Group will meet on Wednesday, November 15th (3rd Wednesday of the month), at 5:30 PM, at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. November's book is *Hidden Figures*, by Margot Lee Shetterly. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith.

### 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 November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	2 7:30am Healing Serv. and Holy Eucharist 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3 1:30pm Diocesan Convention	4 3pm Diocesan Convention
5 <u>All Saints</u> 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:30pm Village House Meeting	6 9:30am Yoga	7	8 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10 <u>50th Anniversary</u> 5:30pm Taco Fiesta	11 <u>50th Anniversary</u> 5:30pm Anniversary Banquet
12 <u>50th Anniversary</u> (no 7:30am service) 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:15pm Anniversary Brunch	13 9:30am Yoga	14 7:15 Vestry Meeting	15 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal 5:30pm Book Club	16 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 2pm Montgomery Meals	18 4:30pm Let's ROC/ Thanksgiving Feast
19 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15am Pastoral Care Team Meeting 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:30pm Connection Team Meeting	20 9:30am Yoga	21 7:30 JV Board Meeting	22 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal	23 <u>Thanksgiving Day</u>	24	25
26 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	27 9:30am Yoga 6:30pm Cooking Class	28	29 2pm Bridge Group 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal	30 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		

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Outreach

## Village House Returns to ECA

The ladies are coming!  
The ladies are coming!

Well, maybe not quite yet. But in January we will again host 15 fabulous ladies who are a part of the Village House Shelter Program. As many of you are aware, our church took a huge leap of faith and offered to be a warming center for the shelter program that takes 15 homeless women off the street and provides year around night time shelter, meals, medical support, and counseling. The goal is to help get these women into transitional and then permanent housing, to provide healing from the many physical, emotional and mental injuries that they have suffered before and during their time on the streets, and to once again be a part of a loving community.

Our part of this important program is to open our hearts, our building and our resources to these ladies for the month of January, during the day, when the night time center is closed, so that the women can have a warm, safe and accepting place to stay during the cold and wet of January. It is our opportunity to truly walk in Jesus's footsteps in feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless, befriending the friendless, and

loving those who appear outwardly to be different than us. More importantly it is a opportunity for transformation, as you will find that spending time with these ladies will fill your heart with joy and peace as only a Jesus can give us!

In this season of stewardship, this is the ultimate use of our time, talent and treasure, to truly open our hearts and our "club house" to those who are so hungry for love and acceptance, giving them the opportunity for transformation and the realization of God's love for them.

The Diocese wants us to "leave the building," get out of our comfort zone, and recognize that God is calling us to meet the people where they are and love them for who they are-- and this is taking it to the next level, reaching out to the most disenfranchised among us, and opening our "comfort zone" to those who have not known the love of Christian community and embrace them as one of us!

I hope you are as excited as I to get our warming center back up and running once again. You will be hearing of many opportunities to follow Jesus over the next two months as we prepare to make the space a warm and welcoming home for these ladies, and then opportunities for fellowship once we open.

*Bonnie McPherson*

Outreach and Worship

## Special Holiday Let's ROC Events

Come fill your heart and our shared table at our Thanksgiving Feast. This annual fellowship event will take place November 18th in the fellowship hall. Don't miss this opportunity to share the table with our friends from UCCAV, the Korean church, and our friends from our neighborhood. We'll start with appetizers at 4:30 share communion and be ready to start dinner by 5:30. Sign up in the parish hall to bring an appetizer or favorite side dish to share.

December 16th will be our Christmas Pageant. We are looking forward to hosting a cute and very musical evening including our friends from the neighborhood and the Korean church. If you have family or friends who may want to participate, make sure they have the afternoon and evening of December 16th on the calendar and let Holly know so she can be sure to reach out to them as well. The best way to reach Holly is [holly@eca-sj.org](mailto:holly@eca-sj.org) but you can also reach her at (650) 279-8818.

*Holly McCullough*

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## October Vestry Highlights

The Vestry was not able to hold an October meeting as many of the vestry members were unavailable for various reasons. The next scheduled vestry meeting is Tuesday, November 14, at 7:15 P.M. in the Learning Center. All are welcome to attend.

A short special meeting was held on Sunday, October 15, to discuss the proposal to have a labyrinth as a tribute for the 50th Anniversary of ECA. Vestry voted to support the proposal.

*Marianne Schmidt,  
Senior Warden*

### Worship

## Sunday Morning Advent Series

Mark your calendars. Advent One is on Sunday Dec 3!! We are going to have a discussion group between the services, from 9:30-10:30 about the season of Advent. This will be a time to share and reflect on the scripture readings for the season as well as some themes from the season. Examples include: watching and waiting, prophets, and preparing our hearts for the birth of our Lord Jesus. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Mackenzie.

### Fellowship

## Cooking with Alain

In early October (2nd), sixteen people met in the ECA Kitchen to participate in Alain Guichard's class, preparing halibut in parchment. Alain had caught the fish himself in September, in Alaska.

Each month (usually the last Monday of a month) Alain teaches attendees to prepare a wonderful gourmet meal. Each student contributes \$10. Alain is reimbursed his expenses and the balance is given to our Rector's Discretionary Fund, enabling Shelley to assist some member or community person to participate in Christ's work in our community, physically or spiritually. Thanks to Alain's generosity, this month \$95 was given to Shelley's Discretionary Fund. Further, those who attend the class are encouraged to bring someone from outside ECA to share in our fun. The next class is scheduled for October 30 at 6:30 pm. Come join us!

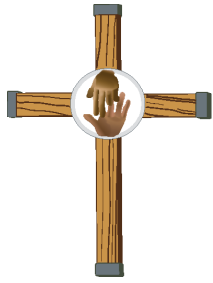


## New Chairs

On October 4, 120 new folding chairs arrived in 30 boxes on 6 pallets along with 2 rolling racks in 2 large boxes. Robin & Maryke Williams, Arnold & Susanne Moore, Nancy Romer & this writer set to work, uncrating, unboxing the chairs and rack parts, and assembling the chair racks. Then, they put all 120 chairs on the racks. This effort follows a supreme purging of the chair closet by Marianne Schmidt, Arnold & Susanne, Betty Consorte, and Susie Ferguson. Afterwards, all 32 cardboard boxes were flattened and schlepped to the recycle area for pick-up. Each rack has 20 to a level on 3 tiers, 10 to a side on each. This was an extreme effort of many hands making light work. Thank you all for your blood, sweat, and tears.

*George Romer*





## Worship Schedule

### November 2

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

### November 5 – *Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost*

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

### November 12 – *Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost*

10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### November 18 – *Let's ROC*

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### November 19 – *Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

### November 26 – *Last Sunday after Pentecost*

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

## Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ...

•to Judi Dimicelli, Holly McCullough, Pat McGarvin, Susanne Moore, Nancy & George Romer, Marianne Schmidt, Anne Tysanner, Joan Wagner, Maryke Williams, and of course, Shelley for volunteering to help with our October camp.

•to Barry Ford and Ruthanne Adams Martinez for their help with music at camp

•to Jerry Ferguson for special help in “clean up” after camp and returning all the library books from the San Jose Library

•to Holly McCullough for returning all our books for camp that came from the Diocesan Library at St. Thomas

•to Betty Consorte for repairing our children’s chapel altar cloth in time for camp

•to Sandra Mueller for finding cute costumes for our campers for our program at Let’s ROC

•to Wendy Martin, Pat McGarvin, Jim and Bonnie McPherson for sharing their journeys to gratitude in their stewardship stories

•to all who worked at the JV work day on October 21

•to Andrea Mackenzie for organizing the Pastoral Care committee.

•to Robin Williams and George Romer for assembling the two racks and to Robin, Maryke, George, and Nancy for unpacking the chairs and putting them on the racks

•to Betty Consorte, Susanne and Arnold Moore, Susie Ferguson and Marianne Schmidt for cleaning out the chair closet in preparation of the new chairs

•to Pat McGarvin for offering her rental house at below market value for three of the homeless guests who were in our warming center last January

•to Susie Ferguson for all of her vision, organization and leadership in the wonderful October Kids Camp

•to Holly McCullough and Susie Ferguson for organizing a great Let’s ROC in October with the blessing of the animals

•to Tom Ruffo for running the kitchen smoothly at Let’s ROC and making sure we all got fed

•to Judi Dimicelli for helping with set up for Let’s ROC, and to Kathy Mastre, Susie and Jerry Fergusson for their help with cleaning up afterwards

## Looking Ahead

Christmas Party •

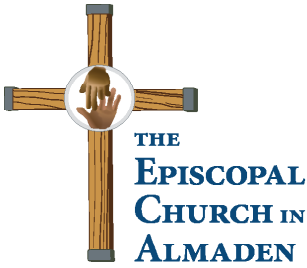
December 9

Christmas Pageant •

December 16

ECA Annual Meeting •

January 28



6581 Camden Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95120

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Moran	November	1
Todd Lukanc		10
Alex Dykes		12
Brad Bond		14
Cindy Ciccarello		18
Amy Griffith		21
Tom Ruffo		23
Joan Wagner		24
Helen Beacher		27
Joyce Wing		29

## *The* SHAPE

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