

February 2018

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

In our recent Annual Meeting, we reviewed the past year and looked ahead to what the Spirit is opening up in front of us. If you missed it, please ask in the office for a copy of the Annual Report to review. I heartily thank all of you for all you have done in your ministry areas this past year. You do make a difference! Please take time to read through the Annual Report— you may find something that calls to your heart – and you may learn of ministries happening that are new to you.

Two of these that come to my mind are the Centering Prayer group and the Pastoral Care Committee. Every Wednesday at 3:30pm, those interested gather in the sanctuary. After a brief explanation of what Centering Prayer is, we sit together in silent prayer for twenty minutes with the intention of inviting God's presence and action within us. This is meditation prayer, has a long tradition in Christian history, and is a rich experience for those who participate. I invite you to give it a try.

This year our intern, Andrea Mackenzie, organized a Pastoral Care Committee. It is a group of about a dozen people who want to make sure that our members who are sick, shut-in, or experiencing some difficulty are in contact with ECA and that we know how we might help them. This is a ministry of caring that is open to anyone – please speak to Andrea to participate or if you have a need.

At ECA, we have continued to move ahead in our outreach to our neighbors through our program of Kids' Camps, our monthly Let's ROC intergenerational worship (3rd Saturday of each month), our community or-

ganizing group – the Connection Team, Montgomery Meals, and of course our Village House Warming Center. I urge everyone in the parish to volunteer in one of these groups this year. You will find yourself doubly blessed in the time you are serving and getting to know our neighbors. Please see which program calls to your heart, maybe stretch yourself a little outside of your comfort zone, and experience this amazing gift from God to yourself and others.

This month, Lent begins (on Valentine's Day! Easter being April Fool's Day!) We again lean into this season of lengthening days (the meaning of "Lent"). As the days begin to lengthen, we are reminded that spring is near – though it does not appear so. This is how it often is with God's presence and action in our lives. We do not necessarily feel or see anything, but much is happening under the surface...just like bulbs and seeds that are busy preparing to sprout. That seems to be how the life of the spirit works.

I encourage you this Lent to participate in something you do not usually do. We will have our Wednesday evening class/discussion, and there will be a Saturday morning class/discussion led by The Rev. David Starr. There is the Wednesday Centering Prayer group, Thursday Morning Prayer, and Thursday morning Bible study. We will have a Lenten Quiet Day/Mini-Retreat, and the Stations of the Cross devotion using the beautiful posters our Warming Center ladies colored for us last year. (See the calendar.)

(continued on page 2)

Senior Warden

Who is the “Least”?

I was sharing how much I enjoy getting to know our guests in the Warming Center with other volunteers, and we thought of the scripture, “When did we see you, Jesus?” and Jesus said, “When you gave water to the least of these my sisters.” I wondered who in the Warming Center is the “least of these” in God’s eyes.

I thought of the guests who are so appreciative of having a safe place and volunteers who love them. The faith expressed by our some of our guests goes deep as they ask God for their daily needs. Many appreciate being in community as they know they need each other to survive.

Our guests seem to be more child-like in seeing God work daily in their lives than I do. I have the safety nets of family close by, health care, a monthly pension, two cars that work and a warm and comfortable home. I wonder if my dependence on all of what Mike and I have constructed over our lifetime makes it harder for me to depend on God’s spirit within me. Am I “the least of these” in need of what our guests are showing me? I know my spirit is filled with God’s love and forgiveness, as I listen to our guests tell their stories of struggles and triumphs.

God gave us a wonderful opportunity with the Warming Center to be with our guests, not as the ones who have all the water to share, but as people in need of what our guests have to give to us.

Marianne Schmidt

*From the Rector
(continued from Page One)*

This year, we at ECA aim to deepen into discernment of God’s direction for us in the future. We will engage the strategic plan that your Vestry so prayerfully created last year. We will exercise trust and patience, waiting on God’s time. We will watch for and name the work that God is doing among us, and we will join with that work to spread the hope and Good News of Jesus Christ to a world that needs it so badly.

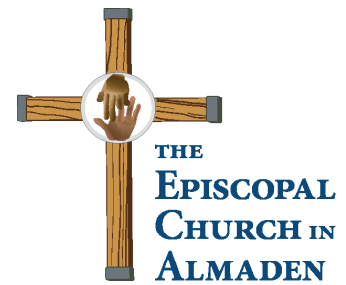
Blessings and gratitude,

Shelley+

Worship

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

Do you like to sing in the shower? Do you wish you could sing? Did you used to sing but stopped for some reason? Well, try out the Choir (Lynda Ford), the Casual Choir (Kimberly Axtell), or the Folk Choir (Andy Kerr.) All these groups are committed to including anyone who loves/wants to sing! Try it... you’ll like it!



Rector

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

Staff

Susie Ferguson
Children and Youth Ministries Director

Lynda Ford
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

February Camp

Our February camp will be happening at the end of this month and each day is looking very exciting for our campers. We are planning to Travel the Globe, one full circle. On Tuesday, February 20, we will fly to France. We will enjoy our time at a Culinary School learning to bake baguettes and make quiche. We will set up our own easels in Montmartre to paint as Matisse and Renoir. If we are lucky perhaps an artist will draw our own portraits.

We will continue around the globe on Wednesday, flying on to China. While celebrating the Chinese year of 4716 we will learn about the Chinese Zodiac and the 12 animals represented. This is the Year of the Dog. We will try our hand at Chinese cooking, making homemade jiaozi (Chinese dumplings). Red will be our color of the day with lanterns, dragons and more in art. We will round out our day with a bit of exercise, Tai Chi.

On Thursday we will continue our flight around the world, landing in El Salvador. No doubt we will land hungry so first on our day will be cooking pupusas and cortido. For art we will work in the style of Fernando Llort with bright, bold colors. We will enjoy our Travelogue of El Salvador prepared by David Starr and practice our Spanish.

On Friday we will board our flight for one more stop, The Netherlands, and complete our trip around the globe. Anna Spanjaart is planning a very special day for us with her great assistant, Maryke Williams. In the culinary line we will be making poffertjes and also have a tasting party of Dutch cheeses and herring. We will also make working windmills from Legos as we study how a country can survive with land below sea level. We will also have a chance to play Sjoelen and other Dutch games.

More than likely campers and volunteers will all go home a little jet lagged when our week comes to a close. Many thanks to all our volunteers scheduled to work.

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

Outreach and Worship

Let's ROC

At our "Let's ROC" Christmas Pageant, we all gave the Christ-child a gift, when we placed a star in the sky above the manger. A couple weeks later, celebrating the Epiphany on Sunday morning, we all received our own star, and our own star word. What was on your star?

I'm wondering if "Let's ROC" can help you live into what

was written on your star. We would absolutely love to have you attend the next "Let's ROC" on February 17th, 4:30-6:30. We will make sure there is plenty of time to talk with friends from church while we grow into who God is calling us to be.

Holly

Worship

Ash Wednesday Services

Make a good beginning of your Lent by attending the Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at either noon or 7pm on February 14. (Yes, it's Valentine's day!)

JV members:

Bill Lavallee and Don Hall

Vestry members:

Senior Warden
Marianne Schmidt

Don Hall

Joyce Wing

Inge Bond

Bonnie McPherson

Todd Lukanc

Wendy Martin

Kathy Mastre

Rachael Parahk

ECA Activities February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7am Warming Center Continues 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2 5:30pm Vestry Retreat	3 9am Vestry Retreat
4 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	5 9:30am Yoga	6	7 7am Last day of Warming Center 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	8 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10 1pm Margaret Halliwell Memorial (tea following)
11 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist with Folk Choir	12 9:30am Yoga	13 7:15pm Vestry Meeting	14 12pm Ash Wednesday Service 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 5pm Book Group 7pm Ash Wednesday Service	15 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16 2pm Montgomery Meals	17 9:30am Lenten Class 4:30pm Let's ROC
18 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	19 9:30am Yoga	20 8am Kids Camp 7:30pm JV Board Mtng.	21 8am Kids Camp 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 5pm Book Group 7pm Class/Discussion Group	22 8am Kids Camp 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 8am Kids Camp	24 9:30am Lenten Class
25 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist with Handbell Choir	26 9:30am Yoga	27 6:30pm Cooking Class	28 2pm Bridge Group 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group			

Worship

Monthly Healing Service and Eucharist

The monthly healing service and Eucharist has been moved from 7:30am on the first Thursday of the month to noon on the first Wednesday of the month. This will begin in March (3/7) because Shelley will be away at Clergy Conference on the first Wednesday of February. Please mark your calendars for this lovely, intimate, and moving service of prayer and anointing for healing.

Adult Education

A Spiritual Journey With the Mystics

Come join your fellow parishioners and myself this Lent as we explore our spirituality through the writings of the Christian mystics. Mystics are persons who sought to become closer to God through prayer, scripture reading, and meditation. We will explore the spirituality of John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, and Mother Teresa. We will meet each Saturday morning in Lent from 9:30 to 11AM beginning February 17, 2018. Optionally, you will have access to the class resources on the inter-

net and a chance to write and share your reflections on the secure online blog.

David Starr

Vestry Update

The most recent Vestry meeting was held on Tuesday, January 8.

Pledges & budget for 2018: Overall, returning pledgers increased their pledges wonderfully in response to the 2017 Fall pledge drive. However, several pledging units did not renew their pledges, so 2018 pledges are \$215,538, as compared to \$227,410 in 2017. (It should be noted that of last year's pledges, \$220,204 was actually received.) Total income for 2017 was \$234,388 and expenses are expected to be about \$246,013.

The Vestry reviewed the planned budget for 2018, which will reflect about \$11,000 more in planned expenses than income. ECA has significant financial resources, however we do have a sustainability issue. So how to sustain our church will be a major theme for 2018. Shelley commented that we need to develop a new definition of what a church is.

Vestry retreat: The retreat will be held February 2 and 3. The regular Vestry meeting will also be held in February.

Warming Center: Bonnie reported that the warming center is going well, although they can use more volunteers. We have several medically fragile ladies this time, a couple of whom have been in the hospital.

The next scheduled Vestry meeting is Tuesday, February 13, at 7:15 P.M. All are invited to attend.

Elizabeth Guichard

Book Group

The JV Book Group will meet on Wednesday, February 21st (3rd Wednesday of the month), at 5:30 PM, at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. February's book is *Everything I Never Told You*, by Celeste Ng. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith (408 268-0920 or email amy-g@pacbell.net).



Mike Schmidt and Greg Kintz, from St. Philips Episcopal Church in Scotts Valley, are seen loading JV's old chairs onto a rental truck. The members of St. Philips are very grateful to receive the matching chairs for use in their facility..

“Taste and See”

We often sing, “Taste and See,” after communion at “Let’s ROC.” We sing it often enough that my almost four year old, Max, readily joins in. When I hear his little voice try to join in with all the other voices, I have so much hope for the church. I have hope when he sings of what he knows. He has tasted the bread and the wine. He has seen grown-ups care about him, care about each other, and work together to care about the world. He has seen the gospel presented in a way that makes him think, and he has seen older children and adults wrestle with the stories. He has seen people doing their best to follow Jesus.

Reading news about the national decline in church attendance, it is hard to be hopeful about the church. “Let’s ROC” gives me hope. When Isabella Foreman leads the congregation in the prayers of the people, I have hope for our prayerful presence in this valley. When Tom Ruffo uses his gift of hospitality to be sure we are fed each month, I have faith that we will continue to encounter God at the table. When Judi Dimicelli moves tables, using her time to get the fellowship hall ready for us on a Saturday night, I know we will continue to see God moving among us. When I look across the room and see

Lucia Parakh offer the gifts of the bread the wine to her neighbor I have hope that Jesus will continue to be made present among us.

There are ways in which “Let’s ROC” is a new way of being church. There is certainly less formality. Accommodations need to be made when we expect children and adults to worship and grow in the same space. Much is familiar. We reverently celebrate communion. We find Jesus in the gospel, and explore how we will respond in our lives today. We practice being family.

“Let’s ROC” needs you to extend the hospitality of family to our friends and neighbors. Mark your calendars. “Let’s ROC” is always the third Saturday of the month, 4:30 to 6:30. When you arrive, you can help with a project or just take some time to visit. You’ll hear scripture in a refreshing way participate in a communion feast and enjoy dinner with friends. Come be family with us.

Holly McCullough



Holly illustrating the Bible story with some of the children during a recent Let’s ROC.

Pledge and Budget Updates

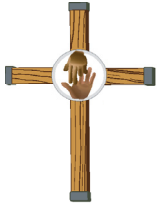
In 2017, we had 67 pledges totaling \$227,598. We actually received \$223,256 - \$4,342 less than pledged.

For 2018, we have received 63 pledges totaling \$216,038. 25 of these pledges were increased from last year. We lost 9 pledges this year, but we gained 5 new pledges. The response to the pledge campaign was overwhelmingly wonderful. We’ve never had 25 pledges increase in a year.

In terms of the recently completed year of 2017, we anticipated total receipts of \$252,272. Actual total receipts were \$247,345. The difference can be explained, in large part, by the fact that our pledge receipts were less than was actually pledged. Our anticipated total expenses for 2017 were \$238,876. Actual total expenses were \$244,059.

For the current year of 2018, we anticipate total receipts of \$228,288. Our anticipated total expenses are \$237,593. That means we are entering 2018 with a deficit budget of about \$9300. As was shared at the recent Annual Meeting, this is not the first time ECA has begun the year with a deficit budget. The Finance Committee and Vestry have carefully and prayerfully prepared this year’s budget, and we are trusting God for the difference.

The figures used in this article are available, in more detailed form, in the Annual Report for 2017, which should be available in the church office.



Worship Schedule

February 4 – *Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

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

February 11 – *Last Sunday after the Epiphany*

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

February 14 – *Ash Wednesday*

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

February 17 – *Let's ROC*

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist

February 18 – *First Sunday in Lent*

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

February 25 – *Second Sunday in Lent*

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

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ...

- to Bonnie McPherson for her leadership, and to the many volunteers who have welcomed our Warming Center guests, prepared meals, and picked up multiple shifts--the ladies have felt so welcome!
- to our Montgomery Meals volunteers, cooks, drivers, servers and coordinators
- to the JV heroes who have been keeping everything working, meeting with a myriad of repair people to do so!
- to Tom Ruffo for making amazing chicken noodle soup
- to the Parakh family for "Let's ROC" help

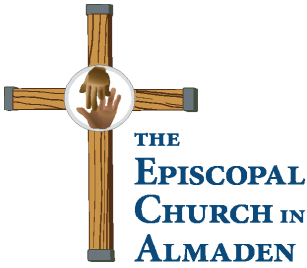
Outreach

With Love from the Warming Center

The warming center has been open about 10 days as I write this, and I just want to share how our church is making a difference in these women's lives. We have women who are in chronic pain and are using walkers, we have some who are on dialysis, we have several who have been hospitalized just in the short time that our center has been open, and are gently recover-

ing in our space. The women look forward to coming to our center, because they feel the love that we have for them, and love our space so much that they asked to have a slumber party...which I had to say no to, but I was touched that they feel so comfortable here. They sleep better in our space, stating that the "air just feels better here". One shared that she "doesn't feel homeless when she is here", and that she feels hopeful. There are too few opportunities in this life where you can truly feel that you are making a lasting difference, and I have to tell you that when I am downstairs breaking bread with these ladies, sharing their stories and just being present with them, I feel that this is one of those "difference" moments that I long for! I feel that we are doing nothing extraordinary when we are visiting, doing puzzles, eating, and sharing these simple moments, but somehow the Holy Spirit becomes involved and these simple moments become extraordinary to these ladies who have not felt loved and doted on for so long. Jesus is a daily presence in the center, and you can feel the peace and love that emanates from him to our guests, and also to those who honor him by serving and being his hands and heart. Thank you for your support of this life giving opportunity, and if you haven't had a chance to be blessed by serving in the center, come on down, there is still time!

Bonnie McPherson



6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Connie Rimroth	February	1
Pete Mayo		6
Ellen Lukanc		7
John McPherson		7
Ryan McPherson		7
Ann Avoux		12
Sam Sarmecanic		13
Andy Kerr		15
Monique Rousseau		16
Mary McPherson		18
Mel Stonehocker		24
Valerie Tysanner		24
Nicholas Martin		25
Kimberly Axtell		27

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