

April 2018

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! This shout of joy brings hope for our world. It proclaims the truth that anchors our lives: death and evil do not have the last word, God loves and has forgiven all people, and our lives are transformed in the risen Christ, empowering us to build the just and peaceful Reign of God. Proclaiming the power of this Paschal mystery – the power of resurrection – is the core of our lives as Christians.

In order to empower this proclamation, our community of ECA emphasizes the opportunity to have an authentic experience of God...to know God, not just know about God. These opportunities come through personal and communal prayer, sharing our faith stories with one another, cultivating an awareness of God's presence and action in our lives, and learning to see the face of Christ in others. Your Vestry has taken on the spiritual exercise of having prayer partners, and also practicing telling one another aloud what our faith means to us. These practices bring us much joy.

To extend these opportunities to the congregation, we also offer classes and discussion groups designed to help parishioners deepen their relationships with one and other and with God. During Lent we had "Who Is Jesus to You?" and "A Journey with the Mystics." During Eastertide, The Rev. John Buenz will lead a book study/discussion on "The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence of God." Each Thursday morning from 10-11:30am we delve into scripture and its meaning for us today. I urge you to take advantage of these opportunities to cultivate your relationship with God and live into your calling as a Follower of Jesus.

The Church now enters into the Great Fifty Days of Easter, which will end on the Feast of Pentecost (May 20.) This is a time of joy and celebration in gratitude for the great gift of forgiveness and new life that we have in the risen Christ. Even as our planet continues to be plagued with random violence, famine, war, global migration, environmental degradation, and the ravages of poverty, we Christians have much to offer our suffering world. The Resurrection of Jesus offers nothing less than complete reconciliation. God's mission for the Church is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."* And this mission is carried out through her members...us.

So, as we come to worship and participate in the life of our faith family, we do so not only for solace and pardon, but also for strength and renewal to pass along the Good News of God in Jesus Christ.

Easter Blessings,

Shelley+

**Book of Common Prayer, p. 855.*

Diocesan Trip to El Salvador

Rev. Shelley and her husband, The Rev. David Starr, will be traveling with a group of nine clergy and lay people from our diocese to El Salvador in April. The group will attend Cristosal's Global School for 8 days, leaving on April 22 and returning on April 29.

Cristosal has evolved tremendously since its inception in the early 2000s, from a small ministry of the Anglican Episcopal Church in El Salvador to a human rights organization on the cutting edge of innovative programming spanning three countries. Throughout this transition, they have been committed to a faithful vision to accompany and learn with the Salvadoran people.

Our diocesan group will study Cristosal's history and work as examples of ways to use human rights principles in a variety of contexts, and we will bring those tools back to the Diocese of El Camino Real. We will meet and study with a group of Salvadoran people interested in learning these tools as well – with full interpretation for both groups throughout.

Please pray for our group as we prepare to embark on this exciting learning experience. We will report back upon our return.

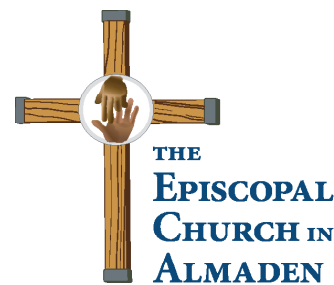
Adult Education

The Rev. John Buenz to Teach Wednesday Night Class During Eastertide

ECA's founding priest, The Rev. John Buenz, will lead a book study/discussion group on the book *The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence of God* by Ronald Rolheiser. This book is available on Amazon, both new and used copies. (Please always remember to use Smile Amazon, with ECA designated as your charity.) John is an energetic, dynamic, and forward-thinking teacher, and this class promises to be both deeply engaging and formative. Classes will run **each Wednesday from 4/18 through 5/23, 7-8:30pm** in the Learning Center.

Book Group

The JV Book Group will meet on Wednesday, March 18th (3rd Wednesday of the month), at 5:30 PM, at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. April's book is *My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You I'm Sorry*, by Fredrik Bachman. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith (408 268-0920 or email amy-g@pacbell.net).



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

Looking Ahead

This month we are beginning all our preparations for our next camp in June. This month we open our registration, recruit counselors (at least six high school students), recruit training counselors (a maximum of two middle school students), and outline our curriculum to determine how many volunteers are needed to run this June's camp program. I am very excited about working with Rachael Parakh, who will take the lead on developing the curriculum with Shelley and me. Exciting things are in store and you can look forward to us sharing these with you in next month's Shape.

I encourage you to check out the Children and Youth Ministry Bulletin Board in the hallway. Take a look at our most recent Kids' Camp pictures and what the neighborhood families have to say about us. I have posted some of the evaluations and kudos that were sent our way when camp ended. All of our volunteers should feel a sense of pride as all these wonderful kudos would not be ours without the dedication and support of our volunteers. We named them all last month, but they are still highlighted on our bulletin board. Ask any of them about their experiences with camp and find out first hand what they think about this outreach into our neighborhood.



Sandra Mueller and Dennis Moran assisting young people in preparing soda bread at the recent St. Patrick's Day Let's ROC event.

This month I want to recognize and thank Betty Consorte who has been helping to give our nursery and preschool rooms a fresh look for Easter and spring. These rooms have been used extensively in this past school year, first with the Korean church, our pageant extravaganza and Let's ROC monthly, so much was in need of a good scrubbing. Thank you, Betty, for tackling this job for us and making it more inviting for our Easter Sunday guests.

Would you like a small job, but an important job? Our Worship Boxes for children in church need to be refreshed 6 times during the year, usually at each major season of the year. All materials and books, etc. are on hand. If this is a way you would like to share your time and talent, let me know and I will help get you started. This truly is a small task but a very important one for families and children that visit our church.

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

JV members:

*Bill Lavallee, Joe Machado
and Don Hall*

Vestry members:

Senior Warden
Marianne Schmidt

Junior Warden
Don Hall

Communication
*Joyce Wing
Inge Bond*

Stewardship
Bonnie McPherson

Finance
Todd Lukanc

Outreach and Connection Team
Kathy Mastre

Pastoral Care and Senior Ministry
Marianne Schmidt

Family and Youth Ministries
Rachael Parakh

Adult Ministry
Wendy Martin

Hospitality and Fellowship
*Wendy Martin
Kathy Mastre
Bonnie McPherson*

ECA Activities April 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| 1 <u>Easter Sunday</u> 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist with music | 2 9:30am Yoga | 3 | 4 12pm Healing Service and Holy Eucharist 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Rehearsal | 5 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study | 6 | 7 |
| 8 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist and Folk Choir | 9 9:30am Yoga | 10 7:15pm Vestry Meeting | 11 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 with Folk Choir | 16 9:30am Yoga | 17 7:30pm JV Board Meeting | 18 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 5pm Book Group 7pm Class/Discussion Group | 19 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 6pm Stewardship Committee Mtng. 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 20 2pm Montgomery Meals | 21 9am-3:30pm Deanery Mtng: Conflict Management 4:30pm Let's ROC |
| 22 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist | 23 9:30am Yoga 6:30pm Cooking Class | 24 | 25 2pm Bridge Group 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group | 26 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 27 | 28 |
| 29 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist | 30 9:30am Yoga | | | | | |

ECA's Strategic Plan for 2018-22

Values

We value and strive to be:

Spiritually Grounded -- We follow Jesus. We are continuously seeking and discerning how to express God's compassion for humankind and to seek to be part of God's plan for justice and mercy for the world.

Willing to Risk -- We challenge ourselves to trust that the Holy Spirit is leading us to do more than we may have believed possible.

Inclusive - We know that all people are children of God. We know that everyone has a full and equal claim to the love, acceptance and pastoral care of God and the Church.

Serving - We live out God's love for the world by actively addressing both the practical and spiritual needs of our congregation, community and the larger world.

Valuing Fellowship - We find fulfillment through involvement in both spiritual and social gatherings with other members of our church and the larger community.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: We will Cultivate our Relationship with God

1. Provide worship opportunities that both challenge us intellectually and help us make an authentic connection and experience with God
2. Provide opportunities and encouragement for our parishioners to deepen their spiritual relationships with God through a variety of teachings and personal and communal spiritual practices
3. Provide on-line opportunities, resources and tools for our parishioners to grow in knowledge about our faith, the Episcopal teachings, and to connect with those who learn through social media

Goal 2: We will Cultivate our Relationships with Each Other

1. Provide social activities focused on deepening relationships within our congregation
2. Provide a variety of opportunities for spiritual exploration in small and large groups
3. Ensure that the physical, social and spiritual needs of our vulnerable parishioners are taken care of with love and compassion

Goal 3: Cultivate Relationship with our Neighbors and Community

1. Help parishioners increase their courage and capacity to have challenging and honest conversations
2. Reach out to serve and deepen relationships with our neighbors, including CCAV, to discover shared common ground so that we may work together to achieve common goals
3. Continue to serve the marginalized and provide opportunities for neighbors to serve with us
4. Discern and pursue opportunities for emerging ministries and for sustainability
5. Use social media as a means to connect with our community and create a virtual community

Vestry Update

The Vestry held its regularly scheduled March meeting on March 13; Don Hall was re-elected as Junior Warden and Elizabeth Guichard as Clerk. In addition, Vestry members took on their ministry coordination roles (which can be seen in the box on page 3, column 3).

The Vestry then discussed feedback from the annual meeting and the Values roundtable discussions. Overall, the new values statements were well received by the congregation. Some specifically mentioned that the “risk taking” value was a new one for us, but that it seems appropriate. Other comments included that we should include nature, as well as moving the church outside our walls; that we’re on the right path but may need to do some things differently as we grow smaller and older; that there is some confusion as to where the front door of the building is; that we provide lots of opportunities to participate as desired; that we need to stay alert to new opportunities; that we don’t play together as much as we used to and need to add more age-appropriate play times. The congregation also appreciated Shelley’s open discussion of “the elephant in the room”.

Bonnie provided a report from January’s Day Center. From the point of view of customer

satisfaction, it was a resounding success. The ladies felt welcomed and loved. There were some support issues, with a few individuals putting in much time at the day centers well as some health challenges. In the past, the LDS church has provided casual support. Discussions are now beginning about formalizing a joint partnership with them. The Vestry approved this direction.

Elizabeth Guichard

Diocesan Training

Training for Conflict Management and Mediation in the Church is coming to our deanery in April! This introduction to conflict management is based upon a facilitative model used in courts and community mediation settings. The objective is to recognize conflict when it occurs, to hone listening skills, and to discover the interests that lie behind the positions people take in conflict situations. We teach people how to create a safe environment so that the true intentions and interests can emerge so that true problem-solving can occur.

A discussion will follow examining the uniqueness of disputes in the church or parish setting, and then explore fact scenarios and role plays. The goal is that church leaders will gain new tools to use in order to convene and facilitate difficult discussions before they escalate.

These are skills that are useful in our society’s atmosphere of polarization and conflict. **Rev. Shelley will be attending and encourages others to attend.** She will be happy to have others carpool with her. Please let her know if you are interested.

April 21: Santa Clara Valley Deanery, The Center at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 13601 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga; **9:30am-3:30pm**. Gather at 9am for check in and refreshments. **Lunch, snacks and materials will be provided.** Please RSVP to Bill Shreve, wrshreve@gmail.com so there will be enough seating and lunch for everyone, and we can have enough materials in hand for distribution.

The trainers: Bill Shelby is an educator at CSUMB and is a professional mediator. Jackie Pierce is an attorney and a professional mediator, who runs the Mandell Gisnet Center at the Monterey College of Law.

If you cannot attend a training in your deanery, you are welcome to join the training in another deanery! RSVP to the convener of that deanery:

April 7: Monterey Deanery, St. John’s Chapel, 1490 Mark Thomas Drive, Monterey; convener is The Rev. Bob Ott, bobstjohnschapel@redshift.com.

April 28: San Luis Obispo Deanery, St. Stephen’s, 1344 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo; convener is David Ottesen, ottesen2@icloud.com.

Bishop Mary Grave-Reeves Announces Transition

On Thursday, March 15, Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves announced her decision to begin the process of electing the next bishop of the Diocese of El Camino Real. The announcement followed a long period of prayer and discernment for the timing of the departure, as well as conversations last year with the diocesan Board of Trustees to begin budgeting for the process.

While a date for an electing convention is not yet set, the ordination and consecration of the next bishop will be held January 11, 2020. At that time, Gray-Reeves will be in her 13th year as bishop. Until that date she has stated that she will continue in the role with her usual “passion and commitment.”

The canons of The Episcopal Church and the diocese will govern the process of the transition and election of the new diocesan bishop. The process will be overseen by the diocesan Standing Committee, assisted by the Office of Pastoral Development and a search consultant.

A new “Bishop’s Search” web page will soon be added to the diocesan website, RealEpiscopal.org. If you do not receive “Along the King’s Highway” the electronic diocesan newsletter each Wednesday, sign

up here at the bottom of the page for continuing information on the transition process and other news. Or you can speak to Rev. Shelley, who serves on the Standing Committee.

Worship and Outreach

Let’s ROC

Shamrocks, soda bread and stories made for a great start for our evening of fellowship and worship at Let’s ROC on Saint Patrick’s Day. What brought the evening to life, was the ways members of the community welcomed our guests to the family. We heard the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. In the story, Jesus asks the disciples to serve each other. It was so heartwarming to watch the ECA community do one of the things it does best; serve and make strangers family. Your lifelong friendships are a testimony to your Christ-like love for each other. The children enjoyed making soda bread with the members of the parish, and as a parent, it is such a breath of fresh air to see other people care for my children.

We’ve been using this prayer at our Let’s ROC gatherings:

Leader: The church is this gathering where the broken come together,

People: The Church is this gathering where we are all

welcome, no matter what we have done, or what we have failed to do;

Leader: The church is this gathering where the lost, the least, the forgotten, the ignored sit in the seats of honor;

People: The church is this gathering where there is always room for us at the table;

Leader: The church is this gathering where we are fed.

People: We are the church here to play, to rest, to pray and sing.

Leader: So let us play.

People: So let us rest.

Leader: So let us pray.

People: So let us sing.

Leader and People: So let us worship God.

Adapted from Waffle Church Call to Worship

Thank you for being a part of this adventure of finding new ways for people to find their way to and be the church. Please continue to pray for this ministry that we can be ready to welcome our neighbors and friends.

Please consider joining us Saturday April 21st 4:30 to 6:30. We will rest, play, pray and sing. We will celebrate Earth Day by recalling the story of creation, and remembering our place in creation. We will enjoy a meal with friends, and have a chance to welcome our neighbors. If you’re able to attend, please consider volunteering to set up, help with getting the food ready, or cleaning up the kitchen.

Holly McCullough

Connection Team

The Connection Team met on March 11 at Congregation Beth Am in Palo Alto as a part of the South Bay/Peninsula Planning meeting for the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF). We went to support the larger organization and to learn more about where the organization stands today. It was a well attended meeting with people from several different local institutions who were also there to support the group and learn about the future plans. ECA was well represented, as well as St. Mark's and the diocese itself. I am happy to invite everyone to come join us on April 15 for the Sponsoring Committee Launch meeting happening at St. Cyprian Catholic Church Gymnasium, 195 Leota Ave., Sunnyvale at 1:30. This will be an important milestone for our organization and an excellent opportunity for everyone to find out more about the larger organization. If you have been wondering what IAF is and wanting to know more about what we are all trying to do, this meeting will be a perfect place for you to come and see it in action!

In addition, we hope to host a Living Room Conversation about our community's responses to homelessness. We will be inviting other local churches to join us in our conversation and it will be a good

opportunity to have a discussion on this important topic with a wider audience. More details will follow. Please consider attending one or both of these exciting actions!

Andrea Mackenzie

Fellowship

Tea Party Fund-raiser

This year's Tea Party Fundraiser will be held on May 3, Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. This Tea helps raise funds for the Almaden Valley Counseling Service that is committed to meeting mental health concerns and promotes personal growth, positive family relationships and emotional well-being. In addition, the funds will be used on Joint Venture projects. This is also a fun fellowship activity sponsored by both ECA and CCAVUCC that will have Ruthanne Adams Martinez entertaining us with her beautiful harp music.

The Tea planning committee is looking for donations of baskets, items for auction in the baskets, Opportunity Drawing items and glassware, any item made of glass. If you have any of these items to donate or have any questions please contact Joan Wagner or Betty Consorte at ECA. Please help us make this a fun and fruitful event!

Look in the Mid-week bulletin for our meeting times if you can come. If you are interested in helping and cannot attend our meetings please let me know via email at jhwing@outlook.com or by cell phone at (408) 315-3640. Many have already volunteered but many hands make light work so the more the merrier!

Joyce Wing

Fellowship and Outreach

Knitwits Ministry Update

Calling all Knitters:

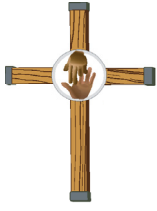
The Knitwits have been on hiatus this year as our membership has dwindled and interest in Saturday morning meetings once/month has waned.

At the present time, only two members of the Knitwits are knitting for The Chase the Chill event.

We plan to meet on the third weekend in November to attach labels to the completed hats and scarves. The Chase the Chill event will be held the first Saturday in December (weather permitting) when we will place the knitted hats and scarves for the homeless in Saint James Park.

Please contact Joan Wagner at joanwagner4434@comcast.net if you are interested in knitting for the homeless this year.

Joan Wagner



Worship Schedule

April 1 – *Easter Day*

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

April 4

12 p.m. Healing Service and
Holy Eucharist

April 8 – *Second Sunday of Easter*

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

April 15 – *Third Sunday of Easter*

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

April 21 – *Let's ROC*

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist

April 22 – *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

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

April 29 – *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

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

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ...

•to Sandra and Ed Mueller, as they make the move to southern California, for their many years of friendship and faithful service. May the 'joy of learning and sharing' that their exhibit be a part of the ministry we carry forward in their absence.

•to George Romer for updating our financial records and procedures

•to Taylor Wing for adding Let's ROC information to the ECA web page. It has already been a useful way to tell visitors what to expect

•to Bonnie McPherson and Ann Mayers for their help in the kitchen/cleaning up at the March Let's ROC

•to all those in ECA and CCAV who worked at JV's Spruce and Shine Work Day on March 24, in preparation for Easter

•to all those who decorated the sanctuary for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

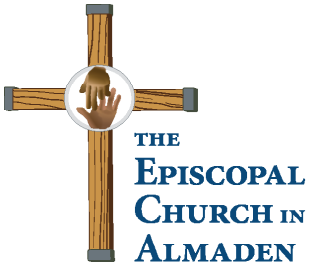
•to The Rev. David Starr for the great job in facilitating the class on The Journey of the Mystics, both on-line and in-person

Ordination of Andrea Mackenzie

Andrea Mackenzie will be ordained as a Vocational Deacon on Saturday, June 2, 2pm, at Trinity Cathedral, San Jose. You are cordially invited to this wonderful ceremony in support of Andrea.

Looking Ahead ...

Tea Party • *May 3*
Let's ROC • *May 19*
Andrea Mackenzie's
Ordination • *June 2*
Kids' Camp (VBS) •
June 11-15



6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|----|
| Dennis Moran | April | 3 |
| Ryan Hall | | 4 |
| Sandra Mueller | | 9 |
| Juliette Rousseau | | 9 |
| Jim McPherson | | 10 |
| Gayle Byers | | 13 |
| Tyler McPherson | | 25 |
| Caitlin McPherson | | 26 |

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