

July 2018

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

A number of years ago, when the parish I led was participating in Episcopal Relief and Development's "Nets for Life" campaign, we set an ambitious goal to raise money during Lent for mosquito nets and training for their use in Africa. The Sunday school kids were eager to help, and every Sunday they made a presentation to the congregation. Once they even "flash mobbed" the Eucharist, buzzing around in homemade mosquito masks!

During Holy Week, I was very disappointed to see that we were \$600 short of our goal...a lot of money for a small, mountain parish to come up with in a few days! I complained about this to my senior warden - a faithful, vivacious "prayer warrior" in her 70s. Her response was, "Oh, Shelley! All we have to do is pray!" And with a big grin, she grabbed my hands and prayed aloud for the \$600...adding a thank you at the end. My disappointment was not much allayed by her enthusiastic prayer.

The next day, I received a check in the mail for \$400 toward Nets for Life. Two days later, another \$200 came in for the same purpose. One check was from someone who was not even a parishioner! We had met our ambitious goal to help stop the spread of malaria in Africa. Needless to say, I was flabbergasted! My senior warden was not. Instead of, "I told you so," she gave me a big grin.

To top it off, when I announced this on Easter Day, one of our youth with special needs stood up right then, waving an envelope, shouting, "Shelley, I have \$12 of my own money here for a net." We had exceeded our

goal by that one net. I was nearly speechless with gratitude and joy.

God is in the process of dumping bucketsful of blessings on us all the time. It's not always as dramatic or specific as my net story...but it is consistent and abundant. The ways that inspiration, passion, and resources continue to flow to us here at ECA, and from us out to others would be remarkable if God was not doing it all the time for everybody!

When we reached out to our LDS brothers and sisters for help with the Village House Day Center, we were overwhelmed by their support, desire to help, volunteers, and even a \$1,000 donation. As the Connection Team is going around to local churches and synagogues to ask for partners in hosting a Living Room Conversation on homelessness in the fall - and for volunteers with Village House - we have received so much interest and many offers of help. As we participate in our local, interfaith clergy association and in the IAF effort to bring together a broad-based group for community organizing, we are amazed by the number of friends and partners we are making. We talk, explore common interests and passions to help others, and see how we might cooperate in that work. That is Gospel work. We continue to be overwhelmed at the success and growth of our Kids' Camps. We now have 103 families in the neighborhood and surrounding area who participate...lives we are touching with the love of Jesus.

(continued on Page 2)

Vestry Update

The June Vestry meeting was held on June 12.

Ken Rousseau, a Director of Santa Maria Urban Ministries, appeared to tell ECA about Santa Maria's upcoming 35th anniversary celebration, to be held on August 25. (See article from Joyce Wing in this edition.) He invited us to buy at least one table of eight for the event to support the organization. The Vestry agreed to publicize the celebration and to donate a case of wine to the silent auction.

Marianne then led a discussion of chapters 3 and 4 of *Becoming a Blessed Church* by N. Graham Standish, which the Vestry is reading. Shelley announced that the Stewardship Committee is once again organizing a summer series of events to be held between the two Sunday services throughout the summer. Four of the events will be discussions of various sections of this book. A parishioner has graciously donated ten copies of the book to us for this purpose.

Todd and Shelley led a discussion of socially responsible investing. The Finance Committee is considering various investments for our savings and asked the Vestry to provide direction on where ECA should be on the continuum between socially and environmentally responsible invest-

ing, with potentially lower returns, and investing solely for the purpose of obtaining the highest returns possible. The group fell in the middle.

The next Vestry meeting will be held on July 10 at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

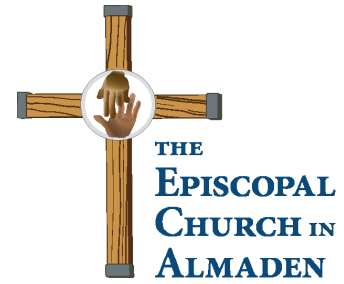
Elizabeth Guichard

From the Rector (continued from Page 1)

The Holy Spirit's movement runs deep among us and is consistent and abundant. Sometimes it can elude our notice. Sometimes we just focus on how church looks different than it did years ago... on how attendance and giving are sagging. But the Spirit encourages us to open our eyes in new ways – to see the blessings of love, passion, and partnership that are being bestowed. To see how life is kindled in new ways and growth is defined in new terms. I encourage you to open your eyes and hearts to the bucketsful of blessings that our good God is pouring on us!

Blessings,

Shelley+



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

The Rev. Andrea Mackenzie
Deacon

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

A Great VBS Week!

Nature's Gift: Joy and Peace, our VBS week for June was a big hit. I hope Rachael Parakh, who prepared the curriculum for this camp feels good about all she did and how well received it was by our campers and their families. Everyone was on a dead run all week to keep ahead of the campers each day. And true to camp form every volunteer went home exhausted and ready for a nap at the day's end. Everyone learned a lot: campers about Jesus' teachings and nature and the volunteers about managing our campers and their activity levels.

Whenever possible we like to round out our camp week with a family event. This time we completed our circle with a Let's ROC and our church picnic. Those who were able to attend from our parish had a special treat with an art show. Holly did a wonderful job with a creative presentation of some of our campers' art. On display was the art of 15 of our campers who were able to attend our Saturday event. We had examples of boats the children had made out of natural materials, dragonflies, photography examples and bird mobiles expressing the fruits of the spirit. We were excited to have these 15 campers and their families join us for our art show, service and picnic.

It was great to welcome them in our community. Besides our campers four of our counselors joined our Saturday festivities.

A special thank you also goes to Anna Spanjaart who loaned us her "Dutch" version of table shuffleboard. The campers who stayed in the afternoons with us and many who attended our picnic enjoyed trying their luck with this game. As Anna says, "age is not an advantage in this game." And our campers proved that over and over again.

On our Children and Youth Ministry bulletin board you can enjoy some highlights of our camp week in pictures. Do take time to go by that board and see all that kept us busy and smiling all week. Pictures can say so much more than words.

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

Book Group

The JV Book Group will meet on Wednesday, July 18th (3rd Wednesday of the month), at 5:30 PM, at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. July's book is *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, by Mark Haddon. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith (408 268-0920 or email amy-g@pacbell.net). August's book will be *The Hamilton Affair*, by Elizabeth Cobbes.

Healing Service and Eucharist

The July Healing Service and Eucharist is being transferred to noon on July 11, to avoid the 4th of July holiday. This lovely and intimate service of worship and healing is usually held at noon on the first Wednesday of each month. Plan to try it in July, as there will be no healing service in August, due to Shelley and David's vacation.

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 July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10am Combined ECA/CAAV Worship Service 11:30am Independence Day Picnic	2 9:30am Yoga	3	4 <u>INDEPENDENCE DAY</u>	5 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	6	7
8 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15am Summer Sunday Series 10:45am Holy Eucharist and Special Music	9 9:30am Yoga	10 7:15pm Vestry Meeting	11 12pm Healing Service and Holy Eucharist 3:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Class/Discussion Group on Prayer	12 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 6:30pm Stewardship Committee Mtng.	13	14
15 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15am Summer Sunday Series 10:45am Holy Eucharist	16 9:30am Yoga	17 7:30pm JV Board Meeting	18 3:30pm Centering Prayer 5:30pm Book Group 7pm Class/Discussion Group on Prayer	19 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	20 2pm Montgomery Meals	21
22 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15am Summer Sunday Series 10:45am Holy Eucharist	23 9:30am Yoga	24	25 3:30pm Centering Prayer	26 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	27	28
29 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15am Summer Sunday Series 10:45am Holy Eucharist	30 9:30am Yoga	31				

Senior Warden

Walk on the Prairie

The concept, “Stay on the trail,” has been drummed into me since I was a child going on hikes with my family. My years of visiting state and national parks with Mike and our children reinforced the mandate to Stay on the Trail!! While recently visiting our friend, Patty, in Cody, Wyoming, she offered to take us on a hike on the prairie. We drove out of town, turned onto a gravel road, and travelled a few miles, when Patty finally stopped the car on the side of the road. She got and said this was where we would hike. I looked for the beginnings of a trail, and Patty just laughed, saying, “Just walk out on the prairie.” I struggled at first, not having a path to follow, as it violated all my training. I let myself go forward, looking for unusual rocks and arrowheads, noticing dramatic cloud formations, and imagining long ago Native American communities that might have passed through the same area. I began to appreciate the richness of the land, and I found the whole experience exhilarating.

ECA is looking at how to BE the church for today, and we can't follow the same wonderful path we have for the last fifty years. In the past, our congregation not only gathered on Sunday morning for worship and fellowship, but we had Sunday school, Tuesday school, frequent dinners,

group camping, youth programs, and ski trips as we became family and community for each other. We thought it would continue going on like that. But many of our children and grandchildren have moved away, the culture of how families spend their Sunday mornings changed, and the make-up of our neighborhood changed.

The love we feel for each other has not changed and is the most important resource we have as we step onto the prairie without a path. Our vestry and congregation are learning to discern God's leading, step by step, in doing church differently. In recent years, we have stepped out in faith to offer our community things like kids camps, Saturday church, and day shelter for medically fragile homeless women. These ministries haven't resulted in a more crowded church on Sunday mornings, but each effort has born fruit, and we have sensed God's blessing.

We have an abundance of resources, including our people, our inclusive nature, our building, our two lots, etc. How can we expand on using these resources for meeting the needs of people in our neighborhood? There are so many needs, which ones do we focus on? Each and every one of us must listen to the Holy Spirit impress on our hearts what we can do. Discernment is a communal activity that includes us all, as we need everyone's impressions from the Holy Spirit. The “prairie” of Almaden does not have a path to follow but is rich with possibili-

ties, and we will continue to find ways to use our resources and land for God's people.

Marianne Schmidt

Fellowship and Worship

Combined Service and Picnic With CCAV-UCC, July 1 at 10am

On Sunday, July 1st our 10:45am service will join with our sisters and brothers in CCAV. That combined service will be UCC-style with communion, and will occur at 10am. We will also have our usual service of Holy Eucharist at 7:30am that morning – but no 10:45am service. Following the 10am service, we will have a combined potluck summer picnic – 4th of July style. There will be a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall - please bring something to share. Don't miss this fun worship and fellowship event! (Our next combined service will be September 9th – ECA-style.)

Looking Forward

Let's ROC-Blessing of the Backpacks • August 18
John Leslie Play •
September 8 and 9

Remembering What We Do Well

There has been a lot of conversation about mission and purpose, much of it led by the vestry, and me in particular, as I feel that God is speaking to us and trying to help us find the purpose and mission that our church family is being called to provide. We have re-defined our strategic plan, we are reading the book *Becoming a Blessed Church*, we are praying and soul searching, trying to interpret God's plan for our community. This is all good, and it has been a wonderful spiritual journey, and we look forward to others taking this spiritual quest with us this summer as we do a book study on the book at four sessions of our summer series program.

But ... I have recently been struck by the horrible feeling that in my rush to move forward and see the promised land, I'm missing the miracles that are going on all around me. I'm not taking the time to smell the flowers. I am a "get things done" type of person, so I dove in head first and have been a big pusher to find this mission and get on with it already!

I was recently hit in the gut by the death of one of our own, Colleen, and the long-term illnesses of several of our other precious family members...

and I had to look inside and ask myself, "How am I caring for the people right in front of me?" We have fewer people in the pews, and they haven't all moved. What am I doing to reach out and see why? I know I am busy, but am I really too busy to call/visit/comfort these loved ones? My husband, who is an extremely smart man, recently reminded me that most of those "important meetings, tasks, phone calls" can be rescheduled and somehow the world continues to turn, yet our time with those we love is something we can't get back.

One of the things mentioned in the book *Becoming a Blessed Church* is the idea that our church was created for a purpose, but over the years the purpose can be forgotten or we get bogged down with the "business of being a church", and we move away from the thing that made our church special. I wasn't here back at the inception of the church, so I may be off base, but I have to think that one of the purposes of our church was to support and love each other as many of those early founders did not have a lot of family or friends in the area, after moving from all over the country to work in the valley. Those early founders had families, and brought in other families, and they loved and supported each other through it all, as evidenced by the 50th anniversary festivities. Are we truly there for each other now?

I joined ECA because we are a loving and nurturing community, and I think we are at our best when we just grab ahold and love on people, like we did in the warming center. Our love for each other defines us. Let's not forget what we do well, as we listen to God speaking to our community about what changes he has in store for us. I still feel that God is reaching out to us to redefine our mission and evolve, but I strongly feel that the nurturing/loving community that was a founding principle of our church is not going to change, and we need to fiercely support each other, as the apostles supported and loved on one another.

So, what does this mean for me? I am going to try to be more present at coffee hour, rather than running from meeting to meeting. I am going to pick up a phone more regularly. I am going to schedule time in my week to start visiting members who are unable to come to church and love on them at their homes. I am going to try to write a note to those who I sense need a bit of loving and support. I am going to try to be more present with the ones closest to me, as I try to reach out to those in the community.

Things are a changing, but the nurturing community of Jesus followers that we are should never change!

Bonnie McPherson

Sunday Summer Series

We have a great line-up of classes for our Summer Sunday Series.

Sunday, July 1 • No Summer Sunday Series

Sunday, July 8, 9:15am • *Becoming a Blessed Church* by Graham Standish; Book Discussion facilitated by Bonnie McPherson and Marianne Schmidt

The Vestry, in reading this book, is learning to discern together how God is leading ECA into partnerships for building new ministries. A parishioner provided ten copies of the book for us to read and discuss. If you would like a copy, please email me at marianneschmidt8025@gmail.com. I am excited for members of our congregation to read this book together.

Discussion will be on Chapters 1 and 2, pages 1-52.

Sunday, July 15, 9:15am • *Preparing for the End of Life, Part 2*; facilitated by Shelley Denney

Shelley will lead a discussion on Advance Directives and Durable Power of Attorney for Health-care; these are two documents we should all have

Sunday, July 22, 9:15am • *Becoming a Blessed Church*, Book Discussion facilitated by Bonnie McPherson and Marianne Schmidt

Our discussion will be on **Chapters 3 and 4, pages 53-107.** "To begin the process of becoming a blessed church, we must communally ask a basic question that lies at the heart of the life, ministry and mission of a church: 'God, what is your call for us?'" The vestry and congregation are discerning together how we can use our resources to serve God's people in our community in a new way. You may come even if you missed the first discussion.

Sunday, July 29, 9:15am • *The Five Love Languages*, Book Discussion facilitated by Leslie Rousseau

The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate is a 1995 book by Gary Chapman. It outlines five ways to express and experience love that Chapman calls "love languages." You'll take a 5 Love Languages assessment to discover your primary love language. Then we'll talk about what it means and how you can use it to connect to others.

Sunday, August 5, 9:15am • *Becoming a Blessed Church* Book Discussion facilitated by Bonnie McPherson and Marianne Schmidt

Our discussion will be on **Chapters 5 and 6, pages 109-165.** You may come even if you missed previous discussions.

Sunday, August 12, 9:15am • *Life in the Church of England* - The Rev. Jeffry Smith

Our visiting priest, The Rev. Jeffry Smith (the Smith family are long-time friends of Shel-

ley and family), will talk about the Church of England and his parish (our sister parish), St. Mary's, Coldstream, Scotland. He will answer any questions people have, and his wife, Barbara Smith, will be able to address the English Church from a woman's perspective. Jeffry and Barbara, California natives, have lived and ministered in England (and Bermuda) for over 30 years. Please give them a hearty ECA welcome!

Sunday, August 19, 9:15am • *Becoming a Blessed Church* Book Discussion facilitated by Bonnie McPherson and Marianne Schmidt

Our discussion will be on **Chapters 7 and 8.** You may come even if you missed the previous discussions.

Sunday, August 26, 9:15am • *Preparing for the End of Life, Part 3*; facilitated by Shelley Denney.

Shelley will lead an in-depth discussion on the medical aspects of End of Life planning.

Sunday, September 2, 9:15am • *Preparing for the End of Life, Part 4*; facilitated by Shelley Denney

Shelley will lead an in-depth discussion on the personal and spiritual aspects of End of Life planning.

Art Show and Picnic

It was such a pleasure to welcome 70 participants to our Parish Picnic and Let's ROC Post-Camp Art Show June 16th. Parents of campers were so pleased to see their children's work artfully displayed in our Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall was full of people enjoying each other's company. Tables were full of delicious contributions to our picnic. Campers' families and parishioners alike had a great time.

During worship, I shared the Parable of the Mustard seed. We talked about planting seeds, and not knowing which seeds will grow into trees full of birds. Our job as participants in bringing about God's Kingdom is to be on the lookout for seeds that are taking root, and to plant more seeds like that one. I hope you'll join me in looking for more opportunities like this one to welcome our neighbors into our ECA community. Our next Let's ROC will be The Blessing of the Backpacks, August 18th, will include a blessing calendars, phones and backpacks as we look for ways to honor God in our everyday lives.

Thank you to the many people who brought dishes to share, invited family or friends to be with us, or welcomed our

neighbors to our picnic in June. It is a pleasure to do ministry with you all.

*Holly McCullough,
Building Bridges Coordinator*

Shelley on Vacation: July 23 - August 17

Shelley is doing a "pulpit swap" with her old friend, The Rev. Jeffry Smith. Shelley and David will be at the Smith's home and church, and the Smiths will be in the rectory and here at ECA. Shelley's and the Smith's daughters grew up as best friends (despite the Smith family's moving to England permanently after Jeffry's ordination in 1986.)

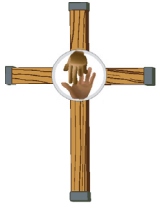
Jeffry and Barbara will be at ECA on August 12 and 19. Shelley and Jeff will celebrate together on Aug 5 at St. Mary's, Coldstream, Scotland (with whom ECA has a relationship through Dorothy Temple.) We will celebrate together at ECA on Aug 19. The fact that two old friends wound up as rectors of churches with a relationship was just too good to pass up! I know ECA will love the Smiths and give them a huge, warm welcome. Pastoral emergencies should be reported to your senior warden, Marianne Schmidt, in Shelley's absence.

Gifts of Gratitude

(continued from page 9)

Thank you ...

- to Kimberly and Todd Axtell who always make great camp banners
- to Rachael Parakh who put in many, many hours creating a wonderful curriculum around God's creations in nature that our campers loved
- to all the anonymous donors who left needed miscellaneous supplies for camp at the office door
- to Holly McCullough and the wonderful job she did organizing our Let's ROC for June
- to the Fellowship Team of Wendy Martin, Kathy Mastre and Bonnie McPherson for their efforts with our church picnic
- to the many people who made it possible for us to warmly welcome so many to our Picnic and Post-Camp Art Show-Let's ROC
- to Tom Ruffo, Steve Wing and Jim McPherson for performing BBQ duties at Let's ROC
- to Letty Duenas, Marianne Schmidt, Bonnie McPherson, Kathy Mastre, Jerry Ferguson, Susie Ferguson, Judi Dimicelli, Wendy Martin, Steve Wing and Joyce Wing for their help with set up and clean up, and to Don Hall for providing icy beverages for the Let's ROC-Church Picnic



Worship Schedule

July 1 – *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. ECA/CCAV Combined
Worship Service

July 8 – *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

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

July 11

12 p.m. Healing Service and
Holy Eucharist

July 15 – *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

July 22 – *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

July 29 – *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

•to Tom Gerber for facilitating the creation of a butterfly garden for Kids Camp, and to Earl Griffith for rototilling the back garden area

•to Ruth Adams Martinez for copying the nature books for camp

•to Betty and Dom Consorte for sanding and painting one of the camp picnic tables, making it a serviceable and inviting place to sit

•to Judi Dimicelli for doing whatever needs to be done to facilitate Let's ROC family worship

•to Bonnie McPherson for her energy, enthusiasm and hard work making our work with the ladies so successful at the July Day Center

•to Betty Consorte for her dedication to the choir and beautiful soprano voice

•to Shelley Denney, Marianne Schmidt, and Taylor and Joyce Wing for their continuing work on the content portion of the web site development project

•to the planning team for meeting to discuss what worked well at the May Tea, to make next year's tea even more successful

•to Marion Grunge, Joyce Wing, Lettie Duenas, and Judi Dimicelli who are working to coordinate volunteers, meals and snacks for

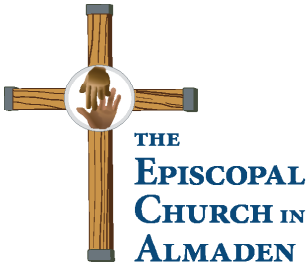
the July Day Center

•to all who provided fruit and helped at the reception for Andrea's ordination: Anne Tysanner, Rachael Parakh, Kathy Mastre, Holly McCullough, Francie Kerr, Joyce and Steve Wing, Evelyn Wing Krsynowski, Bonnie McPherson, Marianne Schmidt, Maryke Williams, Elizabeth Guichard, Mary Moran, and Amy Griffith. And a special thank you to Leslie Rousseau for organizing ECA's part of the reception

•to to the following volunteers who made Kids' Camp in June a success: Betty and Dom Consorte, Judi Dimicelli, Letty Duenas, Amy and Earl Griffith, Elizabeth Guichard, Don Hall, Jan Henderson, Ruthanne Adams-Martinez, Holly McCullough, Pat McGarvin and her grandson, Josh, Bonnie McPherson, Susanne Moore, Rachael, Lucia, and Phirose Parakh and their gardener, Leslie Rousseau, Marianne Schmidt, Anna Spanjaart, Mel Stonehocker, Susan Tam, Anne Tysanner, Joan Wagner, Maryke Williams, and Joyce and Steve Wing and of course, Shelley. So many of our volunteers go above and beyond to help gathering needed special materials for their lessons and being creative with their lessons to meet the needs and abilities of our campers once they know them

•to Phyllis Chin for helping with our music at camp

(continued on page 8)



6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120

July Birthdays

Melinda Jennings	July	02
Jessica Fahlen		04
Robin Williams		07
Guido Spanjaart		11
Dominic Consorte		12
Suzanne Mayo		12
Todd Axtell		15
Annie Estrade		18
Matt Gunderson		20
Kathryn Hussain		22
Ed Mueller		23
Arnold Moore		25
Ken Rousseau		29
Taylor Wing		30

The SHAPE

Volume 47, Number 7
July 2018

Deadline for the August 2018 issue:
Sunday, July 15, 2018

Published 10-12 times a year by the
Episcopal Church in Almaden
San Jose, CA

Also available online at:
www.eca-sj.org



Church 408.268.0245