

August 2018

# The SHAPE

*From the Rector*

## Dear Friends

As I leave for vacation on my “pulpit swap” in Northern England/Scotland, much good ministry continues by the passion and dedication of our wonderful ECA parishioners, our partners from surrounding churches and neighborhood, and the Holy Spirit. This is a busy place!

Our third Village House Day Center in one and a half years is in full swing. Fewer ladies use the Day Center in this warm month than did in January, but those who do are happy for the respite from the heat and for the company and homeyness of our space. We have so many friends volunteering – old and new – not only from other churches but from Nextdoor Almaden postings as well. And we’ve added in afternoon transportation back to Cathedral of Faith – our nighttime center partner this month. Thank you all for your participation and support of this wonderful ministry.

Montgomery Meals and our Pastoral Care Team continue their quiet, but essential, work. Thanks to the dedication of so many, our shut-in members receive phone calls, visits, meals, and Holy Communion, and our decades-long commitment to feeding our friends who live outside continues. If you have interest in participating in any of these, speak to Shelley.

Plans for our on-going outreach to neighborhood families in Let’s ROC continue, as do plans for the October Kids’ Camp – a Peacemaking Camp. This fits with the theme of St. Francis and the Blessing of the Animals. Although our beloved Director of Children’s and Youth Ministries, Susie Ferguson, is retiring from her paid staff position on August 19 (please be in church that day), the programs she founded and built continue. And she has new ideas in mind!

Your Connection Team, our community organizing group, has been busy making presentations to local churches and synagogues, gathering partners to help us offer a Living Room Conversation on homelessness in the fall. This is a natural outgrowth of our participation in Village House and may lead to new ideas for engagement in work toward alleviating homelessness.

Your Vestry continues to be quietly faithful to its work of leadership and management. ECA’s stated commitment for some time now is summed up in the tagline, “The Church has left the building!” We are engaged in numerous ministries that reach out into the community. And in this time (for all mainline churches) of sagging Sunday attendance and giving, and the good-byes ECA says to our families moving away each year, clearly a new direction is needed. “Business as usual” will not see us through. ECA’s leadership hears God calling us to an expanded ministry into which we can invite new partners with resources to sustain not only that ministry, but our common life together. Your Vestry is tackling this discernment challenge and we will be opening this to the whole congregation – inviting everyone to the table. Everyone’s creativity, spirituality, and ability to listen for God’s call is necessary. Watch for more in coming months.

While I am at St. Mary’s, Coldstream, Scotland (our sister parish of sorts through Dorothy Temple), their rector (and my old friend) The Rev. Jeffrey Smith and his wife Barbara will be here with you. I know you will enjoy them as I do, and give them a hearty, ECA welcome!

Blessings,

*Shelley+*

Connection Team

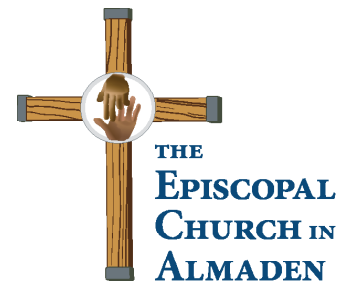
## Living Room Conversations

Your Connection team has been hard at work going to other local congregations and inviting them to come join us for a Living Room Conversation about the large topic of homelessness. Many of us at ECA have been volunteering with Village House, both here at ECA and at other locations now for over a year. Many people have learned a great deal more about how complicated and far reaching this subject is and would like to know what more we can do. Various things have been done to help the ladies, but some of us would like to talk about what else can be done about the bigger issue at another level.

For those of you who do not know what Living Room Conversations are, I suggest you go to their website at: <https://www.livingroomconversations.org>. It is basically a structured conversation, with preselected questions and some ground rules to allow people to feel comfortable to be honest and genuine and safe. The conversation is ideally to happen among people with different points of view on a given subject. We can learn a great deal from people who hold different opinions than ourselves if we are able to keep an open mind and to listen.

This is why we are inviting members of other congregations to come join us in our discussion. We already have a list of people who are interested in not only participating, but in helping organize and plan this event. There is a lot of good energy moving around this action and anyone on the Connection team would be happy to tell you more about it. If you are interested in joining the conversation, or just want to know more, please feel free to contact Shelley or Andrea.

*Andrea Mackenzie*



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### Rector

The Reverend Shelley Denney  
email: [shelley@eca-sj.org](mailto:shelley@eca-sj.org)  
408-268-0245

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### 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*

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### 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*

## Building Bridges into the Community

Let's ROC, Reaching Out in Community, is getting ready to start a new program year! We are planning many exciting events for the Fall and into the Winter. We are trying new ways to serve our neighbors and looking forward to returning to some favorites. These ministries are possible because of your willingness to be a part of them. Please keep our neighbors in your prayers and consider how else you might support these ministries.

We are trying a new way of serving families. Before our September Let's ROC, we'll be offering a workshop. There will be a chance for children to make something to share at Let's ROC, and give families some child free time to rest, or go to the grocery store with fewer distractions. Would you like to be a part of shaping this brand new ministry? If you've loved or wanted to be a part of our camps but couldn't, this would be a great opportunity to serve our neighbors. Let Holly know if you would like to help with our workshop the afternoon of September 15th and please keep this new initiative in your prayers.

August 18th we will kick off our Let's ROC program year with a Blessing of the Back-

packs. We'll remind ourselves and our neighbors that God is with us each day when we are at work, school or going about our days. We'll talk about being blessed to be a blessing. Of course there will be time set aside for fellowship. We are looking for help hosting table-making folks feel at home, setting up-moving tables and such, kitchen help-cooking and filling up water pitchers, and cleaning up. Again, please let Holly know if you can be a part of this event.

The last few years, camps at ECA have been a blessing to our neighbors and to all of us here at ECA. We are continuing to invest in camps with a two day camp during Fall Break. October 4th and 5th, children will enjoy hands on science, crafts, and experiencing the love of God. Your help with this camp would be greatly appreciated. Please let Holly know if you're able to help during the camp, before, or after.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve here,

Holly

Holly McCullough,  
holly@eca-sj.org  
Building Bridges Coordinator

## Book Group

The JV Book Group will meet on Wednesday, August 15th (3rd Wednesday of the month), at 5:30 PM, at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. August's book is *The Hamilton Affair*, by Elizabeth Cobbes. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith (408 268-0920 or email amy-g@pacbell.net). September's book will be *Flight Behavior*, by Barbara Kingsolver.

### 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 Parahk

Adult Ministry  
Wendy Martin

Hospitality and Fellowship  
Wendy Martin  
Kathy Mastre  
Bonnie McPherson

# ECA Activities August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30pm Centering Prayer	2 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	3	4
5 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15am Summer Sunday Series 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12pm Summer BBQ	6 9:30am Yoga	7	8 3:30pm Centering Prayer	9 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	10	11
12 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15am Summer Sunday Series 10:45am Holy Eucharist	13 9:30am Yoga	14	15 3:30pm Centering Prayer 5:30pm Book Group	16 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	17 2pm Montgomery Meals	18 4:30pm Let's ROC Blessing of the Backpacks
19 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15am Summer Sunday Series 10:45am Holy Eucharist (Susie's Retirement)	20 9:30am Yoga	21 7:30pm JV Board Meeting	22 3:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Class/Discussion Group	23 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	24 2pm Stewardship Committee Mtng.	25 5pm Santa Maria Urban Ministry 35th Anniversary Celebration
26 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:15am Summer Sunday Series 10:45am Holy Eucharist (Andrea's last Sunday)	27 9:30am Yoga	28	29 3:30pm Centering Prayer 7pm Class/Discussion Group	30 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 2pm Memorial Service for Colleen DeVoss	31	

## Thanks for Seven Years of Support and Opportunity

This will be my last article in the Shape as your Children and Youth Ministries Director. I have had an amazing 7 years in this role with your unbelievable support and encouragement throughout my term in this ministry. I leave with so many wonderful stories and memories. I also leave this ministry in the very capable hands of Holly McCullough who has a long list of gifts and talents that will serve you and our children and youth well as we move forward.

When you hired me in October 2011 it was for a very traditional role of organizing and managing a Sunday School program and a commitment for one VBS week each summer. I had no idea when I signed that contract in 2011 how my ministry would evolve and change in the 7 years that followed. From a strong commitment of 8 parishioners to be Sunday School teachers, we now have had commitments of as many as 60 volunteers to support our children and youth programming throughout the year. Instead of 50 hours a year to teach children about Jesus and how much each of them is loved, we now offer 110 hours a year. And some years even more hours than that! From one family event a year, usually the Christmas pageant, we now offer a minimum of 4 and 10 if we con-

sider all our Saturday Let's ROC. From reaching 7 children through Sunday School we now reach upwards of 40 each year. Just this year, 2018, since January, we have touched the lives of 44 children and their families.

Church, as many of us have known it, is changing. What I am most proud of in the last 7 years is that you have allowed me to change our children and youth program as needed to be more relevant and exciting and attracting families to our campus. We have provided 17 camps since our first in my tenure, in June of 2012. Imagine the kindergarteners who participated in our 2013 camp, Splash Zone, next year could be training counselors for us, as they would be in middle school.

We tested a Saturday service idea with Linda Taylor in the spring of 2015. But it wasn't until 2016 we got things going with our CPR (Community, Prayer, Refreshment). We continued working on the development of our Saturday service with a Diocesan grant in 2017, which allowed us to hire Holly, and Let's ROC was born. Through her leadership we have continued this offering once a month this year and continue developing ways to reach out and meet the needs of families in our community.

I am excited about the future of our camps and Saturday services. We have made contacts in the community who would like to help us and partner with us, as we continue these programs. With

Holly's leadership and these contacts and an openness to the Holy Spirit's lead I predict even greater things are in store for our Children and Youth Ministry at ECA. I am confident you will give Holly the same support and encouragement you have always given me. You have always been and will continue to be a key component to the success of our programming.

And though I will no longer be on staff, as a member of the ECA community it is my hope to continue to be a part of this wonderful ministry moving forward as a volunteer and mentor when needed.

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

## Looking Forward

*John Leslie Play* • September 8 and 9

*Let's Create Workshop/Let's ROC* • September 15

*Mini Kids Camp* • October 4 and 5

*Blessing of the Animals/Let's ROC* • October 6



## What's the Big Deal About Pledging Anyway?

I joined the stewardship committee this year without any arm twisting or violent persuasion, as I felt drawn to grow as a steward and Jesus follower. I embraced the idea of year around stewardship, using your time and talent, and recognizing those who are so lovingly and generously sharing their talents....but the pledge drive...?

I mean we have been pledging for quite some time, and we are generous in supporting the church in other ways, but the money always seemed the easiest way to be a steward, and one I put little thought in.... but as I have read the book *Becoming a Blessed Church* and been thinking more and more about embracing all aspects of the trinity--not ignoring the aspects that I don't understand or I am uncomfortable with--I started to wonder if the reason I am so focused on time and talent is that I am uncomfortable with the treasure part. Maybe the reason I was drawn to this stewardship committee is to work on my discomfort about money.

But why pledging? If I'm generous and put money into the plate, does it matter if the church knows how much I'm

putting into the plate, it's between God and myself-right? Well yes and no. What you give is between you and God, and we are not here to judge you or shame you into giving more, we are here to encourage you to give from the heart and to grow in your relationship with God. But why pledging? It's about the ability of the church to budget and to make decisions that are fiscally responsible. How would you feel about running your household budget if instead of getting a set amount per hour or a set salary that you could count on to figure out where you could afford to live or how much you could afford to spend on groceries, you had to wait and see how much your boss decided to give you at the end of the day...it could lead to some budget anxiety. The church has some set costs that need to be met monthly, like utilities, payroll and building upkeep....which all seems like a less than sexy way to spend your money, but it is hard to cook for Montgomery Meals, have a Day Center, or be in community with each other without those pesky monthly bills being paid.

Your treasure gifts are between you and God, but if you are not pledging we ask you to prayerfully consider putting it in the form of a pledge--a promise to God to support this community that we all love so much. Thank you so much!

*Bonnie McPherson*

## Sunday Summer Series

The Summer Sunday Series has gotten off to a great start, and there is still over a month to go. If you haven't participated so far, we invite you to consider attending.

**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 Shelley 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**

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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.

## **Santa Maria Urban Ministry's 35th Birthday Party**

**O**n Saturday, August 25, 2018 Santa Maria Urban Ministry will be celebrating their 35th Anniversary at St Jude's Episcopal Church in Cupertino. This will be a fun, festive, unique event, gathering so many Episcopalians and other supporters of Santa Maria, all with the common goal of helping low income families and individuals in San Jose.

ECA has supported SMUM from the start and it would be fitting for us to attend to continue our support. SMUM is

the largest mission of the Diocese of El Camino Real and is the only ministry serving the downtown San Jose community. Through basic services including food, clothing and educational support, this event will help raise needed funds to help us continue our mission to improve lives.

Ken Rousseau, who is a member of SMUM's board, presented this invitation to the vestry, plus he gave us an update on how SMUM is doing. They could use more financial help. It would be wonderful if we could go as a large group to show our support, this is what they are asking:

1. Buy/gather a table of EIGHT (\$400 a table or \$55 per person before August 1; \$500 a table or \$65 per person after August 1)

2. Donate an item or two to their silent auction (suggested value of \$50-100 or more).

**Auction item description will be due July 22; physical items will be due August 15.**

Suggested items:

a. Themed baskets (sports/wine/home-made treats/movie nights, restaurant gift cards)

b. Sports tickets (Giants, Warriors, Sharks)

3. Donate wine to be served at the event (white wine is needed, to be delivered between August 1-15)

4. Help with the promotion of the event; invite friends

This is a wonderful opportunity to assist those needing help, and we can do it together in Fellowship. Let's have fun with this, and let's see how many tables we can fill and how many items we can create and donate! For questions or more information, contact Kathy Cordova, Executive Director, [k.cordova@santamariasj.org](mailto:k.cordova@santamariasj.org) or (408)292-3314. Or you can go straight to the event website at:

<https://santamariafiesta.eventbrite.com>.

Thank you for any help you can provide! Let's have fun!

*Joyce Wing,  
Communications  
Vestry Liaison*

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## Good Endings

To the congregation of ECA, my last Sunday at ECA will be Aug 26. I will begin serving at St. Andrew's in Saratoga in September. I wanted to say goodbye and share some of my memories of my time with you here.

When I first came to ECA back in Jan of 2017, I was nervous and excited to meet all of you. I didn't know what to expect from all of you, or what you would expect from me. I am deeply grateful to tell you all, that my welcome here at ECA has been warm, loving and very supportive. You all have blessed me with so many important intangibles of this work. I found a real home at ECA where I was nurtured and cared for, for myself. I quickly began to feel like a member of this loving community of faith.

Through many conversations, meetings and liturgies, you have helped mold me into who I am as a deacon today. You shared your passions about the Village House, the history of ECA, BBQs, common worship and your local community of Almaden. I can't possibly mention everyone or all of their connections or ways they impact the wider world, but trust me when I say you all are making a very positive impact in the community.

I have been the member of several other parishes over my career in the church and I can say with all honesty that this community of ECA is a shining beacon of how we, as Episcopalians, can really do church well. ECA, in concrete ways is a living example of the gospel message of love. To everyone who crosses through those doors, your arms are held out wide and welcoming. You have been a huge blessing to me in my life, all of you.

I hope that you have experienced some of the light and love I feel in my heart for all of you and for our Lord Jesus. Our faith is supposed to be a living breathing reality in the world, keep up this important work! Remember, *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid."* (Matt 5:14)

Persevere in prayer and keep our Lord close because He is with us always, even to the end of the age! I will take all of you with me in my heart! Thank you!! *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not over come it."* (John 1:5)

*Andrea Mackenzie*



*Andrea Mackenzie, shown here receiving a gift from the congregation, will begin serving as a deacon at St. Andrew's in Saratoga in September. August 26th will be her last Sunday with us at ECA.*

## Gifts of Gratitude

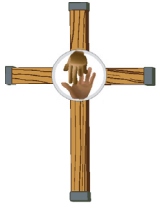
*(continued from page 9)*

Thank you ...

- to Letty Duenas - for all her contributions to the Day Center. :Letty, your insights, enthusiasm and joyous energy are invaluable. Love having you on our team!!!

- to Ann Avoux, for all her work organizing the prayer vine. It's great having a dedicated go to person for requests, updates & notes of gratitude.





## Worship Schedule

**August 5** – *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

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

**August 12** – *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

**August 18**

4:30 p.m. Let's ROC

**August 19** – *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

**August 26** – *Fourteenth 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 Susie Ferguson, our retiring Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator, for her many years of service to the formation of young disciples of Jesus, Our Lord. Susie's creativity, love of children, organization, dedication, hard work, exquisite planning and timing, willingness to always go the extra mile, marketing skills, extraordinary ability to encourage voluntarism in our parish family and beyond, artistic and musical skills, resourcefulness, devotion, hospitality, good common sense, amazing sense of humor, and unbridled joy are beyond compare. She has extended the reach of Christ's love into our neighborhood in real and tangible ways for years. Susie is a gift and a treasure, and our thanks and prayers accompany her in moving into new spaces in our parish family.

•to Marianne Schmidt, our Senior Warden, for her enthusiasm, deep spirituality, and steady guidance for our Vestry and our parish. Special thanks for her work in organizing the Summer Sunday Series, and co-leading the book discussion, and for all she has done to help our Day Center flourish.

•to Mike Schmidt, for his solid and consistently excellent work as editor of our monthly newsletter, *The Shape*. Mike is patient (beyond all expectations) in receiving late entries, and does a professional job of editing in a

complex computer program. The Shape is an emissary of who we are as a parish family to people who don't know us, and a welcome friend to the parish, and our extended friends, who want to know what's happening among us.

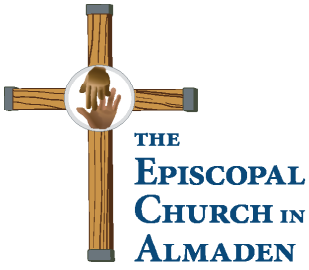
•to Rachael Parakh for leading the June VBS - Kids' Camp - and for the lovely butterfly garden she created! Much appreciation for her vision, creativity, and love of nature and willingness to share that with our neighborhood children.

•to all who helped make a special and wonderful celebration at ECA of Woody Woodworth's life. Special thanks to Ellen Lukanc, Todd Lukanc, Bonnie McPherson, Jim McPherson, and all who helped with set up, food prep, and clean up from the reception. The Woodworth family was deeply grateful.

•to to Susie Ferguson, Holly McCullough, Rachael Parakh, Pat McGarvin, Carla Gerber and Joan Wagner for hand watering our newly restored butterfly garden in the month of July. Their dedication is helping the flowers' root structure grow strong.

•to Joyce Wing for leading the offertory counters. Her organization and training is making the transition smooth for new members.

*(continued on page 8)*



6581 Camden Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95120

## August Birthdays

Ashley Martin	August	13
Roger Hoyt		16
David Byers		17
Gwen Hacker		17
David Hoyt		19
Beth Copeland		31

## *The* SHAPE

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