

October 2018

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

A couple of weeks ago, we had the wonderful gospel in which Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say I am?” This question created a defining moment in their lives individually and corporately. Ultimately, their response to this question changed their understanding of what God was calling them to do in following Jesus. He told them, in order to follow him, they must let go of their own desires and expectations for their ministry and allow God and the good news of the Gospel to lead them. This was a turning point in their lives and ministry. And their response changed the world.

ECA is at a defining moment as well. We realize that our congregation is aging, several of our families move away from the Bay Area each year, and we do not have numbers of new people and young families attending Sunday services. Our Sunday attendance does not reflect the diversity of age and ethnicity of our neighborhood. It is tempting to think that ECA is dying and to give up hope.

But just as something was dying in the disciples’ ministry and relationship with Jesus, so something new and more wonderful was mysteriously being born. We believe in a God of resurrection – a God of new life. At this turning point for us as a congregation, Jesus says in order to follow him we must let go of our own desires and expectations for our corporate ministry and allow God and the Gospel to lead us. That is the business to which your Vestry is attending.

We have begun discussion and discernment around where God is leading our congregation to reach out into the neighborhood in service more fully and deeply

than ever before. We believe this will lead to a new focus of vital ministry for the congregation and new partnerships with others outside. We believe this is the new life into which God is leading ECA.

This will be a broad and deep conversation, with everyone invited to the table – and it will take some time. It will result in renewed life and ongoing ministry and will reflect God’s desires for us and our neighbors. And it is a somewhat messy and ambiguous project. It will require faithfulness, tolerance, willingness to search deeply, and an abiding sense of hope and trust in God’s care and guidance.

October is ECA’s month of the annual pledge campaign. On Oct 28 – InGathering Sunday – we will ask everyone to fill out an estimate of giving card for 2019. This will be a tangible sign of the hope each of us bears in God’s intention for us as a congregation. As we go through this month’s activities – including an ECA Jesus Followers’ Pep Rally on Oct 14 (save the late afternoon) – I ask that we all prayerfully consider our commitment to the work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our neighborhood. This is a somewhat insecure, but very exciting time. The Holy Spirit is moving powerfully among us and we can change the world!

Blessings,

Shelley+

Sunday Forum

Coming:

"Becoming Beloved Community"

The Rev. Lucretia Mann is an ordained Episcopal priest who is worshipping with us at ECA as she makes plans to move to the East Coast in a few months. Lucretia worked as a Clinical Psychologist for many years prior to becoming a priest. We are pleased to have her as part of ECA's family.

I was delighted to be invited recently to share with the Connection Team my long-standing passion for supporting and facilitating formation, particularly group formation. In conversation with the team, I presented my interest in helping to launch a 'Becoming Beloved Community' Group on Sunday mornings between services.

BBC is an initiative of the Episcopal Church's Long-Term Commitment to Racism, Healing, Reconciliation and Justice. In the spirit of learning to live more deeply into Jesus' commandments to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength AND to love our neighbors as ourselves—all our neighbors—everyone.

The Beloved Community is the life on earth we pray for whenever we're say these words: 'Thy kingdom come, thy will

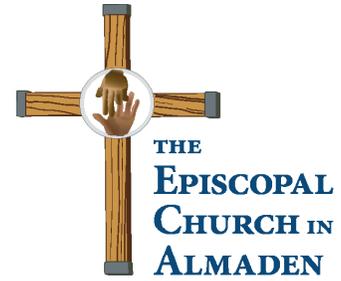
be done, ON EARTH as it is in heaven.'

In bringing BBC to ECA, we will be forming a weekly group, convening November 4 through December 16. Our four tasks will include: Telling the Truth, Repairing the Breach, Proclaiming the Dream, and Practicing the Way of Love.

Questions we will pray and discern together include: What have we done and left undone regarding racial justice and healing? How will we participate in repair and healing of broken people, relationships and institutions? What might Beloved Community look like when we publicly acknowledge things done and left undone? How will we grow as reconcilers and justice-beaters? How will we grow relationships across divisions and seek Christ in each other?

If the sound of this experience intrigues, sparks an interest, raises some questions for you, "Come and see!" on November 4th! If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Rev Lucretia Mann at lwm9795@gmail.com.

*Blessings,
Lucretia+*



Rector

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

Staff

Lynda Ford
Music Director

Ruthanne Adams Martinez
*Administrative Assistant
Treasurer*

Holly McCullough
Building Bridges Coordinator

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

LDS Street Fair

The Church of the Latter-Day Saints invited our church to their street fair that they have every year- to promote our service projects, as they have been so touched by their time at Village House and wanted to let the rest of the “wards” know more about what we are doing.

This relationship between our church and the Almaden “ward” of the Church of the Latter-day Saints has been growing over the last 5 years as we did the shared blood drives, they helped with the pumpkin patch, some of their ladies have helped with Montgomery Meals, and then the Day Center. Just as the Day Center has touched and transformed our church community, those who have served from the LDS church have been similarly touched and transformed by their experience, and wanted to promote it.

The street fair is a big deal, as it is 6 “wards” coming together for a fun and educational evening of music, food, games, treats, and learning more about service opportunities. This event draws approx. 1000 people, and is a great opportunity to showcase our service projects.

There were four of us who attended and manned the table, where we promoted Village House and our individual day center, Montgomery Meals, the upcoming Living Room conversation, and

Knit Wits. We had strong interest in all of our service projects, even getting names and email addresses from many who want to be contacted by the individual program manager on how to get started!

The enthusiasm and kindness from everyone involved was touching and made the night a truly memorable event! Thank you to Marianne, Letty, and Kathy for giving of their time to this wonderful outreach opportunity! I felt the Holy Spirit moving thru us as we shared and worked towards a common goal of helping others! Hallelujah!

Bonnie McPherson

Blood Drive

OUR NEXT INTERFAITH BLOOD DRIVE is coming up on November 3, 2018, at the LDS Church, from 8am to 2pm, at 6625 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. The sponsoring congregations are ECA, CCAV, Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church, Santa Teresa Catholic Church, and the LDS Church. If you wish to donate blood, please register online at redcrossblood.org. Enter the sponsor code, "Interfaith Community" or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). If you are not sure of your eligibility, call 1-866-236-3276.



Janis Smith, of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, presented Bonnie with the Heart Award, for her work with Village House.

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 October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30am Yoga	2	3 12pm Healing Service and Holy Eucharist 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group	4 8am Men's Breakfast 9am Kids' Camp 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 9am Kids' Camp	6 4:30pm Let's ROC Blessing of the Animals
7 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist (RSVP for InGathering Sunday due)	8 9:30am Yoga	9 7:15pm Vestry Meeting	10 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group	11 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	15 9:30am Yoga	16 7:30pm JV Board Mtng.	17 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 5:30pm Book Group 7pm Class/Discussion Group	18 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 2pm Montgomery Meals	20
21 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	22 9:30am Yoga	23	24 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group	25 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26 Evening - Diocesan Convention	27 All Day - Diocesan Convention
28 <u>InGathering Sunday</u> 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12pm Luncheon	29 9:30am Yoga 6pm Cooking w/ Alain Class	30	31 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group			

Saying Goodbye to Mom

by Kathy Mastre, with a lot of help from Betty, my mom.

In April of 2000 my mom had been diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and dementia and was given 6 months. In the beginning of July a friend gifted me with tickets to Detroit for a final visit.

After hearing horror stories about the pain some cancer patients endure and the stories my siblings told me about Mom's mental decline I was prepared for the worst. She was one of the lucky ones and did not experience severe pain. I was one of the lucky ones and saw her in a period of lucidity.

We had a serious conversation the last day of my visit. When I apologized for not always being a good daughter, she said, "That's in the past. Go on. It's forgiven."

She told me I have everything I need inside of me and that she loved me more than I would ever know.

On my last visit with her she gave me a gift of love and forgiveness.

After her death I received an additional gift. My siblings and I found the beautiful letter she had written to me on my 13th birthday. In it she gave me her words of wisdom. She said:

1. Have a sense of humor - about yourself and laugh at the funny things in life.

2. A love of God is important because he can give you the strength to keep going when things look the darkest, but always remember your manners and thank Him for every blessing he sends your way.

3. Have a love of people and a compassion for the poor and sick.

4. Have a pride in yourself, your appearance and accomplishments in life.

5. Always be friendly to others and walk with a smile to meet the world. Remember "out of all the millions of people God created - there is only one you, so be yourself and you will be a happy contented person."

When I remember her words of wisdom the world is a brighter place.

With love to all of you beautiful ECA'rs from me and my mom.

Kathy

Children and Youth Ministries

Invitations to Prayer

I've stopped being surprised when God shows up. I expect to see God in conversations during coffee hour, or when out to

dinner with friends. It is a familiar feeling, when I'm wrapped in beautiful music and I know God is present among us. I've seen God at Let's ROC when groups of people work together making playdough, cookies or hot air balloons.

We create prayer stations at Let's ROC to make space for God to show up. Prayer stations can be a chance to enter more deeply into the scripture we are focusing on in the evening. They can be a chance to put the scripture into context, or to hear a modern reflection on the same theme. Sometimes, prayer stations invite us to talk to God in a new way using our hands to light candles, add color to images, or photos to a collage. Prayer stations invite us to connect with God but they also give us an opportunity to connect with each other.

We have some popular Let's ROC events coming up in the next few months. October 6th, 4:30 to 6:30, is the Blessing of the Animals service, in honor of Saint Francis. November 17th will be our Thanksgiving celebration, and December 15th for Christmas. Please join us and I would love to hear where you see God show up.

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

Year Round Stewardship

The goal of your stewardship committee is to not have to do an October stewardship drive ever again, because we as a congregation have moved beyond it and we don't need it anymore. What does this mean?

God calls us to be stewards of the earth and all its resources and gifts, and to also be stewards of our individual time, talent and treasure. God doesn't say that this is just on Sunday or during October's Stewardship drive, but every day and every moment of the day. Jesus didn't "just do Sunday" and then go out with his homies and behave as others did on the other six days a week. He lived his faith in everything he did--with every word he spoke, in his interactions with his beloved disciples, and in every generous action he did for others. He honored his Father and he was the perfect example of being a year round steward.

Now none of us are Jesus, and we are imperfect and prone to the selfish ways of the world. But Jesus even patterned an example of what to do when the world and it's pull becomes too much for us. He found a quiet spot to pray and then he spent time in community with his disciples and worshipped

with them, giving him the strength to stay strong and to feel the power of God the Father and the excitement of the Holy Spirit.

So we have the example, we have prayer and we have the community of believers, but do we really feel God's presence in our everyday life? Do we bring God into our job, our family life, our friendships, our "me time"? Jesus talked to his Father all the time, asking for direction, thanking him for all he had, being in relationship with him. This is the missing link, the part that is missing all too often. We believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in an intellectual and abstract way, but we don't believe we can have a deeper, intimate and life changing relationship like Jesus and his disciples had, one in which trust, sacrifice and love can be palpable and real.

Year round stewardship is about working towards the goal of praying, discerning and then moving to action as the Spirit moves through you, and then working with our faith community towards common goals that the Father puts in our hearts. We have come so far in opening our hearts and minds to God as a congregation, praying about our calling, our time, our talents....but treasure continues to be a stumbling point for so many. Until we believe that God can be trusted in all things, including our trea-

sure, and opening our heart to what God is calling us to give, we will need to have October stewardship drives to remind us of God's generosity and prompt us to pray about what to give.

October 14th is our Jesus Followers Pep Rally- a chance to come together to celebrate all we have accomplished, to enjoy the companionship of our spiritual family, to eat and drink as Jesus did with his friends, and to communally pray and discern what God is calling us to do in 2019. It will be a FUN event full of laughter, stimulating speakers and wine. It's also a reminder that we will be called to make our pledge two weeks later at Ingathering Sunday.

October 28th is Ingathering Sunday, and we will all come together to share, listen, and be present as we commit our treasure to God and his mission for the coming year. This gives us such an opportunity for growth as we pray and listen to what God is calling us to give of our time, talent and treasure. We will have a wonderful homily by a special speaker, and another opportunity to break bread together afterwards with a special pot luck! This is a MUST attend event! Right up there with Easter and Christmas....just kidding.

*Hugs to all of you
crazy Christians,
Bonnie McPherson*



Worship Schedule

October 3

12pm Healing Service and
Holy Eucharist

October 6

4:30 p.m. Let's ROC

October 7 – *Twentieth Sunday after after Pentecost*

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

October 14 – *Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost*

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

October 21 – *Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost*

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

October 28 – *Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

•to Bonnie McPherson for all the time, talent and love you pour into the Connection Team and everything else you do. You are an awesome inspiration!

•to The Rev. Lucretia Mann for your valuable contribution to our Connection Team meeting on the 9th and for leading a forum series on Racism, Healing, Reconciliation & Justice. We look forward to learning from you

•to Ellen Lukanc for your continued time and commitment to serving as the funeral coordinator. You give so much time and energy to this beautiful and much needed service to our community!

•to Susanne and Arnold Moore as they helped us plan and lovingly lend us their beautiful home and back yard to our fellowship activity for September. The Bocce night was spectacular!

•to Bonnie McPherson, Kathy Mastre, Letty Dunas and Marianne Schmidt for sharing about Montgomery Meals, Village House and Living Room Conversations at the Latter Day Saints' well-attended Fair.

•to Phiroze Parakh and Lucia Parakh for preparing a wonderful meal at Let's ROC

Book Group

The JV Book Group will meet on Wednesday, October 17th (3rd Wednesday of the month), at 5:30 PM, at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. October's book is *Small Great Things*, by Jody Picoult. Please RSVP to Amy Griffith (408 268-0920 or email amy-g@pacbell.net). There will be no Book Group meetings in November and December.

Looking Forward

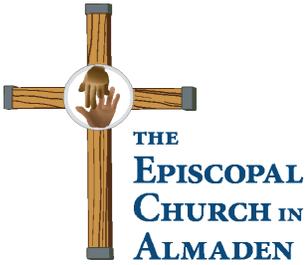
Interfaith Blood Drive •
November 3

Becoming Beloved Community
(first class) • November 4

Let's ROC • November 17

Thanksgiving Day •
November 22

First Sunday of Advent •
December 2



6581 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95120

October Birthdays

Mark Ciccarello	October	02
Daniel Beacher		03
Jim Edwards		04
Bobbi Finley		06
Ron Howie		10
Bonnie McPherson		13
Susana Machado		14
Carol MacDonald		15
Judy Blankenheim		16
Josephine Tshibola		28
Earl Griffith		29

The SHAPE

Volume 47, Number 10
October 2018

Deadline for the November 2018
issue: Monday, October 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