

February 2019

# The SHAPE

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*From the Rector*

## Dear Friends

"We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." (Philippians 4:13) I have changed the italicized words to plural, because this beautiful statement of faith from the Apostle Paul seems just the right mantra for ECA this year. It recognizes that we are not alone striving toward God's will for us, but that our work and life together are an expression of living within the Spirit's guidance and help. We have seen a great deal of that around ECA!

At our Annual Meeting last Sunday, your Vestry communicated the idea of a new direction we are seeking for ECA. The direction is how to be church in a new way that will be healthy and sustainable for many years to come – that will continue to support and care for our members and to reach out, serving the needs of our neighbors.

The Vestry realizes that continuing to do everything just as we have in the past will lead eventually to the dying out of ECA. This is clear as we look at the challenges that face our congregation. But we also see great strengths and ample resources that convince us we have been blessed and gifted. God has already given us all we need in order to flourish as a church into the future. Our work is to notice, discern, pray, and plan. This requires creativity, enthusiasm, and faith. It requires all of us.

Last year at the Annual Meeting, we talked about the elephant in the room – the fear that ECA is dying... and the fear of change as well. Your Vestry watched the elephant all year and realized that the elephant fills the room so nothing else can get done. Therefore,

this year, we would like the elephant to leave the building. We believe that the space/energy that is freed up when we let go of worry and fear about our future will produce the creativity, enthusiasm, and new vision we need to move ahead into that future.

Your Vestry does not yet know what the ECA of the future looks like. We need the help of our entire, gifted congregation to manifest that vision. But we believe it involves maintaining our Sunday worship while discovering a "Monday through Saturday" ministry that will serve our neighbors and bring in financial partners to help sustain the entire church. That would open the possibility that the next Rector might work part time for this larger ministry and part time for the parish.

At our Annual Meeting on Jan 27th, we asked everyone to consider becoming involved in a focus group. These groups will look at everything and consider what we are doing now: what is creating energy, what activities or ministries might have run their course, who are our neighbors, what are their needs, what are the various possibilities for new ministry that will attract financial partners, who might those partners be? Please pray about whether you are called into this exciting work of discernment and planning. Your Vestry is eager to lead the way.

Blessings in this season of Light - Epiphany,

*Shelley+*

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## Wednesday Class/ Discussion Group Studying Book

Our Wednesday evening class/discussion group is studying “The Divine Dance” by Richard Rohr. This book is available on Kindle or in paperback from Amazon. The class is open to anyone, and it is not a problem to miss the discussion sometimes. Come when you can. We meet in the Narthex (on the lovely new furniture) Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm. (No class on 2/6/19 due to Clergy Conference.)

## Epiphany Star Words

If you have not yet chosen your Epiphany Star Word, they will be up in the sanctuary until Ash Wednesday, March 6. Each star has a single word on it – a word for you to meditate and pray on for the year. Many people have had powerful experiences associated with their star words.

You may take stars for your family and friends as well. The same “rules” apply: you may not look at the word before you choose the star, and – even if you don’t like the word – the star you pick is yours...(like the cookie on the plate!) Please enjoy these words as you open yourself to the promptings and love of the Holy Spirit.

## New Officers

At the Annual Meeting we thanked Rachael Parakh for her term on Vestry, and Bill La Vallee for his term on the Joint Venture Board.

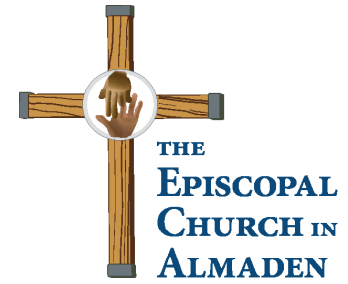
The following people were unanimously elected to the Vestry.

Judi Dimicelli 3-year term  
Todd Lukanc 1-year term  
Nancy Romer 1-year term  
Joyce Wing 3-year term

Joyce Wing will be serving as Senior Warden for 2019.

Kimberly Axtell, Todd Axtell, Judi Dimicelli, and Marianne Schmidt were elected as convention delegates for 2019, with Nancy Romer and George Romer serving as convention alternate delegates.

Steve Wing was elected to serve a 2-year term on the JV Board.



### *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*

**Joyce Wing**  
*Senior 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*

## Vestry Update

The Vestry met on January 8, where the primary focus was discussion on how to structure the Annual Meeting, scheduled for January 27. Nominations for Vestry, JV Board and convention delegates are still being worked out.

Year-end financials were reviewed. We ended the year having received 98% of anticipated income and having spent 101% of planned expenses. Total deficit for the year is \$15,184. The Vestry also approved the draft 2019 budget, which will be presented at the annual meeting.

The next meeting will be the Vestry retreat, which will be held on February 1-2, with the Rev. Canon Jesus Reyes presiding.

*Elizabeth Guichard*

## Way of Love with Let's ROC

The Way of Love is an initiative of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Through this rule of life, the bishop is inviting those of us who make up the church to deepen our lives in Christ, blessed by our faith. We are invited each day to **turn** to Jesus, **learn** about God, **pray**, **worship**, **bless** those around us and **go** out with the good-news. This initiative doesn't leave out a deeply resonant call to **rest**.

As I looked around the room at Let's ROC on January 19th, I saw people living out the principles of this initiative. We turned to God, deciding to spend time together. We spent time hearing and reflecting on the scripture, and praying together. The children of "Chime In" at ECA led us in song as we worshiped together and celebrated Holy Communion. We blessed those around us by listening to friends, making cookies for the ladies of Village House, and sending a pregnant mom home with a dinner to put in her freezer to use when the baby arrives. And there was rest, as people enjoyed a meal together around the table.

In the coming months, we will continue to explore this way of love. In February we'll focus on living in the love of God as we turn, learn, pray and worship. In March we'll take a closer look at ways to bless and go out into the world. So join us at Let's ROC February 16th and March 16th from 4:30-6:30.

*Heidi McCullough*



## Book Group

The JV Book Group's February meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20th (generally on the 3rd Wednesday of the month). Meetings are held at 5:30 PM at the Marie Callender's Restaurant on Blossom Hill Road. If you have not attended the group before, please know that all are welcome. RSVP to Amy Griffith (408 268-0920) or email amy-g@pacbell.net. The book we will be discussing this month is *The Immortalist*, by Chloe Benjamin.

### JV members:

*Bill Lavallee, Joe Machado  
and Don Hall*

### Vestry members:

**Senior Warden**  
*Joyce Wing*

*Inge Bond*

*Judi Dimicelli*

*Don Hall*

*Todd Lukanc*

*Bonnie McPherson*

*Wendy Martin*

*Kathy Mastre*

*Nancy Romer*

*Marianne Schmidt*

# ECA Activities February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7am-7pm Warming Center Continues 6pm Vestry Retreat	2 9am Vestry Retreat
3 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	4 9:30am Yoga	5	6 7am Warming Center (Last Day) 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	7 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 6pm Stewardship Committee 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9 9am Leader Training for House Meetings
10 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	11 9:30am Yoga	12 7:30pm JV Board Meeting	13 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group	14 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 2pm Montgomery Meals	16 4:30pm Let's ROC
17 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 3pm Follow Up Meeting on Homelessness	18 9:30am Yoga	19	20 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 5pm Book Group 7pm Class/Discussion Group	21 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12pm Annual Meeting/Potluck	25 9:30am Yoga	26 6pm Cooking Class	27 3:30pm Centering Prayer 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group	28 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		

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## What is the Elephant in the Room?

*A summary of the Power Point presentation shared at the Annual Meeting*



Is it Fear of Change?  
Is it Sense of Failure?  
Is it the Unknown?  
Is it Scary or Manageable?  
Is it all of the above?

**We need to know so we can address it!**

### **What is feeding the Elephant?**

- Aging membership of both ECA and CCAV
- Few younger families on Sundays
- Active parishioners moving away each year
- Retirees traveling and visiting grandchildren
- Busy working parishioners
- Volunteer pool becoming smaller
- Fewer parishioners, so pledges decreasing
- Facility maintenance costs are increasing
- CCAV challenges will impact us
- Grieving the physical loss of our friends moving away each year

### **On the Bright Side -- We can Handle the Elephant**

- Our love, relationships and finances are all healthy and stable as we plan our future!
- Opportunity to become who God is calling us to be as a church and to let the Holy Spirit guide us!
- While we are healthy, now is the time to create a 4-5 year transition plan to build a Church of the Future!
- We are not alone; we have the National Church and other external resources to help explore and plan our future.
- We can focus on growing the NEW, not the Elephant!

### **Vestry's Direction**

- Keep Sundays as usual; also Bible study, classes, etc.
- Explore a "Monday-Saturday Ministry" with financial/resource partners, which will help support the church
- Establish Focus Groups to work on a transition plan; report to the Vestry and Parish; and implement what is discerned.
- Work with our neighbors to understand their needs--look for the New.

### **The Elephant is Leaving the Building**

- We need your creativity, expertise, and entrepreneurial ideas/dreams for our congregation!
- We need you to join the Focus Groups so we can organize, explore, plan, report, and implement.
- Talk to Vestry members about your ideas and how you would like to help!
- Let's do this! Sign up now to explore how you can help!
- Next Step:** Planning and discussion at Vestry Retreat on February 1,2, 2019

### **Let him go and have fun building our Future!**



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## Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

*Wendy Martin took the time to thank all who helped in making the Christmas Party a wonderful event. This was inadvertently left out of the January Shape. It captures why ECA is so healthy ...*

- to all those who attended the ECA Christmas Party--it would not have been such a fantastic party without you being there! Thank you for sharing your time with us!

- to all who brought the delicious appetizers

- to Kathy Mastre for providing the ice to chill our drinks and for the fun prizes for our Bingo winners

- to Alain Guichard and his sous chefs, Bryan Bond, Bonnie McPherson, Anna Spanjaart, and Michelle Ruffo for helping to prepare the scrumptuous meal for the Christmas Party

- to Susanne Moore for her creativity in making the center pieces and decorations

- to Arnold Moore, Ellen Lukanc, Kathy Mastre, and Nancy Romer for arranging/preparing the tables

- to Debbie Estill for her warm welcoming of people to the party (and collecting the money)

- to our very own Bonnie and Tyler McPherson who provided the entertainment and for the jokes and laughter that will remain in our hearts and minds forever

- to Ashley Martin for her enthusiastic calling for our Bingo games and for providing the music during fellowship and dinner. No one could have done it better. For her laughter and beautiful smile!

- to Bryan Bond for helping to set up the microphone and phone for Ashley to use

- to Lynda Ford for playing the Christmas carols for our sing-along

- to Bonnie McPherson, Ashley Martin, Nick Martin, Wendy Martin, and Shelley Denney for helping tend bar

- to Marty Tysanner, who stepped in and washed the many pots and pans by hand and for running the dishwasher as needed ... and all this without being asked!

- to Kelli Casale for offering to wash the linens. It takes a village

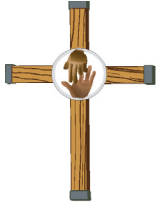
- to Tyler McPherson and Nick Martin for helping with cleanup in the fellowship hall and the kitchen after the party

- to EVERYONE who helped clean up after the party. That pretty much means everyone, because everyone was so busy! This was an amazing sight to see ... everyone stepping in and helping to put tables and chairs away, clean up the floor, wash, dry and put away dishes, and all the hands that made it an enjoyable time in fellowship and cleanup. Many hands make light work! Thank you everyone!

- to Wendy Martin, who set up all the games, bought the plates, and did all the online notifications and communications with Ruthanne

- to Ruthanne Adams Martinez for her emails so that we all got to the Christmas Party on time at 4 PM.

- to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who provides for each and every one of us, for His grace, mercy and forgiveness, for loving us and holding us in the palm of His hand, for sending us His Son so that we can have a relationship with Him and live with Him forever in heaven!



## Worship Schedule

**February 3** – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

**February 10** – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

**February 19**

4:30 p.m. Let's ROC

**February 17** – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

**February** – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

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

•to Tom Ruffo, Jerry and Susie Ferguson, Maryke Williams, Wendy Martin, Susanne Moore, and Rachael Parakh for their helping making Let's ROC special

## Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

•to Bryan Bond, for providing and installing the projector, screen and wireless mics for the Fellowship Hall. He helped us move into the 21st Century and be prepared for our new direction

•to those that stepped in multiple times for those gone for the holidays; it is greatly appreciated

•to Inge Bond and Steve Wing for fulfilling their Counter duties multiple times after the holidays

•to the team selecting the narthex furniture. It looks beautiful

*from Shelley ...*

•to all the members of the 2018 Vestry: Rachael Parakh, Todd Lukanc, Inge Bond, Bonnie McPherson, Joyce Wing, Wendy Martin, Kathy Mastre, Don Hall, and Marianne Schmidt--my deepest gratitude for your faithfulness, wisdom, collegiality, humor, and devotion to God and God's people. This has been an amazing year on Vestry

•to Don Hall, Junior Warden, many thanks for (now) two years of service in watching over the care and maintenance of the Rectory. I so appreciate your hours of work ... and your relationship with my dog! And also for your wise and steady voice on the Joint Venture Churches' Board

•to Marianne Schmidt, Senior Warden for two years--my most profound gratitude for your amazing leadership among us, your willingness to always step

up, your consistent carefulness for my well-being, the privilege of sharing spiritual journey and growth with you, your wisdom, kindness, soundness of thinking, and consistent willingness to tell the truth.

*to all who helped with the Annual Meeting ...*

•to Joyce Wing for her work in creating and sharing the Elephant in the Room Power Point

•to Susanne and Arnold Moore, Kathy Mastre and Nancy Romer for bagging our "elephants" for under a dollar apiece

•to Don Hall, Wendy Martin, Inge Bond, Bonnie McPherson, Rachael Parakh, Joyce Wing, Shelley Denney and Marianne Schmidt for leading the table discussions and for setting up and cleaning up

•to Shelley Denney for sharing the Vestry's direction and giving examples of possible ministries with partnerships

•to all who came to the Annual Meeting, bringing delicious food, and participating in the discussions

•to all who took their "elephants" from the building

*There are more Gifts of Gratitude on Page 6.*



*ECA's Annual Meeting was held this past Sunday, January 27. We enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch and a meeting that featured the presentation of the church budget for 2019; election of Vestry members, JV Board members, and convention delegates and alternates; and a presentation from the Vestry regarding ECA's future. See a summary of the presentation on page 5 of this issue of the Shape.*

## February Birthdays

Connie Rimroth	February	01
Peter Mayo		06
Ellen Lukanc		07
John McPherson		07
Ryan McPherson		07
Ann Avoux		12
Sam Sarmecanic		13
Andy Kerr		15
Monique Rousseau		16
Mary McPherson		18
Mel Stonehocker		24
Valerie Tysanner		24
Nicholas Martin		25
Kimberly Axtell		27

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