

June 2019

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

Quick! What do: Ascension Day, ECA's Church Picnic, Pentecost, and Kids' Cooking Camp have in common? Correct answer: they are all happening at ECA in June...and they are all integral parts of what it means to be Jesus Followers in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. They are all parts of the Way of Love.

Sometimes there is confusion about what it means to be a Christian. I have had people tell me that being a Christian means you are kind to everyone, or that you always go to church on Sunday. These are not correct. Being a Christian means you follow in Jesus' footsteps...you walk in the Way of Love...and you allow God to transform your life.

So, on June 2nd, we will celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. On June 9th, we will observe with great joy, the day that the Holy Spirit came upon and empowered the first Jesus Followers. We can get the connection between these two important church feasts and our faith, but what about the Church Picnic and Kids' Cooking Camp? These activities are fellowship and outreach to the children of our neighborhood.

As Episcopal Christians, our faith is grounded in the weekly Eucharistic Feast on Sunday mornings. There we hear the Word of God and are made one with each other in the Body of Christ, the Church. There we receive our strength for the journey, being fed at God's table by God's hand. Fellowship is important as it deepens our connections with one another and helps to make us family. It gives us a chance to encourage one another and welcome newcomers into our family.

We are not blessed just for ourselves. Always, we are blessed to be a blessing to others. Fellowship and outreach give us the opportunity to pass our blessings along, which is passing along the Good News of Jesus. As Jesus Followers – as Christians – we cannot be silent about the loving, liberating, life-giving God that fills our lives with meaning and joy. We must pass this experience on! Everything we do here at ECA gives us the opportunity to do just that.

Let's try to rewire our thinking: everything you find on the ECA calendar is an opportunity to live into the Way of Love...whether it is fellowship, outreach, education, or worship. This month let's all join in something that we have not tried before. And let's see how it empowers us to live more fully in the Way of Love.

Blessings,

Shelley+

Worship

Meditation Group

Centering Prayer has a new name, a new time and a new day of the week! Centering Prayer will be called Meditation Group and will meet on Saturdays, at 10:00 am, in the Sanctuary. There are many ways to meditate, with Centering Prayer being just one method. Meditation Group will include all methods of being quiet in a group. Some may stand, sit in a chair or on a pillow. Some may kneel or walk around. Some may focus on a scripture or a passage in a spiritual book. Some may call it centering prayer, mindfulness or just meditation. All are welcome to come on a regular basis or drop in when they can.

Meditation Group will meet on Saturday to include our parishioners and neighbors who work during the week. We are meeting at 10-10:30am instead of 3:30pm because some fall asleep in the afternoon. Something special happens when we are quiet with each other and seek God's presence together. Come and join us for Meditation Group. No experience required.

The first meeting of the Meditation Group will be Saturday, June 8, 10am, in the sanctuary. If you have questions or comments, please see Marianne Schmidt or Shelley Denney.

Marianne Schmidt

Fellowship

Not Goodbye; Farewell For Now

Thank you for all who came out to our farewell party, sent us cards, gave us thoughtful gifts and have gone out of their way to tell us how our being at the church have touched them and how they are going to miss us- it is so humbling to hear how much we will be missed!

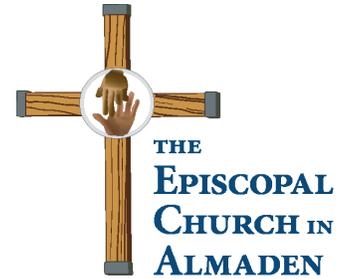
We are so grateful for the loving and supportive community that ECA has been for our entire family, and each and every one of you will truly be missed...there is not much about California that we will miss, but ECA and our loving church community will be one of them!

As much as it is hard to say farewell for now, just know that our hearts are full, and we are so enriched by our time with all of you! This is truly a special place and we were so lucky to have had the last 15 years with you'all!

We will be back soon to check in, and we will be so excited to hear how things are going in your search for where Jesus is leading you!

I will be writing in occasionally to give you updates on the goings on in North Carolina and maybe part with some of my favorite recipes....when I can find them!

Hugs! Bonnie



Rector

The Reverend Shelley Denney
email: shelleys@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

Let's ROC

The Kingdom Comes

The Let's ROC production of "The King Who Loved to Bake Bread" was a great success. Our actors and actresses worked so hard to prepare and put on a delightful and thought-provoking show. It was a lovely reminder of how to serve our king.

I was inspired by the dedication and service of the people who worked hard to make the play a wonderful event. Susie Ferguson wrote a beautiful script and recruited a wonderful group of actors. Melinda Jennings did a wonderful job working with the children on their lines and helping them make a great set. Judi Dimicelli made sure everything went smoothly. Thank you to you all. Thank you also to Tom Ruffo who planned and prepared a wonderfully celebratory meal. The evening was a gift to all who participated.

We are looking forward to being together again at our parish picnic on June 15th from 4 to 7 PM. There will be appetizers provided by our kids cooking camp participants, delicious BBQ, Eucharist, and lots of time for fellowship. Look for potluck sign ups after church in June.

Holly McCullough
Building Bridges Coordinator



Some of the young actors who participated in the production of "The King Who Loved to Bake Bread," performed at the May Let's ROC event.

Book Group

The JV Book Group's May-meeting will be on Wednesday, June 19th (generally on the 3rd Wednesday of the month). May's book is *The Magic Springs of Frankie Presto*, by Mitch Albom. 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.

JV members:

*Steve Wing, Joe Machado
and Don Hall*

Vestry members:

Worship
The Reverend Shelley Denney

Senior Warden
Joyce Wing

Communications
Inge Bond

Outreach
Judi Dimicelli

Junior Warden
Joint Venture:
Don Hall

Finance
Todd Lukanc

**Fellowship, Hospitality,
and Welcoming**
*Wendy Martin
Nancy Romer*

Pastoral Care
Marianne Schmidt

ECA Activities

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						8 8:30am Election of Bishop for Diocese of El Camino Real @St. Andrews
2 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:15pm Working Together As One Meeting	3 9:30am Yoga	4	5 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group	6 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 10am Meditation Group
9 <u>DAY OF PENTECOST</u> 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:15pm Summer BBQ 12:30pm Connection Team Meeting	10 9am Cooking Camp 9:30am Yoga	11 9am Cooking Camp 7:15pm Vestry Meeting	12 9am Cooking Camp 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class/Discussion Group	13 8am Men's Breakfast 9am Cooking Camp 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14 9am Cooking Camp 2pm Montgomery Meals	15 10am Meditation Group 4 pm Let's ROC and Church Picnic
16 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	17 9:30am Yoga	18 7:30pm JV Board Meeting	19 5pm Book Group 7pm Class/Discussion Group	20 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 2pm Montgomery Meals	22 10am Meditation Group
23 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	24 9:30am Yoga	25	26 2pm JV Bridge Group	27 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 10am Meditation Group
30 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist						

ECA, Connection Team, and IAF ... What's UP?

ECA has been working with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) for nearly six years. In 2013, the Vestry voted to become a dues-paying member of IAF, which is the oldest broad-based community organizing group in the US. Our ECA organizing committee, the Connection Team, has been working quietly ever since, and much of the congregation is unclear of who we are and what we do. Perhaps we've been working too quietly!

Bishop Mary asked all congregations in the Diocese of El Camino Real to engage in some form of community organizing as a way of getting parishioners out of the building and into our neighborhoods, as a way of living out our baptismal covenant and our diocesan strategic plan. There are a handful of parishes that have been doing this work now for quite a while, including ECA. Because candidates for ordination in this diocese must have at least one year of field education training in community organizing, ECA has been blessed to have both The Rev. Karen Cuffie and The Rev. Andrea Mackenzie as interns/deacons/priests here serving our parish. This is certainly a tangible benefit of our engagement with IAF.

Community organizing work is long-term, slow, patient work. Based on forming relationships, it cannot be done quickly. Many people become frustrated with the slow progress, but it is the nature of the work. Success requires patience,

a tolerance for ambiguity, and a willingness to recognize small steps along the way.

Community organizing is, quite simply, the work of thinking about what issues we would like to impact positively, continuously forming new – and deepening existing – relationships with people who are interested in working together to make those positive impacts, and then acting together on those issues. That's it! The work of community organizing seeks to strengthen communities by increasing the network of relationships and allowing people to have meaningful conversations on topics that matter to us. That goal is completely consistent with our faith – in which it's all about relationship.

At ECA, we're very interested in working toward improving the situation of homelessness in our area. We've grown into this over the past three years. But we can't do much on our own – so we need to join with others who have a similar interest. A perfect example of this is Village House – a group of congregations who banded together to make a difference in the lives of 15 medically fragile homeless women. And look at the difference we've made!

Our Connection Team has worked on a number of different projects over the years – some small, and some larger. The Team supported (or was responsible for) the neighborhood walk, the Pumpkin Patch, the National Night Out, the Living Room Conversation on homelessness for our neighborhood, and the follow-up

informational meeting, among other things. The Connection Team has also been active in attending IAF meetings that are working toward forming a local broad-based organization. (That means an organization of institutions who want to work together.) One of the Team members, Kimberly Axtell, has been a faithful member of the IAF broad based organization Steering Committee for two years. Shelley is a member of the Sponsoring Committee and the clergy supporters of IAF.

Part of the work that the Vestry has undertaken in ECA's transition – the Neighborhood Needs Research Group and the Resources Research Group – falls within the definition of community organizing. These groups have a broad membership from the parish. These are not specific activities of the Connection Team, but members are participating. So, there is quite a bit of overlap and edges that blend together. Community organizing is a tool.

With the departure of Bonnie McPherson and Kathy Mastre, our Connection Team has lost two members. We would very much like to have more ECA members as part of the Connection Team. We meet on the second Sunday of each month from 12:30-1:30pm – usually in the Learning Center. If you have interest or questions, please talk to Shelley, and please consider at least coming to our next meeting to find out what's up! Sunday, June 9 – 12:30pm. Hope to see you there.

Shelley Denney

Outreach

Montgomery Meals in Transition

A group of approximately 12 volunteers were able to meet with Sharon Hall leading the discussion on transitions pertaining to our Montgomery Meals program. This program has been in place probably more than 40 years in different shapes and forms. We have been feeding 150-250 people a month every year. The source of meat has been the 25-85 Turkeys cooked during Thanksgiving week, currently at Legend's Pizza, that has produced enough meat for a year, anywhere from 300-500 pounds. This meat is incorporated into these monthly meals. Our meals are hardy, warm casseroles, with turkey of course, wonderful salads, buttered bread and desserts, the two latter items are donated by Safeway and picked up by our volunteers.

This has been a very successful outreach for many years, but we need to rethink how we are covering this ministry. The last two years we went from twice a month to once a month. We decided to focus on Homefirst, where more people were positively impacted. This change was due to time, energy and demands on the lead cooks, that required shopping, directing and cooking these meals in large quantities and the physical strength and coverage needed twice a month. Due to some physical and family issues and traveling our main cooks are unable to keep this going, plus their backup has moved away.

The discussion with the volunteers covered multiple options, but the main desire was to keep going until we have time for Sharon to talk with HomeFirst to understand different options for working with them as well as exploring how we want to support the community. This ties directly with the new Focus Together group that is beginning efforts to survey our Neighbor's Needs. It was also strongly noted that the Montgomery Meals program is a key fellowship program at ECA for both cooks and servers and that people wanted to continue doing it, if feasible.

Some ideas included having cooking days on Sunday afternoons as an opportunity to pull in more families and those that work. Then the casseroles could be frozen until Friday and just reheated.

After much discussion, we decided we will continue for the next three months (June through August) while we gather HomeFirst and community needs. We will still make the salads and prepare the buttered bread and desserts, but we will buy 8 to 9 large trays of casseroles from Costco to reduce the effort and resources it takes for the main meal. There is a budget for these purchases.

Also, at this time we are looking at potentially stopping the Turkey cook-off at Thanksgiving, perhaps changing to cooking 6 turkeys or number of chickens periodically in our ECA kitchen to ensure we have meat for meals if we continue as is, or adjust as we know more. This puts less demand on our con-

gregation yet opens opportunities for multiple fellowship opportunities throughout the year.

We encourage any of the Montgomery Meals volunteers to join or give their input to Our Neighbor's Needs focus group by contacting either Ellen Lukanc or Marianne Schmidt. If you want to join volunteers working on the Montgomery Meals program, please let Kelli Casale or Sharon Hall know. Sharon will be sending out more emails on the subject during the coming months as we understand our options.

*Joyce Wing
Senior Warden*

Fellowship

Joint Venture's Spring Tea

The Spring Tea held on May 1st at ECA was a rousing success! It was a full house, 15 tables were filled with a total of 130 at the event, either attending or serving. As always, there was delicious finger food and wonderful desserts. Teas were served in beautiful china tea cups and teapots that were set around exceptionally beautiful flower centerpieces and set tables. There were approximately 25 wonderful baskets of treasures that were raffled off and 28 items for the silent auction. Besides all of the great fellowship we enjoyed Ruthanne's beautiful harp performance, where she played dances written by different composers. Many asked her if she had any recordings.....hmmm an idea for next year!

Special this year was a gallery setup with creations made by members of ECA and CCAV,UCC. Romans 12:6 "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them." We had paintings, jewelry, photography, woodwork, miniatures, hand-made bridal gowns, dolls/clothes, quilts, cross-stitching, collages, banners, and even beautifully carved scrimshaw and more. We had no idea what talent both churches had and their willingness to share. Thank you all for sharing your wonderful gifts of talent, they were enjoyed immensely!

Approximately, \$5,043 dollars were raised, with small reimbursements still needing to be made. A thou-

sand dollars will go to the Almaden Counseling Service Center and the rest will go towards a prioritized list that Joint Venture is working on for many needed repairs and implementation of systems that can reduce our ongoing costs. All had a wonderful time in fellowship but even more so knowing that the event was raising funds for these two needs.

We want to thank all that were involved that made the event a success. See the long list below!

Planning, Leads and work teams: Joyce, Betty, Susanne, Susie, Doreen, Joan, Nancy, Carol, Amy, Mel, Linda, Francie, Ellen, Elizabeth, Ruthanne, Anna, Kathryn, Anne, Leslie, Judi, Jenny, Letty, Margaret, Ann A., Mary and Donna

Invitations and Programs: Doreen and Ruthanne

Money Management: Ruthanne for all the RSVP, table management and tracking all the donations, reimbursements and generating reports; Joyce, George and Ellen for counting.

Congregational Creations: Nancy, Ellen and Ruthanne coordinated this effort and the 30+ who provided their creations for display, absolutely beautiful! Separate thank you notes were written by Nancy and Marianne to those that provided their creations.

Food contributors: Susanne, Joan, Linda, Mel, Betty, Francie, Amy, Jenny, Nancy, Marianne,

Leslie, Ellen and Joyce.

Flower arrangements: Betty and Joan

Drawing Baskets, Silent Auction and Glass Garden and Table setup: Betty, Joan, Carol, Amy, and Susanne (and Dom for slipping wine bottles into the baskets to add that extra value!)

Event (check-in, ticket sales): Kathryn, Judi, Phyllis, Mary, Marianne, Anna, Joan and Mel; Susie Ferguson for being Mistress of Ceremonies, Shelley for Opening Prayer and Nancy for introducing the Congregational Creations and AVCS speaker, Katy Carter.

Servers, Tea Makers and help with setup and cleanup: Steve, George, Andy, Dennis, Tom, Jerry and Mike S.; plus, Hans and Guido that helped fix the ceiling lights. Separate thank you notes were written by Betty to these wonderful servers and helpers.

Setup and Clean-up: There were many volunteers that just jumped in to help with setup and cleanup. We thank you very much for your assistance and spirit!

A huge "Thank You" goes out to all who donated items for this event, too many to list!

*Joyce Wing,
May Tea Coordinator*

Working Together As One--Focus Together Groups

As we have been mentioning and recruiting for the last month, we have two Focus Together groups that we want to form. We had an initial joint meeting on May 5th with approximately 15 participants, where an overview of the purpose of the two Focus Together groups were provided, with the caveat that things may change as the groups see fit. In addition, CCAV,UCC may join us later. Shelley and I meet with them monthly and have begun discussions regarding these teams. They will be discussing this with their Council and congregation. These two groups will formulate a direction, milestones and report at the WTO monthly meetings, communicate their findings to Vestry and to the new JV Transition Team that is in the discussion and forming stage. We successfully had many volunteers for both groups, but don't let that stop you if you are interested!

The first Focus Together Group, **Our Neighbor's Needs:** This group will focus on how best to determine the community's needs, who we can reach out to and how best to do so. Links regarding our demographics were provided, as well as an article Shelley shared. We are not looking for this group to go door to door, but to reach out to Community centers, the Library, Fire/Police departments, schools, other churches, Senior Centers, Health clinics, hos-

pitals as some examples. Also discussed, were the possibilities to use existing communication channels, such as Councilman Johnny Khamis' and Supervisor Wasserman's newsletters, other departments in San Jose City or Santa Clara County, HomeFirst, Almaden Valley Counseling Services, Almaden Times, San Jose Mercury news Childcare facilities and other Episcopal churches and/or Diocese. In addition, developing surveys they can be filled out on-line or on paper, where they can provide contact information or be anonymous. We could use SurveyMonkey. One volunteer, already found potential grants that could assist us.

The second Focus Together Group, **Resource Research:** This group will focus on finding other churches that have done this and learn from them. Also, find and contact consulting resources (external and internal to the Episcopal church) that could help or advise us, links to possible resources were provided. We may require a list of all of our assets so they know what we have to work with now and potentially in the future, the team could ask these service providers what they would need. Also, consider involving or talking to other Episcopal churches that may want to join us, potentially using their facilities in addition to ours.

In both cases, the groups should consider how best to use the website or social media to reach out and gather the information that is needed. Plus, use these platforms to tell our story to potentially

gather interested partners or volunteers to join us in our endeavours in finding out more about our community's needs and help make our vision a reality.

Leads and scribes have volunteered. The leads will schedule meetings, keep track of assignments and follow through. The scribes will write notes from meetings and consolidate what volunteers have learned to be shared with their team, vestry and the congregations. Notes will need to be summarized as well to be put in PowerPoint slides, this is true for both teams. The teams can divvy up the work and some assignments can be done by individuals or groups at home or at team meetings, even on conference calls. Shelley can set up Zoom conference meetings so members can meet virtually, not in person, if needed via phone or computer.

Focus Together Team: Our Neighbor's Needs

1. Marianne Schmidt (co-Lead, co-Scribe)
2. Ellen Lukanc (co-Lead, co-Scribe)
3. Kelli Casale
4. Judi Dimicelli
5. Kathleen Eagan
6. Anne Tysanner
7. Todd Axtell
8. Donna Yamamura
9. Shelley Denney
10. Joyce Wing

*Inge Bond will assist only as Survey consultant, not part of this group

**If interested in volunteering with this group, please contact Marianne or Ellen

(continued on page 9)



Worship Schedule

June 2 – Seventh Sunday in Easter

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

June 9 – Day of Pentecost

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

June 15 – Let's ROC

4:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

June 16 – First Sunday after Pentecost

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

June 23 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

June 30 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

(continued from page 8)

Focus Together Team: Resource Research

1. Letty Duenas (Lead)
2. Inge Bond (Scribe)
3. Wendy Martin
4. Nancy Romer
5. George Romer
6. Shelley Denney
7. Joyce Wing

*If interested in volunteering with this group, please contact Letty

We are grateful to those who are taking on these responsibilities to start our very large and loving effort. Joining or assisting them is always welcome.

Joyce Wing,
Senior Warden

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

•to Marion Grunge for making yarn Mother's Day gifts for the students at the Homework Center at SMUM to give to their mothers

•to all who helped out with the Fun, Frolic and Farewell Party on Saturday the 4th- but I especially want to thank Don for all the set up and take down of the Margarita machine, Wendy, Debbie and Pat with cleanup afterwards, the Bond men with set up of the electronics so we could watch the games as the party wound down, all who put away tables and chairs, and all who came

and made the party great! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!! (from Bonnie and Jim)

•to Lettie for taking on the coordinator position for Village House with Marianne! It's hard to leave my baby but knowing you guys are taking over makes my heart sing! You guys ROCK! (also from Bonnie)

•to all those who helped with ECA hosting the Walkabout for the Bishop Candidates: Joyce Wing, Ellen Lukanc, Shelley Denney, Marianne and Mike Schmidt for organizing the meal for the candidates and their families before the event and cleaning up after the event

•to to Susie Ferguson, Ellen Lukanc, and Elizabeth and Alain Guichard for being the timers during the candidates sharing

•to Betty Consorte for replacing Kathy Mastre to coordinate the Pastoral Care ministry with assistance from Marianne and Mike Schmidt

Looking Forward

July 14, August 11, September 8 •
Summer BBQs

August 17 • *Let's ROC*



Some of the 130 folks who attended the Joint Venture Spring Tea on May 1, shown here listening to Ruthanne Adams Martinez playing her harp. Another highlight of the event was a display of art, clothing and other items created by members of ECA and CCAV,UCC. For more about the event, see the article on page 7.

June Birthdays

Evelyn Krsynowski	June	03
Jenny Hoyt		08
George Romer		09
Charlotte Boileau		10
Judi Dimicelli		22
Gregory Lukanc		23
Michelle Ruffo		25
Pauline Gilligan		27

June Anniversaries

Mike & Marianne Schmidt	June	07
Mel & Terry Stonehocker		10
Robin & Maryke Williams		12
Ron Howie & Melinda Jennings		18
Andy & Francie Kerr		22
Jim & Bonnie McPherson		22
Roger & Jenny Hoyt		24

The SHAPE

Volume 48, Number 6
June 2019

Deadline for the July 2019 issue:
Saturday, June 15, 2019

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