

June 2019

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

Incredibly, the summer is beginning to wane... School will be back in session soon, Let's ROC has some exciting plans, and I am back from a wonderful, rejuvenating vacation. Despite a slower summer pace, however, the various teams working on ECA's transition into the Church of the Future have been hard at work.

The Resource Research team has had a fruitful visit with the folks at Sacred Space in Palo Alto – a project and Church of the Future that came about through collaboration. They shared how they accomplished this and how they were able to determine their neighbors' needs. The team called Our Neighbors' Needs is meeting regularly and making progress on just that topic. And the Document Prep team continues to faithfully corral founding documents and legal paperwork of the Joint Venture to help us understand what limitations and possibilities there are for us as a partnership.

The new JV Transition Team is preparing to meet for the first time. This is a group of eight – four each from ECA and CCAV-UCC – including the pastors. We will be making sure that communication is clear and thorough between the partner parishes, optimizing our opportunities for working together. On ECA's side we are: Joyce Wing, Don Hall, Ellen Lukanc, and me.

“This Church of the Future is negotiable. I view this process as a conversation between us and God, us and each other, us and our neighbors. As we listen to each other we look for collaborative partners that can help us refine the vision. We currently do not have all the answers, which is actually exciting, an adventure of discovery.” This is a quote from Kimberly Axtell's article in this issue entitled “Living in the Valley of Disconnect.” Please be sure to read this interesting article; it will help you connect our movement toward the Church of the Future and our work in community organizing over the past 5 years or so, which dovetail nicely. It will also help orient you to where we are in this process of transformation at this moment.

Over the past four years, Dear Ones, we have come together to clarify our values and goals, to listen deeply to the movement of the Spirit among us, and to dare to dream that God has beautiful future plans for ECA. It's been over 50 years since those first founding families worked hard to begin this parish and start the story of Love that has been ECA, led by God's Holy Spirit. Now it is time for us to pull together, listening to God's guidance, to continue the exciting adventure of discovery that will help us transform into the Church of the Future!

Blessings and much love,

Shelley

Senior Warden

Working Together As One Status Update

We have formed a new team that will meet on August 1st. The Joint Venture Transition Team (JVTT). This team will have four representatives from each congregation to provide oversight to JV transitions, set directions based on input from congregations, communicate with the congregations, work with the JV Board as needed and provides guidance to the Focus Together teams. The team (JVTT) is comprised of The Rev. Marty Williams, Debbie Bemis, Tom Gerber and Kelly Yamanishi from CCA-VUCC and The Rev. Shelley Denney, Joyce Wing, Don Hall and Ellen Lukanc from ECA.

Shelley and Joyce will be attending two additional meetings with CCAV-UCC one with their Council and the other with their congregation. Dates are still to be determined. The meetings are to review what we have been doing and how we can begin working together as one.

Our Neighbor's Needs – Focus Together group – Status Update:

Members to date are Ellen Lukanc (lead, co-scribe), Marianne Schmidt (scribe), Kimberly and Todd Axtell, Kelli Casale, Anne Tysanner, Ann Mayers, Donna Yamamura, Kathleen Eagan, Abhi Roy, Shelley Denney, and Joyce

Wing. This group is focusing on understanding the needs of our neighbors and community. Demographics are being gathered to do some analysis. Discussions with Jesus Reyes from the Diocese has occurred to determine how he can assist and what resources they can provide. Plans are underway to work with Anna Eng from IAF to provide training on how to develop community services in August or September.

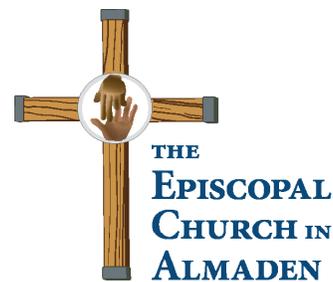
Questions are being developed for interviews and surveys. Possible groups to be interviewed are being categorized, such as:

- Government services, such as Fire, Police, Schools, Libraries, Community Centers
- Service organizations, such as Kiwanis, Almaden Valley Counseling Services, Health Clinics
- Neighborhood group meetings, perhaps at Community Pools
- Individuals as identified

Resource Research – Focus Together group – Status Update:

Members to date are Letty Duenas (lead), Inge Bond (scribe), Wendy Martin, Judi Dimicelli, George and Nancy Romer, Shelley Denney and Joyce Wing. This group is focusing on learning what other churches or organizations have done and what they've learned in

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Rector

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Senior Warden

Joan Wagner
Altar Guild

Ann Avoux
Prayer Vine

Debbie Estill
Ushers

Mike Schmidt
Shape Editor

Kathleen Eagan
Senior Ministry

Taylor Wing
Webmaster

Betty Consorte
Pastoral Care Coordinator

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the process. Researching consulting services that may be of assistance is also being considered. The goal is to understand the foundational information, the who, what, why, how, when, where questions (cradle to grave) that these churches went through to determine what they did. This group is not brainstorming on what we may want to do, just fact-finding to build foundational information.

A few members of group are planning to visit a Palo Alto church on July 22nd that has a Sacred Spaces program. This program provides space for training, seminars, space to work and more. Others are interviewing a church in Washington (with some ex-ECA members) regarding work they have done. Some team members are learning about an organization called Hearts & Minds that is an Alzheimer's day care center, along with a child care center where they interact, at times, as an inter-generational community.

We appreciate the efforts and commitment of all of the team members. If you have any questions, please ask Joyce Wing or Shelley Denney.

*Joyce Wing,
Senior Warden*

Let's ROC

Coming Home to Comfort

Plans are taking shape for Let's ROC this fall. Mark your calendar now so you can be a part of this life giving ministry.

August 17th will bring Let's ROC with a theme of Coming Home to Comfort. We'll be marking the return to the comfort and routine of fall by sharing comfort with our neighbors. From 2:30 to 4:30 we will host a cooking workshop, making food for the women of Village House. Then we will gather for worship and reflection from 4:30 to 6:30

On Wednesdays, in September, Chime In will return. If you know a child who might want to learn how to play music in a group, invite them to participate in our group chime class. Come hear the youth play the chimes at Let's ROC on September 21st, 4:30-6:30.

On Thursdays, in October, Dana Renfand will lead a class on Impressionism. Children will explore the ideas of Impressionism while they make art in the same style. Come see the art at and get your pet blessed our Let's ROC honoring our artists and Saint Francis. Mark your calendar for October 19th, 4:30-6:30 as Let's ROC Blessing of the Animals

Remember, Let's ROC, Reaching Out in Community, is a welcoming and intergenerational community. We listen for God's voice,

encounter God at the table and respond to God with love. You are an important part of the Let's ROC Community.

Holly McCullough

JV members:

*Steve Wing
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 August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	2	3 10am Meditation Group
4 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Research Resource Team Mtng 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:15pm Working Together As One Meeting	5 9:30am Yoga	6	7 7pm No Class/Discussion Group	8 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am No Morning Prayer 10am No Lectionary Bible Study	9	10 10am Meditation Group
11 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:15 Summer BBQ 12:30pm Connection Team Meeting	12 9:30am Yoga	13 7:15pm Vestry Meeting	14 7pm Class/Discussion Group	15 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	16 2pm Montgomery Meals	17 10am Meditation Group 4:30pm Let's ROC
18 7:30am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Research Resource Team Mtng 10:45am Holy Eucharist IAF Training	19 9:30am Yoga IAF Training	20 7:30pm JV Board Meeting	21 5pm Book Group 7pm Class/Discussion Group	22 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	23	24 10am Meditation Group
25 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	26 9:30am Yoga	27	28 2pm JV Bridge Group 7pm Class/Discussion Group	29 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study	30	21 10am Meditation Group

What's Cookin' at ECA?

What's Cookin' at ECA? is only one of 4 programs included in our children and youth program, "Adventure in the Arts." You may be somewhat familiar with our other three: Chime-In at ECA (music), Spark Your Creativity (art), and Lights, Camera, Action (drama). The fruits of all these programs you can enjoy at any Let's ROC.

After 2 years of cancelled Joint Venture VBS programming we reestablished our VBS programming in June of 2012 with "Go for the Gold." Since then every June we have provided an original program for the children in our neighborhood. Our VBS programs and Kids' Camps were very well received but required a large volunteer staff which currently we are unable to maintain.

This year, however, we decided to pilot and test a very special program that involved extensive cooking experiences for kids, but was far less demanding on volunteer staff. Anna Spanjaart volunteered to assist me in the creation and implementation of a week-long camp. She was a wonderful colleague to prepare curriculum and be a faithful participant to make this a super experience for kids.

We set up 4 cooking stations with all the necessary utensils and appliances so each team could fully complete each cooking project.

Every day each cooking team prepared 2 major recipes. Some we ate for snacks and sometimes the meals went home for the chefs' family dinner. We also were deliberate about introducing our chefs to foods from around the globe and encouraged tasting new things. Some we all liked and enjoyed and some we might never try again. This was a learning experience for everyone.

We were blessed with a high school counselor for each cooking station that helped our chefs with all the measuring, mixing, blending, cutting and cleanup required with cooking for ourselves. We also had two "sous chefs" on board from middle schools who picked up any area where we needed extra help. Limiting our cooking camp to eight campers made it possible for lots of hands on cooking in teams of 2 with a fantastic counselor overseeing each station.

This was a pilot and test program to see what was possible and how many we could accommodate, given our design. Overall our program was a great success. Perhaps you were able to taste some of our creations at the church picnic and Let's ROC in June.

We must thank Nancy Romer, Marianne Schmidt, Judi Dimicelli, Joyce Wing and Anne Tysanner. Each volunteered to help us one morning during our camp week. And of course, extra thanks to Anna. Without her committed help our camp's creation would not have happened.

Check out our Children and Youth Bulletin Board in the hallway for pictures of our Adventure in the Arts experiences.

Susie Ferguson

Fellowship Events to Come in September and October

Labor Day BBQ/Potluck:

Come and "hang" on Labor Day (Monday, September 2nd) at Roger and Jenny Hoyt's house. We'll have an old fashioned Labor Day Potluck/Barbeue in the back garden! Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Bring a beverage and dish to share, and come over at 3 pm, and let's have some fun!! (Note: If you are a vegetarian, bring something you like to eat, and we will grill it for you.)

Oktoberfest:

Save the date, Saturday evening, October 5, in ECA's Fellowship Hall for an Oktoberfest celebration of good German-style food, fun and fellowship. Look for more detailed information in the September Shape and in midweek bulletins closer to the date.

Living in the Valley of Disconnect

At four-thirty in the afternoon on Monday, February 1, 1960, four college students sat down at the lunch counter at the Woolworth's in downtown Greensboro, North Carolina. They were freshmen at North Carolina A. & T., a black college a mile or so away.

"I'd like a cup of coffee, please," one of the four, Ezell Blair, said to the waitress.

"We don't serve Negroes here," she replied.

The Woolworth's lunch counter was a long L-shaped bar that could seat sixty-six people, with a standup snack bar at one end. The seats were for whites. The snack bar was for blacks. Another employee, a black woman who worked at the steam table, approached the students and tried to warn them away. "You're acting stupid, ignorant!" she said. They didn't move. Around five-thirty, the front doors to the store were locked. The four still didn't move. Finally, they left by a side door. Outside, a small crowd had gathered, including a photographer from the Greensboro Record. "I'll be back tomorrow with A. & T. College," one of the students said.

By next morning, the protest had grown to twenty-seven men and four women, most from the same dormitory as the original four. The men were dressed in suits and ties. The students had brought their schoolwork, and studied as they sat at the counter. On Wednesday, students from Greensboro's "Negro" secondary school, Dudley High, joined in, and the number of protesters swelled to eighty. By Thursday, the protesters numbered three hundred, including three white women, from the Greensboro campus of the University of North Carolina. By Saturday, the sit-in had reached six hundred. People spilled out onto the street. White teen-agers waved Confederate flags. Someone threw a firecracker. At noon, the A. & T. football team arrived. "Here comes the wrecking crew," one of the white students shouted. By the following Monday, sit-ins had spread to Winston-Salem, twenty-five miles away, and Durham, fifty miles away. The day after that, students at Fayetteville State Teachers College and at Johnson C. Smith College, in Charlotte, joined in, followed on Wednesday by students at St. Augustine's College and Shaw University, in Raleigh. On Thursday and Friday, the protest crossed state lines, surfacing in Hampton and Portsmouth, Virginia, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

By the end of the month, there were sit-ins throughout the South, as far west as Texas. "I asked every student I met what the first day of the sitdowns had been like on his campus," the political theorist Michael Walzer wrote in *Dissent*. "The answer was always the same: 'It was like a fever. Everyone wanted to go.'" Some seventy thousand students eventually took part. Thousands were arrested and untold thousands more radicalized. These events in the early sixties became a civil-rights war that engulfed the South for the rest of the decade—and it happened without e-mail, texting, Facebook, or Twitter.

This is an excerpt of the beginning of the *New Yorker* article from 2010 by Malcolm Gladwell. The article is fittingly entitled, "Small Change: Why the revolution will not be tweeted."

I include this story because the way of change is the way of relationship. I know this sounds counter-cultural but I believe this to be true. As Malcolm and others have pointed out, changes big and small have come about because of relationship, not technology. These activists participating in the sit-ins were there because they were asked, because they had a personal relationship with those leading. This personal relationship helped keep the group

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together as they worked to bring about the change they were seeking.

I confess, I used to be what I might call a technology positivist. The right solution is out there, we just need to invent it. Man-made solutions are always best and will lead to the flourishing of all. But the experiences of the last couple of years has caused me to have a complete 180 degrees in much of my thinking (perhaps more to come in a different article...). We cannot tweet, Facebook, Instagram or doodle pool our way into finding the best solutions. Instead we need relationship: relationship with the Divine, the physical world, families, churches, neighborhoods.

Relationship involves deep listening, attending to words, body language and tone, being willing to change our point of view based on our interaction with others. It is collaborative and is deeper than any social media; and it takes TIME. Lucky for us, ECA has been practicing for the last five years. We have practiced the skills of re-developing / re-discovering the joys of listening and being in relationship. These skills will serve us as we discover the Church of the Future.

This Church of the Future is negotiable. I view this process as a conversation between us and God, us and each other, us and our neighbors. As we listen to each other we look for collaborative partners

that can help us refine the vision. We currently do not have all the answers, which is actually exciting, an adventure of discovery.

And what does this have to do with Community Organizing and the Connection Team? Everything!

How do we find collaborative partners? One-on-Ones from Community Organizing are a good template.

How do we listen and discern together? House meetings, sermons, hallway conversations, reporting back about conversations we've had with others.

How do we know when we are ready to take the next step? Sitting deeply with the Divine (within ourselves and without) will help to guide us.

Part of the work of the fall season will involve elements of Community Organizing. We will be scheduling a meeting with our lead organizer Anna Eng to give us more skills, helping us to listen deeply and discern next step.

I'm excited to experience the Spirit working in our midst as we discern our future.

*Peace,
Kimberly Axtell*

Book Group

The JV Book Group's August meeting will be on Wednesday, August 21st (generally on the 3rd Wednesday of the month). August's book is *Educated*, by Tara Westover. 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 McPherson Chronicles

I t's been 2 months since Jim and I packed our lives into a U-Haul truck and our trusty station wagon and drove across country to beautiful North Carolina! It has been everything we thought it would be, and a lot we weren't expecting- kind of like life in general. The trip across country was a adventure, and by day 3 I thought I might never get in a car again- we experienced non-stop rain through California, snow in Arizona, wind storms through New Mexico and the threat of flooding and tornados through Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee. Staying in hotels with two Mastiffs brings it's own adventures, including elevator paranoia, finding just the "right spot to pee", and a un-planned swim in the swimming pool by Finn ... but we all survived the trip and we have given Jim new fodder for his comedy act.

Our first 2 months in N. Carolina have been quite an adjustment- going from the mania of our previous lives- to being unemployed and not knowing anyone here. I have to be honest it was even harder than I expected it was going to be when we planned this- but we are starting to get over the hump. We have chosen a church after some speed dating, and it was not the one I thought it would be. We chose All Saint's Episcopal in Gastonia, not the bigger church that I thought I wanted, because the community was just so much more welcoming and loving

than our experience at the bigger church...but they still have the Family Promise program-(family shelter), Salvation Army feedings 4x a month, and some mentoring programs that I'm excited to learn more about. I've already had a chance to cook for the Salvation Army, helped out wih coffee hour, and Jim's already singing with the choir- so we've jumped in with both feet. Getting Jobs and volunteering in the community have been much more challenging than I expected, with everyone happy to take your application- even the volunteer jobs need applications- and then initially nothing! But Jim finally heard back from the town of Gastonia and he started his new part time job on July 8th as a "park and recreation guy" at one of the lovely lakes in the area- so he's thrilled! I was finally hired as a paramedic at a plasma center to do evaluations/physicals of the new applicants- though I am still in background investigation and haven't started yet. I also heard today that the animal shelter in Gastonia has accepted me as a volunteer and I am going to the orientation on Saturday. Family Promise is at All Saints this week and Jim, Tyler and I are signed up to help all week with entertaining the kids and making meals, so I will keep busy with the shelter and whatever other mischief I can find- while I wait to go back to work. We have identified several properties we are interested in on the lake, but our house hasn't sold yet, (even with the somersaults and back flips by our realtors- though things are looking up

in that direction- fingers crossed), so for now we are just looking.

We will be flying back to California on the 14th of August for a week to get Tyler settled back at school, and will be anxious to see you'all at church on the 18th! Miss you guys like crazy!

Hugs! Bonnie

PS a recipe as promised:

Snickerdoodles ala Bonnie

1 C butter-softened
1 1/2 C sugar
2 eggs
2 3/4 C flour
2 teas cream of tartar
1 teas baking soda
1/4 teas salt

-mix all together.

-Then in a separate bowl

combine 2 tablespoons of sugar and 2 teas of cinnamon together.

-Shape dough into balls, roll in cinnamon/sugar mixture

-place the cookies on a ungreased cookie sheet

-bake in preheated 375 degree oven for 10 mins

-removed from cookie sheet immediately or they burn.

Enjoy!



Worship Schedule

August 4 – *Eighth Sunday After Pentecost*

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

August 11 – *Ninth Sunday After Pentecost*

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

August 17 – *Let's ROC*

4:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

August 18 – *Tenth Sunday After Pentecost*

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

August 25 – *Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost*

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

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

- to Steve Wing (ECA) and Tom Gerber (CCAV-UCC) our Mudders! These two were in mud for the last few weeks, dealing with our major water leak in the playground area. They had to pump water out almost daily and coordinate with the gardeners, plumbers, and the San Jose Water Company to get this problem solved. It has been solved and work is finishing up. Thank you very much. Now we can get back to normal water bills!

- to “Hawk-eye Hoyt” (Roger) for noticing the water leak in the playground and reporting it! Without Roger catching it we wouldn't have been able to fix it!

- to the Focus Together teams (Our Neighbor's Needs and Resource Research) for meeting, planning and beginning investigations. We are moving along!

- to those of you that assisted The Rev. Julie Nelson, The Rev. Penelope Duckworth and The Rev. John Buenz when they were here helping us with our services in July, so Shelley could have some needed time off.

- to Betty Consorte for the Pentecost Dove she created. Both CCAV and ECA were able and delighted to let it soar for both Pentecost services

- to Shelley, for spending countless hours ensuring the search process for and election of our new Bishop has run smoothly. As the President of the Standing Committee for the Diocese, she has huge responsibilities that are outside what she normally does for ECA. Her work has demanded long hours and miles of driving. It's not over yet. We at ECA know that our Diocese is in good hands because of her. Her ability to work both with the Diocese and for ECA has been seamless. God bless you, Shelley!

- to Amy Schmidt (daughter) and Suzanne Schmidt (daughter-in-law), for helping refine the Shape layout process, making things a little easier for the editor, Mike

Looking Forward

September 2 • *Labor Day Potluck BBQ Fellowship Event*

September 8 • *Summer BBQ*

September 21 • *Let's ROC*

October 5 • *Octoberfest Dinner*

October 19 • *Blessing of the Animals/Let's ROC*

July and August Birthdays

Alain Guichard	July	02
Melinda Jennings		02
Rob McClaine		02
Jessica Fahlen		04
Michelle Yeider		09
Robin Williams		10
Guido Spanjaart		11
Dominic Consorte		12
Todd Axtell		15
Kathryn Hussain		22
Arnold Moore		25
Ken Rousseau		29
Taylor Wing		30
Ashley Martin	August	13
Jessica Skowronski		14
Roger Hoyt		16
David Byers		17
David Hoyt		19
Lynne Kelly		31

July and August Anniversaries

Nancy and George Romer	July	02
Susanne and Arnold Moore		17
Linda and Sam Sarmecanic		29

The SHAPE

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