

December 2019

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

On Sunday, December 1st, the Church will enter the season of Advent – which begins a new Church year. Advent is a season of preparation...of waiting...but not idle waiting. Advent is a “pregnant” time, when we wait for something to mature and be born. As with a human pregnancy, during Advent we nurture and make a place for that which we expect.

What do we expect from Christmas? It is not only the yearly remembrance of the glorious gift of the Incarnation, which would be enough cause for celebration! The Incarnation is the gracious gift of “God With Us”...Emmanuel...in which God came to live on earth as a human being in the person of Jesus Christ. This gives us a God who is truly with us in all our joys and sufferings, even our death. Jesus has experienced it all and truly accompanies us.

But Advent heralds more for us than only the Incarnation and the First Coming of Christ. During Advent, we prepare for the Second Coming of Christ. We don't know what the end of time looks like – perhaps it occurs the moment after our death when we are freed from time and space. But we affirm that in some way Jesus will “come in power and great glory.” All wrongs will be righted and God's kingdom of justice, peace, and love will be complete at last. All oppression, suffering, and death will cease. Advent bids us prepare for Christ's Second Coming and the fulfillment of God's Reign by watching for the in-breaking of the Kingdom...even now.

At ECA, we know about waiting that is, in fact, preparation. For at least the past year, we have been living in a “pregnant” time...working to help something mature and be born...the Church of the Future. We continue to watch and pray, making sure we are following the lead of the Holy Spirit in our Working Together as One. We research the needs of our neighbors and resources available to help us create a ministry that will spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by serving the needs of our neighbors. Advent encourages this spirit of expectant work...confident that God is guiding us. Please pray for this work during Advent.

How shall we nurture and make a place for that which we expect? How shall we watch for the in-breaking of God's transformed Kingdom? Whenever we see an act of love and vulnerability overcome hatred, or an act of self-giving offer healing and sustenance in place of need...whenever we see or experience forgiveness, we are seeing God's kingdom breaking into this world. When we pause for a moment to listen for God's love and guidance and then act on that, we are nurturing and making a place for that which we expect...the victorious and loving reign of Christ.

Blessings for Advent and Christmas,

+Shelley

Fellowship and Welcoming

The Changing Faces in Our Church

The look of our church is changing...not just inside our walls, but in our world, our nation and our city. Some of our beloved people have moved to other life adventures, not moving “away from” something, but “towards something” which in life is good. They are missed by their ECA family tremendously. Any communication from them is a welcome message. And we are blessed by new members to our ECA family. We are grateful these people have chosen to worship and fellowship with us. In our sadness about people leaving, it is important that we wholeheartedly welcome anyone and everyone who has joined our ECA family. Please reach out to Donna Yamamura, Ed and Liz Criner, Sherry and Stafford Baham, Larry Turino and Nancy Adams, Letty Duenas and Abhi Roy who are listed in our directory and are frequently seen worshipping with us. ECA is blessed indeed.

Nancy Romer

Book Group

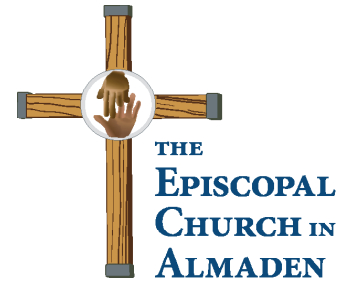
The JV Book Group will not be meeting during December, but when they resume their monthly meetings in January there will be some important changes. Meetings will move to the 3rd Monday of the month, and the meeting place will be The Cup and Saucer, located at the Princeton Plaza Mall, on Blossom Hill Road.

If you have not attended the group before, please know that all are welcome. Contact Amy Griffith (408 268-0920; email amy-g@pacbell.net) for more information. The first book to be discussed in 2020 will be *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee. For those who like to read ahead, February's book will be *The Book Women of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson.

December 24th Christmas Eve Services

5pm - Family
Eucharist and Carols

9:30pm - Candlelight
Sung Eucharist
and Carols



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

Kathleen Eagan
Senior Ministry

Taylor Wing
Webmaster

Betty Consorte
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Let's ROC

New Direction For Let's ROC

At Let's ROC we sing the Lord's Prayer responsively. I sing a line, or part of a line, and the congregation sings it back. Almost a year ago, when we had been singing it that way for more than a year, I asked if it was time to do something else. But at the same time, my little children started singing the prayer on their own, in the car and at other quiet times. In November, I held Margaret while leading the prayer. She joined me in leading the prayer. It was a beautiful moment.

There have been many beautiful moments at Let's ROC. Joyce Wing holding babies while mothers ate. Conversations among friends and challenging conversations looking for God on the move. I loved seeing cherub-faced children surrounding the manger at the Christmas pageant and the comradery in the kitchen led by Tom Ruffo. I've seen beauty in Judi Dimicelli's dedication to filling water pitchers, putting out plates, and moving tables and chairs to make space for our time together. I've seen beautiful moments like a father lifting his daughter captured by Wendy Martin's photography. I've seen so many proud parents watching their children share music taught to them by Susie Ferguson and Maryke Williams or their presentation of the baker who loved to bake bread. And I have loved watching children and adults lift

the bread and wine and offer it to each other. Thank you all for all the work and time you have given to Let's ROC, and thank you Shelley for letting me experiment with opening up the Eucharist.

Over the season of Let's ROC, we have gotten to know several families over dinner and deeper conversation. We have had several families commit to joining us month after month and more than 30 children come to at least one service. However, some of the families who had been attending regularly have moved away, and looking at recent attendance, the Let's ROC program is not meeting the needs of our neighbors as we have hoped. It is time to redirect our efforts, and look for where God is calling us next. The Let's ROC Christmas Pageant, December 21st, will be the last regularly scheduled Let's ROC in its current format.

Please join us, Saturday December 21st, 4:30-6:30, for this year's special pageant on the longest night of the year. In her book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor asks, "What can light possibly mean without dark?" We will celebrate the entrance of light into the world, on the longest, darkest night of the year. There will be light, and carols, and a celebratory meal. It will be a beautiful evening. I hope that you can be there. Please RSVP on the poster in the parish hall or by emailing Holly at holly@eca-sj.org.

Holly McCullough

JV members:

Steve Wing
Don Hall
Judi Dimicelli

Vestry members:

Worship
The Reverend Shelley Denney

Senior Warden
Joyce Wing

Communications
Inge Bond

Outreach
Joint Venture
Judi Dimicelli

Junior Warden
Joint Venture:
Don Hall

Finance
Todd Lukanc

Fellowship, Hospitality,
and Welcoming
Wendy Martin
Nancy Romer

Pastoral Care
Marianne Schmidt

Stewardship
Kelli Casale

ECA Activities

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</u> 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist 12:15pm Working Together As One Meeting	2 9:30am Yoga	3 5:45pm Finance Committee Mtng.	4 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class Discussion Group	5 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7 10am Meditation Group
8 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist with Folk Choir	9 9:30am Yoga	10 7:15pm Vestry Meeting	11 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7pm Class Discussion Group	12 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 10am Meditation Group 5pm Christmas Dinner
15 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10am Advent Lessons and Carols combined with CCAV-UCC. NO 10:45 service 11:15am Combined pot-	16 9:30am Yoga	17 7:30pm JV Board Meeting	18 4:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	19 8am Men's Breakfast 9:30am Morning Prayer 10am Lectionary Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21 10am Meditation Group 4:30pm Let's ROC and Christmas Pageant
22 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist	23 9:30am Yoga	24 <u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u> 5pm Family Eucharist and Carols! 9:30pm Candlelight Sung Eucharist and Carols	25 <u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u>	26	27	28 10am Meditation Group
29 7:30am Holy Eucharist 10:45am Holy Eucharist with JV Handbell Choir	30 9:30am Yoga	31				



Senior Warden

Working Together As One (WTO)

Working Together as One Status Update

The Joint Venture Transition Team (JVTT), comprised of The Rev. Marty Williams, Debbie Bemis, Tom Gerber and Kelly Yamanishi from CCAV, UCC and The Rev. Shelley Denney, Joyce Wing, Don Hall and Ellen Lukanc from ECA continues to progress on matters pertaining to our joint effort to build Churches of the future. Verbal updates for both congregations on the first Sunday of each month will continue with the exception of CCAV, UCC since they will be having their annual meeting on December 1.

Our Neighbor's Needs (ONN) and Resource Research (RR) Status Updates:

ONN: Interviews and information gathering is still underway.

We have received Public Health information that the team will review.

Three school principals were interviewed. Their main concerns were the stress on students to perform, the need for better communication between students and

parents, and the negative impact that technology and social media is having on all age groups of students. More counseling to help in these areas would be extremely helpful, and having them off-site would be best.

Two YMCA directors were interviewed, and their main concern was the large gap between economic groups, even in our area (95120, 95123, 95118). Students are hungry and need food and health programs. Programs and food are available, but they said many either don't know about them or are too embarrassed to participate. Outreach to these communities is needed.

Reports on statistics around Seniors, Families and Children that are written by the County's Social Services will be reviewed by the team to better understand the needs of these populations within the County.

Hearts and Minds director provided reports, statistics and links pertaining to senior's needs. They have offered a free class on Dementia and Alzheimer's on February 22 at ECA. Both congregations and the community will be invited. Time of class is to be determined. They will also speak at the May Tea in 2020.

RR: St. Mark's was interviewed regarding their plans to build low-income and transitional housing. Due to a lack of funding involved and the intense discussions at public board meetings, they pulled back from this endeavor. They have just contracted with a com-

pany in Dublin that helps churches, schools and NPOs to assess their real-estate assets whether the church plans to sell or build-on. We will be talking with them to better understand their services to see if we feel their services are needed or not. St Mark's has contracted them to do a full real estate assessment.

St Paul's in Walnut Creek is building senior housing. There is an article that Shelley put on our Facebook page for more information.

Key dates to remember December--January--March

- December 15th, the focus team will stop their data and interview collection
- January 26th, analysis and recommendations will be provided
- 1st Sunday of the Month, updates will continue
- March retreat with CCAV, UCC and ECA, date to be determined

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

*Joyce Wing,
Senior Warden*

Outreach and Hospitality

Day Center Opens January 3rd

Plans for the Day Center in January are coming together. It is amazing to see the progress being made daily on our wonderful Day Center. The Day Center opens on Friday, January 3rd 2020 and is at ECA till Monday, February 3rd 2020.

The groups of Lunch, Snacks, Transportation, and Activities are coming along smoothly. A big thank you to wonderful Montgomery Meals cooks for making pre-made casseroles for lunches. I look forward to when we can sit with the Ladies and share these wonderful casseroles with them. Thank you to Marianne Schmidt and the Transportation group for working with Holy Spirit to come up with a mid afternoon drop off and pick up for Ladies to the Light Rail. There are also some great Activities in the works for the Ladies while they are at the Day Center.

Sign-ups for Volunteer spots are live. Announcements will be made in the Mid-week bulletin and during Sunday Services for reminders to sign up. A big thank you to Maryke Willams for working on getting the sign ups live.

Dates will be announced for Supervisor Training, Setting up the Day Center, and another update meeting to ensure that we will be ready with open arms for the Ladies of Village House.

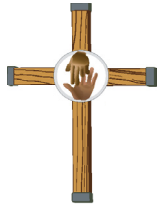
If you'd like to join any of the Groups, have an idea for an Activity or have any questions please feel free to reach out to me. I would love to answer any questions or hear your ideas.

I am so grateful to you all for coming along with me on this journey.

Letty Duenas



As Sharon Hall has explained in the Midweek Bulletin, ECA will no longer be preparing and serving meals at Home First. Our efforts will be directed towards providing meals for the ladies of Village House. A group of volunteers recently gathered to cook a batch of casseroles to be served in January at the Day Center, and perhaps at the Night Sleeping Center as well. The effort was very productive, and as you can see, a good time was had as well. Our hope and prayer is that the serving of these meals will provide an opportunity for fellowship around the table and for the ladies of Village House to share their stories and experiences.



Worship Schedule

December 1 – *First Sunday of Advent*

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

December 8 – *Second Sunday of Advent*

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

December 15 – *Third Sunday of Advent*

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

December 21

4:30 p.m.. Let's ROC/Christmas
Pageant

December 22 – *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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

December 24 – *Christmas Eve*

5 p.m.. Family Eucharist with
Music
9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight
Eucharist with Music
and Choir

December 31 – *First Sunday after Christmas*

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

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

- to Ruthanne Adams Martinez for the delightfully gaudy sign-up poster for the Gaudy Christmas Party
- to Betty Consorte for overseeing and implementing the design for the new ECA banner to be used first at the consecration of Bishop Lucinda
- to Dennis Moran for devising a way to affix the cross bar to the banner holder so that nothing will move when the banner is carried during a procession
- to the following ECA and CCAV-UCC members for all the work they did at the Joint Venture Work Day on November 9th. From ECA: Kelli Casale, David Byers, Joyce and Steve Wing, Pat McGarvin, Don Hall, Ann Mayers, Judi Dimicelli, Susie Ferguson, Tom Ruffo, Shelley Denney, and Bryan Bond. From CCAV-UCC: Connie and Mike Moore, Marty Williams, Sue Goddard, Tom Gerber, Debbie Bemis, Jan Blake, Laura Hall, Judy Martin, Dennis Elliott, and Phyllis Chan. And a special thank you to Mike Moore for organizing the Work Day.
- to Nancy and George Romer for cleaning out the four freezers so we had room for the Village House casseroles
- to Sharon Hall for coordinating us, and to Maryke and Robin Williams, Nancy and George Romer, Anna Spanjaart, Kathryn Hussein and her friend, Alison McFayden, Linda Dinsmoor (from the LDS Church), and Joyce Wing for cooking 16 casseroles that can be used in January at the Day Center for the Homeless women. Plus, thanks to Letty Duenas, Village House coordinator, for cheering us on (pictures on page 6).
- to Judi Dimicelli for her dedication to Let's ROC
- to Nancy Romer for chasing down the perfect pie for Let's ROC
- to Tom Ruffo for cooking two amazing turkeys for Let's ROC in November

Looking Forward

January 3 • *Village House Day Center Begins*

January 11 • *Consecration of Bishop Elect Lucinda Ashby*

January 26 • *Annual Meeting*

February 7 and 8 • *Vestry Retreat*



During November's Joint Venture Work Day, a team consisting of Steve Wing, Don Hall, and Tom Ruffo spent three or four hours changing out the lights above the altar, two of which had burned out. They used two ladders, a cobweb brush, a suction cup, an extraordinarily long pole that kept telescoping closed, an unspecified amount of duct tape (of course), a small flashlight, and a "grabby tool." They installed new LED bulbs in the four canisters, which should last approximately 15 years (the light bulbs). The men, on the other hand, will be too old to be climbing up on ladders long before the bulbs need to be replaced. Any volunteers?

December Birthdays

Jonathan Beacher	December	01
Marion Grunge		02
Barry Ford		02
Martha Lou Reynolds		02
Betty Consorte		05
Susie Ferguson		13
Susanne Moore		16
Isabella Foreman		16
Francie Kerr		19
Gary Keck		19
Jason Skowronski		19
Kathleen Eagan		19
Dana Renfand		23
Mike Schmidt		26
Ed Criner		30

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