

July 2020

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

We have now been worshipping, studying, and “meeting” together while in completely separate spaces for 16 weeks - 4 months. If someone had told me at the beginning of this year that we could remain the “gathered” Body of Christ in worship, study, and fellowship without seeing one another face to face for this long, I would not have believed it. How about you? It seems that even while we were on the road of trying to figure out how to “be church” in a different way, God handed it to us!

The Church of the Future is upon us – at least the future of the moment! But there is so much that we are learning from this time of enforced, physical separation. We have connected with so very many people not currently known to us. The average number of people who watch all or part of our Sunday services is 140. That is if there is only one person per computer, but since there are often two people watching, that number climbs much higher. When was the last time our Sunday attendance averaged 140? I believe it never has. We have wondered on this journey how to engage with new people who might be blessed by our worship. We now know how. We can continue to work on creating an online community, drawing them closer.

New ministries of connection and care have sprung up from you, the dedicated laity of ECA. A walking ministry of time together and checking on others is growing by leaps and bounds. “Hearts and Soles”

encourages two ECA walkers (or drivers) to go visit members of ECA who live alone or are elderly or in fragile health. These are short visits (15 minutes or so) during which the visitors stand outside, at least 6 feet apart and with masks, to check on and cheer the person visited. The Phone Tree ministry continues unabated, with over a dozen members of ECA who call a list of fellow members every week just to be friendly and check in. In these ways, we are coming to know our fellow parishioners better than ever and we are helping to make sure each one stays safe.

All our classes continue, now online, and because of this, former members who live far away are able to join us once again. We stay in closer touch electronically as well, with multiple weekly newsletters and a large email group who can be accessed with the touch of a button. The Pastoral Care Committee meets more often than ever, now by Zoom, to make sure our most vulnerable members are cared for. And ECA members are participating in getting food to a local woman, “Marilu’s Pantry”, who distributes it to our neighbors in need.

In short, in a time when churches are supposedly “closed”, in fact the Body of Christ that is the Church, is as open, active, and vital as ever – perhaps more so! What an opportunity for us to continue to learn how we can expand the reach of Christ’s love beyond our membership rolls. Truly, “the Church has left the building!”

Blessings,

Shelley+

Vestry Update

The Vestry met on June 11 via Zoom. As usual, the business meeting began with a review of the May financials. Pledge income is up and is at 111% of expected “year-to-date” amount. Expenses are generally looking better as well, although ECA continues to pay an increased share of JV expenses, as we agreed to do for the rest of the year. This results in spending about 120% of budget each month. Joyce and Steve Wing continue to count and deposit incoming monies received each month. ECA received \$20,886 from the government’s Paycheck Protection Plan, for which the rules are quite complex. Ruthanne continues to work on understanding all of the ins and outs of the program.

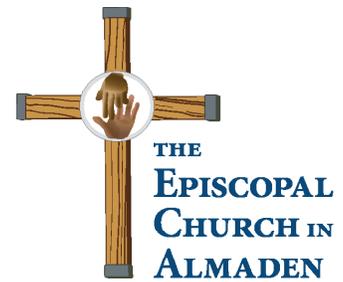
Ellen Lukanc is taking the lead on drafting a Re-entry plan for the church. Members of the team working with her include Anna Spanjaart, Judi Dimicelli, Shelley Denney, Joyce Wing and Elizabeth Guichard. All of the parishes in the deanery need to have an approved plan before any can move forward with new plans.

Next month’s meeting will again be held via Zoom, but the time is changing to 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held on July 9.

Elizabeth Guichard

Calling All Parishioners...

We are looking for interesting articles about our members’ uplifting experiences during the lockdown. If you have something you would like to share, please send it to Mike Schmidt, Shape Editor, at: mschmidt1109@gmail.com The deadline is the 15th of the month before.



Rector

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

Staff

Lynda Ford
Music Director

Ruthanne Adams Martinez
*Administrative Assistant
Treasurer*

Assisting in our Ministry

Joyce Wing
Senior Warden

Joan Wagner
Altar Guild

Ann Avoux
Prayer Vine

Debbie Estill
Ushers

Mike Schmidt
Shape Editor

Taylor Wing
Webmaster

Betty Consorte
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Paying Our Pledges

Though the church office is closed, all ECA staff are still working hard and our bills continue. If you are accustomed to putting your pledge in the plate on Sundays, please mail it to the church (6581 Camden Av, SJ 95120). It goes into our locked mailbox; I pick it up each Sunday and put it directly into our locked safe. It is then counted and deposited. So, it is very safe.

If you need to revise your pledge, due to the uncertainty of these times, please let me or our Treasurer, Ruthanne, know. If you need financial assistance, please speak to me – I have a discretionary account for this purpose. If you wish to contribute to my discretionary account, please mark the memo line on your check made out to ECA.

*Thank you,
Shelley*

If you have any needs – spiritual, emotional, or physical – please let me know. You can always get me on my cell: 805-550-0582 or my email: shelleydenney@gmail.com The office is, of course, closed – but Ruthanne is working from home. If you have an “office” question, call on her cell phone: 408-482-4014. Please be mindful that though at home her hours are still Tues-Fri 10am-2pm. You may contact me at any time.

Shelley

To Attend a Zoom Class or Meeting

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ZOOM DOWNLOADED ON YOUR COMPUTER OR IPAD:

- Go to this website: (Just click this link): <https://zoom.us/signup>
- They will send an email to the address you input. Press the “Activate Account” button in that email
- It will take you to a screen to input name and select a password
- On the next screen you can skip inviting others to Zoom
- Finally, you may start a “test meeting” and it will show you just how your screen will look when you log into a Zoom meeting.

WHEN YOU HAVE ZOOM DOWNLOADED:

Shelley will have emailed you a link to each class once she knows you want to attend. Each class or meeting requires its own invitation link. Just click on the link

a few minutes before the class or meeting starts. Be sure you’re clicking on the right link...the name and date of the class will be in the invitation.

You can also call into a Zoom class/meeting, but you will not be able to see anyone or see what Shelley shares on the screen. The class works much better if everyone joins with their computer or iPad. If you have questions, email Shelley.

JV members:

*Steve Wing
Don Hall*

Vestry members:

Worship

The Reverend Shelley Denney

Senior Warden

Joyce Wing

Communications

Alain Guichard

Outreach

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

July 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|-------------------------------|---|---|--------|---|
| | | | 1 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom) | 2 10am Lectionary Bible Study (may be joined in real time via Zoom) | 3 | 4 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) |
| 5 10:45am Worship Service - Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom) | 6 | 7 | 8 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom) | 9 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Vestry Meeting | 10 | 11 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) |
| 12 10:45am Worship Service - Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom) | 13 | 14 | 15 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom) | 16 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom) | 17 | 18 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) |
| 19 10:45am Worship Service - Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom) | 20 | 21 6pm JV Board Meeting | 22 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom) | 23 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom) | 24 | 25 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) |
| 26 10:45am Worship Service - Liturgy of the Word (may be viewed on Facebook in real time or at personal convenience) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom) | 27 | 28 | 29 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Class/Discussion Group (may be joined in real time via Zoom) | 30 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom) | 31 | |



Senior Warden

Well, Well, Well....Let's Do It

Well here we are, still right where we were months ago. Do you still feel the same? It seems a bit different to me. I do have it good. I have a nice house, good food and most importantly my family is near and my dear friends at ECA are there for me, yet it seems different. Still can't see all of my sisters, nieces or nephews. I can't go many places that would be really nice to go to out in nature. Most importantly though, I miss my hugs. How simple of an act can be missed so much. I believe that is a key and essential component of my life that has an astounding impact on my well-being. My 3 year old great-nephew has had it too, he is very verbal about his feelings and he belted out "I want my hugs back!". This has been a great loss for all of us, I'm sure.

What is a Hug?

A hug is a form of endearment, universal in human communities, in which two or more people put their arms around the neck, back, or waist of one another and hold each other closely. If more than two people are involved, it may be referred to as a group hug. (Wikipedia)

Why do we Hug?

A hug can indicate support, comfort, and consolation, particularly where words are insufficient. A hug usually demonstrates affection and emotional warmth, sometimes arising from joy or happiness when reunited with someone or seeing someone absent after a long time. (Wikipedia)

Not only do I miss my hugs, I see there are many that really need a hug, some may not know it yet or have never felt the power of a hug. I'm not necessarily a huggy-person, but I do know the power of a hug. With all of the intense events surrounding us, the pandemic and how people handle themselves differently, the racial injustice now and in history, along with the violence, the emotional attempts to reconcile or begin discussions, the social inequities and great fear that some have due to their situations of not having housing, jobs, food or healthcare, we need self-reassuring and caring hugs desperately.

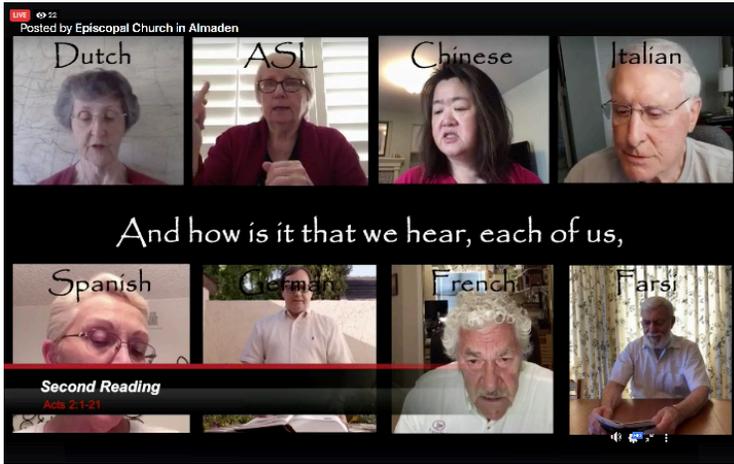
The overall world needs a big, strong, long-lasting hug. Hugs can break intense emotions down into manageable and inspiring actions of those that joined in this caring act. Hugs stay with you, they give lasting strength, assurance and confidence. Hugs won't fix all the problems, but it would let everyone know we are in it together and we will all support, comfort and be there for each other to help make things right and better.

We can start with our virtual self-hug with our ECA family. We have had to say goodbye to our dear friends Jan and Pat, we have seen others needing more help than we can provide, and we miss our hugs that lift us up each week to be closer to each other and to God. I would like to recommend that every day you start out with a self-hug for one minute. Hug yourself in your arms and give yourself, your family, your friends, those in need and dear God your thoughts during this caring act. Then at coffee hour or maybe during our service when we give Peace to each other, you hug yourself or the one you are with as an act to share our hugs with each other.

Maybe we could start a movement "World Huggers Unite" or "World Huggers are Needed"! It wouldn't hurt and it may bring a smile and a light moment to many to show that there are many that really care. Maybe people will try a hug and then emotions can be recognized and actions can be taken to work together in a caring manner to accomplish constructive and meaningful results to make things better for all. The love starts from within, then is shared through a hug, our connection, which can then provide the ability to change the world for the better together. Maybe we can help with virtual hugs during a time when it is needed the most. Let's see what we can do.

Many hugs to you all!

Joyce Wing
Senior Warden



On Pentecost Sunday, in June, a number of folks helped make the scripture reading come to life, speaking over one another in a variety of languages, helping us imagine what onlookers might have heard and seen on that morning in Jerusalem. The screen shot at left shows clockwise, from top left: Maryke Williams (Dutch), Jan Blake (ASL), Carolyn Cheng (Chinese), George Romer (Italian), Sam Sarmecanic (Farsi), Alain Guichard (French), Norbert Runge (German), and Judi Dimicelli (Spanish)

Walking Ministry

As some of you may know, a handful of morning walkers inaugurated a walking ministry in May during which we visited a few ECA parishioners who lived within our limited walking range. The ministry has expanded and now has a name, Hearts and Soles. There is now a sizable number of volunteers who are interested in including more people to visit. Those of us who initiated the visits found that there were wonderful benefits for both those doing the visiting and those receiving the visits. The socially distant face-to-face visits/conversations during this extended period of sheltering in place resulted in a strengthening of community and connections that enhanced our virtual “get-togethers.” We would like to invite you to receive such visits regularly and want to assure you that you can decline to be visited at all or just on those occasions when it turns out to be inconvenient and can request certain days of the week and/or time of the morning for visits (especially for those visited by walkers)

or, indeed, time of day. You can also specify the frequency of visits (once a week or multiple times a week).

All visitors and visits will remain outside and at the safe 6 to 10 foot distance. When your enthusiastic responses have been received (please send those responses to me as I am managing this endeavor from afar), the volunteer visitors will be informed and will choose recipients that fit their schedules and walking or driving range.

We would like to launch these visits soon, so your timely replies will be very much appreciated.

Stay safe and healthy,

*Judi Dimicelli
(Jcrgdimicelli@comcast.net)*

Helping the Homeless

Looking for opportunities to contribute during this shut-down? The Abrahamic Alliance under Rod Cardoza is distributing hygiene kits to the homeless, and is looking for volunteers to assemble them. The goal is 100 a month, and he will provide us with all the components. All ages can do it in their own homes, or with Muslim or Jewish neighbors if not in a high risk group. Contact Pat 408-316-7015 for more info, or Rod at rodcardoza@abrahamicalliance.org.

Pat McGarvin



Worship Schedule

July 5 – *Fifth Sunday After Pentecost*

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

July 12 – *Sixth Sunday After Pentecost*

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Bishop's Visitation onlines

July 19 – *Seventh Sunday After Pentecost*

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

July 26 – *Eighth Sunday After Pentecost*

10:45 a.m. Worship Service -
Liturgy of the Word

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

- to those who have begun and are working to expand the walking/visiting ministry that has become so important during this time of shelter in place: Judi Dimicelli, Joyce Wing, Pat McGarvin, George and Nancy Romer, and many others who are walking and checking in on folks.
- to Bryan Bond for not only doing the camera work that makes it possible for us to live-stream our Sunday worship services, but also for working to include additional camera views, add videos to our live service, fix and fine-tune the sound, and strive every week to make it better.
- to Ruthanne Adams Martinez for sharing her YouTube videos of harp and bell music with us for Sunday anthems and also for editing the music videos submitted by our singers and Lynda Ford.
- to Lynda Ford for her flexibility, cooperation, and creativity in working to choose the best music possible for our services. Also for working with choir members and various musicians to provide wonderful anthems for us.
- to all the people behind the scenes who make Sunday worship possible. Thank you

for the readers on Sunday. I think it is so much fun to see the readers in my living room.

- to Ruthanne Adams Martinez for all the wonderful work she is doing with the Paycheck Protection Program for JV, ECA and CCAV, UCC.
- to Ellen Lukanc, Judi Dimicelli, Anna Spanjaart, Elizabeth Guichard, Shelley Denney and Joyce Wing for working on ECA's Re-Entry Plans.
- to all those who contributed to the Scripture reading, in all the different languages, on Pentecost Sunday (see the photograph on page 6).



The coronavirus pandemic hasn't completely stopped the JV Bell Choir from getting together. (Maryke Williams, Eva Chapman, Janet Lundy, Ruthanne Adams Martinez, Jan Blake, Debbie Bemis, and Marianne Schmidt)

July Birthdays

| | | |
|------------------|------|----|
| Alain Guichard | July | 2 |
| Melinda Jennings | | 2 |
| Robert McClaine | | 2 |
| Jessica Fahlen | | 4 |
| Michelle Yeider | | 9 |
| Robin Williams | | 10 |
| Guido Spanjaart | | 11 |
| Dominic Consorte | | 12 |
| Todd Axtell | | 15 |
| Kathryn Hussein | | 22 |
| Arnold Moore | | 25 |
| Ken Rousseau | | 29 |
| Taylor Wing | | 30 |

July Anniversaries

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Nancy & George Romer | 2 |
| Susanne & Arnold Moore | 17 |
| Linda & Sam Sarmecanic | 29 |

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