

April 2021

# The SHAPE

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*From the Rector*

## Dear Friends

This edition of the Shape will arrive in your inboxes on the cusp of Easter, yet still in Lent...in fact, deep in Holy Week. That seems particularly fitting this year as we experience our second Holy Week and Easter still sheltering-in-place during the pandemic. With many of us now fully vaccinated, we seem to also stand on the cusp of some kind of return to whatever our newest normal might be. But the tragic events of the mass shootings in Atlanta and Boulder over the past weeks represent, among other things, the fact that through all this change, much that is evil among us remains. To me, our position here and now begs the question: with so much that has changed over the past year, continues to change, and sadly has not changed, to what are we able to cling? Where is the rock of our sanity and goodness...the hope for our troubled world?

The deepest, truest answer for us as Christians we will contemplate and celebrate through Holy Week and Easter. Looking at the evil and suffering around us, we know in our hearts that we cannot skip over Good Friday and go straight to the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. His willing acceptance of death on the cross – the worst the world has to offer – shows us that there is nowhere God will not go – out of love – to save us. Although the idea of a suffering God, a crucified God, is incomprehensible, we are comforted in our own suffering by Jesus' companionship of us through his suffering. And we have this comfort to offer to others. God knows our deepest sorrow, pain, and loss – and dwells with us there. That is what we learn from Good Friday. And we are called to accompany others who suffer in our time and place, to help ease the suffering of the world that God loves that much.

But our hope – and the hope of our suffering world – lies in the glory of Easter morning, when the hold of death over humanity was broken forever. Easter is the promise that evil will not have the last word. In Easter, we see that our hope in Jesus has not been misplaced and that our God specializes in bringing life out of death. In fact, when things look the most hopeless, God is there, quietly below our consciousness, to “work all things together for good” (Romans 8:28). We trust in God's intention and power to bring about new life for all of humanity and creation.

What then is our part in this great drama of renewal? As Teresa of Avila, the great 16th century contemplative and mystic, reminds us, “Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.” We, the Church, are the Body of Christ, and it is through our willing partnership that the Risen Christ can heal the world. This requires our faithful listening to the Holy Spirit's promptings. It requires that we “put on the mind of Christ” (Philippians 2:5-11), seeing the world with his mind and heart of compassion and understanding. And it requires that we act with his humility and self-giving love. These are the lessons we learn in Holy Week and Easter, the map for our lives, and the hope of the world. This is the rock of our sanity and goodness to which we cling.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!  
Alleluia!

*Shelley+*

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## Senior Warden

# Journeys. Stories.

Please listen to others.....your heart will sing as a result.

March 10, 2021. Journeys have been documented over the centuries in the Bible: in books; in movies; in speeches; on the television; on our phones; in person and so many other ways. Journeys about leaving Egypt and going into the wilderness; journeys about courageous people crossing oceans in less than seaworthy ships; journeys about adventurous people crossing snow-covered mountains in search of a better life; or how about the journey in a balloon around the world? Recently, I have been on my Lenten journey. With the daily reading of the ERD Lenten Meditations, I have been led on an incredible personal journey. I'm sure that you can chronicle your own personal journey with all the ups and downs as you have lived your life. If you haven't taken the time to think about it and to share your journeys or your stories with others, I encourage you to do so. Our life journeys matter. We learn valuable lessons from others.

March 11, 2021. Why am I being so retrospective about journeys? I have been spending the last few days with a dear friend who is in the process of dying from cancer. God is using me to be with her during her last days. We have shared wonderful stories about her life and the journeys that she has taken. What a gift!! Her jour-

neys are important reminders that we all matter and listening to others is the best gift any one can give another person.

March 12, 2021. Today I have been to Africa, Australia, China and Germany with her. The countless hours spent in airplanes to get to the countries was dwarfed by the adventures with animals and people. She smiled the entire time she related each story. She had the energy to talk. Then she slept.

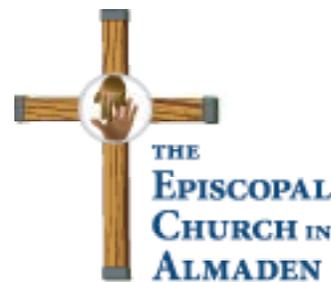
March 13, 2021. Today, I went to Washington State University with her and then onto the Seattle Sheriff's Office as she took her classes, met new friends and then went to work. She worked directly for the sheriff and loved her job for over 25 years. And then she slept.

March 14, 2021. Today, she was too tired to talk. Sitting quietly with her was what she needed. I have been providing some of her meals and today, it was at dinner that she spoke a bit. She could actually taste the food at dinner and it reminded her of a restaurant where she worked during her college days. Good story.

March 15, 2021. She's tired. Sleeping a lot. We are both on holy ground.

March 19, 2021. It's been a long few days, with many visits from her friends. I can't imagine all the stories that have been shared, but she is happy and peaceful. I add that she is no longer able to share her stories in an under

*(continued on page 3)*



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### **Rector**

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

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### **Staff**

**Lynda Ford**  
*Music Director*

**Ruthanne Adams Martinez**  
*Administrative Assistant  
Treasurer*

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### **Assisting in our Ministry**

**Nancy Romer**  
*Senior Warden*

**Joan Wagner**  
*Altar Guild*

**Ann Avoux**  
*Prayer Vine*

**Mike Schmidt**  
*Shape Editor*

**Kathleen Eagan**  
*Senior Ministry*

**Taylor Wing**  
*Webmaster*

**Betty Consorte**  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator*

(continued from page 2)

standable manner. God has given us such wonderful time together. Dying might be the last journey we take...or there may be wonderful ones ahead that we can't even imagine. Aren't we blessed that we know our Lord will be with us always? Sharing our stories of our journeys is vital for the heart of humanity for the present and beyond. Be the story teller and most importantly, be the listener. It is a truly holy time. God bless you all.

*Nancy Romer  
Senior Warden*

### **Shelley's Day Off Is Monday**

As a reminder, Mondays are my day off. I am always available to you for a pastoral emergency – any time, day or night. In an emergency, text me or call, being sure to leave a voice message if I don't answer.

But if you do not have an emergency, please respect my 24-hours off each week, by not texting or emailing me on Mondays. This is my Sabbath time, which I need to rest and rejuvenate. Your support in this helps me greatly.

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](mailto: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 to 2pm. You may contact me at any time.

*Shelley*

### **Holy Week and Easter Schedule, 2021**

- **Holy Wednesday, Wed, Mar 31: 7pm** Zoom service of Compline (usual Wed Zoom link). A quiet prayer service for evening, preparing ourselves for our night's rest in peace and thanksgiving.
- **Maundy Thursday, Thurs, Apr 2: 5:30pm** Zoom service of remembrance and sharing. Join your friends around the table to share food, hear and contemplate Jesus' last words to his friends, and celebrate the love that holds us together and marks us as Christians. Use the Sunday Coffee Hour Zoom link, and please bring a small bowl of water and hand towel as well as some food and beverage--snack size is fine.
- **Good Friday, Fri, Apr 2: 12-3pm:** outdoor, in-person Stations of the Cross and harp music for meditation (social distance and masks required: **5pm** live stream Liturgy of the Church for Good Friday with hymns and organ.
- **Holy Saturday, Sat, Apr 3: 6pm** The Great Vigil of Easter. The service will be available beginning at 6pm on April 3, at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuxbNrXCTqiFptAOaYIzKgQ>
- **Easter Day, Ssn, Apr 4: 10:45am** live stream service of Holy Eucharist with Holy Communion (wafers distributed 3/28) and special music from organ, trumpet, and choir; **1pm** outdoor, in-person service of Holy Eucharist with Holy Communion (bread only) and special music (no congregational singing). Up to 40 people may attend, reservations must be made on Eventbrite.com Please call Susanne Moore if you have trouble with Eventbrite.

### **JV members:**

*Steve Wing  
Ellen Lukanc  
Judi Dimicelli*

### **Vestry members:**

**Worship, Music**  
*The Reverend Shelley Denney*

**Senior Warden**  
*Nancy Romer*

**Communications**  
*Joyce Wing  
Judi Dimicelli*

**Outreach**  
*Don Hall*

**Junior Warden**  
*Alain Guichard*

**Finance**  
*Todd Lukanc*

**Fellowship, Hospitality,  
and Welcoming**  
*Kelli Cassale  
Susanne Moore*

**Pastoral Care**  
*Marianne Schmidt*

**Stewardship**  
*Kelli Casale*

# ECA Activities

## April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			31 <u>HOLY WEDNESDAY</u> 7pm Compline Service (Zoom)	1 <u>MAUNDY THURSDAY</u> 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Service (Zoom)	2 <u>GOOD FRIDAY</u> 12pm Stations of the Cross 5pm Liturgy of the Church for Good Friday (Facebook)	3 <u>HOLY SATURDAY</u> 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 6pm The Great Vigil of Easter
4 <u>EASTER DAY</u> 10:45am Holy Eucharist (Facebook) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom) 1pm Holy Eucharist (outdoors)	5 Shelley's Day Off	6	7 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)	8 6pm Vestry Meeting	9	10 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
11 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (Facebook) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	12 Shelley's Day Off	13 6pm JV Board Meeting	14 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)	15 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	16	17 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
18 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (Facebook) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	19 Shelley's Day Off 4:30pm Book Group	20 6pm JV Board Meeting	21 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Wednesday Night Discussion Group (via Zoom)	22 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	23	24 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom)
25 10:45am Worship Service Liturgy of the Word (Facebook) Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)	26 Shelley's Day Off	27	28 10am Meditation Group (via Zoom) 7pm Wednesday Night Discussion Group (via Zoom)	29 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	30	

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## March Vestry Notes

The March Vestry meeting was held March 11 via Zoom. Marianne opened the meeting with a prayer and a short meditation. Kelli then led a *Lectio Divina* based on Judges 19:14-21.

The formal financial report was postponed until April due to late arrival of the March numbers. However, Joyce provided a short counters' report, including that \$2,240 was given to the Communications account from 4 parish families.

As part of the JV Board report, Shelley noted that the squirrel abatement efforts continue on the church property. The board approved the JV Core Team's recommendation to hire a consultant to assist with their work and agreed to provide funds from the capital account. A balanced budget has been approved for 2021, with ECA once again contributing 2/3 of the amount needed for the operating budget and CCAV-UCC 1/3. Each church contributes an equal amount to the capital budget. This year, some funds are being diverted from the capital account to the operating account in order to balance the budget. Mike Moore has retired from the JV Board, while Greg Yaminishi and Connie Moore have joined it.

In a JV Core Team update, Joyce noted that the team is focused on communications and how to improve them, as well as creating a project organizational diagram. A small group has been formed to

review the consultant's proposal and meet with them.

Shelley reviewed the Holy Week schedule, which will include an outdoor in-person service at 1 pm on Easter Sunday. A link to an Eventbrite sign up site will be provided as there can be a maximum of 40 people at the service.

The Communications team was begun working on a re-design of the website. They hope to follow those efforts with creating an overall social media strategy.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be held April 8 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

*Elizabeth Guichard*

## Wednesday Night Class/Discussion

### A Storied Pilgrimage With Race

The Wednesday Night Class and Discussion will resume on April 21st (7-8:30pm via Zoom) with "A Storied Pilgrimage with Race." This is a diocesan-created resource of video interviews that use the power of story to share personal experiences with life, family, and race. The interviews are with people of color who are members of our Episcopal diocese and are powerfully moving. We will watch a video together each Wednesday and have a discussion

afterward. Besides the videos, this curriculum contains education materials, action items, and will give room for our reflection together.

This series can help build on the information and understandings some of us gained in our book discussion of "White Fragility" last fall. But participation in that series is not required to attend this. Completion of this pilgrimage fulfills the requirement for anti-racism training in the Diocese of EL Camino Real.

# WORKING TOGETHER

## Working Together As One Status Update

A summary of the bi-weekly Joint Venture Core Team's meetings will be included in mid-week bulletins, and shared with the ECA Vestry, CCAV, UCC Council and JV Board to keep information flowing. The information will also be covered in *The Shape*.

On Tuesday, February 23rd, the JV Core Team discussed the processes and procedures we use to communicate and seek approval when needed. A diagram documenting the flow of communication and approval will be created. In addition, the various roles and responsibilities of constituents (Joint Venture Transition Team (JVTT), JV Core Team, CCAV Council, ECA Vestry, JV Board, the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, and the No. Cal. Nevada Conference, UCC) were discussed, particularly with respect to decision-making authority and the temporary absence of a JVTT. The JVTT will begin meeting once CCAV, UCC hires their supply pastor, unless other resources become available.

On 2/16/21, JV Board, after Vestry and Council review, approved 1) the concept of hiring a consultant to help with transition work, 2) authorized the JV Core Team to work with consultant to develop a draft proposal/contract for initial

consultation, and 3) agreed the money for the contract will come out of the JV Capital account.

On Tuesday, March 9th, the JV Core Team reviewed draft documents pertaining to how and when we communicate status reports, apprise key groups and request approvals on required items. Recommended changes were made and the document will be reviewed and finalized to then be shared with both congregations. We want to be sure everyone from both congregations understands what we are doing, why and where these efforts may lead. We need active listening on your part and reassurance that you understand so that there are no surprises for anyone. We are looking at how we communicate one-on-one to make this happen, more to come.

In addition, how we are organizing ourselves is under discussion. Next meeting the JV Core Team will ensure the groups formed are

needed, as well as each group's responsibility being well defined. As things start happening we want to ensure that we have the right input from all the groups and both congregations so we can be adaptable and flexible as we address progress, concerns and decisions. A draft will be reviewed at our next meeting.

On 3/10/21, the contract subgroup, comprised of Joyce Wing, Shelley Denney, Debbie Bemis and Tom Gerber, had an initial meeting with DCG Strategies to discuss their initial proposal. Many of the subgroup's questions were answered, but we will continue to refine the proposal based on additional conversations to be scheduled. References are being contacted by the subgroup this week.

Questions: contact Joyce Wing

*Joyce Wing*





## New Website in the Making!

We have formed an ECA Website Redesign team that is comprised of Shelley Denney, Joyce Wing, Judi Dimicelli, Letty Duenas, Kimberly Axtell, Steve Wing and Ruthanne Adams Martinez. We will be working with Evelyn Wing and Marcus Krsynowski for technical services to help with the design and development. We are in the planning stages and will be focusing on what ECA's goals are for this site and the audiences we want to attract. We are looking at a couple of other church sites to get a feel for what we like as far as ease of use, visual appeal, simple yet informing content and the use of new functions, e.g., calendar, email subscription, donation options, etc. We want to tell our viewers who we are, what we are doing and have done, and why we want them to join us.

We have decided that we will be using a product called Square-space that is used to develop simple websites, that is easy to use and administrate so that we can get the website up faster and it will be much easier to manage and maintain. We want to thank Evelyn, Marcus and David Starr for their research and recommendations to use this product.

Over the next month, we will discuss font standards, color palettes, homepage design concepts, new domain names, content maps, pictures, and functions. We have a good team that is interested and interactive, which always helps a project move along. If you have any questions or would like to join us please let Joyce Wing know. More information to come, with pictures!

## Book Group

The JV Book Group is now meeting online, via Zoom, on the third Monday of each month, at 4:30 P.M. All are invited to participate. If interested, contact Amy Griffith by email (amy-g@pacbell.net) or by phone (408-268-0920), and Amy will arrange for you to be included in the Zoom meeting.

The April meeting will be at 4:30 P.M. on Monday, April 19. The book will be *The Alice Network*, by Kate Quinn.

Below is a partial schedule for the remainder of the year.

- May: *When Harry Met Minnie*, by Martha Teichner (Kathryn Remick)
- July: *The Last Blu: A Novel*, by Isla Morle (Leslie Rousseau)
- August: *The Lost and Found Bookshop*, by Susan Wiggs (Amy Griffith)
- September: *The Color of Air*, by Gail Tsukiyama (Ardis Roseberry)
- November: *The Book of Longing*, by Sue Monk Kidd (Elizabeth Guichard)
- December: *Olive Kitteridge*, by Elizabeth Strout (Kathryn Hussain)

# Tales From the Kitchen, with Alain Guichard: Spaghetti alla Carbonara

For this month's article I thought I'd move a little farther south in Europe and talk pasta. Elizabeth and I have been enjoying a series on CNN called "Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy", where the actor travels through the country exploring regional specialties. The second episode covered Rome, where pasta is king. Tucci reports that Romans love pasta and eat it every day!

Interestingly, he also notes that pasta was once at risk of being banned in Italy. In the early 1930s, import bans were placed on many foreign goods and wheat became very difficult to find. Mussolini tried to convince the Italians that pasta would make them weak, lazy and sexually impotent. This campaign was not a success. In fact, with 30-40% of the people being against Mussolini, pasta became the symbol for the anti-fascists.

According to Tucci, in Rome there are four basic pasta dishes:

- cacio e pepe- a creamy pasta made with cheese and pepper;
- cacio e pepe with pork added;
- carbonara (the current local favorite), where egg yolk is added; and

- amatriciana- made with tomatoes, guanciale (fatty pork cheek... pancetta often substituted in America) and pecorino cheese.

Today, I thought I'd share one recipe for traditional "Spaghetti alla Carbonara" for 2 people. Even though this is basically a simple dish, it can be a little tricky, because every Roman has their secret ingredient and feels that their family recipe is the best.

## Ingredients: (for two people)

- 10 oz of spaghetti
- 7 oz of guanciale or pancetta, cut into small cubes
- 1 whole egg
- 1 cup of pecorino (30%) and parmesan (70%) cheese, mixed, plus more for topping, if desired
- 1 tablespoon olive oil



## Directions:

*Bring a large pot of salted water to boil, and cook pasta until al dente.*

*Separately, cook the diced guanciale or pancetta in a large pan on the stove slowly over low heat. Add the cooked pasta to the guanciale or pancetta with 2 tablespoons of the pasta water, and remove from the stove.*

*Add the grated cheeses and black pepper to the pasta and a pinch of salt if needed.*

*Ciao!*

*Alain Guichard*





## Worship Schedule

### March 31 – Holy Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Compline Service

### April 1 – Maundy Thursday

5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

### April 2 – Good Friday

12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross  
5:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Church for Good Friday

### April 3 – Holy Saturday

6:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

### April 4 – Easter Day

10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
1:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (outdoors)

### April 11 – Second Sunday of Easter

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

### April 18 – Third Sunday of Easter

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

### April 25 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

## Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

- to Joyce Wing for her excellent leadership of the work of transitioning to the Church of the Future. Her organization, careful listening, and consensus building skills are a great blessing to the JV Core Team and all of us.
  - for Marianne Schmidt's careful note taking that helps communicate the important work of the JV Core Team
  - for Nancy Romer's wise and steady leadership as Senior Warden
  - for Lynda Ford's work, organization, and skill in planning music, preparing the choir, and enhancing our worship with music that engages our hearts as well as our minds in praise to God
  - to Ruthanne Adams Martinez for the many ways she helps keep the work of the church running smoothly. Also, for her engaging her artistic and musical talents on our behalf.
  - to some of the "Quiet Angels" of ECA: Betty and Dom Consorte, Elizabeth and Alain Guichard, Marion Grunge, Amy Griffith, Anna and Hans Spanjaart, Ellen and Todd Lukanc, Inge and Bryan Bond, Joan Wagner, Wendy Martin, Michelle Yeider, Maryke Williams, Dori Torrey, Pat McGarvin, Steve Wing, and
- Susanne Moore. So blessed to have you among us quietly doing the work of the Lord.
- to Shelley Denney, Joyce Wing, Judi Dimicelli, Kimberly Axtell, Letty Duenas, Steve Wing, and Ruthanne Adams Martinez that have started the ECA Website redesign team. We are excited about bringing ECA's site up to the 21st century!
  - to Evelyn Wing and Marcus Krsynowski for helping to do the ECA Website Redesign work and for them and David Starr for suggesting a new development platform called Squarespace that should make development and maintenance much easier
  - to Elizabeth Guichard for taking the minutes of the Vestry meeting each month
  - to all the hard work and hours put in by the JV Core Team



*(clockwise, from upper left) Jenny Holt, Kimberly Axtell, Betty Consorte, Andy Kerr, Todd Axtell, and Roger Hoyt teamed up to sing a moving anthem on Palm Sunday.*

## April Birthdays

Dennis Moran	April	03
Ryan Hall		04
Gayle Byers		13
Betty Wood		23

## April Anniversaries

Joyce & Steve Wing	19
Kimberly & Todd Axtell	29
Inge & Bryan Bond	29

## The SHAPE

Volume 50, Number 4  
April 2021

Deadline for the May 2021 issue:  
Thursday, April 15, 2021

Published 10-12 times a year by the  
Episcopal Church in Almaden  
San Jose, CA

Also available online at:  
[www.eca-sj.org](http://www.eca-sj.org)



Church 408.268.0245