



July 2021

The SHAPE

From the Rector

Dear Friends

We will be in the Season after Pentecost, which we entered on May 30, until after Thanksgiving. It is the long, green, season of growth in Our Lord, in which we work to become ever more loving Jesus Followers. This season is also known as “Ordinary Time.” The irony of finding ourselves in “Ordinary” Time at this extraordinary moment in history is not lost on me...or, doubtlessly, on any of you! July 2021 finds us transitioning from a loosened state of lockdown to a very open state for those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 but maintaining masking and safety precaution rules for those who are not. What shall this extraordinary moment in history mean for us, who are endeavoring to grow in the love of Jesus?

In times of transition, it is always well to remember who we are, and whose we are. If we go back to the basics of our faith, Jesus tells us this: love God and love your neighbor as yourself. To be clear, we do not love our neighbor “as” = “in the way” we love ourselves. I would not like to be loved the way I see some people loving themselves! We love our neighbors “as” ourselves, because we are one. We love ourselves = we love our neighbors. All of humanity – indeed all of creation – is connected as one, living, breathing life in God’s love. We are connected because we are all equally beloved of God – equal in worth, dignity, and rights. We are all connected because we need one another, and the Earth needs us all. These are lessons that have become clear in the pandemic.

Loving God and loving one another puts us in a stance of hospitality and welcome. The New Testament letters of Paul are very clear: as Jesus Followers we are always looking to the good of the other. In this transition time, we do not actually know who is fully vaccinated and who is not. Therefore, Christian hospitality, welcome, and concern for others suggests that we be willing to continue safety practices that we may feel are not necessary for us, but that may be very necessary for some in our midst. The safety of all must come before our personal preferences.

This has been a difficult fifteen months! Most of us are more than ready to leave restrictions behind and “get back to normal.” Here is a fact which is hard but true: normal has changed. Actually, normal is always changing, but it is more noticeable now. In order to love God and love our neighbor, in order to grow spiritually, and in order to move into the future God holds for us, I invite us to do some discernment. At the beginning of the pandemic, we were forced to lay down almost everything we did as a church. What pieces do we want to pick up? What pieces are in our DNA as Christians in this place? What pieces must we carry into the future to worship God and serve God’s people? And what should we leave on the ground? What no longer serves in our faithfully following God’s continuing call to us?

I invite us to discern together as we move forward carefully, taking precautions for everyone’s safety, and proceeding ahead, led by the Holy Spirit.

Blessings,

Shelley+

Senior Warden

Moving Ahead

My husband, George and I have been walking or hiking many miles every day for the last year and half. We have found this recreation physically challenging at times and mentally stimulating. During this time I have found that wearing the correct shoes and perfectly fitting socks are vitally important. We move ahead at a pace that works for us both since we want to have a shared experience every time.

I give you this thought as we at ECA are moving ahead after a long time of experiencing restrictions of many kinds. Not much has fit perfectly into our lives. Moving ahead now at ECA will look very differently which will require us to pick the “right shoe” to wear for us to move comfortably into the future. If we only move one foot, the other will be left behind to wonder where to follow. It will be advantageous to the whole body to move forward together with information to make the right decisions. We all have been spending time sitting, laying down and maybe not making the best decisions for our personal welfare. But now is the time to remember that we are a Christian community, one based in truth, love, kindness and belief that the Lord is also walking with us and the Spirit is leading us. To the “recreational complainers” who find it difficult to be part of the solution to move forward; to think forward; or to be fully engaged with our community, I challenge them to know

that they are loved, wanted and valued. This is an opportunity to move into the healthy future filled with spirituality, trust and helpfulness. The future is going to take every one of us to make “it” happen. The only way the future is going to happen is for us all to have shared experiences. Volunteer opportunities abound... for the Vestry, the JV Board, ushering, coffee hosting, the altar guild, lay reading...you are needed and wanted and loved. Put on those walking shoes and find a place for yourself to be part of this wonderful community of Jesus.

*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+*



Rector

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

Staff

Lynda Ford
Music Director

Ruthanne Adams Martinez
Administrative Assistant
Treasurer

Assisting in our Ministry

Nancy Romer
Senior Warden

Joan Wagner
Altar Guild

Alain Guichard
Head Usher

Ann Avoux
Prayer Vine

Mike Schmidt
Shape Editor

Kathleen Eagan
Senior Ministry

Taylor Wing
Webmaster

Betty Consorte
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Rector's Vacation

Shelley will be on vacation from Monday, July 19 through Monday August 2, 2021. In her absence, please contact our Senior Warden, Nancy Romer, for any concerns or emergencies.

Bishop's Visitation

Our Bishop Lucinda Ashby will be making her official visitation to ECA on Sunday, July 18. Because we can accommodate more people and have more flexibility, this service will be held outside at 10:45am and will be livestreamed. It will be a service of Holy Eucharist with Bishop Lucinda preaching and presiding, followed by an ice cream social Coffee Hour. This will be Bishop Lucinda's first physical visit to ECA since her consecration, and I hope most of you will be able to attend this joyful event.

New Ministries

As we regather in person for worship and fellowship, there are new opportunities for ministry. The Sunday ministries that existed before the pandemic have changed in their duties for now and this gives the opportunity for people to "try on" new ministries. See if you would like to help out during the summer and see if this is a satisfying niche for you! Speak to Shelley if you want to try or if

you previously served in these capacities and are willing to continue.

Ushers: We now have two ushers serving for each Sunday – one downstairs and one upstairs. One greets and signs people in and the other hands out bulletins and a pre-consecrated host for communion, helping people with seating.

Coffee Hour Hosts: We are currently serving individual beverages and treats for Coffee Hour that are separately wrapped. Coffee Hour hosts take a table to the patio, lay out goodies, and clean up. Soon they will be serving coffee.

Readers: The duties of readers remain the same. One person reads the two lessons and psalm, and another reads the Prayers of the People with special prayers.

Choir: During the summer the whole choir does not gather, so we have a few individuals who sit in the choir loft and lead the hymns. The Anthems will continue to be videos, so we need folks who like to sing to help lead hymns. You do not need to have been in choir previously.

Altar Guild: Now is the time to volunteer for the Altar Guild, whose duties are less demanding this summer. It involves setting up the vessels for Holy Eucharist and putting them away afterwards. Speak to Joan Wagner about Altar Guild.

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 to 2pm. You may contact me at any time.

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

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	2	3
4 10:45am Holy Eucharist (inside in person and live-stream) Outside Coffee Hour	5 Shelley's Day Off	6	7 10am Meditation Group (Zoom) 1pm Re-Entry Team Meeting 7pm Wednesday Night Discussion Group (Zoom)	8 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Vestry Meeting	9	10
11 10:45am Holy Eucharist (Inside in person and live-stream) Outside Coffee Hour	12 Shelley's Day Off	13	14 10am Meditation Group (Zoom) 7pm Wednesday Night Discussion Group (Zoom)	15 10am Lectionary Bible Study (via Zoom)	16	17
18 10:45am Holy Eucharist Bishop Visitation (outside in person and recorded) Outside Coffee Hour	19 Shelley's vacation begins 4:30pm Book Group	20 6pm JV Board Meeting	21 10am Meditation Group (Zoom)	22	23	24
25 10:45am Holy Eucharist (Inside in person and live-stream) Outside Coffee Hour	26 Shelley's vacation continues	27	28 10am Meditation Group (Zoom)	29	30	31

June Vestry Notes

The June Vestry meeting was held via Zoom on June 10. Marianne led an opening prayer and meditation, followed by Alain leading a Lectio Divina based on 1 Kings 19: 1-8.

The business meeting began with Todd's financial report. Income remains light and we are now at 103% of the planned budget for the year. There are no unusual expense items, which is at 100% of plan.

An update from the most recent JV Board meeting stated that Laura Hall volunteered to get the smart thermostats installed and arrange for the training of 5 total ECA/CCAV, UCC people who will be able to control these thermostats remotely. Also, Dennis Widman requested help dead-heading the rose bushes, and the weekly gardening service is willing to do this.

The Core Team met with DCG Strategies to review their progress to date. Their findings are preliminary, as many of our legal documents are so old they haven't been digitized. They can't be reviewed in person until the city Planning Dept. re-opens at the end of July. In the interim, the team will reach out to members of both congregations with real estate expertise and DCG will work on the smaller version of their report.

The team working on our new website is making good progress and hopes to have something to show in about a month. There

will be no online directory for confidentiality reasons. The home page will have 3 sections: 1) a picture carousel showing worship, fellowship, outreach and music; 2) a welcome statement and 3) a focus area on things we're currently working on or where we want to do more- creation care, the church of the future and social/racial justice. This team suggested that we might want to create 2 new ministries on creation care and social/racial justice as the congregation has expressed interest in these areas and they would help us draw young people to the church. The Stewardship Committee was suggested as a leader for creation care. Volunteers would be needed to organize a social/racial justice ministry.

The Bishop has issued new re-entry guidelines. We need to remain masked and social distanced while indoors, but can sing with masks on. Communion remains bread only and a restricted coffee hour is now allowed. As a result, ECA's re-entry team plans on a trial "coffee hour" after the 10:45 am service, which will occur on June 20 & 27, after which it will be re-evaluated. Our trial coffee hour will be done outside on the patio. Congregants will exit the church through the Narthex and walk outside to the patio where individually wrapped servings of water/juice and snacks will be served. This Sunday (June 13) will be the last day for the Zoom coffee hour.

The Bishop will visit on July 18, when the 10:45 service will held

outside. Shelley will be on vacation from July 19-August 2.

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

Elizabeth Guichard

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 July meeting will be at 4:30 P.M. on Monday, July 19. The book will be *The Last Blu: a Novel*, by Isla Morle.

If you'd like to get started on the book for August it's *The Lost and Found Bookshop* by Susan Wiggs.

Amy Griffith

Outreach Ministries

Now that we are able to gather more safely, there are many opportunities for outreach into our community. Outreach is at the very heart of ECA's DNA. The Vestry is organizing in this area and would like to know if there are parishioners who would like to be involved. Don Hall is the Vestry Liaison for Outreach, so let him or Shelley know if you are interested. Thank you.



Working Together as One Status Update

The JV Core Team has had a preliminary meeting with DCG Strategies prior to completing the Land Use Analysis Report. The meeting mainly focused on what are our alternatives. They concluded that housing would not be recommended, even if it was only a small number of units. Due to our zoning (R1-1 refers basically to 1 house per acre) we are unable to do multiple housing units, unless we spend a great deal of time, with experienced guides to get it through the City's processes. The DCG Strategies final memo and analysis is expected after July 7th. This was corroborated with a discussion the JV Core Team had with Jerry Ferguson in a later meeting. Jerry has over 40 years of experience in this field and within Almaden and San Jose. He felt it may be possible, but would require a long period of time and effort, with a high risk of not happening. Jerry kindly provided a writeup to the JV Core Team with his thoughts based on his experience and provided recommendations on next steps.

The team felt that having housing and Non-profit organization services would be too much and slow down our efforts, adding years

to the project. The team decided just to focus on the NPO services desired, understanding there still will need to be discussions with experts and government officials regarding our use of land and facilities for these efforts. Our Grant Deed and conditional use permit language seems to provide a potential path for us to move forward on these efforts, but this needs further research and discussion with key governmental decision-makers.

Jerry recommended meeting with Maria Nicolacoudis, Director of Hearts and Minds, to present our thoughts on partnering with her organization and see if there is a desire on their part. Having a potential partner to work with would help our efforts. We have drafted an initial JV Strategic Plan and will share it with Maria prior to our June 29th meeting, she will be informed that the plan is not complete and still has to go through our internal review processes. To have a more informed discussion the team felt the draft document should be shared at this time. She will be meeting with the majority of the JV Core Team via zoom and seems to be looking forward to this discussion.

JV Core Team members: Joyce Wing, Rev. Shelley Denney, Marianne Schmidt, Ellen Lukanc, Nancy Romer, George Romer, Judi Dimicelli, Pastor Shelly Wilson, Debbie Bemis, Jan Blake, Tom Gerber and Kelly Yamanishi

Questions: contact Joyce Wing, Debbie Bemis or Shelley Denney

Tales From the Kitchen, with Alain Guichard: Salade Nicoise

A refreshing summer meal from the south of France is Salade Nicoise, which was originally composed simply of tomatoes, anchovies and olive oil. The modern version still has tomatoes and always includes bell pepper and a protein (hard boiled eggs, anchovies and/or tuna). The famous French chef Auguste Escoffier committed the sacrilege (according to purists) of adding cooked potatoes and cooked green beans. This is what I like and I add romaine or red leaf lettuce and black olives. The first written mention of a “salade niçoise” is from a writer friend of the artist Matisse, and not by a chef. Jules Romain wrote in a novel that his hero ate a salade niçoise. Did he add the term niçoise after ‘salade’ to add a touch of exoticism for his Parisian readers or did he see it on the menu of a restaurant in that city?

To digress for a moment, as many of you know, the City of Nice is on the French Riviera and is the cultural center of Provence. The flower market of Nice is one of the biggest in Europe in the Spring.



Cut all ingredients in wedges, starting with the lettuce on the bottom. Add the vegetables and protein as desired. Serve with a mustard vinaigrette. To prepare the vinaigrette, whisk together 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard with 1/2 cup red wine vinegar, 1 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp ground black pepper. Pour slowly 1 cup of olive oil into the mixture. Then add 2 tsp chopped red onion. You can top your salad with chopped parsley.

*Bon Appetit,
Alain Guichard*





Worship Schedule

July 4 – *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

July 11 – *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*

10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

July 18 – *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

10:45 a.m. Outdoor Holy Eucharist

June 25 - *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Gifts of Gratitude

Thank you ..

- to Jerry Ferguson for sharing his wisdom with the JV Core Team in helping clarify the next step
- to Susanne Moore, Nancy Romer and George Romer for organizing the in-person Coffee Hours
- to Joyce Wing for all of her work and organization as project manager for the Church of the Future. Her organization, diligence, and good listening skills are outstanding and a real blessing.
- to Anne Tysanner for organizing meals for Gwen Hacker after her surgery
- to Pat McGarvin for bringing people who need rides to church
- to Bryan Bond for faithfully setting up the audio equipment for our outside services, even early in the morning
- to the Vestry for pitching in to staff the needed tasks for outside services this summer
- to Alain Guichard for his interesting and tasty recipes in the Shape
- for your continuing donations to the Communication fund and SMUM

July Birthdays

Alain Guichard	July	02
Melinda Jennings		02
Robert 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
Taylor Wing		30

July Anniversaries

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

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