

April
2021
Edition



The Ambrosian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
900 Edgewater Boulevard, Foster City, California 94404

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Editor
Yvonne Sidell

Vestry Report – by Jim Neubert

Our Evolving Relationship with El Buen Pastor Episcopal Church

The last few months have seen our contacts with El Buen Pastor Church change radically. As with most changes, while we are sad about Mother Anna Lange-Soto having retired and left the congregation, we are happy that we have developed a more in-depth understanding of this church that we have been connected to for perhaps 20 years.

Many of you may remember Manuel and Patricia as guests along with Mother Anna at the annual Stewardship Dinner at the Recreation Center. They would sometimes win the raffle; they also once did a short karaoke involving song and Spanish sing-along. But most of us knew only Mother Anna. Two decades ago, we began a program where we would donate used computer equipment from our congregants and Russ (Anna's husband) would restore them and provide them to their community. All along, our Outreach budget has included an annual modest financial support for their church. We have this history of support for their faith ministry.

In the last few years, a few of us would march in solidarity for immigration rights with Mother Anna at the Richmond detention facility, or a downtown Redwood City evening vigil march protesting I.C.E. intimidation practices with non-legal immigrant status, some of whom were in their congregation. We were often accompanied by Rev. Karen and Fr. David. They have asked us to be present at County Center court hearings, and I did that once with Fr. David to show community solidarity for their rights to be honored, to speak aloud about discrimination in judgments.

To bring us up to the present, post Mother Anna, post Fr. David, and with COVID, we have had to dig down deeper and reintroduce ourselves, so to speak.

Pamela Stevens, from the Office of Transition Ministry, is their Diocesan representative and she works as the liaison and facilitator for their congregation with Mother Anna's departure. She is fully bilingual, while Manuel and Paty (Patricia's more familiar name) are not. She is passionate about their faith ministry and is a fierce advocate for them at the Diocese. Paty is the Senior Warden and Manuel is the Minister of Music, to use our terms. We also know Cary McCullough from their worship team who was discussing teaching Spanish to Alison LeBlanc last time we met. Music is central to their service, as is storytelling. Their church service is quite different from ours, and very beautiful. You can attend on Zoom anytime. Go to Facebook and type in El Buen Pastor, Belmont. Their Facebook Live services have attracted people from Oakland, Berkeley and Mexico.

Their Peninsula services are presently held at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Belmont. Good Shepherd became their host church perhaps a year ago, when their former host church, Messiah Lutheran in Redwood City, had to close their doors. They actually also have a downtown congregation, NS de Guadalupe, in Noe Valley! The El Buen Pastor congregants number perhaps between 25 and 35 – many of them are from East Palo Alto or Redwood City and their income level is very low and employment opportunities are often limited. Faith and worship are central in their lives.

Since about July, when Fr. David retired, and close to the time Mother Anna retired, I have worked to get acquainted with the people noted above, and to form a closer, more personal relationship between our churches. The challenge has been the language barrier, and we hope both congregations may become more bilingual. We hope El Buen Pastor leaders and church members will become more bilingual for their improved success in our society, and we hope to become motivated to do the same with the Spanish language. Otherwise, there remains a barrier.

I am anxious to share more, but I must divide this into two articles. The next article will talk about the ways we have been helping their church since July. There are several things we have done, and a handful of us, including Fr. Shane, Nilda Chong, Steve Yuen and Alison LeBlanc have participated in this new growth of relationship. We hope for St. Ambrose to be more in partnership, and not just in a "giving mode". We have found that this is more dignity based. This understanding has evolved from some very intimate Zoom meetings, where we've come to understand some of the hardships their members have faced in their life journeys.

By the way, if you are fluent in Spanish and would like to help in our next Zoom meeting, please let me know! And please look for next month's article!

Respectfully Yours,

Jim Neubert



Father Shane's Schedule

We have been working on setting a regular work schedule for Father Shane so that we can all know when it is best to contact him, and also so that he can have some routines (which include day off, Sabbath and study day).

It seems that the best days to have off are Friday and Saturday. From Monday through Thursday, he will be working at the office or from home. While we all know he is available to us when necessary, it would be best to keep communication to emergencies during his days off. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars**APRIL 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	29 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	30	31 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation	1	2	3
4 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	5 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	6	7 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation	8	9	10
11 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	12 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	13	14 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation 5:00 PM Altar Guild Meeting	15	16	17
18 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	19 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	20	21 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation	22	23	24
25 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	26 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	27	28 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation 6:00 PM Buildings and Grounds Meeting, Zoom 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting, Zoom	29	30	1

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Sun., Apr. 4 10:00 am	Virtual Sundays Liturgy
Sun., Apr. 4 11:00 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sun., Apr. 4 4:00 pm	Zoom Youth Group
Mon. Apr. 5 1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
Wed., Apr. 7, 10:00 am	Contemplative Meditation
Sun., Apr. 11, 10:00 am	Virtual Sundays Liturgy
Sun., Apr. 11 11:00 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sun., Apr. 11 4:00 pm	Zoom Youth Group
Mon. Apr. 12 1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
Wed., Apr. 14, 10:00 am	Contemplative Meditation
Wed., Apr. 14, 6:00 pm	Altar Guild Meeting
Sun., Apr. 18 10:00 am	Virtual Sundays Liturgy
Sun., Apr. 18 11:00 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sun., Apr. 18 4:00 pm	Zoom Youth Group
Mon. Apr. 19 1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
Wed., Apr. 21, 10:00 am	Contemplative Meditation
Sun., Apr. 25, 10:00 am	Virtual Sundays
Sun., Apr. 25 11:00 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sun., Apr. 25 4:00 pm	Zoom Youth Group
Mon. Apr. 26 1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
Wed., Apr. 28, 10:00 am	Contemplative Meditation
Wed., Apr. 28 6:00 pm	Building and Grounds Meeting
Wed., Apr. 28 7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting

Senior Warden's Report – by Shelley Keefe

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church Honoring Nilda Chong

Dear Beloved Community of St. Ambrose,

With enormous regret, we recently accepted the resignation of Nilda Chong, MD, from St. Ambrose Vestry.

Nilda brought so many unique talents to the Vestry and she will be sorely missed. Her absence will be most keenly felt in our shared ministry with El Buen Pastor, a local Spanish-speaking mission congregation. Nilda served not only as interpreter (oral and cultural), but also helped us understand how both congregations can learn from and serve one another.

Big shoes to fill, no doubt, but if you have Spanish language and cultural skills, please consider if you could step into the role of Facilitator to this important group.

We thank Nilda for her incredible service. She is now working on her third book and we look forward with great excitement to witnessing her 'next chapter'.

Respectfully Yours,

Shelley Keefe

Youth Ministry and Youth Group News – by Daniel Tate

In March, the Youth Group had another good Pizza Day on Saturday gathering in the courtyard at the church. We were glad to gather in person again. We ate some pizza, enjoyed some cold beverages, sat around and talked, and played some basketball, dodgeball, and Four Square. It was a good day. Plus, the gladiolas the Youth Group planted near the entry of the church have started to come up. We'll be having another Pizza Day in April, date to be determined.

Also in March, Karen Chee (Comedy Writer for the Seth Meyers Late Night Show) was in conversation with us. Karen writes for the show, but she also appears on his show from time to time. Karen and her family first started attending St. Ambrose when she was three years old. She also went to Sea Breeze School, and later was an Acolyte and Youth Group member. Karen went to Bowditch & San Mateo High, and graduated from Harvard. She spoke to us from Korea. We learned a lot! Lots of questions were answered about how her career unfolded.

April Schedule

Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Egg Toss:

Easter Sunday, April 4 @ 12:30 p.m. in the Sea Breeze Courtyard. Come join your friends. Social distancing protocol in place. Snacks provided.

Another Pizza Saturday: Date to be determined.

Another {Possible} Guest Speaker: Date to be determined.

Opportunities for Learning / Service at the Church

Technicians:

Every Sunday, we produce an online YouTube broadcast of our worship service. We are still looking for people to train and to help out. If you are interested in learning how we produce our Sunday morning services, please contact me.

Readers:

During each worship service, church members read the lectionary scripture for the day, and the Prayers of the People. Traditionally, adults have filled these roles, but now we're looking for our youth to take part too.

Musicians:

If you like to sing or play an instrument, there are plenty of opportunities to do that at St. Ambrose. On Saturdays, we record the music to be spliced into the live broadcast recordings on Sundays. During the service, the prelude, the postlude, the main anthem, the offertory, and the hymns all offer a chance for singing or playing an instrument. If you are a beginner or expert, either one, Maureen Fromme and Frank Saunders, our music leaders are happy to teach, assist, and accompany.

Youth Ministry and Youth Group News (continued)

St. Ambrose Youth Group Zoom Meeting:

The Youth Group Zoom takes place every other Sunday from 4:00 – 5:00 pm, plus an outdoor activity one or more Saturdays a month. College, high school, and middle school youth, including those who have just completed the fifth grade are all welcome. Friends are welcome too! Please contact Daniel Tate by e-mail at ym_stambrosefc@att.net if you or a friend would like to join in and have not yet received a link. Usually five to ten youth participate in each meeting. Each meeting includes talking about the highs and lows that we've had during the past week, reflection on scripture, and an activity or game. We also have interesting guest speakers! Please join us!

Respectfully Yours,

Daniel Tate
Associate for Youth and Family Ministry
ym_stambrosefc@att.net
650-799-7084

Hymns for April – by Maureen Fromme

“Alleluia No. 1” (1982 HYMNAL #178)

(Better known from the refrain, “Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord”)

There is a wealth of hymns for Easter, some of the music composed as early as the 1600s, with several hymns from the 1900s.

This particular hymn has text and music written by Donald Fishel, an American born in 1950 in Michigan. He is a flutist, composer and a computer systems programmer. This is the first hymn he composed and was written in 1971 while he was still a student at the University of Michigan. He has been very involved in church music through the years.

There are references to scripture throughout the hymn. The first verse declares that “Jesus is Lord and “King of creation”, referencing I Corinthians 12:3 and Romans 10:9. The second verse is about Christ's death and resurrection and that we are to share that news with others (Matthew 28). The third verse refers to Galatians 2:20 being “crucified with Christ” and now have eternal life. The final verse invites us to “joyfully sing to our Savior”. A joyful hymn indeed!

I have fond memories of this hymn from my time teaching at an Episcopal school in Dallas (Grades K-8). This hymn was one the students loved and their voices demonstrated that. These five hundred students would sing this and although the youngest children did not use hymnals, they memorized the refrain. When those youngest voices came in each time, the sound put a smile on everyone's face.

May this Easter time bring joy to our hearts, our voices and our faces, even though we remain masked. **A blessed and joyous Easter to everyone!**

(Sing along while you listen and watch-- text included in video).

<https://youtu.be/DyPYJtxu8cE>

Respectfully Yours,

Maureen Fromme

April Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen

Sandwiches on Sunday

The next Sandwiches on Sunday will be on **May 30**. We will be assembling the brown bags containing sandwiches and chips at the church from Noon to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 29.

If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Steve Yuen (650-341-1966, stevebyuen@aol.com).

El Buen Pastor

On March 7, Jim Neubert and Nilda Chong organized a Zoom meeting to discuss how St. Ambrose could assist El Buen Pastor, the Episcopal Church's Spanish-speaking church on the Peninsula. Mother Anna Lange-Soto has retired, and like St. Ambrose, the congregation is working through the transition to a new minister while coping with the unprecedented problems posed by COVID-19.

Jim, Nilda and generous benefactors arranged to donate tablet computers to El Buen Pastor. Also, the Vestry approved an increase of \$1,000 to St. Ambrose's regular annual donation of \$1,800.

Meanwhile, discussions continue about other ways we can help.

Cambodia Academy

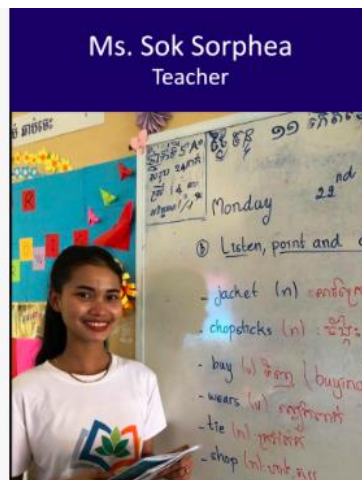
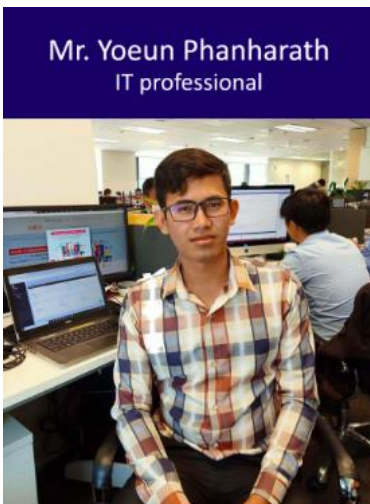
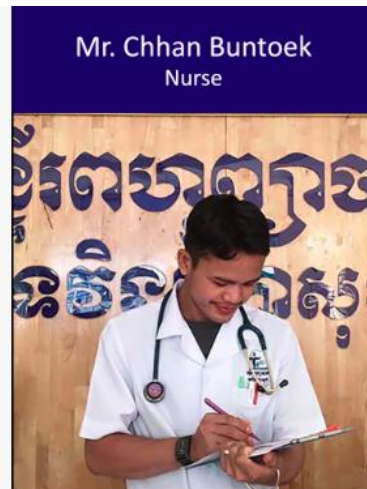
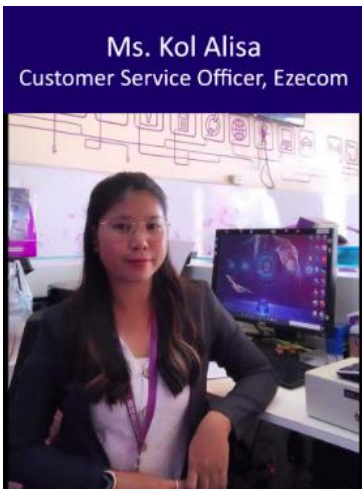
Since 2008, St. Ambrose has been supporting the Cambodia Academy, which was founded by the late Foster City resident Hans Eide.

Hans' work was taken over by members of the Bay Area Rotary Clubs, and the Cambodia Academy continues to provide a free education, meals, and English-language training to children who are too poor to attend public schools.

In its latest newsletter, the Cambodia Academy reports that 312 students are currently enrolled. The Cambodia Academy is continuing to provide classes while observing COVID-19 safety protocols.

After the children graduate from 9th grade, many find jobs in towns and cities because of their training. Some photos of the alumni are shown:

April Outreach Report (continued)



Sea Breeze School News – by Jerelyn Weber, Principal

Summer Camp registration is open!

We will be 100% online and have flexible schedules available. Please contact the Admissions Director at wwalker@seabreezeschool.com or visit our NEW and IMPROVED website at [Sea Breeze School in Foster City](#).

Have a Blessed Easter!

Respectfully Yours,

Jerelyn Weber

The Editor's Corner—by Yvonne Sidell



“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” —Philippians 4:4-6

God is peace. That is an old and simple statement that never loses its truth or power.

Peace is a soothing word that makes me think of the ability to remain calm even in the middle of a storm.

In fact, you may have seen the famous picture of a storm raging on the sea with the winds blowing and the waves crashing on a big rock that stands alone in the middle of the ocean. And when you look closer, you see a little bird nestled safely in that rock.

Now that’s a picture of true peace! The kind of peace Paul writes about in today’s verse.

This kind of peace is not an absence of problems or storms, but it is God’s preserving presence in the midst of the storm! That’s why Paul said this peace passes all human understanding.

I don’t believe you can fully describe God’s peace. You can sense it, you can own it, but it’s almost impossible to articulate it. But it is that God gives us just when we need it most.

Just when you need a verse, He brings it to mind. Just when you need a friend; He brings one into your life. God will flood your heart with peace if you let Him.

Is your life characterized by peace? As a child of God it should be. God knows you and loves you with an everlasting love. That’s why He gives you His indescribable peace.

Peace is not the absence of storms, but God’s presence in the midst of the storm

