

January
2014
Edition



The Ambrosian

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

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Interim Editor:
CD & S. Rowsell

Reflections from our Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha and Happy New Year! I am looking forward to our ministry together in 2014 for a couple of reasons. As many of you know, I have resolved to live healthier and to take better care of myself. I started last month and already feel much more energetic. This is partly possible because my extra parochial responsibilities in the life of the Episcopal Church are over for now, but more importantly I have made the internal decision to make my health a priority. I hope each of you will value yourself enough to do the same to make the choices you need to make to live in a healthy and hope-filled way.

I am also pleased to say that Father Jay Watan will be returning to his regular schedule after his recovery from surgery, although he still has a way to go before he can walk without pain. This will be a great help to all of us, as we had to fill in to the roles he has in the life of St. Ambrose. I am grateful that my wife, the Rev. Karen Swanson, has been available to help us all.

I am happy to announce that Rebecca Goldberg has been accepted as a Candidate for the priesthood by the Standing Committee and Bishop Marc Andrus. What this means is that she is in the final stage of the ordination process. As she completes the final requirements for ordination, Bishop Andrus can decide to ordain her a deacon as early as June. Rebecca has been an example of faithful perseverance in responding to God's call to her. She began the process in May 2005 and has taken the time to grow in both her knowledge and faith. She will be a great priest.

Finally, I want to encourage all the members of St. Ambrose to attend our Annual Meeting on January 26th at 11:30 a.m. We had a great year in 2013 and I would like as many of us to hear what God did with us, and what God may do with us in this New Year.

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

Bible Studies in January

- **Monday Bible Study:** This bible study group resumes its study of the Gospel according to Luke on **January 6th** from **12:45 p.m.** at the home of Marilyn Vosburg. They will meet each Monday in January.
- **Tuesday Bible Study:** This bible study group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the home of Warren and Nellie Wong. They will meet on **January 7th and 21st** from **7 p.m.**
- **Wednesday Bible Study:** This bible study group meets every other Wednesday night in the church foyer. They are studying the Gospel according to John. They will meet on **January 8th and 22nd** from **7:30 p.m.**

St. Ambrose Library:

The Vestry decided to continue to have the St. Ambrose Library without a librarian, and to have it on an honor system at its December 17th meeting. Thanks so much to Dorothy Matsuo who served as Librarian for these several years!

The Altar Guild Bake Sale:

Thank you to the members of the Altar Guild who baked goods to sell last month, and to everyone who purchased cookies or made donations. The Altar Guild raised \$656.

Vestry approves the purchase of a new green altar coverings, stoles and chasuble

The Vestry approved the purchase of a new green altar set to be made by Slabbinck. The altar coverings, stoles and chasuble will use the fish motif from Father Jay's stole. Thanks to a donation of a car from Abe and Sandy Schowendgert, the church has a good start on purchasing the altar set. If you would like to participate in funding the new green set, please make your donation to St. Ambrose and mark the donation "Green Altar set."

Update on the 2014 Pledge Campaign: Sharing the gifts God has given us

To date we have received 75 pledges totaling \$131,592. We have also received 43 pledges of time and talent. We also received 19 pledges for Altar Flowers. The 2013 pledge total was 76 pledges for \$126,832. Thanks to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2014.

Keith and Charlene Adolph
Christina Brockman & Stan Hui
Sal and Linda Censoprano
Grant and April Cherrington
Jeanne DeTorre-Ozeki
Carolyn & Hugo Franco
Raphael & Jacques Gerber
Demian & Lorraine Harvill
Tippy Irwin
John Keast
June Kudzia
Dorothy Matsuo
Jim Miller & Torrie McAllister-Miller
Kirk & Jessica Morales
Jim Neubert

Ed and Donna Avakoff
Marilyn Canon
Honkai Chang & Milda Beh
Bettie Davis
Betty Dial
Maureen H. Fromme
Rebecca Goldberg
Eugene Hetzer
Jane Jackson
Shelley Keefe
Rosalinda Lindsey
Kirk & Brenda Matsuo
John Miller & Eva Kwong
Kenneth & Karen Nagar
David Ota & Karen Swanson

Bill & Charlotte Bradford
Darlene & Tony Caponera
Eunice Chee
Kyn Dellinger & Nilda Chong
Elliott Dun & Teresa Murakami
George & Janet Gardiner
Don Gundry
Kay Huffman
Gwen and Hani Juha
Joanne Kerseg
Judy Marshall
David McIntyre & Cathy Rincon
Barbara Milligan
Olivia & Wilfredo Nagar
Clara Padilla

Karin Patterson	Don & Elizabeth Peter	Sydney and Cristina Pok
Jimmy & Poppy Rawley	Peggy Redmond	Rob & Anita Richards
Diane Robertson	Julio & Ngoc Rodriguez	C.D. & Siew Rowsell
Ruth Rymer & Ron Borden	Deb Sakurai-Horita	Charles Saunders and May Lee
Frank & Barbara Saunders	Abe & Sandy Schowengerdt	Jill & Gerald Schwab
Dilip Selvaraj & Teresa Rajaratnam	George & Merle Silverman	Irene Stead
Jon & Marilyn Stephens	Doug & Wendy Stewart	Matt & Meltem Tanner
Kay Umeda	Noelle and Nick Vitale	Merilyn Vosburg
Andy Walker	Wendy Walker	Pedro and Dolores Watan
Debbie White	Warren & Nellie Wong	Steve & Belinda Yuen

If you would like to make a pledge, you still can do so. Pledge envelopes are in the foyer.

The 41st Annual Meeting of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

The 41st Annual Meeting of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, January 26th from 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the chapel. The congregation will gather to hear reports on the state of the congregation, will elect new leaders and thank those who have completed their terms of service. New members of the congregation are especially encouraged to attend.

All ministry team and committee leaders are asked to turn in their 2013 reports to the church office by Sunday, January 19th.

We need to elect at least two members to the 2014 Vestry. Rotating off the Vestry this year will be Senior Warden George Gardiner and Clerk, Ngoc Rodriguez.

The 2014 Vestry meets immediately following the Annual Meeting to organize and elect Officers for 2014. The Vestry regularly meets once a month on weekday night, usually the fourth Tuesday from 7:30 p.m.

A Vestry dinner is planned for Friday, January 31st and the Vestry Orientation meeting is planned for Saturday, February 1st from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon.

We also need to elect three members to serve as delegates to Diocesan Convention and the Deanery of the Peninsula. Those who served as delegates in 2013 were David McIntyre, Cathy Rincon and Steve Yuen. Alternates were Janet Gardiner and Cristen Shinbashi. Delegates serve at Diocesan Convention to conduct its annual business. The Diocesan Convention will be held at Grace Cathedral on Friday, October 17th from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, October 18th from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Delegates also serve as members of the Deanery of the Peninsula which meets four times a year on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon at one of the peninsula congregations.

The Nominating Committee this year consists of George Gardiner, Ngoc Rodriguez and the Rector. The qualifications for being nominated to the Vestry are to be "in good standing in this Parish for at least 6 months prior to the date of their election to the Vestry, and regular contributors to the support of this Parish by currently stated pledge." The qualifications to be a delegate or alternate to Diocesan Convention and the Deanery of the Peninsula are to be a member in good standing in this Parish and regular contributors to the financial support of the Parish."

A light lunch and child care will be provided during the Annual meeting, so please plan to attend.

Children and Family Ministry Events for 2014

The Parent planning committee planned three events for 2014. On **Sunday, January 12th** the Children and Family Ministry will host the coffee hour following the 10 am Holy Eucharist. They are calling it New Year New You. It will feature healthy food with recipes, and games. On **Sunday, February 9th**, the Children and Family Ministry will provide tea party style refreshments following the 10 am Holy Eucharist with a program called USO Valentines for Vets. The congregation will join the effort to remember veterans by making and sending valentines. On **Friday, March 14th**, the Children and Family Ministry will be having a St. Patrick's Day Parents' Night Out.

Buildings and Grounds Improvements: You may have noticed that there are new kneelers at the altar rail and new cushions at the chairs in the sanctuary. Thanks to the Altar Guild for doing this research and making the recommendation for the Vestry.

Also, the north and east facing sides of the facility are in the process of being stained, as well as the pillars and the shed. New exit signs have been installed in the Parish Hall and in the hallway between Room 1 and the kitchen.

The Vestry and Buildings and Grounds Committee are working on the rest of the facility that doesn't yet have sprinklers. This is a major project and great care is being taken to ensure that it has as little impact on the operation of the school and the church.

Thanks to members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their work. If you have an interest in the work of this committee, please speak with the Rector, or Jim Neubert, the chair of the committee.

Mark Your Calendars:

- Home and Hope: Tuesday, January 7th, 2014, 6 p.m., Hope Lutheran Church, San Mateo
- New Year New YOU: Coffee hour and program sponsored by the Children and Family Ministry, Sunday, January 12th, 2014, 11:15 am, Parish Hall
- Fellowship Dinners Potluck Kick-Off: Saturday, January 25th, 2014, 6 p.m., Parish Hall
- St. Ambrose Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 26th, 2014, 11:30 am, Chapel
- USO Valentines for Vets: Sunday, February 9th, 2014, Parish Hall
- Ash Wednesday: March 5th, 2014
- St. Patrick's Day Parents' Night Out: Friday, March 14th, 2014

Fellowship Dinners

A wonderful way to get to know other people from St. Ambrose!

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS consist of groups of about 6 to 8 people. Each group will meet once a month, February through May, for **potluck dinner** in a home.

There will be a kick-off potluck dinner on **Saturday, January 25th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall of St. Ambrose. Here your group will be revealed to you.

Sign-up forms will be in the January Sunday bulletins, and in the foyer. The deadline to sign up for Fellowship Dinners is **Sunday, January 19th**. Call Nellie Wong (650-372-0728) or e-mail wwong@nd.edu if you have any questions

Outreach Report - by Steve Yuen

The lyrics are “it’s the most wonderful time of the year,” but for the members of St. Ambrose it’s also the busiest time of the year, not only with additional worship services, music, and decorations, but also with Outreach activities.

Stocking Stuffers: Jill Schwab, with the able assistance of the Santa Clara Thunderbird Club, St. Ambrose, the Boy Scouts, the Foster City Police Department and the Lions Club, assembled and distributed over 1,200 stocking stuffers. The bags, a record number, were transported to the Veterans hospitals, Catholic Charities, Meals on Wheels, the San Carlos adult day care center, and homeless organizations.

“Stocking Stuffers” has mushroomed from a modest 32 bags that spread a little Christmas cheer thirteen years ago to the large undertaking that we see today. Jill’s efforts were recognized by Channel 11, NBC Bay Area, which visited her home on December 5th. The web link is <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/on-air/as-seen-on/234687171.html>.

CALL Primrose: Our goal of filling four food boxes, each containing 16 items, was over-achieved when we filled five boxes. We also delivered two dozen other cans and packages to CALL Primrose during the second week of December. CALL Primrose, a joint venture between the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Burlingame, has been providing food, emergency financial, and referral assistance since 1984.

Family Sharing: St. Ambrose parishioners made Christmas brighter for two families, each with three children, living in San Mateo. Our goal was to raise \$700 to purchase gifts for the families, who are clients of Samaritan House (www.samaritanhouse.com), and St. Ambrose parishioners again followed through; as of Christmas Day we had collected \$740 (the excess will be donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank).



Clara Padilla and Steve Yuen purchased and delivered the presents to the happy recipients before Christmas. Thanks go to all church members who donated to this long-running Outreach activity.

Christmas Caroling: The choir and the St. Ambrose youth sang Christmas favorites to Grace Belsky, Marilyn Vosburg, Lilo Zinger, and retirement home residents on two separate dates in December. Thanks go to Maureen Fromme, Frank Saunders, and Fe Valentin for organizing this activity, and thanks to all the carolers who brightened the day of our senior citizens.

Giving Tree: St. Ambrose and Sea Breeze School, in partnership with Star Vista Learning Together, provided holiday gifts to children in need in San Mateo County. This is the 5th year of supporting the children of Star Vista, and thanks go to all who took a “red tag” and brought a present to put under the tree

Outreach Donations: In December the Outreach Committee approved \$1,374 in donations. The total for 2013 is \$7,174 (the budget is \$7,200)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Approved Feb-Nov</u>	<u>Approved December</u>
CALL Primrose – Safeway Gift cards		\$ 60
Cambodia Academy*	\$500	
Church Divinity School of the Pacific	1,500	
El Buen Pastore – Musician	1,200	
Episcopal Relief – Philippine Fund		500
Episcopal Relief – Nets for Life*		100
Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA)*	300	
Heifer Project *		300
Holy Trinity Music School, Haiti *		100
Home and Hope	600	200
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church (for H&H)		100
Inmates' Correctional Education Project (ICEP)	700	
Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County	400	
Regeneration Project (Energy Oscars)	100	
Sandwiches on Sunday (St. Pius Church)	300	
Stocking Stuffers expenses	<u>200</u>	<u>14</u>
Total from Outreach Budget	\$ 5,800	\$ 1,374
*Millennium Development Goals		

Appeal for Volunteers: The items noted in this month's report represent only some of the ways in which St. Ambrose volunteers help the community. Whether you are interested in one program or five, or can contribute one hour or ten, we would love to have you join us. Attending an Outreach Committee meeting on first Sundays after the ten o'clock service is a good way to become acquainted with our activities, but attending our meetings is absolutely not a requirement. If you have questions, please contact Steve Yuen (341-1966, stevebyuen@aol.com).

Sea Breeze School News

Happy New Year to you from your school!

As I sit at my desk and write this letter to you, I reflect on the many memories that have been made this year. The children's performances are complete and the teachers are enjoying their well deserved time off. Teachers are visiting loved ones near and far and I wish them all safe travels, happy times and safe returns.

While the teachers finished family conferences, helped the children prepare for Christmas programs and make wonderful gifts for their families, they also had the opportunity to serve the community. We partnered with the church to provide gifts through the Giving Tree and did some caroling at the Atria Senior Living home. Mr. Bun continues to lead the social ministry opportunities and is always looking for ways to make a difference in the St. Ambrose Community. If you have any thoughts of ways that we can help, please contact the school office.

January brings the preparation for upcoming fall registration at the school. Our Registrar, Wendy Walker, has been working hard to identify the needs of the families and prepare for registration to begin in February. If you are looking for a school opportunity for your child, or know someone else that may be looking, feel free to stop by and learn of the great opportunities that your school offers.

We are always looking for all volunteers to assist in our classrooms and around the school. If you would like to spend time reading to our youngest children or helping the older children during homework club, please contact the office. We would love to have you join the fun at Sea Breeze.

Dates to Remember:

January 20th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – School Closed

January 21st – Teacher In-service Day – School Closed

Enjoy the New Year!
