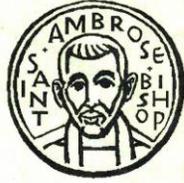


September

2019  
Edition



# The Ambrosian

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

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Editor:  
David Ota

## Reflections from our Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! Following Labor Day our schedules and energy shift from the summer days when there is a bit more time to relax and reflect to a more robust and busy schedule. Sometimes it seems as if everything is starting again at once. It is an exciting but busy time.

During this in-between time, our Administrative Assistant, Margie Lee had the opportunity to take a vacation with a friend and will be away from the office from August 29 through September 6. She has been working hard to get things ready for us before she leaves. However, during her absence if you need assistance and call the church office, calls will be forwarded to my cell phone.

Anyway, in our congregation we will be moving into the program year with many of our activities beginning again. Below is a list of what is happening and when:

- Sunday School in Rooms 1 and 4, **September 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 10:40 am**
- The Commissioning of the Sunday School teachers and the Choir on **September 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 am** Choral Holy Eucharist
- The Commissioning of the St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School teachers and staff and the Choral Holy Eucharist, **September 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 am**
- The Back to School luncheon in the parish hall, **September 15<sup>th</sup>**, following the Choral Holy Eucharist, around **11:15 am**
- The Children's Carnival in the playground, **September 15<sup>th</sup>**, **following the Back to School luncheon**
- The Inquirers and Confirmation class in Room 1, **September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12 Noon to 2 pm**

Our life as a congregation invites us into the practices of worship, prayer, study and reflection, fellowship and service as a community. As we practice this way of life we can be renewed as children of God and sisters and brothers on the way. I am grateful to be in Christian community with you and look forward to seeing you.

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

## Announcements

### Fall Youth Ministry

Youth are invited to join Youth Minister, Fe Balamiento to lunch following the Holy Eucharist at 10 am on **Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**. It will be an opportunity to catch up with one another and share ideas about what the youth group hopes to do.

### Commissioning of the Sunday School Teachers

Plan to attend worship on **Sunday, September 8** at the **10 a.m.** Holy Eucharist when the St. Ambrose Sunday School Teachers will be commissioned.

### Study Groups in September

- **The Monday Bible Study Group** will meet on **September 9 and 23**. They are studying the assigned lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday worship.
- **The Tuesday Bible Study Group** will be meeting on **September 3, 10, 17 and 24**. They are reading the Epistles of John. They meet on **Tuesdays** at **12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Foyer.
- An **Inquirer's and Confirmation class** for those who are new to the Episcopal Church or may be interested in Confirmation will be led by the Rector. If you are interested please speak with him. He plans to have the classes on **Sundays from 12 Noon to 2 pm beginning on September 22 and 29**.

The study groups are open to any interested person.

### Commissioning of the Sea Breeze School Teachers and the Back to School Luncheon

The Sea Breeze School teachers and staff for the 2019-2020 year will be commissioned on **Sunday, September 15**. St. Ambrose will host its Back to School Luncheon in the Parish Hall to honor both the Sunday School Teachers and the Sea Breeze School teachers and staff following the 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

The lunch is being organized this year by Teresa Murakami and will be a Mexican Fiesta lunch. In order to supply the correct amount of food for our Back to School lunch, we ask you to let us know if you can come. You can let us know by sending an email to [dyota@mindspring.com](mailto:dyota@mindspring.com), calling the office at 650 574-1369 or signing up on the sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

We also ask members of the congregation to sign up to bring a salad, fruit (some are allergic to strawberries) or a dessert.

## **Announcements** (continued)

### **Mark Your Calendars**

Youth Ministry Launch Lunch: **Sunday, September 1, following the 10 am Holy Eucharist**

Labor Day, Office is closed: **Monday, September 2**

Fall Sunday School Kick-Off: Nursery and Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Room 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Room 4, Youth, Room 5, **Sunday, September 8 at 10:00 a.m.**

Commissioning of the Sunday School Teachers: **Sunday, September 8 at 10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist**

Deanery of the Peninsula: **Saturday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.**, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto

Commissioning of the Sea Breeze School Teachers: **Sunday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist**, Chapel -- Back to School Luncheon following the Holy Eucharist, Parish Hall – Carnival fun for kids following the **Back to School Luncheon**, Playground

Inquirers and Confirmation Class: **Sundays, September 22 and 29, 12 Noon to 2 pm**, Room 1

Sandwiches on Sundays: **Sunday, September 29, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm**, Fair Oaks Community Center, 2600 Middlefield Road, Redwood City

Rector at Clergy Conference: **Monday, September 30 – Wednesday, October 2**, Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg

Blessing of the Animals: **Sunday, October 6, 8 am and 10 am services**, Chapel; **12:30 – 2:00 pm**, Foster City Dog Park

Bishop's Ranch Weekend: **Friday, October 11 to Sunday, October 13**, Harrison House at the Bishop's Ranch, 5297 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448

170th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of California: **Friday, October 25 to Saturday, October, 26**, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

2019 Annual Stewardship Dinner: **Saturday, November 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m.**, Foster City Recreation Center's Lagoon and Blue Bird Rooms

## The Desk of Rev. Karen Swanson

### Fall Sunday School Kicks Off on September 8

On Sunday, **September 8**, our fall Sunday School will begin with the commissioning of our teachers and nursery caregivers during worship, and the kick-off of classes for our younger members.

Nursery and preschool age children will meet for play in room 1. Our nursery caregivers this year will be Lydia McIntyre and Danielle Richards.

Our next oldest group, those in kindergarten, first and second grade will also gather in room 1 for simple lessons and projects. They will be taught by Raphaelae Gerber, Daniel Tate, and Karen Swanson.

Sandy Schowengerdt and Barbara Milligan will nurture and grow the faith of the third, fourth and fifth grade students in room 4.

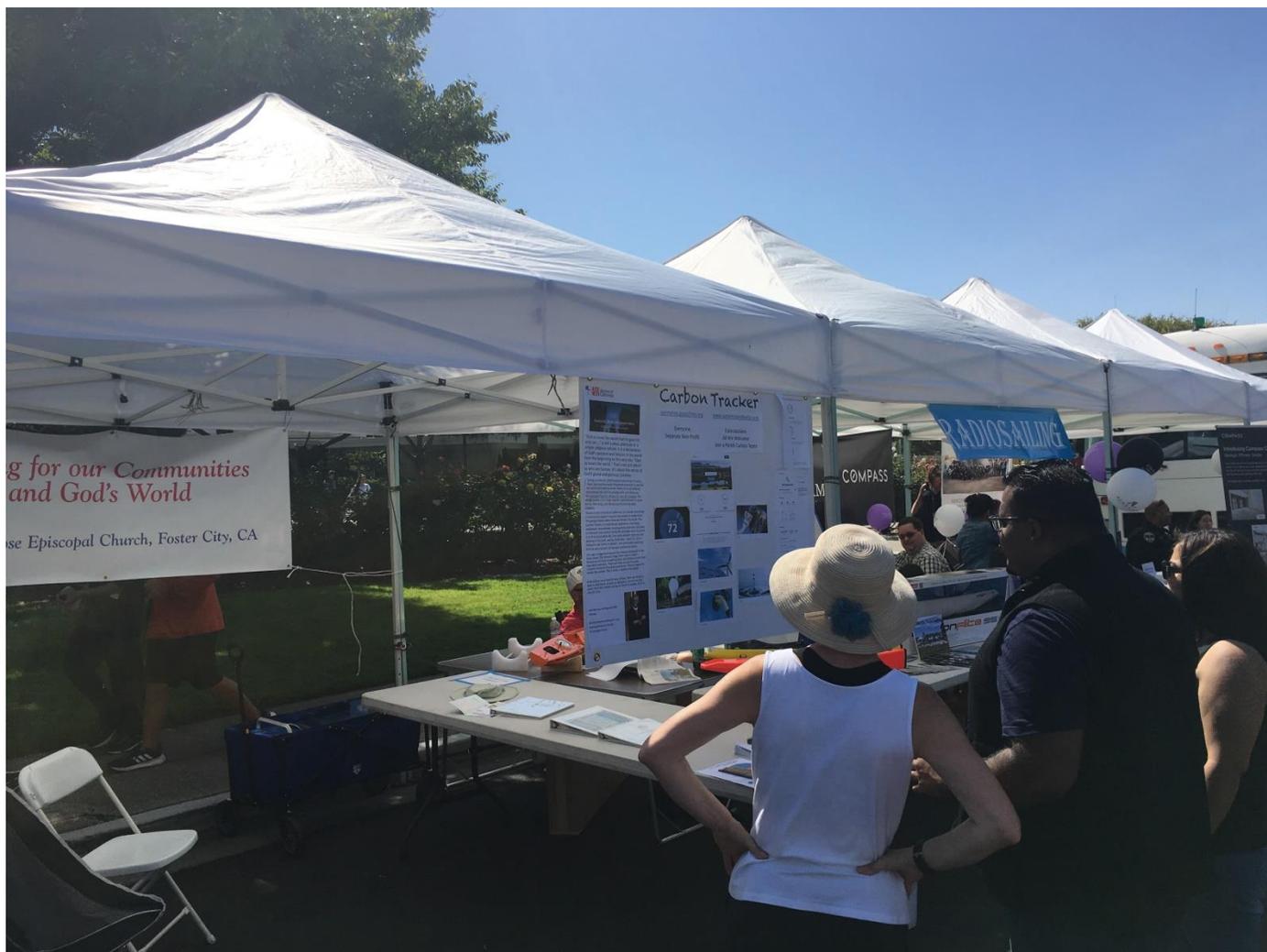
Last, but not least, our middle and high school students will meet for fellowship and learning in room 5 with Fe Balamiento and Daniel Tate.

### Carnival Fun for kids

On **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**, your kids and their friends are invited to the third annual St. Ambrose Carnival for fun and games, and lots of cool prizes. Middle and high school youth are encouraged to participate by heading up a booth. The carnival will follow the 10 am worship service and a Mexican Fiesta luncheon. Booths will include the Blistering Basketball Booth, the Toppling Tower Booth and the ever-popular Water Balloon Splash. Save the date for this super way to celebrate our church and school. Youth, please contact the Rev. Karen Swanson at 650-200-8449 to lend a hand. See you all soon!

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## September Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen



### Summer Days

“The mission of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church of Foster City is to proclaim the good news of God in Jesus Christ as we care for each other and our larger community.”

Our Outreach programs focus on the latter part of St. Ambrose’ mission, but proclaiming the good news is also an important—maybe the most important—activity of the church.

Thanks to David McIntyre who organized the project, St. Ambrose members staffed a booth at the Foster City Summer Days festival from August 23 to August 25. Below is a brief recounting of my personal experience:

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After the 8 a.m. service I headed to the rec center for the [Summer Days](#) festival. Foster City gave the church and other local non-profits free space for a display. All we needed were volunteers to staff the booth.

Only a few people stopped to talk. One gentleman, an African-American, gazed at the photo of [Presiding Bishop Michael Curry](#) with a puzzled expression. Two words, "Meghan Markle", did the trick. Bishop Curry's [sermon at the royal wedding](#) last year made an impression far beyond the Anglican community. With every month his election to become the face of the Episcopal Church looks like a smart decision.



*More attractive volunteers could have gotten more traffic*

Another passerby viewed the information on climate-change--one of the church's initiatives--and talked about the public transportation in her native Singapore (McKinsey ranks it [one of the best in the world](#)).

Our Bay Area transportation systems are more extensive (on the Peninsula we can take Caltrain, express buses, or BART to San Francisco) than most cities, but there's no question that the automobile traffic is horrendous.

With rides, fun, and food only a few feet away, talking about religion, social justice, or climate change was unappealing to festival goers. But one has to keep trying.

If you have any questions about Outreach activities, please contact Steve Yuen ([stevebyuen@aol.com](mailto:stevebyuen@aol.com), 341-1966).

### **Upcoming Event**

**Sandwiches on Sunday:** On **Sunday, September 29th**, members and friends of St. Ambrose will be serving a hot lunch of chicken and rice to about 70 people. We need seven (7) entrée trays, and seven (7) salads. Plus we can use some bread or rolls.

**Who:** St. Ambrose members and friends

**What:** 1) Prepare lunch (lasagna and salad); 2) serve lunch and clean up.

**Where:** Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City, 2600 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City

**When:** 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

If you can help to prepare a dish and/or serve and clean up, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Richards ([rob.richards@tensorlabs.com](mailto:rob.richards@tensorlabs.com), 577-8924).

## **Sea Breeze School News – by Jerelyn Weber, Principal**

It is Back to School and we are moving at full speed!

The teachers and children have returned and are getting settled into routines. We are excited to have 38 new three year olds join us this year and it is always fun to see our returning children arrive with big smiles. After some first day jitters were calmed, everything was smooth sailing. The children and their families were very excited to see the new turf and climbing structure on the playground and could hardly wait to get out there to explore. Enrollment is strong this year.

With the continued growth in our After School program we have added a new STEAM enrichment class to our curriculum. This class will meet every Wednesday afternoon and will be taught by Mrs. Anabella Rallos, a teacher that also works in our preschool program. The children will also attend weekly chapels on Wednesday which will be led by Rev. Karen Swanson. We will continue to enjoy Mrs. Fromme and the Music Appreciation classes that she teaches on Thursday afternoons.

There are many exciting things planned for this year and we would love to include you in our fun. We will be singing at the Atria, hosting a BBQ at Boothbay Park, hosting Movie nights throughout the year and of course we will have our Annual Family Fun Day in the Spring. Please watch for more information and always feel free to join our fun.

Each year we welcome volunteers into our program and would love to have some of you join us. If you have an extra hour or so and would like to spend time with some fantastic children, please contact the office and we will be happy to show you around.

Have a Wonderful September!

Jerelyn Weber, Principal

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