

St Ambrose Episcopal Church 2022 Annual General Meeting

January 30, 2022

Senior Warden's Report

Dear Fellow St Ambrose Parishioners,

It has indeed been an honor to serve you as Senior Warden for the past 12 months. Many of you have reached out to me and freely shared your opinions, your gratitude, and your concerns. For this trust, I am extremely grateful. Looking back on 2021, it was not the easiest year to be sure, but overall, I think we came through it without major scars.

There were many joyful milestones and events that bear witness to the strength of our community:

- i. Return to in-person worship on Pentecost Sunday and reinstatement of our early Sunday service
- ii. Growth of Bible Study and Meditation. Thank you to Fr. Shane to his dedication to enhancing our worship programs
- iii. Making the most of our significant investment in livestream equipment and technology. Thanks to the foresight and dedication of the McIntyre family we made decisions that will serve St Ambrose well for many years to come
- iv. Other facility investments – we have a lovely new Sacristy that makes the Altar Guild very happy
- v. Idyllic Bishop's Ranch Weekend in October
- vi. Lively Stewardship Kickoff Brunch and successful Stewardship Campaign
- vii. Memorial for our beloved parishioner, Peggy Redmond
- viii. In December we welcomed SBS staff and teachers to our 10 am service and an outdoor brunch to honor the amazing job they have done keeping the school open and intact despite incredibly difficult circumstances
- ix. Our Christmas Eve music was enhanced not only by talents of three young musicians but also the gift of a Yamaha Grand piano from the Saunders family
- x. The most recent milestone we passed was the completion of the Parish Profile and OTM documents that were approved by the vestry on Wednesday. This moves us a significant step closer to calling a permanent rector and the search committee has done an outstanding job at crafting a thoughtful and honest representation of our parish.

Of course, it takes many willing hands to realize these accomplishments. I hope I personally have done a good job throughout the year at recognizing those willing hands. But I do want to publicly recognize people who, mostly behind the scenes, simply rolled up their sleeves and got to work:

Alison LeBlanc, Junior Warden, and her website crew. Ali and her team spent countless hours working on the successful launch of our new website, which is so crucial to our rector search process.

The Rector Search Committee for the truly excellent job they have done in distilling the essence of St Ambrose into the Parish Profile and the OTM Ministry Portfolio.

Buildings and Grounds for their dedication to upgrading the Sacristy, the ladies' restroom and generally keeping our buildings in good shape.

I am honored to count you as friends as well as fellow parishioners.

I cannot transition off the vestry without noting that 2021 also had its challenges. Chief among them was volunteer burnout. Going into 2021 we were fully aware that, during clergy transition, lay leadership takes on a much more significant role. We did not, however, find the right balance and I believe we can do a better job.

Secondly, differences of opinion among vestry members were not always honored. If I may offer some advice to the new vestry: 'Have the courage to speak your mind. Not everyone will agree with you, but I hope everyone has the grace to acknowledge both the courage it takes to speak inconvenient truths and the spirit in which those truths are spoken.

Going into 2022, it is my sincere prayer that we continue to do what we do best; build on our strengths and be kind to ourselves and to each other when we fall short. I look forward to St Ambrose calling a permanent rector, to a renewed energy in our congregation and to seeing our congregation thrive.

Most of all, I look forward to worshipping regularly with you. Thank you for being this church!

Respectfully submitted

Shelley Keefe, Sr Warden

St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School Annual Report to St. Ambrose Church

January 2022

St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School is a form of outreach and community service at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church. The Preschool and After School program serves children from the congregation and the immediate community. Scholarships are provided for children who otherwise might not be able to enjoy a preschool experience through ongoing fundraising projects and through a budget line item in the school budget.

Licensing and Accreditation: The Preschool and After School program are fully licensed by the State of California and is a member of the National Association of Episcopal Schools. The Principal is active in the Director Support network offered by the diocese.

Enrollment: The children at the Preschool come from varied racial, ethnic, and social backgrounds. During the 2020-2021 school year, 76 children ages 2 years 9 months through Transitional Kindergarten were enrolled in the preschool program, 28 children were in our Kindergarten program and 12 children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade were enrolled in the After School Program. Two children received a partial scholarship to attend St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School.

Regular Classes met this year from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30pm daily, August through June. Extended day childcare was offered until 5pm each night and operated at full capacity the entire year. Capacity was much lower this year due to Covid restrictions and the need for group size to be no more than 15. The after school program was very small because the children attending FCE were forced to take part in virtual learning from home.

To best accommodate the elementary school children, we offered one 6 week summer camp for children preparing for kindergarten and first grade and the program was fully enrolled for the summer. We offered one 8 week session, with flexible attendance options, to our preschool families. We had an average of 89 preschool children in attendance each week. This model proved to be a financial benefit for both the families and the school. This change allowed the families and staff more flexibility with scheduling and attendance. We will follow a similar model this summer.

Financial: Each year the Principal works with the School Board to develop a budget for the school and the financial statements are shared during each monthly board meeting. The school had a successful year financially and made a profit of \$24678, against a deficit budget of over \$700K. The school will utilize these funds during the 2021/2022 school year to place privacy screening around the outdoor areas and to replace necessary classroom furnishings

Staff: The staff included the Principal, 1 Director, an Admissions Director, an HR/Finance Director, a Health and Safety Coordinator, 16 full time teachers, 3 part time virtual teachers and 3 Assistant Teachers.

2020 saw the resignation of 2 teachers who are now able to stay at home with their newborns.

The staff meets every month and is regularly asked for suggestions or comments on the school's operations. In an effort to keep the staff up to date on industry best practices, there is always a training component integrated into these meetings. We also enjoyed outside presenters throughout the year to keep us up to date on best practices. This last year we continued to focus on the importance of building and maintaining strong relationships with children, allowing children to learn at their own pace and through their imagination, as well as establishing and maintaining the best Covid policies and procedures.

Program and Curriculum: The program is a developmentally appropriate one that encourages each child to grow socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively at the child's own pace. The curriculum is based on an understanding of how children grow and develop and how they learn and attempt to make sense of the world around them. Children acquire this knowledge about their physical and social worlds through play and interactions with other children, adults and objects. We believe that children learn best through hands on experiences and with real life things that are important to them. This year we were able to add a large amount of artificial turf to our playground for the children to enjoy year-round.

There is an underlying structure to each day so that the child knows what to anticipate. Each day includes a balance of fine and large motor activities, group and individual activities, a snack, lunch, outdoor time and circle time. In addition, the individual classes attend chapel and a music and sign language class taught by a music teacher once a week. The children in the After School Program also attend chapel and Music Appreciation with Maureen Fromme.

The School Board, Principal, Director, Teachers and Families worked diligently during the 2020-2021 school year to create an atmosphere in which children can grow, develop, and prosper. St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School has an excellent reputation throughout the area and serves as a model for Early Childhood Education in the community. We appreciate the ongoing support of the School Board, the Vestry and the Members of St. Ambrose.

Respectfully Submitted by Jerelyn Weber - Principal

St Ambrose Episcopal Church 2022 Annual General Meeting

January 30, 2022

Altar Guild Report

Members: Marilyn Stephens, Marilyn Canon, Karin Patterson, Yvonne Sidell and Shelley Keefe

Throughout the pandemic, the Altar Guild has continued to serve St Ambrose by preparing the altar for the livestream Sunday worship and for in-person worship services since the regathering on Pentecost Sunday, 2021.

In September we reinstated the early Sunday worship service and in-person Altar Guild meetings.

In 2021 we also held our Advent bake sale. The bake sale was cancelled in 2020 but, with steadfast baking assistance from Hamilton Fong, the Altar Guild baked and packaged around 1,000 cookies for our annual fund-raiser.

For several months in 2021, our focus was on the renovation of the Sacristy. Custom cabinetry, new countertop and fixtures replaced the original cabinets that had served us well but were looking the worse for wear and tear. Huge thanks to the Buildings & Grounds team and to our member, Marilyn Stephens, for their time and effort on the project.

Altar Guild Finances – the beautiful flower arrangements that adorn the altar almost every week are purchased by the Altar Guild using funds donated by parishioners, often in memory of loved ones or for special occasions. Funds raised at our annual Advent bake sale contribute significantly to the purchase of altar flowers. Thank you to all who contributed to the 2022 fund and a special thanks to a parishioner for a generous annual gift. 2022 donations are already over \$3,000.

The Altar Guild also stewards any gifts made to the church that are designated for Altar Guild responsibilities.

Unfortunately, covid and ill-health have taken their toll on our faithful team, and we are in need of new members. If you would like to learn more about serving St Ambrose as part of the Altar Guild, please speak to one of our members. We'd love to have you join us.

Respectfully submitted, Shelley Keefe

Building & Grounds Committee

2021 Annual Report

The Buildings & Grounds Committee is responsible for the care of the Church and School. We maintain the operating systems and make routine repairs. Our budget for spending is reviewed & approved yearly by the Vestry and every large decision is also decided upon by the Vestry. Our work falls into two categories: critical maintenance for day-to-day operations & discretionary improvements.

We typically meet monthly at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. The Committee's regular members at present are: Jerelyn Weber (Sea Breeze Principal), Father Shane Scott-Hamblen, ex officio member, Daniel Tate, Hamilton Fong, April Cherrington, and Jim Neubert (Chairperson). Jerelyn Weber has great responsibility to this committee, as she manages many of the school projects, collaborates with Fr. Shane, Daniel and Jim, and takes the Meeting Minutes! We get a lot of help from Daniel Tate on installations, maintenance and repairs. He is always working behind the scenes! Thank you, Dan!

This past year, we have continued to manage with Fr. Shane serving faithfully as our Rector until the search process can take place. It is about to begin, after a year of preparations. We have tried to keep a maintenance-only attitude, since our budget and operating expenses have been strapped. We have held off on new projects or 5-year plans. We have not even met as routinely as in years past because the agenda is so limited. But we have done some good things, with a committed crew that has not faltered in our mission to come back from these challenges.

Certainly, our main accomplishment has been the management of the renovation of the Sacristy, which is the small intervening room between the church office and the chapel, close to the altar. This is like the "green room" for the priest and persons associated with the elements of the altar. The priest gets dressed here and the altar guild spends a lot of time here setting up and taking down the altar - taking sacred objects and linens out and carefully putting them away.

Our committee managed the contractor work, scheduling and payments as it was worked on for much of the year. We had spirited help from the altar guild in making decisions. Marilyn Stevens went shopping with Jim early on to find counter and backsplash material, and from that point she continued to manage the end result for the altar guild and keeping things moving with the contractor. Her family also contributed a new stainless-steel sink! We are pleased with the fresh look, which was definitely a group effort. We hope that it has a long future.

Otherwise, this year, there have been the typical emergencies at the school for repairs; particularly a water line crack in the pipe at the courtyard from our original fire sprinklers that required excavating and repair, followed by new concrete work. Dan installed extensive new solar lighting all around the facility to help visitors navigate better in the dark. We have cut back some on irrigating the property for limited water usage; privacy screening was installed on much of the fence at the school perimeter.

Also, the parish hall has been temporarily repurposed for school use as a practical solution to divide up classrooms into smaller sizes to keep the school operating under Covid guidelines. Jerelyn and her staff have done such an admirable job of keeping a successful institution running with a bare minimum of hiccups. This year has brought a lot of stress and anxiety for parents and schools.

In the future, we hope to continue new LED lighting throughout the facility, install new carpeting at Room 1, the parish hall, the hallway off it and the offices for school and church. Our 5-year plan also has us painting the classrooms, parish hall and offices.

Please let one of our Committee Members know if you have an interest in joining our group. We can always use your help and camaraderie.

Respectfully,
Jim Neubert, Chairperson,
Buildings and Ground Committee

Reflection and Gratitude Board 2021

In June 2021, about one year of living in the covid pandemic, masking and isolation or crowding, the media was reporting how the associated stresses were negatively affecting the population. One suggestion to help cope is to identify the negative experiences and to counterbalance with positive gratitudes. We put up a board in the Narthex and supplied post-its for people to write down their reflections and gratitudes, and also an address to which they could email.

During the six months before Advent, people filled the board with post-its or email. Most were from parishioners who were actually coming to in-person worship. We did get an email from someone from Scotland who worshiped with us virtually (they have a connection through Sea Breeze school). From Canada, we received a thank you for our prayers for a sick child. Reflections ranged from stress from isolation, missing being in school, classmates, friends, working from home, emotional short fuses in the workplace and at home, loss of jobs, missing family, grieving loss of loved ones and not being able to be with family, some health issues. Gratitudes were abundant for God's many blessings, including the virtual liturgy services, the IT support, the music, the Monday Bible study and the Wednesday Meditation and the friends and family we were able to be with, and the help from St Ambrose friends, and the new jobs. By Fall no new post-its were being added. Covid seemed to be somewhat relenting and we were having more in-service worship and singing, vaccinated, boosted, masked and 3-6 ft distanced. Then, Omicron appeared, and we are now upgrading our masks to N95 and KN95. We are living with covid.

At the beginning of Advent (Dec.3), the reflections and gratitudes were removed and were replaced by the celebration and hope of the birth of Jesus Christ. HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE
Raphael Gerber
Valerie Mersh

Live Stream Report: Annual General Meeting

David McIntyre, January 26, 2022

St. Ambrose has been able to provide a live stream for all but one service since the beginning of the pandemic. We debuted our new cameras and technology for Christmas in 2020 and it seems to have served us well. Our only glitch was due to some complications related to an upgrade to Windows 11 on January 16, 2022.

Great thanks to all of the people who have made the live stream possible over the past year, including but not limited to: Alison LeBlanc, Shelley Keefe, Scott Chang, and Hamilton Fong. Their efforts and dedication are what make this possible. I also want to thank Lydia McIntyre, who took the time to learn the new system, and teach the rest of us to use it.

The attached charts and graphs detail our viewership.

YouTube Live

					Peak	
	Date	Notes	Playbacks	Viewers	Duration	As At
1	3/22/20		85	45	50:52:00	5/23/20
2	3/29/20		66	47	50:10:00	5/23/20
3	4/5/20		76	50	1:02:16	5/23/20
4	4/10/20	Good Friday	30	20	54:05:00	5/23/20
5	4/12/20	Easter	93	51	44:01:00	5/23/20
6	4/19/20	Old camera died.	79	43	42:56:00	5/23/20
7	4/26/20	New camera, poor connection	166	41	41:44:00	5/23/20
8	5/3/20		53	35	51:36:00	5/23/20
9	5/10/20		53	31	41:50:00	5/23/20
10	5/17/20		55	37	48:10:00	5/23/20
11	5/24/20		47	32	49:14:00	6/1/20
12	5/31/20	Riots, Dragon space launch, Grace Cathedral Pentecost Service	47	30	46:35:00	6/1/20
13	6/7/20		51	33	49:49:00	6/8/20
14	6/14/20		43	31	45:38:00	6/14/20
15	6/21/20	Bishop Marc	58	35	48:21:00	6/28/20
16	6/28/20	Landon!	43	30	45:28:00	6/28/20
17	7/5/20	Taped singing, magic flowers.	50	34	48:28:00	7/5/20
18	7/12/20		40	29	46:33:00	7/26/20
19	7/19/20	Rev. Swanson	57	31	44:41:00	7/26/20
20	7/26/20	Rev. Ota's last Sunday	148	63	1:47:29:00	7/26/20
21	8/2/20	Rev. Swanson	41	32	44:11:00	8/9/20
22	8/9/20	Rev. Swanson's last Sunday	57	37	1:01:59:00	8/9/20
23	8/16/20	Fr. Shane's first Sunday	53	34	43:08:00	10/11/20
24	8/23/20		67	33	43:06:00	10/11/20
25	8/30/20		44	30	39:48:00	10/11/20
26	9/6/20		39	32	44:56:00	10/11/20
27	9/13/20		39	27	45:53:00	10/11/20
28	9/20/20		49	31	48:08:00	10/11/20
29	9/27/20		43	30	47:44:00	10/11/20
30	10/4/20		40	27	50:09:00	10/11/20
31	10/11/20		37	28	40:47:00	10/11/20
32	10/18/20	Warren did 1st reading via video (fine); microphone problems	33	26	45:10:00	10/19/20
33	10/25/20	2nd Reading: Persia	55	30	44:10:00	10/30/20
34	11/1/20	2nd Reading: Keyu Liu	40	24	44:34:00	11/2/20
35	11/8/20	2nd Reading: guy in vest	51	28	43:41:00	12/12/20
36	11/15/20	2nd Reading: Alison	35	29	31:47:00	12/12/20
37	11/22/20	Katherine Rose; 2nd Heidi	51	35	47:24:00	12/12/20
38	11/29/20	Daniel; 2nd: Warren	40	27	49:10:00	12/12/20
39	12/6/20	microphone off. 2nd Reading: little kid,	51	33	45:28:00	12/12/20

YouTube Live

					Peak		
					Concurrent		
	Date	Notes	Playbacks	Viewers	Duration	As At	
40	12/13/20	Warren, Sheila. New Cameras!	55	28	46:51:00	12/13/20	
41	12/20/20		51	35	43:43:00	12/29/20	
42	12/24/20	Xmas Eve, Pagent, New Setup	72	40	1:28:26:00	12/29/20	
43	12/27/20	New setup for typical service	51	28	43:38:00	12/29/20	
44	1/3/21	Daniel stepped in	41	28	46:01:00	1/10/21	
45	1/10/21	OLF 1st Reading	40	26	49:11:00	1/10/21	
46	1/17/21		38	26	52:35:00	1/25/21	
47	1/24/21	Warren 1st Reading, Yvonne, 2nd	36	26	42:15:00	1/25/21	
48	1/31/21		44	33	50:11:00	2/15/21	
49	2/7/21	Eucharist is back!	53	29	53:34:00	2/15/21	
50	2/14/21		45	29	1:09:15:00	2/15/21	
51	2/21/21		63	26	46:56:00	2/22/21	
52	2/28/21		43	31	52:44:00	3/18/21	
53	3/7/21		57	31	1:07:58:00	3/18/21	
54	3/14/21		46	28	55:58:00	3/18/21	
55	3/21/21		35	28	56:43:00	4/22/21	
56	3/28/21		49	33	1:04:52	4/22/21	
57	4/1/21	Maundy Thursday, Live & Tape	18	41	1:05:45	4/22/21	
58	4/2/21	Good Friday	35	18	1:04:09	4/22/21	
59	4/3/21	Easter Vigil	22	17	5:02:00	4/22/21	
60	4/4/21	Easter	50	31	56:31:00	4/22/21	
61	4/11/21	Daniel, Liturgy	37	25	44:02:00	4/22/21	
62	4/18/21	Mass	35	26	51:41:00	4/22/21	
63	4/25/21		51	22	45:53:00	5/17/21	
64	5/2/21		56	29	54:41:00	5/17/21	
65	5/9/21		43	27	57:03:00	5/17/21	
66	5/16/21	Live Prelude & Postlude	39	27	1:00:03:00	5/17/21	
67	5/23/21	Pentecost - Regathering!	21	11	1:11:55:00	6/8/21	
68	5/30/21		19	10	1:03:10:00	6/16/21	
69	6/6/21		25	13	59:43:00	6/16/21	
70	6/13/21	Daniel	17	9	44:39:00	6/16/21	
71	6/20/21	Title slide not changed, Daniel	18	13	51:58:00	7/22/21	
72	6/27/21		19	15	59:48:00	7/22/21	
73	7/4/21	Daniel	27	16	46:32:00	7/22/21	
74	7/11/21	Daniel	15	12	44:05:00	7/22/21	
75	7/18/21		16	12	1:13:43:00	7/22/21	
76	7/25/21	Title slide not changed	28	14	1:11:48:00	7/29/21	
77	8/1/21		21	12	1:10:10:00	8/22/21	
78	8/8/21		20	13	1:01:54:00	8/22/21	
79	8/15/21		16	8	1:02:14:00	8/22/21	
80	8/22/21		11	7	1:03:02:00	8/22/21	

YouTube Live

	Date	Notes	Playbacks	Peak		As At
				Viewers	Duration	
81	8/29/21		25	12	55:20:00	9/21/21
82	9/5/21		16	7	1:01:55:00	9/21/21
83	9/12/21		18	10	1:08:17:00	9/21/21
84	9/12/21	Peggy Redmond Memorial	6	4	30:16:00	9/22/21
85	9/19/21		14	9	58:41:00	9/21/21
86	9/26/21		15	9	53:51:00	10/25/21
87	10/3/21		20	9	58:51:00	10/25/21
88	10/10/21		20	11	1:06:56:00	10/25/21
89	10/17/21		17	8	1:13:06:00	10/25/21
90	10/24/21		22	16	1:12:53:00	10/25/21
91	10/31/21		11	8	1:06:18:00	11/14/21
92	11/7/21		13	9	1:10:07:00	11/14/21
93	11/14/21		26	9	58:21:00	11/14/21
94	11/21/21		16	9	1:09:00	12/12/21
95	11/28/21		30	9	1:19:00	12/12/21
96	12/5/21		20	8	1:04:00	12/12/21
97	12/12/21		17	7	59:10:00	12/12/21
98	12/19/21		8	5	57:54:00	1/26/22
99	12/24/21	Christmas Eve	21	8	1:45:28:00	1/26/22
99	12/26/21		12	9	53:13:00	1/26/22
##	1/2/22		23	12	58:09:00	1/26/22
##	1/9/22		23	14	58:16:00	1/26/22
##	1/16/22	vMix not working after update to Windows 11 :(1/26/22
##	1/23/22		28	12	1:06:09:00	1/26/22
##	1/30/22					
##	2/6/22					
##	2/13/22					
##	2/20/22					
**	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

Old Live Stream - March 22 to December 6, 2020

Approximate Cost: \$ 1,500.00 (Does not include computer)

Weeks: 37

	Total	Cost Per View	Views / Week
Peak Concurrent Views	1,261	\$ 1.19	34.08
Playbacks	2,114	\$ 0.71	57.14

Peak Concurrent Views

Mean	24
Median	27
Minimum	4
Maximum	63

New Live Stream - December 13, 2020 to Present

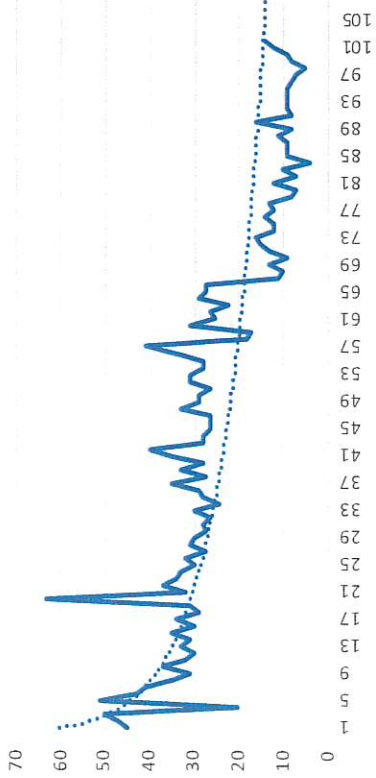
Approximate Cost: \$ 16,465.38

Weeks: 64

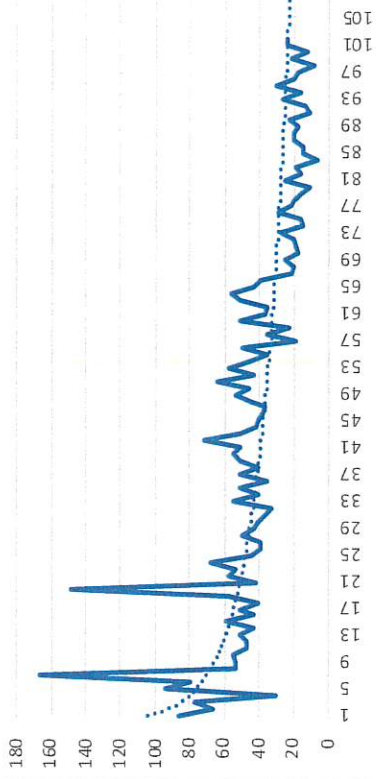
	Total	Cost Per View	Views / Week
Peak Concurrent Views	1,147	\$ 14.36	17.92
Playbacks	1,899	\$ 8.67	29.67

Peak Concurrent Views		Regather Peak	Regather All
Mean	17.92	10.24	18.76
Median	14	9	19
Minimum	4	4	6
Maximum	41	16	30

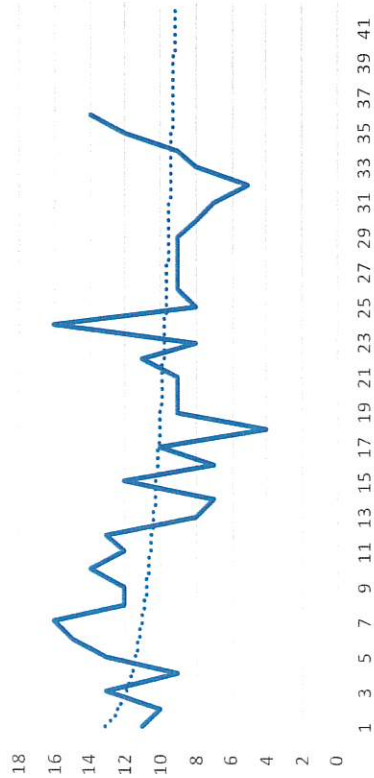
Concurrent Live Views - All Time



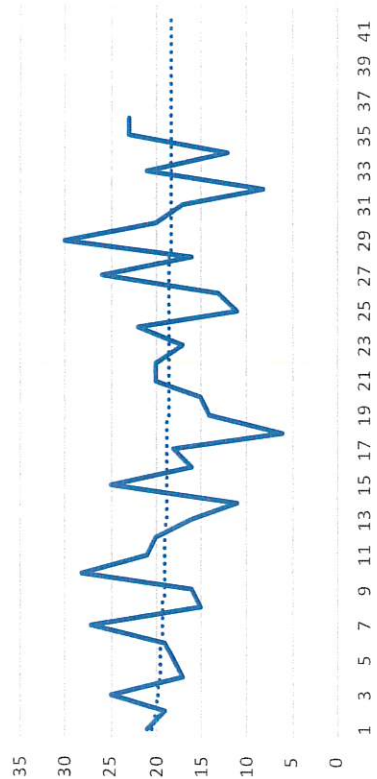
Total Views - All Time



Concurrent Live Views - Regather



Regather - Total Views



The St. Ambrose Music Ministry Annual Report for 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge our gathering for worship, as successive waves of community illness required changing precautions to safeguard our congregation.

Through the dedicated efforts of everyone involved, we were able to bring the comfort of the liturgy to those present in the sanctuary, to those of us in their homes, and to those of us in distinct locations.

A few members of the choir and congregation ventured out to sing Christmas Carols to some shut-ins and at a care facility. The carolers rang doorbells to indicate that they were going to sing, and sang carols from outside rather than entering anyone's home. We have learned through Covid, that some things need to be done differently in order for all to be safe.

As vaccinations and other preventive measures became available, we celebrated the opportunity to gather together, sharing the personal contact that is so essential to the experience of Christian community.

Through the dedication of our choir members, we were able to offer choral anthems, chanted psalms and congregational hymns throughout the year, restoring as well, in smaller scope, our 8:30am Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. Several members of the choir, as we used to know it, are not able to be a part of the choir presently because of health issues. We are grateful for the choir members who are able to gather each week for rehearsal and worship services – fully vaccinated, masked and distanced.

In the Christmas season, we continued our tradition of a choral offering prior to the celebration of Christ's birth, with guest instrumentalists bringing their gifts to the festivities.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone who contributed their talents and their efforts to the ministry of St. Ambrose in these challenging times.

Maureen Fromme,
Choir director

Frank Saunders
Minister of Music

2021 Outreach Report

One year ago we were hopeful that Outreach could regain a semblance of normalcy by the end of 2021. We were encouraged when services resumed on Pentecost (May 23rd), but new variants of the coronavirus have lowered expectations. Nevertheless, with safety protocols in place, some Outreach programs resumed on a limited basis.

Blessing of the Animals: For the second year in a row the blessing of pets and their owners in the Foster City community at the Dog Park was cancelled. Church services were held on October 3rd to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis for St. Ambrose members and their pets.

Cambodia Academy of Mongkol Borei: St. Ambrose pays for the tuition, books, uniforms, meals, and transportation for two students. A \$600 donation enables us to sponsor Mai Chantra (boy) and Chheng Vipha (girl). The Cambodia Academy provides an education for over 300 students and is open to students who are too poor to attend Cambodia public schools.

El Buen Pastor: This year St. Ambrose raised its annual contribution to El Buen Pastor to \$2,950. EBP is the Episcopal Church's Spanish-speaking congregation on the Peninsula.

In a laundry-themed fund-raising project laundry supplies, rolls of quarters, and children's books and toys were brought to the church office and delivered to a laundromat in Redwood City on December 18th. All told, we paid for 20 loads of laundry and distributed detergent, softener, and gift items. Thanks go to Jim Neubert and Shelley Keefe for organizing the fund-raiser, and the staff and parents of Sea Breeze School and members of St. Ambrose who donated the items.

Family Sharing: The Samaritan House asked us to make Christmas a little brighter for a family of four in San Mateo. We bought warm jackets, pillows, gift cards, and drawing and painting sets to support the children in their artwork. Thanks go to Clara Padilla, who interviewed the parents about what the children wanted, and wrapped and delivered the gifts. Thanks go especially to St. Ambrose parishioners, who contributed \$846. The gifts cost \$378, and the excess of \$468 was donated to Samaritan House

Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA): For the past twelve years we have donated \$300 to GAIA, whose primary missions are to prevent AIDS and to assist those afflicted by the disease in Africa.

Home and Hope: The 30 Peninsula churches and synagogues which comprise Home and Hope can no longer provide temporary shelter at their facilities or serve dinner to families who are accepted into the program. Housing is still being provided on a limited basis at hotels, and churches have been asked to fill requests for food and supplies.

St. Ambrose joined with Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church to fill out a food shopping list, each consisting of 20 items, for four families. We dropped off our purchases at Hope Lutheran, which made the deliveries. Thanks go to participants Diane Robertson, Nellie Wong, and Steve Yuen.

Sandwiches on Sunday (SOS): We delivered 80 brown-bag lunches to the Fair Oaks Community Center on January 31st, May 30th, August 29th, and October 31st. In each brown bag were two sandwiches, high-fiber snacks, and fruit. Thanks go to all who bought the ingredients, assembled the sandwiches, and delivered the bags to Redwood City:

Elliot Dun, Jr., Elliot Dun, and Teresa Murakami
Alison LeBlanc
David and Lydia McIntyre and Cathy Rincon
Valerie Mersh
Lily and Carolyn Moriarty
Rob, Anita, and Danielle Richards
Daniel Tate
Shai, Shawn, and Phoebe Venkat

In 2021 we continued to re-assess our priorities. We scaled back our expectations of what we could accomplish and focused on programs where we could make a difference in peoples' lives. Every person we came in contact with thanked us, so we knew were on the right track. May we continue on that path in 2022.

-----Steve Yuen, Convener

Annual Meeting: Contemplative Meditation Report

St. Ambrose's Contemplative Meditation group was started in 2020 during the covid-19 pandemic in the midst of great uncertainty and confusion. In response to a request for some form of meditation, this group was formed. We have been meeting on Zoom Wednesday mornings for a brief respite from life's relentless distractions for over a year now.

Side note: January 6, 2021 Wednesday 10:00am Contemplative Meditation proceeded as usual. For 30 minutes, DC was a world away.

The Contemplative Meditation community continued to grow during 2022. The group was usually attended by 8-15 people. Our mailing list includes 30 people requesting updates.

We continue to enjoy a unique meditation practice as well as broad discovery of faith literature and music. We are thankful to Father Shane who brings a wealth of reading, music, hymns, psalms, scripture, centering prayer. Last year Fr Shane introduced the writings of Thomas Aquinas, Thomas Merton, Malcom Guite, St. Ignatius of Loyola, Joseph Campbell -- just to name a few. Our latest sessions include Carl Jung writings.

For us Contemplative Meditation has evolved and will continue to change as the members' needs. The current period we will explore additional times for meetings. There were some suggestions for church bells, opening the floor to additional leaders, sharing the responsibilities for administering sessions. We will consider all suggestions for enhancing the rich experience we are enjoying.

Respectfully,
Hamilton Fong

Search Committee Blurb

The St. Ambrose Search Committee has been meeting since early May, 2021 to begin the process of finding two or three qualified candidates for Rector of our Parish. The members of this committee are Father Shane, Canon Denise Obando (Diocesan Transition Minister), April Cherrington, Nilda Chong, George Gardiner, Carolyn Moriarity, Liva Neyroud, Yvonne Sidell, Warren Wong and Steve Yuen.

Our first task was to answer a series of questions from the Diocese to describe our successes, challenges, liturgical style, caring for spiritual/emotional/physical well-being, ministries, and preparation for the future.

Our second task was to create a Parish Profile that will describe who we are and will be used to attract candidates. As a part of gathering information we conducted Town Hall Meetings with the members of our congregation to gather their personal views, opinions and experiences as part of the St. Ambrose community as we create a vision of our future.

The Vestry approved these two documents at their January meeting and the next step is to post the position. The position will be posted for one month, during which time the committee will create the interview questions. All qualified candidates will be screened by the Diocese and the Search Committee, followed by interviews, visits, and references

The final step is to submit two or three candidates to the Vestry for them to make the final decision.

St Ambrose Episcopal Church 2022 Annual General Meeting

January 30, 2022

Stewardship Campaign Report

We kicked off our 2022 Stewardship Campaign in October 2021 with a lively and well-received outdoor brunch. As the COVID-19 pandemic dragged on, it became obvious that we could not host our beloved stewardship dinner, but we remained undeterred and creative in our efforts to conduct the campaign.

By mid-January 2022, we had received 51 pledges totaling \$108,704. This is significantly more than we raised last year and we are thankful for every gift that helps us fulfil our mission of welcoming all people into our church family and serving those in need.

In appreciation for the opportunity to serve St Ambrose,

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Keefe

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is back to share love with our little ones (K-5) and tell them that God loves them!

We have posted on YouTube a few sessions (4 sessions during Avent, and 1 session in January) to tell the stories of Jesus, with fun and songs! Still, we know that Youtube/zoom may not be the best way to convey our message, and to this regard, we'll be sending in February a survey to the parents of Saint Ambrose and Sea-Breeze. Identify the needs of our community, organize safe outdoor events, have fun and share love are the key aspects we will be working on. Challenging times are new opportunities to share the message of Jesus.

Fe Balemiento and Raphaele Gerber

Associate for Youth and Family Ministry's Report - 2021

Submitted by Daniel Tate M.Div.

Introduction

The Youth and Family Ministry team offered several different programs in 2021 despite the interruption of the pandemic. This year, like last year, was a year of much change and transition. Our goals were to encourage the youth and their families to grow spiritually, do service projects, develop friendships, and have fun. It took many people to make this happen. The program this year was led by Daniel Tate and Alison Le Blanc, and multiple persons from the congregation assisting. For the first half of the year, we continued meeting on Zoom, and then when Bishop Andrus gave us the go ahead in late May to re-gather, we met outside in the courtyard during the regular worship services. Following are some descriptions of some of the activities and events that took place.

Pizza Saturdays

Throughout the year the Youth Group had several pizza Saturday days gathering in the courtyard at the church when the weather was right. It was good to gather in person, catch up and to be in community. We ate some pizza, sat around and talked, thought about activities the Youth Group would like to do in the coming months, enjoyed some pizza and cold beverages, played some basketball, dodgeball, and Four Square.

Sandwiches on Sunday

Several times we prepared lunches for Sandwiches on Sunday with our Outreach Leader Stephen Yuen. Each time we made about eighty sandwiches and put together some fruit and snacks into lunch bags and prepared them for giving out to people the next day Sunday at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City.

Karen Chee, Guest Speaker

In March, thanks to Elliott Dun's efforts, we got to hear guest speaker Karen Chee, Comedy Writer for the Seth Meyers Late Night Show. She was in conversation with us via Zoom. 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.

Easter Egg Hunt

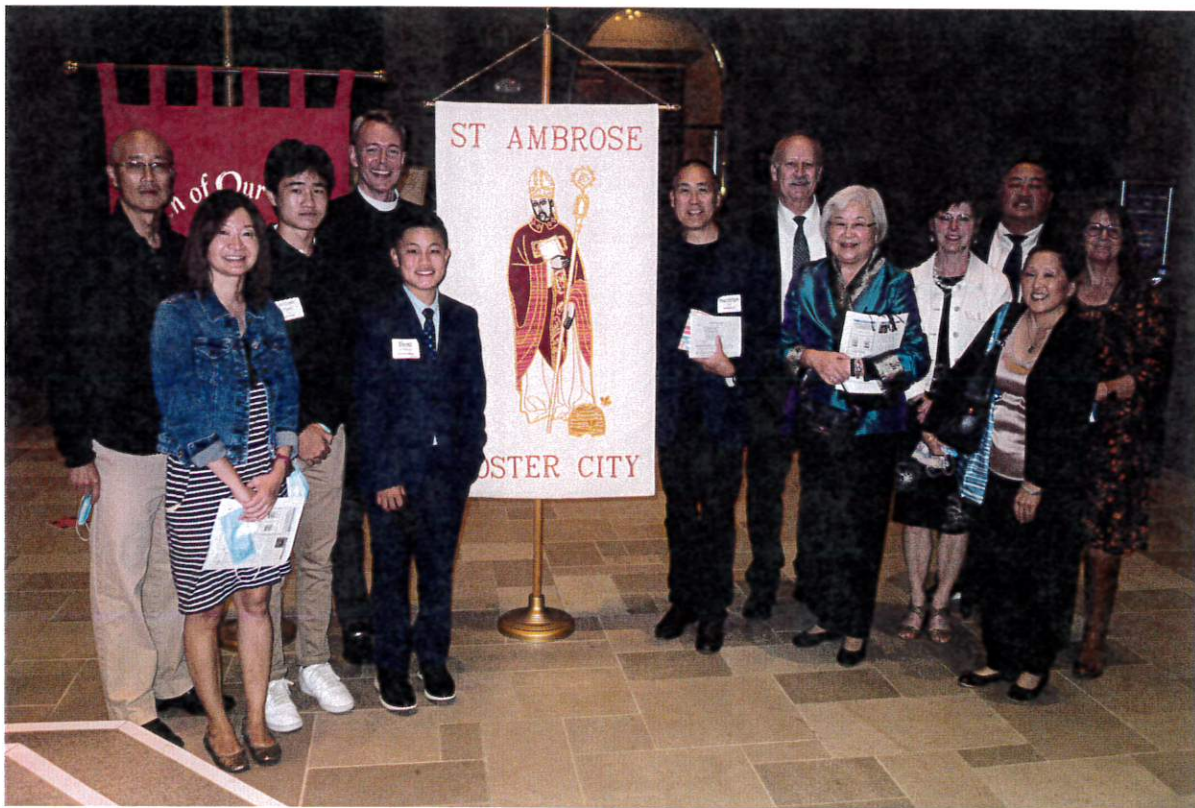
On Easter Sunday, the Youth Group (and some adults) had a wonderful time chasing down Easter Eggs in the Sea Breeze School Courtyard at the church. Allison and I had a great time packing them with chocolates and hiding them beforehand. The weather was just right. The sun was out. We had snacks to munch on and cold drinks for refreshment. Parents were there too, and we all got to enjoy visiting with each other in person.

Garden Projects

In February and June we planted our annual wheat, vegetables, and flower gardens. Flowers, and bulbs were planted under the palm trees off the parking lot, and in the plots near the main entrance.

Confirmation Sunday

On the evening of Sunday, September 26th, Elliott Dun, and Michael Chang were Confirmed, and Valerie Mersh and Hamilton Fong were Received into the Episcopal Church. It was a wonderful and sacred day. For the youth of the group, Confirmation was follow-up to the Inquirer's classes they took in late summer 2020 with Mother Swanson, Alison LeBlanc, and Daniel Tate. St Ambrose was well represented with members of our congregation, family members and friends in attendance to witness the event. There was even live music- strings, and piano, and a solo! There was a sizable number of other churches represented as well. Bishop Marc led a pre-service conversation with the Confirmands and their sponsors, and presided over the service. Every aspect of the service was lovely, and memorable.



From left to right: Honkai Chang, Milda Beh, Michael Chang, Father Shane Scott-Hamblen, Elliott Dun, Hamilton Fong, Daniel Tate, Valerie Mersh, Shelley Keefe, Elliott Dun, Teresa Murakami, and Ali Le Blanc.



From left to right: Daniel Tate, Shelley Keefe, Bishop Marc Andrus, Valerie Mersh, Hamilton Fong, Elliot Dun, Father Shane Scott-Hamblen, Michael Chang, Honkai Chang, Elliot Dun, Teresa Murakami, and Milda Beh.

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant was an all-congregation event. A wonderful combination of children, youth, and adults, all participated in telling the story of the birth of Jesus. The choir and the whole congregation participated in song as well. Irei, Isaac and Isabelle Fromme provided piano and cello performances during the pre-service Musical Offering, and during the service. We look forward to enjoying more musical performances from our youth during the coming year.

Conclusion

It was a good year. Despite the difficulties of the year, much was learned. The constantly changes circumstances helped us to think on our feet more, adapt quickly, and stimulate creative thinking. I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the St. Ambrose community and am looking forward to the coming year of change and growth.

Respectfully,

Daniel