

February
2024



The Ambrosian

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

Mother Rebecca's Message for the Annual General Meeting



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Editor
Nilda Chong

It is a great joy to return to St. Ambrose as supply clergy. This community mentored, challenged, encouraged and supported me on my discernment journey, and I'm so grateful to you all!

I am struck by the diversity, vitality, and collaborative ministry that I find here. Lay people of every age and background are living into their baptismal calling through offering their time as worship leaders, choir singers, school board members, and committee volunteers, just to name a few! Others serve on the altar guild, or as Sunday school teachers. And others support us with their treasure, their prayers, and their presence, whether online or in person. The ongoing partnership with Sea Breeze School continues to bring new life and energy to our community. The Sandwiches on Sunday team continues to serve those who are food insecure at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City. Collaboration with the Bayview Mission ministry helps us become aware of the needs of communities that are less privileged than our own, and provides valuable assistance to the individuals and families that the ministry serves. St. Ambrose contributes regularly to El Buen Pastor Hispanic ministry, the Home and Hope Ministry, and to Episcopal Relief and Development.

At the same time, I see a strong commitment to nurturing Congregational community and spiritual growth. The continuation of the monthly fellowship dinners helps us deepen friendships that may have started with a conversation at the coffee hour. Every Tuesday at 1 p. m., Daniel Tate and Warren Wong facilitate a Zoom Bible Study, and participants discuss and reflect on the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Hamilton Fong continues to convene a contemplative meditation group that meets via Zoom from 10-11 a. m. on Wednesdays. In addition, a group meets in the sanctuary on the 1st and 3rd Sundays following the service for intercessory prayers. These are just a few examples of the rich life we share as we seek to offer opportunities for worship, fellowship, service, study, and prayer in our common life.

St. Ambrose is becoming more deeply grounded in the community we serve. This is cause for great rejoicing! Foster City has some distinct characteristics. It is home to a diverse groups of folks, many of who are leaders in technology and innovation. It is also a community where some people put down roots, while for others it is a transitional community, where they stay for a season, and then move on, as vocational and education needs change and develop. So I believe St. Ambrose is especially called and invited to be a spiritual way station, a resting place, where people can experience God's love and find sustenance for their journeys. We can be a haven for a seeker, the traveler who comes to be with us for a time, and provide companionship, love, and support.

Jesus invites us all to "come, follow me." He calls us in times of busyness, in times of calm, in the midst of fear, in the midst of hope, in the midst of challenges, and in times of peace and fulfillment. We are called to follow as we walk by faith into the unknown, knowing that his presence with us will supply our needs.

It is my great joy and privilege to walk the way with you for a time, as you seek to live out the Good News of God's abundance in the world.

In God's love,

Rev. Rebecca+

Layman's Reflection



Charlie Munger passed away last year at 99 years old. He was a very successful man in many aspects of life. If you're wondering, Charlie is the business partner of the more recognizable name, Warren Buffet. Buffett attributes a large part of the success at Berkshire Hathaway to Charlie Munger.

Lately I've been reading his newly released version of "Poor Charlie's Almanac." In his book Charlie offers a twist on the familiar saying that I've been playing over in my mind: "If at first you don't succeed... Well... so much for hang gliding." Hang gliding is a risky business, there's no recovery from "if you don't succeed." Charlie's point is... avoid risk.

Of course, we are not "hang gliding." We are about to embark on a search for a new relationship. I take some comfort in having been down this road before. Lessons learned. Hence, try, try again.

Respectfully,
Ham

News and Updates

Father Jason

Most of us know that Fr. Jason has been out on medical leave. It is with the utmost gravity and sadness that I announce that Fr. Jason will not be returning to St. Ambrose but will be returning to his home in Minnesota.

We continue to pray for his recovery while we begin the process of transition. We will provide updates as we have them.

Hamilton Fong, Sr. Warden

St. Ambrose Vestry 2024



During the Annual General Meeting 1/28/2024, St. Ambrose members called and elected the following to serve on the Vestry: April Cherrington, Brenda Matsuo, Don Gundry, Hamilton Fong, Shaiji Ajit, Valerie Mersh, David McIntyre, Suzanne Canada, and Mary Loretta Davilla.

The following were elected officers:

Sr. Warden: Hamilton Fong

Jr. Warden: April Cherrington

Treasurer: Alison LeBlanc

Clerk: Brenda Matsuo

Most of the above are returning to serve; thank you for your dedication to our wonderful community. To our incoming members, we are excited to welcome you to an exciting year of renewal and making a difference for our community.

Bless all,
Ham

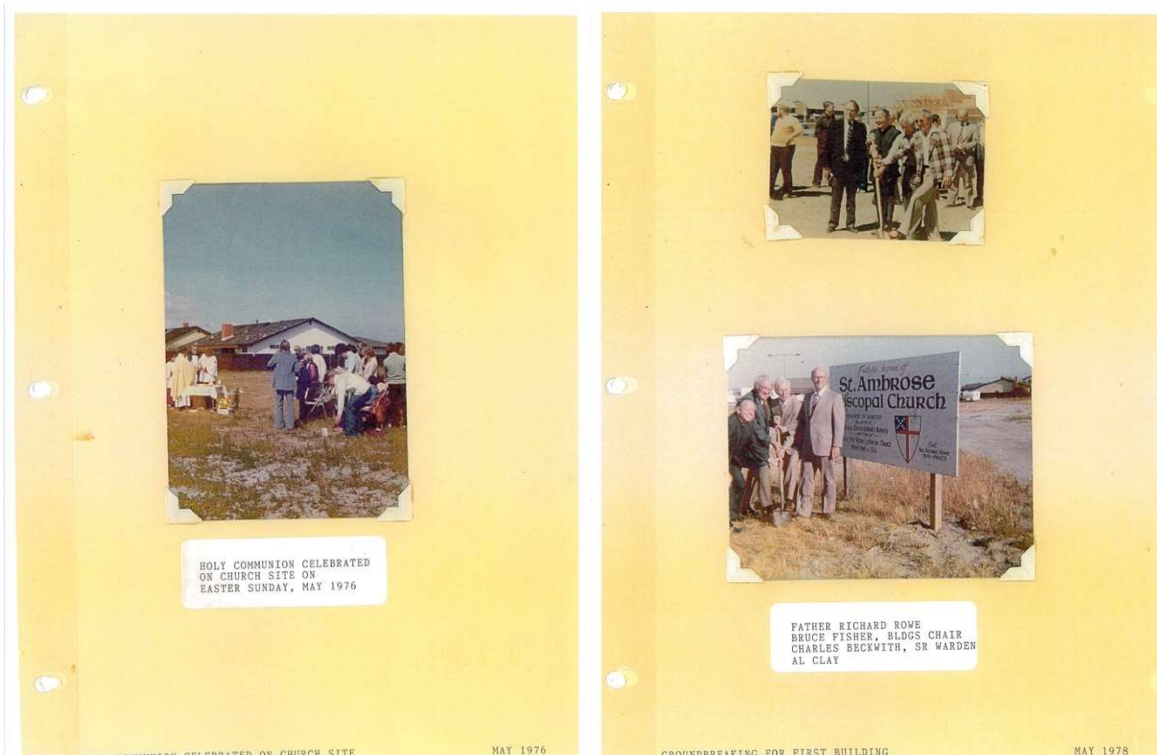
The Archives of St. Ambrose



When Mother Patricia Robertson became Vicar (3rd Vicar), she asked me to organize 2 grocery bags of stuff to start an archive. Took me a year to sort things out and the grocery bags held a wealth of info about how the church came to be. The archive was completed and located in the Parish Hall of about 8 shelves like the books at a library in albums. Found folks looking through the albums and must admit and confess, the albums were interesting but when Fr. David came on board, Sea Breeze needed more space so under the leadership of the Vestry, albums of photographs, documents, etc. were microfilmed and I don't know if the originals were destroyed or what but I was assured it would be accessible to any member in microfilm stage. I remember April was responsible for microfilming.

Contributed by Dorothy Matsuo

Editor's note: Now we know how Dorothy took upon herself the monumental task of putting together the archive of our church. And, yes, April undertook the project to scan all the documents, photos and newspaper clippings that date back to 1962 and organized them in chronological order. We are grateful to both.



Outreach – February 2024

Upcoming Activities:

During Lent we ask parishioners to forego some activities that they may view as “luxuries” (lattes, desserts) and donate those funds to either or both of two worthy causes.

United Thank Offering is a major funding source Episcopal Church’s international missions. The missions not only spread the Good News but also basic needs to people in their local communities. “blue box” was introduced in the 1950’s for children their pennies for UTO. We still have blue boxes for whomever wants them, but as a practical matter we if you are inclined to make a donation that you write to St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, mark it UTO in memo section, and drop it in the offering plate.



for the
provide
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to save

ask that
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RIP Medical Debt (ripmedicaldebt.org) buys medical debt for cents on the dollar. The debt is then cancelled, relieving families from financial burdens that many find overwhelming. Debt incurred to pay for hospitalization, medicines, and treatment of chronic conditions is one of the principal causes of personal bankruptcy in the U.S. RIP Medical Debt is a 501(c)(3) organization and is rated 4 out of 4 stars by Charity Navigator. St. Ambrose joins other Peninsula Episcopal churches in this campaign during Lent. Simply write a check to St. Ambrose, mark it RIP Medical Debt, and place it in the offering plate.

Both Lenten campaigns will end on March 31st, Easter Sunday.

Sandwiches on Sunday – March 31st:

We will again assemble the sandwiches and brown bags the day before, i.e., **Saturday, March 30th**, at the church from noon to 2 p.m. They will be distributed at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City on Sunday, March 31st, from 11:45 to 12:15 p.m. If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Steve Yuen (cell 650-315-9662, stevebyuen@aol.com).

Announcements

Tuesday Bible Study

Meets on Tuesday at 1 pm over Zoom to study the scriptures for the following Sunday’s service. There is good discussion, usually lasting about an hour.

For information and Zoom link, contact Warren Wong at wwong@nd.edu

Fellowship Dinners

An opportunity to get better acquainted with other people from St. Ambrose!

Groups of 6 to 8 meet once a month, February through May, for potluck dinner or lunch in a group member's home.

Please call Nellie Wong (650-372-0728, wwong@nd.edu) for more information, and to let us know whether you are interested.

Contributed by Nellie Wong

Contemplative Meditation Group

Welcome to our "Contemplative Meditation" Zoom group. Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. That's right! We find the week kicks into gear...before you know it, we are two hectic days into it. Enjoy a 40 minute respite of mindful breaths, compassionate, and contemplative community. Be heard should you choose to share. If you wish, an email-list reminder can arrive in your inbox Tuesday nights -- write to: hfongster@gmail.com (Questions are welcome).

[Click this link on Wednesday's 10am to join Zoom.](#)

Or use this QR Code:



Contributed by Hamilton Fong

Card Ministry

Every month our members receive birthday and anniversary cards and sometimes, when events happen, some also receive get well or sympathy cards.

If you become aware of a member's good news, illness, or a family loss, please let Kyn Dellinger know at (650) 291-6208 or email her at bonanzalady@gmail.com.

Contributed by Kyn Dellinger

Sea Breeze School News – by Jerelyn Weber, Principal

Happy February!! It was great to see many of you at the Annual Meeting and although I don't particularly enjoy public speaking, you folks make it easy for me to share about the wonderful work we do at YOUR Sea Breeze School.

Not too much to report from here. Open House was a great success this year, with several families from the outside visiting and joining the waitlist. While registration keeps us very busy in the office, February is a bit of a quiet month in the classrooms. The children are busy making cute Valentines projects and gifts; and the teachers are working on assessments for the children. We will host Teacher/Family conferences sometime in March. Chinese New Year is upon us and we will have families from each classroom celebrating with the children. There are plans for activities, performances and of course treats for the children.

I continue to work on updating classrooms with new equipment, a little bit at a time. Room 4 has been the first classroom to receive new furniture, including a very cute "fireplace" for their home living area. Teachers are having a great time choosing items for their classrooms. I have been working with a flooring contractor and it looks like all of classrooms will be receiving new carpet very soon. Because this takes a few days to complete, we hope to have the work done over our Spring Break, which is April 1-April 5. The carpet in the classrooms has been down since before I arrived and while we have it cleaned and sanitized very often, it has seen better days and needs replacing. We chose to go with carpet tiles this time, so that small sections can be replaced if accidents occur. Once it is in, we would love for you to take a look.

During the absence of Father Jason, Mrs. Irizarry (our afterschool director) has been conducting chapels and with the recent news we all received, she will continue to do so as long as necessary. The children love to hear the stories, sing the songs and continue to learn our Sea Breeze prayers. For many of our children, this may be the only exposure to the "Church Experience" and we are excited to teach them this part of our curriculum.

Best, Jerelyn

The Editor's Corner – by Nilda Chong



Dorothy Matsuo's storytelling ignited in me a great deal of curiosity about the archive of St. Ambrose. Her testimonial represents an invaluable, first-hand historical report. I asked April Cherrington and she kindly shared the files of all the church photos and documents she scanned. I am in awe. We own a treasure of priceless information for present and for future generations.

February Birthdays

February 3	Meltem Tanner
February 7	Elliott Dun
February 7	Nathan Matsuo
February 7	Andy Walker
February 9	Marilyn Stephens
February 19	Andrea Saunders
February 20	Linda Censoprano
February 22	Karen Chee
February 24	Joshua Franco
February 25	Liv Dahdah

February Anniversaries

February 4	Rev. David Ota & Rev. Karen Swanson
February 5	Keith & Charlene Adolph
