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Edition



The Ambrosian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
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Reflections from our Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! I have two important developments to write to you about. The larger and grander development has to do with the actions of the 79th General Convention that was completed last month in Austin, Texas. The vision for the Episcopal Church was cast by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as “the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.” The Jesus movement is about “The Way of Love.” This way calls each of us to be part of our own spiritual journey which has seven inter-connected parts: (1) Sabbath rest in God’s love; (2) Turning away from self-serving living (the practice of repentance); (3) Learning from the life and example of Jesus; (4) Praying for God’s reign to come; (5) Worshipping God in community; (6) Blessing others; (7) Going into the world to love and serve in God’s name, and then returning to Sabbath rest.

At General Convention, much of the work together revolved on collective decision-making. There were over 500 resolutions considered. Many of the resolutions had to do with the three pillars of Bishop Curry’s articulation of the Jesus Movement: Racial Reconciliation; Evangelism and the Care of Creation. The Episcopal Church wants to reach out to the world in love, overcome the estrangement in society, sharing good news of God’s love with others, and being stewards of God’s world.

An example of Racial Reconciliation was a Prayer Service at the Hutto Detention Center where women were imprisoned for wanting to cross the border. One thousand Episcopalians came to pray and show the women that we cared about them and their plight.

An example of Evangelism was a “Revival Night” in which the Presiding Bishop preached and told us the story of God’s love through John’s Gospel while it was being translated into Spanish by the interpreter. It was a night of song, story and prayer. We were then invited to healing stations for prayer.

An example of the Care of Creation is the resolve to move ahead to address climate change. We heard how the arctic north in Alaska is losing its habitat, and we are called to be stewards of Mother Earth.

Reflections from our Rector (continued)

We are called to connect the “dots” between racial reconciliation, evangelism and care of creation. It was said that we need to see how our actions affect others we may not see. We are called to see one another. The phrase “I see you” means we actually see the other who is different from us. The phrase, “I hear you” means we are willing to listen to the other who is hurting.

I will have much more to write about the actions of General Convention when I return from my sabbatical time.

The second development is the call of the Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan to serve at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in San Mateo. Father Jay is charged with developing their ministry with children. He will also be assisting the Rector, the Rev. Eric Hinds. Father Jay already teaches at St. Matthew Day School. **His last Sunday with St. Ambrose will be on August 26.** We will celebrate his ministry with us following the 10:00 a.m. service on that day. Ngoc Rodriguez and members of the Vestry are planning the celebration. Members and friends are invited to supplement the meal being planned with salads and desserts. Father Jay began his service with us on September 1, 2005 when he was a seminarian. We supported him as he was ordained deacon and then priest. We have benefited from his thirteen years of ministry with us. You are invited to give him a gift or to contribute to a purse for him.

Due to this development, I will be beginning a search for a Youth Minister and Chaplain to St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School. I have interrupted my sabbatical time to do this urgent work. In the meantime, the Rev. Karen Swanson will fill in to maintain continuity with the youth ministry until a person can be called.

However, the preaching schedule for August will remain the same as published before:

August 5 – the Rev. Karen Swanson
August 12 – the Rev. Jay Watan
August 19 & 26 – the Rev. David Ota

Please plan on attending on Sunday, August 26 as we give thanks for the ministry of Father Jay Watan and wish him all the best in his new ministry at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, San Mateo.

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

The Capital Campaign for Clergy Housing

Dear Members of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! **Thanks to everyone** who participated in the Capital Campaign for Clergy Housing, and especially those who made pledges. Our total to date is \$402,470. It is never too late to make a pledge, and we understand that some members are still praying about it. We will be updating you all as we receive additional pledges.

I would like to thank those who have made pledges to date:

Keith and Charlene Adolph
 Marilyn Canon
 April and Grant Cherrington
 Bettie Davis
 Jeanne DeTorre-Ozeki
 George and Janet Gardiner
 Leda Girardi
 Gwen and Hani Juha
 Michael and Dulce Lord
 Dorothy Matsuo
 Jim Miller and Torrie McAllister-Miller
 Jim Neubert
 Clara Padilla
 The Rev. Patricia and George Robertson
 Cathy Rincon and David McIntyre
 Frank and Barbara Saunders
 Yvonne Sidell
 Irene Stead

Christina Brockman and Stan Hui
 Angela and David Carducci
 Nilda Chong
 Kyn Dellinger
 Elliott Dun and Teresa Murakami
 Raphaele and Jacques Gerber
 Don Gundry
 Shelley Keefe
 Carolyn and David Moriarty
 Valerie Mersh
 John Miller and Eva Kwong
 David Ota and Karen Swanson
 Diane Robertson
 Ngoc and Julio Rodriguez
 Charles Saunders
 Sandy Schowengerdt
 George and Merle Silverman
 Andy Walker

Yours,

David Ota, Rector

Announcements

THANKS to...

- The Rev. Karen Swanson, the Rev. Canon Abbott Bailey and the Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan who filled in to lead worship on Sundays while the Rector was away for General Convention or on his sabbatical time off.
- The Rev. Jay Watan, Brenda Matsuo, John Miller and Ngoc Rodriguez who served as adult chaperones for the youth who went on the Mission Trip to Smith River.

Study Groups in August

- **The Monday Evening Study Group** will meet this month on **Monday August 27 at 7:00 p.m.** Where they will meet is to be decided. They are reading a journal from the Center for Action and Contemplation called, "Oneing, an alternative Orthodoxy on Anger." It is a series of reflections edited by Richard Rohr.
- **The Tuesday Bible Study Group** will be on a summer break and begin meeting again on **Tuesday, September 4.** They are continuing to read the Book of Job and will resume at Job 30:1.

The study groups are open to any interested person.

Mark Your Calendars

Holy Eucharist: Sunday, August 5, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Celebrant and Preacher, the Rev. Karen Swanson

Holy Eucharist: Sunday, August 12, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Celebrant and Preacher, the Rev. Jay Watan

Blessing of the Backpacks: Sunday, August 12, 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Sunday School Teachers Meeting: Sunday, August 19, 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Room 2

Celebration of the Ministry of the Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan: Sunday, August 26, following the 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Parish Hall

Commissioning of the Sunday School Teachers: Sunday, September 9, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Planning Meeting for Children's Activities in 2018-2019: Sunday, September 9, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Parish Hall

Deanery of the Peninsula Meeting: Saturday, September 15, 10:00 a.m., Good Shepherd, Belmont, Parish Hall

Commissioning of the St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School Teachers and the Back to School Lunch: Sunday, September 16, 10:00 a.m., Chapel and Parish Hall

Family Fun and Blessings Too, Church and School Extravaganza: Sunday, September 16, following the Back to School Lunch, Playground

Sandwiches on Sundays: Sunday, September 30, 11:30 a.m., Fair Oaks Community Center, 2600 Middlefield Road, Redwood City

Blessing of the Animals: Sunday, October 7, 12:30 p.m., Foster City Dog Park

Stewardship Dinner: Friday, November 16, 6:30 p.m., Foster City Recreation Center Lagoon and Blue Bird Rooms

The Desk of Rev. Karen Swanson

Sunday School Teacher's Meeting on August 19

St. Ambrose Sunday School teachers will meet on **Sunday, August 19 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in Room 2 to plan and schedule for Fall Sunday School. Please contact the Rev. Karen Swanson if you are an adult who would like to be involved in Sunday School for the first time.

Fall Sunday School to Begin September 9

We will begin Fall Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 9 with welcoming activities in classes and special prayers and blessings for students and teachers in church. Two age-related classes will be offered this year in addition to nursery care. The curriculum we are using recognizes that our students learn through art, discussion, music and games as well as through reading and pencil and paper activities. A kid friendly coffee hour will follow the opening of Fall Sunday School. Until then, our relaxed whole group Summer Sunday School continues in Room 2.

Planning for Children's Activities on September 9

All parents and other interested persons are invited to attend an organizing meeting to plan children's activities for the 2018-2019 program year on **Sunday, September 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. We will brainstorm about activities, and a tentative schedule of possible activity dates for new and renewed programs will be distributed and discussed.

Church and School Extravaganza on September 16

The annual church and school luncheon will be followed again this year by fun games, activities and prizes in the play yard outside the Parish Hall. Numerous adult and youth or children teams will be needed to "run" the games (each team will be given a break to also participate in them!). The activities will include a lollipop pull, a water balloon toss, a basketball shooting contest, a digging event, a football toss, and a topple the can game, among others. Please contact the Rev. Karen Swanson at karen.2.swanson@gmail.com or 650-200-8449 if you would like to organize the event, run an activity or help in other ways. And, please save the date to participate!

The Desk of Shelly Keefe

Peninsula Interfaith Coalition on Immigration

Last week, I attended a meeting of the Peninsula Interfaith Coalition on Immigration at the Mercy Center in Burlingame. Under the umbrella of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, the banner for the coalition continues... 'For sanctuary congregations and congregations involved in immigrant justice.'

Are we, at St. Ambrose, involved in immigrant justice? I hope so.

The first agenda item was the ending of the ICE contract to house federal immigration detainees at the West County Detention Facility in Richmond. Encouraged by our connection with Rev. Anna Lange-Soto of El Buen Pastor in Redwood City, a few of us have attended the Saturday vigils at the facility and on July 1, 2018, participated in a 3,000-strong demonstration as part of national 'Families Belong Together' event protesting the administration's policy of separating immigrant families at the border. I was glad Father Ota spoke so clearly in an earlier sermon, calling out the policy for what it is, an abomination.

While in the longview, ending Contra Costa County's incarceration of immigrant detainees is a step towards ending immigration detention, the action by Sheriff David Livingston in ending the contract is not a victory. It will not be a real victory unless ICE detainees are released and reunited with their families.

IM4HumanIntegrity and PICI continue to advocate for humane treatment of detainees and incarcerated populations. **Please consider joining us for an Interfaith Pilgrimage to Angel Island 2018, Saturday, September 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Not to speak, is to speak. Not to act, is to act. —Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Respectfully submitted, Shelley Keefe @ 650 787 7614 or onyourtoz@gmail.com

The Desk of Shelly Keefe (continued)

Back to
School...no,
not quite
yet!



But we are busy collecting new school backpacks and supplies for the Mattress Firm Foster Kids School Supplies Donation Drive.

To date, we have EIGHT fully-stocked backpacks and supplies to fill several more. Please bring your donations to St. Ambrose on or before **Sunday, August 12**. We'll bless the donations as part of 'Blessing of the Backpacks' during the 10 a.m. service on that day.

Thank you to all who participate in this outreach effort.

Shelley Keefe @ 650 787 7614 or
onyourtoz@gmail.com

“All Good Things...” – by The Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan



My parents' home was a well-known stopover for family and friends during my childhood. Being in San Francisco likely helped this, but my parents also valued hospitality and their welcoming spirit offered a home away from home for many. Before the days of telemarketers and robot calls, my parents intentionally kept their phone number listed in the telephone book just in case folks passing through town needed to find us. At least once a month we would have guests spending a few days with us. “The more the merrier,” or “the more we get together the happier are we,” were sayings I would often hear repeated in my household. But the feeling I remember most was that of wholeness when folks were over. Seems to me, we human beings are naturally hardwired to be in relationships and to re-connect when possible. The act of hospitality in

sharing a wholesome meal or the generosity in sharing one's space always felt like a way of paying forward a blessing that would return somewhere else along the way. Most of all, I enjoyed the company of having someone present in the moment. Eventually our guests needed to continue on their journey. It felt as if all good things come to an end. Like all of us, we need to go to the places God needs us to be.

Perhaps things come to an end for another good thing to begin. And as we grow, change, learn, evolve, and sometimes just plain grow older and (hopefully) wiser, those good things connect our moments into chapters, to story arches and trilogies, and into whole narratives and histories. Our stories then crossover and connect, become shared and woven with others in this blessed thing called life. The time has come in this storyline to say good bye to a good thing and say hello to something new. After prayer and thoughtful discernment, it is with both sadness and joy that I share that I have accepted a new call to serve as the Associate Rector at the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew in San Mateo.

Over the past 12 years, I have been blessed to be a part of your story, and to bear witness to God's work in the world in all you do. You, the faithful of St. Ambrose and the dedicated ones at Sea Breeze School have been an integral part of my life! We have walked together in life's everyday pangs, to the great celebrations, memorials and milestones that inform the liturgies of life. I've had the honor to be with you through births, baptisms, confirmations, graduations, marriages, life-transitions, accidents, illnesses, divorces, and in times of loss and death. In youth ministry, we've had three generations of youth group, pulled off eight vacation bible school weeks, completed nine mission trips (seven as the “God Squad” with Sierra Service Project), and made a pilgrimage to the Taize' Community in France. We have toasted the good times, cried with each other, blessed babies and cars, shared many hugs, and laughed a lot together. I have counseled you and learned from you. We've even watched the San Francisco Giants win World Series Championships, the Golden State Warriors Dynasty, and Manny Pacquiao fight together. We've played games such as *Uno*, *Apples to Apples*, *Queenie*, and *Exploding Kittens*, to *Paintball* and *Pickle Ball* together.



“All Good Things...” (continued)

Even more, my kids, Rowan and Kieran, were raised here and they learned spiritual values through you. Rowan and Kieran are alumni of Sea Breeze, Sunday School and Youth Group. This is the only faith community they have known. My family and I continue to feel the warm welcome of St. Ambrose. Thank you for opening your heart and homes, sharing good food, and blessing us just like family. My time at St. Ambrose has indeed been a great gift!

I'm especially grateful to Fr. David Ota for his faithfulness, leadership, and for calling me over to join St. Ambrose back in 2005. I'm also deeply grateful to Frank Saunders for his listening heart and uplifting spirit with music and in life. I wish to thank you the St. Ambrose community for allowing me to serve as your priest on your spiritual journey.

August 2018 will be my last month at St. Ambrose. It will be a time for transition and an opportunity for the congregation and youth to discern who the next youth minister will be for St. Ambrose. As we say “goodbye” together, in time you will be saying “hello.” In the weeks to come, we will have time to share story, shed tears, give cheers, remember the saints who have gone home to God, and to reminisce on the moments and to celebrate all good things. And as our time in my official capacity together draws to a close, please know that you and St. Ambrose will always remain close to the heart in ways my family and I will never forget.

Thank you for all you have given to me and family!

“Adi Tako Bukudan Nan Gawis!”¹

¹ This is a Igorot saying attributed to late uncle, Edward Napeek, spoken in Kan-ka-na-e that translates as: ***“For all the blessings God gives... share it with others!”***

August Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen

Below are the donations that St. Ambrose has made so far this year to various Outreach programs. The 2018 budget is **\$8,500**.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
Church Divinity School of the Pacific	\$1,800
El Buen Pastore – Musician	1,200
Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA)	300
Guatemala Microloans and Relief	300
Home and Hope	300
Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church (supplies)	100
Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County	400
Sandwiches on Sunday (St. Pius Church)	300
Virgin Islands Recovery	<u>500</u>
Total Outreach Donations	\$ 5,200

Typically, we spend about \$2,000 for various Outreach Holiday programs in November and December.

We also try to leave funds in reserve to aid victims of new disasters. Recently, there has been a natural disaster (fire, earthquake, hurricanes) that occurred in the second half of every year. Normally, we channel such donations through Episcopal Relief and Development, which has an excellent reputation for efficiency and stewardship.

If you have questions about any of our Outreach programs, please contact Steve Yuen (650-341-1966 or stevebyuen@aol.com).

Upcoming Events

Blessing of the Backpacks

On **Sunday, August 12**, we will collect and donate fully-equipped backpacks to foster children under the auspices of the Mattress Firm Foster Kids program. Our goal is 25 backpacks. If you have questions, please contact Shelley Keefe (650) 787-7614 or onyourtoz@gmail.com

Sandwiches on Sunday

Our next hosting is on **Sunday, September 30** when we will be preparing chicken, rice and salad. If you can make a dish and/or help with serving and cleanup, please sign up on the sheet that will be posted in the Parish Hall in September. Please contact Rob Richards (rob.richards@tensorlabs.com or 650-577-8924) if you have any questions.

*Note: We will have a report on the **July 29** SOS in the September Ambrosian*

Sea Breeze School News – by Jerelyn Weber, Principal

Summer Camp is almost over and we are ready for the 2018-2019 School Year!

Summer Camp was full of excitement this year as we followed the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math theme throughout Camp. The children had visits from Curi Odessey, Microsoft, Bay Area Mad Science and Google. They learned about animal habitats, tooth structures and how animals survive in the wild. They explored digital graphic design, witnessed science in action and learned to make their robots walk and talk.

The school year starts for our School Age children on **Tuesday, August 14** and we currently have 83 children in the program. Maureen Fromme will teach Music on Thursday afternoons and we are looking to bring a Chess Club and Physical Education Class on Wednesday afternoons. We will also be offering a Bollywood Dance class as an additional enrichment program. The Kindergartners have a sign language class as a part of their weekly curriculum as well. As you can see, we keep them very busy.

Preschool classes start on **Wednesday, August 22** and we currently have 137 children enrolled, with a few part-time spots still available. If you know anybody looking for a quality preschool for their three- or four-year old child, we would love to see them. This year, our preschool children will have gym class and sign language in addition to their regular curriculum.

As the summer comes to a close, we are anxiously awaiting the installation of new playground equipment. Through very generous fundraising efforts of our families, we are excited to be able to replace our aging structures with two brand new updated climbing structures. This is scheduled to happen during the third week of August while the preschool is closed and should be ready for action when school starts on the 22. *Many thanks to our supportive families.*

As the school year begins, we will be welcoming volunteers into our classrooms to work with our children. If you have few spare minutes and would like to spend time reading, playing games or doing art with our children, please feel free to contact the school office – we love to see new faces.

Continued Blessings,

Jerelyn Weber, Principal

The Editor's Corner—by Yvonne Sidell



*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*
—Proverbs 3:5-6

Twentieth century theologian and philosopher Reinhold Niebuhr penned the following prayer, now commonly referred to as “The Serenity Prayer.” It reads:

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next. Amen*

Most people are familiar with the first four lines of this prayer as it has been made into wall hangings, bookmarks, prayer cards, and other Christian resources. However, most are unfamiliar with the second stanza, which seems to carry the fuller meaning of the prayer. In a hurried world in which we keep a breathless pace, it feels almost sinful to stop and rest. Every day advertisers plead with us to purchase “security” for our futures. Investors encourage us to plan for our retirement and our children’s education. Every day, thousands of hardworking employees are “downsized” or let go, resulting in chaos, instability, and loss of confidence. How then are we to experience this type of “serenity” when our world seems out of control? Psalm 46:10 reads, “Be still and know that I am God.”

So often we attempt to orchestrate our lives in such a way that there is no room for God to interrupt with His own plans. When we follow this prayer, we create some margin, some sacred space for God to penetrate our over-scheduled, busy, restless lives. As you look over your calendar today, is there room for God to “interrupt”? The Scriptures declare, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)