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The Ambrosian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

900 Edgewater Blvd, Foster City, California 94404

August

2014

Edition

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Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha!  Presently in the Episcopal Church we enjoy the ministries of women in all orders of ministry as lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons. As we know, it has not always been so. On July 29th, 2014, the Feast of Saints Mary and Martha of Bethany, the Episcopal Church remembered the 40th anniversary of the Philadelphia eleven, the first women ordained to the priesthood at the Church of the Advocate by three retired Episcopal bishops. The ordinations were considered “irregular” because the General Convention had not yet changed the canons to allow women to be ordained to the priesthood.

The Philadelphia eleven were women deacons: the Revs. Nancy Wittig, Carter Heyward, Jeannette Piccard, Marie Moorefield, Katrina Swanson, Emily Hewittt, Alla Bozarth-Campbell, Merril Bittner, Allison Cheek, Suzanne Hiatt and Betty Schiess. They are largely unknown to most members of the church, but they were pioneers and bore the brunt of controversy.

It is interesting to note that the 1970 General Convention was the first one which allowed women to be deputies. The 1970 General Convention also changed the status of women who were considered deaconesses and not ordained to become ordained deacons.

The history of the movement toward equality in the Episcopal Church for women is insightful for us all, because the story reminds us how difficult change is and how it requires effort and sacrifice.

The Episcopal Women’s Caucus was the primary organization within the Episcopal Church which worked for this change. Without their efforts our life as a church would not be the same. Their story from 1971 to 1996 with an update from 1996 to 2003 can be found by going to the link: <http://www.episcopalwomenscaucus.org/history/EWD-Hist-2003-StraightPages.html>

We sing a hymn at St. Ambrose called, “The Kingdom of God” with the text written by Bryn A. Rees, born in 1911. The first verse is:

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;

For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.

God’s power and glory in Jesus we know.

And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

# Reflections from our Rector

## Rector’s reflections continued…



If we are to live in the reign of God there is both a striving for justice which in this case is restoration of the equality of women and men with their different gifts and the joy we experience when we live into God’s justice and get a glimpse of what it might look like. But this doesn’t happen without people seeking and striving for God’s reign.

We who live in this technologically oriented world live with a rapid rate of change. We enjoy getting new models of cell phones, computers and cars. But these innovated changes do not happen without lots of people working together to make the improvements.

I would like to imagine that the women who formed the Episcopal Women’s Caucus, both lay and ordained, and their male allies who understood that in God’s reign there is no male or female distinction in being a child of God and being able to serve within God's church were like today’s engineers who constantly work for innovation in technology. All we get to see are the new products, and the engineers are largely faceless and nameless. But because of the pioneers who lived even more than forty years ago and their successors kept seeking the prize of God’s justice and joy, we today enjoy the ministries of women both lay and ordained. Most recently on July 14th, 2014 the Church of England’s General Synod voted to allow women to be elected as bishops.

The daughter of the Rev. Katrina Swanson, one of the original Philadelphia, is Helene Swanson. Helene is carrying out her mother’s dream of pursuing the Equal Right’s amendment. Helene is a lay member of the Diocese of California. You can support her and find her work at <http://www.katrinasdream.org/>.

I invite you to pause to give thanks for faithful servants who seeks God’s reign in the world and in their own lives, and hope their example will encourage you to seek God’s reign in your own way.

Yours,

David Ota, Rector

**Rector on vacation**

The Rector will be on vacation with his family in Minnesota as they will put to rest the remains of his mother-in-law Ruth Swanson on August 9th. He will be gone from August 4th to 11th and will be back in the office on Tuesday, August 12th.

**Bible Studies in August**

The Monday Bible Study group will take a break for the month of August.  They will begin again on September 8th and are at Luke 19:28.  They have been reading the texts in comparison with the gospels according to Mark and Matthew.  This Bible Study is led by the Rector.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study group is also studying the Gospel according to Luke and meets on **August 5th and 19th** in the home Warren and Nellie Wong at **7 p.m.**

The Wednesday evening Bible Study group will meet on **August 13th and 27th** in the foyer of the church at **7:30 p.m.**  They are studying book of Revelation. This Bible Study is led by the Rector.

Each of the Bible Study groups is open and newcomers are invited to join.

**An evening of poetry reading**

Come to another evening of poetry reading on **Thursday, August 21st from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m**. in the Parish Hall.  The first meeting in July had ten participants who enjoyed the depth and breadth of the poetry and the fellowship. Everyone is invited to bring and share poems that are personally meaningful.  Everyone is also welcome to just listen and enjoy.  Frank Saunders and the Rev. Karen Swanson lead this group.

**Giants and Dodgers game at AT&T Park**

Members and friends of St. Ambrose will be going to the Giants and Los Angeles Dodgers game on **Friday, September 12th from 7:15 p.m.** There are fourteen tickets still available. The cost is $32 for an adult or $22 for a youth or child. If interested, call the church office at 650 574-1369 or sign-up in the Parish Hall.

**Congregational Meeting on Disaster Preparedness for St. Ambrose**

Members of St. Ambrose are invited and encouraged to come to a Disaster Preparedness meeting for St. Ambrose to help us prepare for a disaster such as an earthquake. The meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 21st from 11:45 a.m.** in the Parish Hall. The 2013 Diocesan Convention charged each congregation to come up with its own plan. Karin Patterson and Mike Radovancevich who worship at the 8 a.m. service and are also volunteer leaders of Foster City C.E.R.T. will lead the meeting. This will be a general orientation meeting to help us further develop our plan for St. Ambrose. We need your ideas and involvement. Lunch will be provided.

**An Introduction to the Episcopal Church**

The Rector will be leading a class to introduce those who are new to the Episcopal Church about the history, theology, worship, spirituality and outreach of the Episcopal Church and Anglicanism. Those who are interested in becoming confirmed or received are encouraged to take this class. The class will be held on **Sundays, September 28th and October 19th** from **11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m**. in Room 1. Other classes will be scheduled later. Lunch will be provided.

**Under Construction, a new online church directory**

**We are making progress in constructing the new online church directory. However we need your help. We need your photos. We are using the software from the website** [**www.InstantChurchDirectory.com**](http://www.InstantChurchDirectory.com) **to construct a new online church directory. You can schedule to have your photo taken in the foyer by Father Jay Watan in August. You can contact him to schedule having your photo taken at** [**igorothighlander@hotmail.com**](mailto:igorothighlander@hotmail.com)**. Or you can send in a Jpeg photo to our Administrative Assistant, Gina Perez at** [**stambrose@mindspring.com**](mailto:stambrose@mindspring.com)**. She will then be able to upload it to the online directory.**

**Mark Your Calendars:**

* An Evening of Poetry Reading: **Thursday, August 21st, 7:30 p.m.,** Parish Hall
* Equipping the Beloved Community Day: **Saturday, August 23rd, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm**, Trinity Church, Menlo Park
* Youth Ministry Orientation: **Sunday, August 24th, 11:45 p.m.,** Parish Hall
* Sandwiches on Sundays: **Sunday, August 31st, 11:30 a.m.,** Fair Oaks Community Center
* Sunday School and Choir returns: **Sunday, September 7th**
* Clergy Conference at the Bishop’s Ranch: **Tuesday, September 9th – Thursday, September 11th,** Bishop’s Ranch, Healdsburg
* Giants and Dodgers game at AT&T Park: **Friday, September 12th**
* Commissioning of Sunday School and Sea Breeze School Teachers and Staff and lunch: **Sunday, September 14th, 10:00 a.m.** **and following**, Parish Hall
* Blessing of the Animals: **Sunday October 5th**
* Congregational meeting on Disaster Planning: **Sunday, September 21st, 11:45 a.m.,** Parish Hall
* Diocesan Convention: **Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18th,** Grace Cathedral
* Bishop Marc Andrus’ Visitation for Confirmation: **Sunday, November 9th**
* Stewardship Dinner Celebration: **Saturday, November 15th, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.,** Foster City Recreation Center’s Lagoon and Blue Bird rooms

## Outreach Report - by Steve Yuen

**Sandwiches on Sunday:** On June 29th St. Ambrose chefs rose early to make baked chicken and rice for hungry diners in Redwood City. Promptly after the 10 o’clock service servers caravanned down to the Fair Oaks Community Center and laid out tablecloths, trays of hot entrées and salad, loaves of bread, drinks, and plates and utensils. Over the years the volunteers have become very efficient and were ready to serve within 15 minutes of arrival.

Separately, Steve Yuen had some anxious moments when he went to St. Pius Catholic Church to pick up the 100 brown-bag meals which are distributed to the guests as they leave. The key to the St. Pius walk-in refrigerator wasn’t in the normal place, and, after several frantic phone calls Steve was able to take the bags to the community center before lunch was finished.

As she did in March, Clara Padilla was able to obtain loaves of day-old bread from the Foster City Safeway. Thanks go to Clara for her initiative and to Foster City Safeway for its generosity. Thanks also go to our servers:

Susan Enoch Rob Richards

David McIntyre Brett Yates

Lydia McIntyre Lauren Yates

Cathy Rincon

And special acknowledgment goes to Rob for organizing the event and making sure that the supply bin was stocked. Our next Sandwiches on Sunday is **Sunday, August 31st**. Please contact Rob Richards (577-8924, rob.richards@tensorlabs.com) if you would like to help or have any questions.

**Bread for the World (**[**http://bread.org**](http://bread.org)**)**

Beginning **Sunday, July 20th**, and continuing through the month of August, St. Ambrose members have begun writing letters to our elected Federal representatives concerning food aid to desperately poor foreign populations. This “Offering of Letters” campaign is organized by Bread for the World, a nationwide organization that was founded in 1972 and which is supported by all the major Christian churches.

This year, in addition to asking Congress to maintain the $2 billion budget, we are requesting that food aid be made more effective and efficient. For example, the Food for Peace program requires that most donated food be grown in the United States and that it be shipped on American vessels. However, disasters far from American shores require a quick response, such as purchasing the food near the disaster and transporting it on whatever ships are nearby.

## “A Cup of Tea for Mrs. D.” – by Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan

In the confusion and rush of our busy lives, I find more and more that the few moments of stillness are really significant.  I love a good cup of tea.  When we pour a cup of tea, this isn’t meant to be chugged or gulped, it is meant to be sipped. We’re meant to pay attention to the moment.  Even though the tea may come from the same mix of leaves, herbs, fruits or berries, the flavor is changed by the temperature of the water. There is texture and aroma, a feeling that goes down with every drop.  There is so much detail.  Many of our cultures have tea ceremonies that mark both the big moments of significance to the simple movement of everyday life.  It’s almost sacramental.

The summer has been a season of weddings, babies, memorials and funerals in my life with family and friends.  The contrast of life and death feels like holding two pots of tea in each hand… one that is sweet and the other that is bitter. The catch is that you have to drink both to experience the fullness of life.  It is easy to follow the flow of love in the life-giving joy of birth and marriage. But it can be hard to find the hope we seek or a silver lining in the passing away of loved ones.

To be where we are is a blessing that is only is understood when we pause to appreciate the grace of a moment.    From a soothing cup of tea to the warm embrace of a hug, these small moments reminds us that experiencing the basic joys of life is not as complicated as we often make it to be.  In fact, we often blow up our expectations and knock simplicity because it seems so basic.   Yet listen to all the calls for human beings to return to the basics and we realize that the simple things are so important.

For over 20 years Jean Delmonico, "Mrs. D" for many of us at St Ambrose & Sea Breeze School, served as a teaching assistant.  But her claim to fame was that she was a hall of fame hugger. She gave some of the warmest and heartfelt hugs ever!  In fact, I can remember so many parents and children say that she was like "another grandma" or testify that she made the school "like a home away from home."  Mrs. D returned home to God on July 23rd, 2014, after a short illness.  She loved kids and she loved being at the school, and as we celebrate her life I can't help but reflect on how much her offers to give someone a hug, both old and young, created a small moment of grace for someone.  God gave her the beautiful gift of kindness that needed to be shared.  Friends, all we have are the moments. And the unconditional love of God's grace can be found when we take a moment... have a cup of tea.

Rest in Peace with God Mrs. D.

## Sea Breeze School News

Summer is often a time of change for families, and things are no different at Sea Breeze. This summer we have seen many of our students move on to prepare for life in “The Big School”, or to move out of the area to be closer to family. While it is always sad to watch our children move on, we know that we have sent them foundations to be successful. As some of our students made changes, so did some of our teachers. Mrs. Hodges retired from Sea Breeze after 25 years and Mrs. Borkar made the difficult decision to take a position at a school near her home so that she could be available for her own children. As sad as it is to say good-bye, we wish everyone only the best.

We have enjoyed some great times during our Summer School and we are all working hard to get ready for the upcoming School Year. Our full time program is full and we still have some availability in our part time programs. If you are interested in learning more about the options, please stop by the office and speak with Wendy Walker our Registrar.