

August  
2019  
Edition



# The Ambrosian

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

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Editor:  
Yvonne Sidell

## Reflections from our Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! I am glad to be back with you and grateful for the opportunity to have time to rest, read and assist my mother during her time of recuperation from a couple of falls in early June. I would like to first report that my mom is back home and will be receiving some help. She is fortunate to be able to live at home again.

I have also been able to read a couple books by David Brooks, *The Second Mountain* and *The Road to Character*. *The Road to Character* was written first, and addresses the opportunity to transcend the personal challenges in life which adds depth and meaning. *The Second Mountain* expands on the idea of how individuals need to transcend their personal challenges and explores the idea of how not only individuals can transcend personal challenges, but how this is done in community.

As we enter August, the Vacation Bible School (VBS) with its theme "Earth Care" will be taking place from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., July 31 to August 2. Thanks to the Rev. Karen Swanson for organizing the VBS this year and to all who are working on it.

On Sunday, August 4, some of us will be joining the Asian Pacific Islander Commission for their annual picnic, this year at Coyote Point Park, 1701 Point Drive, Picnic Areas 3 and 4.

On Saturday, August 17, Boy Scout Troop 175 will be having a Parking Lot Sale here at St. Ambrose. I hope many of you will support their fund-raising effort.

On the weekend of August 23-25, the City of Foster City will be having its first "Foster City Summer Days." St. Ambrose will have an information booth to share all we can address about climate change by taking actions suggested by the <https://www.sustainislandhome.org> website. We will need volunteers to work in the booth. If you are interested, please contact David McIntyre at [ntkod@icloud.com](mailto:ntkod@icloud.com).

I hope you all had a restful and renewing summer. I look forward to seeing you again in worship.

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

## **Announcements**

### **Study Groups in August**

- **The Monday Bible Study Group** will meet on **August 12 and 26**. They are studying the assigned lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday worship.
- **The Tuesday Bible Study Group** will be meeting on **August 6, 13, 20 and 27**. They will begin reading the Epistles of John. They usually meet on Tuesdays at 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Foyer.

The study groups are open to any interested person.

### **Commissioning of the Sunday School Teachers**

The St. Ambrose Sunday School Teachers will be commissioned on **Sunday, September 8** at the 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

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

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

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## **Announcements** (continued)

### **Mark Your Calendars**

Vacation Bible School: **Monday to Friday, July 29 – August 2 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.** (Regular sessions with children only)

Asian/Pacific Islander Commission Annual Picnic: **Sunday, August 4**, Coyote Point Park, Eucalyptus Group Picnic Areas 3 & 4, 1701 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo 94401 -- Outdoor Eucharist, **11 am**; Picnic, **12 Noon**; Games, **1 pm**

St. Ambrose Booth at the Foster City Summer Days: **Friday, August 23 – 25, times to be announced**, Leo Ryan Memorial Park

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **The Desk of Rev. Karen Swanson**

### **Sunday School**

St. Ambrose Sunday School will begin its new program year on **Sunday, September 8**.

At that time, children in grades 3, 4 and 5 will meet in Room 4, and children in grades K, 1 and 2 will meet in Room 1. The nursery age children will also be in Room 1 with a nursery caregiver.

Until then, children of all ages are encouraged to participate in Sunday School in Room 1.

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## Youth Ministry – by Fe Balamiento



**YOUTH  
MINISTRY**

### Fall Parent

Meeting now accepting suggestions for dates

Keeping up with your teen's calendar is always a challenge, and that challenge often becomes even harder when school starts. Let's meet up to build community and coordinate.

**Sp** Adobe Spark

Thank you,

Fe

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## Special Notes – Christina Rodriguez

Hello all!

My name is Christina Rodriguez. For those that do not know me very well, I recently graduated from Hillsdale High School and will be attending University of California Riverside in the fall. I have been a member of St. Ambrose almost all of my life.

This summer, I have been blessed enough to travel to Guatemala for two weeks with my school club, The Hillsdale Effect. Some may know that I tried to go on this trip summer 2018, but unfortunately, there was a volcanic eruption and our club had to cancel the trip for that year. I greatly appreciated all the support from St. Ambrose both last year and this year. This trip was the most life changing experience I've ever had.

The Hillsdale Effect is a club that I had been a member of throughout high school. We raise money to provide microloans to women in Guatemala. This microloan includes business advising, education to run a successful business, and a smaller loan for the woman to be able to purchase something to enhance their business such as a larger stove to make tortillas.

During this trip I was able to meet past women that the club has helped and deliver the microloans to the next group of women. The stories that these women shared were both touching and inspiring. The average education of these women are about elementary school level, so their biggest motivation is to be able to send their children through college so they can live a better life.

I can read all about poverty-stricken nations, but to be able to stay there and see the living conditions of these women left the largest impact on me. It fueled my fire to push for greater change in the world for the future. Despite having so little, these women still work twice as hard as I could ever imagine and that is what inspired me the most.

I wanted to thank St. Ambrose for being the biggest supporters of this trip because without you, I would have never been able to have this incredible learning experience. Thank you for the love, support, and prayers.

Forever Grateful,

Christina Rodriguez  
2019

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## Special Notes – Benjamin Tjandra

Hello St. Ambrose,

My son, Benjamin Tjandra, passed his Eagle board of review!

Thanks to all of you for so much support and being key to his reaching his long-term goal. We are all so proud of him!





## August Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen



### **Sandwiches on Sunday—by Rob Richards**

On a sunny summer afternoon (June 30), we served lasagna, salad, bread, lemonade and dessert to over 40 people— a smaller crowd than normal. We also passed out brown-bag lunches prepared by St. Pius Catholic Church and picked up by Margaret DeStaebler.

Volunteers included:

Anita, Kendall and Rob Richards  
David, Susan and Lauren Yates  
Elizabeth Diaz  
Clara Padilla

Some leftovers were donated to the Catholic Workers House, 545 Cassia Street, Redwood City. Our next hosting is on September 29 when we will be preparing chicken and rice. 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](mailto:rob.richards@tensorlabs.com) or by telephone 650-577-8924) if you have any questions.

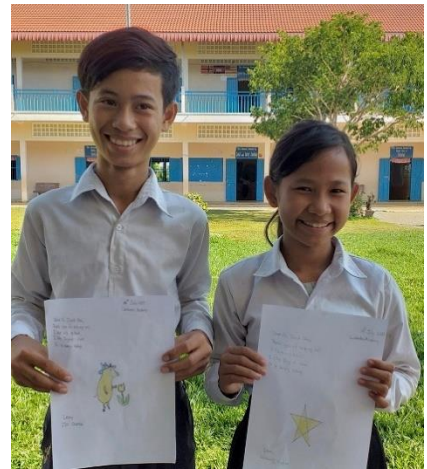
### **Cambodia Academy of Mongkol Borei ([cambodiaacademy.org/](http://cambodiaacademy.org/))**

Hans Eide, a Foster City resident, returned to Cambodia decades after the Vietnam war and was moved by the plight of rural Cambodian children who were too poor to attend public school. Hans, along with fellow Rotary Club member John Barrett, founded the Cambodia Academy of Mongkol Borei in 2004. Education is free and entirely supported by charity – a donation of \$295 provides tuition, uniforms, meals, and transportation for one student for one year.

## Outreach Report *(continued)*

Since 2008, St. Ambrose, Sea Breeze School, and individual members of our community have sponsored students at the Cambodia Academy. Among many other skills, the students learn English, often from native-speaking teachers, and are better equipped to enter the working world than most Cambodian public school graduates.

This is the third year that St. Ambrose is sponsoring Mai Chantra (boy, 14) and Chheng Vipha (girl, 13). They enjoy receiving cards, letters, and pictures from us, especially our Sunday School students. If you would like more information, please contact Karen Swanson ([karen.2.swanson@gmail.com](mailto:karen.2.swanson@gmail.com)) or Steve Yuen ([stevebyuen@aol.com](mailto:stevebyuen@aol.com)).



### **The Spirit of Giving is All Connected Department**

Cambodia Academy founder Hans Eide (pictured talking with Jim Neubert) joined us for Sandwiches on Sunday in 2008.

Though Hans passed away in 2015, his vision burns brighter than ever. The school continues to expand under the leadership of John Barrett and receives support from the Rotary Club International, church groups, and the business, legal, and technical communities.



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

I hope you all have been enjoying the Summer!

Things at school are very exciting at this time of the year. The children have enjoyed the STEAM camp with visitors from Curiodyssey, Microsoft and other local companies. April Cherrington shared her math expertise with the children as well. The children have been busy learning how to construct bridges, how water evaporates, tricks to make math fun and exciting along with so many other great things. Camp is coming to an end soon and the teachers will then be busy preparing for the start of the school year. Enrollment for the school year is strong and the after-school program is totally full with a long waiting list of interested families.

While the teachers and children enjoyed the exciting events that July brought, one of the biggest highlights was the replacement of the artificial turf on the playground. It was very exciting to watch the removal of the old turf and the installation process of the new turf. The children are very excited about the turf and spend much of their time sitting on the turf playing with blocks, reading books or just chatting with their friends.

It has been a great summer and we are all looking forward to the beginning of the School year.

Continued Blessings,

Jerelyn Weber, Principal

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## The Editor's Corner—by Yvonne Sidell



*Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given.*

—Luke 12:48b (NLT)

Back in my younger days, the students that made up my youth group were seething at our youth pastor as he stood in front of us, burning a twenty-dollar bill.

For us in the 1970s, twenty dollars was a big deal! He would set fire to the bill, let a bit of it burn and then blow out the flame. Repeatedly, he asked us the question: “Is the bill still worth twenty-dollars?” As kids, we thought the youth pastor was crazy! We begged him to stop—to give the money to us or the church—before it was too late and the bill was worthless. We eventually yelled in frustration as the money finally disappeared into ashes. Then, he quietly asked, “How many of you are treating the life God gave you in the same way?” The tone of our group changed immediately as we fell into an introspective silence.

What about you? God has given each of us tremendous gifts of life, talents and abilities. Are these being used as God intended or are they—like the twenty-dollar bill in the youth pastor’s object lesson—being slowly squandered and wasted away?

Unlike burned money, and fortunately for us, God is in the business of re-creating squandered lives. There is no one so far gone that God is not able to restore and rebuild a life. It’s never too late to recognize waste in our own lives, ask God for His forgiveness and grace, and get back on the track of real life, offering ourselves up to God to be used by Him.

Today, take a quick self-inventory. Are you being responsible with the gifts God has given you, or are you allowing yourself to be wasted? Take whatever action is necessary to make the needed changes and to put your God-given gifts to use for the cause of Christ!