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The Ambrosian

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2017

Edition

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Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! “Renewal: Where is God calling us?” is our theme for 2017. We are renewed not only by the practices of faith: prayer, worship, reading scripture and our reflections, fellowship, service and stewardship, the things we do, but we are also renewed by those who lead.

A congregation is much like a small town. Like any community it depends upon the goodwill and participation of its members to create the networks and relationships which will be the fabric of its life. And like any community it depends upon some of its members to step up to offer leadership so the rest of the members of the community can thrive.

I would like to thank members of our 2016 Vestry who completed their service at the 2017 Annual Meeting: Charles Saunders, Senior Warden, April Cherrington, Jr. Warden, Keith Adolph, Tippy Irwin and Karin Patterson; Jill Schwab and Nilda Chong who served for part of 2016; and continuing members Cathy Rincon, Treasurer and Valerie Mersh, Clerk for their faithful service. They have each offered their time, energy and best efforts to help keep St. Ambrose Episcopal Church a strong and loving worshipping community.

We elected six new members to the 2017 Vestry at the Annual Meeting. We welcome Shaiji Ajit, Don Gundry, Michael Lord, Jim Miller, Barbara Milligan and Ngoc Rodriguez as members of the Vestry. Cathy Rincon was appointed as Senior Warden. The Vestry elected Valerie Mersh, Junior Warden, Jim Miller, Clerk and Michael Lord, Treasurer. This new Vestry will lead our congregation in renewing our life together.

I also want to call your attention to two Sundays this month. On February 12th at 2 p.m. we will have a Memorial Service for Darlene Caponera. Darlene was a faithful member of the congregation who worshipped at 8 am with her husband Tony. She loved St. Ambrose Episcopal Church because of the warmth and welcome she received. I hope you will come to support Tony and his family.

On Sunday, February 26th following the 10 am Holy Eucharist, we will have our Mardi Gras Party followed by the Newcomers’ event. Lizz Klammer is organizing this party, and it will be our last celebration before

# Reflections from our Rector

## Rector’s reflections continued…



the beginning of Lent on March 1st, Ash Wednesday. It will also be an opportunity for those who are new to St. Ambrose to learn more about the ministries of the congregation. So I hope you will be able to join us on this Sunday as well.

So my hope is that our life together will be renewed by our new Vestry, by giving thanks for Darlene’s life among us, and by welcoming new people into our congregational life.

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

**Thanks**

* Thanks to Nellie Wong, April Cherrington and Warren Wong for organizing the Fellowship Dinner Potluck on January 21st.
* Thanks to Jessica Morales for organizing the Chili Cook-Off on January 22nd.
* Thanks to Tippy Irwin for organizing the lunch for the Annual Meeting on January 29th.
* Thanks to Clara Padilla, Rob and Danielle Richards, David and Brett Yates and Steve Yuen for serving lunch for those in need at Sandwiches on Sundays on January 29th.

**May They Rest In Peace**

* Raymond F. Kelley departed to eternal life on January 21st, 2017. He was a long-time member of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church and a former Senior Warden. His Memorial Eucharist was held on January 21st, 2017.
* Darlene Caponera departed to eternal life on January 22nd, 2017. She was a member who worshipped at the 8 am Holy Eucharist.

May their souls and the souls of all the departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

**Study Groups in February 2017**

The Monday Bible Study group will meet on **February 6th, 13th and 27th from 12:45** **p.m**. in the foyer. They are reading the Book of Genesis. This study group is led by the Rector.

The Tuesday Evening Study group usually meets on **February 14th and 28th** from **7:00 p.m.** in the Wong’s home**.**

The Wednesday Bible Study group meets on **February 8th and 22nd** from **7:30 p.m.** in the foyer. They are reading the Book of Daniel.

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

**Saturday Evening Worship in February**

The next Saturday Evening Worship services will be on **Saturday, February 11th and 25th** from **5:30 p.m.** in the chapel.

**Mark Your Calendars**

* Choir Practice: **Thursdays,** **February 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, 7:30 p.m.,** Chapel
* Bible Study: **Monday, February 6th, 13 h, 27th, 12:45 p.m.,** Foyer
* Wednesday Evening Bible Study group: **February 8th and 22nd, 7:30 p.m.** in the foyer.
* Equipping the Beloved Community Event: **Saturday, February 11th, 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.,** Grace Cathedral
* Saturday Evening Eucharist**: Saturday, February 11th and 25th, 5:30 p.m.,** Chapel
* Intercessory Prayer group: **February 12th, and 26, 11:45 a.m.** in Room 1.
* Darlene Caponera Memorial Service and Reception: **Sunday, February 12th, 2017, 2 p.m.,** Chapel and Parish Hall
* Tuesday Evening Study Group: **Tuesday, February 14th and 28th, 7 p.m**., Wong’s Home
* Presidents’ Day Holiday, Office is Closed: **Monday, February 20th**
* Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting: **Tuesday, February 21st, 6:00 p.m.,** Rector’s Office
* School Board Meeting: **Tuesday, February 21st, 7:00 p.m.,** Parish Hall
* Altar Guild Meeting: **Saturday, February 25th, 9:00 a.m.,** Kitchen
* Vestry Meeting: **Tuesday, February 28th, 6:30 p.m.,** Parish Hall
* Mardi Gras Party and Newcomers Gathering: **Sunday, February 26th, 11:20 a.m.,** Parish Hall
* Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes: **March 1st, 12:10 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.,** Chapel
* Stations of the Cross: **March 3rd, 10th, 24th, 31st and April 7, 12:10 p.m.,** Chapel
* Rector on vacation: **March 13th – 20th, 2017**

## Outreach Report - by Steve Yuen

**Sandwiches on Sunday:** As happened last year, Sandwiches on Sunday (SOS) coincided with the St. Ambrose annual meeting, but the volunteers hid their disappointment well. Our servers—Clara Padilla, Danielle Richards, Rob Richards, Brett Yates, David Yates, and Steve Yuen---served lasagna and salad to 75 people at the Fair Oaks Community Center on January 29th.

Last year the number of “customers” averaged about 50, and 5 or 6 trays of lasagna were usually enough. Whether due to good fortune, intuition, or inspiration St. Ambrose cooks had prepared nine (9) lasagnas and six (6) bowls of salad. Added to the menu were bread and rolls that Clara had obtained from Lucky Market and annual meeting leftovers that Tippy Irwin thoughtfully dropped off. The large, chocolate layer cake that was hardly touched by parishioners met its fate at SOS.

Although everyone thanks us individually as we scoop food onto the plates, more often than not someone makes a heartfelt thank-you speech to everyone as we are closing up. Today was no different. “You’re welcome” somehow seems inadequate, so we say “thank you for coming” or “we’re glad you could join us” as if they are giving us something, too. They are.

The next SOS is scheduled for **Sunday, April 30th, 2017** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Fair Oaks. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Richards (rob.richards@tensorlabs.com, 577-8924).

**Upcoming Event: Home and Hope**: Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church will host four families—11 to 15 people, half are children—during the week of March 5th. We need volunteers to make dinner on **Tuesday, March 7th** and **Thursday, March 9th**. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Parish Hall in February. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Yuen (stevebyuen@aol.com, 650-341-1966).

# “Reunion”- by Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan

# It’s February and even though it is the shortest month of the year I have a good feeling our calendars are already full of eventful days. In addition to all our commitments and obligations, we also have the Super Bowl, Valentine’s Day, President’s Day Weekend, and even Mardi Gras (the day before the Ash Wednesday and Lent). There’s a lot of time here for gathering. I’m certainly one who believes we need more get togethers and holidays. But not so we can do more things. The mantra of “*Work Hard, Play Hard”* in American society can sometimes mislead us into thinking exhaustion part of living a full life. But what I do find is that living at full speed all the time, even in the name of recreation, can leave us feeling broken in mind, body, and spirit. How often have we returned from a vacation feeling like we need another vacation to recover from the first one? Isn’t it ironic? But the irony is also a good reason why tending to our spirit is essential for personal sustainability and vitality. In these moments, reuniting with the ones who make us whole can make a difference.

**What is it that makes you whole?**

Some us know the answer from the day were born clearly, but likely that understanding came in the struggle of discovering the meaning of the question - *Who Am I?*  Because life never remains stagnant, as we continue to grow and mature in life, the answer to “who am I?” may also continue to shift based on life circumstance and our openness to adapt and flow with the currents of change. In this lifelong journey; however, there will be touchstones to remind us of who we are in this great ball of confusion.

For me, ***family reunion*** is a theme that just may define 2017. In fact, my extended family on all sides has already gathered in London, Paris and the Philippines, and later this year we’ll gather in Las Vegas and San Francisco. God and family make me whole. Growing up I remember my family singing the tunes to this happy song, “*The more we get together the happier are we.”* And maybe because so much of my extended family now lives outside the San Francisco Bay Area, I

really do reminisce with great joy of those times together. It is in family where I’ve always felt the love of God most clearly realized.

I understand not every family system values the health or well-being of its members. Sometimes we are called to create a new family out of the ashes of dysfunction. I do feel fortunate to be in the family God gave me because in my loved ones I find great calm, grace, and strength in being connected. Maybe this is because at the very core our relationships help form that we are. Finding the moments to just be, especially with the ones who matter most, is essential in our busy, ever changing and anxiety filled world. Wholeness is rooted in knowing who we are.

Just as we create time for gathering for learning, work and play, perhaps taking a moment to reunite with the ones that matter most – family and friends - and to be in the places we call home – will make a difference in reminding us that God made us to be whole and healthy people. So, what makes you whole?

My friends have a fabulous February and **God Bless You!**

# Sea Breeze School News

With the holidays behind us, everyone has returned to school and settled back into routines.

January and February are very busy months for us, and Lisa Walker, the school Registrar, has been busy preparing for fall registration that begins on February 1st. We will be hosting our Open House on Tuesday January 31st at 6:15 p.m. so if you know of anybody that is looking for a school for their child, please have them stop by and see us or contact the office. Classes fill up very fast and we anticipate full enrollment once again next year.

As the office works on registration, the classrooms are busy with many different activities this month. They will recognize the Lunar New Year with celebrations throughout the month; they will make valentines to share with friends and families and Dr. Lee the pediatric dentist will come to talk about the importance of dental health.

The After-School program is going strong and the children continue to enjoy their music appreciation class with Maureen Fromme and Wednesday afternoons with Father Jay. Homework can be a stressful time for the children and having a friendly homework buddy is always a comfort. We would love more volunteers from the church to help with our homework club, and if you have some spare time and would like to volunteer, please stop by the office and let us know.

School will be closed on Monday February 20th in observance of President’s Day and Tuesday February 21st for a Teacher In-Service Day.

Have a wonderful month!