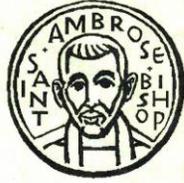


**February**

**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! As we established as our Stewardship Campaign theme for 2019 "Caring for our communities and God's World," I took the personal step of purchasing a 2013 Nissan Leaf, an electric vehicle. According to the website <http://sustainislandhome.org>, driving an electric vehicle is one of the five most impactful ways to change one's carbon footprint.

I have found this decision has opened me to a completely different world of public charging stations. I did not know the network of where to charge my electric vehicle. The driving range of my vehicle is only 84 miles fully charged, so it has made me mindful of how I drive and use this energy. Different companies operate charging stations, and the owners of each charging station charge different rates. As a novice, I found the drivers charging their cars very helpful. I also found the cost of charging my car to be very inexpensive in terms of dollars, but quite time consuming. So it takes some planning to use the time well. I have found charging my car gives me the opportunity to read or take a walk (which I need to do)!

The other four actions are (1) choose Green electricity by installing solar panels or choosing green energy through your utility; (2) choose an electric heat pump when replacing a water heater and/or heating and using electric appliances instead of gas appliances; (3) reduce air travel or offset air travel by purchasing offsets at \$4 per 1,000 miles; and (4) eat lower on the food chain.

I have been thinking about these alternatives, and it will take time to implement, but it is good to become aware of how we live affect others in the world whom we might never meet. It will take time, prayer, conversation and commitment to make changes. For example, Karen and I will be flying to see our son Paul this month (February 5 – 13). So carbon offsets is all we can do about that. And I couldn't find a company to install solar panels on our home because of the trees around it, so this means choosing green energy through PG&E.

## Reflections from our Rector (continued)

I am planning to have our Lenten program focus on the “Care of our communities and God’s World.” Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6. As has been our custom, we will have weekly soup and salad lunches during the Sundays in Lent beginning on March 10. Topics will include how we care for one another and God’s world. I hope we can share some of the challenges we face and some of the ways we can change the way we live faithfully.

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

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## Update on the 2019 Pledge Campaign: Caring for our Communities and God's World

Dear Members of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

To date we have received 65 pledges totaling \$129,704. We have also received 38 pledges of time and talent. We also received 23 pledges for Altar Flowers. The 2018 pledge total was 79 pledges for \$151,900. **Thanks to everyone who has turned in a pledge for 2019.**

Keith & Charlene Adolph	Sam and Sarah Albertson	Donna and Ed Avakoff
Kay Ballantyne	Honkai Chang and Milda Beh	Bill and Charlotte Bradford
Christina Brockman & Stan Hui	Marilyn Canon	Angela Carducci
Sal and Linda Censoprano	Eunice Chees	April & Grant Cherrington
Nilda Chong	Bettie Davis	Reena Davis & Tarunpreet Ubhi
Kyn Dellinger	Jeanne DeTorre-Ozeki	Elliott Dun & Teresa Murakami
Maureen Fromme	George & Janet Gardiner	Raphael & Jacques
GerberLeda Girardi	Don Gundry	Eugene Hetzer
Randy Jew & Katherine Ozeki	Shelley Keefe	Joanne Kerseg
June Kudzia	Alison LeBlanc	Dulce & Michael Lord
Judy Marshall	Dorothy Matsuo	Kirk & Brenda Matsuo
David McIntyre & Cathy Rincon	Valerie Mersh	Jim Miller & Torrie McAllister-Miller
John Miller & Eva Kwong	Barbara Milligan	David & Carolyn Moriarty
Kenneth & Karen Nagar	Wilfredo & Oliva Nagar	Jim Neubert
Alain & Liva Neyroud	David Ota	Clara Padilla
Karin Patterson	Don & Elizabeth Peter	Ajit Philip & Shaiji Ajit
Teresa Rajaratnam & Dilip Selvaraj	Jimmy & Poppy Rawley	Peggy Redmond
Rob & Anita Richards	Diane Robertson	Julio & Ngoc Rodriguez
Frank & Barbara Saunders	Sandy Schowengerdt	Yvonne Sidell
Irene Stead	Jon & Marilyn Stephens	Karen Swanson
Matt & Meltem Tanner	Phoebe Venkat	Andy Walker
Warren & Nellie Wong	Steve & Belinda Yuen	

If you would like to make a pledge, you still can do so. Pledge envelopes are in the foyer.

## Announcements

### St. Ambrose Annual Meeting and 2019 Vestry Organizing Meeting

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church renews its leadership each year with the Annual Meeting. Thanks to those who rotated off the Vestry: Cathy Rincon, who served three years, two as Senior Warden; Valerie Mersh, who served three years, two as Junior Warden, and Ngoc Rodriguez who served two years. We welcome Honkai Chang, Shelley Keefe and David McIntyre who were elected to serve on the Vestry.

We elected a new slate of delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention. Thanks to Charles Saunders, Jim Neubert and Shelley Keefe who served as delegates, and to Janet Gardiner, David McIntyre and Yvonne Sidell who served as alternates. We elected Cathy Rincon, David McIntyre and Alison LeBlanc as alternates.

Michael Lord, Don Gundry and Yvonne Sidell received the St. Ambrose Award from the Rector. Michael has served as Treasurer the past two years, will be our new Senior Warden in 2019, and a delegate to the Deanery and Diocesan Convention. Don Gundry has served as Buildings and Grounds Committee Chairperson for the past two years, a member of the Vestry, Vestry liaison to the School Board, and Acolyte and Eucharistic Minister at the 8:00 a.m. service. Yvonne has served as the Ambrosian Editor, alternate (and now Treasurer) to the Deanery, alternate at the Diocesan Convention in 2018, member of the Altar Guild and usher, acolyte and Eucharistic Minister at the 8:00 a.m. service.

Following the Annual Meeting, the 2019 Vestry organized itself. The Rector appointed Michael Lord as Senior Warden. Elected to offices were April Cherrington, Junior Warden; Jim Miller, Clerk; and David McIntyre, Treasurer. The Vestry Planning Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 2, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The Vestry Dinner will be held on Sunday, February 24 from 5:00 p.m. at the home of Shelley Keefe.

### THANKS to...

- Nellie and Warren Wong who organized the Fellowship Dinners for this year

### Study Groups in February

- **The Monday Bible Study Group** meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, **February 11 and 25 from 7:00 p.m.** They are currently reading the book "God of Love: A Guide to the Heart of Judaism, Christianity and Islam," by Mirabai Starr. The location of the study group for February is yet to be determined.
- **The Tuesday Bible Study Group** meets on **February 19 and 26 from 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Foyer. They are reading the Gospel according to John and are at John 7:1, Jesus beginning his journey to Jerusalem.

The study groups are open to any interested person.

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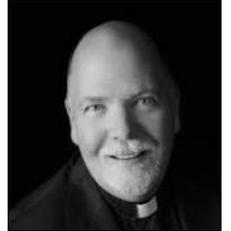
## **Announcements (continued)**

### **Baptism of Samaira Adriel Ubhi on February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Samamaira Adriel Ubhi will be presented for Holy Baptism on Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m. She is the second daughter of Tarunpreet Ubhi and Reena Davis.

### **The Rector and the Rev. Karen Swanson Vacation**

The Rector and his wife the Rev. Karen Swanson will be on vacation from Tuesday, February 5 to Wednesday, February 13 to visit their son Paul. The Rector will return to the office on Thursday, February 14.



### **The Rev. Randall Gardner, Guest Celebrant and Preacher on February 10**

The Rev. Randall Gardner will be our guest Celebrant and Preacher on Sunday, February 10 at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services. He currently serves as Dean of the Chapel for the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley. In this role, he coordinates and helps plan the seminary's worship life. Please welcome him.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

Baptism of Samaira Adriel Ubhi: **Sunday, February 3, 10 am**, Chapel

Rector and Rev. Karen Swanson on Vacation: **Tuesday, February 5 through Wednesday, February 13**

The Rev. Randall Gardner, Guest Celebrant & Preacher: **Sunday, February 10, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** services

Monday Bible Study: **Mondays, February 11 and 25, 7:00 p.m.**, place to be determined

Rector returns to the Office: **Thursday, February 14**

Deanery of the Peninsula Meeting: **Saturday, February 16, 10:00 a.m.**, Transfiguration Episcopal Church, 3900 Alameda de Las Pulgas, San Mateo

Finance Committee Meeting: **Sunday, February 17, 11:45 a.m.**, Room 1

Presidents' Day Holiday: **Monday, February 18**

Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting: **Tuesday, February 19, 6:00 p.m.**, Parish Hall

School Board Meeting: **Tuesday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.**, Parish Hall

Beloved Community Training Day, "Won't You Be My Neighbor?": **Saturday, February 23, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, Grace Cathedral

Vestry Meeting: **Tuesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.**, Parish Hall

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

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**

### **Children and Family Ministries: God Creates and We Create**

On **Sunday, February 24**, children and their families are invited to participate in two art projects to help decorate the Children, Youth and Family Office.

One project is to create an ocean-like collage of blue paint samples on canvas. To create the second project, a “reach for the stars” poster, the children will trace each other’s arms from elbow to fingertips, decorate the arms, and then glue them onto a dark poster board topped with glittering stars.

Participants will meet at a rectangular table in the back of the Parish Hall at approximately 11:30 a.m. following church and children’s choir practice, and after all have had a bite to eat. Once the art projects are done (approximately 1:30 p.m.), the children will be invited to play active games, indoor or out, depending on the weather.

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## Youth Ministry – by Fe Balamiento

Dear St. Ambrose,

*How do teens deal with gray areas in their moral decision-making?*

In the wisdom of God and through Jesus, we were given what has been called the “Love Commandment” as the foundation for the Christian life and moral decision-making: “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind”. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “You must love your neighbor as you love yourself”. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands (Matthew 22:37-40).

Our teens are constantly thinking about {and seeking} love and affirmation. Many questions arise on how God could love them, how peers could love them, and even if parents love them.

This week, we will challenge our teens to think of love as both a noun and a verb and to use it as a foundation for all they are, for The Love Commandment in all they do, and for all they decide.

Please pray for us as we gather this week.

Thank you,

Fe

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## February Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen



### Sandwiches on Sunday:

On December 30<sup>th</sup> we capped a busy month of Outreach events with the fourth Sandwiches on Sunday of 2018. We served lasagna, salad, and bread to about 60 people.

In addition to the Yates and Richards families who are regular volunteers, the group was joined by returning young adults Charlotte Keefe, Bella Triana, and Anders Zhou.

The next SOS at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City will be on **March 31<sup>st</sup>** when we will be serving chicken, rice, and salad. If you can prepare a dish and/or help with serving and clean-up, please sign up on the sheet that will be posted in March. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Richards ([rob.richards@tensorlabs.com](mailto:rob.richards@tensorlabs.com), 577-8924)

### Home & Hope – February 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>:

Home & Hope is a group of 30 churches and synagogues on the Peninsula that provide emergency shelter for up to four families at a time. On **Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**, and **Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**, we will be feeding up to 15 people---typically half of them are children--- at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, 600 42nd Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.,. If you would like to help by preparing a dish (it is not necessary to go to the dinner), serve, and/or clean up, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Please contact Steve Yuen (341-1966, [stevebyuen@aol.com](mailto:stevebyuen@aol.com)) if you have any questions.

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

Well, January flew by ending with preparations for the Lunar New Year celebrations in every classroom. The school will be full of delicious food and fancy dragons. Now, it's February and registration for Summer and Fall are upon us (and the office staff is busy with preparations).

**Please let your friends and neighbors know that we still have a few openings in our program for the Summer and upcoming year.** There is much fun to be had year round at Sea Breeze.

Our Afterschool program has grown to over 80 children and we would love more volunteers from the church. Homework can be a stressful time for a young student. A friendly homework helper can make all the difference in a child's day. If you would like to volunteer, please check with the office.

This month, there are lots of other things going on besides registration. Valentine's Day parties (we are always partying at Sea Breeze); a visit from Dr. Lee the dentist; learning about our Presidents; and, preparing for our upcoming Family Fun Day will keep everyone busy.

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

Monday February 18th: President's Day (school closed)

Tuesday February 26th: Mod Pizza Restaurant Night! Go dine for dollars for our school!

**Have a wonderful February.**

Continued Blessings,

Jerelyn Weber, Principal

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## The Editor's Corner—by Yvonne Sidell



*I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 8:38-39*

If you read today's headlines in the newspaper you can get pretty depressed. Yes, at times life looks pretty hopeless. But, if we keep our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ, we can have hope even in the midst of difficult circumstances. We can be comforted by Paul's words found in Romans 8:31: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" God is for you and through His love you can find hope! Here are four reasons why you can remain hopeful in the midst of confusing circumstances:

**Jesus will win the final victory.** One day, an old janitor was sitting in the gymnasium of a theological seminary reading the book of Revelation. One of the young theologians sat down beside him and asked him, "Do you understand all the symbolism?" The janitor replied, "No, absolutely not, but I have figured out that Jesus wins, and that's comforting to know because I'm on His side."

Jesus told these words to the apostle John: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty, I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life" (Revelation 21:6).

**Jesus sets you free.** Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." In Christ you can have hope because you have been set free from your sin. You are free to be all that God desires you to be without the constraints of your past. You can know the meaning of abundant life because of what Christ did for you on the cross.

**There is no condemnation for those in Christ.** In Christ you are a new creation. Romans 8:1, 2 puts it best: "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." Even though we deserve death and spiritual separation from God, we have new beginnings and eternal life in Jesus Christ. Talk about a reason for hope!

**God's love transcends human understanding.** Because God loves us, we are "more than conquerors" (Romans 8:37) through Christ. God loves you and wants the best for you. His love will give you hope even in the bleakest of circumstances. There is a light always shining, and the light is the love of God. In Him YOU can find hope.