

**JUNE**

**2018**

**Edition**



# The Ambrosian

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

## In this Issue:

*Reflections* .....P 1-2

*Capital Campaign*.....P 3

*Letter from the Virgin Islands* .....P 4

*Announcements* ....P 4-5

*Journey* .....P 6-7

*Outreach*.....P 8-9

*Sea Breeze School News*.....P 10

*Editor's Corner*.....P 11

## Reflections from our Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! June is a month of transitions and traveling. Here at our St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School, we will have the annual step-up ceremonies, with bright-eyed children walking down the aisle as their loving parents and family members look on. Mary Bradford will be graduating from San Mateo High School. I imagine many of our children and youth will be making transitions from Elementary School to Middle School, and from Middle School to High School.

My wife, the Rev. Karen Swanson, is in a kind of transition herself. She sends her greetings from St. Thomas Island of the American Virgin Islands. Her time there is serving as a transition for her as she passed her exam to become a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of California. She had been serving as an intern therapist at the Family Service and Counseling Center in San Leandro while preparing to take her exams. She knew she needed a break and a change of perspective, so when the opportunity came to be a missionary supply priest for the Diocese of the Virgin Islands through the Episcopal Relief and Development, she jumped at it. She is enjoying the opportunity to serve, meet the people there and get to know this beautiful part of God's world.

The Rev. Jay Watan and his family will be going to Philippines from June 10 to 28 to visit family and reconnect. This will be a kind of respite for him before he returns to take our youth on a Mission Trip to the Smith River.

Seminarian Daniel Tate will be away from St. Ambrose in the summer, but returns in late August or early September. The wheat that was planted by the children and youth will grow over the summer months and require the care of those of us who will be here. When he returns in the fall, we will be harvesting the wheat to make flour for our own communion bread.

The Youth Mission Trip itself is a form of transition through traveling with others. The youth and adults spend a lot of time together, share experiences in serving, learn about the needs of people in God's world, and their own ability to respond. I am always quite delighted to learn how meaningful the experience has been for the youth.

**Editor:**  
Yvonne Sidell

## Reflections from our Rector

One of our youth, Christina Rodriguez, will be going with students from Hillsdale High School to Guatemala as part of the San Mateo Rotary Hillsdale Effect Club to support women with microloans. The trip is particularly significant for Christina since her father's family is from Guatemala. She has been on St. Ambrose Youth Mission Trips before and will go again, but I believe those experiences have had an effect on her wanting to serve others.

With all this said, I imagine that many of you will be traveling to visit family and friends, and to see new places to renew yourselves. I hope these travels will give you all new insight into your lives and how you too may be in service to others.

For those of us who will not be traveling this month, we can all make small changes in our routines locally to view ourselves and our community from a different point of view. What change in your daily routine can you make so you will have a different experience, and perhaps gain some new insight?

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

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## The Capital Campaign

Dear Members of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! The Capital Campaign Committee for the Clergy Housing Fund has been working during the months of April and May visiting members and asking for lead pledges. We are grateful to all the members who considered making a lead pledge before the rest of the congregation is invited to participate. We will be announcing the progress of the pledge campaign on Sunday, June 3. On each Sunday in June, we will announce the progress of the campaign.

Everyone is asked to participate in the campaign and will be contacted in a personal manner. I ask you to prayerfully consider making a generous pledge towards the campaign while maintaining your regular giving. This will strengthen the congregation and help the Vestry when it needs to begin a search for the next Rector.

For those of you who have been contacted by a volunteer, we ask that you respond to the volunteer so we can complete the campaign by the end of June. On Sunday, June 24, we will wrap up the active phase of the campaign with in pew collection of pledges.

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

Keith and Charlene Adolph  
 April and Grant Cherrington  
 Bettie Davis  
 Elliott Dun and Teresa Murakami  
 Don Gundry  
 Michael and Dulce Lord  
 Valerie Mersh  
 Jim Neubert  
 Cathy Rincon and David McIntyre  
 Charles Saunders

Marilyn Canon  
 Nilda Chong  
 Kyn Dellinger  
 Raphaele and Jacques Gerber  
 Shelley Keefe  
 Dorothy Matsuo  
 Jim Miller and Torrie McAllister-Miller  
 David Ota and Karen Swanson  
 Julio and Ngoc Rodriguez  
 Sandy Schowengerdt

I also would like to thank the members of the committee: Jim Miller, Co-Chair, Elliott Dun, Co-Chair, Marilyn Canon, Administrator, April Cherrington, Jim Neubert and Shelley Keefe. We are also indebted to the guidance and assistance of Jason Vuong Do and Christina Mathis our consultants.

We are making great progress, and I hope that all of us will pull together for the future of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, Foster City.

Yours,

David Ota, Rector

## A Letter from the Rev. Karen Swanson in the Virgin Islands

Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

June 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the new hurricane season in the Caribbean. The people of the Virgin Islands have worked hard, and conditions are much improved since last September when two category five hurricanes, Irma and Maria, tore into their home. Nonetheless, one can still see sights like the Seventh Day Adventist Church with its pews in neat rows visible from the road because the church lost its roof and three of its four walls; or, the sight of dump trucks and backhoes in a staging area for repair work where the Junior High School once stood; or, a home abandoned because the water washed away a third of the ground on which it sat.

The faucet water here is not safe to drink. One of the congregations I serve, Nazareth by the Sea, has arranged to purchase water filters at cost, and is giving them away to the community. This saves already financially strapped families from having to purchase bottled water. It also reduces the waste on an island with only one land-fill. The other congregation I am serving, Church of the Holy Spirit, has committed itself to renovating its attic to create a space for volunteer construction workers to stay while rebuilding homes. The skyline is still a sea of FEMA blue, the color of the plastic tarps covering homes whose roofs have not yet been replaced.

This week I will facilitate a community discussion on spiritual, religious and emotional ways to cope with stress brought on by the hurricanes. I truly appreciate your prayers as I support and encourage the local people in rebuilding their homes, their communities and their lives.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Karen Swanson

## Announcements

### THANKS to...

- Brenda Joe-Matsuo who organized the Parking Lot Sale on May 12 and all who volunteered or donated items to raise funds for the Youth Mission Trip.
  - The Rev. Karen Swanson, Kyn Dellinger, Nilda Chong, Michael Lord, David Moriarty, Elliott Dun, Connor Moriarty, Oliver Moriarty and Lily Moriarty who worked on the Mother's Day Breakfast on May 13.
  - Janet Gardiner, David McIntyre, and Yvonne Sidell who represented St. Ambrose at the Deanery of the Peninsula Meeting on May 24.
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## **Announcements** (continued)

### **Study Groups in June**

- **The Monday Evening Study Group** will meet this month on **Mondays, June 11 and 25 at 7:00 p.m.** They will meet at the home of Warren and Nellie Wong.
- **The Tuesday Bible Study Group** meets each week from **12:45 to 2:00 p.m.** in the foyer. In June, they will be meeting on **June 5, 12, 19 and 26** to read from the Book of Job.

All are welcome to join.

### **FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH**

**Sunday, June 17 following the 10:00 a.m. service**

The Ladies of the Choir (and a few of their friends) will prepare and serve a Brunch for the Dads, their families and friends following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Please sign up on the paper in the Parish Hall, including the number of people that will be in your group.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

The Rev. Karen Swanson away to serve in the Virgin Islands: **Monday, May 14-Thursday, June 28**

Altar Guild Meeting: **Saturday, June 2, 9 a.m.**, Kitchen

Capital Campaign Executive Committee meetings: **Thursdays, June 7, 14, 21 and 28, 7:00 p.m.**, Chapel

The Rev. Jay Watan away in the Philippines: **Sunday, June 10-Thursday, June 28**

Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting: **Thursday, June 19, 6:00 p.m.**, Parish Hall

Father's Day Brunch: **Sunday, June 17, following the 10:00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist,** Parish Hall

School Board Meeting: **Thursday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.**, Parish Hall

Sunday School Celebration: **Sunday, June 24, 10:00 a.m.**

Vestry Meeting: **Thursday, June 26, 7:00 p.m.**, Parish Hall

Rector at General Convention: **Monday, July 2 to Friday, July 13, Austin, Texas**

Youth Mission Trip: **Sunday, July 8 to Sunday, July 15, Smith River, CA**

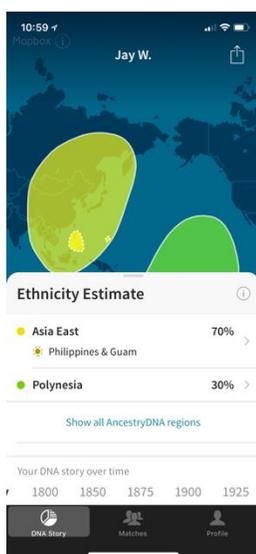
Rector on Sabbatical Month: **Saturday, July 14 to Saturday, Friday, August 10**

## “Honoring the Journey from Point A to Point B” – by The Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan

At the last San Francisco Giants game I attended with the church at AT&T Park in April, I was amazed to see just how many Los Angeles Dodgers fans there were. It seemed like almost 40% in attendance were dressed in Dodger blue. While certainly there were folks just visiting from Southern California for the weekend, there were also many who now call the Bay Area home. At the ballgames, it's easy to notice patterns of migration within the United States by who shows up. Folks with roots in Chicago, New York, St. Louis and New England show up en masse to support the visiting team. And it makes me wonder about the journey we take from point A to point B.



*Giants home game? A sea of Dodger blue taking over the bleachers at AT&T Park in San Francisco.*



At the beginning of the year, I took one of those DNA tests that trace ancestral origins, and the results surprised me. Migration has been part of the human narrative since the beginning of history. In my family heritage, my ancestral homeland resides in the Cordillera Mountains of Northern Luzon, Philippines. This is home to the Igorot (Cordilleran) people, a collective name of the ethnic tribes inhabiting the Cordillera Mountains. Specifically, my family has roots connecting us to the Mountain Province, Ifugao, Baguio City, and the eastern side of La Union. The DNA test revealed that my own ancestral narrative went beyond the Philippines. In fact, my DNA showed my lineage flowing from East Asia (Northern China and Mongolia) and Polynesia (Taiwan, Samoa, and Fiji). But I also have a small sliver connecting me to ancestors from Scotland, England, Croatia, and New Mexico. My own DNA revealed a flow of migration that connects me to the story of the world. Perhaps we human beings are more diverse and connected than we thought!

Many of us today can say that we have family and distant kin living somewhere around the world, or at least outside of our native homeland. The reasons most often cited are for economic access, better opportunity, safety and stability. Today, I have relatives in the Philippines, the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Korea, and Japan. If Wakanda were real, someone in my family would be there too! And in many of those places, these relatives have permanently taken root – sprouting multiple generations around the world to call another place “home.” And when I have an opportunity to ask (usually through Facebook) how they got from that point A (where they came from) to point B (where they are now), I hear a celebration of the spirit of adventure, freedom, peace and renewal that resides in our people. And, I also hear that most of the time getting from point A to point B requires taking a leap of faith, and persisting though points C, D, E, F, and maybe every letter of the alphabet before arriving at that point B.

## “Honoring the Journey” (continued)

Beyond survival, getting from point A to point B has something to do with discovering and living into the one God created us to be. The Bible gives us the stories of the journey from home to wholeness. Abram and Sarai journey away from home to become Abraham and Sarah with a long line of descendants on their journey. *God told Abram: “Leave your country, your family, and your father’s home for a land that I will show you. (Genesis 12:1 MSG).* Joseph, forcibly removed from his home in Canaan, goes to Egypt. Moses comes from Egypt, flees to Midian, returns to Egypt, and makes the exodus to see the promised land. Jesus is born in Bethlehem, flees to Egypt, returns to Galilee, travels through Samaria, crosses the sea, enters Jerusalem, goes to the Cross, and leaves the tomb empty. And we know from scripture and tradition that Jesus’ disciples and followers of the way left their homes filled with the vibe of the Holy Spirit to share the good news of God in Christ wherever they could go... Judea, Rome, Corinth, Scotland, Spain, Russia, Asia-Minor, Persia, Syria, Arabia, India, Ethiopia, and more. God goes with them on the journey to live into the ones they are called to be. The Good News is that God goes with us too, from point A to point B. Jesus the Christ reassures all the faithful, *“Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20, NRSV).*



My parents, Pedro & Dolores Watan, left their home in the Philippine Cordillera Mountains east of San Gabriel, La Union and immigrated to the United States in the 1960’s with the intention of creating a better life for themselves and their family. My mother was a nurse, and my dad a sailor in the U.S. Navy. Together, they made a home in the San Francisco Bay Area, bringing over my grandparents and their siblings. They wanted their family, especially the next generation to thrive in this new home. All they had was a deep sense of purpose and faithfulness to trust in the Spirit. This is part of my family’s story of journey.

*My kids with Igorot clothing  
for Multicultural Day at school.*

All this makes me curious to hear your journey story of leaving the place you once called home to create a new home. I leave you this prayer for travelers from our Book of Common Prayer that holds well the tension of getting from point A to point B:

*O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Live into the one God created you to be. Home is where our story begins. Honor the journey.

## Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen

### OUTREACH – JUNE 2018



#### Sandwiches on Sunday—April 29, 2018

We stopped by [St. Pius Catholic Church](#) to pick up the brown-bag lunches from the walk-in refrigerator. Rain or shine, St. Pius members spend Saturday mornings assembling 100 lunch bags for the people who come to Sandwiches on Sunday. Other cars went directly to Fair Oaks Community Center. Led by St. Pius for 15 years, five Peninsula churches have taken turns making

hot lunches for all comers in Redwood City on Sunday – the brown bags are handed to diners as they exit.

Being the last Sunday in April, it was [Children's Day](#) (*El Día Del Niño*) at the community center. The parking lot and gates were blocked off, but the City staff let us in around the back. We fed about 50 people and thanked the City staff for their help.

Thanks go to St. Ambrose cooks and servers:

April Cherrington  
 Janet Gardiner  
 Raphaele and Matthias Gerber  
 Leda Girardi  
 Gwen, Hani, Gabriel, and Leila Juha  
 Michelle and Sofia Kimmins  
 Dulce and Michael Lord  
 David and Lydia McIntyre  
 Eva and John Miller  
 David Ota  
 Clara Padilla  
 Rob Richards  
 Cathy Rincon  
 Irene Stead  
 Phoebe Venkat  
 David, Susan, Brett, and Lauren Yates  
 Steve Yuen



Our next hosting is on **July 29** when we will be preparing lasagna 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 July. Please contact Rob Richards ([rob.richards@tensorlabs.com](mailto:rob.richards@tensorlabs.com), 650-577-8924) if you have any questions.

## Outreach Report (continued)



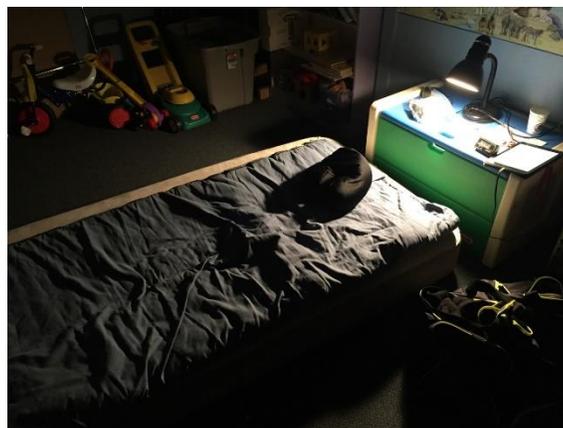
### Home & Hope

On Tuesday, May 8 and Thursday, May 10, it was our turn to serve dinner at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in San Mateo.

Like 2½ months ago, it was another full week with four families and 15 beds occupied. The good news was that all the faces were new, meaning that the previous families had all found housing.

*St. Ambrose H&H volunteers: Clara Padilla, Diane Robertson, Brett Yates, David Yates, and Steve Yuen*

We had to adapt to our guests' work schedules--they arrived between 6 p.m. and midnight--by setting up plates with reheating instructions. One rule of volunteering: if you can't be adaptable, stay out of the kitchen. I stayed overnight on Thursday. In addition to being on call for emergencies, the night monitors are responsible for cleaning the kitchen for the next night's dinner and setting out cereal and snacks in the morning. Everyone leaves by 7:15 a.m., and the premises are locked.



I actually look forward to these overnight stints. It's a chance to reconnect with friends at Hope Lutheran, which is in a wooded area in the Belmont Hills. At night the classroom is quiet, bereft of electronic distractions. Sleeping on the air mattress takes a little getting used to, but then again, I didn't do much camping as a kid. I usually get 5-6 hours of sleep, but they're good hours.

Our next scheduled dinners are in November. We'll post a notice well in advance. Meanwhile, please contact Steve Yuen (650-341-1966, [stevebyuen@aol.com](mailto:stevebyuen@aol.com)) if you have any questions.

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

Here at school we are all wondering where the year went. It has gone by so fast. The children have grown so much and staff has been so busy navigating the school year that we are a little surprised that it is almost over.

The last day of school for the preschool will be June 7<sup>th</sup> and the last day for the afterschool program will be June 21<sup>st</sup>, between now and then, there will be parties and our “Step-Up” celebrations. There will be lots of new musical additions and lots of the old favorites on the programs. This is a very exciting time for the families, the children and the staff.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> the school will be full of families for Orientation Day. Children will visit their new classrooms and parents of new three year olds will meet with their child’s first teachers. This is always a fun and exciting day!

The first day of Summer School for preschool starts on June 18<sup>th</sup> and the afterschool children will join us on June 25<sup>th</sup>. We will explore more STEAM theories throughout the summer and will enjoy visits from CuriOdyssey, Microsoft, Google, The Imagination Playground and Mad Science of the Bay Area.

We want to thank all the St. Ambrose parishioners who do so much to help our school. We wouldn’t be Sea Breeze without St. Ambrose! Come by for a visit to your school and join in on our fun!

Have a wonderful month!

Very truly yours,

Jerelyn Weber, Principal

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## The Editor's Corner – by Yvonne Sidell



*In your anger do not sin! Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. – Ephesians 4:26-27*

I read a humorous story about a man and woman who had been married for more than 60 years.

They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other except that the woman had a shoebox in the top of her closet about which she had cautioned her husband never to open. Over the years, the man forgot about the box until the woman became very sick.

While sorting out their affairs, the elderly man took down the shoebox and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed that it was time for him to know the contents of the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling \$25,000.

Curious, the man asked her about the contents. "When we were to be married," she began, "my grandmother told me the secret to a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll." The man was so moved he had to fight back tears.

Only two precious dolls were in the box. Apparently, she had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness.

"Honey," he said, "that explains the dolls, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?" "Oh," she said, "That's the money I made from selling all the dolls."

I'll admit, I got a good chuckle from this story, but in reality, it's no way to handle conflict in relationships. In the above Scripture, Paul warns us not to end a day angry with another person. He knew the power of anger and how the devil waits to seize any opportunity to increase division among believers. Unresolved anger leads to bitterness, a lack of forgiveness and it causes immeasurable pain to those involved.

Today, choose to be a peacemaker and resolve any outstanding conflict.

*\*Credit: HomeWord Devotionals*