

June
2019
Edition



The Ambrosian

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

Reflections from our Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! I would like to share some reflections I have about community and how important it is in our collective lives.

In This Issue:

ReflectionsP 1-2

Episcopal Impact FundP 3-4

Announcements.....P 5-6

Desk of Rev.
Karen Swanson.....P 7-8

Youth Ministry.....P 9

Outreach.....P 10

Sea Breeze
School News.....P 11

Editor's Corner.....P 12

Last month I had the opportunity to attend two graduations. First, Karen and I went to Marquette University for the college graduation of our nephew Andrew Swanson. Next, I went with Warren Wong to the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley for Daniel Tate's seminary graduation. In both instances the celebrations of passing this landmark moment in their lives was joyful. But in both instances, by the next day, the community which had developed over the years of shared experience began to change. Andrew had started packing his things to return to Minnesota, not just for the summer, but for his new job. Daniel told me that many of the students at the seminary also had moved out. The energy which was so focused on studying in one place began to move outward and elsewhere.

I find it instructive to reflect on schools because they have an orderly process of people being welcomed as new students and sent out as graduates. Schools have to be good at creating community, to have a common purpose and identity. Schools do not have the illusion that the community they create will last for more than the school year. Each year, they have to recreate a sense of community built upon the past.

While at Marquette University, Karen and I were privileged to listen to commencement speaker David Brooks, columnist for the New York Times. In his address, he spoke about four big commitments which will make a difference in the lives of the graduating students. These were commitments to a spouse and a family; to a vocation; to a community; and, to a religion or philosophy. He defined commitment as "a promise made out of love without expecting anything in return."

Our families are based on the commitment and promise to love the members of the family. And because of this love, the individual members of the family can find support, affection and courage to be vulnerable with one another. When this happens in a family, there is a resilience and intimacy to tackle the challenges and celebrate the joys of life.

Editor:
Yvonne Sidell

Reflections from our Rector (continued)

The same is true of congregations. Congregations are based on the commitment to our faith in a loving God as revealed through Jesus Christ. The community of the church is a gift to us all. We Christians are called to be united in our faith so that the young and the old, the newcomer and the long-time member can all find the support, affection and courage to be God's person in the world. But unlike schools that have an orderly process of welcoming and sending through the school year, congregations have a different rhythm. People come and go based on life events. Some are part of a congregation for years, and some join a congregation only for a short time, before life calls them elsewhere.

This month we will give thanks for the life and love of Betty Dial on Saturday, June 22 from 2:00 p.m. with a Memorial Eucharist. She was a long-time member, past Senior Warden and Vestry member, school teacher and faithful friend. We will also say farewell and Godspeed to the Albertson family on June 23 at the 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist. They will be moving to Long Beach to be near Sarah's parents. Sam, Sarah, Henry and Felix have been with us for only a short-time, but they have quickly gotten involved and shared themselves with us.

So I give thanks for each of you as you commit yourself to being God's person in the world and an active member of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church. It is because of your commitment to live the faith in love that we as a congregation can offer one another and our neighbors our ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector



**EPISCOPAL
Impact Fund**

ADVANCING PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY

Episcopal Impact Fund Announces 2019 Community Grants to announce the first grants under our new Community Grants program to five outstanding Bay Area organizations. These grantees were chosen for their mission of addressing poverty, in alignment with Episcopal Impact Fund's Ecosystem for Change, their commitment to impact and their diverse leadership.

Our 2019 Community Grant recipients are:

Center for Empowering Immigrants and Refugees (CERI)

Episcopal Impact Fund 's grant will support CERI's expanding programs for young mothers and transition age youth.

- The Young Mothers Program addresses the complex needs of young parents from highly traumatized and isolated refugee and immigrant families. It offers case management, therapy, a support group, play groups, nature programming, and educational workshops.
- The Youth Leadership Program offers a safe space for teens and transition-age youth who live in low-income neighborhoods and are at risk for gang involvement, school dropout, substance abuse, and sex trafficking. Youth develop community organizing skills, explore mental health and personal wellness issues, and set education and career goals.

The Godmothers of Timothy Murphy School

Timothy Murphy a State of California , non-public, not-for-profit special education school for boys. The students have emotional, behavioral, and academic challenges which cannot be met in traditional school settings. The Godmothers provide enrichment, mentorship and a loving presence to these boys who have little or no family support. A one-time challenge grant from will help them acquire a van to provide reliable transportation to enrichment activities.

Good Samaritan Family Resource Center

The Good Samaritan Family Resource Center's mission is to help vulnerable families access needed services, develop self-sufficiency, and participate fully as members of the San Francisco community. Episcopal Impact Fund will fund the Vision Academy and Beacon programs, after-school programs serving at-risk youth and focused on academics and social-emotional enrichment and well-being.

Episcopal Impact Fund (continued)

Homeless Prenatal Program

Homeless Prenatal Program partners with pregnant women and families to break the cycle of childhood poverty. By combining critical prenatal education and parenting classes to an at-risk population, HPP increases healthy birth outcomes, promotes maternal and infant health and well-being, improves strong parent-child bonding, and teaches effective parenting skills.

Oakland Elizabeth House

Oakland Elizabeth House provides mothers and children with supportive housing and offers a variety of critical services to help them on the road to self-sufficiency, including housing, mental health counseling, education and employment services and health and wellness education.

Episcopal Impact Fund will invest in Oakland Elizabeth House to improve their internal systems and enable them to better reach their community, donors, and supporters.

"Episcopal Impact Fund is proud to support these organizations as their innovative work provides hope and inspiration within their communities," said Episcopal Impact Fund Executive Director Kathleen Piraino. "We are deeply grateful for their work."

Established in 1978, supports organizations that address the root causes of poverty in the San Francisco Bay Area, both financially and through mentorship and guidance. Inspired by the teachings of the Gospel, we share a vision of a world without poverty.

Announcements

THANKS to...

- Thanks to Jim Neubert and Shelley Keefe for their presentation to the congregation on the Bishop's Ranch, the Ranch's cookbook and their philosophy about food and sustainability.
- Thanks to Frank Saunders, Minister of Music, Maureen Fromme, Choir Director, and members of the choir, Marilyn Canon, April Cherrington, Reena Davis, Shelley Keefe, Valerie Mersh, Clara Padilla, Barbara Saunders and Daniel Tate for helping to lead worship through the program year.
- Thanks to Fe Balamiento, Christina Brockman, Raphaele Gerber, Barbara Milligan, Sandy Schowendgert, Daniel Tate and the Rev. Karen Swanson for teaching Sunday School and to Jimmy Bradford and Lydia McIntyre for working in the nursery.
- Thanks to April Cherrington and Shelley Keefe for organizing the Math Night on Monday, May 13th for the families of Sea Breeze School and the church.

Study Groups in March

- **The Monday Bible Study Group** meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, **June 10 and 24** from 7:00 p.m. They are studying the assigned lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday worship.
- **The Tuesday Bible Study Group** meets on **June 4, 11, 18 and 25** 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 17:1. They will be taking a break in July.

The study groups are open to any interested person.

Vacation Bible School Set for First Week of August

Your kids, grandkids and their friends between the ages of 4 and 12 are welcome to join the dynamic 2019 St. Ambrose Vacation Bible School focused on the appreciation and care of God's creation. Middle and high school age youth are strongly encouraged to join in as staff members.

VBS activities will include indoor and outdoor games, art, music, Bible stories and more. VBS will be offered on the following dates: **Saturday, August 3 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon** (orientation session); **Sunday, August 4 from Noon to 4:00 p.m.** (family nature experience); **Monday through Friday, August 5-9 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.** (regular sessions with children only) and on **Sunday, August 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** (St Ambrose family worship service followed by congregational care for creation project).

Announcements (continued)

Mark Your Calendars

General Confirmations: **Saturday, June 1, 10:00 a.m.**, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Youth Inquirers Presentation to the Congregation: **Sunday, June 2**, during the **10:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist

Day of Pentecost: **Sunday, June 9, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**, Holy Eucharist with Renewal of Baptismal Vows, Chapel

Father's Day Coffee Hour, "Dogs for Dads": **Sunday, June 16, 11:15 a.m.**, Parish Hall

Elizabeth "Betty" Dial Memorial Eucharist: **Saturday, June 22, 2:00 p.m.**, Chapel, Reception following in the Parish Hall

Farewell to the Albertson Family: **Sunday, June 23**, during the **10:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Outing to Golden Gate Park with the Children and Family Ministry: **Sunday, June 23, 11:15 am**, meet in the foyer

Sandwiches on Sundays: **Sunday, June 30, 11:30 a.m.**, Fair Oaks Community Center, Redwood City

Vacation Bible School: **Saturday, August 3 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon** (orientation session); **Sunday, August 4 from Noon to 4:00 p.m.** (family nature experience); **Monday through Friday, August 5-9 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.** (regular sessions with children only) and on **Sunday, August 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** (St Ambrose family worship service followed by congregational care for creation project).

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

Vacation Bible School This Summer

Looking for an opportunity for your child to have lots of fun and deepen his or her faith at the same time? Vacation Bible School may be right for you! This year's Vacation Bible School will include art, games, Biblical stories and music. The theme will revolve around the natural world which God has brought to life and our care for it. Loving parishioners, including some of our teens, will lead activities. Children between the ages of 4 and 12 years old are encouraged to participate. Middle school and high school youth are invited to help as assistants and leaders. VBS dates are **Saturday, August 3 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon** (orientation session); **Sunday, August 4 from Noon to 4:00 p.m.** (family nature experience); **Monday through Friday, August 5-9 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.** (regular sessions with children only) and on **Sunday, August 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** (St Ambrose family worship service followed by congregational care for creation project).

"Kids' Caring for Creation" is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School to be held from August 4-11. The VBS program will begin with an outdoor outing on Sunday, August 4, and close with a family-oriented worship service and caring for creation project for the whole congregation on August 11. On the weekdays, the "Kids Caring for Creation" program will be offered to children between the ages of 4 and 11 in the evenings from 5:00-8:00 p.m. The children's program will include dinner. **If you are interested in lending a hand with the program, please text the Rev. Karen Swanson at 650-200-8449.** Sign-up sheets will be out soon for those who wish to attend the VBS. Family and friends of members are always welcome. Please make it part of your summer plans!

Graduates of the Inquirers' Class to Speak

Aurelia Gerber, Nathan Matsuo and Connor Moriarty will speak to the St. Ambrose congregation during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, June 2. They are recent graduates of the Inquirers' Class. Connor and Nathan will have been confirmed as members of the Episcopal Church the previous morning at Grace Cathedral by the Right Reverend Marc Andrus. Aurelia has opted to reflect further before committing to confirmation. Each of the youth will speak for a couple minutes to the congregation on Sunday morning about their journey of faith. A coffee hour to honor these young people, and all our youth, will follow in the Parish Hall. Connor is the son of David and Carolyn Moriarty, and brother to Oliver and Lily Moriarty. Nathan is the son of Kirk and Brenda Matsuo, brother to Landon and grandson of Dorothy Matsuo. Aurelia is the daughter of Jacques and Raphaele Gerber, and sister to Amarine and Matthias.

Rev. Karen Swanson (continued)

End of the Year Play in the Park Event

The Children and Family Ministry participants are headed to Golden Gate Park in San Francisco to celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer on **Sunday, June 23** after the worship service. Those interested in carpooling will meet in the foyer of the church at 11:15 a.m. After driving to San Francisco, we will meet at the Children's Playground and the Carousal on the eastern edge of the park, where we will enjoy these features before sharing lunch. After lunch, we will wander over to the exquisite Japanese Tea Garden, about three quarters of a mile away. There, we will stop for a light dessert and it will be up to families to decide what to see and do next. Among the options are visiting the arboretum, listening to music, taking in the Academy of Sciences, or navigating a paddleboat around Stow Lake. Some of the options are free, and others have an admission fee. On Sundays, the roads within Golden Gate Park are closed to cars, and open to bicycles and roller skaters. For this reason, it will be necessary for us all to park our cars outside the park and walk or take the bus in. More information will follow soon. For suggestions, further ideas, or questions, please contact Rev. Karen at 650-200-8449. **For now, save the date!**

Youth Ministry – by Fe Balamiento

Dear St. Ambrose,

Please see below regarding a June 16 event.



Thank you,

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June Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen

Outreach Donations: At its May 5th meeting the Outreach Committee unanimously approved \$1,890 in donations, as shown below. The Outreach budget for 2019 is \$8,500:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Approved Feb. 10</u>	<u>Approved May 5</u>
Cambodia Academy		\$ 590
Church Divinity School of the Pacific	\$1,800	
El Buen Pastore – Musician	600	600
Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA)		300
Home and Hope	300	
Hope Lutheran Church (Home and Hope supplies)	100	
Ombudsman Services of San Mateo County		400
Sandwiches on Sunday (St. Pius Church)	300	
Total from Outreach Budget	\$ 3,100	\$ 1,890

Notes on May donations:

- 1) Cambodia Academy (cambodiaacademy.org) – this donation covers the yearly cost of tuition, uniforms, books, food, and transportation for two students.
- 2) El Buen Pastore – this is the second of three \$600 installments to the Peninsula's Spanish-speaking Episcopal ministry.
- 3) GAIA – St. Ambrose has been donating to GAIA since 2009, and its founder, the Rev. Bill Rankin, has made presentations to the congregation.
- 4) Ombudsman (OSSMC) – Diane Robertson is a volunteer and former parishioner Tippy Irwin, who has moved from Foster City, was the Executive Director. OSSMC's charter is to ensure that long-term elder care facilities comply with health and safety codes. OSSMC receives some government funding, but it is reliant on grants and donations to fulfill its mission.

If you have any questions about Outreach activities, please contact Steve Yuen (steveyuen@aol.com, 341-1966).

Upcoming Event

Sandwiches on Sunday: On **Sunday, June 30th**, members and friends of St. Ambrose will be serving a hot lunch of lasagna and salad to about 70 people. We need seven (7) entrée trays, and seven (7) salads. Plus we can use some bread or rolls.

Who: St. Ambrose members and friends

What: 1) Prepare lunch (lasagna and salad); 2) serve lunch and clean up.

Where: Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City, 2600 Middlefield Rd., Redwood City

When: **11:30 am – 1:30 pm.**

If you can help to prepare a dish and/or serve and clean up, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Richards (rob.richards@tensorlabs.com, 577-8924).

Sea Breeze School News – by Jerelyn Weber, Principal

The end of the School year has arrived and with it there are many things for all of us to do.

The children and the teachers have been busy preparing for their Step-Up programs and those of us working the summer have been busy preparing for STEAM Summer Camp and the upcoming School year.

In the midst of our preparations, we held a very successful “Math Night” on May 13. The night was presented by April Cherrington with the support of several Church members, friends and Sea Breeze teachers. We had a guest appearance by the magical “Great Henrini”. He performed for and entertained the children and families with his amazing math tricks. Henrini was a hit! Thank you for being a part of the evening. I am very happy to say that we had 62 children from the school attend, and we received wonderful feedback. I look forward to additional events where the Church and School can collaborate to make great things happen.

The end of the year always brings so many emotions for all of us. As educators, we take great pride in the growth of the children. While it is gratifying to see the difference that the hard work of the teachers and the children has paid off, it is very sad to have to bid farewell to so many as they move on to the “Big School”. It is always fun when they come to visit us and even more fun when our Alumni enroll their own children in the program! Yes, it does happen.

Summer is a time of change for not only the children, but for staff as well. This year, we are saying goodbye to Mr. Matthew Tate. Matt has been at Sea Breeze for six years and has taught in all of our classrooms. Most recently, he taught in our TK program with Mrs. Sheldon, and his presence will be missed. Matt is moving into a new career path and we wish him only the best. Whatever he does, I am confident will be successful. During the school year, we also saw two of our teachers get married. Cecilia Jimenez was married in February and she is now Mrs. Casey McElroy and Ida Liu was married over the Memorial Day weekend and she is now Mrs. Steven Liu. Congratulations to these ladies and their husbands. Cheers to many happy years together!

We have expanded our STEAM Summer Camp and are excited to have opened up additional spaces in our program. If you, or anyone you know, are looking for a safe and exciting place for your children this summer, please contact our office. We have new openings in all of our programs. For more information on the camp you can also visit our website at Seabreezeschool.com. Our summer program is for potty trained children that are as young as two years and nine months old, and those entering the second-grade next school year. We will have visitors joining us and several age appropriate, exciting activities each week for the children.

Thank you for your support throughout another successful school year. I hope you have a fun and safe summer.

Continued Blessings,
Jerelyn Weber, Principal

The Editor's Corner – by Yvonne Sidell



"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1

I love Max Lucado's children's book, You Are Special*. It is the story of a community of Wemmicks (wooden people) who spend their days giving each other star stickers and dot stickers. Wemmicks give a star if another does something good. And they give a dot when another Wemmick does something bad.

One Wemmick, Puchinello, is covered in dots. He has so many "bad marks" he hardly wants to go outside anymore because he is afraid to get more dots. Then he hears about Eli, the woodcarver, who made all the Wemmicks. Puchinello visits Eli and learns he is loved. He learns that Eli doesn't make any mistakes. All Puchinello needs to do is believe in Eli's love and to care more for what Eli thinks and less for what the Wemmicks think and no star or dot will stick to him. In fact, as Puchinello leaves Eli's house, he starts to believe and a dot falls to the ground.

The marks of the world are hard to ignore. Who doesn't enjoy being praised and affirmed? It feels good to hear those things and it should! But of course, comments people make can hurt as much as they make us soar. How wonderful would it be to live in a place where negative comments didn't matter?

An amazing God has created us! He loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us so we can have eternal life with Him. Just like the woodworker Eli, God doesn't make mistakes. He made you and me with purpose and beauty. He wants us to look to Him for our self-worth and not look to others. Sure it will still feel good when someone throws a star our way and sure it will still hurt if we are given a dot. However, with Christ we can take this all into perspective and choose to believe only what God sees...a beloved child.