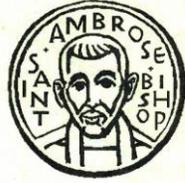


March
2021
Edition



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 the Interim Rector

Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal,

One of the first observations I had upon arriving at St Ambrose's was the importance of the Sea Breeze School not only for the parish and the children, but also for my own sanity during the pandemic shelter-in-place. Teaching and leading all the children for chapel assemblies eight times a week has been tremendous fun. While I'm more accustomed to socializing with adult parishioners, clergy, or graduate students, socializing with scores of pre-schoolers has been a God-send.

As an Interim Rector one of my jobs is to analyze the assets of the life of the parish. Church attendance across the country has been aging and declining for decades and St Ambrose's is no exception to those statistics. The pandemic has only exacerbated that trend. Yet, our parish has one exceptional and potential asset many other churches can only envy – hundreds of parents, families, and children. It is my great hope for St Ambrose's that we can build more and more bridges between the parish and the school for our mutual growth and benefit. It is far more than merely renting out rooms that are not being used during the week – or, conversely, us using the church when the school is off for the weekend. God-willing, once we are re-opened for full attendance at Masses, I sincerely hope we can find new creative ways to include more of the children and families in our liturgies.

It is always risky to single out individuals, yet I cannot help but sing the praises of our beloved "Headmistress", Jerelyn Weber. She has done a truly amazing vocation of keeping our school running during a global epidemic. She, the teachers, and staff have kept the pandemic monster away from the school community this whole time by diligence and an amazing amount of wisdom. We are truly blessed to have such a supportive school principal at the helm during an emergency of epic scale - not to mention even more blessed that we have a principal who is so attuned to the spiritual values of our parish. She is always present at our vestry meetings, annual meetings, and special events in the most humble, wise, and unassuming ways.

The vestry and I are about to have some 'brainstorming' sessions with Jerelyn to explore what more the school and parish can do together to support each other in our mutual ministries. I ask you to keep those meetings in your prayers. And I want to use this opportunity to show you that your continued prayers for the school are working most wonderfully. There is much here for which we should be proud - and may God be please to continue to bless our endeavors!

Yours,

Reverend Canon Shane Scott-Hamblen

Announcements

Father Shane's Schedule

We have been working on setting a regular work schedule for Father Shane so that we can all know when it is best to contact him, and also so that he can have some routines (which include day off, Sabbath and study day).

It seems that the best days to have off are Friday and Saturday. From Monday through Thursday, he will be working at the office or from home. While we all know he is available to us when necessary, it would be best to keep communication to emergencies during his days off. Thank you!

MARCH 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	1 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	2	3 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation	4	5	6
7 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	8 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	9	10 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation	11	12	13
14 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	15 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	16	17 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation	18	19	20
21 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	22 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	23	24 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation 6:00 PM Buildings and Grounds Meeting, Zoom 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting, Zoom	25	26	27
28 10:00 AM Choral Holy Eucharist, Chapel 11:00 AM Zoom Coffee Hour 4:00 PM Youth Group	29 1:00 PM Monday Zoom Bible Study - Daniel Tate	30	31 10:00 AM Zoom Contemplative Meditation	1	2	3

Mark Your Calendars

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Mon., Mar. , 1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
Wed., Mar. 3, 10:00 am	Contemplative Meditation
Sun., Mar. 7, 10:00 am	Virtual Sundays Liturgy
Sun., Mar 7 11:00 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sun., Mar. 7 4:00 pm	Zoom Youth Group
Mon., Mar, 8, 1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
Wed., Mar. 10, 10:00 am	Contemplative Meditation
Sun., Mar. 14, 10:00 am	Virtual Sundays Liturgy
Sun., Mar. 14 11:00 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sun., Mar. 14 4:00 pm	Zoom Youth Group
Mon., Mar, 15, 1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
Wed., Mar. 17, 10:00 am	Contemplative Meditation
Sun., Mar. 21, 10:00 am	Virtual Sundays Liturgy
Sun., Mar. 21 11:00 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sun., Mar. 21 4:00 pm	Zoom Youth Group
Mon., Mar, 22, 1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
Wed., Mar. 24, 10:00 am	Contemplative Meditation
Wed., Mar. 24 7:00 pm	Vestry Meeting
Wed., Mar. 24 6:00 pm	Building and Grounds Meeting
Sun., Mar. 28, 10:00 am	Virtual Sundays
Sun., Mar. 28 11:00 am	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sun., Mar. 28 4:00 pm	Zoom Youth Group
Mon., Mar, 29, 1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
Wed., Mar. 31, 10:00 am	Contemplative Meditation

Zoom Coffee Hour, contact Ali Le Blanc on 650-281-9236 for questions

Join Zoom Meeting with the following link: [Zoom Coffee Hour](#)

Meeting ID: 872 7420 6121

Passcode: 681474

Zoom Youth Group Meeting, contact Daniel Tate at ym_stambrosefc@att.net or 650-799-7084

Zoom Contemplative Meditation, email Hamilton Fong (hfongster@gmail.com) or to Nilda Chong

(nchongmd@gmail.com) if you wish to be included in the Zoom invitation.

Zoom Vestry Meeting, contact Shelley Keefe at Shelley Keefe onyourtoz@gmail.com

Senior Warden's Report – by Shelley Keefe

Dear Fellow St. Ambrose Parishioners,

This year's AGM on January 31, 2021, was incredibly well-attended. We had 31 attendees, which is about the same as we expect to attend in person. Kudos to everyone who persevered through yet another Zoom meeting!

As a new Vestry is formed, February is a time of change and sorting out leadership. We are very fortunate this year to have elected four new Vestry members – new people bring new ideas, fresh perspectives and willing hands to do the work of this parish. The vestry members for the 2021-2022 year are:

Shelley Keefe – Senior Warden
 Alison LeBlanc – Junior Warden
 Michael Lord – Treasurer
 Jim Neubert – Clerk

Nilda Chong
 Hamilton Fong
 Raphaele Gerber
 Brenda Matsuo
 David McIntyre
 Valerie Mersh

Vestry meetings are typically held on the 4th Wednesday of each month, with some wiggle room for the summer months and holidays. We are meeting via Zoom for now, at 7:00 p.m., generally until around 9:00 p.m. Fr. Shane chairs the Vestry meeting and we review the state of the parish, our financial situation, committee reports and any old or new business items that arise and are important to the welfare of our St. Ambrose community. Vestry meetings are open to all parishioners and welcome all attendees. The Zoom link will be made available to parishioners in advance and we'll endeavor to post the meeting minutes to the church website within a week of the meeting.

Along with certain legal and fiduciary responsibilities, the Vestry is also tasked with encouraging clear and direct communication between the congregation, the Vestry and the rector. As we can't yet re-gather in person, it might be a little harder to 'feel the pulse' of the church. Picking up the phone or sending an email is more intentional than a chance conversation at coffee hour, but I encourage all of us to keep the lines of communication open.

Prayer for the Parish (BCP Page #817)

Almighty and ever-living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Respectfully,

Shelley, Senior Warden

Youth Ministry and Youth Group News – by Daniel Tate

St. Ambrose Youth Group has a Zoom meeting every other Sunday from 4:00-5:00 p.m., plus an outdoor activity one or more Saturdays a month. College, high school, and middle school youth (including those who have just completed the fifth grade) are all welcome. Friends are welcome too! Please contact Daniel Tate by e-mail at ym_stambrosefc@att.net if you or a friend would like to join in and have not yet received a link. Usually five to ten youth participate in each meeting. Each meeting includes talking about the highs and lows that we've had during the past week, reflection on scripture, and an activity or game. We also have interesting guest speakers! *Please join us!*

In February, the Youth Group had a Good Pizza Saturday day gathering in the courtyard at the church. The weather was good. The sun was out. It was good to gather in person for a change, catch up and to be in community. We ate some pizza, sat around and talked, thought about activities the Youth Group would like to do in the coming months, and we played a little basketball. Listed below are the *tentative* March Schedule and some ideas that we came up with for the future. It was a good day. We have a lot to be grateful for.

***Tentative* March Schedule**

One of our Sunday Zoom 4:00 p.m. meetings this month will feature guest speaker Karen Chee. She is a comedy writer for Seth Meyers (Late Night) and past member of our church.

One or more Saturdays will include an outdoor activity, possibly another Pizza Party. More news later about that.

Ideas for Future Saturday Outdoor Activities:

- Have Pizza Day {again, possibly once a month}
- Clean the Shoreline {when it becomes available}
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Egg Toss
- Water Balloon Toss {when it gets warm}
- Paint a Large Mural {for eventual display for church when church re-opens – possible themes discussed: Easter, Global Warning, Care of Creation, Climate Change}
- One more Garden Planting Day {in spring}
- Bake-Off Challenge

Opportunities for Learning –or for- Service at the Church

Technicians: Every Sunday, we produce an online YouTube broadcast of our worship service. We are still looking for people to train and to help out. If you are interested in learning how we produce our Sunday morning services, please contact me.

Youth Ministry and Youth Group News (continued)

Readers: During each worship service, church members read the lectionary scripture for the day, and the Prayers of the People. Traditionally, adults have filled these roles, but now we're looking for our youth to take part too.

Musicians: If you like to sing or play an instrument, there are plenty of opportunities to do that at St. Ambrose. On Saturdays, we record the music to be spliced into the live broadcast recordings on Sundays. During the service, the prelude, the postlude, the main anthem, the offertory, and the hymns all offer a chance for singing or playing an instrument. If you are a beginner or expert, either one, Maureen Fromme and Frank Saunders, our music leaders are happy to teach, assist, and accompany.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tate
Associate for Youth and Family Ministry
ym_stambrosefc@att.net
650-799-7084

Hymns for March – by Maureen Fromme

“ETERNAL LORD OF LOVE, BEHOLD YOUR CHURCH” (1982 HYMNAL #149)

For the past several months, it seems that life can be a bit lonely -- COVID restrictions, minimal travel, social distancing. Then comes this Lenten hymn, reminding us that the Church is walking “the pilgrim path of Lent” together. Then the hymn recalls the Israelites in the wilderness, as they were led by a cloud and fire -- they were not left to stumble on their own. Also, we are led by His love.

The author of the text was Thomas Cain (1931-2003), a Professor of English literature in Canada. This hymn was written for the 1982 Hymnal. Mr. Cain was also a gardener and lover of plants, especially as they bloomed in the Spring. This fondness is reflected in Verse 3, with the promise of Easter.

The tune is referred to as “Old 124th” (Psalm), first published in 1551, then ten years later in “The Genevan Psalter” a book of Psalms for singing. This compilation was edited by the theologian John Calvin, in the city of Geneva. It included all 150 Psalms. The main composer whom Calvin selected to write the melodies or chants was Louis Bourgeois (1510-1559). *[Warning to musicians: According to one source, Bourgeois “fell foul of local musical authorities and was sent to prison on 3 December 1551 for changing the tunes for some well-known psalms “without a license.” He was released on the personal intervention of John Calvin.]*

Even when times seem lonely or lonesome, this hymn reminds us that our daily walk of faith is not alone. We have those who walk with us and those who have walked before us. May you that which inspires you as you 'walk the road' of Lent.

<https://youtu.be/Q0HTLWlyfWI>

(The above recording is piano only with text provided on the screen).

Eternal Lord, of love behold your church,
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
Led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
Moved by your love and toward your presence bent

So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living in your way of love,
We walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death

If dead in you, so in you, we arise,
You the firstborn of all the faithful dead,
And as through stony ground the green shoots break,
Glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower

Thank you,

Maureen

March Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen

Sandwiches on Sunday

On Saturday, January 30, volunteers gathered in the church playground to produce 80 bag lunches consisting of one (1) turkey or ham-and-cheese sandwich, one (1) peanut butter and jelly sandwich, one package trail mix, and one apple or orange for anyone who appeared at the Fair Oaks Community Center the following day.

Rob Richards and Steve Yuen furnished the ingredients. On the assembly line were:

Elliot Dun
 Elliot Dun, Jr.
 Alison Le Blanc
 David McIntyre
 Lydia McIntyre
 Cathy Rincon
 Daniel Tate

The brown bags were stored overnight in the St. Ambrose and McIntyres' refrigerators.



The lunches were handed out by Rob, Anita and Danielle Richards, and Steve Yuen on Sunday, January 31. Approximately 60 people showed up, and all meals and bottles of water were distributed.

The next Sandwiches on Sunday will be on **May 30**.

If you would like to participate in Outreach or have any questions or suggestions, please contact Steve Yuen (650-341-1966 or stevebyuen@aol.com).

Sea Breeze School News – by Jerelyn Weber, Principal

February is gone and we enjoyed the weather and the excitement around Valentine's Day, The Lunar New Year and Presidents Day!

Open enrollment for Summer Camp 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year opened to the public on February 1 and things are looking great. PS1 and PS2 are both fully enrolled, TK is full with 24 children, Kindergarten has 15 enrolled and growing, the after school program is currently enrolling and growing. Because we decided to host a Kindergarten for the 2021-22 School Year, we will not offer after school care for Kindergarteners from Foster City Elementary due to a lack of space. We are excited about the quick enrollment and anticipate being totally full next Fall. Summer Camp is slow to enroll with about 40 signed up so far for on-campus learning and 10 registered for the Virtual Summer. We are not planning to offer virtual classes for the 2021-22 School Year and are hopeful to return to our pre-COVID enrollment in all programs.

In January, we had an accident at school and a car ran into the outside of Classroom 2, thankfully there were no injuries involved. I am happy to say that we are ready to start construction to have the building repaired. The work will last 5-7 days and the children will be relocated during the construction. While this was a very unfortunate event, the children have been very excited to learn all about buildings and they are looking forward to watching the repair process. We call this *Emergent Curriculum* and it is fun for us to see the wonder and excitement in the children.

I have attended several calls with State Licensing, the Superintendent of the Foster City San Mateo School District and the Health Department to learn current trends, ideas and plans. At the writing of this, the plan is for Foster City Elementary School to return to a Hybrid Learning Model. Children will be split into two different groups and one group will go to school on Mondays and Tuesdays, and the other group will go to school on Thursdays and Fridays. To limit the possible transmission of germs, the school day will go until 12:30 p.m. and there will be no eating lunch on campus. We are hopeful to get the children back into school.

Be Well!

Respectfully,

Jerelyn

The Editor's Corner—by Yvonne Sidell



“Look on me and answer, O Lord my God.”
—Psalm 13:3

Some questions beg an answer. Consider the following:

Why do banks charge a fee on “insufficient funds” when they know there is not enough money in your account?

How do you know the light really turns off when you shut the refrigerator door?

What exactly is Spam?

Why doesn't glue stick to its own bottle?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Here's my personal favorite question: Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Unfortunately, not all of life's questions are so humorous. We often have deep questions such as:

Why did this happen to me?

Does my life really matter?

How could I have been so wrong?

What am I going to do?

In despair, David cried out to God with deep questions, *“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?”* (Psalm 13:1-2)

This short passage is filled with the raw emotion that comes from the depths of a hurting soul.

While it can be tempting to overlook the humanity in this prayer, I invite you to sit down with it and linger over the words, both in your mind and heart. Perhaps these words resonate within your own soul today. Embrace them as your own prayer and as the psalmist did so many years ago, continue to trust in God's unfailing love, rejoice in his salvation and sing to the Lord, for He has been good to you.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Elliott Dun	1
Cathy Rincon	2
Donna Avakoff	6
Hendri Tjandra	6
Shaiji Venkat	9
John Miller	14
Phoebe Venkat	14
Kenneth Nagar	16
Betty Dial	17
Karen Nagar	18
Anders Zhou	18
Pearl Walker	22
Delores Watan	22
Siew Lee-Rowsell	24
Lyra Tanner	24
James Stephens	25
Grace Rawley	26
Sofia Censoprano	27
Lily Cate Moriarty	27
Merle Silverman	29



Anniversaries

Eunice & Kenny Chee	30
CD Rowsell & Siew Lee-Rowsell	17
Shawn & Phoebe Venkat	22