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**Interim Editor:**

*CD & S. Rowsell*



The Ambrosian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

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May

2016

Edition

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Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! The month of May brings with it the celebrations of Mothers’ Day and the Day of Pentecost. This year **Mothers’ Day** is on **Sunday, May 8th**. We will give thanks for our mothers by presenting the women in our congregation with a flower. We have done this for many years. Although not all the women in our congregation have been mothers, all of them nurture and care for the younger ones in our midst. We are who we are because we have all had mothers, our birth mothers and other women who have nurtured and guided us. I know this to be true, because I have been nurtured and guided by many women in my life.

On **Sunday, May 8th**, we will also have our Ingathering for the United Thank Offering (UTO). We are invited to give thanks for all of God’s blessings we have received. I invite you to make a generous offering for the UTO by writing a check to St. Ambrose. Our collective offerings will be presented to the diocesan UTO in October at the Diocesan Convention. It is appropriate that the UTO Ingathering be done on Mothers’ Day because it is a ministry of the Episcopal Church Women. These offerings are turned into grants to support the church in her ministries throughout the world.

On **Saturday, May 14th** our Deanery will be hosting the Beloved Community Event at St. Paul’s, Burlingame from 10 am to 4 pm. There are several workshops and a keynote address and worship at lunch. During the 10 am to 12 pm workshop slot there is an opportunity to be trained to be an Eucharistic Minister, learning how to “weave faith into family life,” and Elizabeth DeRuff’s presentation on Communion Bread and the Christian Story. During lunch Bishop the Rev. Suzanne Guthrie will give the keynote address. During the 2 pm to 4 pm workshop slot Bishop Marc Andrus will talk about his new book, Stations of the Cosmic Christ and small group ministry. You can register for $10 at [http://diocal.org/equipping-beloved-community.](http://diocal.org/equipping-beloved-community. )

On **Sunday, May 15th** we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the **Day of Pentecost**. Cameron Jew and Elizabeth Rawley will be presented for Holy Baptism at the 10 am service. It is traditional to red wear on this day in honor of the Holy Spirit who comes to us as a flame of fire.

# Reflections from our Rector

## Rector’s reflections continued…



On **Sunday, May 22nd**, I am calling for a meeting of Families with Children from **11:30 am** in the chapel. It has been about a year since we reorganized the Sunday School, decided to begin having the Saturday Evening Worship services twice a month and invited Lizz Klammer to step into the role of Coordinator for the Children and Family Ministry. I would like to have a conversation to provide feedback for what is working well, and what we might want to change.

Also, I would like to introduce and welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Margie Lee. She began working in the office on April 11th and was trained by Lauryn Adolph. Margie is a long-time resident of Foster City and has experience being an administrative assistant. I am glad that she is with us, and hope that you will introduce yourself to her when you come by the office. She will be working from 9 am to 1 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 8 am to 12 Noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Finally, I will be taking a vacation in Honolulu as Karen and I go to visit our son Paul from **May 4th through the 11th**. Father Jay will be the Celebrant and Preacher on **May 8th.**

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

**Congratulations**

* Congratulations to Sean and Lauren Cosgrave whose baby girl Nora Kaye was born on March 31, 2016.
* Congratulations to Scott Chang and Judy Chen whose baby girl Summer was born on April 13, 2016.

**Thanks**

* Thanks to Reena Davis, Tarunpreet Ubhi, Shaiji Ajit, Teresa Rajaratnam, Lois Thampi and everyone who volunteered to cut the vegetables for the South Indian Food Fest.
* Thanks to Valerie Mersh, Shelley Keefe, Lizz Klammer, Cathy Rincon, Barbara Saunders and everyone who baked a cake or pastry for the Cake Walk at the school’s first Family Fun Day on April 16th.
* Thanks to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for arranging for a new cabinet to be installed in the Parish Hall.

**2016 Vestry News**

The 2016 Vestry met on April 26th.

* The Vestry voted to recommit to the Community Supported Agriculture project of Farm to Altar Table. Thus, the congregation will continue to use the heirloom Sonora Wheat flour milled using the whole grain for its communion bread.
* The Vestry voted to approve a 39 month lease for a new copier with Sharp Business Solutions.
* The Community Outreach Working Group requested and received funding for a booth in the CityFest 2016, formerly known as the Foster City Art and Wine Festival.
* The Capital Campaign for Housing presented its mission statement and objectives to the Vestry.
* The Outreach to St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School participated in the school’s Family Fun Day by hosting a Cake Walk. They will be hosting a movie on April 29th inviting school families to participate.
* The Disaster Preparedness Committee had its initial meeting on April 25th. They hope to develop the Disaster Preparedness Plan by the end of July. The next three meetings will be **Monday, May 23rd** at **6:30 pm, Sunday, June 26th** at **11:30 am and Sunday, July 24th at 11:30 am.**

**Saturday Evening Worship continues**

Our Saturday Evening Worship this month will be held on **May 14th and 21st at 5:30 p.m.** It is a worship service that children can participate in more easily than the longer worship service at 8 am or 10 am on Sundays. If you are unable to worship on a Sunday, consider coming on Saturday evening. Please plan to come to the Meeting of Families with Children on **Sunday, May 22nd from 11:30 am**. We will be discussing the future of the Saturday Evening Worship Service at that meeting.

**S.F. Giants game outings**

St. Ambrose will go to two more Giants games this year. Members and friends are invited to attend. All tickets are discounted $10 for children and youth. The seats are in View Reserve in the infield area. We have bought 25 tickets for each game.

* The next game is **Friday, May 20th** from 7:15 pm against the Chicago Cubs. Seats for this game are in VR Section 317, rows 13, 14 and 15. The cost is $24 for adults and $14 for children and youth.
* The final game is **Friday, September 16th** from 7:15 pm against the St. Louis Cardinals. Seats for this game are in VR Section 314 rows 12, 13 and 14. The cost is $24 for adults and $14 for children and youth.

Tickets are available to those who sign up and pay for their tickets in advance. If you are interested in joining the group sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall or speak with the Rector.

**Study Groups in May**

The Monday Book Study group meets in the foyer on **May 2nd, 16th and 23rd** from **12:45 – 2 p.m.** They are now reading the section, “Walking Luke’s Roads of Riches,” in the book, The Hidden Power of the Gospels. One of the lessons learned this past month is that as we mature in faith, we are called to be courageous to speak the gospel truth while being able to perceive the good in those with different perspectives.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study group will meet on May 10th and 24th in the Wong’s home.

The Wednesday evening Bible Study group meets on **May 18th** in the foyer at **7:30 p.m.** They are now reading Paul’s Letter to the Philippians.

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

**The Day of Pentecost**

This year the Day of Pentecost will be on **Sunday, May 15th** at the 10 am worship service. Candidates for Holy Baptism to be presented are Cameron Jew and Elizabeth Rawley. Cameron is the son of Randall and Katharine Jew, and grandson of Ted and Jeanne Ozeki. Elizabeth is the daughter of Joshua Rawley and Kathleen Grace Rawley.

**Mark Your Calendars:**

* Rector on Vacation: **May 4th – May 11th,** Honolulu
* Administrative Assistant will be out of the office: **May 5th, 6th and 10th**
* United Thank Offering Ingathering on Mother’s Day: **May 8th, 8 am and 10 am worship services**
* Altar Guild Meeting: **May 14th, 9 am,** Kitchen
* Equipping the Beloved Community Event: **Saturday, May 14th, 10 am to 5 pm,** St. Paul’s, Burlingame
* Saturday Evening Worship: **May 14th and 21st, 5:30 pm,** Chapel
* Day of Pentecost: **Sunday, May 15th, 8 am and 10 am Holy Eucharist and Holy Baptism**
* Giants and Cubs Baseball Game Outing: **Friday, May 20th, 7:15 pm,** AT&T Park
* Sandwiches on Sundays: **Sunday, May 29th, 11:30 am,** Fair Oaks Community Center, Redwood City
* Youth Camping Trip with the Asian Commission: **Friday, June 17th to 19th,** Lake Oroville
* Vacation Bible School: **Monday, August 8th to Friday, August 12th, 8:30 am to 12 Noon,** St. Ambrose Parish Hall

## Outreach Report - by Steve Yuen

**Home and Hope (homeandhope.net)**:

One benefit of volunteering at Home and Hope is the opportunity to engage in conversation with fellow human beings outside of work and family. For two nights in April we served dinner to 12 people—four single parents and eight children—who were being temporarily housed at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Smartphones and other electronics were put away and we talked....about the weather, about sports, about growing up in the 60's-70's-80's in [fill in your home State here], and about school and work, but only if the other party was receptive to the conversation. Between cooking, serving, and cleaning up, not to mention sharing a meal and conversation, the evening goes by quickly.

On Tuesday, April 19th, Steve Yuen had overnight duty along with Luis Esquivias, a high school student who also volunteers at St. Anthony’s in San Francisco. Luis peppered Steve with questions about what to do and when. It was simple: lock the doors at ten, hopefully get a good night’s sleep in a sleeping bag, wake up everyone at six the next morning, set out breakfast, put the dishes away, and make sure everyone had departed by 7:15. Luis said that he will write up his week's activities as a school project and intends to help Home and Hope throughout the year.

On Thursday, April 21st, St. Ambrose servers were done at nine and headed back home. Everyone would be in bed by ten, and so were we, the evening rhythm of a pre-digital age recaptured for an evening.

Thanks go to Susan Yates, Liva Neyroud, Diane Robertson, Jill Schwab, Irene Stead, and Clara Padilla for making dinner. Our next Home and Hope outing will be during the week of September 18th. If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Steve Yuen (341-1966, [stevebyuen@aol.com](mailto:stevebyuen@aol.com)).

**Cambodia Academy of Mongkol Borei (**[**http://www.cambodiaacademy.org**](http://www.cambodiaacademy.org)**):**

We are sad to report that Hans Eide, the Foster City resident who founded the Cambodia Academy of Mongkol Borei, died in March at the age of 81. For the past eight years St. Ambrose, Sea Breeze School, and individual members of our community have sponsored students at the school.

On trips to Southeast Asia Hans had witnessed the plight of children who were too poor even to attend public school in rural Cambodia. After soliciting donations from the Rotary Club in San Mateo and working tirelessly to set up the facilities, Hans opened the Cambodia Academy in 2004. Free of charge to its students, the Academy provides food, transportation, books, uniforms, and English-language teaching. There is a long waiting list for open slots, and its graduates are equipped to find jobs in the cities that are visited by international tourists and business people.

Over the years Hans Eide came to St. Ambrose to report on the progress he made in expanding the school from a few classrooms to over 300 students. The Board of Directors of the Cambodia Academy promises to oversee his creation, and St. Ambrose intends to continue its support.

**Upcoming Events**

**United Thank Offering:** The United Thank Offering has supported the missions of the Episcopal Church since 1889. By making daily contributions of your loose change to the UTO blue box you will help to alleviate poverty in the Anglican provinces, dioceses, and companion dioceses. Perhaps more importantly you will be cultivating an “attitude of gratitude” in you and your family. The blue boxes and envelopes will be available at the entryway in April. Please remember to place them in the offering plate on **Mother’s Day, May 8th**.

**Sandwiches on Sunday:** We serve a hot lunch to all comers on fifth Sundays of the month at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City. Turnouts have lately risen to about 80 people. On **May 29th** we’ll be serving salad and baked chicken and rice. If you can prepare a dish and/or help with serving and clean-up, please sign up on the sheet in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Richards (rob.richards@tensorlabs.com, 577-8924)

## “Get Up” – by Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan

A few years ago I saw one of my former parishioners at a local shopping mall. After exchanging “long time, no see” greetings, I asked her about her family? She quickly looked at me with rolling eyes, a sigh, and a long face of disappointment. At that moment I realized this might take a while, so I began to listen. My former parishioner explained that she has been estranged from her daughter for several months now. Her daughter just turned 21 at that time, and she was about to finish her AA at Skyline College. However, her daughter no longer wanted to go forward with pursuing an undergraduate degree. Add more complications; her daughter was dating someone mom did not like. In her hurt and disappointment, mom stopped talking to her daughter. And now she was waiting for her daughter to reach out to her. She said to me, “I love her so much, but I want her to know that she’s wrong!” I tilted my head and thought to myself, “It doesn’t seem like you left your daughter much space to want to reach out to you? “ Then I asked, “How’s that working for you?” It really wasn’t sparking joy in her life.

We live in a world full of broken and strained relationships. And I find that we often participate in our own unhappiness by holding on to ideas or values that don’t really help us live into love. Healing rarely happens if we’re all about waiting for someone else to take responsibility for how we feel. Nor can we ignore our pain and simply wait for someone else to take action if we really desire peace and wholeness in the relationships that matter most for us. However, our faith invites us to think differently. In the Gospel stories of healing, Jesus simply invites a person to own their healing and get up.

*Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes… One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. – John 5:2-9 (NRSV)*

When Jesus asks the man, “Do you want to be made well?” The man doesn’t really answer the question. Instead he begins to share his narrative of negativity. We all know someone who keeps repeating that same old story of life’s disappointments where nothing ever seems to ever change for them. We also know people get tired hearing the same old song from people who never change. I can imagine how even this man’s closest love ones would have left him behind because constant negativity cannot evoke hope. Yet God’s love goes beyond human tolerance. And Jesus doesn’t really spend too much time dwelling on this man’s lengthy illness or helplessness. Rather, he invites this man to get up and walk. In the background of this scene, I can hear The Wailers singing the empowering chorus from Bob Marley’s classic anthem,

*Get up, stand up, stand up for your right,*

*Get up, stand up, don’t give up the fight.*

Life can sometimes be a fight where we put too much energy fighting ourselves. I believe healthy and whole relationships are worth fighting for. In Christ we are invited to live into the fullness of life that God gives us. It’s our right. But we have to stand up and claim it. True healing in this world begins with ourselves and what we are willing to do to open our hearts to love.

My former parishioner eventually reconciled with her daughter a week later. Mom took the first steps because the pain of separation became unbearable. It took courage, a humble heart, and some initiative to get up and say that she was, “sorry.” Friends, if we want to heal what is broken in our lives, we can’t sit around waiting for something to happen. Faith is a funny thing because as much as we know God is transforming us, we also take ownership of our own growth in the midst of change. Thirty-eight years is a long time to be waiting. If you have anyone significant in your life that you need to make peace with… maybe now is the time. It’s never too late… *Stand up, take your mat and walk.*

## Sea Breeze School News

The weather has turned to warm and sunny and people everywhere are getting out their hats and sunscreen! We are happy to see the leaves return to the trees as they provide us with the much needed and appreciated shade during the warmer months of Spring and Summer.

April was a busy and exciting month for all of us. Everyone enjoyed their Spring Break and returned ready to finish the school year. We held our first Family Fun Day at the school on the 16th, and it was a huge success. There was a jump house for the children, several games to be played, food trucks and the very popular Cake Walk that was hosted by several ladies from the church. Many thanks to all that supported the event in some way. Planning has already started for the event next year!

We also celebrated Grandparents/Special Persons Day this month. These days are very special as the children show off their school to the special people in their lives. Father Jay leads a special chapel service for the day and our guests are treated to snacks and a surprise gift made especially for them by the children. There are many smiles and special memories made each year.

We are very busy getting ready for Summer School and have a few openings left. There will be many special visitors on campus throughout the summer for the children in attendance to enjoy. Although it will be very fun, we will also be keeping our academic skills sharp for the coming school year.

The school will be closed on Monday May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

Have a wonderful month.

Jerelyn Weber, Principal

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