

May  
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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! Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia!*  
This is our Easter acclamation and response. We rejoice in the risen life we live in the power of the Resurrection of Jesus the Christ. As you have heard me say before, there is no Easter without Good Friday, so there is no new life without an end to the old life. Well, the month of May will feature some endings so there will be new beginnings.

On Sunday, May 5, Seminarian Daniel Tate will preach his last sermon among us. He will be graduating from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley on Friday, May 24 at 10:00 a.m. Daniel has spent the past two school years, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 learning from us and offering his gifts and talents among us. His final Sunday with us will be on May 26, so we may thank him and send him on his way in the next stage of his spiritual journey and future ministry.

On Sunday, May 12, Mother's Day, we will give thanks for all the women of the congregation with the gift of a rose. The Rev. Karen Swanson will be the Celebrant and Preacher. On this Sunday, we will also recognize the high school seniors who are graduating this year: William Bradford, Kendall Richards, Christina Rodriguez and Benjamin Tjandra. On this day, we give thanks for all the women who have nurtured and loved us, and we will also be giving thanks for the opportunity to have these young people as active participants in the congregation as they move forward in their lives.

On the weekend of Friday, May 17 until Monday, May 20, Karen and I will be going to Marquette University to celebrate the graduation of our nephew, Andrew Swanson. In my absence, the Rev. Randal Gardiner will be the Celebrant and Preacher on Sunday, May 19 at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services of the Holy Eucharist.

On Sunday, May 26, I will be the Celebrant and Preacher as we wish Daniel all the best. As Daniel has shared with me, he has come to realize in a deeply personal way that the death of loved ones, and the endings of parts of our life are necessary for us if we are to grow and go on with the next phase of our lives. As painful as endings can be, our Resurrection faith teaches us this truth.

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

## Announcements

### Bishop's Ranch Presentation

St. Ambrose is scheduled to go to the Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg from **Friday, October 11 to Sunday, October 13**. We will be staying in Harrison House. **On Sunday, May 5 following the 10:00 a.m. service after the coffee hour**, Jim Neubert and Shelley Keefe will share information about the Bishop's Ranch, their cookbook and their philosophy about food and sustainability. If you would like to attend the weekend at the Bishop's Ranch, please speak with Jim Neubert or the Rector. A sign-up sheet will also be posted in the Parish Hall.

### THANKS to...

- Everyone who helped lead worship during Holy Week and Easter.
- The Rev. Karen Swanson for leading the Youth Inquirer's class and to the members of the congregation who come to share their spiritual journey with the youth involved: Aurelia Gerber, Nathan Matsuo and Connor Moriarty.

### Study Groups in May

- **The Monday Bible Study Group** which usually meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month will be on hiatus for May. They are studying the assigned lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday worship.
- **The Tuesday Bible Study Group** meets on **May 7, 14, 21 and 28** 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 12:44.

The study groups are open to any interested person.

### S.F. Giants and Cincinnati Reds game

The Rector and members of St. Ambrose are attending a Giants baseball game on **Saturday, May 11 from 6:05 p.m.** This is a "Let Pablo Pitch Bobblehead" game. We have 20 seats in View Reserve 307, Rows 5, 6 and 7. Tickets cost \$30.75 each. The tickets have been reserved for people interested in attending. Please contact the Rector to receive your tickets and pay the church for them.

### Mother's Day and Recognition of High School Seniors

On **Sunday, May 12**, St. Ambrose will recognize all the women of the church on Mother's Day by presenting roses. Also on this Sunday, graduating seniors from high school will be recognized: William Bradford, Kendall Richards, Christina Rodriguez and Ben Tjandra.

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## **Announcements (continued)**

### **Mark Your Calendars**

Youth Inquirer's Class: **Sundays, May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**, Children, Family and Youth Office

Bible Study on the Gospel according to John: **Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21 and 28, 12:45 p.m.**, Foyer

Presentation on the Bishop's Ranch: **Sunday, May 5, 11:45 a.m.**, Parish Hall

San Francisco Giants and Cincinnati Reds Game Outing: **Saturday, May 11, 6:05 p.m.**, Oracle Park (formerly known as AT&T Park)

Mother's Day and Recognition of High School Seniors: **Sunday, May 12, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. worship services**

Math Night: **Monday, May 13, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**, Parish Hall

Rector Away: **Friday, May 17 to Monday, May 20** – Rector and his wife will be attending the graduation of their nephew at Marquette University.

Guest Celebrant and Preacher: **Sunday, May 19, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**, the Rev. Randal Gardiner will lead worship on this day; Chapel

United Thank Offering Ingathering: **Sunday, May 19, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**, Chapel

Seminarian Daniel Tate's Graduation: **Friday, May 24, 10:00 a.m.**, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, 2451 Ridge Road, Berkeley

Farewell to Daniel Tate: **Sunday, May 26, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

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

Vacation Bible School: **Saturday, August 3, 10:00 a.m. to Noon** (Orientation); **Sunday, August 4, Noon to 4:00 p.m.** (Family nature experience); **Monday to Friday, August 5 – 9, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** (Regular sessions with children only); **Sunday, August 11, 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

170<sup>th</sup> 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**

Adults, young adults, high school and middle school youth are all needed to help with our Vacation Bible School (VBS) program this summer. Our "Kids' Care for Creation" VBS will be held the first week of August (August 3-11), and will include a family nature outing on the Sunday before the camp (August 4), and a worship service and congregational care for creation service project on the Sunday after the camp (August 11.) On the weekdays, the "Kids' Care 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. and will include dinner. VBS volunteers will be needed for all these times, but volunteers do not need to be present for every gathering to help out. We will need volunteer staff to lead children's activities (art, indoor and outdoor games, story-telling, music); for cooking; and for planning. If you are interested in lending a hand in any of these ways, please text the Rev. Karen Swanson at 650-200-8449. Thank you!

### **Mason Jar Mission Raises \$967**

Thank you to ALL who supported the Mason Jar Mission by purchasing mason jars filled with a myriad of beans and spices for soup and/or larger jars holding all the dry ingredients for making chocolate chip cookies! As a result of your ardent support and heartfelt generosity, 92 jars have been sold and \$967 has been raised by St. Ambrose to alleviate world hunger. The monies will be disbursed through Episcopal Relief and Development to help the church address world hunger in Latin America.

Of course, the youth and children are to be heartily commended for their efforts in purchasing the ingredients, measuring and pouring them into jars, and "manning" the sales table. Special thanks to Oliver Moriarty whose concern for starving people inspired the project, and to his family, for their strong support.

### **Math – For the Fun of It!**

St. Ambrose Church and Sea Breeze School are jointly offering a MATH NIGHT on Monday, May 13 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The event is designed to highlight the joys and usefulness of math for preschool and elementary school children, and their families. April Cherrington, math teacher and mentor, and Shelley Keefe, Vestry member for Children and Youth Ministry, will join Jerelyn Weber, Principal of Sea Breeze School, in organizing the event. All are welcome to attend. It is hoped that some youth from St. Ambrose will volunteer to help with the event. If you are interested, please contact Fe Balamiento by text at 415-579-8872.

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## **The Desk of Rev. Karen Swanson** (continued)

### **Our Amazing Children and Youth**

Hats off to Oliver Moriarty whose concern about starving people inspired the Mason Jar Mission which raised \$967 for the relief of world hunger. Oliver is the son of David and Carolyn Moriarty, and brother to Connor and Lily, who actively supported him in the project.

Hats off to Mathias Gerber whose vocal rendition of “Pie Jesus” from the “Requiem” by Faure on Maundy Thursday was beautiful. Mathias is the son of Jacques and Raphaele Gerber, and is brother to Amarine and Aurelia. Mathias’ vocal coach for the piece was Maureen Fromme, leader of the Children’s Choir.

Hats off to Rachel Aji, Henry Albertson, Lily Moriarty, Oliver Moriarty, Noah Rawley and Shai Venkat for singing a communion anthem for the Easter Sunday.

### **Confirmation at Grace to Include Youth**

On Saturday, June 1 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, Bishop Marc Andrus will confirm adults and youth from throughout the Diocese at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Please pray for Connor Moriarty, Nathan Matsuo and Aurelia Gerber, all St. Ambrose youth who are actively engaged in this year’s Inquirers’ Class, and are prayerfully considering confirmation on that day.

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## The Desk of Seminarian Daniel Tate

Dear St. Ambrose,

March and April were wonderful months for growth and learning at St. Ambrose. I got to preach and sing in the choir, and I enjoyed assisting Fe with Sunday school classes. In Sunday school we planted wheat again and it's already seven inches tall! It's fun watching it grow. The kids also put together jars of cookie and soup fixings to raise money to give to Episcopal Relief and Development to distribute to those in need. We also stuffed a huge number of eggs for the Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday. All along we enjoyed fellowship together and learning about God.

For me personally, a period of learning is coming to an end. God willing, I'll be graduating from Church Divinity School of the Pacific with a Masters of Divinity Degree at the end of May and my time at St. Ambrose as resident seminarian will be coming to an end. It is difficult to express how grateful I am and how much I appreciate the opportunity I've had to be amongst the community here. I've learned and grown so much. I've loved being here and getting to know everyone. It feels like home. I've made friends here and hope to stay connected. It's not clear yet what the future holds, but I am sure that whatever is in store, it will be made better because of the time I've spent at St. Ambrose.

Thank you,

Daniel

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**Youth Ministry – by Fe Balamiento**



Dear St. Ambrose,

It is clear that our volunteers have a heartfelt commitment. Thanks for all those who made the Easter egg hunt possible. I look forward to taking part in the tradition year after year and helping our children to celebrate the resurrection of Christ our savior. Amen

Thank you,

Fe

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## May Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen



### Sandwiches on Sunday—March 31, 2019:

On a sunny spring afternoon we served baked chicken and rice to 90 people—50 to 70 is the normal crowd—and St. Ambrose servers were up to the task.

Clara and Steve stopped by [St. Pius Catholic Church](#) to pick up the brown-bag lunches from the walk-in refrigerator. The brown bags are handed to diners as they exit. Volunteers were:

Elizabeth Diaz  
Leda Girardi  
Clara Padilla  
Rob Richards  
David and Lauren Yates  
Steve Yuen

Our next hosting is on **June 30th**, 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 June. Please contact Rob Richards ([rob.richards@tensorlabs.com](mailto:rob.richards@tensorlabs.com), 577-8924) if you have any questions.

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## Outreach Report *(continued)*

### Home and Hope



*St. Ambrose volunteers Clara Padilla, Diane Robertson, and Anoush Kelegian*

On Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, we served dinner at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in San Mateo. Two of the three families whom we saw in February were still in the program, and we greeted them like old friends. Thanks go to our cooks and servers:

Elizabeth Diaz  
Janet Gardiner  
Leda Girardi

Anoush Kelegian  
David Ota  
Clara Padilla

Diane Robertson  
Irene Stead  
Steve Yuen

Steve 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.

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

**United Thank Offering:** The United Thank Offering (UTO) has supported the missions of the Episcopal Church since 1889. For the spring campaign we have set out the traditional "blue boxes" for loose change as well as blue envelopes for cash and checks (please make your checks to St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, designated "UTO"). Donations can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering of **May 19<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

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

Spring has sprung and life at Sea Breeze continues to be a great place to be a child!

Easter celebrations are over, the eggs have all been found and the teachers and the children have returned from Spring Break.

This month, we will be celebrating Grandparents/Special Persons Day on April 16 and 17. This is a day that children invite their grandparents to come to school with them and enjoy a chapel service, as well as a special snack and the opportunity to make a special project with them. We recognize that not all children have grandparents that can attend, so we also open the event up to a special person that may be in their lives. This is a highly anticipated event at Sea Breeze and we greet many people on this day. It is always fun to see the excitement on the faces of the children and their special visitors. There are many Kodak moments and special memories made on this day.

Summer School planning and registration are going well. Due to the changes in the San Mateo Foster City School District calendar, we are offering one six-week session of camp for children entering kindergarten through second grade and one eight-week camp for preschool-aged children. While registration is strong (and the four year old program is full), we do still have limited space available in our other age groups. If you know anyone looking for summer fun for their child, please refer them to our office.

The Sea Breeze Annual Family Fun Day is here! We are excited to offer this event on Saturday April 27 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on the courtyard of the school. There will be a jumper for the children to jump in, a face painting booth, a cake walk, several game booths and so much more happening. This event is open to everyone, so please come out and enjoy the fun!

Hope to see you around!

Continued Blessings,

Jerelyn Weber, Principal

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## The Editor's Corner—by Yvonne Sidell



*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.*

*Ecclesiastes 3: 1*

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims!

This favorite kid's joke has been around a long time. It never changes. It's always corny but year after year around springtime, this joke surfaces and kids' faces light up every time they tell it to someone. Knock-knock jokes are the same way. Here's one of my favorites:

*Knock-knock?*

*Who's there?*

*Panther.*

*Panther who?*

*You're panther down, better pull them up!*

I laugh every time I hear this joke, and laugh through it every time I tell it. Again, like the Pilgrim joke, the punch line never changes. It's 100% predictable, but it makes me laugh every time. Spring is also a lot like a good knock-knock joke. You know what to expect every year, but like an anticipated punch line, it brings great joy whenever you experience it.

Whether it's the return of the songbirds, the presence of robins in your yard, the burst of color from tulips, daffodils, and other flowers that have slept through the winter, or the gentle rustling of the new leaves on the trees, spring is a glorious time of new life and new hope. It brings with it an unexplainable joy. The writer of Ecclesiastes recognized the timing and seasons of life. He said there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.

Aren't you thankful that spring returns every year? How dull, hopeless, and dreary life would become if not for the promise of the return of spring. A life without spring reminds me of the fantasy city of Narnia in C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The Witch has taken over the land of Narnia and has turned the land into perpetual winter. Life is frozen in time and the promise of new life is gone. Fortunately for us, we have the hope of new life and each spring we get a glimpse of just how beautiful that new life is.

Today, turn off the TV, grab your family, and get outside to take a walk or bike ride, or play in the park. Notice the signs of new life all around you. 'Tis the season!