In this Issue:

*Reflections (cont) …...P 2*

*Announcements......P 2-4*

*Outreach Report….*.P 5-6

“*Sustainable*” ..........P 7-8

Sea Breeze School News………….….…...P 8

**Interim Editor:**

*CD & S. Rowsell*



The Ambrosian

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Edition

***Individual Highlights:***

Inside Story 2

Inside Story 3

Inside Story 4

Inside Story 5

Inside Story 6

Inside Story 7

Last Story 8

***Special Interest Articles:***

• Add a highlight or your point of interest here.

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Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

Aloha! As we enter the month of November we will be turning back our clocks one hour as daylight savings time has ended. We will have a bit more time to sleep in as the days are dark. However, November always brings to mind the mood of gratitude, of thanksgiving.

For what are you grateful or thankful? As we move towards the end of another year, I recall the many transitions and farewells I have made. We all have had loved ones who moved from life to death, leaving us behind to ponder their absence in our lives. In our congregation alone, June Perry, Barbara King and William Wang passed away this year. They had previously moved out of the area, but called on us so we could all say good-bye and Godspeed. Others of us have had family members or dear friends make the same journey. On Sunday, November 1st, we pause to give thanks for All Saints and All Souls Departed primarily to remember and honor the faith, love and hope they have given us in our time together. So I am grateful to have shared life and love with many family members, church members and dear friends which have enriched my life, and continue to give me hope.

I am also grateful for the joy of being surrounded most days by the children of St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School and St. Ambrose Episcopal Church. It is a joy to watch them run and play, to laugh and sometimes fall down and cry, to see them be consoled by friends or teachers or parents. They feel the joy and pain of life, not always realizing that the pain can be momentary or can linger. They know their need of their mommy or daddy, and learn to make friends. They are not so caught up (yet) in the things that we adults sometimes think are more important. But I am grateful to have been here among you long enough that I have witnessed how some of the children have grown up to be creative, interesting and compassionate young people. I have also witnessed how we all can’t be stars, but we can remain connected and caring. So I am grateful to be part of a community that is here for the long haul that cares about more than immediate gratification and yearns to see our young ones grow up into the reign of God and our seniors be surrounded by people who know them and care about them.

# Reflections from our Rector



This month on our “Thanksgiving Sunday” (November 22nd), one of our own,

Charlotte Keefe will give the sermon. We will be using the Thanksgiving Day lessons instead of the Christ the King lessons. We will be able to hear and see how she has grown in faith, hope and love from the little baby to the young woman she has become.

And on this same day, we will be visited by messengers from Cambodia, Chanrong Sok and Vireak (pronounced Viriak) Em, two young adults (21 and 22 years old) who will come with Hans Eide to share with us about their lives, and how our support of the Cambodia Academy of Mongkol Borei has made a difference in our lives. So I am grateful for all the people who have helped Charlotte become the person she has become, especially her mother Shelley, and for Hans Eide who had the dream of building a school in Cambodia and invited us to be a very small part of it.

Finally, on Friday, November 6th we will celebrate our life together with our Stewardship dinner dance and the ingathering of pledges on November 8th. The dinner dance is fun because we get to be together and have some fun singing, playing instruments and dancing. We are grateful to belong to this community of faith which supports us in our spiritual journey as we both share our gifts with one another and give of ourselves to those we meet along the way of life’s journey. So I am grateful to be a gospel person sharing and giving life and love in this place.

Yours,

David Y. Ota, Rector

**Turn Back Your Clocks**

Daylight Savings Time ends at **3:00 a.m. on Sunday, November** 1st this year. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour after Halloween and before you go to sleep.

**Thanks**

* Thanks to Steve Yuen who organized the Blessing of the Animals at the Foster City Dog Park on Sunday, October 4th, and to Father Jay Watan and Father Ota for blessing the animals there.
* Thanks to St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Palo Alto for their hospitality in allowing us to participate in their program at the Bishop’s Ranch.
* Thanks to the Principal and staff of St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School for putting on another wonderful picnic for the families on Sunday, October 11th.
* Thanks to George Gardiner, Janet Gardiner, Steve Yuen, Father Jay Watan and Father David Ota for representing St. Ambrose at Diocesan Convention on October 16th and 17th.
* Thanks to Lizz Klammer who organized our Pumpkin Carving Contest on Sunday, October 25th.
* Thanks to George Gardiner, Eva Kwong, Jill Schwab, Shelley Keefe and Warren Wong who have been working to prepare for our Stewardship Dinner on Friday, November 6th.
* Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the United Thank Offering. St. Ambrose was able to contribute $719 towards the UTO mission projects.
* Thanks to Reuben Ajit who was trained and served as a new acolyte among us.

**Godspeed to Deb Sakurai-Horita**

Deb Sakurai-Horita and her husband Jon Horita will be moving soon to Hilo, Hawaii. Deb has been an active member of St. Ambrose since she first joined us for worship on October 26, 2003. She has been a life-long Episcopalian and has been willing to share her gifts and love with us these many years. She has served as lector, intercessor and usher at the 8 a.m. service. She has served as a member of the Vestry and Senior Warden. She led our Developmental Planning Process. She stepped in to be our interim Altar Guild Directress when Merilyn Vosburg had to retire. She continues to serve on the Altar Guild. We wish Deb and Jon Godspeed as they move to Hilo, Jon’s home. We also send Deb to Holy Apostles Episcopal Church, Hilo, Hawaii as we imagine they are eagerly looking forward to Deb joining them and sharing her many gifts with the good people there.

**Saturday Evening Worship continues**

Our Saturday Evening Worship this month will be held on November 7th and 21st at 5:30 p.m. Our attendance for this worship service declined in October. It is a worship service that children can participate in more easily than the longer worship service at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. on Sundays. If you are unable to worship on a Sunday, consider coming on Saturday evening.

**Study Groups in October**

The Monday Book Study group meets on **November 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd,** and **30th** at the home of Merilyn Vosburg from **12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** They are currently reading the section, “Resting in John’s Glorious Garden, in the book, The Hidden Power of the Gospels.

The Tuesday evening Bible Study group meets on **November 3rd and 17th** in the home Warren and Nellie Wong at **7:00 p.m.** They are studying the Gospel according to John.

The Wednesday evening Bible Study group meets on **November 11th and 18th** in the foyer at **7:30 p.m.** They are reading the Acts of the Apostles and are at Acts 18:1.

An Introduction to the Episcopal Church will be meeting on **Sundays, November 1st, 8th and 15th** from **11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** in Room 1. A light lunch will be provided. The Rector is teaching this class which will cover Episcopal identity and ethos, history of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, sacramental worship and the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church. Those who complete the class are invited to be presented for confirmation or reception in the Episcopal Church.

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

**Organizing Meeting for the Christmas Pageant**

Parents and children interested in participating in this year’s Christmas Pageant which will be part of the Christmas Eve Family Eucharist on **Thursday, December 24th from 4:00 p.m.** are invited to attend the organizing meeting on **Sunday, November 29th from 11:30 a.m.** in the chapel. This year’s Christmas Pageant will be led by Lizz Klammer, Coordinator for the Children and Family Ministry. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to participate, you can contact Lizz at (469) 644-4233 or [elizabeth.klammer@ttu.edu](mailto:elizabeth.klammer@ttu.edu).

**Foster City Parents’ Club Rummage Sale**

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church is co-sponsoring the Foster City Parents’ Rummage Sale on **Saturday, November 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**.If you would like a stall to sell your rummage, please contact Angela Lee, Treasurer of the Foster City Parent’s Club at 650 291-4075 or at [treasurer@fostercityparentsclub.org](mailto:treasurer@fostercityparentsclub.org).

**Mark Your Calendars**

* All Saints Day and Commemoration of All Souls Departed: **Sunday, November 1st, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.,** Chapel
* An Introduction to the Episcopal Church: **Sunday, November 1st, 11:45 a.m.**,Rector’s Office
* Outreach Committee Meeting: **Sunday, November 1st, 11:45 a.m.**,Room 1
* Stewardship Dinner: **Friday, November 6th, 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.**,Foster City Recreation Center’s Lagoon Room and Bluebird Room
* Saturday Evening Worship: **Saturdays, November 7th and 21st, 5:30 p.m.,** Chapel
* Consecration of 2016 Pledges: **Sunday, November 8th, 8 a.m.** and **10 a.m.,** Chapel
* Foster City Parents’ Rummage Sale: **Saturday, November 14th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**, Parking Lot
* Call Primrose Adopt-A-Box Deadline: **Sunday, November 15th,** Drop off food in the Parish Hall boxes
* Paintball Sunday: **Sunday, November 15th, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, Santa Clara Paintball, 2542 Monterey Road, San Jose, CA 95111
* Thanksgiving Sunday: **Sunday, November 22nd, 10 am,** Sermon by Charlotte Keefe and visit by Hans Eide and two students from the Cambodia Academy of Mongkol Borei
* Christmas Pageant Organizing Meeting: **Sunday, November 29th, 11:30 a.m.**, Chapel
* Saturday Evening Worship: **Saturdays, December 5th and 19th, 5:30 p.m.**,Chapel
* Christmas Stocking Stuffers Assembly Day: **Thursday, December 10th,** 501 Coos Court, Foster City
* Christmas Eve Services: Family Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant, **Thursday, December 24th, 4:00 p.m.**,Chapel**;** Christmas Eve Choral Concert, **Thursday, December 24th, 10:00 p.m.**,Chapel; Candlelight Christmas Eve Choral Holy Eucharist, **Thursday,**

**December 24th, 10:30 p.m.**,Chapel

* Christmas Day Service: Holy Eucharist with Christmas Carols: **Friday, December 25th,**

**10:00 a.m.**, Chapel

## Outreach Report - by Steve Yuen

**Blessing of the Animals:** The forecasters warned darkly of inclement weather, but the skies were pristine and the air was still.

The Reverends David Ota and Jay Watan of St. Ambrose blessed over 40 pets and their owners at the Foster City Dog Park on Sunday, October 4th. It was the annual Blessing of the Animals, which Catholic and Anglican churches celebrate in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and the environment.

There were a few members of the congregation and pre-school who came, but the majority was members of the community who just liked to mingle with other pet owners.

Shelley Keefe and other volunteers from the Homeless Cat Network (HCN) distributed information about the stray cat population of San Francisco Bay. HCN has been successful in spaying and neutering the feral cats that live in the wetlands. The cat population has dwindled to less than 100, which has improved their quality of life as well as that of Bay wildfowl.

St. Ambrose ministers began coming to the Dog Park on St. Francis' Day nine years ago, and some of the pet owners have marked the event on their October calendars. Showing up regularly, like patience, is an underestimated virtue.

**United Thank Offering (UTO):** The members of St. Ambrose donated a total of $719 during the spring and fall in-gatherings. The offering was presented at the Diocesan Convention in San Francisco on October 17th. Contributions to the United Thank Offering support the missions of the Episcopal Church.

**Upcoming Outreach Activities**

**Home and Hope - Fundraiser**: The second annual “Journey Home” Walk/Run Fundraising Event will be held on **Sunday, November 8th, at 1:00pm** at **Seal Point Park** in San Mateo. To register or find out more information, please go to homeandhope.net.

**Home and Hope – Preparing Dinner for Sheltered Families**: On Tuesday, **November 10th**, and Thursday, **November 12th**,we will again be making dinner for four (4) families at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in San Mateo. Even if you cannot attend, perhaps you can make a dish! Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Yuen (341-1966, stevebyuen@aol.com).

**CALL Primrose – Four (4) Thanksgiving Food Boxes**:  We are filling four food boxes this year--due to the high rents in our area more families have asked for food aid—for CALL Primrose, a Burlingame outreach venture founded by the Presbyterian and United Methodist churches.

Each box will contain: 1 can cranberry sauce, 1 bag/box of stuffing, 2 cans green beans (low sodium preferred), 1 bag/box pasta, 1 box instant mashed potatoes, 1 pack/can of gravy, 1 pack/box of cornbread, 2 cans corn (low sodium preferred), 2 cans fruit (low sugar preferred), 2 cans soup, 1 tomato sauce, and 1 boxed rice (rice pilaf, rice-a-roni, etc.). St. Ambrose will also donate one (1) $20 Safeway Gift card to each family.

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If you can contribute one or more items, please write your name on the sign-up sheet on one or more boxes in the back of the Parish Hall and bring your item(s) by **Sunday, November 15th**.

Thank you for sharing your blessings with some of our neighbors.  If you have questions, please contact Steve Yuen (341-1966, stevebyuen@aol.com).

**Cambodia Academy Luncheon:** Hans Eide, who founded the Cambodia Academy in Mongkol Borei, Cambodia, will be visiting St. Ambrose on **Sunday, November 22nd**. He will be accompanied by two recent graduates. St. Ambrose, Sea Breeze School, and individuals from our community have been sponsoring some of the 345 students at the Academy, which provides an education for children who are too poor to attend public schools. If you would like to help with the luncheon or have any questions, please contact Shelley Keefe (onyourtoz@gmail.com).

If you would like to make a donation through the church, please write a check to St. Ambrose Episcopal Church and designate it for “Cambodia Academy.” If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation directly (it’s a 501(c) 3 organization) or would like more information, please go to http://cambodiaacademy.org.

**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 **November 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)

**Senior Stocking Stuffers:** Jill Schwab is again leading the effort to prepare “stocking stuffers” for seniors, veterans, and homeless people on the Peninsula. The date is **Thursday, December 3rd**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the place is Jill’s house on 501 Coos Court, a few blocks from the church. If you have questions or comments, please call Jill at 571-1079.

**Family Sharing:** Each year as we approach Christmas our congregation has adopted two San Mateo families who are Samaritan House clients. The families are different each year, but they always have 2-4 children. We are trying to collect at least $750 ($375 each), which will enable us to buy presents and gift cards that will be delivered during **the week of December 13th**. All donations should be made to St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, designated "Family Sharing", and deposited in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you for spreading holiday cheers to our neighbors.

## “Sustainable” - by Rev. Jay Sapaen Watan

The Thanksgiving holiday has traditionally been the opening to the Christmas shopping season, but over the years I have noticed a growing eagerness in our culture to get to the Christmas season much sooner. In fact while running errands at the local Target last month I noticed a section completely devoted to Christmas lights. Whoa! Halloween had not even past and we’re already thinking about Christmas? What are we valuing? I’m always eager for the holiday season to come because it is a joyful and restful time. Yet I’m finding that I can’t ignore the messages behind the marketing telling me that Christmas has something to do with shopping and buying something. I understand that in our global economy the flow of money in exchange for goods and services allows people to earn a living and for people to obtain the things they need. But I also see so many “disposable goods” filling our garages, sidewalks, donation bins and landfills and I wonder how many of these things do we really need. Do we just throw away our leftovers? It seems that this way of living may not be sustainable. I also wonder about the values we share when the things we invest into don’t even last or are worth holding on to beyond a short time.

One of the classic hymns of praise used that is in the Christian church is known as the *Doxology.* It is often sung during the time when offerings are presented at worship services*.* Here is the version used by the United Church of Christ to the tune of the *Old 100th*.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God for all that love has done;*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.*

This song is a prayer that articulates the awareness that all that we have and all that we offer flows from God. And as this tune formed my theology growing up, I believe the quality of our relationships can do far more to sustain us than material things out there. Consider what happens if we treat our relationships with more intention?

Last month I attended the Pneuma Conference for Christian Educators (*pneuma* is ancient Greek meaning *breath of life)* in Healdsburg, California, and our keynote speaker, the Rev. Eric Law. Eric spoke about creating ministries that were missional and sustainable in a way that allowed our blessings to flow, that he called *Holy Currencies.*  Truth is, money isn’t our only form of currency. Eric noted that in God’s economy there are at least five more currencies - time and place, gracious leadership, relationship, truth, and wellness. And they are as essential as money in building sustainable ministries and real relationships that allow us to flow in a cycle of blessings.

A ministry is about giving in the awareness of our relationship with God, one another, all creation, and ourselves. It is the action of love and what we are willing to give to care for someone else. In one-way or another, if we have a relationship, then we all are doing this thing called ministry. Subsequently, a missional ministry refers to communities and people who look outward and are able to connect with others outside of their faith communities and to share in God’s work in the world. Yet it’s easy to get tired or burned out when giving is all we do, so we must also learn to receive grace too. Sustainability speaks to the currency or flow in the cycle of blessing that allows us to be nurtured, energize and renewed over time. In this culture of *Holy Currencies*, when we are willing to give what we have to the point where we may have less than someone else, our hands are more open to receive what another is willing to give to us. This is a spiritual abundance which overrides scarcity and fear. In other words, *we can also do more with less.*

So when a retailer like REI announces that they will be closed not only on Thanksgiving Day but also on Black Friday, knowing full well that they will miss out on the biggest shopping day of the year, what are they saying? Jerry Stritzke, REI’s CEO says, *"As a co-op... we define success a little differently. It's much broader than just money. How effectively do we get people outside? …It is an act where we're really making a very clear statement about a set of values."* In offering their employees another day, along with Thanksgiving to be with family and friends, the value may be to go outside and live life. Of course they are promoting a lifestyle. But there are more important things to do than shopping. Good memories and relationships can last a lifetime. And this may be much more sustainable.

So go outside and live life… Live long and prosper my friends!

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*

## Sea Breeze School News

The excitement of Halloween is over and the children are now busy preparing for Thanksgiving. There are many fall themed activities in the classrooms and the preparations for the Thanksgiving feast in each classroom are well underway.

November is a busy time of year for the teachers as they are preparing for and delivering Parent/Teacher conferences. Parent conferences give us the opportunity to personally speak with each family about their child’s development and learn how we can best serve the family and the child. It is a great opportunity to build relationships with the families that we serve and a great way to open two way conversations in a quiet setting as opposed to trying to converse in a busy classroom.

The children in the Transitional Kindergarten class and in the Afterschool program have been busy working with Maureen Fromme to prepare for the Annual International Dinner. The children will dress in their native clothing and will sing many different songs from many different countries and enjoy a nice Dinner afterwards that will feature food from many different cultures. This dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. on November 20th and all are welcome to attend.

As the Holiday season is upon us, I challenge each of you to take a deep breath and remember to take care of yourself as you care for others. Think about what is important to you and what you are most thankful for in your lives.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you from the staff at St. Ambrose Sea Breeze School

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