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Edition

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The Ambrosian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

900 Edgewater Boulevard, Foster City, California 94404

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Dear Members and Friends of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church,

 Aloha! At the September 24 Vestry meeting, we decided to keep the theme of our congregation for our Stewardship campaign as “Caring for our communities and God’s world.” Part of our decision was that as a pastoral size congregation, we are called to attend to our relationships among ourselves and our neighbors, and at the same time to address the needs of the world.

 Perhaps the greatest need of the world today is addressing climate change, because of its devastating effects on those who share life on this planet. While the challenge of climate change can seem overwhelming, all of us are called to make changes in how we live, so future generations may be able to live in a world that is habitable.

 Last month, Greta Thunberg, a 16 year old from Sweden gave this moving speech at the United Nation’s Climate Action Summit in New York City to leaders of the world. She is the young person who with other youth initiated the “Fridays for Future” when students would skip school to protest on behalf of addressing climate change. I was moved by her speech. It is printed below.

 *"My message is that we'll be watching you.*

 *"This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!*

 *"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you!

 "For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight.*

# Reflections from our Rector

Reflections from our Rector (continued)

 *"You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency. But no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that. Because if you really understood the situation and still kept on failing to act, then you would be evil. And that I refuse to believe.*

 *"The popular idea of cutting our emissions in half in 10 years only gives us a 50% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees [Celsius], and the risk of setting off irreversible chain reactions beyond human control.*

 *"Fifty percent may be acceptable to you. But those numbers do not include tipping points, most feedback loops, additional warming hidden by toxic air pollution or the aspects of equity and climate justice. They also rely on my generation sucking hundreds of billions of tons of your CO2 out of the air with technologies that barely exist.*

 *"So a 50% risk is simply not acceptable to us — we who have to live with the consequences.*

 *"To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5 degrees global temperature rise – the best odds given by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] – the world had 420 gigatons of CO2 left to emit back on January 1, 2018. Today that figure is already down to less than 350 gigatons.*

 *"How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just 'business as usual' and some technical solutions? With today's emissions levels, that remaining CO2 budget will be entirely gone within less than 8 1/2 years.*

 *"There will not be any solutions or plans presented in line with these figures here today, because these numbers are too uncomfortable. And you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is.*

 *"You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: We will never forgive you.*

 *"We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not.*

 *"Thank you."*

 What Greta and the other young activists are calling for is an immediate accounting of how we live, and calling everyone to make the necessary changes to slow down global warming.

 Greta and the other young people are prophets calling us all to change. Like any change we need to make, it is best to start with an achievable change. Go to <https://sustainislandhome.org/actions> to learn what you can do to start to make some changes for the good of God’s world.

 As for me, because Karen and I will be flying to Honolulu this month to visit our son Paul and his fiancé Chelsea, I purchased Carbon Offsets through <https://www.terrapass.com/product/ecotourist-bundle>. It was the first time I did so, and it is a change I can make. What are the changes you can make to respond to the call given by Greta Thunberg?

 Whatever change you can make will be an expression of how we care for our communities and God’s world. Let us do all that we can.

 Yours,

 David Y. Ota, Rector

Announcements

**Blessing of the Animals**

St. Ambrose celebrates St. Francis of Assisi with the blessing of the animals on **Sunday, October 6.** Worshippers are invited to bring their pets to be blessed at both the **8:00 and 10:00 a.m.** services, or between **12:30 and 2:00 p.m.** at the Foster City Dog Park.

**Study Groups in October**

**The Monday Bible Study Group** meets on **October 14​ and 28 at 7:00 p.m.** The location of the meeting is to be determined. They are studying the upcoming Sunday lessons. They meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

**The Tuesday Bible Study Group** meets **October 8 at 12:45 p.m.** ​They are reading the Third Letter of John and the Letter to Jude. They will meet weekly in the Foyer from 12:45 p.m. each Tuesday.

The study groups are open to any interested person.

**2020 Pledge Campaign Kick-Off and United Thank Offering Ingathering**

The 2020 Pledge Campaign Kick-Off will be **Sunday, October 13.** The Vestry decided to keep the theme, “Caring for our communities and God’s world.”

The United Thank Offering Ingathering is also on Sunday, October 13. Everyone is asked to make an offering to give thanks for all the blessings of the year. Those thank offerings will be given to the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of California, and then to the church-wide Episcopal Church Women to give grants for mission projects. Please be generous.

Reflections from our Rector (continued)

Announcements (continued)

**Rector and Associate for Youth and Family Ministry on Vacation**

David and Karen will be on vacation from **October 14 to 21** in Oahu to attend their son’s commissioning as a Honolulu Police officer. The guest celebrant and preacher will be the Rev. Jureck Fernandez on Sunday, **October 20.**

**Parish Pumpkin Party**

The Parish Pumpkin Party is set for **Sunday, October 27** following the 10:00 a.m. Choral Holy Eucharist. Details about a pumpkin themed lunch will be forthcoming. A Haunted House will be created by the youth of St. Ambrose. Pumpkins will be purchased for those who sign up in advance, and pumpkin carving will follow lunch.

**Save the Date for Bishop Marc Andrus’ visit to St. Ambrose**

Bishop Marc Andrus will visit St. Ambrose on **Sunday, November 24.** Please save the date and plan to attend worship and the reception to welcome the Bishop.

**Mark Your Calendars**
Rector at Clergy Conference: **Monday, September 30 – Wednesday, October 2,** ​Bishop’s Ranch, Healdsburg

Blessing of the Animals: **Sunday, October 6, 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.,** Chapel and **12:30-2:00 p.m.,** Foster City Dog Park

Bishop’s Ranch Weekend:​ **Friday, October 11 to Sunday, October 13,** ​Harrison House at the Bishop’s Ranch, 5297 Westside Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448

2020 Pledge Campaign Kick-Off

The 2020 Pledge Campaign will kick-off on **Sunday, October 13**. Our theme continues to be “Caring for our communities and God’s world.”

Rector and Associate for Youth, Children and Family Ministry on vacation: **Monday, October 14 to Monday, October 21**

170th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of California: **Friday, October 25 to Saturday,**​ **October 26**​, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

Parish Pumpkin Party: Enjoy a pumpkin themed lunch, a haunted house and pumpkin carving on **Sunday, October 27** following the 10:00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist

2019 Annual Stewardship Dinner:​ **Saturday, November 16, 6:00 p.m.,** Foster City Recreation Center’s Lagoon and Blue Bird Rooms

Bishop Marc Andrus’ Visitation: **Sunday, November 24, 10:00 a.m.,** Service of Confirmation and Choral Holy Eucharist; Reception in Parish Hall following

The Desk of Rev. Karen Swanson

**Parish Pumpkin Party**

Please save **Sunday, October 27** for this year’s Pumpkin Party!

After worshipping together, we will have a pumpkin themed luncheon. The specific plans for the

luncheon are still being cooked up, so please keep an eye out for more info and how you can help! During and after lunch, children and the young at heart are invited to brave the ever popular youth Haunted House. The St. Ambrose (Not So Spooky) Haunted House is a perfect outing for preschool and elementary age kids.

Pumpkin decorating will complete the event. Paints and carving tools will be available for all participants. Pumpkins will be purchased for those who sign up in advance, although participants are always welcome to bring their own specially selected pumpkins. Do you want to help, or have questions? Fe Balamiento (415-579-8872) is coordinating the Haunted House and Karen Swanson (650-200-8449) is coordinating the pumpkin decorating. Hope to see you soon!

Youth Ministry – by Fe Balamiento

Dear St. Ambrose,

**Thanks to those who came out for the youth ministry lunch launch.**

On September 8, we ended up across the street at Quickly which was the only available and open place to eat. The children enjoyed boba drinks, spam musubi and green tea mochi waffle. As we shared stories about school and things that are happening in our lives, it became clear that this year will be full of energy across the ages from middle school to high school. We planned ideas of where we will be a year from now and how we would close the ministry year come next summer.

As we look forward to the year, we're full of hope and inspiration with ideas and energy and all the blessings of youth.  This is a unique experience that happens for our children as they develop and grow. In the church, it is my honor and my pleasure to spend this time with them and I thank you for your respect and dignity that has been provided to me by St. Ambrose. I look forward to all future endeavors with the youth ministry, and with the children and their parents as well.

 Thank you,

 Fe

October Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen

*As we enter the “busy season” of Outreach activity, we hope that all of you had a very pleasant summer.*

**Sandwiches on Sunday**We will have a report on the September 29 hosting in next month’s Ambrosian.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Blessing of the Animals**The Feast of St. Francis**When**: **Sunday, October 6**  12:30 to 2:00 p.m. (and at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services) **Where:** Foster City Dog Park,  Bounty & Foster City Boulevard**What:** The Reverends David Ota and  Karen Swanson will bless pets and their owners in honor of Saint Francis, the patron saint of animals. |  |

**United Thank Offering – October 13**

Contributions to the United Thank Offering are a major funding source for the Episcopal Church’s missions. The missions not only spread the Good News, but also provide basic needs to people in their local communities. The UTO blue box, which came into existence in the 1950s, has an honored place in many Episcopal households. It is both a reminder of the great blessings that have been bestowed upon us and a call to share those blessings with those who live in poverty.

We will have the Fall ingathering of the blue boxes and blue envelopes at the offertory on **Sunday, October 13**.

**CALL Primrose’s Fill a Box, Feed a Family – November 17**
We are filling four (4) food boxes this year for CALL Primrose, a Burlingame outreach venture founded by the Presbyterian and United Methodist churches. According to Director Terri Boesch, “We have seen a sharp increase in the number of new clients visiting our Center each week, and anticipate significant demand for assistance over the holidays.”

Outreach Report (continued)

Each box will contain:
2 cans (15 oz) corn (low salt preferred)
2 cans (14 oz) green beans (low salt preferred)
2 cans (14 oz) fruit (any fruit or fruit cocktail)
1 can (14 oz) cranberry sauce
1 box (6 oz) stuffing mix
1 package (1 oz) chicken or turkey gravy mix
1 box (14 oz) instant mashed potatoes
1 box (8 oz) cornbread / corn muffin mix
1 bottle (24 oz) vegetable cooking oil
1 bag (16 oz) dry black beans
1 bag (2 lb) white rice
1 package (16 oz) pasta noodles
1 can/bottle (20 oz) pasta sauce
2 packages (3 oz) chocolate jello pudding/pie mix
1 (6 oz) no-bake graham cracker pie crust {and}
1 can (14 oz) condensed milk

The empty boxes will be placed on the tables in the Parish Hall on October 13. If you can contribute one or more items, please write your name on the sign-up sheet (it contains the above list) on each box and bring your item(s) by **Sunday, November 17**.

Thank you for sharing your blessings with some of our neighbors!  If you have questions, please contact Steve Yuen (stevebyuen@aol.com, 650-341-1966).

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

Things are underway and going very well. The children have all settled into new routines and so have the teachers. We were very excited that by Day 7 of the school year, we had NO tears.

We hosted our annual Back to School event on Tuesday September 10. And while attendance was low, I received great feedback from parents that they are all very happy to be here and looking forward to great experiences for their children this year.

New school years bring many new and exciting opportunities for all. While we have integrated STEAM/STEM into our daily curriculum for the last three years, we started a new STEAM/STEM enrichment class this year and things are going great. Mrs. Rallos is attending a class that will eventually lead to her becoming a certified STEM/STEAM instructor and she is leading this enrichment program for us. Father Ota started our chapel for the three year olds and Reverend Swanson is leading chapel for the TK-5th grade children on Wednesdays. This year we are continuing our Music and sign language classes, our Gymnastics class and our Music Appreciation classes. Something new this year is the teaching of the recorder to the children in the 3rd-5th grade classes. Maureen Fromme will lead this on Thursday afternoons as well. I am also exploring optional enrichments of Robotics, Cooking, Art and Flag Football for the afterschool program. Along with the new programs this year, I am excited to have hired three new teachers in the afterschool program. Mr. Andrew Perez, Miss. Saira Medina and Miss Elise Yen. They are all college students studying Psychology in the morning and spending their afternoons with us. They have settled in well and we are very excited to have new energy in the program.

We have had a few families withdraw from the different programs due to job loss, relocation or schedule changes. Lisa continues to enroll families that need care and enrollment is strong at 198 total students enrolled.

Many of the teachers attended the Teacher Installation and lunch on September 15. The service and company were great and the lunch was fantastic. Many thanks to those that contributed food for the day and most importantly, thank you for your continued support of the school and the teachers.

 Continued Blessings,

 Jerelyn Weber, Principal

The Editor’s Corner– by Yvonne Sidell

 *Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
–Luke 12:15*

Jesus told a story about a rich man who was a good businessman with a good business plan. He had been successful in his agricultural industry. His crops had produced. He was looking over his physical plant and realized he didn’t have the facilities to store his crops. What’s a good businessman to do? Build a bigger warehouse, of course. Typical of a successful business owner, he saved his profits. He was able to say, “I’ve got enough now to kick back and take it easy; eat, drink, and be merry.”

Yet, Jesus unfolds the story as follows: *“But God said to him, ‘You fool!’ This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'” (Luke 12:20)* Ouch. The rich man gets the bad news: your life is over and you can’t take your riches with you.

What did this guy do that was so bad? Should every business be non-profit? Should there be no planning for the future or retirement? Should there be no enjoyment of life and the fruit of our own labors? One might reasonably draw these conclusions as a first impression.

Fortunately, Jesus steps in with the moral of the story. It’s not really about business acumen or profits, but life perspective. Jesus concludes the story with, *“This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”* The rich man’s problem was not that he had material wealth, but that he was not humble before God. He demonstrated no concern for God’s place in his life. The rich man left God out of his life, and in the end he was left with nothing.

There is nothing inherently wrong with having hopes and dreams for the future, with developing your potential, with growing your business, with saving for your future. But, the most important issue is this: *are you rich towards God?* Apart from this, all other things amount to nothing. Personal achievements and personal kingdoms never last.

Be humble before God. Invite His participation and partnership in your life. Seek to develop your relationship with Him. Give Him the rightful place as Lord in your life. If you do this, you’ll be in a secure place–with treasures stored for eternity–that no one or no thing, not even death, can take away.

\*Credit: HomeWord Devotionals