

MAY
2022
Edition



The Ambrosian

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church
900 Edgewater Boulevard, Foster City, California 94404

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Reflections from the Interim Rector Father Scott-Hamblen

Last Autumn, our contemplative meditation group used the writings of Eckhart Tolle, encouraging us to “Remember that the present is all you have. Make ‘now’ the center of your life.” I have tried very hard to remind myself constantly to live by that, but it is never easy. Especially ‘now’ as we are near the end of our wonderful “interim” time together. During the pandemic, we all looked eagerly to the future when life could finally return to “normal”. During Lent, we eagerly looked forward to Easter. Now, we are in Eastertide and we look forward to Pentecost. And, of course, as we come to the conclusion of “Interim Rectorship”, you eagerly look forward to starting a new chapter with your new Rector, and I must look forward to where ever I will be called to serve.

As exciting as all of those future events are, Tolle is right to remind us that we should savor the present moments of the now. Awful as shelter-in-place was during the pandemic, we must remember that that experience also held many blessings. Stark as Lent was, we should also remember that we were blessed with much higher than usual attendance in our worship - especially during the Triduum. Now, in Eastertide we can rejoice at all the myriad ways we are experiencing new life, new growth, and resurrection in so many ways. And, especially, we can be mindful of our time together as interim priest and transitional congregation and school. I have loved the honor of serving all of you through some of the most memorable times of parish life.

And now, we must remember Tolle’s advice and make the present moment, the “now”, the fullest and richest time because the “present is all we truly have in reality”. I couldn’t be happier to spend the “now” with all of you!

Happy Eastertide!

Father Shane

Editor
Yvonne Sidell

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!

Intercession Prayers

The apostle James tells us to "pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16).

If you would like the St. Ambrose community to pray with you, please write your intercession in the Blessing book placed in the Narthex or send your request to stambrosefc@att.net. Your prayer will be included at the following mass service. Please leave your name and contact information in the booklet, in case clarifications are needed.

Thank you!
Raphael Gerber

Announcements (continued)

Contemplative Meditation Group

St. Ambrose has a wonderful "Contemplative Meditation" group who meet each week on Hump Days. That's right! After the first two hectic days of the week, it's just time for a much needed 30+ minute break.

Beginning with his monastic early life, Father Shane has a lifetime of meditation. From this wealth of experience and knowledge, Father Shane draws inspiration from various forms of contemplation as well as meditation.

Of course, we all know that schedules can get in the way of participating...even on Zoom. We have been recording some of the sessions and are making them available for your practice on your own time. How about that?!

Please email me at hfongster@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to request access for the recordings...maybe even the Zoom link to join us.

Thank you!
Hamilton Fong

St. Ambrose Choir

The choir will resume rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. We will be masked and correctly distanced, and would be happy for anyone who wishes to join us. If you wish to join us, please let Maureen Fromme know so she can prepare a folder for you. You may contact her at mhfromme@yahoo.com OR 415.990.6758.

Sunday School Outdoor Classes

Pre-K - K5 Sunday school is back to in-person! Outdoor classes (courtyard) will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Spread the word! We can't wait to see BIG smiles in the courtyard, share the good news of Jesus, and have fun altogether!

Thank you!
Teacher Raphaela and Teacher Fe

Announcements (continued)

The Search Committee Update

As you can see from the list below, the Search Committee completed their work by submitting the finalists to the Vestry this month.

~~Form the Search Committee
Organize and review discernment process tasks
Create and pilot questions for Town Hall Meetings
Hold Town Hall Meetings on September 12th and 15th
Analyze data gathered from the Town Hall Meetings
Write Parish Profile and OTM Portfolio
Parish Profile and OTM Portfolio approved by Vestry
Open Rector position.
Evaluate application materials
Two or three Interviews with applicants
Check references
Submit two or three finalists to the Vestry.~~

We celebrated with a dinner!



Your Search Committee: April Cherrington, Nilda Chong, George Gardiner, Carolyn Moriarty, Liva Neyroud, Yvonne Sidell, Warren Wong, Steve Yuen, and Denise Obando (Transition Minister from the Diocese).

Vestry Report – by Michael Lord

This month we had a Vestry retreat. It was a successful day that allowed us to bond as a team.

With the three new Vestry members, we had no shortage of ideas on ways we can improve our church. The new members are Fe Balamiento, Marilyn Stephens, and Karin Patterson. I want to extend a huge welcome to all of them.

We are looking forward to future coffee hour formats and had our first coffee hour after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, April 3 (April volunteered to do the coffee hour on this day).

The Vestry was also organized by Brenda to do a clean-up and organization of the Parish Hall closet. It is done now and with the help of a few volunteers, it looks amazing. Thank you all for your support.

Father Shane and others continue the Episcopal History calls on Mondays via Zoom, and the Meditation calls also continue.

Regarding the new Rector, the Search Committee handed over the two Rector Candidates to the Vestry and we started the process to select one to be our next Rector. This involves meeting with the Rector Candidates in person so we can get to know them (and they can get to know us). The future is looking very bright and I can personally tell you that we (the congregation) owe the Search Committee and the previous Vestry a huge "Thank You" for all their hard work to get us to this point. We will soon be making a decision about who we want to hire as the new Rector and after a few months, we are expecting to have a new full-time Rector at our congregation (who will become a part of our community for a really long time). It really feels like a turning point for Saint Ambrose Episcopal Church in Foster City.

It was great to see everyone for Holy Week (Holy Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) then our Easter service where the whole congregation got to see what the potential of our church these past few weeks. The Mass that Father Shane put on was very special and joyous for a lot of us on the Vestry. The Easter service was fantastic and it was great seeing the children in church that day. The Easter Egg hunt was a huge success because of the hard work of Fe, Raphaele, Brenda, Daniel and many other volunteers who came to help that day and it was masterful the way they collaborated with the school to bring in the huge amount of children.

The church energy level has been way up and it helps that the pandemic / restrictions are lifting at the same time. Lastly, I want to mention the activity we had to pray for peace and end to violence in the world. I am proud to be a member of this church – hope you feel that too.

Respectfully Yours,

St. Ambrose Vestry

Youth Ministry and Youth Group News – by Daniel Tate

Easter Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt

We had an amazing Easter celebration this year! Many people came to all four services: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

After the Sunday services, the Easter Egg Hunt was on, with a special appearance from the Easter Bunny. Well over 50 children (and some grown-ups) did their best to accumulate eggs stuffed with chocolates. Plus, we had a nice pot luck spread. Many thanks are in order: Sunday school teachers Fe Balamiento, Raphaelae Gerber, and Jerelyn Weber for most of the organizing; the two Elliott Duns, Lily Moriarty, Jim Neubert, Hamilton Fong, and Daniel Tate for stuffing and hiding all the almost 500 eggs; Mathias Gerber as the Easter Bunny, and many others. My apologies to anyone I left out. A great communal effort between St. Ambrose and Sea Breeze School was made to create a fun time together and a joyous day. Happy Easter season!

Youth and Community Garden

The gladiolas near the entrance are ready to bloom, and behind the palm trees some of the wheat is already over 7 inches tall. We planted more wheat, plus carrots, yellow squash, Zucchini, and pumpkins. More vegetable varieties and flowers will be planted at least every other week this month. Keep a look out for what comes up.

Sandwiches on Sunday Service Project in May

On Saturday, May 28, from Noon to 2:00 p.m., we will be preparing lunches for Sunday's Sandwiches on Sunday that happens the next day at the Fair Oaks Community Center in Redwood City. Youth and their families are invited to come and help out. We will be making peanut butter and jelly, lunch meat and cheese sandwiches, with fruit and other goodies to put in lunch bags for handing out. We will be practicing safe distancing, with gloves provided. This is a great opportunity to be at the church doing something together in person.

Youth Group Meets Sunday Mornings at 10:00 A.M.

We maintain protocols that protect everyone in the church (mandatory face masks, social distancing, cleaning). Join us and re-establish connections with your St. Ambrose friends and invite your friends!

Acolytes, Readers, and Livestream Technicians

We always need Intercessors, Lectors, Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, and Livestream Technicians. Please email me at ym_stambrosefc@att.net if you would like to join in with us. No experience is necessary. This is a great low-key way to be of service, and to learn about (and be a part of) the history and tradition of our church.

Youth Ministry and Youth Group News (continued)

Musicians

If you like to sing or play an instrument, there are plenty of opportunities to do that at St. Ambrose. During the service, the prelude, postlude, main anthem, offertory, and 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.

Respectfully Yours,

Daniel Tate

Hymn for May – by Maureen Fromme

Rather than one hymn for this month, I have opted for one topic: **Shepherd**

One of the readings for Sunday, May 8 is Psalm 23. As a child, I was in a group at church that memorized scripture. Psalm 23 was part of those memorizations. Back then (was that the dark ages?), we mostly used the King James Version. In that version, Psalm 23:1 is “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want”. As a child, that made no sense to me. Why would I talk about Him if I did not want Him? Then my parents explained the meaning of the word 'want' in this case. Nevertheless, it is a Psalm of comfort and promise.

I started thinking of hymns that were about the Shepherd and His sheep:

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”- Hymn 645

<https://youtu.be/YcCwUF0s-Y>

“Shepherd of Souls”- Hymn 343

<https://youtu.be/Dk3q1ILNkRc>

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”- Hymn 664

<https://youtu.be/KhegkeVoXXc>

Some other hymns are:

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Christ as a Shepherd is mentioned in Scripture quite often: John 10, Isaiah 40, Mark 6, Psalm 100 and Exodus 34 to name a few. Having performed “The Messiah” by George Frederic Handel a number of times, I recall his settings of Shepherd references:

“He Shall Feed His Flock” (Isaiah 40)

<https://youtu.be/JSNvKCGUK3g>

“All We Like Sheep” (Isaiah 53)

https://youtu.be/bOaSa78_NM0

With all of this attention to Christ as the Shepherd and we as His sheep, makes me think of the care that our Shepherd has for us, all that He does for us, and what kind of a sheep I might be.

We are blessed with Christ's care and attention for and to us, and I share my love and appreciation for all that He has done and continues to do for us. As we begin this month of May, may we be grateful to our Shepherd and may our love and care for others be a reflection of His love.

Respectfully Yours,

Maureen Fromme

May Outreach Report – by Steve Yuen

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” is a quote attributed to philosopher George Santayana (1863-1952) and is frequently dusted off as a warning.

On the other hand, remembering the past can also lead toward a brighter future. As we come out of the pandemic in 2022, we seem to be looking back more often, not just because of nostalgia, but to help guide us in restoring what we have lost.



During the first decade of the 21st century, St. Ambrose was a regular participant in the Foster City Arts and Wine Festival. Seniors and youth alike staffed our booth; they sold ice cream to raise funds for Outreach activities and answered questions from passersby about St. Ambrose and Sea Breeze School.

Due to a decline in the number of volunteers, the effort required to organize the activity, and the small amount of ice cream profits—typically a few hundred dollars—St. Ambrose discontinued the booth. After 2019, cityFEST (the successor to the Arts and Wine Festival) was cancelled because of COVID-19.

Foster City is discussing when and if it should resume cityFEST. We should think about restarting our participation as well, not necessarily for the sake of fundraising, but to bring together the St. Ambrose and Sea Breeze communities and to announce to everyone in Foster City that yes, we are back, too. If you are interested in cityFEST participation or have any questions, please contact Steve Yuen (mobile: 650-315-9662, email stevebyuen@aol.com).



United Thank Offering: The month of May is when the church holds the first of two fundraisers (the second is in October) for the United Thank Offering (UTO).

The UTO has supported the missions of the Episcopal Church since 1889. Donations alleviate poverty in the Anglican provinces, dioceses, and companion dioceses. Old-timers remember when they saved their pennies in the UTO “blue boxes,” which have in recent years given way to donations via check. Please make your checks to St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, designated “UTO”. They can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering. Thank you!

Sandwiches on Sunday – May 29: Our next Sandwiches on Sunday will be on **May 29**. We will again assemble the sandwiches and brown bags the day before, i.e., Saturday, May 28, at the church from Noon to 2:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Steve Yuen (mobile: 315-9662, email stevebyuen@aol.com).

Sea Breeze School News – by Jerelyn Weber, Principal

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and that you were able to spend time with those that are special. I have heard several of the Sea Breeze Families joined the Church on Easter Sunday and enjoyed the egg hunt and Easter Bunny. Thank you so much for inviting them to this event.

Sea Breeze is moving right along. We hosted an in-person Enrollment Fair on April 7 and had a wonderful turnout. We gained a few enrollments, a few folks joined the waitlist for future enrollment and we had a lot of exposure to the community. All in all, it was a very successful evening.

All of the teachers enjoyed Spring Break and are working hard to prepare for all that is coming up. For the first time since 2019, we will be hosting our Grandparents/Special Persons Day on campus. Our guests will join the children for a special Church service and then move into the courtyard for prepared snacks and play time with the children. Before they leave, the children will present them with a very special handmade gift to take home. **This is such a fun day.** The smiles and laughter that happen during the visits are so sweet to see. There will also be fun stuff happening for our Mothers this month. Each teacher is planning something unique to honor moms in their classes.

With the school year coming to an end soon, we are preparing for our last Family/Teacher Conference of the year. Each family will have the opportunity to meet face to face with their child's teacher to learn of the successes throughout the year. Families are always surprised when they can see the documented progress their children have made. It is sometimes a bittersweet meeting, as this is when we face the fact that many of our children age out of the program and start attending the "BIG" school!

I received a couple of resignations this month from teachers that have bought homes out of the area and will be relocating at the end of the school year. While I am very happy for them, they will be missed. For the first time in a very long time, I am looking for Teachers. *If you know anyone that has always wanted to work with children and they have the education to do so, please send them my way.* I would love to be able to hire people that others refer.

During the first week of the month, we will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Our families are all working very hard to make this week special for the amazing teachers that care for their children all day. Be on the lookout for a large sign along Edgewater, letting everyone know how awesome these teachers are!

I encourage you to take the time to enjoy the beautiful weather we have had!

Respectfully Yours,

Jerelyn Weber

Community – Hamilton Fong

We are happy to announce that
St. Ambrose will host
"Music & Tales"
presenting their Spring concert on
Saturday, May 21, 2022

 **ST. AMBROSE**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PRESENTS MUSIC & TALES

Spring

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Works by Schubert, Saint-Saëns, and more with
selections from *The Carnival of the Animals* & *Encanto*

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022
4:30 - 5:30 PM
ST AMBROSE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
900 EDGEWATER BLVD
FOSTER CITY, CALIFORNIA
TICKET REQUIRED





“O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.” —Psalm 139:1-4

I love phone technology. I'm not talking about today's smart phones, but I'm talking about simpler features like Caller ID and voice mail. They are great! If someone calls me and I'm busy with a client, don't recognize the number, or simply don't have time to talk, I can silence my ringer and send them straight to voice mail and hear what they have to say later. Then, when I call others back, they can do the same to me. I think my longest game of phone tag lasted almost three months...

Despite my love for technology, I am so thankful that with Jesus, there is no phone tag, no voice mail and no need for Caller ID. When we cry out to the Lord, He knows who is calling and in fact, He is waiting for us to do just that. I love the praise song, "He Knows My Name." The chorus goes like this:

He knows my name, He knows my every thought. He sees each tear that falls and He hears me when I call. God answers every time.

There is no three-month wait, no deciding He doesn't feel like talking to us, no secretary screening calls and no deciding He doesn't have the time.

For me, there are times I wish God would let my call roll into His voice mail... especially when I need to confess my sins. And, there are a variety of things that hold us back from calling out to Him. Maybe you're embarrassed because you haven't been making the right decisions, or perhaps you haven't talked to Him in a while, or feel like you only call to Him when you need something, or maybe you just aren't sure where to start.

Know this: He knows your name. He has searched you inside and out and knows everything about you; nothing you say will surprise Him. And what's even better is that the Bible tells us there is nothing that can separate us from God's love. **Nothing.**

So you don't need to worry that He doesn't love you anymore and doesn't want to hear from you. **He is waiting.**

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Honkai Chang	3
Elias Dahdah	7
David Ota	8
Linda Amireh	14
Milda Beh	14
James Bradford	17
Oliver Moriarty	17
Jim Miller	21
Shawn Venkat	21
Brenda Matsuo	23
Teresa Rajaratnam	29
Daniel Chee	29



Happy
Anniversary



Warren & Nellie Wong	12
Jon & Marilyn Stephens	21